

be selected from time to time as may be requisite from a panel consisting of British Ministers and Dominion Prime Ministers. This proposal would be more favourably received by public opinion throughout the Dominions than the nomination of five delegates from the British Islands for whom substitutes would be selected from a panel when they were unable to attend.

With best wishes for the New Year, believe me,

Yours faithfully,

[R. L. BORDEN]

22. *Minutes of First Meeting of Committee on Position of Dominions and India in League of Nations*

Present:	London, January 1, 1919
The Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil	Chairman
The Rt. Hon. Mr. Hughes, representing	Australia
The Hon. Mr. Doherty, representing	Canada
The Hon. Sir Satyendra Sinha, representing	India
The Hon. Mr. Lloyd, representing	Newfoundland
The Rt. Hon. General Smuts, representing	South Africa

The Chairman proposed that the Committee should provisionally accept the schemes outlined in his memorandum to the Cabinet, and in General Smuts' memorandum as a basis of discussion. The documents are attached to the Minutes for reference.¹ The discussion hinged on the following provision in Lord Robert's scheme:

The following form of organization is suggested:

1. *The Conference*

Annual meeting of Prime Ministers and Foreign Secretaries of British Empire, United States, France, Italy, Japan and any other States recognized by them as great Powers.

Quadrennial Meeting of representatives of all States included in the League.

In the course of the discussion, the following suggestions were outlined for further consideration at the next Meeting.

A. That the Prime Minister or Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom should represent the whole British Commonwealth at the Annual Meeting, subject to the following provisions:

(1) The attitude to be adopted by the British representative on all important questions shall be made the subject of previous discussion with the Dominion and Indian representatives at the Imperial Cabinet.

¹Not printed.