

I entertained the view, and I know that it was shared by others, that such a Conference should include representatives of the recognized political parties in all the Dominions of the Empire. This is too great a question to be made a matter of party controversy, and if I should have anything to do with the selection of the representatives of Canada at that special Conference I desire now to say, without any qualification, that I should ask the leaders of the opposite party to go with me to that Conference, so that we might take counsel with each other and with the other members of the Conference as to these vital questions.

The next subject to which I shall allude is the development and control of natural resources. This resolution was regarded as of some importance. I proposed it to the Conference, and at the request of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom it was brought into the Imperial War Cabinet and discussed there. It was unanimously adopted both by the Imperial War Cabinet and by the Imperial War Conference. Its terms are as follows:

Having regard to the experience obtained in the present war, this Conference records its opinion that the safety of the Empire and the necessary development of its component parts, require prompt and attentive consideration as well as concerted action with regard to the following matters:—

1. The production of an adequate food supply and arrangements for its transportation when and where required, under any conditions that may reasonably be anticipated.

2. The control of natural resources available within the Empire, especially those that are of an essential character for necessary national purposes, whether in peace or in war.

3. The economical utilization of such natural resources through processes of manufacture carried on within the Empire.

The Conference commends to the consideration of the Governments summoned thereto the enactment of such legislation as may assist this purpose.

It is beyond question that when this war broke out the Germans were utilizing for their own purposes—their own national purposes, the building up of their industries—natural resources from many parts of our Empire, and in some instances, natural resources which could not be obtained in the same abundance and of the same quality elsewhere. I venture to think, and I have so stated in the United Kingdom itself, that Germany had a better knowledge and conception of the natural resources of the Dominions of this Empire than was to be found in the United Kingdom before the war. I have little doubt of that, and if you had the opportunity of hearing what was recounted to me from other Dominions you would have little doubt. I will give one incident with regard to our own country which was brought to my attention the day I left Canada. The president of a Canadian company which has vast mineral resources on the