

same opinion fails to comprehend that labour conditions and problems in the various Dominions are essentially different from those which prevail in the United Kingdom.

As to the influence of the British Empire, may I venture to point out that the nation capable of exercising the greatest influence both in the League and under the Convention, is the United States. If we examine the list of original members and of States invited to accede, one observes Cuba, Haiti, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Salvador, Colombia, and Venezuela. Out of these States one could easily select at least six over whom the United States can exercise a more effective control in such matters than can be exercised by the British Government over Canada, Australia, South Africa or New Zealand.

The Peace Treaty must be signed and ratified and the Labour Convention for the time being. But it is quite clear that Parliament may qualify this by a direction to the Government that the notice specified in the third paragraph of Article I of the Covenant, shall be immediately given in order that Canada, by withdrawal from the League of Nations, may also withdraw from the Labour Convention and thus avoid the continuance of a condition which her people will naturally regard as humiliating. The Dominions have maintained their place before the world during the past five years through sacrifice which no nation outside Europe has known. I am confident that the people of Canada will not tamely submit to a dictation which declares that Liberia or Cuba, Panama or Hedjaz, Haiti or Ecuador must have a higher place in the international labor organization than can be accorded to their country which is probably the seventh industrial nation of the world, if Germany is excluded from consideration.

Unfortunately I shall be obliged to relate to Parliament my efforts to have this condition changed and to disclose the source from which the opposition came. Otherwise I cannot justify myself to the people whom I have served throughout this war.

Yours faithfully,
[R. L. BORDEN]

123. *Le ministre des Douanes et du Revenu intérieur
au Premier ministre*

Dear Sir Robert,

Paris, April 29, 1919

I enclose you memo in regard to League of Nations, Labour Convention and Air Convention. The principle in regard to the latter is even more prominently set forth as it is made applicable to Dominions particularly. It makes no difference whether we sign or not.

You may make whatever use you wish of this memo, and if it is of any interest to anyone you may express my decided opinion that the signing of these documents on behalf of your Government or their acceptance by the