

If we examine the constitution of our association we will find that nothing can be farther from its meaning, nothing more mistaken than such impressions. The only objects aimed at in our constitution are :

1. To promote the discussion of means, whereby the permanent unity of the Empire may be maintained.
2. To further the developments and interchange of the resources of the several provinces of the Empire.
3. To resist any measure tending to disintegration.

In pursuing these objects we are advocating a policy peaceful in its character, and in all respects patriotic and proper. We are not the advocates of any revolutionary project. We have no irrational hopes, no aspirations for the establishment of a despotism ; no formulated scheme to carry out. We have no desire to violate the political rights or disturb the geographical sensibilities of any race, class or individual, who may wish well of his country. (Hear, hear.) If there be a fundamental principle in the constitution of the league more prominent than any other, it is our advocacy of British connection and the desire to strengthen its existing relations. We do not desire to disturb the present union between the different members of the British family as it exists, still less to weaken the bonds which hold them together. We aim at strengthening the attachments of one to the other by the development of intercolonial trade and commerce ; by establishing more satisfactory means of inter-communication ; by cultivating closer friendly relations, and by every proper means we strive to establish a spirit of affinity and affection, with the hope that it will increase as time rolls onward. (Applause.) If in Canada we were called upon to make the selection *de novo* of the title by which the league should be known, it is possible we would prefer some such designation as "The British Alliance" or "British Union League." But, in reality, the name is of secondary importance, provided we perfectly understand the objects we have in view and the purpose to be attained. In its application to the British Empire we must not identify the term "Imperial" with the despotisms of history and the evils to which they gave rise. The British Empire is without a parallel in past centuries ; it is an Empire in which no despot can hold sway ; it is