

4. It is clear, I think, from correspondence, and from the interviews had by the Agents-General in London with the Secretary of State, that the decision of the Imperial Government to take, or to consent to, action as regards annexation will be greatly affected by the decisions of the colonies regarding confederation. The latter question is to be submitted to the New Zealand Parliament without delay, and to certain of the Australian Parliaments during their next sessions. Upon the resolutions then come to, it is hoped that further, if not united, representation to the Imperial Government may be made; and the reply thereto will probably enable an opinion to be formed as to what action, if any, would be likely to succeed in securing a result such as that desired by you. Present action by this Government would, it is believed, hinder the accomplishment of your wishes.

I have, &c.

Hon. R. B. Leefe and the other Delegates.

H. A. ATKINSON.

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