

CANADA AND THE EMPIRE

TO FORM THE GREATEST NATION ON EARTH

The meeting in Association Hall on Saturday evening has been the means of lifting the scheme of Imperial Federation out of the depths of Utopian impracticability to the solid basis of practical politics. In their most sanguine expectations its advocates could scarcely have looked forward to such a large and enthusiastic gathering as endorsed their sentiments on Saturday evening. Every seat in the large hall was taken, and numbers of men were unable to obtain sitting room. In the gallery were such numbers of ladies as has seldom in the history of Canada graced any political gathering. While it was a matter of regret that Hon. Mr. Foster and Mr. Charles H. Tupper, M.P., were at the last moment prevented from being present, the speakers to whose lot it fell to address the audience contributed eloquence, argument, and common sense, in support of a scheme which is likely to meet with bitterly hostile criticism from its opponents.

THE PLATFORM.

The gathering was large. Mr. G. R. R. Cockburn, M.P., Centre Toronto, presided and seated with him on the platform were:

Sir Adam Wilson,	Mayor E. F. Clarke, M.
Dalton McCarthy, Q.	P.P.,
C. M.P.,	Alex. McNeill, M.P.,
N. F. Davin, M.P.,	Dr. Montague, M.P.,
R. C. Weldon, M.P.,	Lt. Col. Tyrwhitt, M.P.,
Lt. Col. Fred C. Denison, C.B., M.P.,	Lt. Col. Geo. T. Denison,
Christopher Robinson, Q.C.,	Henry O'Brien, Q.C.,
Rev. D. J. Macdonnell,	Rev. Dr. Scadding,
Hon. G. W. Ross,	Hugh McLennan (Montreal),
W. F. Cockshutt (Brantford),	J. H. Long (Peterboro'),
Thomas Skippen,	E. A. Meredith,
T. H. Mason,	J. S. McMurray,
Robert Hay, ex-M.P.,	Wm. Ince,
C. J. Campbell,	F. McFarlane (Ottawa),
J. M. Clark,	J. L. Hughes,
J. F. Small,	J. Costell Hopkins (Ingersoll),
D. R. Wilkie,	Jehu Matthews,
H. H. Lyman (Montreal),	Cassimer Dickson,
Commander Law,	W. Hamilton Merritt,
	Ald. McMillan,

THE AUDIENCE.

Among the ladies present were:

Miss Marjorie Campbell,	Mrs. Harcourt Vernon,
Mrs. E. F. Clarke,	Mrs. Dalton McCarthy,
Mrs. Geo. Kirkpatrick,	Mrs. Fitzgibbon,
Mrs. Banks,	Mrs. Wm. O'Brien,
Mrs. N. Boulton,	Mrs. Geo. Torrance,
Miss G. Boulton,	Miss Fleming (Ottawa),
Mrs. O. R. Macklem,	Mrs. L. A. Denison,
	Mrs. Ald. Piper,

Among the notables were noticed:

Mr. Harcourt Vernon,	Lieut.-Col. O'Brien,
Mr. N. Boulton,	Mr. Geo. Torrance,
Mr. A. Boulton,	Mr. G. W. Yarker,
Col. Otter,	Capt. Sears,
Major Dunn,	Major Lees,
Mr. O. R. Macklem,	Capt. S. A. Denison,
Mr. W. R. Brock,	Mr. John Baillie,
Ald. Piper,	Ald. Frankland,
Ald. Roaf,	Ald. Bell,
Mr. Harry Symons,	Mr. J. Nelson,
	Mr. Frank Somers,

Letters of Regret.

After Chairman Cockburn had called the meeting to order, the secretary, Mr. W. Hamilton Merritt, read "regrets" from a number of gentlemen. Some are as follows:

FROM THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.

Ottawa, March 23rd, 1888.

MY DEAR SIR,—I very deeply regret that I am not able to be with you at your annual meeting in Toronto on Saturday evening. Public business of a most pressing nature keeps me in Ottawa much to my disappointment. I hope you will have a full and enthusiastic meeting, and that the idea which underlies your association may get a grand send off.

In this day, when some people are so industriously engaged in weakening the bonds that unite our various provinces, and in severing the ties that bind us to the Mother Land, it is of great importance that the minds of the people be led to contemplate a world-wide Federation of Great Britain and all her colonies. I believe the sentiment in this direction is at present strong, and is constantly growing. The form which this Federation will ultimately assume we may safely leave to the future, feeling sure that if the spirit be sufficiently strong it will in good time find an appropriate expression.

I remain, yours faithfully,
GEO. E. FOSTER.

FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE SENATE.

SPEAKER'S CHAMBERS, Ottawa, March 23, '88.
W. Hamilton Merritt, Esq., Honorary Secretary,
Toronto Branch Imperial Federation League
in Canada.

DEAR SIR,—May I ask you to express my very