

and peace and harmony exist within our borders now, as it has for many years. We are not a nation which has had sore trials or perplexities, and especially this generation has been fortunate in being free from the great conflicts and afflictions, which some nations are called upon to pass through. Under the protecting wing of what it is our pride to call the "Mother Country," we have founded a great nation, and under the protection afforded us by the prestige of Great Britain, we have been allowed to develop our numerous and varied resources without molestation, yet scarcely realizing why these favorable conditions existed. There have been a few who, for some years past, have recognized our obligations to the dominant force behind, and knowing the uncertainty of all things human, have pointed out what our position would be were we robbed of the protection thus afforded and perhaps forced to accept allegiance to some other power in whose history and traditions we naturally could have but little in common. It is apparent there are difficulties to be overcome in bringing into more intimate relations the parts of this Empire which are so scattered and divided. Although the world has never yet seen an Empire so situated, welded together into a strength which might exist were the different parts in closer proximity, yet I think that the feeling of devotion to each other and to the same noble Sovereign, will be the means of accomplishing the task.

Instead of "the decadence of the British Empire," as recently portrayed by the continental press, we will likely see coming out of our present trials, a united Empire, each part willing to fully assume its share of responsibilities for the general good of the whole. I do not think that any reasonably intelligent person, however prejudiced, can honestly hold the opinion that the vast regions of this earth which have been opened up to civilization and to the beneficence of British rule, where barbarism formerly existed, and at the sacrifice of much treasure and the blood of Britain's most noble sons, is going to be rudely taken from her in order that her enemies, less fit for the task of governing, may enter into conflict with each other for their acquisition, with a possibility in some parts of a swift return to slavery and barbarism once more.

The temper of the British people all over the world, if it proves anything, goes to show the desire to maintain and improve the national position. On two occasions recently this Board has shown what its convictions were in regard to these matters. On December 22nd a resolution was passed endorsing the action of the Government in sending a second contingent of troops to South Africa to assist in putting down the insurrection, and further signifying that it was desirable to strengthen the hands of the Imperial Government, and the bonds which hold the Empire together and to provide the monies necessary for the mobilization and equipment in Canada of a still larger force of volunteers to be employed in the performance of such duties as may be found most useful during the present crisis. I hope our Government will make full provision for payment of the troops which we have sent and intend to send during the time they are absent; we do not desire that money shall be taken from the British taxpayer for our soldiers while in South Africa.

The Fourth Annual Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire. This Congress meets in London in June next. The Board has been requested, as usual, to send delegates and to prepare one or more resolutions for the consideration of the Congress. A resolution has been approved of by the Council, and later by the Board, at a meeting held on December 7th. This has since been forwarded to London. The resolution particularly points to a commercial bond between the different parts of the Empire, and asks that a committee of delegates from various parts of the Empire be appointed to devise some plan as to how best to bring this about, in order to place these views before the Government of Great