

ing the Federation League as the beginning of a new era. The third paragraph in Stanhope's despatch, conveying to the Colonial Governments the purpose of the projected Conference, ran as follows: "The question which is at once urgent and capable of useful consideration is that of organization for military defence. The patriotic action of the Colonies in offering contingents of troops to take part in the Egyptian campaign made a deep and a lasting impression on the public mind, and was the first practical result of much careful work during recent years. . . . The close and thorough examination of the whole subject of Imperial Defence, which was completed by the Royal Commission presided over by the Earl of Carnarvon, has led to the execution of extensive and important defensive works in various parts of the Empire, and the cordial co-operation offered to Her Majesty's Government by the Colonies in carrying out this policy indicates their desire to arrive, so far as may at present be practicable, at a common basis of action."<sup>1</sup> But the League, on the other hand, had petitioned the Prime Minister to summon a Conference

<sup>1</sup> Jebb, *The Imperial Conference*. Edinburgh, 1911.