

Glazebrook has pointed out, "there was no staff of permanent officials to study foreign affairs in general and the Peace Conference in particular, and in the available sources there is no hint of consideration in 1918 by the Cabinet of current international questions from a Canadian point of view. . . . Indeed there was little preparation of any kind except, apparently, some study of the constitutional aspect. No special committee or other group seems to have been set up to examine the issues likely to come before the Peace Conference, and certainly no standing organization was capable of undertaking such a task. The Department of External Affairs still existed in skeleton form only, and was in no position to supply background memoranda or experts on the various subjects of a conference. The only member of the Department to go, in fact, was the Legal Adviser - a situation which was in line with the concentration by the Ministers on legal and constitutional matters." (1)

Borden quickly acquired a position of prestige in the imperial and allied councils that received a recognition equal to that of Smuts. In the absence of Lloyd George, Borden presided over various British meetings. He was invited by Lloyd George to be the chief British delegate to a conference with the Russians at Prinkipo, in the Sea of Marmora, in February, 1919; two Ministers cabled him from Ottawa urging him not to go, but having reluctantly accepted, he felt he must proceed; but that conference in the end was cancelled. In the middle of April he attended the council of foreign

(1) Glazebrook. op.cit. p. 308.