

## ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY, EARL GREY, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

The members of the Council, the present delegation from the Board of Trade of the City of Ottawa, desire to welcome Your Excellency back from England. They do so most cordially and they trust they may be allowed to express the high gratification which your return to our midst gives to all classes of the community.

On behalf of the Board we ask Your Excellency to allow us to take advantage of this, the very earliest opportunity, to refer to some of the results of the Imperial Conference recently held in London. We desire especially to refer to the resolution adopted on May 14th, which reads as follows:—

“That, in the opinion of this Conference, the interests of the Empire demand that, in so far as practicable, its different portions should be connected by the best possible means of mail communication, travel, and transportation, and that to this end it is advisable that Great Britain should be connected with Canada, and through Canada, with Australia and New Zealand, by the best service available within reasonable cost; that for the purpose of carrying the above project into effect, such financial support as may be necessary should be contributed by Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, in equitable proportions.”

This resolution was considered at the last sitting of the Conference. Its adoption was practically the concluding act of the assembled Prime Ministers, and this fact we think is of the highest importance in view of the far reaching policy which the resolution may be taken to affirm. The resolution only mentions mail communications, but it is possible that the same wise policy may be regarded as applicable to other means of connecting the outlying portions of the Empire.

Modern communications between distant points on the surface of the Globe are effected by the employment of two sister agencies, steam and electricity. The resolution of the Imperial Conference applies more particularly to the use of the first of these twin agencies, but the employment of the second is in no way antagonistic to that of the first; it may, indeed, be regarded in some cases as a consequence necessarily resulting from the use of the first. In the present instance, as both have the same end in view, every reason obtains why both should be employed in order the more speedily to accomplish an object so immensely important as the consolidation of the Empire and the well being of the whole British people.

The proposition particularly referred to in the resolution is the establishment of a fast mail and passenger service between England and Australasia, via Canada. The Board of Trade of the City of Ottawa, and we may add, every Canadian, would rejoice to see this service carried out. As has elsewhere been truly said, it would benefit every Province in the Dominion, and no one can doubt that it would tend in an important degree to knit together in friendship and in trade, the several countries proposed to be connected.