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Special Articles

Industrial Teamwork in Britain.

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Employment Management in Banking.

By DWIGHT L. HOOPINGARNER.

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By E. CORA HIND.

Editorials:

Canada and the Peace Conference	1
Acknowledging Britain's Part	2
Ireland	2
Industrial Teamwork in Britain	3
Origin of the Submarine	3
Employment Management in Banking	4
Mentioned in Despatches	5
Conditions in the West	6
Public Opinion	7
Among the Companies	8-9
Weekly Clearings	10-11
Commodity Markets	14-15

Canada and the Peace Conference

THE difficulties in the way of Canada being directly represented at the Peace Conference—difficulties which might easily have been foreseen at the beginning—seem to be only now becoming apparent in Canadian official circles, and there is much perturbation concerning them. It was assumed from the first, says an Ottawa journal, that Canada would have such representation, and the suggestion that she may not have elicited something like indignation in several quarters. Sir Robert Borden, in the course of an interview with a London journalist, said "it was not only appropriate but necessary that the Dominions be represented." Hon. Mr. Rowell is reported to have said, in an address at Port Hope, Ontario, that Canada "must" be directly represented at the Conference table. Hon. Mr. Carvell, in a speech at Montreal, said substantially the same thing.

The grave mistake was in assuming from the beginning that Canada would have direct representation at the Conference, and in picturing the important part that Canada was to play in this great international gathering. There never was any ground for such an assumption. Nobody having any authority ever authorized the impression so widely conveyed by a part of the Canadian press. The British Government, by its leaders, repeatedly stated that the Dominions would be consulted respecting the terms of peace. That assurance has been fulfilled by the Premiers being invited to London to discuss the subject with the leaders of the British Cabinet. Speaking at the Guildhall in London on the 9th ult., Mr. Lloyd George said:

"From the first the British Government recognized that the magnificent efforts and sacrifices made by the Dominions and India in the common cause have entitled them to an equal voice with the United Kingdom in the settlement of the terms of peace. It was with this object in view that the first Imperial War Cabinet was summoned last year. . . . The British Government has every intention of associating the Dominions and India with itself in every stage of the future discussion of the terms of peace."

It will be observed that the British Premier made no reference to the Dominions having seats at the table of the Peace Conference. Clearly what he had in mind was that the British representatives, whoever they might be, should go to the Conference to advocate a policy previously agreed upon after the question had been discussed by representatives of the various parts of the Empire.

It is not easy to see how Mr. Lloyd George could have gone further. The arrangements for the holding of the Peace Conference were not in his hands. Naturally the advice and influence of the British Prime Minister would have much weight. But the arrangements for the Conference, including the determination of the number of representatives of each nation who would sit at the table, had to be made by the statesmen of the Allied nations. Until so made and officially announced, it would have been a piece of impertinence for any British Minister to give an assurance respecting the direct representation of the Dominions.

There can be no doubt that the British Government have the highest appreciation of the part taken by Canada and the other Dominions in the war. If the whole matter were in the hands of Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues they would surely give the Dominions all the recognition their representatives could possibly desire. But, as we have already said, the matter is not in their hands. There is more than a possibility that neither Sir Robert Borden nor any other Colonial representative can be given a seat at the Conference table. If this should prove to be the case, it will not imply any humiliation of the Dominions. The sense of humiliation can come only to those who foolishly proclaimed that Canada was to play a large part in the gathering. Canada has indeed taken a magnificent part in the war, and won distinction thereby. That is all the more reason why Canada should not now press any claim for representation that will be unreasonable and embarrassing.

It cannot be too often emphasized that while Canada's status within the Empire has distinctly advanced in the last half century, there has been no actual constitutional change as respects our relation to the mother country. Canada can have no status in any international gathering. In any case in which Canada's interests are particularly concerned, the British Government will give the necessary credentials to Canadian Ministers to enable them to conduct negotiations with a foreign government, as was done in the case of the negotiation of several commercial treaties with France. But it will be as plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, under commissions issued from the Foreign Office in London, that they will act. No Canadian can have a place at the Peace Conference unless he is chosen by the British Government as one of their representatives. Since it is quite doubtful if the circumstances will permit any Canadian to be so chosen, is it wise to proclaim now that Canada "must" have such representation?

Let us look fairly at the difficulties in the way. While there has been no official announcement of the number of representatives to be assigned to each nation, the fact that the