

ered by the British Empire Delegations. Sir George Foster and Mr. Sifton have been requested to examine the various articles with special attention to those which directly affect the interests of Canada.

*Number 18*

Paris, April 26, 1919

1. This memorandum covers the period from Saturday evening, 19th April, to Saturday evening, 26th April.

2. The outstanding feature of the week has been the publication of President Wilson's statement on Wednesday evening [April 23] with respect to the territorial aspirations of Italy, which took everyone by surprise. It was known that such a statement had been in course of preparation, but it was thought that an agreement would be reached upon the disputed question, as the points of difference had been very materially reduced. Apparently the Italian Government had led or permitted their people to indulge in confident aspirations far beyond those that could reasonably be based upon the Treaty of 1915 or upon the principles set forth in President Wilson's fourteen points. Those who are critical assert that this was done with a purpose and in the hope of forcing the hand of the other Allied Powers by means of an excited public opinion among the Italian people. Possibly the opinion thus created may become too strong for the government which encouraged or created it. In that case it is improbable that the Italian Plenipotentiaries can take any further part in the Peace negotiations. On the other hand, the character of President Wilson's appeal is strongly criticized upon the ground that he placed the Italian Prime Minister in an impossible position by appealing from him to the people whom he represented. The situation will not fully develop until after Mr. Orlando makes his statement to the Italian Parliament on Monday next [April 28].

3. Notwithstanding the absence of any representative of Italy the preparation of articles to the Peace Treaty and the necessary examination of reports of commissions has been proceeding with great rapidity throughout the week. Sir Robert Borden took charge of the report of the Economic Commission in the Council of Four on Friday [April 25] and succeeded in solving a difficulty which had arisen between Mr. Clemenceau and Mr. Wilson. On Saturday morning the report of the Commission on the International Regime of Ports, Waterways and Railways was finally considered in the same council, with the assistance of Sir Robert Borden and Mr. Sifton, who attended for the purpose.

4. The British Delegation accepted the views of the Dominions Prime Ministers as to certain amendments of both form and substance in the proposed Covenant of the League of Nations. These amendments are indicated in the attached copy.<sup>1</sup> The Drafting Committee felt that the changes

<sup>1</sup>Document 117.