

idea of abandoning such a system will appear too unreasonable for serious discussion.

New Hebrides.

We will not attempt to enter here into the controversy arising out of the French occupation of the New Hebrides. The matter has been before the Conference, and it does not appear to have yet reached a satisfactory settlement. It is, however, a great step in advance that the responsible Ministers of the Crown representing the United Kingdom and the Australasian States have at least had an opportunity of a personal meeting, and an interchange of views otherwise than through the hopeless channels of official correspondence. As to the main proposition, that it is for the benefit of the Empire, of Australasia, and of civilisation at large, that the French should be got out of the New Hebrides, and made to fulfil their treaty engagements, there can be no doubt whatever. Public feeling at home, as doubtless in the Colonies, has been distinctly dissatisfied by the tone of the Prime Minister's language on this subject; but it will be recognised that there is room for much discretion and much care, as well as for much firmness, in the action which is taken to achieve the desired result.

The True Measure of Success.

After all, however, the value of the Conference is not solely to be judged either by that which it has done or that which it has failed to do. Its true value lies in the demonstration which it affords of the new conditions of our Empire. It has proved that responsible and able official can be gathered together from all parts of the world, with the consent and approbation of their Governments, and without any serious dislocation of the political work of their respective Colonies. It has proved that a body of men so assembled can be relied upon to discuss the great questions of Imperial interest with sympathy, with reason, and in a thoroughly practical spirit. It has proved that the difficulties which were supposed to stand in the way of Imperial unity diminish rapidly as soon as they are confronted with courage and common sense.

Death of the "Colonial Office Demon."

While we in the United Kingdom have learnt much, the delegates themselves have also learnt something. They have seen that the baneful traditions so long maintained by the