

EXTRACT from MINUTES of the Second Meeting (public)
of the THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COUNCIL,
held at Geneva on Tuesday, 10th March, 1925.

Present: All the representatives of the Members of the
Council and the Secretary-General.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF M. BRANTING.

The President spoke as follows:

Before we proceed to the orders of the day I wish to speak on one matter which is a subject of great regret to us all. When the Council last met at Rome we learned that illness prevented our colleague, M. Branting, from taking his place at the Council table. Since then, the illness which then prevented his presence has ended fatally.

M. Branting, three times Prime Minister of his country, was from the first the representative of Sweden at the Assembly of the League of Nations, and since the year 1922 when Sweden was elected to a seat at this Council he has attended every session of the Council except that held at Rome. He was always a warm supporter of the League, a man of lofty ideals who yet, in the pursuit of his ideals, never lost his sense of the real and practical. Those who met him, whether in the Council or in the Assembly, could not fail to be impressed by his entire sincerity and by the force of his character. These qualities won for him the respect of all who heard him and gave to his words and counsel great weight in our meetings.

We sincerely regret his loss and my colleagues have wished that I should express in the name of the Council in these simple but heartfelt words our deep respect for his memory and sympathy with his family in its bereavement and

with the Swedish nation in its loss.

M. de MELLO FRANCO said that the Council of the League of Nations had been represented at the funeral of M. Branting by Dr. van Hamel, Director of the Legal Section of the Secretariat. He informed the Council that, as acting President of the Council, he had despatched, in the name of his colleagues, telegrams of sympathy to Madame Branting and to the Swedish Government.

M. Mello Franco had since received the following replies:

From the Swedish Government:

"Allow me to convey to you my warm gratitude for your sympathy on the occasion of the death of M. Branting"
(Signed) Unden.

From Mme. Branting:

"Very deeply moved by the expression of sympathy in my terrible grief. I desire to express to Your Excellency my warm gratitude. Please convey my respectful thanks to the Council." (Signed) Anna Branting.

M. SJOBORG spoke as follows:

Allow me to express without delay my warm thanks for the sympathetic remarks which you have just made in the name of the Council of the League of Nations with reference to the heavy loss which my country has just sustained in the death of M. Branting.

You have referred to the memory of that distinguished statesman, whose death we deplore, in words which have much moved me, and which will awake the warm gratitude of the Swedish nation.

Deeply convinced of the necessity for the solidarity of all peoples, Hjalmar Branting, as you have already said, Sir, showed himself from the very first to be a convinced supporter of the League of Nations. He welcomed its foundation with joy. He saw in it a hope of justice and

peace for the world, and he never ceased, in his capacity as representative of my country both at the meetings of the Assembly and then at those of the Council, to play, in the work of the League, a part the importance of which you, Sir, have just mentioned, and to which you have paid a most eloquent and authoritative tribute. In full agreement with the Swedish Government, he invariably tried to encourage the development of this new institution, so that it should be able successfully to fulfil its great mission of reconciliation and bring about an ever increasing international co-operation.

His premature death has grieved us deeply, and has left a gap which it will not be possible to fill immediately. In concluding these remarks, however, I should say that his death will in no way change the feelings and attitude of the Swedish Government towards the League of Nations. To-day as yesterday the Swedish Government is firmly determined to uphold the noble principles and ideals of an international life by which the League of Nations has been inspired since its foundation. These principles and that ideal it will continue loyally to serve in the same spirit as that shown by Hjalmar Branting.