

April 19th, 1911

Mr. L. Colesco,
Chef du Service de la Statistique Générale
Bucarest = Roumania

Dear Sir:

In a communication of 2/15 April I am informed by H.E. the Minister of Roumania, Mr G.G. Nano (Delegate of Roumania to the Permanent Committee of the Institute) that the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Jean Lahovary, has appointed you to take up the subject matter dealt with in enclosed communication to Mr Jean Lahovary of April 7th.

I shall be pleased to have you take the matter up affirmatively, negatively, or tentatively. If you will send me your communication within ten days from the date you receive this letter it would enable me to embody your comments in a paper which I propose to present to the coming session of the General Assembly. As it will form a part of the process verbal, and the subject is one likely to awaken a keen interest everywhere, your comments therefore may prove to be of historic value.

In a letter on this subject to the Minister of Agriculture of Peru I wrote:

"In talking the matter over with your representative here we came to the conclusion that if such an organization as is referred to in the letter to the Roumanian Minister is to be effective, it should not merely be had by individual nations, but that the nations adopting it should form into groups and that the various groups should have a more or less defined unity in action.

"If, for instance, it was found expedient for Peru to adopt such a Plan, Peru could then exert its influence to have it adopted in a group of its neighbouring States, and so on.

"On reflection, you will no doubt see that such economic unions could be made fruitful in economic benefits. As you know, at the present time much of the products of South America are controlled by individuals and "trusts" in the United States and England, and some on the Continent of

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Europe. This is largely owing to the greater facilities for coalescing capital with its concomitant energy, than for coalescing the products of agriculturists so long as they are in the hands of the producers.

"The plan proposed here is calculated to balance the power of conserved capital on the one hand and the products in the hands of the producers on the other.

" You are of course, aware of the power of conserved capital and of the rapid increase in the number and volume of such concentrations, aided largely by the modern facilities for communication and carriage. The meat trusts of the United States, for instance, have not alone obtained control of the meats of the United States, but have also extended their operations to the control of that product in South America; and lately I read in the London "Times" that these meat trusts were endeavoring also to control the meat product of Australia, to prevent which the Commonwealth of Australia is attempting legislation. But, in my opinion, legislation can hardly provide a remedy; there must be created a balance of power between conserved capital on the one hand, and the products in the hands of the producers on the other. And this is the purpose of this communication."

The proposed Committee of I2 would not alone have the matter of interpreting the crop-reporting information, but also the cooperative and technical information published by the Institute.

In addition to what has been said the following reasons in favor of the proposed Committee of I2 in each of the adhering countries can be given:

First: the creation of such Committees in the several adhering countries would permit of coalesced action between them; would lead to direct action and reaction between the original owners of the product and what are now the ultimate buyers; leading to the removal of artificially created intermediaries.

Second: The influence thus exerted would not merely be that of the Institute on the Committee of I2, but these Committees would, in their turn, exert influence on the Institute, shaping it in the direction of the greatest usefulness to each of

the adhering countries.

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Third: Under the modification proposed, the value of the functions of the Permanent Committee delegate here would be greatly enhanced; his services would be more valuable both to the country he represents and to the Institute. All the

delegate's time could then be profitably devoted to the work here. The delegate would then be, as it were, the worker of a telephone exchange for economic information; he could then tap, so to say, all the other delegates in the Institute, each with their I2 in their respective countries, which would give access to every section and for every kind of information in each of the various adhering countries.

"The documents enclosed are to be read from A to C, in order that it may give you a fair outline of the case.

And now I leave the matter in your hands, and if I am ~~am~~ to make use of your reply at the General Assembly I should receive it at the earliest date possible, as the longer it will be delayed, the more pressure of work here on account of the General Assembly will interfere with doing it the justice its merits may deserve.

With the assurance of my high esteem, I remain yours sincerely

Sgd : David Lubin