

Canada, the operation is not a new one. In order to achieve control of Canadian affairs, your predecessors found it necessary to merge the provinces in one great Dominion and they succeeded because, on both sides, there were men large enough to rise so far above minor issues that they met on common ground at the moment of a great national crisis. The Dominion of Canada was the joint work of Liberal and Conservative, of British and of French leaders; so it was in Australia; so it was in South Africa; so it was in America, and so it will be in this immeasurably greater task before us now. If the Imperial problem is to find its solution in the foresight and constructive purpose of free men, if these vast issues are not in the end to be decided by the results of indifference drifting to catastrophe, it will be so decided, because the best elements in either party have grasped the issues at stake, have seen that they are greater than any which divide their factions, and have united to apply the proper solution. I submit, therefore, that any association formed for the purpose of educating public opinion on this subject should, as an association, treat it as an object of primary importance to keep the issue from becoming a party one. That I believe such an association can do, provided it confines itself strictly to educative work. The organization of which I am thinking is one which would set itself to induce the more educated classes not only to read the documents in which its creed had been worked out, but to join the association and induce others to read them. It would organize lectures for the less educated classes and use every possible means of getting an understanding of its views diffused throughout the community irrespective of party. It would, if it is to be worth anything, include Liberals and Conservatives, each of whom would be expected