

MILITARY DEFENCE.

Fifth Day.
23 April 1907.

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DEFENCE.

CHAIRMAN : Gentlemen, the first business is to finally approve the Resolution on Military Defence which was before the meeting on Saturday last. I understand that there is some suggestion from Canada.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN : In the fourth line I would ask whether the words "to immediate action" do any particular good, and whether they might not be left out?

Mr. HALDANE : We thought that might be so. You mean missing out those words and going on to "any of the Governments"?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN : Yes.

Mr. HALDANE : I do not think those words mean anything. They look as if they suggested that there might be immediate action. Shall we strike out "without wishing to commit to immediate action"?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN : Simply reading it as "without wishing to commit any of the Governments."

Mr. HALDANE : Omitting the words "to immediate action."

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN : Yes.

Dr. JAMESON : Is there any harm in suggesting immediate action?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN : Is it any good?

Dr. JAMESON : Yes, I think it is a kind of fillip towards doing something, and not only talking about it.

Mr. HALDANE : I do not attach importance myself to it, one way or the other.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER : "Without wishing to commit any of the Governments," I think it should be.

CHAIRMAN : Omit the words "to immediate action." Is that agreed to?

Mr. F. R. MOOR : I do not think it improves it.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN : Then as to the word "recruited," it seems to me "recruited" is hardly a word to apply to officers. "Selected" would, I think, be a better word.

Mr. HALDANE : "Selected" is I think, a more appropriate word to apply to an officer.

Mr. DEAKIN : Do we gain anything by retaining any of these words "without wishing to commit to immediate action any of the Governments represented"? Would it not be advantageous to omit those words, and possibly substitute some other words for "recognises and affirms," to indicate clearly the view of the Conference?