

his brethren and their action bring down on their own heads publicity and shame and redound in the long run to the credit of him whom they are trying to disgrace, such actions will be few and far between.

This is not the place nor the occasion to formulate in detail a scheme for a defence association. Whether it is to be purely local, or larger and more provincial, or whether it should emanate from this Association and be Dominion, are questions well worthy of your consideration and debate. An enlarged scheme, such as I have just hinted at, could be undertaken without any very great difficulty and an executive chosen for each province who would carefully investigate the merits of all cases submitted, and if defensible, bring into operation the forces at their disposal through the various provincial channels.

This is but a rude outline of much that could be said and urged on this question, but I have no desire to weary you with a prolonged argument, nor to attempt to thrash out the details of organization whether provincial or Dominion, but I want at this meeting to arouse in you a sense of its far-reaching importance, so that if it cannot be inaugurated now, some of you may feel disposed, on thinking it over, to initiate a movement in the premises.

Gentlemen, I thank you for your reception of me as your President and for your patient hearing, and I hope I may be allowed to take my seat and enjoy myself for the rest of the session.