

(2) The Conference further agrees that steps should be taken to ascertain the needs and resources of the allies in respect of raw material specified in the report.

Pursuant to the terms of this resolution, that special report has been communicated to all the Dominion Governments.

One other step the conference took was in connection with the development of Imperial mineral resources, and is set forth in resolution No. 16. At the Imperial War Conference in 1917 a resolution was adopted providing for the creation or the appointment of an Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau upon which all the Dominions should be represented. That bureau was subsequently appointed, the Canadian representative on it being Dr. Miller of the Ontario Bureau of Mines, a very distinguished geologist and a man thoroughly posted on the mineral resources of Canada. At the Imperial Conference this year it was suggested that the powers of the bureau should be substantially enlarged and that all portions of the Empire should agree to make a contribution for its maintenance. Canada was not able to perceive that she would derive as large a benefit from this bureau as many of the other parts of the Empire thought they would. We thought that we had as full and ample a knowledge as we could possibly have of the mineral resources of Canada, and, therefore, we were not in as great need of the services of the bureau as were other portions of the Empire. As, however, it had been agreed upon in 1917, and as the other portions of the Empire were exceedingly anxious that the work of the bureau should be continued, we were willing to support it for a period of I think, three years, during which time its work can be fully canvassed, and we can decide whether we desire to continue to support it or not. The resolution No. 16, reads as follows:—

The Imperial War Conference, having considered the memorandum by the Minister of Reconstruction on the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau, as amended, agrees that the number of representatives on the mineral, mining and metal industries on the Governing Body of the Bureau should be increased from four (as originally agreed) to six.

The Conference further approves the proposal for a Charter of Incorporation as set out in paragraph 6 of the memorandum and the proposals in paragraphs 7 and 8 as to the allocation of expenditure.

The allocation limited our liability to a specified amount and for a specified period instead of making it a general liability as was first proposed.

Mr. LEMIEUX: What is the bureau going to do? Is it going to experiment with regard

to our mineral resources or is it going to acquire property on behalf of the Imperial Government? The minister said a moment ago that the lands belonged to the Provincial Governments. What relation will that bureau have to the various Provincial Governments?

Mr. ROWELL: I do not think it is the intention to acquire property on behalf of the Imperial Government. This is rather a bureau to investigate and report, to collect information as to the mineral resources of the whole Empire, where those resources are located and how they can be developed for the benefit of the whole Empire. The estimates of our share of the expense will come up under the Estimates of the Minister of Mines (Mr. Burrell), who will then have a full report of the work of the bureau and will be glad to give it to the House. I have only a very general knowledge of the matter.

Mr. CAHILL: To whom will the bureau report?

Mr. ROWELL: It is appointed by all the Governments of the Empire and will report to all.

Mr. CAHILL: To whom first?

Mr. ROWELL: As it is located in London, I presume it will report first to the Government in England, and the report will be sent to all the Dominions.

Mr. BUREAU: This bureau is in England. The information, I understand, is to be gathered from the various Dominions, and is then to be spread through this particular bureau to the various Dominions. That is, all information that may be gathered from Canada through this bureau will be sent to Australia, and all information Australia will give the bureau will be sent to Canada. Is that the idea, namely, to spread, by medium of the bureau, information as to the natural resources which exist in each Dominion?

Mr. ROWELL: That is one of the objects, and that will be done.

Mr. BUREAU: What are the others?

Mr. ROWELL: I am speaking now from a recollection of last summer and of a matter which did not come particularly under my jurisdiction. I think the intention is not only to acquire knowledge as to these resources, but to report on the feasibility of their development commercially. That is one of the objects they have in view in enlarging the committee and seeking to en-