

[PIÈCE JOINTE]

Mémorandum du ministre des Douanes et du Revenu intérieur

SECRET

W.C.P. 440

THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR
LEGISLATION AND THE DRAFT CONVENTION CREATING A PERMANENT
LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Regarding the proposal from what might be described as the bureaucratic standpoint, it is well arranged, and most important matters are provided for; but the point of view as to whether it will encourage labour and the public generally to accept the recommendations of the Peace Conference, or induce the countries of the civilized world to become parties to the League of Nations and the Permanent Labour Organization, has been apparently entirely overlooked.

On the question whether the Permanent Labour Organization should, as in this report, be an integral part of the League of Nations, there is of course very great difference of opinion. Personally, I should be willing to accept either solution of this particular question and should favour the one which would induce the greater number of peoples represented in the Peace Conference willingly to enter the League of Nations—always on the assumption that the Permanent Labour Organization shall permit no reservations by individual countries as to their acceptance of the scheme. Slight amendments to a few of the clauses would render the contract much more acceptable.

Article 3

In this Article it is provided that there shall be two Government Delegates and two other Delegates representing employers and workpeople and appointed by the Government. There are at least two possible objections to this plan. It would appear that one Government Delegate and one Delegate representing employers and one Delegate representing workpeople would be much more acceptable. This view was strongly urged by the French, Italian and American Delegates and opposed by the Delegation from Great Britain and Belgium. The present plan would either increase the present feeling between employers and workpeople and cause more bitter fights for practical control of Governments, or would on the other hand, appeal to workpeople as being so manifestly unfair as to throw discredit on the whole scheme.

Article 14

There does not appear to be any good reason why suggestions made formally by the parties mentioned should not be placed on the agenda for consideration. It would certainly be more popular if the various countries and organizations could be sure that the Conference would at least pay them