

amended by the Committee accepting the amendment submitted by His Excellency Mr. Barret is under discussion, in detail. It reads as follows:

«That there be established in New York, San Francisco, Buenos Ayres, or other important mercantile center, a Bank of the character referred to, and that it be assisted in every manner compatible with their internal legislation, by the American Republics.»

His Excellency Mr. Calvo, Delegate from Costa Rica.—I would suggest, based on the same reasons expressed by Mr. Barret, that after «San Francisco» there should be added «New Orleans.» I do not doubt that my colleagues from Central America, especially those from Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, will agree with me, principally on account of the immense development that the fruit trade is acquiring between Central America and the United States, which trade takes place through New Orleans.

I therefore would like to know whether this honorable Conference would be pleased to accept my suggestion.

His Excellency Mr. Barrett.—I am sure that on the part of the Delegation of the United States there is no objection to the idea of adding New Orleans.

His Excellency Mr. Carbo, Delegate from Ecuador.—I request that the names Guayaquil and Lima be also added, as regards South America.

His Excellency the President, Mr. Raigosa.—As there have been submitted different amendments and motions, in order to proceed systematically, I request the Committee to state whether it accepts the propositions submitted.

His Excellency Mr. Pablo Macedo.—I take the liberty of calling the attention of the Delegates, who have suggested that the names of other cities be mentioned in the proposition, to the fact that it contains the following statement: «or other important mercantile center.» If the Committee should accept the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Calvo after that of Mr. Barrett, we would end by mentioning all the important capitals of the American Republics. For this reason and until the Conference decides the point, the Committee regrets not to accept or second said amendments.

His Excellency Mr. Calvo.—I never thought, Mr. President, that this matter would take such a turn. I made my proposition basing myself on the reasons which, in my opinion seem to be very proper, presented by His Excellency Mr. Barrett, with reference to San Francisco. I suggested that «New Orleans» should be inserted considering that it is of great importance for the States of Central America. I have not asked anything for my country, because its interests will be considered in time; but since the addition «San Francisco» is admitted, I have the right to insist that the proposition I have submitted to the effect that «New Orleans» be added on account of its being of interest to all, be taken into consideration.

His Excellency Mr. Davis.—I am a member of the Banking Committee and as such I can assure that the intention was not to add any other commercial city. I hope we will not make it a joke and put in names of cities where it is manifestly impossible for branches of the Bank to be established.

His Excellency the President.—As the motions made by Their Excellencies Messrs. Calvo and Carbo have not been accepted by the respective Com-

mittee, and notwithstanding the fact that the amendment to art. 17th of the Regulations has not yet been approved, in order to go on systematically, the Conference shall be successively asked whether it approves the motions of Messrs. Calvo and Carbo.

Secretary Macedo.—The Conference is asked whether it accepts the amendment submitted by His Excellency Mr. Calvo, Delegate from Costa Rica. After the votes had been taken up, it was approved by the vote of thirteen Delegations, against three. The votes in the affirmative were: Argentine Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela; and in the negative: Bolivia, Hayti and Mexico. Chili abstained from voting.

Secretary Macedo.—The Conference is asked whether it approved the amendment submitted by His Excellency Mr. Carbo, Delegate from Ecuador and from the Dominican Republic.

After taking up the votes, the amendment was rejected by ten votes against five. The votes in the affirmative were: Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Venezuela; and in the negative: Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, United States, Hayti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. Chili and Paraguay abstained from voting.

His Excellency the President.—As the amendment submitted by Mr. Carbo has not been accepted, the discussion on the report continues, in detail.

Secretary Macedo.—As no one has requested the floor, the Conference is asked whether it approves the report, in detail. The votes are now to be taken.

After taking the votes, His Excellency the President said: The report is approved by seventeen votes against that of the Delegation from Chili. It is referred to the 19th. Committee.

SESSION OF THE 23rd OF DECEMBER, 1901.

Secretary Duret read the minutes of the 20th day, which were placed under discussion.

His Excellency Mr. Foster, Delegate from the United States.—Mr. President: With the consent of the Conference I would like to call for a correction of the minutes in the paragraph beginning «that there be established in New York,» adding there the word «Chicago,» which word, perhaps, was left out in engrossing. I should like to have it read «New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Buenos Ayres,» etc.

His Excellency Mr. Davis.—As a member of the Committee, I see no objection whatever. In fact, I think Chicago was omitted by mistake. The change desired is simply to add the one word «Chicago.»

His Excellency Mr. Casaus, General Secretary.—Messrs. Delegates: According to the notes of the Assembly's stenographers, it appears that nothing with regard to the city of Chicago was indicated, and I appeal to the recollection of my Hon. colleagues to state whether the Secretary is right or not.

His Excellency Mr. Davis.—We concede all that is said; but we ask unanimous consent that «Chicago» be added.

His Excellency President Raigosa.—As President of the Assembly, I must call the attention of the Hon. Messrs. Foster and Davis to the fact that the proposition just referred to can be submitted to the Conference, considering it not as a correction of to-day's minutes, but as a motion which they can submit to

the consideration of the Conference whenever they should deem it advisable.

Secretary Duret.—Are the minutes approved, with the amendment proposed by His Excellency Mr. Guachalla?

His Excellency the President.—Approved. Does the Hon. Mr. Foster wish to make the motion to which he referred?

His Excellency Mr. Foster.—Mr. President: I would be very glad to make the motion that the word «Chicago» be added to the memorandum of names, after that of «New York.»

His Excellency Mr. Bermejo, Delegate from the Argentine Republic.—Mr. President: There cannot be two different opinions to the effect that in the previous session, when this matter was under discussion, the city of Chicago was not mentioned. Furthermore the question is a very simple one, since the enumeration, more or less complete, does not in any way affect the report; and I think there is a more simple method to resolve the matter and attain the same results; for instance, to reconsider the point, in order to see if it is accepted that the city of Chicago be included in that enumeration.

I would therefore move that the matter be reconsidered, in order that the Conference may make a definite resolution.

Secretary Duret.—The Conference is asked whether the motion of His Excellency Mr. Foster, seconded by His Excellency Mr. Bermejo, is taken into consideration.

After taking the votes, it was decided by 17 votes to take it into consideration whereupon the proposition of His Excellency Mr. Foster, was placed under discussion. As no one requested the floor, the Secretary asked whether it was approved, and upon taking the votes, His Excellency Mr. Guachalla stated that in accordance with his previous statements, he would vote in the negative. The following was the result of the voting: In the affirmative: Argentine Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, United States of America, Guatemala, Hayti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay; and in the negative: Bolivia and Ecuador. Thirteen in the affirmative and two in the negative. The Delegations from Chili and Paraguay abstained from voting.

His Excellency the President.—The word «Chicago» shall be added.

His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez, Delegate from Chili.—I have requested the floor, Mr. President, to call the attention of the Assembly, to the fact that the raising of questions so as to consider a matter after having been voted on and approved in the whole and in detail, is against the provisions of the Regulations. As the question was of no importance and as it is unpleasant to contradict the opinion of a colleague, I abstained from objecting thereto; but now that the matter has been decided, I take the liberty of calling the attention of the Conference to this point, so that we may avoid difficulties which may come up in future. I think that when an Assembly has voted on a matter, this ought not to be reconsidered. (Voices: Aye! Aye!)

SESSION OF THE 27th., OF DECEMBER 1901.

Secretary Duret commenced to read the report of the Engrossing Committee on the proposed Pan-American Bank.

His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez, Delegate from Chili.—Mr. President: Although I interrupt the reading of the above report, for which I beg to be excused, I request the floor, because I wish to say something in regard to this matter.

His Excellency President Raigosa.—His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez has the floor.

His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez.—I think, Mr. President, that the reading of the amended text of the proposition will be useless: the reading of such propositions at the sessions to be held will cause a great loss of time. As this is the first instance, it would be advisable to come to a decision establishing a precedent which, in my opinion, would be to leave the proposition, after being approved, at the disposal of the members of the Assembly, in order that the Delegates may make such corrections as they may deem proper. I venture, Mr. President, to make the above suggestion.

His Excellency the President.—I have not clearly understood the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Walker Martinez, and I therefore beg him to excuse me.

According to his words, the reading of the reports of the Engrossing Committee ought to be referred back, without any formalities, to the Committee issuing the report. If this is the suggestion of His Excellency, it would be against the ordinary procedure established by the Regulations. I acknowledge that there is good reason for acting in the above manner; in order to do so, the Chair would need special authorization from the Conference.

In following the procedure established by practice and sanctioned by the Regulations, the reading does not mean anything but that the report be inserted in the minutes of the day; and as soon as the document has been published, it can be read by the Committee and every Delegate in order that they may make such suggestions as they may deem proper.

I therefore beg the Hon. Mr. Walker Martinez to state whether his motion refers to having the Regulations amended, or to establishing a new practice.

His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez.—Mr. President: My intention was to avoid pronouncing an opinion on something I could not have any knowledge of. I thought that the object of the reading of the report of the Engrossing Committee was to submit it at once to the decision of the Assembly, so as to know whether it would approve the report or not; and as I was not competent to decide at that moment, I suggested that the report might be sent back to the Committee, so that the work might be revised by any of the Delegates who would like to do so; because my impression is that this work cannot be revised by a single reading, especially when there are two copies to be compared.

I therefore make no objection. If the President says that the Assembly is not to decide in favor or against the report, and the way remains open to make suggestions, he who wants to make them will do so at the proper time, and in this case there is no reason for my suggestion.

Secretary Duret.—The Chair has ruled that the reading of the report may continue, only for the purpose of being printed in the minutes, as an annex. The report reads as follows:

Engrossing Committee.—Project for a Pan-American Bank.

The subscribing Committee proposes the following wording of the before mentioned project:

RESOLUTION: The Second International American Conference, considering that a large Banking Institution established in a large mercantile centre of the Continent with branches in the principal cities of the American Republics, would develop mercantile relations among them;

And that, if said Institution should adopt uniform rules for the granting of credits and charging of commissions, it would afford even greater advantages to industry and be well received by all the American Nations;

RECOMMENDS: That there be established in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, New Orleans, Buenos Ayres or any other important mercantile center, a Bank of the character before mentioned, and that it

be assisted by the Republics of America in every manner compatible with the internal legislation of each country.

Hall of Sessions, Mexico, December 23rd 1901. (Signed).—*Alberto Elmore.*—*A. Blest Gana.*—*Rosendo Pineda.*

The recommendation on the Pan-American Bank, expressed exactly in the same terms of the above report, was signed on the 21st of January 1902, by the Delegations of the Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States of America, Guatemala, Hayti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

NUMBER 2.

Pan-American Railway.

SESSION OF THE 29TH OF NOVEMBER 1901.

Secretary Duret.—The Committee on the Pan-American Railway has submitted its report, and the Chair has ruled that it be printed and distributed among Their Excellencies the Delegates. It reads as follows:

A REPORT of the Committee on the Pan-American Railway.

Mexico, November 27, 1901.

The Pan-American Railway Committee of the Second International Conference of American Republics begs to report as follows:

At the First Conference held in Washington during the winter of 1899-900, the Committee on Railway Communications, upon which were Delegates representing eighteen Governments of America, in submitting their report, which was unanimously approved and adopted by the Conference, expressed these opinions:

First. That a railroad connecting all or a majority of the nations represented in this Conference will contribute greatly to the development of cordial relations between said nations and the growth of their material interests.

Second. That the best method of facilitating its execution is the appointment of an international Commission of engineers to ascertain the possible routes, to determine their true length, to estimate the cost of each, and to compare their respective advantages.

Third. That the said Commission should consist of a corps of engineers of whom each nation should appoint three, and which should have authority to divide into sub-commissions and appoint as many other engineers and employees as may be considered necessary for the more rapid execution of the work.

Fourth. That each of the Governments accepting may appoint, at its own expense, commissioners or engineers to serve as auxiliaries to the sub-commissions charged with the sectional surveys of the line.

Fifth. That the railroad, in so far as the common interests will permit, should connect the principal cities lying in the vicinity of its route.

Sixth. That if the general direction of the line cannot be altered without great inconvenience, for

the purpose mentioned in the preceding article, branch lines should be surveyed to connect those cities with the main line.

Seventh. That for the purpose of reducing the cost of the enterprise, the existing railways should be utilized as far as it is practicable and compatible with the route and conditions of the continental railroad.

Eighth. That in case the results of the survey demonstrate the practicability and advisability of the railroad, proposals for the construction either of the whole line or of sections thereof should be solicited.

Ninth. That the construction, management, and operation of the line should be at the expense of the concessionaires, or of the persons to whom they sublet the work, or transfer their rights, with all due formalities, the consent of the respective Governments, being first obtained.

Tenth. That all materials necessary for the construction and operation of the railroad should be exempt from import duties, subject to such regulations as may be necessary to prevent the abuse of this privilege.

Eleventh. That all personal and real property of the railroad employed in its construction and operation should be exempt from all taxation, either national, provincial (State), or municipal.

Twelfth. That the execution of a work of such magnitude deserves to be further encouraged by subsidies, grants of land, or guarantees of a minimum interest.

Thirteenth. That the salaries of the Commission as well as the expense incident to the preliminaries and final surveys should be assumed by all the nations accepting, in proportion to the population according to the latest official census, or, in the absence of a census, by agreement between their several Governments.

Fourteenth. That the railroad should be declared forever neutral for the purpose of securing freedom of traffic.

Fifteenth. That the approval of the surveys, the terms of the proposals, the protection of the concessionaires, inspection of the work, the legislation affecting it, the neutrality of the road, and the free passage of merchandise in transit, should be (in the

event contemplated by article eighth) the subject of special agreement between all the nations interested.

Sixteenth. That as soon as the Government of the United States shall receive notice of the acceptance of these recommendations by the other Governments, it shall invite them to appoint the commission of engineers referred to in the second article, in order that it may meet in the city of Washington, at the earliest possible day.

Mr. Blaine, then Secretary of State of the United States, in presenting to President Harrison the above report of the Railway Committee said:

«No more important recommendation has come from the International American Conference, and I earnestly commend it to your attention, with full confidence that prompt action will be taken by Congress to enable this Government to participate in the promotion of the enterprise. In no other way could the Government and people of the United States contribute so much to the development and prosperity of our sister Republics and at the same time to the expansion of our commerce.»

The President of the United States, in transmitting the report to Congress, thus expressed his views on the importance of the project:

«To the Senate and House of Representatives:

«I transmit herewith, a report of the International American Conference, recently in session at this Capital, recommending a survey of a route for an inter-continental line of railroad to connect the systems of North America with those of the Southern Continent, and to be conducted under the direction of a Board of Commissioners representing the several American Republics.

«Public attention has chiefly been attracted to the subject of improved water-communication between the ports of the United States and those of Central and South America. The creation of new and improved steam-ship lines undoubtedly furnishes the readiest means of developing an increased trade with the Latin-American nations. But it should not be forgotten that it is possible to travel by land from Washington to the southernmost capital of South America, and that the opening of railroad communication with these friendly States will give to them and to us facilities for intercourse and the exchanges of trade that are of special value. The work contemplated is vast, but entirely practicable. It will be interesting to all and perhaps surprising to most of us to notice how much has already been done in the way of railroad construction in Mexico and South America that can be utilized as part of an international line. I do not hesitate to recommend that Congress make the very moderate appropriation for surveys suggested by the Conference, and authorize the appointment of commissioners and the detail of engineer officers to direct and conduct the necessary preliminary surveys.—(Signed.) *Benj. Harrison.*—Executive Mansion.—May 19, 1890.»

The appropriation asked as the share of the United States toward a preliminary survey for information regarding the Continental Railway was made, together with contributions from some of the other countries interested. Soon thereafter the Inter-Continental Railway Commission began its work, with eleven of the Governments of America represented therein.

Mr. A. J. Cassatt, now President of the Pennsylvania Railroad, one of the greatest and most successful railway systems in the world, was unanimously

elected Chairman of the Commission and Mr. H. G. Davis, Chairman of the Finance Committee. About \$360,000 were spent by the Commission for surveys, maps, printing, etc. Three corps of engineers were put in the field and the results of their work, covering a period of several years, and completed in 1895, showed that the approximate distance from New York to Buenos Ayres, according to their surveys and using existing roads, would be 10,471 miles, about one half of which was then completed and is in operation. The following official letter, written in 1896 by Captain E. Z. Steever, Secretary of the Inter-Continental Railway Commission gives the most reliable information obtainable regarding the railways that could then be used as a part of a continental line, and how much yet remained to be completed.

INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY COMMISSION.—Washington, D. C., January 16, 1896.—Hon Henry G. Davis, Washington D. C.—Dear Sir: In accordance with your verbal request left at this office on the 14th inst, I herewith furnish an estimate of the length of line required for an all-rail route from New York City to Buenos Ayres, Argentine; according to countries.

«There is now through railroad connection as far as Oaxaca, Republic of Mexico, and surveys have been made, and according to press reports, concessions have been granted to connect Oaxaca with some point on the Mexican Guatemalan boundary. Puebla is 129 miles Southeast of the City of Mexico by the Ferrocarril Interoceanico, and 115.6 by the Ferrocarril Mexicano, the former being a narrow and the latter a standard gauge railroad. Oaxaca is 227.6 miles southeast of Puebla by the Ferrocarril Mexicano del Sur and, therefore, 356.6 miles from the City of Mexico by one line, and 343.2 by the other. Oaxaca is at present the most southern town that has railroad connection with the City of Mexico, and is distant from the Guatemalan frontier by the space which would require a railroad some 400 miles in length.

«The surveys and examinations of the Inter-Continental Railway Commission commenced at the northwestern frontier of Guatemala and extended to the western boundary of Bolivia. The approximate length of the railroad to connect the south-eastern boundary of Mexico with the Capital of the Argentine Republic would be as follows:

In Guatemala . . .	230 miles.	In Ecuador . . .	1,127 miles.
„ Salvador . . .	220 „	„ Peru	635 „
„ Honduras . . .	70 „	„ Bolivia	1,671 „
„ Nicaragua . . .	224 „	„ Argentina . . .	774 „
„ Costa Rica . . .	363 „	„	1,143 „
„ Colombia . . .	1,372 „		
		TOTAL	6,702 miles.
			1,127 miles.

«The distance from New York to Laredo is 2,187 miles; thence to the City of Mexico 839 miles; thence to Oaxaca 343 miles; to the Guatemalan frontier 400 miles; a total of 3,769 miles; making the entire distance from New York to Buenos Ayres 10,471 miles.

«Of the above 6,702 miles there are in operation the following links:

In Guatemala, from Escuintla to Patulul	30 miles.
„ Salvador, from Sonsonate to Atos	20 „
„ Nicaragua, from Chinandega to la Paz	31 „
Total in Central America	81 „
In Peru, from Sicuani to Puno	151 „
„ Bolivia, from Oruro to Huanchaco	192 „
„ Argentine, from Jujuy to Buenos Ayres	993 „
Total in South America	1,336 „