

let us have a broader Imperial view, let us realize that our proud position among the nations of the world is entirely due to the fact that we are an integral part of a great Empire and that we are protected by the strong arm of the mother country. Today the free colonies have, in effect, become independent nations under a nominal sovereignty. The time has come when we should change these scattered parts from a series of commercial units into an organic whole, for in unity we have the secret of irresistible power. If this end is to be achieved, there must be set up in the heart of the empire an Imperial Senate composed of representatives from every constituent part. If the colonies are to contribute towards the maintenance of the whole, they must be permitted to have a voice in Imperial questions. We have here then a scheme for bringing together in the Imperial Metropolis, representatives from every corner of the Empire, from the largest possession to the smallest. Statesmen from the oldest colony and the youngest protectorate will sit together in solemn conclave to forge an instrument for the more uniform and efficient defence of the Empire as an organic whole. Such a policy is pregnant with possibilities.

No more opportune moment than the present can be chosen to promote this Imperial sentiment. The recent close of a great war in South Africa, the first in the history of man in which a people divided by oceans have united as a nation against a common foe, has revealed a vista of possibilities for our Empire never before dreamt of by the most sanguine Imperialists. Let us stand together in this great question of defence and demonstrate clearly to our enemies that they are engaged in a hopeless stern chase. It is one thing to prepare for war against a

nation whose expenditure for naval supremacy has reached breaking point, but it is quite another thing to prepare for war against an Empire in being, with an efficient army set in motion by centralized machinery, organized homogeneously, strategically situated in all parts of the world and able to move with absolute impunity wherever a ship can float, thanks to a navy which would no longer be starved for the upkeep of a small regular army. Then again, it is essential that the circulation along the main trade routes should be uninterrupted. In this respect the Empire closely resembles the human body; its actual life depending upon certain arteries. Still likening the Empire to the human body, we come to the equivalent of the nervous system. This is represented by the electric cables that link up almost every scattered portion, reducing to order and system what would otherwise be an unwieldy conglomeration of parts, and enabling the efficient government of all as one. For administrative purposes New Zealand is now no further from London than is Liverpool or Glasgow. The advent of wireless telegraphy has made permanently secure the Imperial communication. This is most important for it means the almost instantaneous exchange of ideas between inhabitants of all parts. The same questions are being considered simultaneously and the thought of the Empire is being rapidly harmonized. The second condition necessary to convert the project of an Empire into a real Empire, is the establishment of a common fiscal policy throughout our whole Dominions. In Imperial federation one of the essential conditions is that the whole Empire should form a great internal market with a system as far as possible of free trade between all parts. As