

to stabilize tariffs had met with much success. An attempt had been made also to reduce tariffs by groups of commodities, but in connection with the question of aluminum, it had been necessary to abandon hope of arriving at a solution. With respect to the question of cement, preliminary work had already been done, and a Committee of Experts would meet in the autumn to discuss the question in detail. These were the only results of the recommendations of the Economic Conference relating to the collective reduction of tariffs.

Other speakers voiced the same disappointment at the lack of results from the work of the Economic Organization. The view was expressed that the numerous recommendations of the Economic Conference had remained ineffective largely because they had been framed by experts and not by responsible representatives of governments. The Delegates of Great Britain and France criticized the work of the Economic Consultative Committee, which had been set up after the Conference and had carried on long discussions without result. The Belgian Delegate considered that the Economic Organization should study, not particular commodities, but the whole question of trade, beginning with Europe where the situation was most serious. The Delegate of the Irish Free State complained that so far the League had done nothing for States whose economic development was in its infancy, except to ask them to deprive themselves of their only means of protection.

A number of draft resolutions were brought before the Committee of which one of the most important was a Franco-British resolution concerning a tariff-truce. The Rapporteur suggested a period of three years instead of two for the proposed truce, and considered that such an agreement would not be an end in itself, but would merely afford a breathing-space to enable States to conclude agreements for the reduction of tariffs.

In the discussion which followed there was a clear-cut division between the viewpoint of the Dominions and certain other overseas countries and that of most European countries. Thus India, the Irish Free State and Australia insisted that due consideration must be given to the peculiar circumstances of countries whose industrial development was still in its early stages. The Delegate of India could not agree to a tariff-truce, as he felt obliged to reserve the right to encourage the national industries, and his government could therefore not attend a conference which had as its object the prohibition of raising tariffs for a number of years. The New Zealand representative considered that customs tariffs as a means of raising national revenue were perfectly legitimate. South Africa emphasized the necessity of protection to young and growing countries. The representative of Canada, after analyzing Canada's peculiar position in relation to a highly industrialized country like the United States, stated that any proposal that Canada should pledge herself to throw open her markets to a nation which closes hers to the Dominion was altogether unjustified; he felt that Canada should reserve entire liberty of action.

The resolution as finally adopted provides for a preliminary conference to discuss the question of an economic truce. States which attend this conference should be prepared to consider entering into an agreement not to increase their protective tariffs above the present level for a period of from two to three years, or to impose new protective duties or create new impediments to trade; the conference would also, if necessary, elaborate a program of subsequent negotiations for facilitating economic relations by all practicable means and especially by reducing hindrances to trade. Members of the League and also non-Members are requested to intimate to the Secretary-General of the League before the end of 1929 whether they are prepared to take part in such a conference. On the basis of the replies received, the Council will decide whether the Conference should be convoked. If an agreement is reached, the States parties to it will