

## Article 44

The tariffs should be made, so far as possible applicable over substantial periods of time and changes in rates and in customs regulations should be made as rarely as possible and duly published, the practice of frequent modification for the purpose of economic warfare being entirely abandoned.

I would direct the attention of my right hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition, particularly to these last words. He has been urging throughout this debate that in trade matters we should use the tariff more or less continually as an instrument of economic warfare. At this conference of European and world statesmen—

Mr. MEIGHEN: I was commenting on the fact that the government was doing so itself.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, no, I think the right hon. member went much further than that in his comments. Indeed his whole speech on the French treaty was a declamation in favour of economic warfare and the uses to be made of the tariff in that connection. However, this conference at Genoa of men who had seriously at heart the future welfare of Europe and the well being of mankind deemed it advisable to give as their studied and thoughtful opinion that the practice of frequent modification of tariffs for the purpose of economic warfare should be abandoned. Not only did the Genoa conference consider this matter; it was dealt with also by the League of Nations. Canada is a member of the League of Nations, and as such we are specially interested in any step which that body may take to further the object for which it has been created. A great deal has been said about tariffs and their bearing upon world peace. The League of Nations exists for the purpose of furthering the peace of the world. Among matters to which in this connection the League of Nations has felt it necessary to give attention have been some of the questions of economic relations between the different countries. I have here a copy of the latest proceedings of the League of Nations and I find that the economic commission, which is a committee of the council, had under consideration the recommendation of the Genoa conference to which I have referred, and that this committee of the council made its report to the assembly of the League of Nations. The following appears at page 1396 of the official Journal of the League of Nations for November, 1922:

B. The council, desirous that effect should be given to the recommendations embodied in article 3 of the resolution of the Genoa Economic commission, "that tariffs should be made so far as possible applicable for substantial periods of time and changes in rates

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

and in customs regulations should be made as rarely as possible..."

Resolved:

To endorse and communicate to the states members of the League the following resolution adopted by the Economic committee of the League at its last session:

"The Economic committee is deeply impressed with the inconvenience and injury caused to international commerce which result from the uncertainty arising from frequent changes of customs tariffs and associates itself cordially with the resolution of the Genoa conference on this subject.

"The committee strongly recommends that all states should endeavour to ensure that their customs tariffs should remain applicable over substantial periods of time, and that changes in rates and classifications should be effected as seldom as possible and only when they are required by the essential economic needs of the country."

That resolution, according to the report of the assembly, was unanimously adopted by the assembly of the League of Nations at its last session. Now I read these resolutions not for the purpose of helping to foster the impression that in speaking of stability in matters of tariff the action of the government contemplates finality in any particular or in any direction. I rather wish to bring home to the members of this House, as far as may be possible, what has become so apparent to the statesmen of other parts of the world, that if we are to get away from the unsettled conditions of the present, if we are to restore confidence among the nations of the world, if once more this world is to be brought back to the order which prevailed prior to the Great War, we must all seek, in whatever directions we can, particularly in our international relations, to establish something in the nature of a reasonable stability. That is all we are aiming at. We do not intend to sacrifice in any particular the needs of any class of our citizens or the needs of industry, the needs in any direction of consumers or of producers, but what we do wish to make clear is that, so long as conditions continue to exist as they are at present, so long as on the part of the United States, the tariff wall remains what it is against us, and in Europe the unsettled condition continues to be what it is, and so long, may I add, as Canada remains the only country that has reduced its tariff since the Great War, while other countries continue to put up their tariffs, for that period of time at least we shall give to those who are interested in investing their capital and establishing industry in this country, and who are seeking to restore business to a higher level of development, assurance that there will not be instability where stability ought to prevail.

Mr. GOOD: Does the Prime Minister think that stability on a wrong and false basis would help to allay unrest?