

selves with the United States, and (3) they might become part and parcel of one grand Imperial Federation. In the first place it would be well to consider what the prospects would be as an independent nation. Canada, with a population of five million people, alongside a nation of fifty-five million, could only expect to enjoy such rights and privileges as the more powerful nation would concede. Then as to annexation, this was palpably undesirable—(applause)—although there were some who would have them think that it was the only road to prosperity. Imperial Federation appeared to be the correct solution of the question. (Applause.) It must be said that there was a lot of sentiment in this; but after all, there was a great deal in well-acted sentiment. If Canada is to remain an integral portion of the Empire it will secure for her the right of citizenship in that great Empire of which she is a part—the greatest Empire in the world. They were asked to define what was meant by Imperial Federation.

The small fish of the audience (Mr. Spratt)—Hear, hear. (Laughter and hissing.)

Mr. Clark—I admit that the request that it should be defined is a very reasonable one, and I was about to define it for the information of my friend below, and others like him.

Mr. Spratt (the aforesaid small fish)—Hear, hear; let me hear it.

Mr. Clark proceeded to define the term. He said that Imperial Federation would enable Canada to rank as an integral part of the British Empire, entitled to representation in the Imperial Parliament and a voice in Imperial affairs, home and foreign. If they had a voice in the foreign policy of the Empire they should contribute their reasonable proportion to the cost of Imperial defences. "Our friend," said the speaker, "may think that Imperial Federation is impracticable; but I would remind him that every great reform was denounced as impracticable until its practicability was established. The abolition of slavery was said to be impracticable, but it is now an accomplished fact. The corn laws were said to be impracticable, but we know that the prophets did not prophesy aright. When it was proposed to construct our great railway system from one side of this great Dominion to the other it was said to be an impossibility, but we see how mistaken were those who thus spoke and possibly thought. At one time it was said that it would be impossible for a steamship to cross the Atlantic, but we know that they have crossed it." (Laughter and applause.) The speaker proceeded to say that the Imperial Federation movement was said to be a Tory one. If this were so it would be a very serious objection to it in the minds of some. (Laughter.) There were, however, very few great beneficial movements with which that party was

not identified—in fact at that moment he could not recollect one. (Applause and laughter.) Perhaps the hon. the Minister of Education could remind him of one. (Renewed laughter.) The movement was not a political movement, but one in which all parties might join. Professor Goldwin Smith had spoken of colonial disintegration but he only represented the ideas of one morbid mind. (Applause.) The professor, while wishing to sever Canada from all connection with the Mother Land, would not extend to Ireland the privilege of local government or home rule. (No, no.) Don't say "no, no," for it will come. The uniform policy of Goldwin Smith was a great failure throughout.

The small fish—Mr. Chairman, I wish—(Hissing and cries of "turn him out.") Mr. Spratt remained standing for a couple of minutes, during which time he was hissed and hooted very liberally. Seeing that he could not secure a hearing the discontented obstructionist resumed his seat.

The speaker concluded by affirming that "everything which Goldwin Smith advocated has been a failure—a great failure."

Canada's Position.

Mr. Alexander McNeill, M.P., on rising to propose the second resolution was received with long-continued applause.

Resolved,—That while having every reason to be satisfied with their position as citizens of the greatest Empire the world has ever known, enjoying in the fullest sense the rights of local self-government, with a large measure of protection from external foes, Canadians, now numbering five millions, with their continental territory, rapidly developing resources, growing and far-reaching commerce and increasing wealth, have attained a position from which they can contemplate with a high degree of confidence such well-matured plans as may be proposed alike by Imperial and colonial statesmen for a closer union of the component parts of the Empire and for an increase in the responsibilities and duties necessarily arising out of a union from which so much may be expected of strength, of prosperity and of glory.

He said he came there in this position, that he had to cast himself upon their generosity, but he did not think, however, that it was altogether a hopeless position for a man to be in, throwing himself upon the generosity of a British audience. (Applause.) He thought it was due not only to that great meeting but to the speaker himself who ventured the task of addressing such an audience that he should have the opportunity of considering his subject in order that he might place his thoughts in line and as forcibly as possible. Unfortunately that was not his position, and he confessed that in consequence he came forward with a great deal of hesitation. He had felt a great deal of doubt coming down from Ottawa that day, but when he was face to face with such a glorious meeting all his doubts passed away like mists before the light of the sun. The news of that meeting would be tidings of