

Abolish Trade Wars

* IT IS LIKELY that the nations of the world will have enough sense to form an organization to prevent future wars. Notwithstanding the fact that the United States refused to become a member of the League of Nations, I believe that this country recognizes the fact that either civilization will have to abolish war or war will abolish civilization.

An organization of the nations of the world can be successful and permanent only if it is wisely and justly organized. Most of us would admit that the provision of the United States Constitution that prevented the states from erecting a protective tariff against each other, made possible the wealth and prosperity of the United States. Notwithstanding the success of free trade in the enormous area of the United States, many people are afraid that free trade between nations would lower the standard of living in this country. For instance, Cuba, on account of its soil and climate can produce sugar for about half what it costs in this country. Would anyone claim that the standard of living in this country would be lowered by abolishing our tariff and thereby enabling a person to buy two pounds of sugar for what he now has to pay for one? Would anyone claim that the standard of living in Canada is raised because their tariff makes automobiles, radios and phonographs cost from 50 to 75 per cent more than they do in the United States, where they are made?

If it is high tariffs that produce a high standard of living in the United States, why is it that high

tariffs of other countries do not produce a high standard of living in them? We should be willing to admit that in erecting tariffs we are engaging in trade wars, and trade war is a long step toward military war. If in the organization of the nations of the world to prevent military war we could have the vision of the framers of the United States Constitution, and abolish trade wars, the resulting organization would be permanent and successful.

—J. C. LINCOLN