

ference of that Union shortly to be held in Vienna, in the hope that now, when the rates have—by such a fortunate coincidence—been assimilated, those Colonies should conform to the International Convention. And there is ground to apprehend that at length—after four more than the “twelve years of persistent pressure” to this end referred to at the Imperial Conference in 1887—they will now accede to the wishes of the central office. The effect would obviously be to strengthen the hold of the Postal Union upon the communications of the Empire, and so to intensify and prolong the subordination of Imperial interests to an international organisation. The time requires therefore that we should now put forward, with what strength we may, the considerations which in our view justify the establishment of a truly Imperial system of Postal Communications, and the grounds upon which accordingly it is so eminently undesirable that any step should be taken militating against this policy.

The accompanying paper is a humble endeavour to put before the public the case for a Uniform Imperial Postage; by which I mean nothing less than the extension of the inland rates current in the United Kingdom to the whole British Empire. Responsibility for the contents of the paper rests with the writer alone. At the same time, I have, as you are aware, had the benefit while writing this pamphlet of learning the opinions of other individual members of the League who have devoted special attention to the subject. In conclusion, I may perhaps be permitted to take this opportunity of placing on record the obligation which the League is under to yourself for the material assistance rendered by you in bringing this subject before the public; and I desire also to express my own acknowledgments of the advantage I have derived in the preparation of this pamphlet from valued suggestions and criticisms by yourself, Mr. W. M. Acworth, Mr. H. O. Arnold-Forster, and others.

I am, Yours very truly,

ROBERT J. BEADON.