

# SPEECH

DELIVERED AT

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— ON —

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— BY —

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*Vice President "Imperial Federation League in Canada."*

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: It is a great pleasure to me to be here in Paris to-night. I account it a great privilege to be permitted to address such a meeting as this of my fellow-countrymen, and of my countrywomen too, on that great theme which has touched the hearts and stirred the enthusiasm of so very many of the most eminent and practical statesmen in the Mother Country and the colonies, and which in its magnitude and importance to the British race dwarfs almost into insignificance all other political issues.

Imperial Unity or Imperial Disintegration—Empire or no Empire—that is the question. Fortunately it is not a party question. So little of a party question is it, that I see by the last number of *Imperial Federation*, the admirable journal of the Imperial Federation League, that public meetings in the interest of Imperial Federation are being held in England, under the joint auspices of members of Parliament and the political opponents they defeated at the polls. Those who know anything of political election contests—and I take it you are not all utterly ignorant of them in Paris—will admit that this is a tolerably conclusive proof that Imperial Federation is not a party issue in England; and, further, that it has taken a deep hold of the public mind.