

The 'Round Table'

Of all Imperialists, the most active and interesting are the groups of the '*Round Table*'. Their membership is not numerous, but they are an *élite*. They have representatives in every part of the Empire. Their quarterly, of the same name, is their means of communication. It has become the focus from which the gathered rays of Imperialism radiate through the highest spheres of thought in each of the 'sister-nations'.

A few years ago, the '*Round Table*' undertook a general and thorough inquiry into the ethnical, social and political conditions of the various countries of the Empire, their respective history, traditions and tendencies. The object of this vast work is to bring under light and put into activity all the elements susceptible of being used to strengthen the unity and hegemony of the British Empire.

The result of that inquiry will shape itself into the form of a large publication, under the title: '*The Project of a Commonwealth*'. The first volume has already appeared.¹ Far from being interrupted by the war, the work has received a fresh impetus. These intelligent and patriotic Englishmen do not consider that the work of destruction should prevent them, and all who think of the future, from preparing the reconstruction. Are they less devoted to the welfare of mankind, less concerned with the interests of the Empire, than our time-serving politicians and pressmen? I do not think so. But, evidently, they hold different views on the duties of governments and peoples. Like all men whose power of perception is not obscured by sordid interests or mean passions, they are thoroughly convinced that the war will necessarily precipitate the solution of the problem of Empire, and that each and every one of the British communities will soon be called upon to decide its future. Incredibly enough — as compared with our ultra-'loyal' and extra-blinded 'statesmen' — they consider that the decision should be *intelligent*, well matured and reasoned; and therefore preceded by something else than sonorous platitudes and stock-phrases on the 'liberties of peoples', 'triumph of democracy over autocracy', 'barbarity of the Huns' etc., etc. In their estimation, men responsible for public order, and peoples called

¹ MacMillan and Co., London; The MacMillan Company of Canada, Limited, Toronto.