

subjects, "We hope the connection may become more and more true and real, and that we may by our organization and our agreement present to the world the spectacle of a vast Empire, founded not upon force and subjection, but upon hearty sympathy and a resolute co-operation in attaining those high objects of human endeavour which are open to an Empire like this."

Well may Sir Samuel Griffith, then Premier of Queensland, in making some closing remarks, and reviewing the work of the Conference, look forward "to seeing this sort of informal Council of the Empire developed until it becomes a legislative body," and to hope that "meetings such as this will, before long, be recognized as part of the general governing machinery of the Empire."

Encouraged by such a remarkable series of great events all leading in the direction of clearer knowledge and more intimate relations between the different parts of the Queen's dominions, the progress of the principles of Imperial Federation has been marked, especially during the last two years. Branches of the League are being continuously organized both in the United Kingdom and the Colonies, and are acting as powerful levers in carrying out Lord Rosebery's definition of our policy: "To endeavour so to influence public opinion, at home and in the Colonies, that there shall come an imperious demand from the people that this federation be brought about."

We have thus seen how much has been done within a few years to dispel a portion of that dense cloud of ignorance which so long pervaded the political and commercial atmosphere of Great Britain where her Colonies were concerned, and this happy result points with vividness to the great possibilities to come from future education and continuous agitation.

In considering a question of such vast proportions and of such great importance to our future, every thoughtful mind must be impressed with two clear and fundamental propositions:

- I. Is British connection worth preserving as a permanent factor in the future destinies of the Colonies?
- II. Is the consolidation of the Empire worth some sacrifice on the part of the Mother Country?

The Colonies owe much to Great Britain. Had it not been for the blood and treasure poured out like water for the defence of the old-time Colonists of New England, the United States of to-day would not be holding the proud position of owners of half