

tion to insist that, with centralisation, must always be local autonomy and Imperial representation.

"There is no man, probably, in the British Empire to whom it has not occurred, and upon whom it is not thrust with growing insistency, that the vital Imperial problem of the moment is a more efficient organisation of all the assets of Empire, and this involves an accurate knowledge of our palpable weaknesses, no less than a realisation of the pressing need of all our available strength. Without doubt, we are losing the hardiness that made the race of men that made the British Empire.

EFFICIENT IMPERIAL LIFE.

"We are overwhelmed with the luxury of long and unquestioned success, and success is enervating; and we are losing the iron in our blood, and the initiative which has made our race what it is. We are taking too much for granted. We are saying to ourselves: 'Things always have been so, and, therefore, they always will be so.' There are serious movements afoot in the outer Empire that call for closer organisation, and a more efficient Imperial life. No close observer can fail to be aware of the pressure in the Dominions, and, indeed, of Great Britain itself, of those widely spread centrifugal forces which have been bequeathed to us by an age of individualism, and which are none the less real because they have not yet found a voice. In the matter of what I might call real Imperial patriotism, also, we are taking too much for granted; but, in addition to this, there is something more dangerous yet in the apathy on the part of large numbers who academically assent to Imperialist opinions, and every few weeks applaud the speakers at Canadian clubs. It is impossible for Great Britain to realise the extent to which the most of the people of the new self-governing States are absorbed in narrow and selfish tasks of their own pursuits, and on the theory that two bodies cannot occupy the same space at the same time, those honest folk are losing public spirit and patriotism by sheer force of their being crowded out by meaner things. The new watchwords of Britannia just now should be: Organisation and Efficiency and Duty, and whatever will tend to give tangible form to these ideas will be of vital use to the Empire.

"In these days of expansion and dispersion, not to say disintegration, I know of nothing that more completely can meet the present Imperial need, or work toward a more comprehensive Imperial purpose than the central organisation and co-relation and housing of the scattered ends of our Imperial life and thought and giving to these 'airy nothings' a 'local habitation and a name.' And I am sure that the Empire, for all time to come would hold premiers and Governments responsible, should they from any personal or other motive attempt to block, or even

delay, the realisation of this pressing Imperial necessity.

"The time has come for us to adopt some new watchwords, and, perhaps, some new ideas. Let us find it at once, and get ready to meet it, a new cross upon us. Revolutionary changes are in the air, for new and fundamental ideas have taken possession of the great majorities of the world.

"I want to say to you, gentlemen, that this project is one which vitally concerns the permanent interests of British Columbia. Here in Vancouver we understand, or ought to understand, that we have no time to lose in overtaking and guiding the centuries world-movements of the Pacific Ocean. Here is where the Empire will be lost or won. Here is where we are to decide whether the white or yellow man is to be supreme upon this vast water. Here the scattered threads of world politics are to be gathered up and woven into the fabric of Empire, and here is where history shall say, if this is not done, and done at once, that the Empire was lost to the British race. We are facing a critical moment in our own development at this present time, and we ought to know that what we do in the next few years out here—what we do for and with the Empire—is likely to change or settle the direction of events for centuries to come. In proportion as we realise the solemnity of the issue shall we be able to grasp the significance of any and every factor which will, in greater or less degree, help to synthesise the assets of Empire, organise our trade in the mutual interests, gather together and bind our racial enthusiasms into one efficient whole, and prepare ourselves for the task, whatever it may cost us, of establishing our free institutions upon the empty places of our inheritance, and making that land now occupied by Britons free land forever." (Applause.)

MR. R. W. HOLLAND, the chairman, proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by MR. ALFRED BUCKLEY, and enthusiastically adopted:—

"That the Progress Club of Vancouver heartily and unanimously endorses the project known as the Dominion House on the Aldwych Site in London, and recommend that the trade and professional organisations, provinces, dependences and Dominions of the Empire support it in every possible way on the grounds set forth by Lord Grey, that it would enable: (1) The Governments of the self-governing Dominions and of their States and provinces to concentrate on one central site their offices, now widely distributed in different parts of London. (2) The attention of the home consumer to be effectively and impressively focussed on the products of the Dominions Oversea. (3) The manufacturers of the United Kingdom to ascertain and to meet the requirements of Greater Britain."