

settled and imposed upon Germany with the least possible delay. The fact that much time has been given to subjects not directly connected with this all important question is not due to the British Empire Delegation.

11. During the absence of Mr. Lloyd George, Lord Milner has taken his place as one of the British Delegates.

Numéro 9

Paris, February 22, 1919

1. This memorandum covers the period from Thursday afternoon, 13th February, to Saturday morning, the 22nd February.

2. After the usual conference of Ministers on Friday morning [February 14], three Canadian Ministers, Sir Robert Borden, Sir George Foster and Mr. Sifton, attended the Plenary Conference in the afternoon, at which the proposals for the League of Nations as reported by the Committee were presented for consideration and for discussion at future meetings. Admirable speeches were made by President Wilson, Lord Robert Cecil and other members of the Committee which had reported the proposals; but as the flow of eloquence continued until nearly half past seven, and as some of the speeches were rather prolix, the proceedings became somewhat wearisome. Sir Robert Borden was of opinion that President Wilson should have taken occasion to speak appreciatively of the work of General Smuts upon which the proposals reported by the Committee are very largely based. As a matter of fact there were no concrete proposals placed before the Committee, except those which emanated from the British Delegation. This is true of practically every important subject which has been under consideration by the Peace Conference from the first.

3. The press of France have received the proposals fairly well. It is realized that the French are not enthusiastically in favour of a League of Nations. France, although in form a Republic, is in reality an imperialistic nation, which does not accept very readily proposals of this character. A serious difficulty arose in the Committee on the Wednesday and Thursday preceding the presentation of the report and at one time there was grave prospect that a unanimous report could not be made. Mr. Oscar Straus of New York¹ was of considerable assistance in bringing the French member of the Committee to a realization of the position which France would occupy in case her delegates should decline to associate themselves with the Report.

4. Sir Robert Borden intended to speak at the Plenary Conference on Friday, but the members of the Committee, for whom precedence had been arranged, occupied so much time that he gave up the idea. He took occasion, however, to express his views on Saturday evening [February 15] in address-

¹ Membre du Comité consultatif du président de la Commission de secours en Belgique; membre de la Cour permanente d'arbitrage de La Haye.