

George who was not familiar with the difficulties of the case, asked Sir Robert Borden to confer with Mr. Wilson and Mr. Clemenceau, which he did. Mr. Wilson admitted the dangerous character of Clause 8 but was apprehensive that any failure to pass the clauses as a whole would have bad results in Europe. Sir Robert Borden pointed out that Clause 8 might lead to great disorder, and possibly rebellion, on the Pacific Coast of the United States and of Canada. Eventually it was arranged that no motion should be made with regard to these clauses, and they therefore remain for the present upon the table of the Plenary Conference.

4. On Saturday, the 12th instant, there was a meeting of the British Delegations at which the proposals of the Aerial Commission were under consideration. A copy of those proposals, as submitted, is sent herewith.¹ Various amendments were found to be necessary of which only a few involved any question of principle. A further draft is being prepared and a copy thereof will be forwarded. As to representation of the Dominions, under Article 34, Sir Robert Borden proposed that there should be a Committee, or, better still, a panel comprising representatives of the United Kingdom and of the Dominions, including India, and that the British representatives upon the International Commission for Air Navigation should be selected from this panel. It was pointed out by the representatives of the Dominions that the proposed Council has certain very important powers which *inter alia* enable it to make regulations having the force of law. The Dominions would not be satisfied to entrust such a power to the proposed International Commission for Air Navigation unless they were directly represented in some effective way.

5. On Thursday morning [April 10] there was a long conference at Mr. Lloyd George's apartments which lasted from nine till twelve, and at which he reported to the Prime Ministers of the Dominions the proceedings and conclusions of the Council of Four to date. The chief points touched upon were the following:

(a) The frontier between France and Germany. The French Government have finally agreed to withdraw their extreme proposals which involved the annexation to France of a considerable territory west of the Rhine, the population of which is almost exclusively German. There has been much discussion on this subject and it is now regarded as practically concluded.

(b) The coal fields in the Saar Valley. It is proposed to place this territory under the League of Nations for fifteen years, during which period the French shall be entitled to the coal produced. At the end of fifteen years a plebiscite will be taken and according to its result the territory in question will revert to Germany or be annexed to France. The coal acquired by the French in this way will be taken into account in considering their claims for reparation.

¹ Non reproduit.