

The delegates were fêted daily in Montreal by Lord Brassey, Lord Strathcona, Montreal City Council, Montreal Board of Trade and by several prominent citizens connected with the Board of Trade—the name Board of Trade in Canada corresponding to Chamber of Commerce in India.

Among the important subjects dealt with may be mentioned—

*The Defence of the Empire.*—Resulting after an animated discussion among the Canadian delegates in the adoption by acclamation of the following Resolution:—

“That this Congress hereby affirms the principle that it is the duty of the self-governing Colonies to participate in the cost of the defence of the Empire, but the Colonies claim the privilege of keeping their own initiative as to the nature of the help which they agree to offer.”

*Food Supply of Great Britain.*—This was made the opportunity for a great display of patriotic sentiment, the burden of the Canadian argument being that the best way of assuring a constant and ample supply of food to the citizens of the United Kingdom would be to contrive measures for diverting to Canada the emigration that now flows to foreign countries.

*Consular Service and Treaty Rights.*—The defects and inefficiency of the existing system were very effectively shown up by Mr. Joseph Walton, M. P., and other speakers. The recent changes to our disadvantage in China and Persia were quoted in illustration, and glaring cases of neglect and indifference were produced from West Africa and the West Indies.

The Congress unanimously resolved:—

1. That His Majesty's Government should resolutely maintain and extend our Commercial Treaty rights.

2. That the Consular Service should be reorganised and strengthened on lines calculated to make it more effective for the promotion of the trade of the British Empire.

*Imperial Postal rate on Newspapers and Periodicals.*—It was resolved that it should be the aim of Imperial statesmanship to reach an arrangement which would make it possible for British publications to compete on even terms with foreign newspapers.

*Fast Mail Service and Development of Trade between the Mother-Country and the Colonies.*—This brought out advocates of the claims of numerous different routes. It was ultimately decided—

“That this Congress considers it of the utmost importance to the interests of the Empire that the United Kingdom and her Colonies should adopt a policy under which lines of steamships will be secured and retained for (1) the provision of fast mail services on the several routes; and (2) the development and control of trade between the Mother-Country and her possessions and between the Colonies themselves.”

*The Metric System.*—It was agreed that, in the interests of British trade and commerce, there was necessity for legislative measures being taken to make the use of metric weights and measures compulsory within the Empire.

*Decimal System of Currency.*—The Resolution adopted was—

“That this Congress favours the adoption throughout the Empire of the Decimal System of Currency, which already answers all commercial purposes.”