

ministers (Council of Five) as the chief British delegate, when the main topic under discussion was the German position in Egypt. He was also appointed one of the two British Empire representatives on the Commission for Greek and Albanian questions and subsequently was elected Vice-President of the Commission. Borden was also tentatively proposed as British Ambassador to the United States, but this suggestion did not materialize.*

Borden and his Canadian associates were kept busy in the preliminary discussions in London and in the Allied discussions in Paris until early 1919. The Prime Minister spent four months in Paris, but did not remain for the signing of the Peace Treaties at Versailles; he left Sir George Foster to represent him. Political affairs in Canada, including strikes in Winnipeg and agitations among the demobilized war veterans, required his immediate return. Sailing on the ^{R.M.S.} ~~S.S.~~ Aquitania, on which President Wilson was also returning home, he arrived in Ottawa on May 26, 1919. Opinion in Canada was beginning to feel that his absence on diplomatic business abroad was too prolonged. The Toronto Globe of February 1, 1919, said:

It was doubtless a good thing to have the Premier of Canada and several of his colleagues at Paris when these tremendous decisions which will affect the course of world events for centuries were under consideration. The good feeling that already existed among the British overseas Dominions must have been increased by the support given by Canada to South Africa and Australia when the question of the future of the German colonies came up. But that issue having been disposed of, is there any reason why the Premier of Canada should

* A parallel was to be found in the 1880's, when Sir Charles Tupper earnestly besought Sir John A. Macdonald to accept appointment as British Minister to Washington. Macdonald, like Borden, rejected the suggestion.