

on the eve of that time, and I could give you many reasons but will trouble you with few. I do not know just what form that federation would assume. The evolution of States is a slow process. The evolution of the British Constitution took ages; the evolution of Canada took many years; but may we not hope that some time or other, under the shadow of Westminster, there shall be an assembly from the remotest corners of this Empire—Colonists with devoted hearts and loyal purpose—who will assist in binding together more closely the various parts of the Empire than they are now bound, and uniting not by mere sentiment—although we cannot leave sentiment alone—but by fact as well as sentiment all the Colonies, so that when the world looks upon the British Empire it will look not upon an England splendidly isolated (as she is understood to be), but upon an Empire splendidly united from one corner of the globe to the other. (Cheers.) That must be the Britain of the twentieth century if I mistake not. (Cheers.) We shall not be content always as Colonies to maintain our present isolation. I do not say that we insist on a closer union, but we believe that for you and for us a closer union will be an advantage to all. (Applause.) Let it be discussed and considered. There have been conferences between the Imperial authorities and the Colonies, and, so far as Canada is concerned, they have been of much service to us. I understand from Mr. Chamberlain that he expects during the Coronation time next year to have another conference with representatives of the Colonies. In this way we shall come to understand each other better, and there are many questions we might discuss apart from that of a Federated Parliament. Sir John Cockburn referred to the simplification of the marriage laws. That is a very important matter. And could we not unify the currency of the Empire, the system of weights and measures, and have a uniform and more satisfactory system of insolvency laws for the whole Empire? When a man in Manchester sells his goods to a Canadian he does not know whether he will get a hundred cents or one cent for his dollar. A uniform insolvency law would clear away that difficulty. I know that there are practically similar postal laws, and now it is proposed to have a similar telegraph system, which is another good thing. In this age we cannot afford to wait for steamboats for our mails. We must get quickly to business, and we can only get quickly to it through the submarine cables. And then we must have some sort of reciprocity