

of the law to transfer himself to a Colonial registry, and to come into competition with our shipowners with arrangements which, although more profitable, are certainly less safe. But some difficulty has arisen in regard to this in some of the Australian Colonies, and I should be very glad to see that removed. I hope that a proposal which I have to make to you will entirely remove any further difficulty, and it is that the British Board of Trade should add to the expert authority which has from time to time to decide the load line representatives of the Colonies concerned. In that way the voice of the Colonies and the interests of the Colonies in any local question would be fully heard before a joint line was agreed upon.

LOAD LINES.
—

PARIS EXHIBITION OF 1900.

I have also a small matter to ask your instructions upon in regard to the Paris Exhibition for the year 1900. We were very anxious, if possible, to secure an united representation of the Empire in one building. That has proved to be impossible owing to the French arrangements, and the way in which they have divided the exhibition; but what we hope we have secured is this: that a special colonial building for the whole of the colonial exhibition, in a first-rate situation, and exactly opposite the French colonial exhibition, shall be reserved, and all the Colonies will then exhibit together in a single building. In the other one would be the French colonial exhibits, but the exhibits of the mother country of France and of the mother country of the United Kingdom will be, in each case, in a separate building. In regard to this matter it has been proposed to put representatives of all the Colonies upon the Royal Commission. It will be a position of honour and of importance. But we are in this difficulty, that the Agents-General, who would naturally suggest themselves are, I believe, rather a varying body, that some of them are likely no longer to be holding office in 1900, and that therefore it will be necessary to make a special appointment *ad hoc* for this purpose, and what we wish to know is whether that would be agreeable to the Colonies, and if so, if they would each of them nominate some one as their representative upon the Commission, that some one being either the Agent General or any one else whom they thought better to nominate for the purpose.

PARIS
EXHIBITION
OF 1900.
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ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

One other question I have to mention, and only one; that is, I wish to direct your attention to certain legislation which is in process of consideration, or which has been passed by some of the Colonies, in regard to the immigration of aliens, and particularly of Asiatics.

ALIEN
IMMIGRATION.
—

I have seen these Bills, and they differ in some respects one from the other, but there is no one of them, except perhaps the Bill which comes to us from Natal, to which we can look with satisfaction. I wish to say that Her Majesty's Government thoroughly appreciate the object and the needs of the Colonies in dealing with this matter. We quite sympathise with the determination of the white inhabitants of these Colonies which are in comparatively close proximity to millions and hundreds of millions of Asiatics that there shall not be an influx of people alien in civilization, alien in religion, alien in customs, whose influx, moreover, would most seriously interfere with the legitimate rights of the existing labour population. An immigration of that kind must, I quite understand, in the interest of the Colonies, be prevented at all hazards, and we shall not offer any opposition to the proposals intended with that object, but we ask you also to bear in mind the traditions of the Empire, which makes no distinction in favour of, or against race or colour; and to exclude, by reason of their colour, or by reason