

that of the vast continent of Australia. The subsidy and guarantee paid by five Australasian Colonies to the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company amounted in 1892-93 to £53,363.

By the fifth resolution the Canadian Government was requested to take steps to ascertain the cost of the proposed cable, and to press forward the preliminaries of the undertaking. It was understood that this resolution would be acted upon without delay.

The third resolution was moved by Sir C. Mills in an able and suggestive speech, in which he urged the importance, on Imperial defence grounds, of the line he advocated.

The recommendation that the cable should be extended from Australasia by way of the Eastern Colonies to the Cape is a large addition to the original proposal; but the strong desire which was at every point evinced by the delegates to strengthen the bonds between all parts of the Empire caused them to view it in a favourable light. The proposal, which will no doubt receive due attention from Her Majesty's Government, is ancillary to the trans-Pacific scheme, and the consideration of it need not interfere with that question.

To complete this report of the proceedings I should mention that, on the motion of Sir H. Wrixon, the following resolution was carried:—

“That this Conference desires to call the continued attention of their respective Governments to the proceedings of the Colonial Conference of 1887 in regard to the bankruptcy and winding up of companies, with a view to completing the necessary legislation upon the questions therein raised.”

It was understood that no definite steps have been taken in this matter since 1887.

In this review of the proceedings of the Ottawa Conference, I have endeavoured to place before your Lordship the reasons and motives which inspired the resolutions.

The resolutions relate to trade and the assistants to trade, but a spirit runs through them the significance of which should not be ignored. Whilst they embody the views of business men anxious to advance commerce, and of statesmen desirous of developing their countries, quite as distinctly do they show that the self-governing principle is in harmony with the Imperial instinct.

The first act of the Conference was to pass a loyal address to Her Majesty, and the discussions were all marked by a great regard for the position and interests of Great Britain.

The determination of the delegates to restrict their discussions to the subjects referred to them and to avoid extraneous matters was a marked feature of the Conference.

I have reported that it would, in my opinion, be advisable to extend the facilities already granted for inter-colonial trade. The response to this request rests solely with Her Majesty's Government.

The support which has been asked for the creation of a new mail service, and for a Pacific cable, is dependent to a great extent on the actions of Canada and the Australasian Colonies.

Canada, recognizing that her central position will enable her to reap the most direct results of an improved Imperial service for mails, passengers, and goods, has come forward with an offer of assistance which is a splendid indication of the spirit and far-seeing patriotism of her ministers.