

# MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## CABLE CONFERENCE,

HELD IN SYDNEY, IN 1877.

AT THE TREASURY, SYDNEY, THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY, 1877.

The undermentioned gentlemen, Representatives of the Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and Victoria, were present:—

<i>New South Wales</i>	... The Honorable John Robertson. The Honorable Alex. Stuart. The Honorable J. F. Burns.
<i>New Zealand</i>	... The Honorable G. McLean.
<i>Queensland</i>	... The Honorable Samuel Walker Griffith. The Honorable Charles Stuart Mein.
<i>South Australia</i>	... The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers, K.C.M.G. The Honorable Ebenezer Ward.
<i>Tasmania</i>	... The Honorable James Whyte.
<i>Victoria</i>	... The Honorable R. S. Anderson. The Honorable R. Ramsay.

The Honorable John Robertson was, on the motion of Sir Henry Ayers, seconded by the Honorable R. Anderson, unanimously elected to the Chair.

Mr. Alex. C. Budge was appointed Secretary.

The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers then proposed,—

“That in the event of any division upon a motion the votes of the Colonies shall be taken in lieu of the individual votes of the Representatives of the said Colonies.”

The Conference agreed to the same.

The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers also proposed, and the Honorable G. McLean seconded, the following motion, which the Conference unanimously adopted:—

“That the proceedings of the Conference, during its sitting, shall not be made public, except with the sanction of the Conference.”

It was then resolved:—

“That the Representatives of each Colony shall undertake to recommend to the Governments and Parliaments of the Colonies which they represent, the adoption of measures to carry out all the resolutions of the Conference to which they may have given their assent.”

It was further resolved:—

“That the Secretary be required to prepare minutes of each day's proceedings, which shall be read over and confirmed at the next sitting previous to any new business being entered upon.”

Mr. Stuart gave notice of the following Motions:—

- (1.) That it is desirable to extend and improve the means of Telegraphic Communication between Australia and Europe, by the duplication where necessary of the cables or lines connecting the same.
- (2.) That the subsidy on ocean cables, to connect Australia with Europe, be borne by the several Australian Colonies in proportion to population.
- (3.) That the loss (if any) on Colonial lines, to connect the cables with the main telegraphic systems, should, in like manner, be borne by all the Colonies concerned.
- (4.) That if New Zealand contribute to the subsidy and loss referred to in the foregoing resolutions, the subsidy on the New Zealand Cable should be a common charge to be borne by all in a similar manner.

Mr. Griffith gave notice of the following Motions:—

- (1.) That it is, in the opinion of this Conference, essential that a complete duplicate system of telegraphic communication should be forthwith established between Great Britain and the Australian Colonies.
- (2.) That such duplicate system should be entirely independent of the lines of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, and of the South Australian line between Port Darwin and Adelaide.
- (3.) That the point of connection between the duplicate Cable line and the Continent of Australia should be Thursday Island, near Cape York, in the Colony of Queensland.
- (4.) That the Colony of Queensland should forthwith proceed with the construction of a line of telegraph to connect their existing lines with Thursday Island.
- (5.) That any subsidy which may be required for the construction or maintenance of the ocean cable lines should be paid and borne by the several Australian Colonies, in amounts proportionate to their population.
- (6.) That

- (6.) That the losses (if any) which may be sustained from time to time by the Government of South Australia in maintaining and working the line of telegraph between Port Augusta and Port Darwin, and by the Government of Queensland in maintaining and working the line of telegraph between Cardwell and Kimberley, and between Cardwell and the point of departure of the ocean cable, should be paid and borne by the several Australian Colonies in amounts proportionate to their populations.
- (7.) That, in the event of the Colony of New Zealand uniting with the Colonies of Australia in the agreement embodied in the foregoing resolutions, the subsidy payable in respect of the cable connecting New Zealand and New South Wales shall be paid and borne by the several Australian Colonies, in amounts proportionate to their populations.

The Council then adjourned until Saturday, the 27th instant, at half-past 10 o'clock.

ALEX. C. BUDGE,  
Secretary.

JOHN ROBERTSON,  
Chairman.

AT THE TREASURY, SYDNEY, 27 JANUARY, 1877.

PRESENT :

<i>New South Wales</i>	... The Honorable John Robertson. The Honorable Alex. Stuart. The Honorable J. F. Burns.
<i>New Zealand</i>	... The Honorable G. McLean.
<i>Queensland</i>	... The Honorable Samuel Walker Griffith. The Honorable Charles Stuart Mein.
<i>South Australia</i>	... The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers, K.C.M.G. The Honorable Ebenezer Ward.
<i>Tasmania</i>	... The Honorable James Whyte.
<i>Victoria</i>	... The Honorable R. S. Anderson. The Honorable R. Ramsay.

The Conference having met at half-past 10 o'clock a.m., the Minutes of the proceedings on the 25th instant were read and confirmed.

Sir Henry Ayers then proposed, and the Honorable Ebenezer Ward seconded, the following motion, which the Conference unanimously adopted, viz. —

"That the order of debate be the same as is observed in consideration of questions in a Committee of the Whole House of Parliament, but that the Chairman have the same right as any other member of the Conference to take part in the discussion of all questions."

The Honorable Charles Stuart Mein proposed, and the Honorable James Whyte seconded, the following motion, which the Conference agreed to, viz. —

"That in referring to the several Colonies represented in any proceedings of the Conference, the names be placed in alphabetical order."

The Honorable John Robertson (Chairman) laid before the Conference the undermentioned papers, which were read by the Clerk, and ordered by the Conference to be printed, viz. —

- (1.) Precis prepared by the Chairman of the correspondence on the subject of a Duplicate Telegraph Cable to connect the Australasian Colonies with the rest of the world.
- (2.) A communication from the Commodore to His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales on the subject of—
  1. Rewards for the arrest of deserters from the Navy.
  2. Free telegraphic messages on Naval service.
- (3.) A report from the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, dated 11th October, 1876.
- (4.) A letter from J. E. Stewart, Secretary to the Victorian Humane Society, on the subject of Life-saving Apparatus at Sea.
- (5.) A letter from Captain Audley Coote, dated the 23rd January, and a supplementary letter, dated the 25th January, on the subject of a Duplicate Cable.
- (6.) A letter from Messrs. Knevet and Taylor, on behalf of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, notifying that they are prepared to afford the Conference any information required.

The Honorable Alex. Stuart then proposed the motions of which notice was given on the 25th instant, and having moved the adoption of No. 1, viz. —

"(1) That it is desirable to extend and improve the means of Telegraphic communication between Australia and Europe, by the duplication where necessary of the cables or lines connecting the same,"—

The Honorable Samuel Walker Griffith proposed that all the words after the word "is" in the first line be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words:—

"[That it is] in the opinion of this Conference, essential that a complete duplicate system of Telegraphic communication should be forthwith established between Great Britain and the Australian Colonies."

And the same having been fully discussed, the Chairman put the question,—“That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question.”

Ayes.	No.
New South Wales.	Queensland.
New Zealand.	
South Australia.	
Tasmania.	
Victoria.	

The question was then put,—“That the motion proposed by Mr. Stuart be adopted,” which was unanimously agreed to.

Sir Henry Ayers laid before the Conference two Returns on the subject of—

(1.) Port Darwin Telegraph Line Interruptions,

(2.) Cable Interruptions,—

Which were ordered to be printed; also a chart showing the Telegraph line from Adelaide to Port Darwin, which was ordered to be lithographed and appended to the proceedings.

The Conference, on the motion of the Honorable Samuel Walker Griffith, seconded by the Honorable Charles Stuart Mein, directed—

“That the Minutes of the Proceeding of the Conference be printed confidentially, for the use of the Members only, and that each day's proceedings be printed after being confirmed by the Conference.”

The Conference, shortly after 1 o'clock, adjourned until Monday, the 29th instant, at half-past 10 o'clock.

JOHN ROBERTSON,

Chairman.

ALEX. C. BUDGE, Secretary.

AT THE TREASURY, SYDNEY, MONDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 1877.

PRESENT:

<i>New South Wales</i> ...	The Honorable John Robertson. The Honorable Alex. Stuart. The Honorable John F. Burns.
<i>New Zealand</i> ...	The Honorable G. McLean.
<i>Queensland</i> ...	The Honorable Samuel Walker Griffith. The Honorable Charles Stuart Mein.
<i>South Australia</i> ...	The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers, K.C.M.G. The Honorable Ebenezer Ward.
<i>Tasmania</i> ...	The Honorable James Whyte.
<i>Victoria</i> ...	The Honorable R. S. Anderson. The Honorable R. Ramsay.
<i>Western Australia</i> ...	The Honorable Malcolm Fraser.

The Conference having met at half-past 10 o'clock, the Minutes of the Proceedings on the 27th instant were read and confirmed.

The Honorable Alex. Stuart then proposed the following motion:—

“That the subsidy on Ocean Cables to connect Australia with Europe, be borne by the several Australian Colonies in proportion to population,” and the same having been discussed by the Conference, and verbally amended, was unanimously adopted.

The motion as passed is as follows:—

“That any subsidy on Ocean Cables to connect Australia with Europe, shall be borne by the several Australian Colonies assenting thereto, in proportion to population.”

The Honorable Alex. Stuart then proposed the following motion:—

“That the loss, if any, on Colonial lines, to connect the Cables with the main Telegraphic system of each Colony, shall in like manner be borne by all the Colonies concerned.”

The Honorable R. S. Anderson then moved an amendment, that after the word “lines,” the words “that it may be found necessary to construct,” be inserted.

After discussion the Conference unanimously agreed that the further consideration of the motion should be postponed until to-morrow.

The Honorable Alex. Stuart then moved, that the motion (No. 4) on the Paper should stand over until No. 3 shall have been disposed of.

The Honorable Samuel Walker Griffith then moved—

“That any duplicate system should be by a distinct route throughout, from that now in use.”

After discussion, the Conference resolved to postpone the further consideration of the subject until the next meeting.

The Honorable Ebenezer Ward then gave notice of the following motion for to-morrow:—

“That this Conference approves of the construction of duplicate cables from Singapore to Bangoewangi, and from Bangoewangi to Port Darwin, and that it is advisable offers should be invited from persons or Companies willing to construct and maintain such cables.”

The Honorable Malcolm Fraser gave notice of the following motion for to-morrow:—

“That any duplication of the present cables start from the north-west coast of Western Australia.”

The Council then adjourned at a quarter to 2 o'clock until next day at half-past 10 o'clock.

JOHN ROBERTSON,

Chairman.

ALEX. C. BUDGE, Secretary.

AT THE TREASURY, SYDNEY, TUESDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 1877.

PRESENT:

<i>New South Wales</i> ...	The Honorable John Robertson. The Honorable Alex. Stuart. The Honorable John F. Burns.
<i>New Zealand</i> ...	The Honorable G. McLean.
<i>Queensland</i> ...	The Honorable Samuel Walker Griffith. The Honorable Charles Stuart Mein.
<i>South Australia</i> ...	The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers, K.C.M.G. The Honorable Ebenezer Ward.
<i>Tasmania</i> ...	The Honorable James Whyte.
<i>Victoria</i> ...	The Honorable R. S. Anderson. The Honorable R. Ramsay.
<i>Western Australia</i> ...	The Honorable Malcolm Fraser.

The Conference having met at half-past 10 o'clock, the Minutes of the Proceedings on the 29th instant were read and confirmed.

The Honorable John F. Burns laid before the Conference a Report from the Acting Superintendent of Telegraphs on the subject of a duplicate Cable, which was read by the Secretary.

The consideration of the following resolution, moved by the Honorable Samuel Walker Griffith, was resumed, viz. :—

“That any duplicate system should be a distinct route throughout from that now in use.”

And after discussion, the Conference, on the motion of the Honorable R. Ramsay, resolved to examine such of the professional and other gentlemen in attendance, as they might consider to be necessary.

Messrs. Taylor, Knevelt, and Audley Coote were then separately examined. (*For Evidence see Appendix.*)

The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers, on behalf of The Honorable Ebenezer Ward, moved the resolution of which notice was given yesterday, as an amendment on the resolution of the Honorable Samuel Walker Griffith,—That all the words after the word “That” be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words :—

“[That] this Conference approves of the construction of duplicate Cables from Singapore to Banjoewangi, and from Banjoewangi to Port Darwin, and that it is advisable offers should be invited from persons or Companies willing to construct or maintain such Cables.”

The Honorable James Whyte moved as a further amendment,—

“That the further consideration of the resolution and amendment be postponed until resolution No. 3 (moved by the Honorable Alex. Stuart), and the amendment thereon (moved by the Honorable R. S. Anderson), shall have been disposed of.”

After discussion, the amendment proposed by the Honorable James Whyte was put and negatived on the following division :—

Ayes.	Noes.
New Zealand.	New South Wales.
Tasmania.	Queensland.
Western Australia.	South Australia.
	Victoria.

The question was then put, That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question :—

Aye.	Noes.
Queensland.	New South Wales.
	South Australia.
	Victoria.

The Colonies of New Zealand, Tasmania, and Western Australia, did not vote.

The Honorable Ebenezer Ward having obtained leave to amend his original motion, proposed that after the word ‘that’ the following words be inserted :—

“[That] this Conference approves of the construction of a duplicate line from Singapore to Banjoewangi.”

The Conference having fully discussed the subject, the motion was put by the Chairman, and negatived on the following division :—

Ayes.	Noes.
New South Wales.	New Zealand.
South Australia.	Queensland.
Victoria.	Tasmania.
	Western Australia.

The Conference, on the motion of the Honorable Sir Henry Ayers, adjourned at a quarter-past 4 o'clock, until next day at half-past 10 a.m.

JOHN ROBERTSON,  
Chairman.

ALEX. C. BUDGE, Secretary.

#### AT THE TREASURY, SYDNEY, WEDNESDAY, 31 JANUARY, 1877.

##### PRESENT :

<i>New South Wales</i> ...	The Honorable John Robertson.
	The Honorable Alex. Stuart.
	The Honorable John F. Burns.
<i>New Zealand</i> ...	The Honorable G. McLean.
<i>Queensland</i> ...	The Honorable Samuel Walker Griffith.
	The Honorable Charles Stuart Mein.
<i>South Australia</i> ...	The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers, K.C.M.G.
	The Honorable Ebenezer Ward.
<i>Tasmania</i> ...	The Honorable James Whyte.
<i>Victoria</i> ...	The Honorable R. Ramsay.
<i>Western Australia</i> ...	The Honorable Malcolm Fraser.

The Conference having met at half-past 10 o'clock, the Minutes of the proceedings on the 30th instant were read and confirmed.

The Honorable Malcolm Fraser then proposed the following Resolution :—That after the word “That” the following words be added, being the motion of which notice was given by him on the 29th instant :—

“[That] any duplicate of the present Cables start from the North-west Coast of Western Australia,” and that in addition thereto, the following words be added, “provided it is shown that by such, the best communication with Europe and Asia is secured, at a moderate cost as compared with other and alternative routes, which have been advanced.”

After the discussion, the Honorable Malcolm Fraser, with the consent of the Conference, withdrew his Resolution.

The Honorable R. Ramsay laid before the Conference a "Memorandum to Hugh George, Esq., General Manager of 'the Argus,' on the subject of delays in transmissions of Cable Telegrams, &c.," which, having been read, the Conference directed should be printed.

The Chairman also laid before the Conference a telegram from John Pender, Esq., Chairman of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, on the subject of a duplicate cable, which was ordered to be printed.

The Honorable S. W. Griffith proposed the insertion of the following words after the word "That,"—"it is desirable that a Submarine Cable should be laid from Singapore to Cape York, in Queensland, the Government of that Colony undertaking, in the event of such cable being made, to connect their existing land lines therewith."

The Chairman then put the question—"That the words proposed to be inserted, be so inserted." The Conference divided.

Aye.	Noes.
Queensland.	New South Wales.
	New Zealand.
	South Australia.
	Victoria.
	Western Australia.

Tasmania did not vote.

The Honorable G. McLean then proposed the Resolutions (with certain alterations), of which notice was given yesterday, viz. :—

That inasmuch as it has been decided that it is desirable to extend and improve the means of telegraphic communication between Australia and Europe by the duplication where necessary of the cables or lines connecting the same, and that the subsidy on Ocean Cables to connect Australia with Europe be borne by the several Colonies assenting thereto in proportion to population—

- (1.) The several Governments of South Australia, Queensland, and Western Australia be invited to open negotiations for the construction of cables connecting their several Colonies with Singapore or Ceylon; and the Government of New Zealand for the construction of a cable from that Colony to the United States of America.
- (2.) That, in negotiating for the construction of the last-mentioned cable, the Government of New Zealand enter into communication with the Government of the United States for the purpose of procuring their consent to contribute to the payment of any subsidy that may be payable in respect of the same; and further, that in all the negotiations of the several Governments the necessity of procuring a reduction of the present tariff rates be especially kept in view, the maximum rate being 6s. per word.
- (3.) That in the meantime the South Australian Government be requested on behalf of the several Colonies to urge upon the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company the necessity of keeping a repairing steamer between Banjoewangi and Port Darwin, to repair any accident to that portion of cable.

After discussion it was proposed, and carried on the following division, that the further consideration of the Resolutions be postponed, until the Honorable Alex. Stuart's motion No. 3, and the Honorable R. S. Anderson's amendment thereon, postponed on the 29th instant, should be disposed of :—

Ayes.	Noes.
New South Wales.	New Zealand.
Queensland.	Victoria.
South Australia.	Western Australia.
Tasmania.	

The Conference resumed consideration of the motion and amendment referred to.

After discussion, the amendment proposed by the Honorable R. S. Anderson was put and negatived without division.

The motion to insert the word "competing" after the word "on" in the first line of Mr. Stuart's resolution, was then put and carried.

The original motion, as amended, was then put and carried upon the following division :—

Ayes.	No.
New South Wales	Tasmania.
Queensland.	
South Australia.	

New Zealand, Victoria, and Western Australia did not vote.

The resolution, as amended and passed, will read as follows :—

"That the loss (if any) on competing Colonial lines to connect cables with the main Telegraphic system should in like manner be borne by all the Colonies concerned."

The Honorable Alex. Stuart, with the permission of the Conference, withdrew motion No. 4.

The Honorable Samuel Walker Griffith, with permission of the Conference, withdrew the several notices of motion given by him on the 27th instant.

The Conference proceeded to the further discussion of the resolutions proposed by the Honorable G. McLean, and it having been decided to put them separately—

No. 1 was proposed, as amended, and agreed to.

No. 2 was proposed and agreed to.

No. 3 was proposed, as amended, and agreed to (Western Australia refrained from voting).

The Honorable J. F. Burns proposed the following resolution, which the Conference unanimously adopted :—

"That the several Colonies agree to allow the necessary official telegrams of H. M. Ships to pass over their respective lines free of charge."

The Honorable R. Ramsay gave notice of the following resolution:—

"That having in view the serious annoyance and loss occasioned by the mutilation of messages in transmission through Java, the President of this Conference be requested, on behalf of the Australasian Colonies represented, to communicate with the Secretary of State, for the purpose of obtaining permission from the Government of Netherlands-India to employ English operators on the land lines in Java."

The Honorable Alex. Stuart gave notice of the following resolution:—

"That the Governments of South Australia and New South Wales be empowered to make arrangements with the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company for a reduction of Message Tariff to six shillings per word, at a subsidy not exceeding £20,000 per annum, terminable at one year's notice, and that such subsidy be borne by the respective Colonies, in proportion to population—any Colony to be at liberty to withdraw on like notice."

The Honorable Ebenezer Ward gave notice of the following resolution:—

"That the Conference will proceed to the consideration of the Mail Services between the Colonies and Great Britain, with the view of securing, if possible, united action in future arrangements."

The Honorable J. F. Burns laid before the Conference a letter from Eldred and Company on behalf of the Netherlands-India S. N. Co., offering to run a steamer between Banjoewangi and Port Darwin in the event of a break in cable, which was ordered to be printed.

(The Conference adjourned at a quarter past 1 until 2 o'clock.)

On resuming, the Honorable R. Ramsay proposed the following Resolution:—

"That, having in view the serious annoyance and loss occasioned by the mutilation of messages in transmission through Java, the President of this Conference be requested, on behalf of the Australasian Colonies represented, to communicate with the Secretary of State, for the purpose of obtaining permission from the Government of Netherlands-India, to employ English operators on the land lines in Java."

The Conference unanimously agreed to the same.

The Hon. Alex. Stuart proposed the following Resolution:—

"That the Governments of South Australia and New South Wales be empowered to make arrangements with the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company for a reduction of Message Tariff to six shillings per word, at a subsidy not exceeding £20,000 per annum, terminable at one year's notice, and that such subsidy be borne by the respective Colonies in proportion to population; any Colony to be at liberty to withdraw on like notice."

After discussion, the Conference agreed to the Resolution.

The Colonies of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria voted for.

The Colonies of New Zealand, Tasmania, and Western Australia refrained from voting.

The Honorable Ebenezer Ward proposed the following resolution:—

"That the Conference will proceed to the consideration of the Mail Services between the Colonies and Great Britain, with the view of securing, if possible, united action in future arrangements."

After discussion, the Honorable Charles Stuart Mein proposed that the further consideration of the Resolution be postponed until Friday next, which the Conference agreed to.

The Chairman laid before the Conference a communication from M. Ed. Nutt, Director of the Interior, Noumea, New Caledonia, on the subject of a Mail Service *ad* Noumea to San Francisco, which, after being read, was ordered to be printed.

The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers then proposed that the Secretary be instructed to prepare a Draft Report for the consideration of the Conference, which was agreed to.

The Conference adjourned at a quarter to 4 o'clock until Friday next, at half-past 10.

JOHN ROBERTSON,

ALEX. C. BUDGE, Secretary.

Chairman.

AT THE TREASURY, SYDNEY, FRIDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 1877.

PRESENT:

<i>New South Wales</i> ...	The Honorable John Robertson.
	The Honorable Alex. Stuart.
	The Honorable John F. Burns.
<i>New Zealand</i> ...	The Honorable G. McLean.
<i>Queensland</i> ...	The Honorable Samuel Walker Griffith.
	The Honorable Charles Stuart Mein.
<i>South Australia</i> ...	The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers, K.C.M.G.
	The Honorable Ebenezer Ward.
<i>Tasmania</i> ...	The Honorable James Whyte.
<i>Victoria</i> ...	The Honorable R. Ramsay.
<i>Western Australia</i> ...	The Honorable Malcolm Fraser.

The Conference having met at half-past 10 o'clock, the Minutes of the proceedings on the 31st ultimo were read and confirmed.

The Conference resumed consideration of the motion of the Honorable Ebenezer Ward,—“That the Conference will proceed to the consideration of the Mail Services between the Colonies and Great Britain, with the view of securing, if possible, united action in future arrangements.”

After considerable discussion, the Honorable Ebenezer Ward, with the consent of the Conference, withdrew his motion.

The Honorable Sir Henry Ayers, with leave of the Conference, proposed the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Government of Queensland and South Australia be requested to circulate among the respective Governments the draft Bills referred to in the Resolutions of the Inter-colonial Conference held in Sydney, passed on the 10th February, 1873, for removing the defects in the law relating to the extradition of criminals, and the absconding of debtors, with a view to the same being submitted to the respective Legislatures as early as practicable.

"The following are the resolutions referred to:—

"That the present state of the law in regard to the extradition of criminals escaping from one Colony into another, is defective. That the Government of Queensland be requested to prepare a Bill on the subject, which the representatives of the several Colonies undertake—provided it is approved by their respective Law Officers—to endeavor to pass into law.

"That the present state of the law in regard to remedies to be had against absconding debtors is defective.

"That the Government of South Australia be requested to prepare a Bill to remedy the defects, and, subject to the approval of their respective Law Officers, the Members of this Conference will endeavor to procure the passing of a similar Bill in their respective Legislatures."

The Honorable R. Ramsay, with the consent of the Conference, moved the following resolution, which was unanimously agreed to:—

"That, in the opinion of the Conference, it is desirable that a uniform Telegraphic Code should be adopted by the several Australasian Colonies."

The Report of the Proceedings of the Conference, having been carefully considered and amended in certain particulars, was finally adopted.

On the motion of the Honorable Charles Stuart Mein, the following resolutions were unanimously passed by the Conference:—

"1. That the thanks of the Conference be given to the Honorable John Robertson for the valuable services rendered by him as Chairman of the Conference."

"2. That the Chairman be requested to convey the thanks of the Conference to Alex. C. Budge, Esq., for the efficient services rendered by him as Secretary to the Conference."

The Conference then adjourned *sine die*.

JOHN ROBERTSON,  
Chairman.

ALEX. C. BUDGE,  
Secretary.