

throughout the world, I think the newspapers themselves should have facilities for collecting and disseminating the news.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Kamouraska): Was not that idea of an Imperial news service suggested by Lord Beaverbrook?

Mr. ROWELL: Lord Beaverbrook did recommend an Imperial news service, but that question had come up at a preceding conference—I am not sure whether it was in 1911 or 1917. It was suggested then, I think by Australia or New Zealand, and this particular memorandum, which is referred to in this resolution, was prepared and submitted by Lord Beaverbrook.

The resolutions relating to shipping are 11 and 24.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Before my hon. friend passes to another subject,—did any question arise with respect to the ocean rates?

Mr. ROWELL: Yes.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Was there a decision arrived at? As my hon. friend knows there has been quite an agitation on this side of the Atlantic having for its object the lowering of ocean rates. The Minister of Trade and Commerce was appealed to on several occasions, and he promised at the time that he would approach Lloyds and the British authorities so as to give our Canadian shipping firms a better chance. Did the Conference decide anything of a concrete nature under the head of shipping?

Mr. ROWELL: Yes, to this extent: It was decided that an Imperial Board containing representatives of the Dominions as well as the Mother Country, should investigate the whole question of shipping, including a number of other matters mentioned in the resolution, with a view of seeing if some remedy could not be found which would meet the situation.

Resolution in No. 11 reads:

The Conference accepts in principle the establishment of an Imperial Investigation Board, and refers it to a committee of the Conference to frame a detailed scheme for such a board.

The Conference agrees that it be also referred to the committee to consider the best machinery for promoting the development of Imperial communications to the best advantage, with special reference to the probable size of vessels and the consequent demands upon harbour accommodation for the purposes of Imperial requirements, and to the resolution handed in by the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

The conference appointed a committee, pursuant to that resolution, to consider and bring in a report upon it. The committee held several sessions, but they reached the

conclusion that they could not, in the brief period in which the conference was in session, without consultation with experts, and without giving the whole matter full investigation, reach a conclusion which would warrant action, and they therefore reported this resolution, No. 24:

That in order to maintain satisfactorily the connections, and at the same time encourage commercial and industrial relations, between the different countries of the British Empire, this Conference is of opinion that shipping on the principal routes, especially between the heart of the Empire and the Oversea Dominions, including India, should be brought under review by an Inter-Imperial Board, on which the United Kingdom and the British Dominions and Dependencies should be represented.

2. That for this purpose an Imperial Investigation Board, representing the various parts of the Empire, be appointed, with power to enquire into and report on all matters connected with ocean freights and facilities, and on all matters connected with the development and improvement of the sea communications between the different parts of the Empire, with special reference to the size and type of ships, and the capacities of harbours; the board to include, in addition to representatives of the Governments concerned, persons with expert knowledge of the problems involved, including representatives of the shipping and trading interests.

The British Government has asked that Canada should name its representative on that board, and the matter is standing pending the restoration to health of the Minister of Naval Affairs (Mr. Ballantyne), who was a member of this committee, and who took part in framing this resolution. I anticipate that when Hon. Mr. Ballantyne returns he will take the matter up, and Canada's representative on this board will be named with a view of inquiring into all matters covered by the resolution.

Resolution No. 12 of the Conference relates to inter-Imperial parcels delivery:

The Conference considers it desirable, for the purpose of encouraging Imperial trade, that the present facilities for inter-Imperial parcels delivery should be enlarged, improved, and co-ordinated, and recommends that the proposals contained in the Board of Trade memorandum should be examined by the Governments represented at the Conference, with a view to the preparation of a detailed scheme designed to promote this object.

The Government of the United Kingdom brought to the attention of the Conference that in many quarters of the world the Post Office Parcel Delivery was allowed on a scale much larger than in Canada, and certain other portions of the Empire. We limit the size of the parcels much more than they are limited in many places, and the suggestion was that inter-Imperial trade