

in London; although Mr. White does not exercise all the functions of a Delegate, his presence is a proof of the interest which his Government takes in our deliberations.

"The diplomatic communications exchanged between the Cabinets of St James' and of Washington show, moreover, that the United States' Government is only too willing to come to an understanding with Her Majesty's Government on the bounty question.

"Article VIII of the Convention had given rise to some apprehension, quite legitimate I admit, although the Article in question is inserted in all Commercial Treaties concluded by this country, on account of the constitutional relations of the mother country with her self-governing Colonies.

"My Government, in accepting the draft Convention, spoke not only for the mother country, but also in the name of all her Crown Colonies, which will form part of the Union. I must add a few words respecting the foreign possessions of Her Majesty and the self-governing Colonies.

"The Governments of India and of all the Colonies in question from whom we have up to now received answers accept the Convention. We are expecting telegrams from New South Wales and Tasmania. These two replies will complete the list of Colonies enumerated in Article VIII of the draft Convention. There is no doubt that these two Colonies will accept the Convention; for the commercial policy of New South Wales is an essentially free trade one, and Tasmania produces no sugar.

"I have the greatest pleasure in making this announcement to you, as there are several amongst these self-governing Colonies which produce sugar, whilst in others the industry may develop.

"What is wanting now is only the adhesion of the French and Dutch Colonies.

"We cannot but regret the absence of our colleague M. Dickson, the Swedish Delegate. The Swedish Government have informed us, through our Chargé d'Affaires at Stockholm, that they do not send a Representative on account of the small importance attaching to the bounty question for a country whose production is very inconsiderable. The Swedish Government assure us, however, that they will adhere to the Convention so soon as the other Powers have come to an agreement.

"I must say a few words as to the enforcement of our Convention. This question has been raised by the Spanish Delegates. I believe that a penal clause against all non-Signatory Powers would give rise to delicate questions of international law. But it seems to me unnecessary at this moment to provide for the case of a sugar-exporting country refusing to adhere to a Convention for the suppression of bounties. The case does not arise. But it will be all the more necessary for the Conference to find a formula which, without affecting the provisions of existing Treaties, will prevent the Powers signatory of the Convention from rendering it nugatory.

"To conclude: the Ist Article of the draft Convention, which contains its essential principle, is now accepted; the Delegates of the Powers had already adhered to it, and the Governments have now ratified this action of their Delegates. Brazil also adopts the principle, and we may be sure that the United States will do the same. All the British Colonies and British India accept the Convention. I venture to hope, therefore, that in the course of the session we shall be able to eliminate all divergence of opinions.

"It remains for us to settle the order of our discussions. We are no longer debating generalities. We have submitted the draft Convention to our respective Governments, and each of us is able to indicate the changes which his Government demands. The most practical mode of procedure seems to me, therefore, to be to consider the draft Convention, and to discuss it Article by Article."

The President concludes by expressing the opinion that the Delegates will probably require several days for examining the French and Russian Memoranda which have just been distributed to them. He proposes that the Conference should adjourn to Tuesday next, in order that each Delegate may, in the meantime, study these documents, and, if necessary, refer to his Government.

M. Batanero seconds this proposal. The documents in question are of the highest interest, and the delay appears to him indispensable.

The President, observing that there is a general agreement for the adjournment to next Tuesday, proposes to fix the hour.

The Earl of Onslow remarks that the circumstances are somewhat different from what they were at the previous session. Whilst Parliament is sitting, it would be difficult for the British Delegates who are Members of it to fulfil their double duties if the sittings of Conference were held in the afternoon. Lord Onslow therefore proposes, if it is convenient, to fix an earlier hour for the meetings of the Conference.