Speech delivered by Sir Robert Laird Borden, in the House of Commons, on the Imperial War Cabinet, 1917, the Imperial War Conference, 1917, and announcing the policy of Compulsory Military Enlistment, May 18th, 1917.[1]

□ □ □

Mr. Speaker, as hon. members of this House are aware, on the 20th December last the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom summoned the Prime Ministers of the overseas Dominions to meet in London with the members of the British Cabinet in conference. The proposed gathering was designated the Imperial War Cabinet. The purposes of the conference, as detailed in the telegram which was received, were to take counsel with each other: First, as to matters connected with the prosecution of the war; Second, as to the terms upon which peace might be made; Third, as to the problems which would arise immediately after the conclusion of peace.

Parliament was summoned at an earlier date than was at first intended in order that the representatives of Canada might arrive in Great Britain at the time designated. It was at that time proposed that the first meeting of the Imperial War Cabinet should be held during the last week of February. We left Ottawa on the 12th day of February and arrived in London on the 23rd day of that month. Unfortunately, through delay in the arrival of the representatives of India and of South Africa, the formal proceedings of the Imperial War Cabinet did not commence until a somewhat later date. We left Canada at a very interesting time. Ger-

---