

should be encouraged by promoting a larger use of the parcel post than has hitherto prevailed. A resolution was passed approving the general principle, but the details of the scheme have not yet been worked out.

Mr. McMASTER: We were under the impression that the parcel post had been used very much in Canada during the last few years.

Mr. ROWELL: Possibly my hon. friend is able to speak with authority upon the matter. I was under the impression that it was the express that was used particularly in the line which my hon. friend suggests.

Mr. McMASTER: Perhaps.

Mr. ROWELL: The resolution No. 14 dealing with cable communications is as follows:

That it is in the highest interests of the Empire that the rates for telegraphic communications between the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and India, should be further materially reduced as soon as practicable. That in order to ensure generally the cheapest and most secure telegraphic communication between the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, it is desirable that they should co-operate in the provision of a state-owned cable across the Atlantic.

Mr. LEMIEUX: It is an old question.

Mr. ROWELL: It is an old question which has been discussed, I imagine, at every Imperial Conference that has been held certainly in twenty years.

Mr. LEMIEUX: We have, of course, the Pacific cable.

Mr. ROWELL: We have the Pacific cable which is owned by the British Empire, but when it was first started, the governments concerned had to contribute a substantial amount in order to make up the deficits. It has been paying its way now for some years, and is considerably more than earning its operating cost. We have had available a cable across the Atlantic during the period of the war.

Mr. LEMIEUX: A French cable?

Mr. ROWELL: A German cable. Whether that will continue to be available will depend I presume somewhat upon the decision of the Peace Conference. It is at present being operated, I believe, by the Pacific Cable Board, the same board that is operating the Pacific cable.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Where does that cable land?

[Mr. Rowell.]

Mr. ROWELL: Somewhere on the eastern coast. If that is available of course the resolution is satisfied without further action. Australia and New Zealand pressed very strongly for this matter.

The next group of subjects that called for consideration was the development and utilization of Imperial resources.

Mr. COCKSHUTT: Before the minister proceeds, might I ask if the question of passports has been dealt with in the documents presented at this Conference, and what rules, if any, are being observed with regard to passports in the various parts of the Empire?

Mr. ROWELL: The question of passports did not come up for consideration at the Conference.

The next group of subjects, as I have mentioned, was the development and utilization of Imperial resources and there were four or five resolutions dealing with various aspects of this matter. The first related to the exclusion of German alien enemies from participation in the non-ferrous metal industry. The British Government passed an Act, called the Non-Ferrous Metal Act, designed to exclude alien enemies from interest in the non-ferrous metal industry of Great Britain. That action grew out of the dominant position which the German metal interests held throughout the British Empire when the war broke out, and it was an Act to secure relief from that condition of affairs and to guard against its repetition in the future. The Conference passed this resolution, No. 2:

In pursuance of the policy of freeing the Empire from dependence on German controlled organizations in respect of non-ferrous metals and ores, the Conference endorses the principle of the Non-Ferrous Metal Industry Act of the United Kingdom and recommends the Governments of the Empire to adopt effective measures, in so far as these may be necessary and have not already been taken, to carry out this policy.

Mr. McMASTER: May I ask a question? I notice sometimes the hon. minister uses the word "commonwealth," which has a good Cromwellian smack about it, and at other times he uses the word "empire." Are these words synonymous or interchangeable?

Mr. ROWELL: I think the word "empire," if used in its old meaning, has no proper application to the situation that now exists—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.