

APPENDIX "B"

The 17th Plenary Congress of the International Federation of League of Nations Societies met in Montreux, from June first to seventh. Our Canadian Society, although not members of the Federation, had previously been invited to be represented. Due to our non-membership I attended the Sessions of the Conference as an observer.

The work of the Congress was as usual divided amongst six Commissions and the Commissions following their deliberations on the subjects allotted to them reported to Congress.

The report which overshadowed all others in importance was, of course, the report on the SINO-JAPANESE CONFLICT. The Resolution passed as a result of this report received rather wide publicity but for the benefit of any one who may not have seen it, the Resolution is of so much importance that I shall read it.-

SINO-JAPANESE CONFLICT

Congress, after recalling the unanimous adoption of the findings of the Lytton Report and approving the resolution passed by the Federation's Representative Council in February 1933.

"Regrets to note that Japan, far from conforming to the recommendations of the Assembly has extended its illicit military occupation of China without the Committee of XXI, sitting in private session, reaching any proposal for collective action;

Expresses its conviction that the armistice imposed upon China does not free the members of the League of Nations from their obligations to preserve the territorial integrity of China as of any other member;

Consequently requests the League of Nations to restore confidence in the efficacy of the provisions of the Covenant by seeking in public discussion under the control of public opinion such collective diplomatic, economic or financial measures as may restore to China the exercise of sovereign rights over all her territories, and

Suggests as particularly adequate for this purpose the prohibition of imports coming from Japan."

Copies of this resolution were sent by Congress to the Secretary General of the League to M. Hymans (Chairman of the League's Advisory Committee) and to Mr. T.V. Soong.

The reception of this report by the Federation was most impressive. After discussion the delegates of the twenty-four countries except the Japanese delegate, went on record in favour of the resolution. In spite of the fact that we realize only too well that League of Nations Societies, although their efforts represent the carrying out of the desires of perhaps 95% of the world for the peaceful arbitration and settlement of world disputes, unfortunately have not yet sufficiently organized to put teeth in their conclusions, yet nevertheless I feel that there was very deep significance in the passing of this resolution. I felt in fact rather deeply moved, because I believed that I was witnessing one of those acts which contribute to the small beginning of a new era in the affairs of men. It does not take great imagination to realize that with the present complicated economic structure it is not a happy situation for a country to have its actions weighed in what amounts to an international court of public morals, and to be found guilty in the eyes of the world. Notwithstanding the fact that the international peace movement fostered and given voice by the League of Nations Societies is still in its early infancy, I believe that it furnishes a medium to consolidate the expression of the opinions of the decent people of the world, which goes a long way to deprive the ill-gotten gains of illegal warfare of their value. I think that Japan realizes only too well the effect of