

with the express purpose of forming an Imperial Council. A comparison of this request with the above despatch reveals the change about to occur in the development of Imperialism. From the opening of the Conference on April 4, 1887, the problem of Imperial Defence, formulated in the despatch, and the cause of Imperial Preference urged during the course of the Conference by Griffith of Queensland and Hofmeyr of South Africa, grew in importance.

Men approaching the Imperial problem from the standpoint of practical politics <sup>Conclusion.</sup> began to recognize its stupendous magnitude. The opening of the first Colonial Conference closed the door on *ideal* Imperialism and ushered in *practical* Imperialism. The era of ideal Imperialism was very fruitful of paper plans. The age of practical Imperialism is not less concerned with the ideal, but more engaged in its fulfilment—the attempt to build a far greater political structure than the world has yet seen. The finest pile of brick or stone may be the work of a single imagination, but this, the greatest political edifice, the United British Empire, must unite the wisdom of many minds and be compounded of the plans of many Imperial Architects.