

By Mr. GRIFFITH—

I.

1. That in the opinion of this Conference it is essential to the safety and welfare of the British Dominions in Australasia that no portion of the neighbouring islands, and especially that no portion of the Eastern half of the Island of New Guinea, should fall into the hands of any Foreign Power.
2. That the rapid extension of Australasian enterprise and trade, and the attention which has for some time past been drawn to New Guinea, render it certain that that island will shortly be inhabited by many adventurous subjects of Great Britain and other nations, whose relations with the native tribes, in the absence of any provisions for the maintenance of law and order and the protection of life and property, cannot fail to give rise to serious difficulty and embarrassment.
3. That having regard to these considerations, and considering further that the provisions of the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts and the Orders-in-Council for the government of British subjects in the Western Pacific are wholly inadequate to meet the requirements of existing circumstances, this Conference, while fully recognizing that the responsibility of extending the boundaries of the Empire belongs to the Imperial Government, resolves, that it is urgently necessary, as well for the security of the Australasian portion of Her Majesty's Dominions as for the prevention of otherwise inevitable evils, that such measures should at once be adopted as will most conveniently and effectively secure the ultimate incorporation with the British Empire of that portion of the Island of New Guinea which is not claimed by any Civilized Power, and further that immediate provision should be made for the exercise of such British jurisdiction within the island as will secure the attainment of these objects.
4. That the Australasian Colonies, represented at this Conference, will cheerfully defray by contribution, in proportion to their population, the reasonable expenses incurred in giving effect to their wishes.
5. That these resolutions be communicated to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to be submitted for Her Majesty's Royal consideration, and for such action as she may think proper to direct, with a view to giving effect to the earnest desire of her loyal subjects in Australasia.

II.

1. That it is desirable that a Federal Australasian Council should be created for the purpose of dealing with the following matters,—
 - (1.) The Marine Defences of Australasia, beyond territorial limits.
 - (2.) Matters affecting the relations of Australasia with the Islands of the Pacific.
 - (3.) The prevention of the influx of Criminals.
 - (4.) The regulation of Quarantine.
 - (5.) Such other matters of general Australasian interest as may be referred to it by Her Majesty or by any of the Australasian Legislatures.
2. That a Committee be appointed to consider and report upon the best mode of constituting the Council, and the definition of its functions and authority.

Mr. SERVICE moved.—

That it is essential to the future well-being of Australasia that Eastern New Guinea and the Western Pacific Islands from the Equator to the New Hebrides should not fall into the hands of any Foreign Power.

Discussion ensued.

The further consideration of the Motion was adjourned until the next meeting.

The President laid before the Convention a letter from the Revd. A. G. Fry, Chairman of the Congregational Union of New South Wales, forwarding a copy of a Resolution on the subject of the Annexation of New Guinea and New Hebrides.

The President also laid upon the Table a communication from Mr. H. Cave, of Levuka, as Chairman of a public meeting there, upon certain matters affecting Fiji which they wish to bring before the Convention.

Ordered to be printed.

The following Notices of Motion were given by Mr. Dibbs on the subject of a "General Australasian Quarantine":—

1. That it is desirable that a system of Quarantine should be established for the purpose of preventing the introduction by sea or otherwise of virulently infectious diseases.
2. That for the accomplishment of such purpose special Quarantine Stations should be appointed at various places on the coast-line of the respective Colonies in the direct route of the ocean-going steamers—notably at Thursday Island, King George's Sound, and Auckland.
3. That each of such Stations, while under the control of the Government of that Colony in which it is situated, should be supported from a common fund contributed by each Colony in the ratio of its population.
4. That the system of Quarantine throughout the Australasian Colonies should, as far as practicable, be uniform.
5. That there should be established an Intercolonial system of notification as to the actual sanitary condition of ports and places under the jurisdiction of the various Governments and of vessels arriving at or sailing therefrom.

The Convention adjourned at 4 o'clock.