

concerned, I am willing until Peace is finally concluded to either sign or refuse to sign anything at the request of the Prime Minister of Canada that is necessary to assure its speedy conclusion, but the privilege of signing conventions here, unnecessary to a peace treaty, is at best only a flattery of individuals, who will in the particular cases to which reference has been made probably be signing their own political death warrants. This is a matter of no particular importance to the world and might be a blessing in disguise to their countries.

The various parliaments of the Dominions will however, have to be consulted later when far away from the atmosphere of a Peace Conference, and as the members of Parliament in Canada can all read, all that will in my opinion be necessary is to lay the documents on their desks, give them time to read them over and watch their smiles becoming more and more bitter. The best for which I could hope would be that no motion would be made and that the members would content themselves with thinking that a long and serious step had been taken toward the dismemberment of the British Empire.

Parliaments, however, sometimes do curious things and, while I personally doubt it, it might be conceivable that a Canadian Parliament elected during the war, in session when Peace was concluded, in the glamour of Peace after years devoted to the consideration of war measures, might pass almost anything even remotely connected with the Peace Treaty. If this should occur, the Lord help any one of its members, who has future political ambitions in his own country, when he gets back to the people. Better would it be for that man that he had not been born, also better, far better, for his country.

With regrets for troubling you at such length on a matter apparently of such slight interest to the Government of Great Britain as the future status of the Dominion of Canada.

124. *Le ministre des Douanes et du Revenu intérieur  
au Premier ministre*

Dear Sir Robert,

Paris, April 29, 1919

In regard to the constitutional matter which I raised in reference to the signature and membership of the League of Nations and other documents aside from the Peace Treaty proper, it is not of course, important to us at present as a constitutional matter but only as to its working out in connection with these particular documents practically. For instance, in Article 7 of the Labour Legislation, there is no apparent doubt that one of the eight states or members, as the case may be, referred to as being of chief industrial importance, would be the British Empire. Whether there be such a state or member which has Dominions or not, is a constitutional point which I am quite willing, temporarily, to leave with the constitutional advisers of the