

A visit from prominent men invited here from each of the sister Australasian colonies cannot fail to enlighten them regarding the natural wealth and prosperity of this country. It will certainly lead to an interchange of visits, by which, on our side, we will learn with what energy and determination our fellow-colonists beyond the western ocean have developed their resources, and we will thus begin to perceive the general advantages to be attained by closer union of the whole Empire. (Applause.) It may confidently be predicted as one outcome of the conference that the closest connection by electric cable and lines of steamship will be established between the Dominion and Australia, a result which will build up commercial activity on the Pacific and secure the cohesion of these portions of the Empire. (Hear, hear.) I trust that the few words which I have felt it my duty to say will sufficiently establish that it is not proposed by this association that it should elaborate a scheme of federation for the British Empire. The objects which the members of the league desire to attain are nevertheless clearly defined. Their one aim is to assist by every means in their power in shaping our political future, a duty which is equally incumbent upon every man or body of men who live under the protection of British institutions. (Applause.)

The league declares for a United Empire. The report read establishes that, during the first year of its existence, the Ottawa Branch has shown its vitality and given proof of its usefulness. The constitution of the league enables us to enrol as members all who desire to adhere to their allegiance. We may confidently claim the sympathy of every man who has faith in the institutions of his country. We may look for the support of all who are hostile to disunion, to separation or disintegration. We conceive that we are entitled to the friendship and favor of all our countrymen who desire to secure a firm and perpetual alliance with the family of nations with which we are so happily connected, now constituting the British Empire. (Loud applause.)