INTRODUCTION

proach was one commonly made, often unjustly. against the pioneers of Imperialism. To keep himself free from such a suspicion, as hampering to effort, was characteristic of the prudence and foresight which have always tempered the resolute courage of Colonel Denison. As one of the chief supporters of the old Imperial Federation League, with Mr. D'Alton McCarthy, Mr. Alexander McNeill, Principal Grant, and Sir George Parkin, he utilized that body as a means of drawing together all those who favoured the closer union of the Empire. The league in England was dissolved, leaving the forces behind it without a leader and without any effective means of carrying on the work. In 1894, being chairman of a committee of Canadian Imperialists who were sent to England to discuss reorganization, he helped to found the British Empire League and became the first President of the Canadian League. He secured for the Canadian organization and its branches a freedom of action in respect to commercial policy which was destined to become a powerful lever in producing the most important practical results, such as Imperial penny postage. the West Indian sugar preference, and the abrogation of the Belgian-German treaties which had retarded Imperial union in tariff matters for forty vears. He also supported giving Great Britain

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