

with a view to generalizing the principle of the protection of minorities, the plan would not be open to any objection. M. Motta (Switzerland) stated that his delegation would follow with great sympathy the suggestion of M. Beelaerts van Blokland, but M. Osusky (Czechoslovakia) thought that difficulties might be created unless the proposal should deal with minorities in all countries.

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In the economic field, the Conference for the Abolition of Import and Export Prohibitions and Restrictions and the Conference on the Trade in Hides, Skins and Bones were referred to by numerous speakers. M. Voldemaras (Lithuania) considered that nations which devoted all their effort to their economic development were, even from a military point of view, much stronger than others; hence any work which the League was doing in connection with economic problems was work for peace.

Though several speakers referred favourably to the work of the Economic Conference as arresting the upward trend of tariffs, disagreement with some of its recommendations in this regard was recorded by the Irish Free State representative, because they were worded in such a way as to summon all countries to move in the direction of a reduction, without considering whether their tariffs were already low or excessively high. This showed that the Conference had not borne sufficiently in mind the difference between countries in a high stage of industrial development and countries at the beginning of their industrial growth. In similar vein, Mr. McLachlan (Australia) considered it dangerous and hazardous for the League to concern itself actively with the questions of customs tariffs, for they were regarded by the constituent nations as so much a part of their national policy that it was inconceivable that the League should make any direct representation on the subject of the nature of tariffs. The only possibility before the League was, therefore, the holding of international conferences on the height and incidence of tariffs on given commodities or groups of commodities. He felt that the time had not yet come for the League to enter this field. The collection of information and the promotion of a clearer knowledge of the progress of commerce, industry and agriculture, however, met with the whole-hearted approval of the Australian delegation.

M. Belloni, referring to the Italian viewpoint and what had already been accomplished, said that the League should concentrate its efforts upon a study of the principles and general problems of economic policy, but should refrain from intervening in questions, the effect of which on the world economic position in general was only partial or contingent. He considered it dangerous for the League to cling to the illusion that the high moral authority attaching to recommendations made by the economic organizations sufficed in all cases to secure success in a field where resolutions adopted by the League must, on the whole, be applied by private organizations or by individuals. M. Mowinckel (Norway) informed the Assembly that the Norwegian reservation to the Convention on Export and Import Prohibitions and Restrictions had been dropped.

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Regret and disappointment were expressed in very frank terms by numerous speakers on the lack of progress being made with the problem of disarmament. M. Unden (Sweden) pointed out that every year fresh obstacles seemed to arise and that, if the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference did not very shortly produce tangible results, public opinion would feel that, in spite of the Covenant, in spite of the Locarno and Briand-Kellogg Pacts, the sense of security was not yet sufficiently developed to enable the first steps to be taken in the direction of disarmament. A suspicion would naturally follow that the Governments of the Great Powers did not attach any real value to their solemn engagements.