

people. No country known to me has ever been peopled by a better stock. The cream of our older Provinces has come here; a people resolute, intelligent, calm, and religious. Good specimens, too, have come from other countries, and as a rule from climates almost as cold as your own. That is a good thing. Your winter is grand for everybody but tramps, and when they come they are not likely to stay. The deliberate and general verdict of the 150,000 people now in Manitoba may therefore be accepted on any subject on which they are sufficiently interested to insure from them careful study. I for one believe that the subject of Imperial Federation is safe in their hands, and that they may be among the first to press it on the general Government.

III.

"WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIONS TO IMPERIAL FEDERATION?"

It will not be necessary to dwell on the important objections that have been mentioned in some influential organs of public opinion—such as the alleged fact that the secretary of a local branch parts his hair in the middle, or that several of its advocates part their names somewhat in the same way. It is a serious matter that a man should be called John A. Smith, instead of plain John Smith. Equally formidable is the objection that some vigorous writers have called Imperial Federation a fad. I may, however, note other arguments:—

(a) It is said that "*Imperial Federation would involve us in foreign relations.*" We are so involved already, from the fact that every nation has neighbours, and that we in particular are a trading people; only, at present, we are without a voice as regards the control of those relations. "We might be involved in European politics." We are so involved already, from the fact of our being united to Britain, only we cannot now use any constitutional influence to detach the Empire from what is of less importance to what is of greater importance, from the affairs of Europe to the interests of an ever-expanding Colonial Empire.

(b) "*We might be involved in war.*" We may at any day now, without our permission being asked. Ought we not to be in a position to give our voice for peace? Remember that the democracy now rules in England, that its greatest interest is peace, and that we ought to reinforce it against any influence that