

Mr. Poate, in seconding the motion, endorsed his appreciation of the manner in which the Chairman had guided the meetings, thus leading to a satisfactory conclusion of their labours.

Mr. Adams, Mr. Spowers, and Mr. Counsel also expressed their appreciation; and Mr. Reed, in reply, said that the effect of the amicable way in which the subjects had been discussed was reflected in the resolutions, all of which had been adopted unanimously. He felt sure that the opportunity given for so many professional gentlemen to meet in conference would prove mutually beneficial.

The Conference then waited on the Minister of Home Affairs to inform him that they had concluded their proceedings, and would submit a report in due course. An acknowledgment was also made of the courtesies that had been extended to the members by the Commonwealth Government.

No. 1.—GEODETIC SURVEY OF AUSTRALIA.

DISCUSSION.

Mr. MACKENZIE.—In New Zealand, it was looked upon as a necessity to have a trigonometrical survey. Mr. J. T. Thomson started the work in the early fifties, and when he became Surveyor-General of New Zealand, in 1876, it was vigorously pushed forward well in advance of settlement. I regard it as impossible to carry out survey work satisfactorily without a trigonometrical survey, and our successive Dominion Governments have always approved of it without question as being the first essential in all settlement operations. It has never been claimed for the New Zealand triangulation that it possesses the high scientific status of the geodetic surveys of other countries, but it has always been practical and was also sufficiently accurate to govern all classes of detail surveys. The outstanding difference between our Dominion work and that of the Australian States, excepting perhaps South Australia, is that we bring it into everyday use, our reconnaissance and trigonometrical surveys being the real forerunners of settlement, whilst in Australia, though the surveys are often highly scientific, there has been much less practical application, neither have these surveys been a factor in the settlement problem.

I cannot help thinking that had New Zealand's way of keeping the practical uses of triangulation more to the front been adopted, Australian legislators would have looked upon the work more kindly, and any resolutions we pass should voice this side of the question.

Mr. SPOWERS.—At the present time there is no trigonometrical survey in Queensland, and only a very small area is covered by the major triangulation which was carried out about 1890. In addition to other reasons we are greatly in need of this survey to assist us in the correct compilation of our maps; much time is now lost and expense incurred in endeavouring to make accurate maps from information that is faulty or altogether wanting. We are in the unenviable position of being about the only civilized nation that has not an accurate trigonometrical survey. The work is rightly one for the Commonwealth Government to undertake.

Mr. MACKENZIE.—There is no doubt as to the necessity for it.

The CHAIRMAN.—Victoria is covered to a great extent by triangulation carried out under the direction of Mr. Ellery, but unfortunately settlement preceded that survey and little use has been made of it. Geodetic lines have also been run to afford a check on settlement surveys.

Mr. SMITH.—In South Australia, the trigonometrical survey was commenced in 1839, and was continued until 1892. It, to a great extent, preceded settlement, and has been found extremely useful in determining the positions of run boundaries, and as a check upon settlement surveys.

Mr. COUNSEL.—Triangulation was in Tasmania commenced in 1833, and continued for some years. The major triangulation extended over the greater part of the State. Doubts were expressed as to the accuracy of the survey, which was never connected with the cadastral or block surveys, and it has never been made use of except in the compilation of maps, though some expense has been incurred in establishing new and re-establishing old stations. Much accuracy is claimed for the work.

Mr. POATE.—In New South Wales a geodetic survey has been carried out, more or less intermittently, since 1867. Last year a 10-in. Repsold theodolite was purchased, and an observer has recently been appointed to continue the survey. Settlement preceded the triangulation and, as the latter advanced, the ordinary surveys for alienation purposes were connected to it, one result of which was that accurate maps could be produced. I have had a short history of the geodetic survey of New South Wales compiled, which may interest members. (Appendix B).

The CHAIRMAN.—Victoria carried out an extensive and accurate triangulation, but the demand for land for settlement was so great that all the surveyors available were required to meet that demand, and settlement surveys were pushed on without being connected with the triangulation. The trigonometrical survey had been of immense value in the compilation of maps and in correcting errors. With regard to the question of a geodetic survey of Australia there cannot, I think, be two opinions as to the desirableness of it from the scientific stand-point; and, further, it will permit of an accurate determination of the coast line, and so aid navigation.

Mr. SPOWERS.—It would be useful in connexion with defence.

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes.

Mr. SPOWERS.—In all the States topographical information is insufficient.

The CHAIRMAN.—We need, I think, a trigonometrical survey of the whole Continent; it would be of great value in the future.

Mr. SCRIVENER.—The information afforded by such a survey would be available to all the States and would be utilized in their minor work.

The CHAIRMAN.—The Commonwealth would carry out the major triangulation principally.

Mr. SPOWERS.—If the Commonwealth conducts the primary, would it not be better also to do the breaking down?

Mr. SCRIVENER.—It would be cheaper not to reoccupy stations but observe both primary and secondary stations at the same time.

Mr. SPOWERS.—That is, if the stations were ready for observation.

Mr. POATE.—Would the States do the breaking down?

Mr. SPOWERS.—Some would and some would not.

Mr. POATE.—Would it be done with sufficient accuracy by the States.

Mr. SMITH.—It is absolutely necessary that the Commonwealth Government should undertake a trigonometrical survey of the Northern Territory, if only to control surveys for settlement purposes.

Mr. COUNSEL suggested that it would be well, perhaps, that the Commonwealth should only carry out the major triangulation within the States, though he would like to see the whole of the work undertaken by the central authority.

Mr. POATE.—The geodetic survey of Australia should be undertaken by one body, and that body should undoubtedly be the Federal Government, in order that one standard of accuracy should be applied to the whole of the work, and that it should be similar in character to the great geodetic surveys of the world. It should be conducted on similar lines to those adopted in the United States Coast Survey, and, taking the coast line first, should be gradually extended inland.

Mr. MACKENZIE urged that after the major triangulation was done, if only in sections, the minor must follow for settlement purposes.

Mr. COUNSEL then moved, and Mr. POATE seconded, the following motion, which was unanimously agreed to:—

That, in the opinion of this Conference, it is desirable that a geodetic survey of Australia should be undertaken.

It was then determined—

That a Committee, comprising Messrs. Poate, Spowers, Mackenzie, and Scrivener, should draft resolutions based upon and giving effect to Resolution No. 1.

The Conference proceeded with the discussion on the draft resolutions drawn up by the Committee (in support of the motion that a Geodetic Survey should be undertaken).

The following resolutions were fully discussed, revised, and, on the motion of Mr. Poate, seconded by Mr. Spowers, unanimously adopted:—

(3) That, in order to give effect to the foregoing resolution, this Conference respectfully recommends that such survey be undertaken by the Commonwealth Government, and submits in support thereof the following reasons:—

(a) That the time has arrived when the Commonwealth should take its place in the scientific investigations of the world, not the least important of which are the determination of the figure of the earth, its density, and other cognate matters.

- (b) That work of this character, involving the highest form of survey, should be effected under the supreme authority of Australia, as it is essential that it should be carried out with the greatest degree of accuracy on an uniform basis and a definite plan, the individual parts being co-ordinated and eventually forming one homogeneous whole.
- (c) That the system which has hitherto prevailed by which the individual States carried out this work with instruments of varying character has resulted in divergent standards of accuracy, rendering the work, to a great extent, unsatisfactory, and, though much of it is of high grade, portions of it are impossible of reconciliation and co-ordination with a Continental scheme.
- (d) That the desirableness of this work being undertaken by the Commonwealth Government is evidenced by the fact that the Geodetic Survey of the United States is carried out under the direct control of the Federal Government, and that the South African Geodetic Survey is also under one central control.
- (e) That such survey is absolutely necessary for the production of accurate maps, will be of high value in connexion with cadastral and geological surveys, and form a basis for topographical work for defence and other purposes. It will, moreover, provide a standard of accuracy for surveys of every description throughout the Commonwealth.
- (f) That it will afford an invaluable base to which settlement surveys already effected can be connected, providing data for re-establishing boundaries, which, with increasing density of settlement, becomes a matter of great importance. Further, as regards the sparsely occupied areas of Australia, such a survey, if carried out in advance of settlement, will be of the greatest utility and assistance in effecting the settlement surveys which can at any future time be reproduced with a minimum error and at a relatively low cost, preventing litigation consequent upon other methods.

It was moved by Mr. Counsel, seconded by Mr. Mackenzie, and carried unanimously :

That the Geodetic Survey referred to in the resolutions submitted by the Committee shall embrace the Geodetic and Major Triangulation only.

Later, a discussion took place regarding the quality of the angular measurements in the trigonometrical surveys of the States of Australasia and the Dominion of New Zealand, when it appeared that in some of the States and in New Zealand the instruments used were not of the character necessary to attain the precise results demanded in geodetic work, though the triangulation effected in every case is unquestionably of great value in preventing the accumulation of large errors in surveys for alienation purposes and in the production of accurate maps.

No. 2.—REVISION OF THE MAP OF AUSTRALIA NOW IN COURSE OF PREPARATION, WITH REGARD PRINCIPALLY TO THE NOMENCLATURE.

Mr. SCRIVENER pointed out that in regard to the revision, the position was that the map of Australia was wanted as early as possible. The proof should be revised in some such way as he suggested in his memorandum, Appendix A, the maps not being published until further submitted to the Geographical Society of Great Britain, and, possibly, the Geographical Societies of France and of the Netherlands, because the British, the French, and the Dutch had most to do with the discovery of New Holland (or Australia).

The CHAIRMAN asked who would have the final say as to the adoption of the map, as the political element in a matter of this kind came in to a great extent, and the Governments of the respective States might require to have the final word, especially as to the elimination and substitution of names. The question had been the subject of conference before. He mentioned having been interviewed by the Comte de Fleurieu on this matter, with whom he had gone into the question of French names on the coast of Victoria very carefully. He saw his way to recommend the introduction of some new names, and the Comte expressed himself as gratified. If the map, with any names agreed upon, were referred to the Revision Committee, and afterwards to the three nations affected, there would be difficulty and probably delay in dealing with any suggestions made.

Mr. SCRIVENER thought that the Revision Committee would make any alterations with the full concurrence of their Ministers.

NOTE.—A description of the trigonometrical surveys of the States of Australasia and of the Dominion of New Zealand is given in Appendices B to H.

Mr. SPOWERS questioned this; it might not be with the concurrence of the Minister. The Surveyor-General of a State might not be on the Committee. In Queensland, it was proposed to form a Governmental Board to deal with the matter, *i.e.*, the names, the spelling, and the pronunciation, the Board to have the Minister's authority.

The CHAIRMAN asked whether it was proposed to deal with the duplication of names which was so prevalent throughout the Commonwealth?

Mr. SCRIVENER thought this matter should be dealt with separately, as the delay would otherwise be too great. If possible, any duplication of names on the coast-line should be corrected.

Mr. POATE suggested that it might perhaps be better to include the later subject of the Agenda Paper, *viz.*, "The Spelling of Names of Australian Places."

Mr. SCRIVENER stated that that subject was meant to apply to the matter from a different stand-point.

Mr. SPOWERS mentioned a case of duplication; there had been two towns of Geraldton, and the Queensland name had been altered to "Innisfail." He thought there ought to be a small Board in each State, to include officers of the Postal, Railway, Lands, and Survey Departments, and also representatives of the Geographical Society of Australia; any kindred body might be included. He realized, of course, that if too much revision were resorted to the map might never be got out. It might still require to have the approval of the Commonwealth and State Governments. Such revision, of course, delayed the matter very much.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the official determination in this case would of necessity, in his opinion, rest with the respective States, and they alone, controlling their boundaries, should determine finally.

Mr. SPOWERS asked what the scope of the Committee would be?

Mr. SCRIVENER suggested that it would be well to deal with the coast-line only, that being the most important matter.

Mr. MACKENZIE stated that in the Dominion changes were made chiefly on account of the duplication of names, but very great care had been taken in recent years to prevent this. For new towns, districts, &c., duplication could not now occur, and in New Zealand there is legislation that allows of the altering of any name by a *Gazette* notice. The matter under discussion, however, bore more on the resuscitation of French and Dutch names applied prior to permanent British occupation, with a view to the English and native names that had been in use for over a century being wiped off our maps; personally, although it was a question New Zealand was not interested in, excepting from a patriotic point of view, he would be sorry to see this come about.

Mr. POATE asked in the case where there were no names, would it be left to the French, British, and Dutch to supply them, because, if it were so, he would not be in accord with it.

Mr. SMITH thought that if the Geographical Societies were consulted they would be in favour of French names. The *Compte de Fleurieu* desired them submitted.

Mr. SCRIVENER pointed out that it was desirable that there should be conformity between the Admiralty Charts and their own map, but it would probably be twelve months before the revision could be completed if the maps were referred to the Admiralty.

The CHAIRMAN thought that the Committee mentioned in Mr. Scrivener's report should be an Advisory Committee.

Mr. SCRIVENER suggested that the Surveyor-General would have the advice of his Chief Draughtsman and any others having special knowledge.

Mr. POATE stated that the policy laid down by the New South Wales Government was that they would not make any alteration in names unless trouble arose from existing names.

The CHAIRMAN said there was more justification for an Admiralty review than for one by any one else outside our own States.

Mr. POATE said he would simply have an unrevised proof struck off and sent on to the Admiralty for suggestions.

Mr. SPOWERS stated: Clearly, reference should be made to the Admiralty and the Royal Geographical Society should be considered, as they desired to have an accurate map.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the proof be referred to the respective Surveyors-General, they to consult whom they thought necessary, adopt that proof then for present use, and refer to Admiralty and Royal Geographical Society, England, before final issue.

Mr. SCRIVENER said that if the map was sent to the Admiralty and to the Geographical Society, it must come back to somebody who would consider any suggestions made.

Mr. POATE stated they could send to the Surveyors-General for revision, they to obtain the assistance of local bodies, then they would send to the Royal Geographical Society and the Admiralty, not for revision, but for suggestions—two distinct things.

Mr. SMITH said he was sure that some of the members of the Geographical Society would take great interest in the matter.

Mr. POATE moved, and Mr. COUNSEL seconded:

- (a) That the proofs of the Commonwealth Map of Australia be referred to the respective Surveyors-General for revision, inviting them to confer with the local Geographical Society and Marine Authorities. Map, when revised, to be adopted for present use.
- (b) That later the Map be referred to the Admiralty and the Royal Geographical Society of England for suggestions.
- (c) Final review of the map to be made by the Committee of the Surveyors-General of the States and the Director of Commonwealth Lands and Surveys.

The motion was carried unanimously.

No. 3.—DISCUSSION ON THE PARTICIPATION OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN THE PRODUCTION OF A MAP OF THE WORLD ON A SCALE OF 1 IN 1,000,000.

Mr. SCRIVENER stated: In November, 1909, representatives from almost every country in the world met in London under the title of the International Map Committee, with the object of recommending the system on which the International Map of the World, on a scale of 1 in 1,000,000, should be produced. At that Conference, Mr. Cecil W. Darley represented Australia, and, as the conclusions arrived at have been published, the members of this Conference are no doubt familiar with them. Australia is now asked to do her share towards the production of this map; the work will occupy 46 sheets, each covering 4 degrees of latitude and 6 degrees of longitude, and will probably cost from £2,000 to £2,500. The scale is, roughly, 16 miles to an inch. Unfortunately, there must be for this map a new compilation, because the projection and scale differ from that of the map now approaching completion. The advisableness of taking part in this work and the best means to be adopted to attain a satisfactory result are matters submitted to this Conference for consideration.

The CHAIRMAN read extracts from the Resolutions and Proceedings of the International Map Committee, assembled in London, November, 1909.

Mr. POATE asked that it be determined what the States would be prepared to do.

Mr. MACKENZIE said it would not be binding even if a recommendation were made. Apparently the maps would be on a general scheme, one class of lettering, figuring, &c.

Mr. SCRIVENER.—Yes; it would probably be compiled by the Lands Department, New South Wales, for the Commonwealth.

Mr. POATE said that, assuming New South Wales did the work, there would be no difficulty if the other States prepared their work in the same way as New South Wales.

Mr. COUNSEL stated that he thought the Commonwealth would be satisfied if the States supplied all the information that they had available.

The CHAIRMAN said all they had to do was to supply the material as far as they could, and the Commonwealth would do the work at its own cost.

Mr. SCRIVENER.—Should the Conference recommend that course, he believed that the Commonwealth would go on with it; that is, each State would supply all the information available.

Mr. SPOWERS thought that it was a work that should be carried out by the Commonwealth; he did not think it was a fair thing to ask each State to do its share. He had prepared a map showing the distribution of the sheets all over the Commonwealth, and it would be seen from that map that Victoria had a very small part to do in the matter.

Mr. SCRIVENER said if each State compiled its own sheets, difficulties would be experienced where overlapping occurred; this would be avoided by each State supplying the information to the Commonwealth.

Mr. ADAMS suggested that mention be made in the resolution that New Zealand was in a position to produce its own map.

Moved by the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. SPOWERS:

That the preparation of that portion of the Map of the World, embracing the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand on the scale of 1 in 1,000,000, is a work that should be undertaken by the Commonwealth and the Dominion of New Zealand. As New Zealand is in a position to do its own portion, this Conference recommends that the work, as regards Australia, should be carried out under the direction of the Commonwealth Government. The respective States being asked to provide all available information.

The motion was carried unanimously.

No. 4.—ISSUE OF LICENCES BY THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT, AND RECIPROCITY BETWEEN THE SEVERAL STATES, THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND, AND THE COMMONWEALTH.

The CHAIRMAN called upon Mr. Scrivener to open the subject.

Mr. SCRIVENER.—The Commonwealth is now employing a number of surveyors, and is appointing a Cadet or Field Assistant to each party; these Cadets are under Articles, and must, before being engaged, comply with the conditions imposed by the Surveyors' Boards of Australia. Since the number of surveyors employed is likely to be largely increased, it is desirable that the Commonwealth should hold their own examination and issue licences to survey to those candidates who pass satisfactorily, but it is also desired that there should be the same reciprocity between the Commonwealth, the Dominion of New Zealand, and the States of Australia now existing between the latter two. The area under the control of the Commonwealth is large, embracing the Northern Territory, the Federal Capital Territory, and Papua, and it is not improbable that islands in the Pacific may later be included. How best to achieve the object in view is a matter for your consideration.

The CHAIRMAN stated that this would amount to the Commonwealth Government coming in practically as a reciprocating State.

Mr. SPOWERS asked if was merely desired that the Commonwealth Government should come in as one of the reciprocating States.

Mr. SCRIVENER.—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN inquired if the Commonwealth Government was prepared to constitute a Board of Commonwealth Examiners.

Mr. SCRIVENER.—Yes, and take its part in the work done by other Surveyors' Boards.

The CHAIRMAN asked if the certificate issued would be a certificate of like character to that issued by any participating State. It should be no more, and should be federal in its character. It would be unthinkable that an individual who went up for examination under a Commonwealth Board, and got a certificate from that Board, should say to a man who had passed the same examination at Sydney, "You only hold a New South Wales certificate." That was a difficulty that would have to be guarded against. It should be provided that, wherever the certificates are issued, they are of equal weight, and that the certificates issued by the Commonwealth are in no way superior to certificates issued by any of the other States, and that a notice to this effect should appear on all certificates issued by the Commonwealth.

Mr. SCRIVENER.—The interests of the Commonwealth in that matter are identical with those of the States. Nothing further was desired than that the Commonwealth certificate should be recognised in the different States, the same as State certificates were in Commonwealth Territory.

Mr. SPOWERS said he did not object to the Commonwealth becoming one of the reciprocating Boards. He only questioned the absolute necessity of it at the present time.

Mr. SCRIVENER stated that the requirements of the Commonwealth in survey work were likely to increase. They were starting to train their men and educate them under their own surveyors, and wished to take them right through from the entrance examination to the final.

Mr. SPOWERS inquired if it were desired to train them in any particular way that was different to the method adopted by the Federated Board, and if something more were required than was provided for under the present arrangement.

Mr. SCRIVENER said that nothing more was required as far as licences were concerned, but the men would probably get a better training because the work was more varied in character.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the reciprocating Boards represented a union between the Surveyors' Boards of six States, and the Dominion of New Zealand, and stated that the Commonwealth Government had not the wherewithal to come in until legislative authority had been obtained.

Mr. POATE.—At present the Commonwealth need for surveyors is small, compared with the need of other States. When the Commonwealth demand for surveyors is larger, and more surveyors are required, there should be no question of the Commonwealth coming in, but it is now a matter as to whether the time is ripe for the Commonwealth to hold its examinations.

Mr. SCRIVENER desired the Commonwealth to hold the same position as the States. There was no reason why the Commonwealth should not now occupy that position. Probably they would not hold an examination for some time, and some of the Cadets would go either to Sydney or Melbourne for examination.

Mr. MACKENZIE said he held much stronger views in favour of certificates being issued simply in the name of the Commonwealth and of the Dominion of New Zealand than those expressed by other members, but would fall in with the present proposal.

The CHAIRMAN stated a Commonwealth Act would have to be passed authorizing the examination and issue of certificates to surveyors, then they could follow on with the creation of a Board which would be admitted as a reciprocating Board.

Mr. SMITH asked if they would engage in private work as well as Commonwealth work.

Mr. SCRIVENER.—Yes.

It was then moved by Mr. COUNSEL, seconded by Mr. MACKENZIE, and agreed to by the Conference:

That this Conference is of the opinion that as soon as the Commonwealth Government gives legislative authority for the creation of a Board of Examiners of Surveyors operating in the Commonwealth territory, such Board should be admitted to the reciprocal arrangement now existing between the various States and the Dominion of New Zealand, and recommends that this resolution be referred for the consideration of the reciprocating Boards.

No. 5.—COMMONWEALTH LANDS TITLES OFFICE.

The discussion on this subject was of a conversational character, it being pointed out that in many of the States the Lands Titles Office is a separate department not connected with the Lands and Survey Department.

No. 6.—ON THE DESIRABLENESS OF UNIFORMITY IN THE DECLARATIONS MADE BY SURVEYORS ON PLANS OF SURVEY UNDER THE VARIOUS LAND ACTS AND TORRENS ACT.

The Conference was unanimous with regard to the desirableness of uniformity in the declarations made by surveyors on plans of surveys effected under Torrens Act, but it was considered impossible to secure uniformity in the case of surveys under the various Crown Lands Acts of the several States.

The opinion was generally expressed that the New Zealand declaration as far as Torrens Act was concerned, met the case better than any of the Australian declarations.

Mr. MACKENZIE stated that this declaration had worked well in New Zealand, for while it insured proper supervision and check, it was not irritating to the straightforward surveyor.

Mr. COUNSEL moved, and Mr. SMITH seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously :—

This Conference recommends (as regards surveys under the Real Property Acts) for the favorable consideration of the Surveyors' Boards of the States the form of certificate as expressed in the Authorized Surveyors' Declaration for Land Transfer Surveys in New Zealand, viz. :—

I, _____ of _____, licensed surveyor, do solemnly and sincerely declare that this plan has been made from surveys executed by me (or under my own personal supervision, inspection, and field check), and that both plan and survey are correct, and have been made in accordance with the regulations of the Surveyors' Board, dated _____

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of _____

Declared at _____ &c.

No resolution was adopted regarding the form of certificate under the various Lands Acts.

No. 7.—THE CARRYING OUT OF SURVEYS BY THE SEVERAL STATES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH.

Mr. SCRIVENER.—Although surveys are being carried out of lands acquired by or transferred to the Commonwealth, over the whole of Australia, it would be extravagant to maintain a Commonwealth staff that could satisfactorily deal with the work. The only possible method is to obtain the assistance of the Surveyors-General of the several States and make use of their officers. This matter has been discussed with those of the Surveyors-General whom I have had the opportunity of meeting and every assistance has been afforded, but as I have not visited all the States, it was considered opportune to place the matter before you.

The Commonwealth desires to have surveys carried out by surveyors employed by the several States as expeditiously as practicable, and also to have the plans of those surveys examined by officers of the State Lands Departments and the usual certificate attached, the original and certified plan being then transmitted to the Commonwealth Department of Lands and Surveys. All charges in connexion with the work would be paid by the Commonwealth Government, and if desired, there would be no objection to the preparation of two plans of each survey, one to be retained by the State within which the land is situate. It is not expected that in time of pressure Commonwealth work will have precedence; in such a case the inevitable delay must be borne, though I am sure that every effort will be made to facilitate the business of the Commonwealth.

The CHAIRMAN.—Is it desired to have the one system right through the Commonwealth.

Mr. SCRIVENER.—It is desired that the original plan of survey should be transmitted to the Commonwealth Department of Lands and Surveys. He wished it to be distinctly understood that the Commonwealth would pay for any work done by the States.

The CHAIRMAN thought the desire was that whatever work was to be done, it should be performed as though it were a State survey; the plans prepared in duplicate, and one plan and trace, field notes, &c., sent to Mr. Scrivener.

Mr. SCRIVENER agreed, and said he would want the field notes, and the work would be certified to in the same manner as when surveys are effected by a State for its own purposes.

Mr. POATE said he had the survey work carried out in accordance with the survey practice of the State; two plans were furnished by the surveyors, and one sent to Mr. Scrivener, and one filed for record purposes; hitherto only the cost actually incurred in survey had been charged. Now he understood the office costs would be met by the Commonwealth.

Mr. SCRIVENER asked for the ready assistance of the States, as it was very difficult to do the work without it. He wanted the original plan, with copy of the field notes. The field book would be issued with the instructions. The Commonwealth would pay all costs.

Mr. POATE said if Mr. Scrivener sent the instructions, they would carry them out on those terms.

Mr. SPOWERS said what they had to see was that it was a mathematically accurate survey, and agreed with previous work. Was there likely to be any question about payment?

Mr. SCRIVENER said with regard to extensive surveys, he suggested that the usual advance paid in that State should be available to the surveyor on the certificate of the Surveyor-General.

Mr. SPOWERS explained that the plan they adopted, and which worked satisfactorily, was to pay the account, and then send it to the Commonwealth to approve.

Mr. SMITH thought it desirable to nominate some licensed surveyor to do whatever work was required in the event of the Department not being able to carry it out, and he would be prepared to have all the plans examined, retaining one copy of each, and forwarding the other to Mr. Scrivener.

Mr. SCRIVENER said in a case like that they would be paid on the Surveyor-General's certificate—the present custom.

MR. POATE then proposed the following resolution:—

That the procedure to be adopted in connexion with such surveys as may be effected by the States for the Commonwealth should be as follows:—

- (a) That, in order to avoid delay, the Director of Commonwealth Lands and Surveys and the Surveyors-General of the States should be authorized to communicate directly with one another in connexion with such surveys.
- (b) That full particulars as to the required surveys should be supplied to the Surveyor-General of the State in which the survey is desired, with a request that the survey should be made.
- (c) That the Surveyor-General should supply necessary detailed information for the use of the Surveyor and issue requisite instructions.
- (d) That the Surveyor should carry out the survey in accordance with State regulations, and supply certified plan and field notes in duplicate.
- (e) That the State officials should examine the plan, and the Surveyor-General (or other authorized officer) certify in the usual manner, both as to plans and accounts, and then transmit one plan with one copy of field notes to the Director, retaining the other plan and copy of field notes for State record purposes.
- (f) That the Commonwealth should pay all costs, both field and office.

Mr. COUNSEL seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

No. 8.—THE SPELLING OF NAMES OF AUSTRALIAN PLACES.

The CHAIRMAN read extracts from the correspondence leading up to the decision to refer the matter for the consideration of the Conference. He thought it would better be a subject for the Premiers' Conference. The alteration of duplicated names was an important matter. The spelling of names, would, of course, be a minor one as far as alteration went.

Mr. SPOWERS stated that in Queensland they proposed to appoint a Board to deal with the spelling of names.

It was then moved by Mr. SCRIVENER, seconded by Mr. SMITH, and agreed to:

That, in the opinion of this Conference, it is desirable that as far as practicable the system of orthography adopted by the Royal Geographical Society, the Colonial and Foreign Service, the Admiralty, and War Office for native names should be adopted, as well as an uniform method of spelling Australian place names.