

Great Britain was to review the whole military and diplomatic situation as it existed at that time in all the theatres of war, and the situation was not particularly encouraging then. He furnished the overseas representatives with full information as to the character of the March offensive, the losses which the Allies had sustained in that offensive, the strength of the British forces, an approximate estimate of the strength of the other allied forces, together with an estimate of the strength of the German forces against which we were called upon to contend. That review of the general military and political situation was followed by a review by the prime ministers of the different dominions of the war efforts of the dominions and of India. I have not the figures available, I wish I had; but I think it is fitting that we as Canadians should recognize the magnificent efforts put forth by other parts of the Empire. So far as the numerical contribution of men is concerned, Australia and New Zealand contributed a larger percentage of their population in men to the Army serving overseas than did the Dominion of Canada; but if you take into consideration the production of munitions as well, then Canada's contribution was equal, and probably greater, in men than that of either Australia or New Zealand. India also made a magnificent contribution in men, as did South Africa.

Then the Chief of the General Staff, Sir Henry Wilson, reviewed the military situation from his standpoint. The First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Eric Geddes, reviewed the whole naval situation and gave full information to the overseas ministers as to the results of Germany's submarine policy, and the measure of success which had attended His Majesty's Navy in combating the submarine menace. Then Lord Weir gave a review of the war in the air, and perhaps no information given to the Imperial War Cabinet was of greater interest than that given in reference to the air service. If the war had continued for another year strategic cities and towns of Germany would have been bombed out of existence. Preparations were being made on a gigantic scale for the air service in 1919, and it is not without interest to note that the preparations for the bombing of Berlin were completed just two or three days before the armistice was signed, and the officer entrusted with making arrangements for the bombing of Berlin and who was to lead the air squadron in the attack upon that city, was one of our

[Mr. Rowell.]

gallant Canadian officers, Major Mulock of Winnipeg. Colonel Bishop, another of our Canadian boys, still holds the world's record for the number of machines brought down. Then followed a review of the diplomatic situation by Mr. Balfour and Lord Curzon; then a review of the efforts Great Britain was putting forth in the building of ships and in providing munitions, guns and aeroplanes, not only for the season's operations but for the operations of the following year. After the overseas ministers had been put into possession of full information covering the military and diplomatic situation as it existed in June last, practical and urgent problems were taken up for consideration, and one of the first and most important was the question of Allied assistance in Russia. That question was thoroughly canvassed. The Imperial War Cabinet received the views not only of the Imperial staff, but of General Foch and the leaders of the Allied forces on the front. After giving the matter the fullest consideration, the Imperial War Cabinet came to the conclusion that there should be Allied intervention. That conclusion,—to indicate the procedure by which matters were dealt with,—was communicated to the Supreme War Council at Versailles. The Supreme War Council endorsed that conclusion, passed a resolution declaring in favour of intervention, and that such intervention was essential to the success of the Allied cause. All the allied nations agreed to participate in it.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Kamouraska): Was the number of Canadian soldiers to be contributed to that expedition decided by the Imperial War Cabinet?

Mr. ROWELL: No. That was not discussed by the Imperial War Cabinet. The War Cabinet settled the principle in favour of Allied intervention; that is, they made a recommendation to that effect. It was the Supreme War Council at Versailles that finally decided in favour of Allied intervention, and that decision was communicated to all the Allied Governments.

Mr. POWER: Did the suggestion to send Canadian troops to Siberia originate with Canadian or Imperial ministers?

Mr. ROWELL: The suggestion originated with the Imperial Government. The situation was this, and there is no reason now why the House should not be informed of the facts. In June last the situation on the Western front was so critical, the need of men so urgent, that the War Office urged the Canadian ministers to put another