

Calgary Herald July 18/24

055968

CANADA AND THE LONDON CONFERENCE

If, by reason of Premier King's insistence, Canada is granted recognition among representatives at the allied conference on German reparations, the prime minister will have done well. His stand for the rights of this Dominion will merit the commendation of our people. If the right of Canada to a place at that conference is not recognized as it was recognized at the Versailles conference it may be assumed that a Canadian delegate will not sit at the conference.

It is surprising that the present position of affairs should be so much like that which preceded the Versailles gathering. France on the former occasion objected to representation of the British self-governing Dominions. British statesmen were inclined to give effect to the French opposition. Sir Robert Borden pressed Canada's claims so vigorously that he won his point. Canadian statesmen were present at Versailles as plenipotentiaries of King George representing Canada.

The Lausanne debate arose from similar French objections. If the various sections of the British empire were entitled to representation at international conferences, France asked, why not the French overseas colonies?

For some unaccountable reason the British government gave in that time to the French pressure. The British government's action in that matter derogated from the status won by Canada in the Peace treaty.

Prime Minister King has had to fight over again the battle successfully waged by Sir Robert Borden. Whether he is able to uphold Canada's position with equal success will be disclosed by the present London conference.

Canada has a national policy in respect to treaties that she may be expected to sign. It is that the status won by this country by her sacrifices during the war shall be maintained and that the people of this country have the right through their elected representatives to approve of any treaty which she is asked to sign. That is not Conservative nor

Liberal, but Canadian policy. It has been upheld by Sir Robert Borden and Hon. Arthur Meighen in the past and is now being upheld, with the approval of the people of Canada, by Premier King.

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MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 3 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 98)

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