

ment. Sir Frederick Pollock, for example, who came here as their spokesman a short time ago, after pointing out that it would involve modifications in the jurisdiction of the existing Legislatures, continued in these words:

"I am not aware of any reason for thinking that the parliament of the United Kingdom would easily be persuaded to reduce itself by a solemn act to a mere State Legislature, or that the Colonial Governments would be willing to surrender any substantial part of their autonomy to some new Federal Senate or Council."

And speaking of the other alternative, he said:

"No one I believe is now found to advocate a direct representation of the Colonies in Parliament."

Mr. Chamberlain at the outset of his imperialistic efforts recognized the same thing, and admitted the hopelessness of even framing a proposal for Imperial Federation. In 1896, referring to the history of the League, he said:

"During its career it was again and again challenged to produce a plan, and it was unwilling or unable to answer the challenge. Sir, I think we may, at all events, learn from its experience that the realization of our hopes, if they are in the direction of a federation of the Empire—their final realization—is a matter of such magnitude and such great complication that it cannot be undertaken at the present time."

What could not be done in the lump, so to speak, Mr. Chamberlain set himself to accomplish by instalments. With great courage, versatility and persistence he proposed one bit of federation after another, only to meet defeat and failure upon every point. He failed, if for no other reason than because at the very outset he told us quite frankly that his object was:

"to create a new government for the British Empire—a new government with large powers of taxation and legislation over countries separated by thousands of miles of sea."

Taxation from thousands of miles across the sea, was something which had a rather unpleasant sound in Canadian ears, and our statesmen did not at all agree that it was as Mr. Chamberlain said:

"a desirable consummation to be approached by a process of gradual development."

As a first instalment of federation, Mr. Chamberlain endeavored to bring about a Commercial Union of the Empire—that is, to provide for some joint control over the making of customs' tariffs for the whole Empire. This, he said, was the preliminary step to German consolidation, and it would lead to political union of the British Empire. But Mr. Chamberlain at once antagonized all the Colonies, and proved the hopelessness and impracticability of joint control, by insisting that Commercial Union must be based upon the abandonment of protection within the Empire. In the speech already quoted from, he said:

"But the principle which I claim must be accepted if we are to make any, even the slightest progress, is that within the different parts of the Empire protection must disappear."

Mr. Chamberlain so became convinced that protection would not disappear, and he abandoned the attempt to create his Com-