

General Smuts pointed out that it was proposed that there should be one summary for all the world, and that it should be distributed through Reuters who had a very effective organisation for the purpose.

Sir Robert Borden pointed out that the proposals were still incomplete so far as Canada was concerned. The arrangements in connection with the Armistice had been imperfect. The Canadian Government had had a copy of the Armistice terms at Ottawa, but had been exhorted not to publish it until further advised, yet it had been given out at Washington in the meantime, with the result that Canadian papers were obliged to take it second-hand from the Americans. This had created an unfortunate feeling, and a similar occurrence must not happen again. He could only agree to the present proposals on condition that an arrangement was made which would absolutely ensure the Canadian papers getting the summary simultaneously with the American papers.

(It was agreed that the proposals for cabling the Peace Treaty summary should be approved, subject to an arrangement being made whereby the Canadian Press should receive the summary simultaneously with the American Press.)

### 3. LABOUR CLAUSES FOR INSERTION IN PEACE TREATY

Sir Robert Borden said that at a previous meeting of the British Empire Delegation the Labour clauses for insertion in the Peace Treaty as drafted by Mr. Balfour (see W.C.P. 383 D.) had been accepted, and it had been understood that they would be moved at the Plenary Session of the Peace Conference (see B.E.D. 25, Minute 5). The other Delegations, particularly the American and the Belgian, had, however, objected, and so Mr. Balfour had asked him to endeavour to bring about an agreement. He had accordingly seen the American, Belgian, and Japanese Representatives, and, after several meetings, an agreement had been reached on the draft now submitted for consideration (see W.C.P. 383 E.; Appendix II).<sup>1</sup> This draft did not constitute any substantial departure from the former one. The preamble and the concluding paragraph of Mr. Balfour's draft were preserved practically intact; an effort had been made to cast the remainder into the form of nine numbered clauses, since it was in that form that the proposals had been first submitted to the Plenary Session by the Labour Commission and it appeared that the Labour Representatives attached importance to this form. The words "habits and customs" had been substituted in the preamble as appearing less invidious than the former reference to racial characteristics. The Belgian Representative wished to strike out in the preamble the words "so far as their special circumstances will permit," but the Japanese would not agree, and he understood that India also wanted these words and they had accordingly been retained. The Japanese had resisted the fifth clause, since in Japan there are only two regular rest days each month, although, in addition, they have a number of public holidays which possibly bring the average up to four

<sup>1</sup> Pièce jointe au document n° 119.