

United States were endeavouring to reverse the arrangement as to the German cables which was reached about two weeks ago. Sir Robert Borden entered a strong protest against any proposal which would remove from Halifax the cable landed there some time ago with the consent of the Canadian Government and now in operation. This cable was cut early in the war. It extended from Emden to New York via the Azores. It was cut in two places, that is to say, Straits of Dover and on the Canadian side at a point distant from Halifax about three hundred miles and from New York about six hundred miles. The two ends were connected on the British side by a few miles of cable and on the Canadian side by three hundred miles of new cable. Sir Robert Borden pointed out that cable rates had been controlled by a monopoly, that United States and British monopolists were quite ready to join hands with each other, that the Canadian Government had effected a reduction of rates a few years ago by threatening to lay down a state owned cable, that it was the intention of the Canadian Government to request the transfer of this cable from the British Government, and that the people of Canada would keenly resent any proposal to withdraw the cable from Halifax and return it to New York. President Wilson at once said that there was no intention whatever to withdraw it from Halifax. Mr. Lloyd George stated that Mr. Lansing's proposal involved such withdrawal and Mr. Lansing admitted it. There was much discussion in which Sir Robert Borden participated on the following day. President Wilson has now agreed to a proposal, copy of which is attached and possibly this may be accepted,¹ although Mr. Lloyd George is very strong in his opposition to any departure from the arrangement first reached and supports wholeheartedly the attitude of Canada on this question. The experts from the Post Office and Admiralty are also entirely with us on this question.

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Paris, May 10, 1919

1. This memorandum covers the period from Saturday evening, May 3rd, to Saturday evening, May 10th.

2. The early part of the present week was taken up with the final consideration and revision of the Treaty of Peace. On Sunday [May 4] it was understood that there would be a Plenary Conference on Wednesday, [May 7] and that the Treaty would be delivered to the Germans on Thursday. It appears, however, that on Monday morning the Germans announced their intended departure as they had been waiting at Versailles for more than a week. Accordingly matters were hastened forward as the situation was one of great urgency. A meeting of the British Delegations was held on Monday afternoon at six o'clock and lasted until eight. Mr. Lloyd George attended this meeting for the first time in many weeks and gave to us a résumé of the Treaty as it would be presented. He announced that a Plenary Conference

¹Not printed.