

125 million pounds annually; and that of Sir Charles Addis,<sup>1</sup> who estimated that Germany could pay from 60 to 65 million pounds annually. Apart from such evidence the Report of the Committee was based on the opinions of its members, framed in each case on such information as each possessed. He had signed the Report subject to certain protests, in order to expedite its consideration by the Imperial War Cabinet. He agreed with the Report so far as it was in favour of presenting a bill for the total cost of the war to the parties which had wrongfully originated and carried on the war. This would be a helpful lesson to mankind. He was in favour of reparation plus indemnity—the one grew out of the other. We should first have reparation and then indemnity. Germany should be made to pay to the last farthing, with the proviso that regard must be had to her capacity to pay and to the effect of the mode of payment of the indemnity on the economic interests of the Allies. But when an attempt was made to fix the precise amount which could be extracted from the enemy Powers, then examination must be made by some commission with more information than was in the possession of the Committee.

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#### 17. *Acting Prime Minister to Prime Minister*

TELEGRAM P. 92

Ottawa, December 24, 1918

From White. I suggest that when claims for reparation for actual damages to property and persons are being considered you put forward the Halifax disaster as a proper subject for compensation to Canada. Even if Germany cannot be held directly liable the war was the cause of the disaster and she should be held responsible. If Germany is not compelled to make good this loss we are entitled to consideration by the Allies. I do not see how the case can be essentially differentiated from those where direct enemy action is involved. Canada has so many claims for reparation for actual damage and such heavy general war expenditure that we must press every possible claim unless we are to come off badly at the peace settlement.

#### 18. *Acting Prime Minister to Prime Minister*

TELEGRAM P. 102

Ottawa, December 27, 1918

From White. Your B.47.<sup>2</sup> Amount included in total war outlay to 31st March next for maintenance troops in France two hundred million dollars. Estimated war requirements next year in addition to usual outlays for pay

<sup>1</sup>Director of the Bank of England; member of the Cunliffe Currency Committee, 1918–1919.

<sup>2</sup>Document 9.