

In the politics of the western races we have always and everywhere had a struggle between a desire for unity and a desire for local liberty. Greece represented the extreme form of the latter; the Roman *imperium* the extreme form of unity. Up to the present time we have been unable to achieve any lasting unity without an *imperium*. When the Western Empire fell the struggle was renewed within the nations themselves, and unity was never attained except by the exercise of an *imperium* that crushed out all local authority, all local freedom of action, though finally in many cases the *imperium* of the absolute monarchy has been transferred to the hands of the united *nation*. The Southern Confederacy yielded only to the power of the national *imperium*, using Lincoln and Grant as its instruments. The States of the American union are not now free to come and go. The absolute imperial sovereignty of the nation imposes irresistibly its supreme will upon them. This is why we ought not to let pass unobserved the habit of some neo-Imperialists of speaking invariably of "the over-sea states—not nations—of the Empire".

Now, among the widely-scattered populations who all owe allegiance to King George V. there has arisen a certain desire for greater unity. This is in direct conformity with one of the natural and historic tendencies of the human mind. Unity has never hitherto been attained otherwise than by an *imperium* which has overridden local freedom of action and so the movement has been somewhat naturally given the name "Imperialism". It will not do to talk of Federalism as furnishing an exception to the rule I state. The South was kept in the union by force of arms. Nova Scotia yielded only to the application of an external *imperium*. What would the Kaiser not do if Saxony proposed to separate from the German Empire?

The choice of the term "Imperialism" was the more to be expected when we remember that in a vast portion of the territory concerned, from India to the least of the Crown colonies, a real *imperium* is still exercised. Can we really