

Parliamentary Delegates At Meeting



DELEGATES to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference photographed shortly after the meeting commenced yesterday morning. Seated at the head of the table are Sir John Kotelawala (Vice Chairman), Mr. Harold E. Holt (Chairman) and Sir Howard d' Egville (Secretary General). The others are (seated left to right): Mr. C. M. Van Colter (Union of S.A.), Mr. John Welbelove (Canadian Provinces), Mr. R. L. Rene Beaudoin (Canada), Mr. W. Glenvil Hall (U.K.), Lord Llewellyn (U.K.), Ma. C. H. Hartwell (Kenya and Northern Rhodesia), Ma. C. H. (right) are Mr. P. F. de Souza (Singapore), Mr. D. E. Sangster (West Indies), Dr. T. Caruana Demajo (Speaker, Malta) Mr. C. G. E. Harker (New Zealand) is on the extreme right facing camera.



SIR JOHN KOTELAWA, Minister of Transport and Works (left to camera) chatting with some of the delegates to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference before the meeting.

C.P.A. TALKS BEGIN

MR. HAROLD E. HOLT (Australia) was elected Chairman of the General Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association when the conference of the Council opened last morning in a committee room of the House of Representatives. Sir John Kotelawala was elected Vice-Chairman.

Sir John who was elected protem Chairman at the outset of the conference made a short speech welcoming the delegates. When the business of electing a Chairman was taken up, Sir Lalita Rajapakse, the other Ceylon representative, proposed the name of Mr. Harold Holt, Australian Minister of Immigration, National Services and Labour.

INTEREST IN ASSOCIATION

In doing so Sir Lalita commented on the great interest Mr. Holt has taken in the affairs of the Association and of the active part he played in the last two conferences in 1948 and 1950.

The proposal which was seconded by Mr. C. G. E. Harker, Chairman of Committees in the New Zealand Parliament, was accepted by the Council.

Lord Llewellyn (United Kingdom) next proposed the name of Sir John Kotelawala to fill the role of Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Tazmuddin Khan (Pakistan) seconded. This too had the approval of the Council.

DISCUSSION

Discussion for the rest of the morning centred on the report for 1950-51, a draft of which was placed before the delegates.

Shortly before the conference adjourned yesterday the delegates received copies of a number of Government publications relating to the island's development schemes. These were supplied by the Government Information Department.

The talks which are not open to the Press, will resume today and will continue till Tuesday next.

GOVT. POLICY ON ESTATE ROADS SOUGHT

GOVERNMENT policy regarding estate roads, that serve outlying villages is likely to be defined shortly as a result of a conference that a deputation of planters is seeking with the Minister of Transport and Works, Sir John Kotelawala.

The roads have been constructed by estates primarily for their use, but Government contributions by way of a grant towards the maintenance of those roads which are allowed to be used by the villagers who have no other means of access from their homes to the public highways.

Such grants are, however, totally inadequate for the maintenance of the roads particularly now when the cost of material has risen so heavily.

MORE LIBERAL

Now that the P.W.D. has taken over the maintenance of the D.M.C. roads all over the island it is pointed out that a more liberal policy should be pursued with regard to Government taking over stretches of private or estate roads which serve a village area or other public need.

The acquisition of such stretches of road is now considerably restricted as the P.W.D. takes over annually only fifty miles of roads. This includes village committee roads and private roads, including estate roads.

MINOR ROADS

The deputation will also press for improvements to the minor roads in the planting areas as they are said to have deteriorated considerably owing to heavy traffic.

Apart from the inadequacy of the grants it is stated that the opening of some of the estate roads for public use has led to an increase in the incidence of thefts of estate produce and it is urged that some measure of protection should be afforded in this respect to the estates.

In addition to villagers residing in the area, others also make use of such roads which are not always protected by fences.