

# Professor William Rappard †

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Under the new tariff, an increase of some 50% over the 1921 level must be expected. This norm does not, as was pointed out, apply to the duties of a primarily fiscal nature. As the yield of the fiscal duties and that of the protectionist duties are about equal, the theoretical resultant would be an average increase of 25% in customs charges. It would then appear that in relation of duty to import value expressed as a percentage will pass from the present figure of about 10% to 12½%. — Switzerland would still remain among the countries with the lowest customs tariffs!

(2) THE ROLE OF THE NEW CUSTOMS TARRIFF.

In reviewing the most important reasons which make the creation of a new customs tariff necessary, and trying to outline the structure and nature of the project, I hope to have also made clear what task the new tariff is called upon to fulfil within the Swiss internal and external economy.

At the moment the governmental project is essentially an instrument of international negotiation on the mutual abolition of customs duties.

Thus the Federal Council has decided to enter into tariff negotiations with other countries, especially with the member States of GATT and OEEC. A considerable number of countries have manifested their interest in such negotiations. Through them the new tariff should get international approval and put our country in the position that will enable it to plead its cause in bilateral negotiations with individual countries as well as with the six member States of the European Economic Community or, that is our hope, to collaborate within the future Free Trade Area.

Only when these negotiations have shown their results can the tariff project — and without doubt a much modified version by then — be submitted, together with the negotiated customs agreements, to the Federal Chambers and finally — if they make use of the referendum — to the Swiss voters.

To-day — I repeat — what matters is for our country to be properly armed for the fateful international bargaining that lies just ahead. For this purpose the customs tariff project is one of our most important weapons.

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### PROFESSOR WILLIAM RAPPARD †

We deeply regret to announce the death of Professor William Rappard which occurred at Geneva a little over a week after the seventy-fifth anniversary of his birth. The deceased was a well-known personality in the Swiss Colony, having been on many occasions the guest of the City Swiss Club.

The son of a Geneva business man who had settled in New York, Rappard was born there on 22nd April 1883. He began his education in the United States and continued his studies at the universities of Geneva, Berlin, Munich, Harvard, Paris, and Vienna. He became an LL.D. of Geneva University in 1908 and left his mother town soon after to lecture at Harvard University. In 1913 he returned to Geneva and was appointed Professor of Political Economy at the university there. At the end of the First World War the Swiss Federal Government entrusted him with the task of negotiating with President Wilson the delivery to Switzerland of wheat, of which the country was in great need. This task he successfully performed.

Already seen by the discerning as a man of integrity and breadth of vision his choice as Director of the Mandates Section of the League of Nations in 1920 was welcomed in international circles. He occupied the post with distinction until 1925. A year before relinquishing it he was made a member of the league's permanent mandate commission. He also served on the I.L.O. committee for the application of conventions, took an active part in the creation of the Geneva Graduate School of International Studies and became its director in 1928. In the same year he was appointed permanent chairman of the Diplomatic Conference on Economic Statistics. On several occasions he represented Switzerland in the League of Nations Assembly.

In 1946 he represented Switzerland at the Washington Conference and successfully defended the attitude of Switzerland during the war and the Swiss point of view regarding the new international organization. He was the author of many books and studies on international relations, on the Swiss constitution, and on Swiss legal questions.

Rappard had a mastery of the principal European languages and could, and did, lecture in faultless German, English, French, or Italian without the aid of notes. He came many times to England, for which he entertained a respect and affection and for whose problems he had a profound understanding. He retained his mental vigour to the last.

### PERSONAL.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Widmer gave a dinner and dance at Bush House Restaurant, Aldwych, W.C.2, on Monday, 28th April, on the occasion of the coming-of-age of their daughter, Sonja Trudy, at which about a hundred guests were present.