

OFFICIAL REPORT

15th JULY, 1926.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

46. MR. H. GUEST asked the Prime Minister what subjects will be considered by the Imperial Conference which is to meet in October next; what will be the dates of meeting and the order of business; and what will be the probable duration of the Conference?

49. SIR HARRY BRITAIN asked the Prime Minister whether the agenda for the Imperial Conference has been drawn up; and, if so, what subjects it is proposed to discuss?

THE PRIME MINISTER: Yes, Sir. The date proposed for the opening of the Conference is 5th October. As to the agenda for the Conference, it has been agreed that, as in the past, its work should include a general review of foreign policy and defence, and of the questions to which they give rise, and that it should consider the development of the system of communication and consultation between the Governments of the Empire on matters of common concern.

The following are the chief economic questions which will be on the agenda:

- (1) Oversea settlement.
- (2) A general view of inter-Imperial trade, present and future, including a discussion of the work of the Imperial Economic Committee and the position of the Empire Marketing Board.
- (3) Communications, under which head will be included the work of the Imperial Shipping Committee and the question of commercial air services.
- (4) Research.
- (5) The exhibition within the Empire of Empire films.
- (6) The question of securing agreement as to the liability of State enterprises of taxation.

MR. GUEST: Will there be an opportunity for the representation of Opposition opinion as well as Government opinion at the Imperial Conference, in view of the situation in South Africa, Canada and this country at the present time?