

an Empire which exercises a beneficent influence on the advancement in civilization of the human race. It is an Empire whose standing policy is to maintain peace—the peace of the world. It is a commonwealth holding in alliance many countries, and many nationalities who have been given the principle of free and popular government to work out.

I have stated the objects and fundamental principles of our constitution ; and although some of our members in their individual capacity have with labor and care prepared several projects aiming at the constitutional government of the Empire, the league as a body is in no way responsible for what has thus been proposed. We can simply regard such theories and projects as topics for discussion. We are called upon to listen to every shade of opinion in accordance with the principles we profess ; and it is in the degree that any suggestion is marked by wisdom that it will receive attention. We have been asked by many persons from time to time, what is the scheme of federation which the league advocates. The reply is, we have no scheme to submit, we only court inquiry into the means by which our object can be obtained. We cannot for tell what the future may call forth, but we may say to this extent, that any plan of organization must depend greatly on the conditions under which it is conceived, and must be in accordance with the genius and sentiment of the people interested. To a thoughtful mind it must be obvious that our future political condition must be a matter of development and growth ; the slower the growth, possibly the more satisfactory and the more enduring the result. As the principle of development enters into the history of every political organization, we must look forward to the necessity of permitting time and the natural principle of all life—growth—to exercise its influence in working out our political future. No institutions can attain vitality when founded on discontent. A healthy political organism can only be called into being by the consent of those concerned ; in which the different branches of the Empire, of whatever race or nationality, voluntarily join and form part. One plain condition must be the preservation of all rights now enjoyed. Every self-governing component part must have its influence felt. It is alone on principles of this character we may look for our future national organisa-