

I fear that Imperial Federation at the present time is premature. Distance is the first lion in the path. Until the voyage to Australia is greatly reduced in time, until cable rates are much cheaper and news distributed in greater detail, her representatives would be unable to perform the double duty of serving their own Dominion at home and sitting in the Cabinet in London. One duty or the other must be inadequately performed. Moreover, if representation is to be based on population, the Dominions are unlikely to surrender themselves to the decision of a Parliament in which the combined vote of all the self-governing Dominions would be less than that of the United Kingdom. On the other hand, Great Britain would be justified in resisting any suggestion that the policy of this country in respect of foreign relations should be determined by a Parliament in which she might be outvoted by the Dominions. Time will bring an increase in population and a conquering of distance. Unsatisfactory as a loose union is, bonds prematurely applied are more than dangerous, and however attractive the idea of Imperial Federation may be, the wise policy is to hasten slowly. In the near future different portions of His Majesty's Dominions may be endowed with larger powers of self-government. Possibly those enjoying the status of responsible government may be incorporated in wider federal areas. It is wise to wait and see. Much can be done in the meantime to establish a better mutual understanding, a closer union of sentiment and interest; and on these foundations, if truly and carefully laid, may be erected a grander superstructure in years to come by the process of gradual evolution.

There are three outstanding features of the Imperial problem—(1) Great Britain is not self-supporting; (2) Australia possesses unlimited resources, but (3) suffers from the sparseness of its population.

One of the many lessons that have been impressed upon us as the result of the war is the dangerous extent to which the United Kingdom is dependent upon other nations for manufactures and raw materials, and even the necessities of life. This position is attributable to the practice of past