

not a member of the British Parliament, either of the House of Lords or of the House of Commons, can be a member of the War Cabinet. I do not speak of that in any other way than to call the attention of my right hon. friend to it. I doubt not that when he is in England the matter will be carefully considered. The answer sent by the Governor General is in these words:

Paraphrase of a telegram from His Excellency the Governor General to the Colonial Secretary.

Ottawa, Ontario, January 5th, 1917.

My Prime Minister and his colleagues have taken into earnest consideration the very important announcement set forth in your telegram of 25th December which has since been made public. He and his colleagues concur in the view that it is his duty to attend this Conference without regard to any difficulties here which his absence may occasion. With that view Parliament has been summoned for the 18th instant in order that business may be facilitated and advanced as much as possible before his departure. He would greatly appreciate information of a more definite character as to the questions to be considered, especially those touching the prosecution of the war and conditions of peace so far as they have been considered. He would also be grateful for earliest possible information as to latest date to which he may delay his departure for England and as to probable length of proposed series of meetings if that has been considered.

Devonshire.

That ends the correspondence. The desire of my right hon. friend to have some information as to the nature of the conference apparently has not yet been gratified.

The answer given by the Government was the only answer that could be given to such an invitation. The conference being called under such circumstances as those of to-day, and the prime ministers of the several dominions being invited, it follows as a matter of course that the answer sent from Canada must be an affirmative answer. We on this side of the House realize this as to hon. gentlemen opposite. We realize, also, that with the great burden of labour that has been thrown upon the Prime Minister by the war he cannot get away without serious inconvenience to himself, to his colleagues in the Government, and to Parliament. But all these considerations must be set aside, and the only one considered must be that which I have stated. We on this side of the House have every desire, so far as in our power lies, to facilitate the Prime Minister in the trip which he has to undertake. This is the twenty-second day of January. The conference is

to meet at the end of February. If my right hon. friend is to leave in time that he may not be overburdened in Canada or overburdened after he has arrived in England, he must take his departure from Canada at an early day in the month of February. We, therefore, are prepared to say at once to the Government that if they will postpone all other measures of public consideration, we are ready immediately to vote the necessary war credits that may be demanded, and also to grant a vote on account of the ordinary expenditures of the country for the time during which my right hon. friend will be absent from Canada, and to adjourn the House whenever it is convenient over any time that may be necessary to give him ample latitude for his business. I conclude by saying that, though we may differ on many things, upon this thing at all events we shall endeavour to meet the views of our friends on the other side, and to offer every possible facility for the carrying on of the Government of His Majesty the King.

Right Hon. Sir ROBERT BORDEN (Prime Minister): I desire to join my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) in congratulating the mover and seconder of the Address upon the very admirable speeches which they have made in the discharge of the duty devolving upon them to-day. The hon. member for Wentworth (Mr. G. C. Wilson) has referred to the departure of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, and it is my desire to associate myself with all that was said by him and by my right hon. friend with respect to the service which His Royal Highness gave to this country and to the Empire as Governor General of Canada. I have said more than once that the life of His Royal Highness has been distinguished by the characteristic of devotion to duty. It is perfectly true that when he assumed the duties of Governor General it was not contemplated that he should remain here for more than two years. A resolution of both Houses of Parliament was adopted expressing the appreciation of Parliament and the country of the services which he had given up to that time. But before the time arrived which had been set for his departure war broke out, and, though there were domestic circumstances which made it extremely difficult for him to prolong his stay in Canada, he did remain until he had served the full term of five years. I desire to express my very great appreciation of his counsel, and of his consideration in every way toward myself and