

Mr. Roberts : I think it is within the scope of the Conference. You will remember, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that Mr. Coates said, in opening the Conference, that "the sky is the limit," and we are not exceeding that limit by asking the Government to send a representative to Geneva. I must say that Mr. Weston and Mr. Bloodworth have immensely improved the motion, and I fully agree with it as amended. I want to point out that the representation of New Zealand at the annual conference of the labour section of the League of Nations is expected not only by the League itself, but by employers' and workers' organizations throughout Europe. They read with interest our deliberations on these matters, and I think we would be of valuable assistance to them if New Zealand were represented at their Conference. I am egotist enough to think that we could show them how to do their job better than they are now doing it.

Hon. M. Weston : I second the motion. I just want to say, however, that I do not believe in extravagance. I do not know whether I have any Scotch ancestors or not, but I like to scrutinize what I spend, and I would rather help a man who is in distress than help another man to what is, after all, more or less of a joy-ride. Everything is done by the secretariat of the labour section at Geneva, and the whole of our deliberations will be carefully scrutinized by men trained in the work, and the information will be sent out to all quarters of the globe. I believe that that will prove more useful in the long-run than even the best speech delivered at a hurried meeting such as an international conference of labour delegates would be. We both want to get the same result, but I think that the unseen work is often more useful and practical than the seen work.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Printing of Conference Records.

Mr. Bishop : The motion I wish to move is in reference to the printing of the records of this Conference. I would suggest that a sufficient number of copies of the proceedings be printed to enable a copy to be supplied to each delegate, and also to each organization represented by delegates for use in their offices. I also recommend that a sufficient number be printed for subsequent distribution. I have had a number of inquiries already from other countries for copies of the reports of the Conference, and am anxious to avoid what frequently happens in connection with reports of this kind, that only a very limited number is printed, and a few months afterwards it is impossible to obtain copies, even from the Government Printing Office.

The Chairman : How many would be needed ?

Mr. Bishop : I think five hundred would be the minimum, but probably more than that would be required.

Mr. Bloodworth : I second the motion. I think it is desirable that a sufficient number of copies be printed to supply all the parties interested throughout New Zealand, and beyond its shores. Institutions which Mr. Bishop did not include, but which would probably be included in the ordinary course, are the public libraries in the cities, which ought to be supplied with a copy.

Professor Murphy : May I ask that copies be made available for the New Zealand University colleges, and one or two be given to us for distribution to foreign scholars.

The Chairman : I think the idea of having a sufficient number printed and kept in stock is that they may be distributed to such people as would be inclined to read the report.

Hon. Mr. Barr : The Prime Minister is fully alive to the importance of this Conference, and the material that has been gathered as the result of it, and there has already been under consideration the publication of a sufficient number of copies in the present foolscap form as printed so far. The Prime Minister also thinks the report of such value as to justify its being printed in book form in a handy size that would be available not only for circulation, but for purchase by those interested in the question. It would include not only the reports and papers handled in this Conference, but all the material which has accumulated as the result of the committee's deliberations.

Mr. Bishop's motion was agreed to.

Presentation of Conference Recommendations to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister.

The Chairman : Mr. Coates, in your speech at the opening of this Conference on the 27th March last you stated that "the Government in calling this Conference have made an honest attempt to bring together what are apparently conflicting interests, in the hope that by meeting face to face and threshing out their difficulties they may succeed in bringing peace and good will to the industries of New Zealand." Considering to-day, at the close of the Conference, the effect upon us all of meeting and discussing together the many problems involved, it would seem almost as if the designation of the interests represented as "apparently conflicting" was prophetic of what we would indeed find. I am sure that to-day we all have a better understanding and a higher appreciation of the point of view of the other man than we had at the beginning, and that in very many cases we have discovered that, so far from our interests being conflicting, we are really almost at one, and that very little more would bring about complete agreement. As yet we have not reached that stage in all cases, but much has been done to prepare the way and lay the foundation for it. I desire to say also that the hope expressed by you as to the spirit in which the inquiry and discussions would be carried on has been fully realized. There has been evident throughout a sincere and earnest desire on the part of every one to get closer together, to work in harmony, and to devise ways and means for the furtherance of the best interests of the country as a whole. There has been the utmost good feeling from beginning to end, and even if nothing else had resulted from the Conference the time devoted to it has been well worth while. A good deal more, however, has been done, and I feel I can say that the foundation has been laid and the way prepared for still more. I am authorized to hand to you, sir, for your consideration unanimous recommendations from the Conference on the subjects of unemployment, immigration, and the Workers' Compensation Act. To the first of these there is an addendum from the workers' represen-