

day [April 15] and Thursday [April 17]. Certain recommendations for the consideration of the British Prime Minister in the so-called Council of Four were noted, but they chiefly relate to the character of the proposals as involving too great detail and as being in some instances unnecessarily oppressive to Germany for the benefit of adjoining countries. The discussion was concluded on Saturday [April 19], and resulted in appropriate recommendations to Mr. Loyd George as to desirable modifications in the articles.

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6. An enormous amount of work remains to be accomplished before the draft of the Peace Treaty can be submitted to the German representatives, who are expected to arrive in Paris on the twenty-fifth instant. The various commissions, and especially the Drafting Committee, are working to the utmost limit of their powers. It would be difficult to accomplish the task even if there was thorough agreement on all important questions. But unfortunately that agreement has not yet been reached, and probably several days will elapse before it can be accomplished. Political conditions not only in Italy and Belgium but also in France are somewhat unstable according to the best informed opinion. It would be disastrous to have the announcement of the Peace Terms accompanied by the fall of a government owing to agitation against the Peace Terms so far as they affect the interests of the country in question. Hence a tremendous responsibility rests upon each of the four representatives who are now engaged in the task of reaching a final conclusion upon matters of intense interest to the people of their respective countries. It is difficult for any one not closely in touch with the extreme tension which prevails to realize how overwhelming that responsibility becomes from time to time. It is known that the Prime Minister of one important country broke down and wept in great anguish of spirit during a recent interview with the President of the United States.

7. On Friday evening [April 18], Sir Robert Borden had a conference with Mr. Lloyd George on the return of the latter from London. Mr. Lloyd George seems confident that the final drafting of the Treaty of Peace will be sufficiently advanced for presentation to the German delegates very soon after their arrival. It will be an exceedingly voluminous document and obviously the German delegates will require a reasonable time for consideration of its numerous articles. However, different branches will naturally be taken up by different groups of experts, although in the final result the German Government must determine whether their position as a government can be maintained if they accept it. Sir Robert Borden received today from Doctor Winthrop Bell,¹ who was sent to Germany at his request, a short report, copy of which is attached.²

8. The report of the Financial Commission has just been circulated and a copy has been forwarded to Sir Thomas White.² It has not yet been consid-

¹Doctor in Halifax who had studied in Germany prior to the war.

²Not printed.