

THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

494. This conference took place in Ottawa, the formal opening being in the Senate Chamber of the Parliament Buildings, on the 28th June, 1894.

Accredited to the Conference were the following Imperial and Colonial Delegates :—

The Imperial Government—The Earl of Jersey, P.C., G.C.M.G.

New South Wales—Hon. F. B. Suttor.

Cape Colony—Sir Henry De Villiers, K.C.M.G. ; Sir Charles Mills, K.C.M.G. ; Jan Hendrick Hofmeyer.

South Africa—Hon. Thomas Playford.

New Zealand—Alfred Lee-Smith.

Victoria—Sir Henry Wrixon, K.C.M.G., Q.C. ; Hon. Nicholas Fitzgerald, M.L.C. ; Hon. Simon Fraser, M. L.C.

Queensland—Hon. A. J. Thynne ; Hon. Wm. Forrest.

Canada—Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, P.C. ; Hon. Sir Adolphe Caron, P.C., K.C.M.G. ; Hon. Geo. E. Foster, P.C., LL.D. ; Sandford Fleming, C.M.G.

495. Short extracts from several of the speeches will show the tendency of the movement.

His Excellency the Governor General delivered the address of welcome. Among other remarks he said :—

“ This occasion is in no small degree unique. There have been conferences similar in some respects to that which we are now about to inaugurate, but these we may say have been rather precursors than precedents, because of the distinctive characteristics which I make bold to say will characterize your proceedings, and the result of those proceedings. The objects before you, the development and increase of trade within the Empire, and the means which may be taken to carry out such an extension, undoubtedly furnish a topic which cannot fail to produce the most significant and valuable discussions and recommendations in the direction which we all desire to pursue.”

Sir John Thompson said : “ We realize fully that the questions which you have to deliberate are questions requiring the greatest care and the closest examination of details. Matters connected with trade, with tariffs, with steamboats and with telegraphs will require the most practical as well as the most patriotic deliberations of the gentlemen who are assembled here to-day. That they may be guided to useful conclusions with regard to all these matters is one great ambition to-day of every portion of the Canadian people, among whom they are assembled. The great object of our hope is that as a result of the deliberations of the Conference, the ocean which divides the Colonies shall become the highway for their people and their products.”

The Earl of Jersey said : “ We, who are the representatives of various parts of a world-wide Empire, may well feel proud of the privilege which has been intrusted to us—for there can be no greater privilege intrusted to a body of men than to try and bring various countries, various colonies, together for the purpose of increasing the happiness and prosperity of all.”

Hon. N. Fitzgerald said : “ We are engaged in this Conference hoping to prove the great advantages that will flow from sending representatives of the great dependencies of the Empire to exchange ideas and to consult as to the wants and necessities of the Colonies, illustrating the unity of the