

REPORT OF
COMMITTEE
ON CUSTOMS
ADMINIS-
TRATION

1. The Report of the Committee on Customs Administration was read to the Conference, at the request of the Chairman, by the Honourable W. Downie Stewart, the Chairman of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN explained the reasons which had led the Government of Canada to adopt, several years ago, certain of the provisions contained in Section 43 of the Canadian Customs Act, and to extend their application in 1930. He stated that without this Section of the Act it would have been impossible to maintain the national integrity of Canada during the last twelve months. He did not think that the report of the Sub-Committee which was adopted by, and included in, the report of the Committee on Customs Administration should be made public, inasmuch as it was virtually an indictment of this Canadian legislation which had been enacted for the strongest reasons of national policy. He referred in particular to the necessity of such measures of protection for the domestic producer against the seasonal importation, at ruinous prices, of garden produce and fruits from the United States. He pointed out also that the trade agreement between Canada and the West Indies which cost Canada about \$1,000,000. a year in maintaining the steamship services, would be of no value unless West Indian fruits were protected by the provisions of Section 43.

After discussion IT WAS AGREED that the Conference should adopt (of the Committee on Customs Administration) the following statement included in the Report, and that the remainder of the report should not be made public:

The Committee on Customs Administration is of the opinion that the aims to be kept in view should be:-

1. The avoidance of uncertainty as to the amount of duty which would be payable on the arrival of goods in the importing country;
2. The reduction of friction and delay to a minimum;
3. The provision of facilities for the expeditious and effective settlement of dispute relating to all matters affecting the application of the Customs Tariff.

It is also agreed that any measures which Customs Administrations may take to safeguard themselves against evasion should be consistent with these principles.