

7. That the law of copyright should be uniform throughout the Empire.

8. Whereas the British system of weights and measures which vary constantly in every part of the British empire, is a source of constant annoyance, loss of time and a formidable obstacle to local, imperial and foreign trade; and whereas the metric system has now been universally recognized as the most perfect decimal system and is generally adopted by nations of both continents with the exception of the British Empire and the United States of America; be it resolved that the metric system of weights and measures be adopted without further delay by the several governments of the Empire, the yard being extended to the metre, the quart to the litre and the two pounds weight to the kilogramme.

9. That this Congress views with regret the movement of the surplus population of Great Britain to foreign lands, thus drawing from the strength of the Empire; and that this Congress looks upon such a tendency as not only wasteful of the vitality of the Empire but altogether unnecessary, seeing that the British colonies and dependencies offer fields for emigration as attractive as, if not more attractive than, can be found in any foreign country; and that within the bounds of the British Empire the emigrant can find any variety of climate and reach success in any pursuit and yet retain all the privileges of a British subject; therefore, this Congress deems it the duty of the Imperial and Colonial Governments, as well as of all patriotic citizens of the Empire to use every means available to encourage emigration to the colonies.

10. That this Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire is of opinion that the establishment of closer commercial relations between the United Kingdom and the colonies and dependencies is an object which deserves and demands prompt and careful consideration; the Congress, therefore, respectfully represents to Her Majesty's Government that if the suggestion should be made on behalf of the colonies or some of them, it would be right and expedient to promote such consideration and the formation of some practical plan, by summoning an Imperial Conference thoroughly representative of the interests involved and by such other means as Her Majesty may be advised to adopt; that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the President, to the Prime Minister, the First Lord of the Treasury, the Secretary of State for the colonies, the leaders of the Opposition in both Houses, the High Commissioner of Canada, and the Agents-General for the other colonies.

11. Whereas an extension of direct telegraphic communication throughout the Empire would considerably facilitate and increase the commercial relations of the mother country and her several colonies and be also a source of security and strength in maintaining uninterrupted hourly communication in the time of war; and whereas the Atlantic and Canadian systems now extending to the Pacific coast offer special advantages over all other routes, to establish direct telegraphic communication, a cable should be laid between Australia and Canada without further delay, the Imperial and Colonial Governments directly interested being respectfully requested to offer such inducements to the constructing company as may determine the laying of the Pacific cable at the earliest possible moment.

12. That the levying of light dues on shipping should be abolished and that the cost of maintaining the lighthouses, beacons, buoys, &c., on the costs of the United Kingdom should in future be a charge upon the Consolidated Fund.

13. That in view of the difficulties correspondents experience in prepaying closed replies to letters sent to foreign countries and especially the British Colonies and dependencies (a facility which exists in regard to open postcards and telegrams) the Council be requested on behalf of the Congress to communicate with the Imperial and Colonial postal authorities for the purpose of recommending (a) that the reply letter card (used by France and Ceylon for inland correspondence) be adopted by the British Imperial Postal Service as a means of facilitating and increasing intercourse through the British Empire, (b) that the reply letter card is applicable to international communication in the same way as the open reply postal card and that the recent objections to it can be met, (c) that at the Postal Union Congress to be held in Washington in 1897, the British and Colonial Postmasters-General be requested to take steps for the extension of the reply-letter card to International Postage as an efficient substitute for the oft-proposed International Postage stamp and less open to the objections raised on the ground of the financial difficulty involved.

2nd. Resolution:—Whereas a reduction in postal rates would facilitate and increase the commercial relations of the mother country and her many colonies and possessions; and whereas the local rates of the several colonies most necessarily vary according to their special conditions of territory, population and transport, this Congress recommends that the British penny should carry postal matter from Great Britain and Ireland to every British Colony and that in return each Colonial Government should also carry postal matter at its present provincial rate to every portion of the Empire.

16. That inasmuch as the system of sound signals for use in fog, proposed at the Washington Conference, has been condemned as dangerous and useless by all classes directly responsible for the safety of the mercantile marine of this country and by the shipping interests in many other countries it is expedient that the British Government should endeavour to secure the consent of all the foreign powers to the withdrawal of the proposed new signal sounds.