

Nor were the illustrations given of a unique or isolated character, on the contrary they expressed the general feelings and sentiments not only of British statesmen and leaders of thought but of the great mass of the British people. When such was the prevailing feeling it will be realized what an uphill struggle the Imperialists had to wage at the outset and their immense success under the circumstances is therefore all the more remarkable.

Never was the power of the written word more strikingly shown than in the events which lead up to the inception of the Imperialistic movement. The seed which was to have such an abundant harvest was sown by some of the greatest writers of the English language. Froude in his "Oceana", Seeley in his "Expansion of Britain" and Charles Dilke in his "Greater Britain", which was published in the very year that witnessed the establishment of the Canadian Confederation awakened the people of Great Britain to the greatness and extent of the Empire and to the vast potentialities possessed by the colonies which had been treated with such marked interference. The idea of a great Pan-Britannic Confederation, of a world wide Imperial structure, became with many people a cult, and that cult eventually found practical expression in the foundation in 1884 of the Imperial Federation League whose programme included the political military and economic reorganization of the Empire. Its immediate aim was a political federation under which the various colonies would have a part in the direction of the general interests of the Empire with the obligation of sharing in the military burden.

Contingent to this was the establishment of a custom union or zollverein the object of which was not only to promote an exchange of products between the different portions of the Empire but also to provide the necessary revenue for Imperial purposes such as the maintenance of the Imperial Army and Navy. The latter portion of the League's programme received the warm support of several leading colonial statesmen including Sir Charles Tupper, who strongly advocated preferential trade within the