

As its first official act, the Conference placed on record a resolution of respectful devotion to His Majesty the King, which was moved by the Prime Minister of Canada as Chairman of the Conference and seconded by the Leader of the Delegation of India, and passed unanimously.

ORGANIZATION.

The opening meeting of the Conference was held in the House of Commons Chamber, in the Parliament Buildings. It was found convenient, however, to conduct the work of the Conference at meetings of the Heads of Delegations and other Delegates, held in the Railway Committee Room and in Room 216 in the Centre Block, Parliament Buildings. These meetings were attended by the Heads of the Delegations, together with other Delegates.

It was decided to divide the matters which were under consideration by the Conference into five principal divisions, and to refer the matters comprised in each division to a committee for examination and report. These divisions included matters relating to the promotion of trade within the Commonwealth, matters relating to customs administration, matters relating to commercial relations with foreign countries, matters relating to monetary and financial questions and matters relating to methods of economic co-operation.

Committees were appointed in all instances by the meetings of Heads of Delegations and sub-committees were constituted by all of the five principal committees.

The total number of meetings was: Plenary Conference, 5; Heads of Delegations, 5; Committees and Sub-Committees, 49.

In addition to the committees and sub-committees of the Conference six groups were constituted made up of representatives of those Dominions which were interested in: (1) dairy products (including poultry and eggs); (2) meat (including live cattle and pig products); (3) fruit and vegetables; (4) cereals (including flour); (5) metals and minerals; (6) tobacco.

These groups held numerous meetings and their activities were of great assistance in connection with the bi-lateral negotiations between the United Kingdom and certain of the Dominions.

PUBLICITY.

The arrangements for publicity followed those adopted at previous Conferences. The Honourable R. J. Manion, M.C., M.P., Minister of Railways and Canals, Canada, was charged with responsibility for the general supervision of the publicity arrangements and acted as Minister in charge of Press Relations. He was assisted by the following press officers: L. B. Pearson, First Secretary, Department of External Affairs; A. W. Merriam, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister of Canada; A. Lalonde, Solicitor, Post Office Department of Canada. As evidence of the widespread interest which the Conference evoked it may be stated that 253 press representatives from Great Britain, the Dominions, the United States, France, Germany, Italy and Denmark, were given credentials.

CONCLUSIONS AND RESULTS.

The results of the Conference are to be found in (1) certain Intra-Imperial Trade Agreements, and (2) in the reports of the five committees previously referred to, which were submitted to and accepted by the Conference.