

There was only one such question, I think, so far as I am concerned, and that was in reference to preferential duties, and I must say that he skated over it in a way that would have done justice to any Canadian skater. (Laughter.) But what I really rose for was that, being chairman of the first Conference, that held in 1887, which I believe did a great deal of good, I wish to express my hearty support of what Mr. Ross has said in favour of regular conferences. Of course, it is impossible to have a permanent Council for the reasons he has given. It implies the taking away from the Colonies for a long time their best men. You cannot expect them to agree to that. They can, however, send to the conferences their best men, and they have done so in the past. I venture to say with regard to the Conference of 1887 that you could not have found more competent statesmen than were seated around that table under my chairmanship. There are many other points of interest to which one might refer, but I think this is not the occasion, and therefore I will content myself now with heartily concurring in the vote of thanks to Mr. Ross for his interesting statement. (Cheers)

The motion having been agreed to, and formally acknowledged by Mr. Ross, the proceedings terminated.