

discussing the question, which is unnecessary here, of the jurisdiction of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, it is hardly conceivable at the present day that Parliament would endeavour to legislate for or in the name of the British Empire, and I would assume that the Government thereof would only appoint officials or delegates, whether permanent or temporary, in the name of and for the United Kingdom and the territory for which its Parliament usually legislates.

If this be correct I think it would be well to bring the matter immediately to the attention of the Prime Minister because it would certainly be placing him in a rather curious position if, as appears likely, a document of this kind should be adopted by the full Peace Conference on Thursday next, which will necessarily have to be revised thereafter and signed in a very different way.

I tried at the meeting yesterday to have the ordinary legal description of the United Kingdom inserted in Article 4 and placed just above Canada in the Annex, but was informed that it would be entirely too long and cumbersome. This argument, I am afraid, would not appeal to the legal advisers of the Government of Great Britain when they come to place the Treaty in legal form for signature.

If you can prevent them committing this error perhaps they would make the slight amendment which interferes with no one else and is strictly in accordance with your motion at the last meeting of the Peace Conference to the Protocol to Article 7 in the Labour Convention which is now a part of the League of Nations. This could be done very simply by inserting after the word "Dominions" where it occurs in said Protocol, the words "not being members".

Yours very truly,
ARTHUR L. SIFTON

116. *Le Conseiller juridique britannique au Premier ministre*

My dear Sir Robert,

Paris, April 23, 1919

My best efforts to get the objectionable passage in Article 7 of the Labour Convention—the passage which formerly appeared in the Protocol—relating to the constitution of the Governing Body cut out, have failed.

I tried hard to persuade my colleagues that the Drafting Committee might with the acquiescence of their delegations treat the change as a matter of drafting authorized by the amendment which you carried at the Plenary Conference—but the U.S.A. refuse definitely so to regard it.

The only course seems to be for you to take the matter up with the Labour Commission or in the full Conference on the 28th.

Very sincerely yours,
C. J. B. HURST