

rest days each month. The Japanese had finally accepted the clause in view of the words "wherever practicable." It had been agreed that, in view of the importance attached to its subject by the women, the seventh clause should be given a distinct place. The eighth clause was the one which had previously made the greatest difficulty for the British Empire Delegation. It was proposed in its present form in order to secure the assent of the United States Delegation, since it had been drafted by President Wilson. It did not appear to hurt our interests, and since it would command the assent of the other Delegations, he (Sir Robert Borden) hoped that the British Empire Delegation might now accept it.

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General Smuts said that clause 8 simply amounted to an admonition or piece of advice to each Parliament; there was no impairment of the sovereignty of the different countries.

Sir Robert Borden said that this clause had been produced by the President as the result of an effort to find a formula that would be acceptable to the United States. The United States Delegation had found a difficulty in accepting the clause as it stood in Mr. Balfour's draft because of the position resulting from the custom of Italian immigrant labourers who, coming to the United States without their families, would return to Italy after a number of years with the money they had accumulated from their labours in the United States. At the same time, they tried to get the benefits of the accident and death insurance schemes provided by the American Labour Unions for their families still resident in Italy. The American Unions objected to this, and accordingly the clause had been redrafted. He (Sir Robert Borden) entirely agreed that Mr. Balfour's draft was preferable, but the other Delegations had raised objections, and, if trouble was to be avoided at the Plenary Session, he thought it best to accept the present proposal. It would have been better to omit the clauses altogether, but the labour world apparently attached importance to them, and, after all, they were simply the enunciation of principles.

(It was agreed that the labour clauses for insertion in the Peace Treaty should be accepted in the present form (see W.C.P. 383 E.), and that at the Plenary Session of the Peace Conference in the afternoon, following the presentation by Mr. Barnes of the original nine clauses, Sir Robert Borden should move the present draft as an amendment.)

#### 4. LABOUR CONVENTION

Sir Robert Borden, with reference to the previous discussion of the Labour Convention (see B.E.D. 19, Minute 3)<sup>1</sup> said that he had had a conference with Mr. Lloyd George that morning concerning the provision in Article 7 to the effect that any member of the Labour Organisation, together with its Dominions, Colonies, and Protectorates, should be entitled to nominate only one Government representative on the Governing Body. From the point of

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<sup>1</sup> Document n° 99.