

markets for Canadian products, given also the probability that at no very distant date an economic conference of the Members of the British Empire will be called, I feel that Canada should reserve entire liberty of action."

A number of the nations of Continental Europe, on the other hand, were prepared to welcome the proposal for a tariff truce as an experimental approach to the economic unification of Europe which M. Briand had adumbrated in his speech to the Assembly. M. Briand invited the delegates to contemplate the possibility of creating the "United States of Europe." He did not formulate any specific proposals or ask the Assembly to decide whether the scheme was feasible or desirable. His initial suggestion that the time was perhaps ripe for the consideration of such a project, was frankly a *ballon d'essai*. The Assembly was at once interested and German, Swiss, and Czechoslovak delegates endorsed the idea as deserving of further study, but agreed with M. Briand that more intimate economic co-operation was a condition precedent to any plan for political union.

As the question is likely to be more thoroughly explored at the next Assembly, M. Briand's statement of his position may be quoted:—

"I think that, among peoples constituting geographical groups like the peoples of Europe, there should be some kind of federal bond; it should be possible for them to get into touch at any time to confer about their interests, to agree on joint resolutions, and to establish among themselves a bond of solidarity which will enable them, if need be, to meet any grave emergency that may arise. That is the link I want to forge."

Disarmament

The Assembly's examination of past progress toward this goal was inevitably influenced by the impending effort of the great naval Powers to achieve the limitation and, if possible, the reduction of naval armaments. For the time being, the task of disarmament was being borne by other shoulders and in consequence the Assembly's activities in this direction were largely limited to the further study of the draft agreement for the limitation of land and air armaments and trained reserves. This enquiry was pursued in the sessions of the Third Committee and is described in some detail in the attached record of its proceedings. The discussion of disarmament in the plenary sessions tended to turn on the old question of precedence—is security the necessary prior condition of disarmament—or does disarmament anticipate and ensure security? It was generally felt that as the naval difficulty, which had temporarily held up the work of the Preparatory Commission, was in a fair way to settlement, it was better to await the results of the negotiations initiated by Great Britain in the hope that they might make possible an early resumption of general discussion of the whole question of disarmament.

Minorities

The discussion of this question in the Assembly was largely devoted to the effect of the changes in procedure which the Council had approved at its meeting in Madrid in June. The Japanese delegate who had submitted the report to the Council in which these changes were recommended, claimed that they constituted a substantial improvement in the Minorities procedure and represented the most that the Council could do. The Canadian delegate, who had taken the initiative in securing the revision of the former procedure, felt that the new method while a great improvement was still unsatisfactory. In this opinion he was strongly supported by Dr. Stresemann who felt that the whole question of Minority treatment required careful review. Count Apponyi, the Hungarian delegate, took a similar line, urging that the existing obligations were inadequate and discriminating. He pleaded for the universal acceptance, by all States members of the League, of the obligations imposed on the former enemy and succession States by the Treaties of Paris. It was generally recognized