

The utilisation of the girdle of Empire Cables in conjunction with the daily press in every British capital and in every great centre of commerce is regarded as of the utmost importance. The daily press is read by the millions. It is one of the ordinary educators of modern times, and in co-operation with the Empire Cables may be placed in the position of a great uplifting power. By whatever name the combination may be known, the arrangement proposed may be regarded as essentially the main desideratum needed to dispel the ignorance which prevails in so many parts of the Empire respecting other parts, and to mould the minds of the British people everywhere to their mutual advantage.

I cannot be wrong in my belief that a movement to inaugurate such an Imperial organisation as I have endeavoured to indicate is in entire harmony with the precedents and practice of the powerful political party which this Club represents. Has not the principle of the Empire Cable system been settled by the construction of the Pacific Cable through six governments in partnership? and may not the Liberal party worthily identify itself with the completion of the enlarged system now proposed, in the interests of Imperial unity? The Colonies already owe to the great Liberal party a debt in practical sympathy and co-operation which is gladly recognised. Is it not to the political ideas represented by this Club that they are so largely indebted for the gift of self-government? And is not the permanence of the Empire assured by that spontaneous gift?—a gift bestowed freely and fully without a single reservation,—a proceeding, the wisdom of which is now acknowledged by all parties, and which has found justification in the position of the Colonies to-day. Whatever they were in the past, do we not find them becoming great powerful States, with an ever-deepening loyalty under the one flag, and co-operating with the Mother Country in working out a common destiny!

Before resuming my seat I ask you to bear with me while I