

tawa Board for consideration of this Board and are submitted to this Annual Meeting for consideration :—

“Resolution 1.—Whereas the Second Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire declared, in 1892, ‘That arrangements should be devised to secure closer commercial union between the Mother Country and her Colonies and Dependencies,’ and, ‘That a commercial union within the British Empire, on the basis of freer trade would tend to promote its permanence and prosperity ;’

“And whereas it has been generally admitted that the Colonies should contribute towards the cost of Imperial Defence, and, as a matter of fact, Colonial forces have participated to some extent with those of the United Kingdom, in defending the integrity of the Empire ;

“Therefore, be it resolved that, in the opinion of this Congress, a certain degree of closer commercial union among the countries of the Empire can be most conveniently established, a step towards the introduction of Inter-British Free Trade most readily taken, and the responsibilities of each part of the Empire most equitably borne by providing a revenue for its naval defence, and other common Imperial purposes, from the proceeds of a small uniform ad valorem duty (over and above those of the local tariffs, where any such are levied) on all importations from foreign countries, with the exception of raw cotton, into every part of the Empire.”

“Resolution No. 2.—That this Congress respectfully requests the President to appoint a deputation to wait upon the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and represent to him the desirability of convening a Conference of representatives appointed by the Governments of the Mother Country, its Colonies and Dependencies, to consider the subject and terms of the foregoing resolution.”