

VI. PUBLICITY ARRANGEMENTS.

It was agreed that, as at previous Conferences in London, the publicity arrangements should be under the general supervision of a United Kingdom Minister, and Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, was asked to undertake this responsibility. The Marquess of Hartington, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, was in actual charge of the arrangements and was assisted in this work by the press liaison officers associated with the delegations.

At the conclusion of the meetings the Conference thanked those responsible for the valuable help they had given.

VII. HIS MAJESTY'S BIRTHDAY.

On 9th June the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom submitted to His Majesty The King the following message on behalf of the Imperial Conference:—

“On this day on which Your Majesty's birthday is being celebrated the representatives of the Governments of the British Commonwealth of Nations assembled together in Conference, desire me, on their behalf, to tender to Your Majesty their respectful and loyal greetings.

“They earnestly trust that Your Majesty's reign, so happily begun, may be long, peaceful, and prosperous for Your Majesty and for all your peoples.”

To this message His Majesty was pleased to send the following reply:—

“The Chairman of the Imperial Conference.

“I am greatly touched by the kind thought of the Representatives of the Governments of the British Commonwealth of Nations in sending me a message of loyal greetings on the day that my birthday is being celebrated.

“I thank them most heartily and would like to assure them how deeply I appreciate their good wishes for the future.

“(Signed) GEORGE, R.I.”

VIII. DEATH OF SIR ROBERT BORDEN.

The Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden, G.C.M.G., K.C., Prime Minister of Canada from 1911 to 1920, died on 10th June. The following resolution was passed at the meeting of principal delegates on that day:—

“The members of the Imperial Conference desire to put on record their sincere regret on hearing of the death of Sir Robert Borden. They recall especially Sir Robert's valuable work at the Imperial War Cabinets and Conferences of 1917 and 1918 and his great contribution to the constitutional development of the British Commonwealth.

“They wish to express their deep sympathy to Lady Borden.”

IX. FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

At the plenary meeting of the Imperial Conference on 14th May, the Chairman made the following statement in the course of his opening speech:—

“Though we shall discuss other important subjects, we are agreed that questions of foreign affairs and defence shall be our main subjects. It is fitting that they should be. For we are met at a time when the international situation is difficult and even threatening, and the responsibility rests upon us to see that our deliberations not only are of service to ourselves, but also may help in some measure towards the solution of those international problems which are now perplexing the world.”

Similar views were expressed by other speakers, and, as indicated in Section V above, it was then agreed at this plenary meeting that questions of foreign affairs should be discussed at meetings of principal delegates. A series of meetings, of which the first took place on the 19th May, was devoted to the consideration of various aspects of foreign affairs under the heads of the general international situation, including the League of Nations, the European situation, and the Pacific and the Far East.