

or as often as may be considered advisable, with the object of drawing closer the trade relations between the Colonies and dependencies of the British Empire."

I think it well to note that whatever may be the result of this movement, its inception originated in Canada, received the unanimous approval of the Dominion Board of Trade; and from that time the expressed desire for closer trade relations between the Colonies and Great Britain has grown more earnest; and every new effort is better directed to lead to practical results. In further answer to the charge that we have no programme, that we are merely following a vague dream, I cannot do better than quote an extract from a late paper by Dr. Jessop in the *Nineteenth Century Magazine* which reads as follows:

"It is quite sufficient to condemn any men or any opinion to pronounce them vague—why! since the beginning of the world no great forward movement, no great social or political reform has ever achieved its object and gone on its victorious course conquering and to conquer which did not pass through its early stage of vagueness. The leaders were profoundly conscious of an evil, though they did not see what the proper manner of setting to work was."

Now this was written with reference to quite another subject, but to some extent it expresses what the position of the League is to-day, viz: That recognizing the necessity of a change in the present relations between the Mother country and the Colonies, both politically and commercially, they are endeavoring by obtaining the