

results. This morning I had a conference with Mr. Hughes on the subject; and he and I entirely concur in the view that before the draft Convention is submitted to the Plenary Conference, it should be discussed in a full meeting of the British Empire Delegation at which you should be present. Mr. Hughes informs me that Mr. Massey entertains the same opinion which I am confident is shared by General Smuts.

Yours faithfully,
[R. L. BORDEN]

91. *Procès-verbal du Comité de la délégation de l'Empire
britannique sur la législation internationale
du Travail*¹

SECRET
W.P.C. 421

April 1, 1919

Present:

Rt. Hon. G. N. Barnes, M.P. (in the Chair)
Rt. Hon. W. M. Hughes
Rt. Hon. W. F. Massey
Maj.-Gen. H. H. The Maharajah of Bikaner
Rt. Hon. Lord Sinha
Hon. A. L. Sifton
Sir Robert Garran
Sir Malcolm Delevingne

Mr. Barnes explained that the meeting had been called at the suggestion of Sir Robert Borden, to consider objections that might be raised to the scheme embodied in W.C.P. 383 A. The representatives of the Dominions had been consulted at the outset and had been kept informed of the progress of the scheme at all stages; minor alterations could now be suggested, but fundamental changes would require the sanction of the Peace Conference.

Mr. Sifton objected to the provisions of Art. 35 on the ground that the Dominions would be bound by the scheme, even if they did not sign the Convention, and to those of Art. 19, which placed the U.S.A. in a favourable position as compared with the British Empire. He stated that no Canadian Government could stand if it accepted the scheme as drafted.

Mr. Hughes agreed with Mr. Sifton and urged that the scheme should be independent of the League of Nations. He considered that the Committee could not be expected to discuss a scheme which they had no power to alter materially. He suggested that a full meeting of the B.E.D. with the Prime Minister in the Chair was essential for the proper consideration of the scheme.

(The Committee adopted this suggestion and Mr. Barnes undertook to communicate it to the Prime Minister.)

¹ Constitué conformément au procès-verbal 1 de la D.E.B.