

What steps are being taken by the league to further its objects ?

At the close of the year a council meeting was held at which a committee was appointed for the purpose of promoting a conference between the self-governing colonies to consider trade and other relations. The result of the committee's consideration was the sending of a circular letter on behalf of the league to the more prominent politicians of our sister colonies, inviting their co-operation in the matter, and pointing out the great possibilities of trade which the building of the C.P.R. and the establishment of cable and steam communication must in the future create. In addition to this step, Mr. George R. Parkin is now on his way to Australia to conduct a campaign there on behalf of our principles in accordance with the pressing invitation of the league in Victoria. In this connection, I might say that Mr. Parkin's meetings during his tour through Canada were most successful. Crowded houses greeted him at St. John, N.B., Ottawa, St. Thomas, Kingston, Belleville, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Principal Grant has, since his return from Australia, also delivered most eloquent addresses at Ottawa and Kingston. I may say here that branches are in course of formation at Woodstock, Picton, Cookstown, Barrie, Calgary, Yarmouth, N.S., St. Mary's, Vancouver, B.C., Winnipeg, Paisley, Brampton and Hamilton.

Much difference of opinion prevails, I believe, Mr. Hopkins, as to the policy of Imperial Federationists. Can you tell me what the league is aiming at ?

Well, it would seem to me that all advocates of this policy are united in believing that we should resist attempts at disintegration of the Empire in whatever part of the world they may arise; that we should strive to educate the public mind as to the benefits of British institutions and of Imperial unity, and the advantages to be derived from making that union permanent and establishing it upon a more equal and satisfactory footing. As regards the platform of the league, it has recently been summed up by our President, Lord Rosebery, in the words: "The closest possible union—in sympathy, in external action, in defence." It would seem to be generally recognized that there are three distinct branches of the question, and that we may attain them all in time, but that even if only one is gained it is a result well worth striving for. I should be disposed to sum them up in the following order:

- I. Combination for mutual defence.
- II. Co-operation for commercial purposes.
- III. Consolidation of existing political relations.

The way in which we expect to attain our object may be described as that of gradual development upwards, not revolution, but evolution, from the Colonial status of to-day to the national position of the future; from the dependency of the present, to the Federal State of the time to come, by means chiefly of consultative conferences; the development of trade, cable and steam communication between the different parts of the Empire.

It is often asserted that there are few prominent supporters of the movement either in England or the colonies. Is that a fact ?

I think that the best reply to that question will be, to give the names