

factor in its reaction upon every other factor of the Imperial problem must prove decisive."

Among other topics now scheduled for discussion are defence, naturalization, emigration, judicial appeals, reservation of bills, patents and merchandise-marks, reciprocity in professions etc. The Under-Secretary for the Colonies recently stated in the House of Commons that the constitution of the Committee of Imperial Defence would be considered and the possibility of adding to it colonial representation. This will naturally lead to further issues. "Other subjects discussed would be the Australian naval agreement and the questions of naval policy arising out of it; the strategic principles of Imperial defence, the expansion of reserves of war-stores, the interchange of units between the Colonies and the mother country, and the pay of colonial contingents."

Perhaps when the delegates get together and warm to their work, the consideration of these and such like problems will do something to stimulate mutual interest and enthusiasm. If so, more will come out of the Conference of 1907 than the man-in-the-street is at present looking for. At the hearth of the Empire, and in daily contact with august associations, there may be some abatement of that fear of the predominant partner, which can be so easily worked upon to stir up the spirit of aloofness and independence. As Lord Milner said lately, "the difference between the United Kingdom and the other states, in the view of the imperialism of the future—the only imperialism that can stand—ought to be regarded as a difference of stature and not of status, a difference which, however great to-day, must tend to disappear."

In the same speech (Manchester, Dec. 14th. 1906) Lord Milner made the interesting suggestion that the President of the Conference should be the Prime Minister of England. "Such an innovation," he said, "would imply no disparagement to the high office of Colonial Secretary. The Colonial Office exercises enormous powers and rules over a very large portion of the earth's surface. But the self-governing colonies are no longer, in anything but name, under the Colonial Office,