

## Preface

Highnesses, on the other hand, were brought face to face and exchanged a hearty hand-grip with tens of thousands of the King's subjects of every class and degree; and they had invaluable opportunities, of which they took full advantage, to study the social, educational, economic, and political condition of each State, Colony, or Dependency. The Prince's speeches, all the salient passages of which I reproduce textually, constitute a series of historic pronouncements of incalculable political significance and the highest educational value.

My warmest thanks are due to their Royal Highnesses for much personal kindness, and for the facilities I enjoyed in the fulfilment of a difficult task. I also desire to thank the Governors, Premiers, and administrative departments of the States and Colonies visited, as well as the First Lord of the Admiralty and the officers of the *Ophir*, *St. George*, *Diadem*, and *Gibraltar*, the ships in which I voyaged, for the courtesy and hospitality they extended to me. To Baron de Reuter I am indebted for the use I have been permitted to make of the telegraphic material which, as his representatives, I and those appointed to collaborate with me collected and transmitted at enormous cost.

The bulk of my illustrations were secured by myself with the aid of a small hand camera which I had never manipulated before the tour began. For the remainder, including some of the most important, I tender my