

6. The Dominions Prime Ministers had an interview during the present week with the representatives of Japan, at which Japanese proposals for an amendment to the preamble of the League of Nations Covenant were discussed. Canada and South Africa had no difficulty in accepting an amendment proposed by Sir Robert Borden which practically, although not entirely, satisfied the Japanese desire for recognition of their country as on terms of equality with other nations. New Zealand would also have agreed without hesitation except for the attitude of Australia, which seemed quite unreasonable.

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9. The Committee which prepared the draft of the League of Nations Covenant is busily engaged in revising it, and it is anticipated that the result of their labours will be made public within a few days.

10. There had been no meetings of the British Delegation during the present week until Saturday [March 29] when the proposals of the International Labour Commission were under consideration both in the morning and in the afternoon. A copy of the Report of the Commission and of the accompanying draft Convention will be forwarded by this mail.¹ The conclusion was reached that several of the Articles require amendment; and at the suggestion of Sir Robert Borden, a small Committee consisting of one representative of Great Britain, of each of the Dominions and of India, should meet on Monday [March 31] for the purpose of agreeing upon the nature and form of the amendments to be proposed and supported on behalf of the British Empire when the Convention comes up for consideration in the Plenary Conference. Mr. Doherty will be the representative of Canada on this Committee.

Numéro 15

Paris, April 7, 1919

1. This memorandum covers the period from Saturday evening, 29th March, to Monday evening, 7th April.

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5. Much discussion has taken place during the past week with regard to the proposed International Labour Convention, the form of which does not commend itself to the judgment of the Ministers from the Dominions. Several meetings of the British Empire Delegations have been held and it has been concluded finally to give the Convention official publication at a Plenary Conference to be held on Friday of this week [April 4] after which it can be sent back for such further modification as may seem desirable. The objections raised by Ministers from the Dominions include the following:

(I) The proposed Labour Convention ought not to be tied up to the League of Nations in such a way that each nation adhering to one of these

¹ Non reproduit.