

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE.

"liberty of contract on charter parties and bills of lading" is unnecessary and undesirable, inasmuch as the ordinary forms of insurance upon goods having been adapted to meet the well-known exemptions from liability for the acts and defaults of the shipowners' servants, protection against loss resulting therefrom can be more cheaply obtained by the shipper or consignee from the underwriter direct than by forcing a liability upon the shipowner and thereby increasing the freight." The original motion by Sir Joseph Ward was: "That the terms and conditions of the bill of lading at present in general use are in many respects unsatisfactory to shippers and consignees, and that in the interest of traders generally it is desirable that the Board of Trade should publish a form of bill of lading containing such reasonable conditions as in its opinion are sufficient to safeguard the rights of shipper, shipowner, and consignee."

The amendment was not accepted by the Colonial delegations. The resolution was supported by the Australian and New Zealand delegations, the representatives of the Board of Trade and Shipowners dissenting. The Colonial Office representatives abstained from voting.

THE CHAIRMAN: We record our dissent.

MR. COX: Might it be recorded that the Colonial Office did not vote on that.

SIR JOSEPH WARD: I think the division on the amendment ought to be recorded.

THE CHAIRMAN: On the amendment we did not vote.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: May I say I was neutral?

THE CHAIRMAN: So were we.

SIR JOSEPH WARD: So long as it is put on record the result of both divisions on my motion also, it is all right.

HON. W. M. HUGHES gave the following notice of motion:—

"To move that this Conference approves the principle of a Naval Reserve as outlined in Appendix D of the Report of the Commonwealth Royal Commission on the Navigation Bill and suggests that if possible some uniform scheme be drawn up suitable for adoption throughout the Empire."

SIR JOSEPH WARD: May I suggest that we take off the agenda paper the resolutions which I understand cannot be put here. They were indicated by you this morning, Nos. 9, 11, and 12?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SIR JOSEPH WARD: I understand your view is that No. 9 should come before the Imperial Conference. I propose to confer with the Prime Minister of Australia, and the matter can therefore go off the agenda paper here. In regard to 11 and 12, those I understand you rule out of order?

THE CHAIRMAN: Those will be out of order.

SIR JOSEPH WARD: I only want to say, while I bow to your ruling, I understand it covers a great constitutional question, and I am sorry that we should not have a decision upon No. 11, for the reason that when the Conference has finished—

THE CHAIRMAN: We will leave No. 11 on the paper for the present. Nos. 9 and 12 I rule out, but 11 I have some doubts about.

(The Conference adjourned till the following day at 11 o'clock.)

SIXTH DAY.

Wednesday, April 10th, 1907.

The following were present:—

The Right Hon. D. LLOYD GEORGE, M.P., President of the Board of Trade, in the Chair.

United Kingdom Delegates.

Mr. H. LLEWELLYN SMITH, C.B.,
Mr. WALTER J. HOWELL, C.B.,
Mr. R. ELLIS CUNLIFFE,
Capt. A. J. G. CHALMERS,
Mr. H. BERTRAM COX, C.B.,
Mr. A. B. KEITH,

Of the Board of
Trade.
Of the Colonial
Office.

Mr. E. PEMBROKE,
Mr. K. ANDERSON,
Mr. H. F. FERNIE,
Mr. R. J. DUNLOP,
Mr. NORMAN HILL,
Mr. J. HAVELOCK WILSON, representing Seamen.

Australian Delegates.

Hon. Sir W. J. LYNE, K.C.M.G.
Hon. W. M. HUGHES.

Hon. DUGALD THOMSON.

Dr. H. N. WOLLASTON, LL.D., I.S.O., of the Australian Commonwealth Department of Trades and Customs, was also in attendance.

New Zealand Delegates.

Hon. Sir JOSEPH WARD, K.C.M.G.
Mr. JAMES MILLS.

Mr. WILLIAM BELCHER.
Mr. A. R. HISLOP.

Dr. FITCHETT, Solicitor-General of New Zealand, was also in attendance.

Secretaries.

Mr. J. A. WEBSTER,
Mr. G. E. BAKER,

Of the Board of Trade.

Mr. J. HISLOP, Private Secretary to Sir J. Ward.
Mr. D. J. QUINN, Private Secretary to Sir W. Lyne.

AGENDA.

1. Brussels Conventions as to Collisions and Salvage.

The text with translation and short explanatory Memorandum has been circulated to the Colonial Delegates.