

opinion in Canada at the present time in relation to the war as the question of adequate recognition of her representatives in the Peace Conference.

3. The situation is rendered more unfortunate by the fact that in Canada strong emphasis has been placed on the fact that the Dominion has received the same recognition as the smaller Allied nations with the exception of Brazil. In order to quiet public opinion the press were asked to feature strongly this consideration which has now disappeared. It is hardly to be anticipated that Canadians will consider that their country is suitably recognized by being placed on an equality with Siam and Hedjaz.

4. The Canadian Ministers are of the opinion that the change thus effected makes it still more important that careful consideration should be given to the establishment of a panel representing the entire British Empire and to the selections therefrom for the formal meetings of the five Great Powers.

*31. Extract from Minutes of Second Meeting
of British Empire Delegation¹*

SECRET

[Paris,] January 20, 1919

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4. PEACE CONFERENCE REGULATIONS

Sir Robert Borden mentioned that the Regulations provided in Article 1:

(a) The belligerent Powers with general interests (the United States of America, British Empire, France, Italy, and Japan) shall take part in all sittings and Commissions.

(b) The belligerent Powers with particular interests (Belgium, Brazil the British Dominions, etc.) shall take part in the sittings at which questions concerning them are discussed.

These regulations were capable, apparently, of a strict or a liberal interpretation, and under strict interpretation Canada might not be eligible to take part in any sitting. He pointed out that Canada maintained the right, though not claiming to have any particular interest, of putting forward views on questions of general concern which affected her in common with all Allied nations. Among such questions were the League of Nations, Indemnities, Economic Arrangements, Freedom of the Seas, etc.

Mr. Lloyd George stated that he had mentioned this point at the Inter-Allied Conference when the question of representation had been settled. It was therefore quite clear that the interest which Canada had in the economic and other questions constituted such a special interest as entitled her to representation in terms of the regulations.

Sir Robert Borden expressed his great regret that the representation of the Dominions had been relatively diminished by increasing the representation of

¹Canadian delegates present: Sir Robert Borden and C. J. Doherty.