

343
Nov. 1st. 1915.

Hon. Norval Richardson,
American Embassy, Rome.

Dear Mr. Richardson:

After you left yesterday evening the Committee continued its work for another hour, and then adjourned until Thursday next when it will reassemble to deliberate on the work done by the Institute during the summer months (Secretary General's Report) and on the proposal to translate into English, German, Spanish and Italian the analytical preface to the Yearbook of Legislation.

After you left the Committee decided that it would recognise Baron de Bild as delegate for Hungary, but would request Mr. de Miklos to fulfil the formality of having official notice given through the Spanish Embassy in Rome which represents here Hungarian interests during the war.

The question of the printing by the Institute of Sir James Wilson's monthly comments on the Institute's crop-reporting figures was then taken up. Some objection had been raised to their being printed at the Institute's expense on the ground that they represented the personal views of Sir James, and were not an official publication. Sir James explained that he was in the habit of writing a monthly report on the Institute's crop-reporting data for his Government, and had sent, and should continue to send a Ms. copy to the Institute. It lay with the Committee to decide whether it deemed the publication sufficient interest to print for circulation among the delegates and their governments. After some discussion it was decided that it would

343/2

= 2 =

not be necessary for the Institute to print these reports by Sir James every month, but that when special interest attached to the conditions which he examines they would be printed and distributed to the delegates. This will be done with the Report for October which deals with the data given in the Institute's September Statistical Bulletins.

Mr. Zabiello then gave notice that he wished to open a discussion on the "Statistical Notes on the Production, Imports, Exports, Prices, and Maritime Freights of Cereals" published by the Institute as a supplement to its September Bulletin. But as it was then 6.30 the President adjourned the meeting until Thursday.

I enclose you these "Statistical Notes" as you may wish to look them over previous to the meeting. The objection which Mr. Zabiello now raises is the same which he raised to a similar report issued in March last, (also enclosed). He claims that the Institute only has the right to publish the figures on production, etc., but not to draw any conclusions of its own therefrom. The position taken up by Sir James Wilson, Mr. Lubin, and others, and which prevailed with the Committee during a similar debate last spring, was that while the Institute has no right to give "opinions" based on figures, such as to say "the crops are large and prices will fall" or such like talk, it has a right to arrange the official figures received from the Governments in such a way as to make them clearly tell their own tale, but without verbal comment beyond a few explanatory words to make the tables clear. And this is what the supplement published by the Institute

343/3

- 2 -

aims at doing in the tables published on pages 37, 38, and 39, which will be brought up for discussion on Thursday.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.