

the other colonies reserved their decision, with the exception of the Premier of South Australia, who stated that his colony was not prepared to take part in the exhibition under any circumstances.

#### DATE OF DEPARTURE OF AUSTRALIAN MAILS.

A discussion arose upon the alteration of the date of departure from Adelaide of the mail-steamers under the new contracts with the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient Companies. There was considerable difference of opinion, but it was decided to accept Thursday as the most suitable date under all the circumstances.

#### LOAD-LINES.

The question of load-lines was discussed privately with the Premiers of the colonies in connection with recent legislation on the subject as to which difficulties have arisen.

#### NEW HEBRIDES, ETC.

The subject of the future administration of British New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and the New Hebrides was introduced, but no decision was arrived at upon it.

At the concluding meeting the Premiers unanimously passed the following resolution: "The Premiers, before they separate, beg to put on record their appreciation of the many courtesies which they have received at the hands of Mr. Chamberlain personally, and of the kind treatment which has been extended to them by the Government and people of the United Kingdom."

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