

1917.¹ In other words the Dominions shall have a voice in the selection of such representatives through their membership in the Imperial War Cabinet or the Imperial Conference (as the case may be) until some other method is established by the Constitutional Conference above referred to.

6. The first meeting of the full Conference was held this afternoon [January 18] at three o'clock. It was anticipated that the Prime Minister of Canada would be a member of the Delegation representing the British Empire on that occasion; but as Newfoundland has no direct representation it was suggested that the Prime Minister of Newfoundland should be named with four British delegates as representatives of the Empire at the first meeting which was purely for formal purposes. While this proposal was not regarded by the Canadian representatives as desirable or even satisfactory, Sir Robert Borden did not feel disposed under the circumstances to press for alteration of this arrangement. Indeed, he was asked to permit the substitution of his name for that of the Prime Minister of Newfoundland, but as the matter had already been dealt with he did not feel it desirable under the circumstances that any alteration should be made. Accordingly he carried out his previous intention of naming Sir George Foster and Mr. Sifton as the Canadian representatives at the first meeting of the Conference, which they attended.

7. A somewhat embarrassing situation has been created by the decision of the five Great Powers at the conversations yesterday afternoon [January 17] to give an additional representative to Belgium and to Serbia. This alteration was effected without any communication or consultation with the representatives of the Dominions. The fact that a semi-official telegram from Mr. Dafoe to Mr. Nicholls had dwelt with some particularity upon the advantages of the previous arrangement renders the change still more embarrassing. It should be said that Mr. Lloyd George protested strongly against the alteration, but doubtless he felt himself constrained by the sympathetic considerations which were advanced with great earnestness by the other Powers on behalf of Belgium and Serbia. The difficulty has really arisen from the anomalous conditions within the British Empire with regard to international relations. It is to be hoped that a satisfactory arrangement will be made as to the selection of the panel representing the whole British Empire, as the present difficult situation might in that way be relieved in some measure.

Numéro 4

Paris, January 22, 1919

1. This memorandum covers the period from the afternoon of Saturday 18th January to the afternoon of Wednesday 22nd January.

2. The conversations between representatives of the five Great Powers have continued and up to the present time there has been no announcement of any other meeting except as mentioned below.

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¹ Pour la Résolution IX, voir le document n° 476, tome I, pages 308 et 309.