

Editor. (Jun. 28, 1909). DEFENCE OF EMPIRE, p. 7. *Sydney Morning Herald*.

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DEFENCE OF EMPIRE.

DUTY OF DOMINIONS.

SPEECHES AT PRESS CONFERENCE.

**LORD C. BERESFORD AND LORD
ESHER.**

STANDARDISATION OF FLEETS.

PREPAREDNESS ENSURES PEACE.

LONDON, June 27.

At the Imperial Press Conference, which closed on Saturday, Lord Esher, who presided, and Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, delivered speeches on Imperial defence.

Lord Esher said that, thanks to Mr. Chamberlain, Professor Seeley, the Earl of Rosebery, and Mr. C. Rhodes, the conception of empire to-day was wholly different from that common in the seventies of the last century.

Difficulties began when they passed from belief to action. The first necessity was to move slowly and prudently towards an Imperial navy. This meant that British officers and sailors all over the world should not only be willing but must be trained to fight efficiently side by side in the same fleet.

The delegates, Lord Esher said, would be wise if they limited their consideration to what was practicable within ten years, and thus clear the ground, and enable statesmen to achieve practical measures. The dominions must gain their experience themselves. Their true guides were not the Admiralty, but their own officers, who learned the lessons in their own fleet.

The military problem, Lord Esher continued, could be summed up in three words—a general staff, whereby the personnel and the materiel of war would be standardised throughout the Empire.

Defence, Lord Esher pointed out, meant not only the organisation of the navy and the army, but the organisation in peace of all the resources, financial and personnel, of the people. He hopefully looked forward to the time when the Committee of Imperial Defence would be strengthened by the addition of overseas representatives.

ADDRESS BY LORD C. BERESFORD.

Lord Charles Beresford said: "The dominant note of all statesmen who have addressed the conference has been grave anxiety. This was not expressed without reason. In my opinion the reason is that they know we are not prepared.

"Colonial offers to build Dreadnoughts are the severest condemnation possible of the Imperial defence policy of Great Britain. The nations overseas recognise what Great Britain ought to have recognised earlier, that Great Britain has arrived at a time when it is impossible for her to maintain the two-Power standard without the overseas dominions helping in dealing with the problem. How is that help to be given?"

Lord Charles Beresford said: "Don't let us be in too great a hurry. Don't let us be too long. Defence should be of a kind instantly able to be turned into attack. Standardisation is all-important, for by it temporary exchanges of officers, men, and ships would be possible throughout the Empire."

"The weakest part of the present system is the defence of the trade routes. The colonies might undertake overseas repairing stations, which, owing to some mad infatuation, have been abandoned after large sums were spent on them."

"The colonies must act in war-time under a great strategical bureau, which should be at the Admiralty, but which is not there now."

"The Empire has much leeway to make up owing to deferred liabilities, but to make up that leeway is possible if the question is regarded from an Imperial and national standpoint free from the taint of party."

"The peoples of the nations loathe and detest war. If the Empire is properly prepared there will be no war."

IMPORTANCE OF SECRECY.

General Sir John French, Inspector-General of the Forces, supported the idea of Mr. R. B. Haldane, Secretary of State for War, of attaining uniformity in military methods by means of a general staff. Sir John French dwelt upon the importance of secrecy in war-time, and he appealed to the press to help in carrying out this secrecy.

A SUPERFLUOUS RESOLUTION.

Mr. T. Temperley (Ballina) proposed a resolution, that: "National defence for the Empire is the most urgent question of the day."

Mr. William T. Stead made an impassioned plea for peace. "The press of the Empire," he said, "should above all keep a civil tongue towards the rest of the world. It is very well for an Australian delegate to come and say that national defence is most urgent. The most urgent question for him is to fill Australia with white people."

Mr. J. A. Macdonald (Toronto) described the resolution as "feckless, thewless, and pithless."

Mr. E. S. Cunningham (Melbourne) declared that the resolution was a superfluity.

Mr. T. Fink (Melbourne) expressed hearty appreciation of British statesmanship.

The meeting finally decided to put no resolution on record.

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REDUCTION OF CABLE RATES.

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The Hon. H. Lawson (London "Daily Telegraph") presided.

The conference appointed a standing committee, and a deputation to urge upon Mr. Asquith to take steps to bring about a general reduction of cable rates.

Another resolution advocated the establishment of wireless telegraphy stations in the east and the south.

Another resolution dealt with a grievance of Indian newspapers, whose rates are as high as New Zealand, and with a grievance of Ceylon, whose rates are a halfpenny more.

It was announced that the Pacific Cable Board had decided to reduce its proportion of the charge by one-half to 2½d, and that New Zealand would reduce its proportion by a halfpenny, making an immediate reduction in press messages between England and New Zealand 9d a word. It is expected that Australia would lower the land charge by a halfpenny, which would reduce Australian press messages via the Pacific cable to 8½d a word.

It is also expected that if Atlantic companies and Canadian land lines make reductions they will be devoted to lowering the press rates.

Mr. Marconi said that he was most confident of belief that by August he would transmit 15,000 words daily between Ireland and Canada, and would send press messages across the Atlantic at 2½d, possibly at 2d, a word, against the present 5d a word.

Mr. Marconi continued that he had every hope that his system would embrace the whole Empire. Already there were installations from Italy to Argentina, and if successful he hoped to instal his system from England to the Cape, and from the Cape to Canada.

Canadian delegates proposed a resolution favouring a State-owned system of electric communication between England and Canada to Vancouver, thus completing the State service from England across Canada to Australia.

Mr. G. Fenwick (Dunedin) strongly supported the Canadian proposal. He claimed that the Pacific cable was already a great success, but it would never be a complete success till State ownership of cable lines was established to England.

Mr. G. Lukin (Wellington), Mr. M. Cohen (Dunedin), Mr. T. Fink (Melbourne), and Mr. T. Temperley (Ballina) also supported the proposal.

Some Australian delegates questioned the propriety of State competition unless existing interests were fairly treated.

The motion was carried.

A similar resolution was adopted in relation to South Africa.

CLOSE OF CONFERENCE.

LONDON, June 27.

The conference closed on Saturday, when the question of Imperial defence was further considered.

RISKS OF COMPRESSION.

SOURCE OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

The "Times" writes that the value of the offer of the Pacific Cable Company is enhanced by the patriotic action of New Zealand, and there is good reason to anticipate that the reductions will thoroughly justify themselves from a business standpoint.

The "Times" hopes that private companies will grant a similar reduction of cable messages, as the transmission of news in a nutshell is fertile in the creation of misunderstandings.

LADY LANSDOWNE'S RECEPTION.

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WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY, AN IMPERIAL SYSTEM,
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THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, MONDAY, JUNE 28, 1909.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

AN IMPERIAL SYSTEM.

COST OF PENNY A WORD SERVICE.

LONDON, June 26.

The "Times," in a special article, taking as its text Mr. Marconi's speech at the Imperial Press Conference, suggests an Imperial system of wireless telegraphy. Last year Mr. Marconi's Canadian service transmitted 300,000 words, mostly coded. Probably there would be 5,000,000 words sent in the coming year. The average speed is 24 words a minute, and it is likely to be increased to 60 a minute.

The "Times" suggests that stations to connect Australia and New Zealand with England be established at Malta, Alexandria, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Singapore, Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, and Wellington. Each station would have a range of 2000 miles, would cost £55,000 to establish, and £10,000 a year for upkeep.

If the British and colonial Governments would equip 15 stations, at a cost of £825,000, and offer a subsidy of £150,000 annually, an Imperial penny a word service would be possible. If each station handled 15,000 words daily, it would be possible to make a profit upon a complete Imperial system of 24 stations.

FULL TRANSCRIPT

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[Rosebery, Rhodes heir, radical imperialist; Chamberlain, Milner, Rhodes proponent of 2nd Boer War; Seeley, radical liberal imperialist]

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[Note: On Jul. 31, 1909, Prime Minister Asquith formed two Sub Committees on Home Defence (MI5) and Colonial Defence (MI6) reporting directly to him as the prime minister and free to recruit experts like participants in the Imperial Press Conference just concluded and its "permanent body" the Empire Press Union.]

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A STATESMAN WANTED

A BOLD POLICY ESSENTIAL

LONDON, June 26 [, 1909]

Viscount Milner, speaking at the Compatriots' Club last night, in referring to the "great defence movement now stirring the Empire," remarked, "The dominions desire and mean business in this matter."

Lord Milner added: "The occasion calls for a bold constructive policy. The more courageous and comprehensive the proposals advanced by the Home Government, the greater their chances of success."

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PALESTINE RESOLUTIONS.

REVISION OF THE DEFENCE ACT.

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POSSIBILITIES OF MANOEUVERING.

LONDON, June 28.

BULLET-FRONT ARMOUR.

CORPS OF AERONAUTS.

CANADA'S IMPORTS.

DECREASE FROM BRITAIN.

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LONDON, June 28.

LEAGUE MARKETS OVERSEAS.

CRICKET GROUND CHARGES.

REMAN POLITICAL SITUATION.

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AERONAUTICS.

NEW GERMAN AIRSHIP.

TO CLIMB 14 FATHOMS.

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THE CRICKETERS.

LANCASTERS AND YORKSHIRE.

ONE DAY'S PLAY.

COMBINED TEST FOR 15.

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