

proposed league to enforce peace, and that the development of some reliable means of enforcing legal rules, including the rule of good faith (to which I have referred) among states, may be achieved? Certainly such a league among the English-speaking peoples, the peoples of the Great Charter of Liberty, would be a potent force for the preservation of the peace of the world.

General Jan Smuts can tell us something well worth considering on this subject. He is a very distinguished graduate of Cambridge, and some years ago, by his great ability and energy, earned our respect in a way, however, which would not have won him many votes in Toronto at the time. Recently his great services to the Empire, not only as a soldier, but also as a statesman, have entitled him to speak with considerable authority.

General Smuts said a short time ago:

"The only successful experiment in international government that has ever been made is the British Empire, founded on principles which appeal to the highest political ideals of mankind. . . . Our hope is that the basis may be so laid for the future that it may become an instrument of good, not only in the Empire, but in the whole world."

This vividly recalls the statement made many years ago, which cannot be too often quoted, that the British Empire is the greatest secular agency for good the world has ever known. The Imperial War Conference declared that "The readjustment of the constitutional relations of the component parts of the Empire is too important and intricate a subject to be dealt with during the war, and that it should form the subject of a special Imperial Conference to be summoned as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities." The experience of the United States demonstrates that a federal union is the only permanent solution, but we must remember that a federation of the United States could not be achieved until a system of alliances such as now proposed for the British Empire had proved inadequate, and that South Africa adopted a union rather than a truly federal government. At the present time public opinion is not yet prepared for a truly Imperial Parliament to whom the Imperial Executive already constituted shall be accountable according to the well-tried principles of responsible and representative government.

Although the decisions of the momentous Conference, so arranged to be held, may affect the destinies of Canada, and indeed of over one-fifth of the human race, many amongst us have not yet seriously considered its far-reaching consequences.

Meantime, that a basis satisfactory to General Smuts has been laid by the genius of Lloyd George is shown by the following extract from