97. *Extraits du procès-verbal de la dix-septième réunion de la délégation de l'Empire britannique*[1]

SECRET April 3, 1919

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION
(Reference B.E.D. 15, Minute 1)

. . .

Mr. Lloyd George asked Mr. Sifton to state the points which Canada desired to be raised.

Mr. Sifton said that the British Dominions were made subject to the Labour Convention regardless of whether they were willing to agree or not.

Mr. Lloyd George remarked that the Dominions were in the same position as Great Britain.

Mr. Sifton differed. Article 35 provided that the British Dominions and India should have the same rights and obligations under the Convention as if they were separate High Contracting Parties, but there was no power to reject it.

. . .

Mr. Sifton said that all his points were contained in a memorandum which had been circulated (W.C.P. 440).[2] Suggested amendments were also contained in this memorandum.

Mr. Barnes said that Article 35 might bear the construction mentioned by Mr. Sifton, but that this had not been intended. The British Dominions and India were High Contracting Parties like Great Britain. If there was any doubt the wording could be altered.

Mr. Sifton agreed that if the Dominions and India were made separate Parties, his objection would be met. In regard to Article 3 relating to representation, he proposed that three representatives instead of four should be appointed by the Government—one representing the Government, one the employers, and one the workers.

. . .

Mr. Lloyd George expressed himself as being in agreement with the grant of full rights to the Dominions as Contracting Parties, but said that he could not agree to a proposal giving trades unions or employers' organizations a parity with the Government in a matter of representation.

. . .

98. *Le plénipotentiaire britannique au Premier ministre*

Paris, April 8, 1919

Dear Sir Robert Borden,

I enclose a copy of the amendments, which have been drafted to meet the points raised by the Dominions at the Meeting of the British Empire Delegation, on Articles XXX, XXXI, and XXXV, and hope they will be acceptable.

GEORGE N. BARNES

[1] Représentant canadien présent: M. A. L. Sifton.
[2] Document n° 94.