

slight, from the course of political evolution which has fashioned so magnificent a result.

"But," it will be eagerly exclaimed, "has not Tennyson in the self-same poem also said:"

"Yet I doubt not thro' the ages one increasing purpose runs,
And the thoughts of men are widen'd with the process of the suns.

"Not in vain the distance beacons. Forward, forward let us range,
Let the great world spin for ever down the ringing grooves of change."

True, and nothing could be more meaningful than these very lines as applied to the example the British Empire has given the World.

British versus Prussian Ideals.

What is the fundamental difference between the British Empire and the German Empire which represents an opposite ideal? The German Empire is a centralized Empire, founded on militarism, just as all centralized Empires in the world's history have been. It seeks unity through uniformity, and cohesion through concentration. The British Empire is an Empire of co-operating nationalities, English, Scotch, Irish, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and South African, with dependencies even more varied in race and religion than the peoples of which the outlying Dominions are composed. The British Empire is founded not on militarism, which is superimposed rule; but on self-government, which is just what the words express. The British Empire seeks its unity through diversity of free individual expression, and its consolidation through the cherishing of like ideas and ideals of freedom. The German Empire can hope to bring the rest of the World under the influence of its centralized organization only, as it has in vain attempted, through the force of arms and military domination. The British Empire, on the other hand, need exert only the force of its splendid and unparalleled example to point the path to the closest kind of Federation between Nations, no matter how varied in origin, in size, in race, or in political constitution.

The Prime Minister of Britain has summoned to common Conference, at this time, the Premiers of the several Dominions to discuss the issues of the present War, the methods of its prosecution, and considerations of which account should be taken when peace is ultimately being established. This Conference will be composed of leading statesmen commanding the confidence of the Governments of their respective countries within the Empire, and as such will be representative according to British ideals. It should make possible a free interchange of views, and afford opportunity for the discussion of plans relative to an ever-widening and increasingly effective co-operation between the different countries of which the British Empire is composed. Let the British Empire expand as it may, no part is too large and none too small to have its voice heard and its opinion regarded at such a gathering. The Cabinet, whether it be of a Ministry

at home, or of any of the sister Dominions beyond the seas, that submits to its Parliament for consideration opinion that finds common expression at such a Conference need have little fear for the consequence of policies thus developed, nor need the Crown expect other than loyal devotion where its acts, thus safeguarded, become "broad based upon a peoples' will." An Empire thus constituted and united is capable of indefinite expansion and need fear no dismemberment.

The Ultimate Triumph.

Broadly viewed, has not the stern necessity of war thrown the allied powers into a relationship, for the time being at least, precisely similar? Britain, France, Russia, Belgium, Italy, Serbia, Portugal, and Roumania, are they not to-day a great Federation of Nations, each preserving its individual identity, each sending its separate note to Germany in reply to her communications, and all uniting in a common statement to neutral powers? Have not the Premiers and responsible Ministers of these several Nations met in common Conference? Have they not worked out a common system of defence? Have they not shaped policies of co-operation which, whilst preserving to each of the separate nations the fullest measure of their individual powers, have gained for all the inestimable advantages of unity of action and combined strength? Once the War is ended is co-operation on such a basis and to such noble ends to be allowed to dissolve? The example of the British Empire teaches that it may be maintained and developed. Here, if anywhere, is evidence of the "increasing purpose" that runs through the ages. It should not lessen the belief of Britishers in the wisdom of their present political institutions, to discover that through the maintenance of autonomous communities, and by Conferences, long since the clearing house of British thought, the British Empire has given to the World the one example which at the close of this awful War may help to mitigate its frightful cost, and reveal that, as respects the well-being of humanity, its sacrifices have not been made in vain.

From an Empire composed of widely scattered peoples of many races and tongues, united, in mutual service, through co-operation in times of peace and war, to a League of Nations following a like co-operation under stress of war and perpetuating it upon the advent of peace, it is but another step to the World Federation which is the full realization of the poet's vision. If men of the British Empire doubt the British genius for leadership in a task so great, let them look upon the struggles out of which their own freedom has been evolved, let them remember that what has been accomplished in the small may yet be attained in the large, and that what a portion of the World now enjoys, the whole may some day share. It was in this spirit that Tennyson, stirring the British pride in past achievement, sought to speed it on to nobler efforts in the tasks that lie ahead.

"Men, my brothers, men the workers, ever reaping something new;
That which they have done but earnest of the things that they shall do."