

entitled to any representation except through the one member appointed by a High Contracting Party.¹

I also brought to the attention of the Committee the fact that although the first meeting is arranged to be held in Washington, to be organized by representatives of seven nations in which Committee Switzerland and Belgium are parties, there is no possibility of representation of the Dominions. Any work done by that Convention, although under the influence of the United States which in that case would be in practise [*sic*] practically a governing influence, would be in effect compulsory upon the Prime Minister of Great Britain who would have to submit it to his Parliament and assume responsibility therefore, while the President of the United States would not be bound by anything except the necessity of sending copies through the ordinary official channels to the Governments of the separate States. A similar distinction, I suggested, would arise if the Dominions were, in accordance with Section 35, subject to the conclusions of this Committee. The Prime Minister of Canada would be carrying out his agreement by sending copies through the ordinary official channels to the nine Provincial Governments. The same thing would happen in Australia, while the Prime Minister of New Zealand would be expected to submit the convention to his Parliament as a Government measure, and further, said that these manifestly unequal conditions would in my opinion not satisfy either Labour People or anyone else in the various Dominions.

The result of the discussion was that Mr. Barnes agreed to ask the Prime Minister to call a special meeting of the British Empire Delegation for the purpose of presenting these and some serious questions affecting India, it being explicitly stated by Mr. Barnes that the British Delegation felt that the printed document as it exists now, should be placed before a Plenary Session of the Peace Conference and that amendments could only be made there or by that Conference referring it back to the International Committee. As this is probably the most serious problem, so far as our domestic matters are concerned, it requires very thorough examination before receiving the assent, either by inference or otherwise, of the Government of Canada.

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR L. SIFTON

90. *Le Premier ministre au premier ministre du Royaume-Uni*

Dear Mr. Lloyd George,

Paris, April 1, 1919

The discussion of the proposed Labour Convention on Saturday morning and afternoon and again yesterday was not productive of very satisfactory

¹ M. Sifton semble avoir confondu l'article 35 et le Protocole de l'article 7 qui traite de l'élection au Conseil d'administration. L'article 35, paragraphe 1, se lit:

The British Dominions and India shall have the same rights and obligations under the Convention as if they were separate High Contracting Parties.

Les paragraphes pertinents du Protocole de l'article 7 se trouvent dans la pièce jointe au document n° 125, page 141.