DEATH OF PRESIDENT WILSON.

M. BRANTING informed his colleagues that as acting President of the Council he had addressed to Madame Woodrow Wilson on the 4th February the following telegram:

"I am sure that I express the unanimous sentiment of my colleagues on the Council of the League of Nations in conveying to you the assurance of our most deepfelt and respectful sympathy in your great bereavement. The League of Nations will always remember that President Wilson inspired as he was by the highest ideals for the peaceful development of humanity contributed more than anyone else to the creation of this organisation for international cooperation and conciliation. His memory will always live venerated and cherished."

(Signed) BRANTING,

President of the Council of the League of Nations.

The PRESIDENT said he would wish on opening the present session of the Council to pay a tribute of deep respect to the distinguished figure of President Wilson.

The history of great acts and great ideas which at certain moments of history indicated to the human race the path which it must follow would always remember the illustrious statesman who, at the tragic moment of the war, had thrown into the scales the great strength of his nation, and who, at a later date, in the calmer days of peace,
placed at the service of a generous ideal of universal union and brotherhood all the energies of his missionary zeal.

If his energy in action greatly contributed to the victory of right, his love of the ideal afterwards forged the weapon of an organisation of peace and justice - the League of Nations. This was a concrete effort and without any doubt the most considerable which had been made in the course of centuries, with a view to abolishing war and basing international relations upon peaceful co-operation and mutual respect between the members of the great human family.

The complex events of the present moment proved every day more clearly that the League of Nations, as an international organisation of peace, had become inadispensable, not only for the happiness and prosperity of contemporary States, but even for their very existence. The fundamental problems of the present moment, economic, financial and social, were beyond the powers of any single country, acting on its own behalf, and these problems had been transformed by the force of circumstances into problems of a wider and more comprehensive character.

A tribute was therefore due to the man who had been able to foresee not only the future development of international life, but also to forge and place in the hands of the nations desirous of peace and of solid achievement a weapon necessary for the realisation of their hopes.

At the moment when the Council was about to resume its work, the President believed that he was interpreting the sentiments of all his colleagues in paying a respectful homage to the memory of the illustrious dead.