

(c) That the British Empire Delegation should have this information sufficiently in advance to enable them to study and, if need be, debate the questions involved, before the Plenary Session was held.¹

(The British Empire Delegation concurred in Sir Robert Borden's views, and it was agreed that they should be recorded.)

119. *Le Premier ministre au premier ministre du Royaume-Uni*

SECRET

Dear Mr. Lloyd George,

Paris, April 27, 1919

I have had several interviews with the labour representatives of the United States, Belgium and Japan, and after much discussion they have agreed to accept the accompanying amendment to the nine articles for insertion in the Treaty of Peace. It is largely, almost altogether, founded on Mr. Balfour's draft, which we were prepared to accept, but I think that the form now enclosed is an improvement from the standpoint of the British Dominions, as it altogether omits Article 8. The Japanese delegate gave a somewhat qualified assent, but his objection was not in respect of the omission of Article 8. The point which he made related to the Fifth Article, as in Japan some of the labouring population have only two days rest in each month. We explained to him that it was impossible for us to give way on that point; and I think we convinced him that the qualifying clauses at the commencement, together with the word "practicable" in the Fifth Article, afford sufficient safeguards from his standpoint.

I should add that Mr. Barnes was present at the final interview this morning and expressed his entire concurrence in the accompanying draft.

Faithfully yours,

[R. L. BORDEN]

[PIÈCE JOINTE]

W.C.P. 383E

Paris, April 27, 1919

AMENDED TEXT OF CLAUSES ON INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION
PROPOSED FOR INSERTION IN TREATY OF PEACE

The High Contracting Parties, recognising that the well-being, physical, moral and intellectual, of industrial wage-earners is of supreme international importance, have framed a permanent machinery associated with that of the League of Nations to further this great end.

They recognise that differences of climate, habits and customs, of economic opportunity and industrial tradition, make strict uniformity in the conditions of labour difficult of immediate attainment. But, holding as they do

¹ Les notes suivantes paraissent en bas de la page sur une copie du procès-verbal n° 28, trouvée parmi les documents de M. Borden sur la Conférence de la Paix:

Plenary Session held April 28th, at 3 p.m.

(a) Document not distributed, only seen on morning of 28th April.

(b) Document not ready till 29th April.

(c) No meeting called for such purpose, or held.