

than by forethought provided against dangers which may strain to the breaking point.

The special advantages to be derived from a workable form of imperial federation are numerous. Space, however, will permit me to mention but a few. In the first place we would have that chief essential — a better feeling throughout the empire—a spirit of brotherhood and of common interest, welding into one homogeneous whole all parts of the realm.

"No matter that at different shrines

They prayed unto one God,

No matter that at different times

Their fathers won the sod;

In fortune and in fame they're bound

In stronger links than steel,

And neither could be safe nor sound

But in the others' weal."

Further, reciprocity, embodying a customs union providing for free trade within the empire and levying the same tax as is now levied on goods from foreign countries, would be one of the first direct results of federation. Then there is the matter of Imperial Law. The "King's Writ" runs throughout the empire; but there is no common system of law, and no unity even upon such matters as marriage, bills of exchange, bankruptcy, patents, copy right and capital punishment. If we could also build up in the British Empire a common idea of the administration of justice, a common notion of what justice is, a common faith that justice is certain to be administered whether you are in the Yukon or in Australia, in Toronto or in London, surely that of itself would be a power towards a greater Imperialism. Again, we should have laws under which no

goods could be conveyed from one port to another of the empire except in vessels owned in the empire. This would prevent other countries such as France or Germany from usurping British trade—an important matter in this age of struggle for commercial supremacy. These problems, and many others, would find their solution under the new regime.

And now we come to that most potent factor of this great subject—the question of Imperial Defence. If the empire is not united in the matter of defence, how can that empire be expected to remain intact? Think of what would be the fate of Great Britain or her colonies if the naval powers were superceded! Think of what would happen in the Old Land were the colonies to become the prey of other powers!—Great Britain, not having then an outlet for her increasing population, would become a veritable charnel house. The navy, then, is our greatest bulwark. Canada and Australia may deem it good policy to withhold from the Imperial Navy their contributions, in favor of promoting their own individual defence, but this is nothing short of false economy. A great navy, built on the two-power standard, with several mighty squadrons distinguished as Canadian, British or Australasian appears more reasonable and imperialistic than the idea of a colony, by its own inadequate means, attempting to defend an extent of coastline unfitted by nature for defensive purposes. But you point out the cost of a "Dreadnought." The cost of a navy of "Dreadnoughts" is as nothing compared with the loss of nationhood and of empire! In matters concerning defence the empire has arrived at the parting of the ways, and the de