

is equivalent to admitting the early break-up of the Empire. Four of the five nations, embraced in the Empire, are and must remain democracies. Are they thereby the less Imperial in sentiment? If the democracies of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Cape can appreciate the conception of a great union of the British Dominions why should it be assumed that the democracy of Great Britain will alone remain indifferent, if not hostile? This theory that faith and pride in the Empire is the possession of but a single class in Great Britain is, in fact, one of the many evil consequences of that wrong conception of what the Empire should be, which was dealt with in an earlier article in this series.

What are to be the function and the objective of the British Empire of the future? We talk about it now in terms of defence; but this is merely a passing phase. The world will emerge some time, in a century or two perhaps, from these dark ages, when nations are compelled to bankrupt themselves in readiness for war. We are building the Empire, we hope, for all time. It is not to crumble into dust like the Empires of Assyria, Egypt, Greece and Rome, because it is to be inspired by a spirit unknown to the ancient world. They lived for conquest and oppression, for the subjection and exploitation of classes and nations; and they fell, in time, before the inexorable natural law of change and progress. The British Empire to endure must be worthy to endure. It must be a union of free and enlightened democracies dedicated to the cause of peace and to the service of humanity. So constituted, so inspired, the Empire will command the lasting affection and the devotion of all the British people; and perhaps in some far off time, the support of all Anglo-Saxondom.

One or two more observations and I shall make an end. These letters have not been intended as a chronicle in detail of the deeds, the discussions, the journeys and the social achievements of the delegates to the Press Conference; but rather as an individual interpretation of impressions and opinions of which the Conference was the occasion. There has been no attempt to make specific acknowledgment of the courtesies and kindnesses done us—for indeed space would fail me were I to embark upon any such undertaking. We were the recipients on all hands of a hospitality overwhelming in its extent and its cordiality; and were the guests not only of our English newspaper friends, who were our particular hosts, and of corporations and public bodies, but of the richest, the noblest and the greatest in the land. No one in the delegation was vain enough to imagine any personal compliment in these lavish attentions. It was in our capacity as informal and unaccredited but nevertheless real representatives of the Britons overseas that we were given this welcome. The compliment though paid to us was meant for them, and in that spirit it was accepted.

As I have tried to set out in these articles the indirect benefits of the