

such steps as may be necessary to induce the Legislatures of their respective colonies to appoint during the present year delegates to a National Australasian Convention, empowered to consider and report upon an adequate scheme for a federal constitution. That such Convention should consist of not more than seven members from each of the self-governing colonies, and not more than four members from each of the Crown colonies."

In brief, the Conference unanimously decided that the time had come for the union of the Australian colonies under one Federal Government, and that the way to frame a constitution was by a National Convention to be elected this year by the several Australian Parliaments. The language of the first resolution: "The best interests and the present and future prosperity.....will be promoted by an early union under the Crown," was intentionally copied from the proceedings which led to the confederation of the North American Colonies. In order to guide their readers, the Melbourne and Sydney Press printed admirable summaries of the Act under which the Dominion of Canada was constituted. During the discussions at the Conference, the only member who objected to our Constitution as a pattern for Australia was the Hon. Mr. Playford of South Australia, and he did so on the ground that Canada was a nation and that Australia was not ready to become a nation, at all events that South Australia was not quite ready to abandon that hostile tariff against sister colonies which Victoria had provoked her into making. In Canada, he said, the Provincial Parliaments had little to do, and the central body did all the work. Our Local Legislatures he considered to be "mere parish vestries." Leaving it to the defenders of Provincial rights, especially to my colleagues from Quebec or Manitoba, to explain to Mr. Playford how mistaken is his view of our Provincial Legislatures, and leaving it to our esteemed member, Dr. Goldwin Smith, to explain to the other statesmen assembled at the Conference how mistaken they are in regarding the Constitution of Canada as in any sense worthy of imitation, I submit that the facts cited show that the title of this paper is warranted. It also seems to me not unfitting that this Royal Society, which is the chief symbol of the intellectual life of Canada, should hail with affection the approaching advent of a sister British Dominion under the Southern Cross and recognize with eager hope the mighty influence that such a State