

which means the gradual disintegration or violent breaking up of the British Empire. Canada cannot continue as a mere dependency. Clearly, that is impossible. No living organism can continue long in a condition of arrested development. It must grow to its full stature or petrify. Dwarfing means repression of life. Besides, who wants to belong to a nation of dwarfs?

This brief sketch prepares us for a definition. Imperial Federation, then, may be defined as A UNION BETWEEN THE MOTHER COUNTRY AND CANADA THAT WOULD GIVE TO CANADA NOT ONLY THE PRESENT MANAGEMENT OF ITS OWN AFFAIRS, BUT A FAIR SHARE IN THE MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMON AFFAIRS. As British citizens, ought we to ask for more? As Canadians and full-grown men, ought we to be satisfied with less?

I shall throw to-night's talk into the form of an interview between the audience and myself. It seems, from remarks that I have heard in different places to-day, that you would like to put some questions to me. I shall try to answer at least four of them.

I.

"WHY, IN YOUR DEFINITION, DO YOU CONFINE THE PROPOSED FEDERATION TO THE MOTHER COUNTRY AND CANADA?"

Because we are able to look at it from our own point of view better than from any other, and because Canada is the only part of the Empire outside the British Islands that is ripe for the consideration of the question. If you wish to get to the top of a ladder, take one step at a time, and begin with the step nearest you. Even Australasia—in my opinion—is not yet ripe for Imperial Federation, because it has not yet taken the step of Australian Federation. It is making tentative efforts in that direction. The Assembly that has hitherto met at Hobart means nothing more than an attempt or experiment. In other words, there are—including New Zealand and Tasmania—seven Australias, but there is no Australia. The making of Australia into a nation or a political unity is the first step to be taken in the Southern Seas, and that of itself will tax the supreme energies of the people for some years. So far as I could discern during a brief visit there, the only opposition that has any vitality in it to Imperial Federation comes from men who regard it as a red herring drawn