

harmful, or to injure us. It ought to be remembered that a special position had been granted to the British Empire in the constitution of the League. The recognition of the Dominions and India as entitled to distinctive representation was desirable and justifiable, but, nevertheless, this arrangement did constitute a special concession to the British Empire. In conclusion, he would ask whether the British Empire Delegation desired that there should be a further Plenary Session of the Peace Conference to discuss the revised Covenant.

(It was agreed that a further Plenary Session for this purpose should be asked for, in accordance with the undertaking given by M. Clemenceau at the previous Plenary Session, and Lord Robert Cecil undertook to communicate with President Wilson to this effect.)

115. *Le Premier ministre au Conseiller juridique britannique*

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Hurst,

Paris, April 22, 1919

In connection with the proposed amendments in the Covenant of the League of Nations I have a letter from Mr. Sifton of which I enclose a copy, as embodying views which he put forward at yesterday's meeting of the British Empire Delegations and which I think commanded the approval of the representatives of the Dominions.

A copy has been forwarded to Lord Robert Cecil and General Smuts.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. BORDEN

[PIÈCE JOINTE]

*Le ministre des Douanes et du Revenu
intérieur au Premier ministre*

My dear Sir Robert,

Paris, April 22, 1919

In the new draft Covenant in regard to League of Nations and Annex thereto shown to us in the meeting yesterday, the words "British Empire" in the Annex and in Article 4 are apparently sometimes used as a designation for conveniently describing the aggregation of Great Britain with its Colonies and the various Dominions, and sometimes for some purposes apparently meaning only Great Britain and the territory for which its Parliament legislates. I notice that the same words are used in Article 3 of the original Covenant as laid on the table of the Peace Conference. Possibly it was drafted by the President of the United States or the Emperor of Japan and nobody cared to object. Such things have happened.

While this description may be convenient and has been used for a great many years as a sentimental designation, I have not yet heard of any formal documents in any portion of that vast territory being so signed. Without