

that there are certain outstanding points of resemblance between the two peoples. In Germany as well as in Russia, the government of the country has been entrusted to and carried on by a ruling class to which the great mass of the German people looked for direction. With the loss of control and direction to which they have always been accustomed, suffering under the strain of more than four years of war and of unexpected defeat, faced with lack of raw materials in their industries and consequent failure of employment and suffering undoubtedly from lack of sufficient nutrition, the German people may possibly be led by the Bolshevik minority along the same road that the Russian people are now traversing. Europe, and indeed the whole world, stands confronted with the danger resulting from a Bolshevik Russia, united with a Bolshevik Germany, and undertaking with the frenzy of fanaticism the subjugation of the world by military force to their ideals. In November last Sir Robert Borden pointed out this danger (so far as Russia is concerned) in the Imperial War Cabinet. It certainly seems more real today. The differences, the hesitations and the jealousies of the Five Great Powers in the arrangement for supplying the German people with food, are materially assisting the activities of the Bolsheviks in disseminating their propaganda. A crushing indemnity exacted from Germany may have the same disastrous result. In view of possible eventualities the Allied nations might find a huge indemnity too costly in the final analysis. One cannot avoid the impression that organized government even in the Allied and neutral nations of Europe is established upon a volcano which at any moment may burst into active eruption.

. . .

11. Mr. Lloyd George is of opinion that the outlook with regard to labour questions in the British Islands has distinctly improved and he is very confident that the Commission now at work will find a solution which can be accepted by both parties.

Numéro 12

Paris, March 15, 1919

1. This memorandum covers the period from Saturday evening, eighth March, to Saturday evening, fifteenth March.

2. Hereto attached is a memorandum setting forth the representation of Canada on the various committees and commissions in connection with the Peace Conference.¹

3. During the early part of the week Sir Robert Borden undertook a careful examination of the proposed Covenant of the League of Nations, with a view to rendering assistance in the preparation of the final draft. The memorandum was carefully considered in conference with the other Canadian Ministers on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and was sent on Thurs-

¹ Document n° 72.