

sented at the latter gathering. On that occasion a convention was drawn up to which the different nations were asked to become parties, and which provided that each country should prevent the manufacture of matches from white phosphorus, and also prohibit the importation into it of any matches made from white phosphorus. I have here a memorandum on the international conference held at Berne in September, 1906. This memorandum was prepared by the British government, and it gives an account of the convention which was held to deal with this subject, and it points out that the following powers: France, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Denmark, Luxemburg and Italy decided to enter into an agreement on the subject between themselves and to sign the following convention:—

International Convention on the subject of the Prohibition of the use of White (Yellow) Phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.

His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia; His Majesty the King of Denmark; the President of the French Republic; His Majesty the King of Italy; His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Luxemburg, Duke of Nassau; Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands; the Swiss Federal Council,

desiring to facilitate the development of the industrial protection of work-people by the adoption of common provisions,

have resolved to conclude with this object a convention respecting the use of white (yellow) phosphorus in the manufacture of matches, and have appointed the following to be their plenipotentiaries; that is to say:—

(Here is given a list of the plenipotentiaries.)

who after having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following articles:—

Article 1.

The high contracting parties bind themselves to prohibit in their respective territories, the manufacture, importation and sale of matches, which contain white (yellow) phosphorus.

Article 2.

It is incumbent upon each of the contracting states to take the administrative measures necessary to ensure the strict execution of the terms of the present convention within their respective territories.

Each government shall communicate to the others through the diplomatic channel the laws and regulations which exist or shall hereafter come into force in their country with regard to the subject matter of the present convention as well as the reports on the manner in which the said laws and regulations are applied.

Article 3.

The present convention shall only apply to a colony, possession or protectorate when a notice to this effect shall have been given on its behalf by the government of the mother country to the Swiss Federal Council.

Mr. CROCKET. Is Great Britain a party to the convention?

Mr. KING. I was just going to refer to the attitude of Great Britain. In 1899 the British government appointed a commission to go into the whole question. That commission is the one whose report I have referred to. That report recommended numerous regulations thought sufficient to meet the evil, and the British government adopted these regulations and had them put in force. When this association met in 1906, these regulations were on trial, and the British government did not then see its way, on that account, to become a party to the convention. However, in 1908, the British government, having found these regulations insufficient, decided to give its adherence to the convention and did join the other countries to which I have referred, later Austria followed the example of Britain, so that with the exception of Norway, Sweden and Russia, which have regulations of their own, all the principal countries of Europe have become parties to an agreement which prohibits the use of white phosphorus in the making of matches and which prohibits also the importation of matches made with white phosphorus. Not only that, but since the British government became a party to the convention, the following possessions of Britain have given their adherence to it: The Orange River Colony, Cyprus, British East Africa, Gibraltar, Malta, Mauritius, Seychelles, Southern Nigeria, Leeward Islands and Fiji. Also the following French possessions: The Somali Coast, Reunion, Madagascar and its dependencies, the French settlements in Oceania and New Caledonia, Tunis and the Netherlands Indies.

In this connection it may interest the House to know how this government came to consider this particular measure. When the British government became a party to this convention, the Secretary of State for the Colonies sent a communication to the Governor General of the Dominion, informing him of that fact, and asked the Canadian government whether this country would adhere to the convention. In January, 1909, the following despatch was sent to Lord Grey:—

I have the honour to request Your Excellency to inform your ministers that, an Act having been passed last session by the imperial parliament to prohibit the manufacture, sale and importation of matches made with white phosphorus, a copy of which is inclosed, His Majesty's government have now notified the adhesion of the United Kingdom to the Berne Convention of the 26th September, 1906, on the subject of the prohibition of the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.

I shall be glad to learn in due course whe-