

SESSION II.
1906.
NEW ZEALAND.

PROPOSED COLONIAL CONFERENCE IN 1907

(FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO A).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Colony.	Date.	Subject.
1	Governor Sir William MacGregor	Newfoundland	1905. November 18 (Rec. Dec. 2)	Reports that his Ministers agree in principle to the institution of the contemplated Joint Commission.
2	Governor-General Earl Grey	Canada (Telegram)	(Rec. Dec. 5)	Reports that Ministers have no objection to the Conference being held in 1907 instead of 1906.
3	Governor Sir H. E. McCallum	Natal (Telegram)	December 22 (Rec. Dec. 22)	Reports that Ministers agree to the postponement of the next Conference until 1907.
4	Governor Sir W. F. Hely-Hutchinson	Cape	December 6 (Rec. Dec. 23)	Encloses copy of a minute from Ministers stating that they are desirous that the Conference should meet in 1906, due consideration being given to the wishes and necessities of the various Governments in regard to the actual date of assembly.
5	Governor-General Lord Northcote	Australia (Telegram)	(Rec. Dec. 23)	Reports that his Government have no objection to postponement until 1907.
6	Governor Sir William MacGregor	Newfoundland	December 8 (Rec. Dec. 28)	Reports opinion of Ministers that it would be advisable to postpone the meeting of the Conference till 1907.
7	Governor Lord Plunket ..	New Zealand (Telegram)	1906. (Rec. Jan. 26)	Reports that Ministers see no objection to postponement of the Conference until 1907, but would prefer that it should be held at an early date in that year.
8	To Governors of self-governing colonies	(Telegram)	February 19	Proposes that Conference should meet early in March, 1907.
9	Ditto	February 22	Confirms No. 8: requests to be furnished with a statement of any subjects which the colonial Governments desire should be discussed.
10	Governor Lord Plunket ..	New Zealand (Telegram)	(Rec. April 27)	Inquires whether proposals concerning fiscal matters and preferential trade throughout the Empire will be admitted.
11	To Governor Lord Plunket..	New Zealand (Telegram)	May 12	States that any proposals on fiscal matters which his Prime Minister may wish to bring forward will be submitted to the Conference.
12	To Governors of self-governing colonies	(Telegram)	May 12	Inform them that 15th April, 1907, has been fixed as the date most acceptable to the colonial Premiers, and invites them to attend on that day.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 1.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Governor Sir WM. MACGREGOR to Mr. LYTTTELTON.

(Received December, 2, 1905.)

SIR,—

Government House, St. John's, November 18, 1905.

With reference to your despatch of 16th October, I have the honour to inform you that my Ministers agree in principle to the institution of the contemplated Joint Commission.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.

No. 2.

CANADA.

Governor-General EARL GREY to Mr. LYTTTELTON.

(Received 7.50 p.m., December 5, 1905.)

(Telegram.)

REFERRING to your telegram of 29th November, Responsible Ministers have no objection to Colonial Conference being held in 1907 instead of 1906.

No. 3.

NATAL.

Governor Sir H. E. MCCALLUM to the EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 11 a.m., December 22, 1905.)

(Telegram.)

DECEMBER 22.—No. 1.—Referring to your telegram, 29th November, Ministers are agreeable to postponement of next Colonial Conference until 1907.

No. 4.

CAPE COLONY.

Governor Sir W. F. HELLY-HUTCHINSON to Mr. LYTTTELTON.

(Received December 23, 1905.)

SIR,—

Government House, Cape Town, December 6, 1905.

I have the honour to transmit to you the document specified in the annexed schedule.

I have, &c.,

WALTER HELLY-HUTCHINSON.

Date.	Description of Document.
6th December, 1905	Minute from Ministers: Date of meeting of the next Colonial Conference.

Enclosure in No. 4.

MINISTERS to GOVERNOR.

(Minute.)

Prime Minister's Office, Cape Town, December 6, 1905.

IN acknowledging the receipt of His Excellency the Governor's minute of the 30th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a telegram from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated the 29th idem, relative to the date of meeting of the next Colonial Conference, Ministers have the honour to state in reply that they are desirous that the Conference should meet in the year 1906, due consideration being given, however, to the wishes and necessities of the various colonial Governments in regard to the actual date of assembly.

T. W. SMARTT.

No. 5.

AUSTRALIA.

Governor-General LORD NORTHCOTE to the EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 7.50 a.m., December 23, 1905.)

(Telegram.)

REFERRING to your telegram of 29th November, Colonial Conference, Government have no objection to postponement, 1907.

No. 6.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Governor Sir Wm. MacGREGOR to Mr. LYTTELTON.

(Received December 28, 1905.)

SIR,—

Government House, St. John's, December 8, 1905.

With reference to your telegram of the 29th November, I have the honour to inform you that my Ministers are of opinion that it would be advisable to postpone the meeting of the Colonial Conference till 1907.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.

No. 7.

NEW ZEALAND.

Governor LORD PLUNKET to the EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 7.40 a.m., January 26, 1906.)

(Telegram.)

FOLLOWING telegram received from Premier: "*Begins*: Government of New Zealand see no objection to postponement of Imperial Conference of Prime Ministers until 1907, but would prefer that it should be held at an early date in that year."

No. 8.

The EARL OF ELGIN to the GOVERNORS OF SELF-GOVERNING COLONIES.

(Sent February 19, 1906.)

(Telegram.)

REFERRING to my predecessor's telegram of 29th November, and to your reply, His Majesty's Government propose that Colonial Conference should meet early in March, 1907, as it seems impossible to arrange a meeting conveniently this year. I shall be glad to learn that this date will suit your Prime Minister.

Despatch follows by mail.

No. 9.

The EARL OF ELGIN to the GOVERNORS OF SELF-GOVERNING COLONIES

MY LORD,—

SIR,—

Downing Street, February 22, 1906.

My predecessor, in his telegram of the 29th of November last, suggested that it might be advisable to postpone the Colonial Conference until the year 1907, since it was not possible for the Prime Ministers of the Australian Commonwealth and of New Zealand to attend a Conference in 1906 if it was held later than in the spring, and it did not then appear to be practicable to make preparation for a Conference by that time.

2. I have now the honour to enclose, for the information of your Ministers, copies of the replies* received from the several colonies, from which it will be seen that while the Cape Ministers desired that the Conference should meet this year, the other Governments agreed to postponement until next year, and the Government of New Zealand expressed a hope that the meeting might take place early in the year.

3. I accordingly informed you, in my telegram of the 19th instant,† that His Majesty's Government proposed that the Conference should meet early in March, 1907, and added that I should be glad to learn if that date would be convenient to your Prime Minister.

4. My predecessor communicated to your Government, in his despatch of 7th December last,‡ the parliamentary paper containing the correspondence with various colonial Governments arising out of his despatch of 20th April, which dealt with certain proposals respecting the organization of future Colonial Conferences. I do not feel myself called upon to adopt the recommendation of those proposals; but in view of the expressions of opinion received from the colonies I think that it will be desirable that the scheme should be freely discussed when the Conference meets.

5. It will much facilitate the proceedings of the Conference, by enabling full preparation to be made beforehand, if your Government will communicate to me, so as to reach me not later than the 1st of September next, a statement as to any subjects which they desire to be discussed, and as to any resolutions which they wish to submit to the Conference.

6. I will address you in due course as regards the subjects which His Majesty's Government may wish to bring before the Conference.

7. His Majesty's Government feel every confidence that the next Conference, like those which have preceded it, it will help to increase the good understanding and cordial feeling which exist between the Governments of the various self-governing communities of the Empire.

I have, &c.,

ELGIN.

* Nos. 1 to 7.

† No. 8.

‡ Not printed.

No. 10.

NEW ZEALAND.

Governor LORD PLUNKET to the EARL OF ELGIN.

(Received 7.50 a.m., April 27, 1906.)

(Telegram.)

COLONIAL Conference: My Responsible Advisers, whilst aware that Governments of self-governing colonies will be invited to submit proposals for consideration at Conference, would be glad to know whether proposals concerning fiscal matters and preferential trade throughout Empire will be admitted.

No. 11.

NEW ZEALAND.

The EARL OF ELGIN to Governor LORD PLUNKET.

(Sent May 12, 1906.)

(Telegram.)

REFERRING to your telegram of 27th April,* any proposals regarding fiscal matters which your Prime Minister may wish to bring forward will be submitted to Conference, in accordance with my despatch of 22nd February.†

No. 12.

The EARL OF ELGIN to the GOVERNORS OF SELF-GOVERNING COLONIES.

(Sent 2.45 p.m., May 12, 1906.)

(Telegram.)

REFERRING to my despatch, 22nd February,† I have now ascertained by communication with all the colonies concerned that the date for Colonial Conference most acceptable to all Premiers, having regard to the varying conditions involved in the meeting of their Legislatures, will be April 15th next, in place of the previous suggestion of a date early in March. I have therefore much pleasure, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, in inviting your Prime Minister to attend the Conference on 15th April.

* No. 10.

† No. 9.

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