

THE PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE OF 1919

1. *President of Privy Council to Prime Minister*

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
My dear Sir Robert,

Ottawa, November 7, 1918

RE PUBLICITY OF YOUR WORK OVERSEAS

Confirming my conversation with you this afternoon would say that it appears to me to be very important in the public interest that full publicity should be given to the work of yourself and your associates during the time you are over in England on your present mission to the Peace Conference.

The lack of publicity last summer created a serious condition of public sentiment in Canada and led to very grave and widespread dissatisfaction with the Government.

It appears to me that publicity will be doubly important during the next few months. With the probable closing down of munitions plants and men being thrown out of employment and with the reaction from the strain of work, there is likely to be considerable unrest. We can only expect to carry public opinion if we keep it well advised of what is being done by the Ministers overseas and of the necessity of their being there.

It also may be very important to have the Canadian viewpoint on the Peace negotiations kept before the American people and this we can do by the establishment of the New York office at once, provided the Canadian viewpoint as seen at the Peace Conference is sent over to the New York office.

For the sake, therefore, of public opinion on this continent, I would strongly recommend that you take with you, one of the leading journalists of Canada to whom you could give full confidence and keep fully advised and who, knowing Canadian public opinion, would be able to send frequent despatches as to the work you and your colleagues are doing.

At the consultation with Mr. Nichols he suggested Mr. J. W. Dafoe of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, if you could possibly secure him and I cannot think of a better man for this work.¹

¹J. W. Dafoe accepted the appointment and stayed with the delegation in London and Paris until early March, 1919, at which time he left for Canada. A. Trepanier became responsible for press liaison.