

manufacture of any other foreign country. Nor shall any prohibition or restriction be maintained or imposed on the importation of any goods, the produce or manufacture of the territories of any of the High Contracting Parties into the territories of another, from whatsoever place arriving, which shall not equally extend to the importation of the like goods being the produce or manufacture of any other foreign country.

Assuming that this draft or something like it will be put forward at the future special Conference it may well be that the form of words used, and particularly the use of the words "any other foreign country", sufficiently safeguard our position but doubts have been expressed from some quarters, and it is, therefore, better that the question should be thoroughly re-examined while there is time so that no awkward question may be raised in future years.

3. I suggest, therefore, that this draft Convention (W.C.P. 144) should be submitted to the Law Officers of the Crown with a request for their opinion as to whether it sufficiently recognizes our right to enter into an Imperial Preference arrangement. If they find the form of words used inadequate for the purpose they should be requested to submit an alternative wording. Their opinion should be based on the assumption that the assent of the Dominions to the future general Convention will be given at the time of its conclusion through the signature of separate Dominion plenipotentiaries in such a manner as that already proposed for the conclusion of the Peace Treaty (See paper circulated March 12th—No. W.C.P. 242).

R. L. BORDEN

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

Dear Sir Robert,

Paris, March 31, 1919

I attended this morning, Committee Meeting in regard to the report of the International Commission on Labour Legislation. Practically nothing was done in the matter of consideration of special clauses, the discussion being on the general principles as applicable to the Dominions and India, and I may say that the representatives of the Dominions and India were practically unanimous, first, in the idea that membership of an International Labour Organization should be separate and distinct from membership of a League of Nations, second, that Section 35 should be so amended as to allow Dominions to accept or reject membership in an International Labour Organization separate from each other or Great Britain.

I also brought to the attention of the Committee the manifest absurdity that either in organization or even in a possibility of being represented on the Governing Body, the Dominions were ignored, it being absolutely stated in Section 35 that the Dominions whether self-governing or not, shall not be