

4. Sir Robert Borden did not find it necessary, as he at one time anticipated, to make reservations with respect to the Labour Convention and the Covenant of the League of Nations. Early on Monday morning [May 5] he obtained an interview with Mr. Lloyd George who, however, was greatly preoccupied at that time with difficulties arising out of trouble which was being fomented by the Italians in Eastern Europe and in Asia Minor. At the meeting of the British Delegations on Monday afternoon, Sir Robert Borden informed Mr. Lloyd George that unless an objectionable paragraph was struck out of the Labour Convention it would be necessary to raise and discuss at the Plenary Conference the position of the British Dominions in the League of Nations and in the Labour Convention. Mr. Lloyd George then promised to have the subject taken up and considered in the Council of the First Delegates on Tuesday at eleven o'clock. In view of this Sir Robert Borden prepared and discussed with his colleagues on Monday evening, a memorandum which he proposed delivering to Mr. Lloyd George on the following morning. It was delivered personally at ten o'clock and at one o'clock Sir Robert Borden was informed that the obnoxious clause in the Labour Convention would be struck out, and that the Delegates were entirely of the opinion that no change was necessary to the League of Nations, as the rights of the Dominions were adequately safeguarded upon a fair construction of its terms. Sir Robert Borden thereupon demanded that this view should be expressed in writing, and a memorandum which he prepared was accordingly signed by M. Clemenceau, President Wilson and Mr. Lloyd George. Hereto appended are copies of the following documents:

(1) Memorandum delivered by Mr. Lloyd George on Tuesday morning.¹

(2) Note from the records of the Council of First Delegates as to the suppression of the obnoxious clause in the Labour Convention.²

(3) Document signed by the three First Delegates above named.³

The last-named document has been entered of record in the proceedings of the Conference.

5. The scene at Versailles when the Treaty of Peace was presented to the German Plenipotentiaries was very impressive. M. Trepanier⁴ was not present and Sir Robert Borden hurriedly prepared a press despatch, copy of which is attached.² The impression produced by the speech of Count Brockdorff-Rantzau⁵ was very unfortunate, both from the German standpoint and also from the standpoint of the Allied nations, as it indicates that any proposals put forward by the Germans for a modification of the Peace Terms will probably be couched in such *maladroit* terms and presented

¹Document 133.

²Not printed.

³Document 134.

⁴Canadian newspaperman; representative of the Department of Public Information after Dafoe returned to Canada.

⁵Count Ulrich von Brockdorff-Rantzau, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Germany, 1918-1919; Chief Plenipotentiary of Germany at the Peace Conference.