

Sir JAMES WILSON, with the permission of the Conference, withdrew the following motions standing in his name :—

- (8a.) That in consideration of the advantage afforded to the Australasian Colonies by the maintenance by Queensland of a duplicate land line of telegraph [*terminating at Normantown*] the colonies represented at this Conference consent to recognize an extension of the Queensland line from Normantown to a point on the trans-continental line (say Daly Waters, 368 miles south of Port Darwin), which would practically constitute a duplication of the land telegraph, as forming part of the common system of telegraphic communication between Australasia and Europe, within the meaning of Resolution 1.
- (8b.) That so soon as such connecting line shall have been erected by Queensland, the colonies represented at this Conference shall contribute to the maintenance of the same to the extent of an annual subsidy of say 6 per cent. on a capital outlay of say not exceeding £50,000.
- (9a.) That, on the completion of the duplicate cable, the charge for transmission on the South Australian trans-continental line be reduced to 1s. per word; and should any further reduction be hereafter deemed necessary, the loss to South Australia shall be borne by the other Australasian Colonies rateably in proportion to population.
- (9b.) That the charges for transmission from England to Port Darwin, and from Port Darwin to England, shall be 5s. per word for Government messages, and 2s. 6d. per word for Press messages.

Colonel Glover was recalled, and gave further evidence.

Mr. CUTHBERT then moved, seconded by Sir JAMES WILSON—

That the cost of the subsidy be paid by the different Australasian Colonies rateably in proportion to their respective populations.

That, in the first instance, the populations of the several colonies, as officially estimated on 31st December 1876, shall be the basis of the proportionate allotment of cost to each.

That such contributions shall be re-adjusted on the basis of the populations of the several colonies as shown by the next general census, and thereafter once every five years.

Discussion ensued.—Motions put and carried, Queensland not voting.

The Conference then proceeded to the consideration of the following subjects, to which Mr. Burns had given notice that he should call its attention :—

(1.) The early termination of the agreement arrived at in the year 1873 between the Imperial Government and the Governments of Australia and New Zealand in reference to the Ocean Mail Services.

(2.) The Berne Postal Convention.

(3.) The prohibition against the importation of English and other stock.

After some discussion of the question of the early termination of the Ocean Mail contract, its further consideration was postponed.

Mr. BURNS then moved, seconded by Mr. TODD—

That the adoption of the amended treaty agreed to by the Berne Postal Convention be recommended for the favorable consideration of the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. BURNS then brought under notice of the Conference the question of removing the prohibition on the importation of stock into the Australasian Colonies. After discussion, the further consideration of the question was postponed.

The Conference then proceeded to the consideration of the following motion, of which Sir James Wilson had given notice, viz. :—

That it is desirable to make provision by legislation that probate of wills taken out in one colony may be registered in the Registry of Wills Office in any other colony, in cases of testators dying in one colony leaving personal property in other colonies; and that additional facilities should be afforded to suitors for enforcing judgments recovered in the Supreme Court of one colony against the property of judgment debtors in other colonies.

With the consent of the Conference the motion was divided into two portions; when

Sir JAMES WILSON moved, seconded by Mr. BOUCAUT—

That it is desirable to make provision by legislation that probate of wills taken out in one colony may be registered in the Registry of Wills Office in any other colony, in cases of testators dying in one colony leaving personal property in other colonies.

Discussion ensued.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MEIN then moved, seconded by Mr. BOUCAUT—

That the Government of Tasmania be requested to prepare a Bill dealing with the question raised by the foregoing resolution, and submit the same for the approval of the Governments of the several Australasian Colonies with a view to united legislation on the subject.

Motion carried unanimously.

Sir JAMES WILSON then moved, seconded by Mr. MEIN—

That additional facilities should be afforded to suitors for enforcing judgments recovered in the Supreme Court of one colony against the property of judgment debtors in other colonies.

Discussion ensued.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MEIN then moved, seconded by Sir JAMES WILSON—

That the representatives of the different colonies undertake, in the event of the law advisers of their Governments approving of the same, to endeavour to procure the passing in their respective Legislatures of a Bill dealing with the question raised by the foregoing resolution, similar to that submitted by Tasmania, and appended to the proceedings of the Conference. (*See Appendix 6.*)

Motion carried unanimously.