

Gentlemen, I think that we now see the end of the present road. Let us consider the chances of deflection from it.

One word only as to the alternative between a Kingdom under the British Sovereign and a Kingdom under separate Sovereignty. For my own part a desire to remain in connection with "the old country"; a feeling that the full blaze of Royalty would be something unaccustomed, and possibly for a time not a little irksome; and a perfect contentment with our Governors-General, more especially may I say with the present most genial and popular occupant of Rideau Hall—all these, as I think, contribute to the conclusion that in this respect we shall not diverge from the present road of our political development.

Another possibility is that we may unite with our neighbors to the south. I do not know the future. In some far off year, under some unforeseen circumstances, such may be the destiny of Canada. A racial war with the Asiatic millions may throw us into war-union with the United States, and battle-comradeship may lead, as it often does, to political partnership. I am not a prophet. All that I say is that the present road does not lead to union with the United States, and I see no tendency to turn in that direction.

The second possibility—an independent Republic—is a result less probable than the one we have just considered. We may discard it.

But what of our third possibility, Imperial Federation?

In 1884 the Imperial Federation League was formed, declaring, as its fundamental assertion:

"that in order to secure the permanent unity of the Empire, some form of federation is essential."

But the League could not suggest any form. It lectured and published, and finally went to Lord Salisbury (1891) asking him to call a Colonial Conference to consider the question. In reply Lord Salisbury declined to do so until he had some proposal to lay before the Conference:

"We are almost come" he said "to the time when schemes should be proposed . . . without them we should not get very far."

Not being able to agree upon any scheme the League dissolved in 1893, and no other such league has ever since been formed.

The truth was that discussion had proved that Imperial Federation was impracticable. Imagine the reception which would be given in the United Kingdom to any proposal that the Colonies should have *pro rata* representation in the British Parliament—a representation that would soon outnumber the British members! What would they do with us? And more particularly what should we do with them? Federation is impossible.

The "New Imperialists", as I believe they call themselves, have completely abandoned the idea of a present Federal Parlia-