

British Delegations before it is adopted or sent to the Peace Conference. During the past five or six weeks there has been no consultation by the British members of that Commission with the representatives of the Dominions so far as I am aware. At least that is the case so far as Canada is concerned. It is obvious that the problems connected with labour may be very different in Canada from those which obtain in the United Kingdom; and naturally the British representatives on the Commission have but an imperfect knowledge of many questions that are of great moment in Canada. For example, in British Columbia there is Provincial legislation which reserves certain industries for white labour. Apparently the eighth article of the proposed report would call upon us to override this legislation. Any such proposal would arouse the fiercest resentment and might lead to the most serious consequences.¹

Yours faithfully,
R. L. BORDEN

85. *Le Conseiller britannique au Premier ministre*

Dear Sir Robert Borden,

Paris, March 28, 1919

Now that a distinct further stage has been reached in the workings of the League of Nations Commission, I think it may be of interest to you to hear how far we have been able to satisfy the points raised in your memorandum (W.C.P. 245).²

Before I deal with that paper in detail, let me thank you for the extremely valuable comments and suggestions it contains, which I took into most careful consideration before the meetings of the League of Nations Commission recommenced.

The document enclosed herewith represents the present stage of the Covenant. It shows nearly, but not quite, all the substantive amendments which have been agreed to and indicates where it has been decided that purely drafting amendments are required. One or two important questions, as you will see, are still outstanding, and one or two amendments have been introduced which on further consideration I shall try to induce the Commission to cancel; but I do not think it is worthwhile, waiting until the Covenant reaches quite its final form before letting you see what is being done to it.

¹ La Commission de la législation internationale du Travail proposait: 1) un code ou une déclaration de principe sur les droits de travail, qui ferait partie du Traité de Paix, 2) une convention pour la création d'une Organisation permanente internationale du Travail. Le projet original de la déclaration de principe, ou «Les Neuf Articles», comme on les a appelés par la suite, ne convenait pas du tout au Canada ni aux autres dominions, tel que l'indique la lettre ci-dessus. Sir Robert Borden a participé activement à l'élaboration d'une déclaration acceptable et, comme il a présenté subséquemment au Parlement un rapport détaillé sur la question (Canada, *Débats de la Chambre des communes*, 1^{re} session, 1919, pages 4692 à 4695), on a jugé inutile de reproduire ici les documents relatifs à ces négociations. Les documents publiés se réfèrent donc presque exclusivement aux négociations sur le texte du projet de Convention pour la création de l'Organisation permanente du Travail.

² Document n° 74.