

OPIUM AS AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM

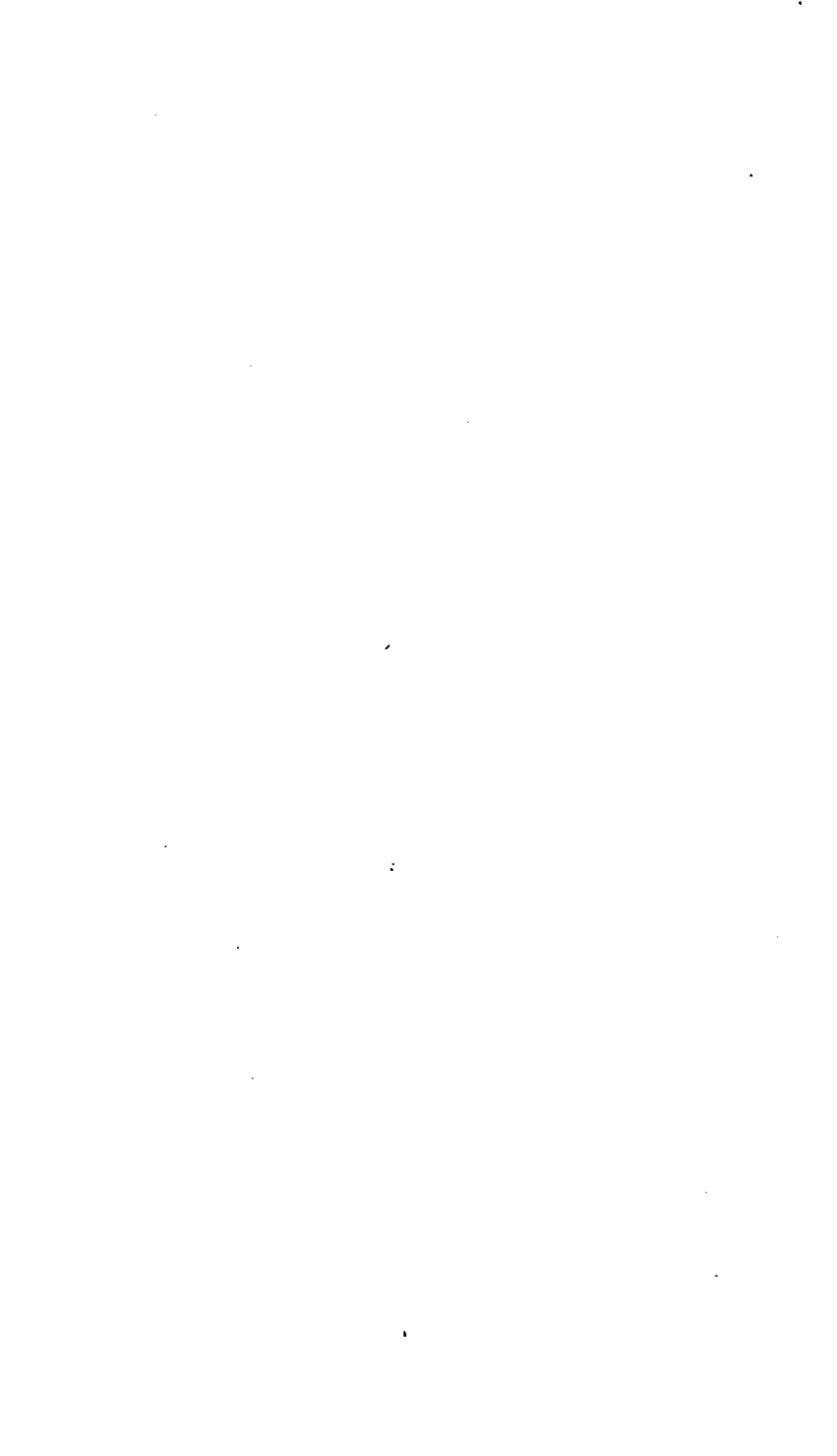
THE GENEVA CONFERENCES

BY

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To

His Excellency Sao-Ke Alfred Sze

*An Advocate of International Justice
and a Defender of the Sovereign
Rights of His Country*

PREFACE

Although not official in character, the present volume is in the nature of a report upon the work of the two Opium Conferences recently held in Geneva, Switzerland. In this respect the volume resembles the one published by the author in 1922 under the title *China at the Conference*, in which an account was given of the work of the Limitation of Armaments Conference at Washington in so far as it related to political conditions in the Far East. In that Conference the author served as Technical Expert to the Chinese Delegation and, therefore, had full opportunity to become acquainted, in detail, with the work of that important international meeting. So, also, in regard to the two Geneva Conferences reported upon in the present volume, the author has been able to study their proceedings from the inside, since he served the Chinese Delegation as Counsellor and Expert.

Being in the nature of a report, the policy has been pursued of reproducing textually the more important statements made by the several Delegations.

Honorable Stephen G. Porter, who had led the fight in the United States for the control of the use of opium and habit-forming drugs, and who so ably represented the United States as its chief delegate at the Second Geneva Conference, has kindly permitted the author to use as an introduction to the present volume portions of an address delivered by him in the House of Representatives.

It is to be noted that many of the quotations from the proceedings of the Geneva Conferences are from the original mimeographed sheets, and not from the printed reports. These latter were not fully available at the time this volume was prepared. However, in one way, the use of mimeographed reports has been of advantage, since they give a more nearly exact statement of what was actually said than do the printed, and somewhat revised, proceedings.

In conclusion it should be said that the author has attempted to incorporate in this volume all the information that is needed for an accurate understanding of the subject. He hopes, therefore, that it will serve as a guide or handbook to all those who may need to know the situation as it now exists. Especially is it hoped that the volume will be found of value in case other Conferences upon the subject are held.

June 1, 1925.

W. W. W.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

By the Treaty of Versailles the supervision of the execution of The Hague Opium Convention of 1912 was transferred from the Netherlands Government to the League of Nations. In pursuance of the task thus imposed upon and assumed by it, the League created a division of its Secretariat, which, together with the matter of the international traffic in women and children, is known as its Social Section. The League has also created an Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium.

In connection with these agencies the Secretariat of the League has issued, in mimeographed or printed form, a series of documents serially numbered under the initials O. C. In addition the League has printed and distributed Minutes of the meetings and reports of the Advisory Committee and also an abridged report of the work of the Preparatory Committee which was created to draft provisional proposals for consideration by the Conferences. The discussion of the reports of the Advisory Committee and the action taken thereupon by the Assembly and by the Council of the League are of course to be found in the various official publications of the League.

The secretarial work of the two Opium Conferences at Geneva, which proved to be a very heavy task, was performed by the Secretariat of the League. Besides the minutes of the meetings of the First Conference and the verbatim report of proceedings of the Second Conference, the Secretariat issued in mimeographed form two hun-

dred or more documents. These documents were serially numbered. For the First Conference they were issued under the initials C. O. P.; and, for the Second Conference, under the initials O. D. C. They will be so referred to in this volume. Some of these documents also appear as Annexes to the printed Minutes and Records of the Conferences.

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