

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE 1937.
COMMITTEE ON POLAR QUESTIONS.

R E P O R T.

At its opening meeting on the 14th May 1937, the Imperial Conference appointed a Committee to consider Polar Questions. The Committee submit the following report:-

The Committee have considered their reference with special relation to Adélie Land and the other general Antarctic questions raised in the Commonwealth Government's memorandum (E(37)22).

As regards the former the attention of the Committee was directed to the question whether any French claim to a sector for Adélie Land should be recognised. The Commonwealth Government desired to resist such a claim for reasons set out in their memorandum, and as elaborated at meetings of the Committee.

There are however a considerable number of areas in the Australian and Falkland Islands Sectors the title to which appears to the Committee to be dependent upon the Sector Principle, and it is considered that, although a case could be made for restricting the boundaries of the French area to the limits suggested by the Commonwealth Government in their memorandum, claims of a similar character might well be put forward by other foreign powers to areas within the territories of the British Commonwealth which it would be difficult to meet if the general validity of the sector principle in the Antarctic had once been impugned. The Canadian representative desired to associate himself with this attitude