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THE

Imperial Unity League of Ottawa.

Very soon after the issue of Circular No. 2 by the United Empire Association, its office bearers were made aware of the existence in Toronto of an incorporated body with a similar name. This Association is called the United Empire Loyalist Association and its secretary, Mr. William Hamilton Merritt, suggested that the Ottawa Society, being the younger, should change its name. After due consideration the Executive Committee, consisting of the office bearers and Council, recommended a change, and, at a meeting of the United Empire Association held on the 2nd February 1899, that body adopted the name of the Imperial Unity League of Ottawa. It is to be understood that the League is only a local organization, and that its principles do not differ very materially from those of the British Empire League.

The objects of the new Association remain substantially the same as those of the old. In the first Circular, issued in December 1896, these objects were defined, and it is well worthy of note that the first of them, the "Abolition of obnoxious treaty stipulations" has since been accomplished. In 1897 the Commercial Treaties of Great Britain with Belgium and Germany were denounced, and, on the 1st August 1898, their complete abrogation took place. At that date also the reduction of 25 p. c. on the duties, imposed on goods from the countries above named and others, became restricted to importations from the United Kingdom and certain of her Colonies. Very soon afterwards came the negotiations for the establishment of Imperial Penny Postage, which went into operation here last Christmas. For these three steps in the direction of Imperial Federation, the thanks of the members of this League are due to Mr. Henniker Heaton, the Hon. Mr. Mulock and the Government of Canada, which took the necessary action without being specially urged thereto by any of the Societies or Committees which have for object the institution of preferential trade, or the passing of measures for effecting the closer union, politically or otherwise, of the Countries of the Empire.

Under these circumstances it may seem uncalled for on the part of this League to attempt to indicate the manner in which any further advances