

Kingdom of any preferential treatment to the products and manufactures of the colonies, on the ground that such a policy would be contrary to the principle of free trade which it was stated had been re-affirmed by the people of the United Kingdom at the General Election of 1906. The resolutions which were passed by the Colonial Conference of 1902 in favour of the adoption by the colonies of the policy of giving substantial preferential treatment to the products and manufactures of the United Kingdom and urging on His Majesty's Government the expediency of granting in the United Kingdom preferential treatment to the products and manufactures of the colonies, either by exemption from or reduction of duties now or hereafter imposed, were re-affirmed by the members of the Conference, with the exception of His Majesty's Government, who placed on record its inability to give its assent, so far as the United Kingdom was concerned, to a re-affirmation of the resolutions in so far as they imply that it is necessary or expedient to alter the fiscal system of the United Kingdom.

A resolution was proposed in favour of the granting by the self-governing colonies of the preferential treatment they accord to the products and manufactures of the United Kingdom to the products and manufactures of other self-governing colonies ; but its terms did not meet with unanimous acceptance. The following resolution, which covers practically the same ground, was adopted :

Reciprocal trade between colonies.

That without prejudice to the resolutions already accepted or the reservation of His Majesty's Government, this Conference, recognizing the importance of promoting greater freedom and fuller development of commercial intercourse within the Empire, believes that these objects may be best secured by leaving to each part of the Empire liberty of action in selecting the most suitable means for attaining them, having regard to its own special conditions and requirements, and that every effort should be made to bring about co-operation in matters of mutual interest.

Sir Wilfred Laurier proposed a resolution in favour of the establishment of a new all-British mail service to Australia and New Zealand via Canada which was supported in general terms by the Ministers of Australia and New Zealand. The following resolution was finally adopted by the Conference :

Proposed new all-British mail service via Canada.

That in the opinion of this Conference the interests of the Empire demand that in so far as practicable its different portions should be connected by the best possible means of mail communication, travel and transportation.

That to this end it is advisable that Great Britain should be connected with Canada, and through Canada with Australia and New Zealand, by the best service available within reasonable cost.

That for the purpose of carrying the above project into effect such financial support as may be necessary should be contributed by Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand in equitable proportions.

Other resolutions were passed relating to emigration ; judicial appeals ; commercial relations and British shipping ; navigation laws and coastwise trade ; treaty obligations ; uniformity in trade marks, patents, trade statistics and company law ; reciprocity in the admission of land surveyors to practice ; inter-

Resolutions on miscellaneous subjects.