

the older provinces are growing at the same rate there is no doubt that all parts of the country have prospered in their varied industries. The interests of agriculture, transportation, banking, manufactures, trade and all business affairs act and react upon each other, and with its great natural resources in land and forest, minerals, fisheries and water-powers, there is no limit within sight to the greatness to which Canada may attain before the century is out.

Much correspondence took place during the year on the subject of the colonial conference at London in 1907. The date of the opening of the conference was fixed for April 15, as the time best suited for the convenience of all the colonies, and among the matters suggested for discussion were the following, viz: Constitution of the conference, covering questions of the legislative powers of the colonies in the matter of mutual trade preference and of merchant shipping and coastwise trade; emigration to the colonies, naturalization and imperial defence. These were the subjects of first importance, and it was proposed that if time allowed discussion might proceed with regard to uniformity of patents and merchandise marks, reciprocity in the professions, extension of British interests in the Pacific ocean in view of the construction of the Panama canal, reservation of bills, judicial appeals and the metric system.

A proposal to change the name of this assembly of colonial ministers from that of colonial conference, by which it was designated in 1887, 1897 and 1902, to that of Imperial Council, was not received with favour by the Canadian Government, and in a Minute of Council forwarded to the Colonial Office it was apprehended that the proposed name would be interpreted as marking a step distinctly in advance of the position hitherto attained in the discussion of the relations between the mother country and the colonies. A 'conference', it was stated, is a more or less unconventional gathering for informal discussion of public questions, continued, it may be, from time to time, as circumstances external to itself may render expedient, but possessing no faculty or power of binding action. The term 'council', on the other hand, indicated in the view of the Canadian ministers a more formal assemblage, possessing an advisory and deliberative character, and, in conjunction with the word 'imperial', suggesting a permanent institution which, endowed with a continuous life, might eventually come to be

Colonial conference at London, 1907.

Title of conference.