

The discussion of commercial relations resolved itself chiefly into considerations for increasing the facilities for postal and telegraphic communications. Mr. Hofmeyer, the South African delegate, broached the subject of preferential trade, his plan being for a small duty on all non-British goods

to be arranged by mutual legislation were also decided upon.

The next meeting was in 1892, but it was wholly a commercial gathering, although inevitably the subjects discussed trenched upon the political field. Being a meeting of Chambers of Commerce the result could be little more



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imported into the Empire, the proceeds to be applied to military and naval defence. A decision was arrived at to increase the Australian naval squadron; and the Canadian Pacific Railway plans for steamship service on the Pacific ocean, which have since been realized, and the all-British deep-sea cable between this country and the antipodean Colonies were amply and usefully discussed. A number of lesser but practically important matters

than educative, and it was inevitable that there should be sharp differences of opinion. The very first resolution submitted was that of Mr. Neville Lubbock, who moved "that a commercial union on the basis of free trade within the Empire would tend to promote its permanence and prosperity." It is needless to say that that proposition did not find universal acceptance among the Colonial delegates at least. The majority of the Con-