

II.

Letter from Sir Sandford Fleming, having special reference to the difficulties raised during the discussion which followed the Address.

EDINBURGH, August 8th, 1906.

R. C. HAWKIN, Esq.,
Secretary of the "Eighty Club,"
London.

SIR,—Referring to the scheme which I had the honour to submit to the consideration of the "Eighty Club" on July 20th, I understand it is desired by the Committee that I should, before returning to Canada, express my views at some greater length, and especially on the questions raised by the several speakers on the occasion referred to.

The chief claim made for the proposal is, not so much that it may be regarded as a substitute for other schemes heretofore advanced, having for their object the unification of the Empire, but that if any substantial progress is to be made in that direction, as it seems to me, the policy suggested must take precedence of any such schemes; that if it be pre-eminently necessary to have freer intercourse, with fuller and closer political, commercial, and social relations between the different States which go to make up the Empire, there is no conceivable means by which these objects can more easily and more naturally be achieved.

The proposal is not solely in the interests of these islands, vastly important as they are; it is not for the benefit of any one class, or of any one section of the British people; it is projected in the interest of the *entire* Empire, and its object is to advance the concrete well-being of the British people throughout the world. It is designed for the benefit of every