

that I am here to address you to-night. I have sought to emphasize the fact that the principle meets with Mr. Mowat's approval, because I am anxious that you should all understand that from the very inception of the movement until the present time the promoters of Imperial Federation have striven by every means in their power to keep it clear and pure from all taint of party politics. We have felt that the maintenance of the unity of our Empire was a principle upon which Conservative and Radical, Grit and Tory, could well agree. We have felt that upon this one issue at least we might well lay aside our local differences and jealousies, and remembering only that we are alike citizens of a matchless Empire, strive with all our strength, with all our energies, to preserve intact the mighty heritage bequeathed to us by the prowess and wisdom of our forefathers. And thus we find that as we have the leader of the Reform party in this Province actively engaged in promoting this movement by seconding the resolution on the strength of which the League was founded, so also you have Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper countenancing it by their presence and their utterances at the great initial meetings in London. And in England, while the first president, the leading spirit of the association, was a Liberal—one of the truest and ablest and most single-minded statesmen of modern times—I mean the late Mr. Forster—and while the present president is also a Liberal, and a Gladstonian Liberal, too, Lord Rosebery, yet Conservatives have just as warmly espoused the cause, and public opinion there has, as I have said, moved in favor of Imperial Federation with a rapidity, volume and power which has utterly astonished its warmest and most sanguine supporters. And now what is Imperial Federation? What do we mean by it? What is the object we have in view?

The object we have in view is to preserve to ourselves and our children after us for ever the unity of our Empire. There are, I think, sir, few people in Canada, still fewer of the British breed, who will deny that this is a good object. The preservation of our Empire—our Empire—mark you, my friends! It is just as much ours as it is the empire of the British people living in any other part of it—living in England, Ireland, or Scotland, for example. We have, in fact, to all intents and purposes, a greater share of it under our own immediate control than they have; and no one who has