

Noes, 5.—Hon. Mr. G. R. Johnson, Hon. Mr. Miller, Mr. Sutton, Mr. Swanson, and Hon. Mr. Williamson.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Joyce be allowed to read the following telegram sent to him by the Chamber of Commerce, Invercargill: "The following was resolved in the Chamber this day: That, in any arrangement for direct steam service with Great Britain, the claims of the Bluff being made a port of call should be urged for the following reasons: (1) That the distance is one day's steam shorter than Lyttelton or Wellington; (2) that the approach from the westward is well lit up, and from the eastward soon equally so; (3) entrance channel has no turns which largest steamer could not navigate with its own steam; (4) not less than 24 feet low water and 30 feet high water from sea to wharf; (5) largest steamer could anchor a quarter of a mile from the wharf with 30 feet of water at low tide; (6) wharf accommodation easily provided, with 26 feet low water; (7) with the harbour well lit a steamer could enter at all ordinary times; (8) a better harbour than that of Point de Galle; (9) there is neither sea nor swell which could affect large steamers; (10) extensive coal deposits are being worked, with a railway from mine to port; (11) the grain production of Southland has now reached a proportion which will make this freight an object to steamers; (12) the sheep for refrigeration and export from Southland, Lake, and Wallace Counties, reckoned at 37,000 this year; (13) the expedition through steamers would largely increase the quantity of wool shipment at the Bluff; (14) only fair to Southland to make provisions for preparation for immigrants by direct steamer landing them at the Bluff; (15) conveyance of general passengers inwards or outwards is best served by calling at the Bluff both ways."

On the motion of Mr. Joyce, *Resolved*, That the Bluff shall be included in the ports of arrival and departure which shall be optional for steamers under arrangements with the Government.

*Resolved*, That the Chairman be directed to report the foregoing resolutions to the House.

The Committee then adjourned.