

# PROCEEDINGS OF A CONFERENCE

BETWEEN THE

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

AND THE

PREMIERS OF THE SELF-GOVERNING COLONIES,

AT THE

COLONIAL OFFICE, LONDON, JUNE AND JULY 1897.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN TO GOVERNOR-GENERAL THE EARL OF  
ABERDEEN (CANADA).\*

Downing Street, August 13, 1897.

MY LORD,

In my Despatch of the 28th of January last, conveying to the Premiers [C. 8485, p. 4.] of the self-governing Colonies the invitation to be present at, and take part in the celebration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession, I intimated to you the hope of Her Majesty's Government that their presence here might afford a valuable opportunity for the informal discussion of many subjects of great interest to the Empire. I have now the honour to enclose for your information a memorandum showing how that hope was fully realised and giving an account of the business transacted.

Her Majesty's Government desire to put on record their strong sense of the loyal and patriotic spirit which was shown by all the representatives of the Colonies in the course of their discussions.

They are well aware that many of them came here at considerable sacrifice of personal convenience, but they hope that their Colonial colleagues are satisfied that their visit has been productive of great advantage to the Empire, and that the Conferences which have been held have resulted in such a free interchange of views as will have a lasting and beneficial effect in securing a complete mutual understanding between the Colonies and the Mother Country.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

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\* A similar Despatch was addressed to—

Governor VISCOUNT HAMPDEN, New South Wales.

„ LORD BRASSEY, Victoria.

„ the EARL of RANFURLY, New Zealand.

„ LORD LAMINGTON, Queensland.

„ SIR ALFRED MILNER, Cape of Good Hope.

„ SIR T. F. BUXTON, South Australia.

„ SIR H. H. MURRAY, Newfoundland.

„ VISCOUNT GORMANSTON, Tasmania,

„ SIR G. SMITH, Western Australia, and

„ SIR W. F. HELY-HUTCHINSON, Natal.