

April, with Mr. Robinson, who is the chief American expert on labour conditions. The discussion related to the elimination from the Labour Convention (Article VII) of the following words:

No Member together with its Dominions and Colonies, whether self-governing or not, shall be entitled to nominate more than one member.

The interview was unsatisfactory as Mr. Robinson seemed to be greatly oppressed by the condition of public opinion in the United States with regard to the influence of the British Empire in the League of Nations and in the International Labour organizations. The result of the interview and the position taken by the Canadian Ministers thereon is sufficiently set forth in a letter from Sir Robert Borden to Mr. Lloyd George, dated 29th April, copy of which is attached.¹

7. In connection with this question and with respect to the construction of the League of Nations Covenant, Sir Robert Borden had an interview with President Wilson on Thursday afternoon [May 1] while in attendance at a meeting of the Council of Four at the Quai d'Orsay. Lord Robert Cecil, General Smuts and Mr. Hurst, all agree that under the Covenant as it has been adopted, the representatives of the Dominions are eligible under Article IV for election by the Assembly to the Council of the League. Mr. Sifton and Mr. Doherty are inclined to entertain the opposite view. The question is doubtless arguable but it should not be settled upon a purely technical or narrow construction. At the interview in question, President Wilson entirely agreed with the view that representatives are so eligible. Sir Robert Borden has asked Mr. Lloyd George to have this understanding brought up and confirmed by President Wilson and the first delegates of the other Powers, either in the course of the conversations in the Council of Four, or otherwise.²

8. The question is not free from difficulty so far as Canada is concerned. On the one hand we desire to be represented as part of the British Empire in the Council of the League of Nations from the first. The Covenant permits only one representative. Mr. Sifton and Mr. Doherty were of opinion that this representative should be for the United Kingdom, its Colonies and Dependencies, other than the self-governing Dominions and India. That proposal however, leaves Canada entirely unrepresented on the Council until her representative is elected by the Assembly. It is therefore of advantage to us that there would be (a) representation of the whole Empire in the meantime, and (b) the opportunities for additional distinctive representation of Canada whenever her increasing importance will have justified and accomplished the election of her representative to the Council.

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11. On Thursday afternoon [May 1], Sir Robert Borden was summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of Four at which the representatives of the

¹Document 122.

²See Document 126.