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THE
MONTHLY SUMMARY
OF THE
LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Vol. VIII. No. 5.

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MEETING
OF THE
CONSULTATIVE ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE

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MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Vol. VIII. No. 5.

Published on June 15th, 1928.

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I. — Summary of the Month.

The convocation of the ninth ordinary session of the Assembly and the first meeting of the Consultative Economic Committee were the principal League events in May. The Health Committee continued in session until May 5th. A Committee of Telegraphic and Press Experts met on the 22nd and the Financial Committee on the 30th.

The Consultative Economic Committee met on May 14th in Geneva. This Committee, which is constituted on the same lines as the Preparatory Committee for the Economic Conference, was appointed to supervise the execution of the resolutions of the Economic Conference of 1927. At its first meeting it drew up a report on the general economic position since the Conference and made several recommendations for the future economic work of the League.

The object of the meeting of telegraphic and press experts, which was held in Paris on May 22nd, was to discuss possible action on recommendations of the

Conference of Press Experts concerning questions of priority and, in general, the importance of telegraphic, telephonic and wireless communications.

A statement was received from the Japanese Government on the incidents between the Japanese and Chinese troops at Tsi-nan-fu. A communication was also received from the Nanking Government.

The Saar Governing Commission sent in its thirty-third quarterly report on the situation in the Saar territory.

The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law was inaugurated on May 30th.

A new Case, that of Serbian loans in France, was submitted to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

II. — The Permanent Court of International Justice (1).

1. — RESIGNATION OF JUDGE BASSETT MOORE

The Council has accepted this resignation conditionally, subject to concurrence by the Assembly. Accordingly, the Secretary-General has taken the necessary steps with a view to making possible the election of Mr. Moore's successor at the next session of the Assembly.

2. — SERBIAN LOANS ISSUED IN FRANCE (2)

On April 19th, the French Foreign Minister, M. Briand, and M. Spalaikovitch, Minister of the Serb, Croat, Slovene Kingdom in France, signed a Special Arbitration Agreement submitting for decision by the Permanent Court of International Justice certain questions concerning the payment of various Serbian Loans floated in France.

The Special Agreement, after having been ratified on May 16th, was notified to the Registry of the Court by letter from the French Legation at the Hague dated May 24th and by letter from the Serb, Croat, Slovene Legation in London dated May 25th.

The questions thus submitted to the Court are as follows :

a) whether, as held by the Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, the latter is entitled to pay in paper francs the service of its 4 % 1895, 5 % 1902, 4 1/2 % 1906, 4 1/2 % 1909 and 5 % 1913 loans, as it has hitherto done;

b) or whether, on the contrary, the Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, as held by the French bondholders, is under an obligation to pay in gold or in foreign currencies and at the places indicated hereinafter, the amount of bonds drawn for redemption but not refunded and of those subsequently drawn, as also of coupons due for payment but not paid and of those subsequently falling due for payment of the Serbian loans enumerated above and in particular :

1) with regard to the Serbian 4 % loan of 1895, whether holders of bonds of this loan are entitled, whatever their nationality may be, to obtain, at their free choice, payment of the nominal amount of their coupons due for payment but not paid and of those subsequently falling due for payment, as also of their bonds drawn for redemption but not refunded and of those subsequently drawn, at Paris, London, Berlin, Vienna, Geneva and Belgrade, in the currency in circulation at one of these places;

(1) This chapter has been prepared on the basis of information furnished by the Registry of the Court.

(2) This chapter has been prepared on the basis of information furnished by the Registry of the Court.

2) with regard to the 5 % 1902, 4 1/2 % 1906, 4 1/2 % 1909 and 5 % 1913 loans and, subsidiarily with regard to the abovementioned 4 % loan of 1895, whether holders of these bonds are entitled to obtain payment of the nominal amount of their coupons due for payment but not paid and of those subsequently falling due, as also of their bonds drawn for redemption but not refunded and of those subsequently drawn, in gold francs at Belgrade, Paris, Brussels and Geneva, or at the equivalent value of the said amount at the exchange rate of the day in the local currency at Berlin, Vienna and Amsterdam, in so far as concerns the 1902, 1906 and 1909 loans;

3) lastly, how is the value of the gold franc to be determined as between the parties for the abovementioned payments.

As soon as the Courts' decision on this point has been given, negotiations are to follow between the Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and the representatives of the bond-holders in order to avert difficulties which might accrue from a strict application of the solution indicated purely according to law. The Special Agreement contains the following on this subject :

It is understood that, within one month from the delivery of the decision to be given on the question formulated in Article I, the Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and the representatives of the bondholders will enter into negotiations with a view to concluding an arrangement which

1) in the event of the Court's award being in accordance with the views of the Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, will determine whether considerations of equity do not require that the Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes should make the bondholders certain concessions over and above that which—in the event of an award by the Court in favour of its conventions—it would be strictly obliged to do.

2) in the event of the Court's award recognising the justice of the claims of the bondholders, will make to the Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, having regard to its economic and financial situation and capacity for payment, certain concessions over and above that which it would be strictly entitled to claim.

Should the negotiations thus provided for fail, the President of the Court may once more be called upon to intervene, namely in order to appoint arbitrators. In regard to this the Special Agreement provides as follows :

Failing the conclusion of such an arrangement within three months from the commencement of the negotiations contemplated in paragraph 1 of this Article, either of the two contracting Parties may submit the question of the concessions referred to in the preceding paragraph and of the method of giving effect to them to one or more arbitrators, who shall be appointed within two months from the expiration of the preceding time limit, by agreement between the French Government and the Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, or, failing such agreement, by the President of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

The Case will probably be ready for hearing towards the end of this year. The times for the written proceedings have not yet however been fixed.

3. — NEXT SESSION OF THE COURT

The Fourteenth (ordinary) session begins on June 15th next. The Court will sit with all its ordinary judges except Mr. Moore; to replace him, Mr. Beichmann, deputy judge, has been summoned to attend.

The following cases are now pending before the Court :

(a) the Chorzow Case (claim for indemnities). This Case, which is between Germany and Poland, is ready for hearing, as the written proceedings have been concluded.

(b) the Case between France and Switzerland concerning the Free Zones of Savoy and the District of Gex.

(c) the Case between Brazil and France, concerning the Brazilian Federal Loans floated in France.

(d) the Special Arbitration Agreement between France and the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, submitting to the Court a case concerning the payment in gold of the Serbian loans floated in France, was ratified on May 16th, 1928.

* * *

The consent of the Greek and Turkish Governments was obtained on May 5th, 1928 to compliance with a request made by the Mixed Commission for the exchange of Greek and Turkish populations to the effect that, through the Council, an advisory opinion should be obtained from the Court upon a point regarding the competence of the Commission.

III. — Legal and Constitutional Questions.

1. — CONVOCATION OF THE NINTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Acting President of the Council, M. Urrutia (Colombia) has convened the ninth session of the Assembly for Monday, September 3rd, 1928 at Geneva.

The agenda includes the report on the work of the Council and on measures taken to execute the decisions of the Assembly, which covers the work of the League since the last ordinary session. The work on arbitration, security and the reduction of armaments is included in the Report which further contains a survey of the work of the technical and advisory organisations and Committees (The Economic and Financial Organisation, the Health Organisation, the Organisation for Communications and Transit, the Committee on Intellectual Cooperation, the Committee on Traffic in Opium and the Commission for the Protection and Welfare of Young People) since September 1927.

The Assembly will consider the work of the Committee for the Progressive Codification of International Law and the preparatory work for the First Codification Conference.

The question of the League building will also come forward.

In accordance with the rules adopted on September 15th, 1926, the Assembly will elect three non-permanent Members of the Council.

2. — RELATIONS BETWEEN BRAZIL AND THE LEAGUE

The Brazilian Foreign Minister has replied as follows to the invitation embodied in the Council resolution of March 9th to continue to collaborate in the work of the League :

Monsieur le Président (1),

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter together with the text of the resolution on the relations between Brazil and the League of Nations adopted by the Council at the sitting held on March the 9th.

I hereby renew to Your Excellency and to the Council the thanks I had the opportunity of expressing on answering the telegram in which you informed me of that resolution and advised me of the despatch of the documents which I

(1) Translation supplied by the Brazilian Government.

have now received. I must furthermore express Brazil's appreciation of the very cordial terms in which these resolutions are worded.

On the 10th and 12th of June 1926, Brazil announced her intention of withdrawing from the League of Nations, setting forth fully the grounds for her action. The facts which preceded that decision of the Brazilian Government are well known. The widest publicity was given to the occurrence in its divers phases, and to all commentaries aroused by it.

The Government now responsible for the policy of Brazil, duly considering the subject, both from the political and from the moral standpoint, reviewing all the documents of the case, with the sole purpose of being loyal to the duties and responsibilities of this country, find no determining factor for altering, under such delicate circumstances, a situation which had already been clearly defined, since the contingencies which brought it about are nowise changed.

If, therefore, collaboration with the League of Nations implies permanence as a member thereof, the Brazilian Government are the first to regret that the present circumstances should not allow such collaboration.

It would appear to me, however, that it is not only by occupying a seat in the Assembly or in the Council that a country can collaborate with the League of Nations. Such countries collaborate as recognise its service to civilisation and to humanity. Countries that do honour to the great organisations, created by the League of Nations, amongst which the Permanent Court of International Justice stands foremost, and join in the conferences through which the League of Nations strives for universal welfare by working out problems of general interest, rightly consider themselves collaborators. Lastly, it is clear that support is also brought to the League of Nations by those countries that preach and practice, in whatever part of the world they may lie, to the utmost of their power, the true policy of preserving peace, in no matter what emergency, by the employment of juridical solutions, by their disinterestedness, by their amity and by their spirit of justice and of concord.

Collaboration being thus understood, I beg Your Excellency and the Council to consider my country one of the most devoted co-operators of the League of Nations, and if, in the future, Brazil finds it possible to return thereto she will only have ground for rejoicing both at the honour of being once more a member and at the facts in consequence of which her return to that great Institution will have been made possible. Brazil sincerely wishes that the blessings of mankind may be showered ever increasingly upon the League of Nations.

I avail myself of this opportunity to present to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Octavio MANGABEIRA.

3. — INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Registration.

Among the Treaties and Agreements registered by the Secretariat in May figure :

A Treaty of Conciliation and Judicial Settlement between Italy and Lithuania (Rome, September 17th, 1927).

An Agreement between France and Germany concerning commerce between the Saar and Germany (Paris, August 5th, 1926) and a Protocol prolonging this Agreement (Paris, February 16th, 1927).

Commercial Treaties and Agreements between France and Italy, France and Switzerland, Italy and Lithuania, Hungary and Turkey, Germany and Turkey.

A Convention of Friendship and Commerce between Switzerland and Afghanistan.

Treaties of Establishment between Hungary and Turkey, Germany and Turkey, Switzerland and Turkey.

Agreements concerning the abolition of passport visas between Finland and Sweden, Austria and Czechoslovakia, Japan and Norway.

A Consular Convention between France and Poland.

An Agreement on the reciprocal recognition of tonnage services between Germany and Latvia;

A Convention on Air Navigation between France and Spain;
Conventions on extradition, legal assistance in penal matters and legal assistance in civil and commercial matters between Belgium and Czechoslovakia (Brussels, July 1927);
Agreements between Poland and Germany concerning mineral deposits divided by the Germano-Polish frontier; and
A Convention between Germany and Poland concerning assistance for the unemployed and unemployment insurance.

IV. — The Technical Organisations.

1. — THE HEALTH ORGANISATION

Twelfth session of the Health Committee.

The twelfth session of the Health Committee was held at Geneva from April 30th to May 5th with Dr. Madsen in the Chair.

Decisions of the Assembly and Council and the Medical Director's Report. — The session began with a discussion of the decisions of last Assembly and of the Council meetings of December and March concerning the Health Organisation. The Committee particularly noted the approval by the Council of its plans for developing the work of the Health Organisation in Latin America and the appreciation expressed by the Council to the Rockefeller Foundation for the additional sum of 25,000 dollars granted by the Foundation for interchanges of medical officers of health during 1928, thus raising the Foundation subsidy for this purpose to 50,000 dollars. The Committee then reviewed the work accomplished since its October session as set forth in the Medical Director's report.

Revision of the A. A. Cable code. — The cable code used by the Singapore branch of the League Epidemiological Intelligence Service is being revised so as to make it serviceable for the telegraphic exchange of epidemiological intelligence between the health services of all parts of the world. Further suggestions are being received from various sources and as soon as the approved code has been prepared it will be submitted to administrations chiefly interested for further suggestions and approval.

Epidemiological Intelligence Bureau at Singapore. — The Committee expressed its satisfaction at the continued development, growth and usefulness of its Singapore Bureau. The Bureau is now in weekly telegraphic communication with 140 ports, which is the maximum useful number until it becomes possible to add Chinese ports. The Epidemiological sub-centre at Melbourne now sends regular cables to the Bureau regarding health conditions in the Pacific Islands. In many cases the information sent covers whole countries as well as their ports.

The weekly wireless bulletin, thus improved, is transmitted by an increasingly efficient network of wireless. It is sent by a number of powerful stations in code, and a summary in clear is retransmitted by smaller stations, so that the opportunities for picking it up are much greater, especially for ships at sea. The amount and value of information in regard to infected ships have also been much improved. In addition thirty-five Far Eastern public health administrations now notify the Bureau usually by cable of the arrival of infected ships at their ports.

The President of the Health Committee gave a report of the Delhi meeting of the Advisory Council of the Singapore Bureau which he attended, as did Colonel Graham, chairman of the Advisory Council, member of the Health Committee and Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India.

The Committee took note of the report of the Expert Plague Commission and emphasised the importance of the recommendations of the Advisory Council concerning the collection of detailed information regarding the quarantine stations of the East and their value, the continuation of the enquiry into the efficacy of oral vaccination and the investigation of rat and flea conditions in ports. It further recommended that the Bureau should collect as full and detailed statistical information as possible on the seasonal prevalence of cholera and plague in all countries within the Bureau's sphere of activity.

Fumigation of Ships. — The Committee decided to study the methods of cyanide fumigation for which special advantages are claimed, by means of a small sub-committee. The Committee thanked Surgeon-General Cumming for his offer to co-operate in this work and notably to accord the sub-committee all facilities in the United States.

Yellow Fever. — The Epidemiological Intelligence Service has regularly reported the revival of yellow fever in West Africa. The disease reappeared in 1925 in Nigeria, on the Gold Coast, the Ivory Coast and in the French Sudan. In 1926, cases appeared also in Dahomey, the Upper Volta and Senegal (the first infection in Senegal since 1912). In 1927 there were epidemics in Senegal and in certain localities of the Gold Coast Colony; later it spread to Gambia, Portuguese Guinea, Liberia, Togoland, and at the end of the year to Boma and Matadi in Belgian Congo. Reports of 257 cases were received during the year and were not of course exhaustive.

In this connection the Committee considered a letter from the Belgian Government suggesting that the Health Committee might take measures to bring about collaboration between the colonial administrations concerned in the campaign against yellow fever in the estuary of the Congo. The Committee put itself at the disposal of the interested Governments for the consideration of any action in the matter which they might agree to recommend to the League Health Organisation.

Interchanges. — The Committee discussed the programme of interchanges and individual missions for 1928 which includes two collective interchanges. One will be held in Italy with public health officers from the Health Services of the Argentine, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, British India, Canada, France, Germany, Great-Britain, Irish Free State, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States. This interchange is to study the Central Health Administration in Rome, and will afterwards break up into groups to study particular subjects in different areas, such as the prevention of tuberculosis, housing and townplanning, urban sanitation and the campaign against malaria.

The second collective interchange is of a new type and will be attended by medical officers of health or sanitary engineers dealing with the administration of important rural districts from Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Roumania, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Spain and the U. S. S. R.

This interchange, devoted to rural hygiene, will visit selected rural districts in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

Report of the Cancer Commission. — The Committee approved the report and recommendations of the Cancer Commission, including the formation of two expert sub-commissions for the study respectively of occupational cancer and certain aspects of the radiological treatment of cancer. It is known that certain professions (certain methods of cotton-spinning, the process of briquette-making, work in cobalt mines, one branch of aniline dye-work, and work involving contact with tar) increase susceptibility to cancer, but there is a very irregular distribution of cancer in diffe-

rent countries even in the same industries. Valuable lessons on the causation of cancer could be learned from the intensive study of the causes of this unequal distribution. The application of preventive methods also needs enquiry.

The great value of the radiological treatment of cancer has been demonstrated by experience, but there is a lack of agreement as to the precise action of the rays and the best methods of applying them. A study of the basic principles of the methods followed in a number of the most successful institutes in different countries would be of great practical value.

Report of the Smallpox and Vaccination Commission. — The Committee approved the suggestion of this Commission that the enquiry into the incidence of smallpox in Europe should be continued and extended to North America and the Dutch East Indies. At the present moment there is very little smallpox in Europe, which makes it possible to study closely such cases as appear, in order to determine, for instance, the exact rôle played by vaccination in reducing sickness and deaths, and to study the value of measures to prevent any future increase of the disease. There is a good deal of a mild form of smallpox in Great Britain and Wales, but the continent is almost free from the disease. The Commission is also studying a number of points concerning the preparation, use and effect of different vaccines.

Final Report of the Sleeping-Sickness Committee. — The Committee noted that the British, Belgian, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese governments had been requested to send delegates to a second Conference to study the final report of the Commission of Enquiry into sleeping-sickness and the observations of the Expert Committee on sleeping-sickness on whose behalf the Commission of Enquiry had carried out its investigations in Tropical Africa. On the scientific side the Expert Committee recommends a continuation of the research work begun by its Commission of Enquiry in the different national laboratories in sleeping-sickness areas, keeping in touch with each other through the Health Organisation, by for instance a system of interchanges of laboratory workers. It also suggested the establishment of a small *ad hoc* Expert Committee to receive and discuss annual reports on this research work, to keep in touch with everything published on the subject, to circulate collected papers to the research institutes and administrations concerned and to recommend to the Health Committee an annual scholarship the allocation of which should be devoted to this work.

Infant Mortality. — The Health Committee noted that the enquiry in Austria was concluded last December and that in Great Britain in January and the enquiries in the other European countries were still under way. The preliminary enquiries in Latin America are concluded and the enquiry properly so-called is being carried out in certain districts in Brazil, Uruguay, the Argentine Republic and Chile for a period of twelve months.

The Standardisation of Sera and Biological Products. — The Committee adopted the report on the session of its Permanent Standards Commission in Francfort, recording the work done to date on standardising sera, serological tests and biological products and laying down a programme of work for the future.

The report mentions that the unit for insulin adopted at the 1925 Geneva Conference is now used all over the world as the only unit of insulin; the international standard for pituitary extract adopted at the same time has proved satisfactory. The work done on securing an international standard for antitetanic and anti-dysenteric sera has been practically completed and good progress has been made with anti-diphtheric serum.

Sir George Buchanan emphasised the value of the Commission's work and mentioned that the recent international Pharmacopoeia Conference decided as regards biological products in the pharmacopoeia that their quality was satisfactorily des-

cribed by simply indicating that they conformed to the standards fixed by the League Health Committee through its Permanent Standards Commission. The international units fixed by this Commission were becoming known all over the world under the name of League units.

Work of the Malaria Commission. — The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Malaria Commission would be held at the end of June to discuss the report of two of its members on their visit to the United States and the conclusions reached in its second general report. A number of prominent American malariologists have been invited to attend the meeting in connection with the former point.

As in previous years special courses on malaria followed by a stage of practical work in malarial countries have been arranged and will be held in London, Hamburg, Paris and Rome. Fourteen scholarships are awarded for these courses by the Health Organisation in addition to those provided by the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Public Health Service and Health Insurance. — The Committee noted that the Joint Commission of experts for the study of the relations between public health services and health insurance organisations was confining its work in 1928 to the examination of two questions, namely the prevention of tuberculosis and the protection of maternity, infancy and the child of pre-school age. Local studies in a number of countries are now being carried out and general studies of the solutions adopted by the various organisations concerned with the prevention of disease have been begun.

Leprosy. — The Health Committee, on the reports of its Brazilian, Indian and Japanese members as well as on that of its President after his visits to Latin America and the Far East, recognised the international importance of leprosy and requested five of its members (Professor Chagas, Dr. Madsen, Col. Graham, Prof. Nagayo and Surgeon-General Cumming) to prepare a plan for an international investigation of this disease. It expressed its pleasure at the fact the Brazilian Government offered special facilities for the study of leprosy, and that, in addition to the funds devoted to these studies by this Government, Mr. Guinle, founder of various sanitary undertakings in Brazil, offered an annual contribution equivalent to 10,000 dollars. It requested its Medical Director to get into touch with the public health services making such a request, in order to discover the best method of organising an international enquiry, and asked the Council to ascertain from the interested countries what their health services would contribute to the study of leprosy in the way of facilities for investigation and financial support, on the understanding that the League would participate in the expenses occasioned by the nomination, travelling expenses and work of the experts designated by the Health Committee.

Revision of the International List of Causes of Death. — The Health Committee adopted a plan for co-operation between the League Health Organisation and the International Institute of Statistics on lines proposed by the French Government in the preparatory work for the forthcoming revision of the international list of causes of death, which will take place at an international conference convoked by the French Government in Paris in 1929.

Tuberculosis in Greece. — The Committee, on the report of Dr. Copanaris, Director of the Greek Health Service, and Dr. Leon Bernard, requested its Medical Director to study a plan of campaign against tuberculosis in Greek towns in conjunction with the Greek Health Authorities and the Greek Refugee Settlement Board. This action was taken on the proposal of the League Finance Committee which had been approved by the Council of the League.

Public Health Problems Arising out of the Earthquake in Bulgaria. — At the opening of its session, the Health Committee was informed that the Bulgarian Health Service had accepted the telegraphic offer of the Health Organisation to give technical assistance to the Bulgarian Government in dealing with the urgent public health problems caused by the recent earthquake disaster. The health administrations of certain neighbouring countries (Roumania, Hungaria, Yugoslavia) also announced their readiness to help their colleagues in Bulgaria. The same offer was made to the Greek Public Health Administration, which, however, stated that the extent of the damage in Greece was not sufficient to necessitate recourse to outside help. Dr. Wroczynski (Polish), who worked for the Epidemiological Commission in Greece in 1923, was immediately despatched to Bulgaria.

Use of X-rays. — The Committee took note of a memorandum submitted by Dr. Jitta on the possible dangers resulting from the increasingly widespread use of X-rays, and requested the Medical Director to ascertain the existing laws or regulations on this subject in different countries and any other information bearing on action that has been or should be taken to obviate such dangers.

2. — THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ORGANISATION

a) *The first session of the Economic Consultative Committee* (1).

The first session of the Economic Consultative Committee was held in Geneva under the presidency of M. Theunis (Belgium) from May 14th to 19th 1928, exactly a year after the International Economic Conference. Its members, who number about sixty, represent the economic interests and organisations that made the Conference an authoritative reflection of the economic life of the times and include representatives of the League Economic and Financial Committees, the International Labour Organisation, the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Institute of Agriculture, the International Cooperative Alliance, the Trade Union movement, capital, labour and trade, as well as certain economists. Its function is to survey the economic situation as it has developed since the Conference with particular attention to the way in which the recommendations of the Conference are being applied. That is to say, the Committee does not reopen questions of policy dealt with in the Conference's recommendations nor elaborate in detail programmes of work on these recommendations; it reviews the situation and what has been done through the League or otherwise since the Conference, and makes certain suggestions for the future.

The Committee held a few plenary meetings and then broke up into three sub-committees whose reports and resolutions were combined in a final report for the Council.

Economic Conditions in 1927. — In 1927 the improvement in economic conditions in Europe was greater than in any other year since the war, whereas the level of economic activity in the United States was not more than maintained. The improvement in Europe was more rapid in the centre and east in the west and applied to agricultural as well as industrial production. For the first time since 1914 (if the abnormal year 1921 be ignored) the steel production of Europe exceeded one half of the world's total. As regards the rest of the world, conditions in South America improved on the whole, while in the Far East they were less favourable than in Europe. Further progress was made in the consolidation of state finances and the stabilisation of currencies. Gold prices in the various countries showed a distinct tendency to converge. The general price index of the United States ave-

(1) For the composition of this Committee, see the *Monthly Summary*, Vol. VIII, No. 1, p. 14.

aged nearly 5 % lower in 1927 than in 1926, while prices rose in Central and Eastern Europe. The gold reserves increased in a number of European Central Banks, while the gold stock held by the United States was reduced by about one hundred and fifty million dollars.

As regards trade, Central and Eastern Europe have advanced relatively more than the West, and Europe as a whole more than North America. There appears to have been some improvement as regards the removal of restrictions on trade. On the other hand, it must not be forgotten that conditions in 1926 were very unsatisfactory, and the best that can be said of the present situation is that ten years after the war the international trade of Europe has at last recovered to about the pre-war level. Progress has been suspended for a decade and a half and starts to-day where it left off fifteen years ago. Substantially the diagnosis of the situation remains the same as that made by the Economic Conference. It follows that economic policy must continue to be directed towards an expansion of world trade and production without which a rise in the standard of living cannot take place.

Execution of the Conference's Recommendations in 1927. — The support given the recommendations of the Conference by Governments, at the Assembly and Council of the League, or in official statements to their parliaments or otherwise, has shown that the Conference did not misinterpret the desires and intentions of those responsible for the commercial policy of many of the countries of the world. Action on the Conference's recommendations was in fact more rapid than was the case after the Brussels Financial Conference of 1920.

Some tariffs are to-day higher than a year ago but are very much less than the rates proposed at the time. It may be said that the work of the Conference has already substantially checked the upward movement of tariffs which was in full swing in May, 1927.

A second development that can be traced directly to the Conference is the conclusion of a number of commercial treaties which have not only reduced duties between the contracting parties, but extended these reductions to other States under the most-favoured-nation clause.

But these improvements have hitherto been confined in the main to the relations between European states. A feature of the past year has been the more rapid improvement of trade between the nations of Europe than between Europe and the United States or other distant parts of the world. Inter-Continental no less than European trade is hampered by high tariffs and the movement for reducing trade barriers cannot gather its full momentum nor have its full fruition in an increase of world trade until it has spread from Europe to all the countries of the world.

So far as the League of Nations is concerned the main responsibility for carrying out the policy of the Conference has rested with the Economic Committee. The Convention on export and import prohibitions concluded last autumn, the draft convention on the treatment of foreigners and foreign enterprises, the preparation of a general scheme of uniform customs nomenclature, and the institution of enquiries into treaty methods, the most-favoured-nation clause and the possibility of collective action in tariff matters are some of the tasks carried out by the Economic Committee, and are at the same time the beginning of action in tariff matters by way of multilateral conventions. The progress already achieved is substantial and provides a basis on which there is every hope of building up international agreement and understanding over a very wide field.

The tendency of those interested in agriculture to look more and more towards international action and to found hopes on collaboration with the League of Nations has become more evident as the year has passed.

Recommendations for the Future. — The Consultative Committee divided its recommendations for the future into subjects affecting respectively trade, industry, coal and sugar, agriculture, tendencies affecting the peace of the world and the

purchasing power of gold. Throughout its deliberations it emphasised the interdependence of the three branches of economic life agriculture, industry and trade.

Trade. — The Committee emphasised the importance of restoring complete liberty of trading. It expressed the hope that the forthcoming Conference of the signatories of the Convention for the abolition of Import and Export Prohibitions and Restrictions would not admit any further reservations as regards liberty of trading except in a few cases justified by abnormal circumstances.

Coming to commercial policy, the Committee drew attention to the importance of a clear, comprehensive and binding definition and set of rules for the application of the most-favoured-nation clause, and expressed its hope that an interpretation confirmed and accepted by international agreement would soon be reached.

Much of the Committee's work was devoted to the question of tariff barriers and the improvement of trade. It reiterated the desire expressed by the Economic Conference that there should be collective agreements to secure general and progressive reduction of tariffs with a view to increasing the volume of the world's trade. As a first step the Committee suggested that there should be agreement to reduce duties on particular groups of commodities, each group to cover as many stages of production as is practicable, since reductions limited to raw materials or semi-finished products would increase the protection afforded to these products at later stages of manufacture. The Committee also asked that such reductions should eventually cover as many basic commodities as possible, but left the details to be worked out by the Economic Committee. The Consultative Committee pointed out that plans for tariff reduction would have a much greater prospect of success if governments would cease to increase tariffs, thus creating a favourable atmosphere in which to discuss reductions.

Industry. — As regards industry the Committee asked for a study of the subjects of rationalisation and industrial agreements, and the provision of adequate statistics and information concerning industrial development.

Coal and Sugar. — The serious position of the coal and sugar industries in a number of countries led to recommendations, in the interest of consumers and producers alike, that these two subjects should be closely studied in order to ascertain whether concerted international action could further the solution of the problems presented.

Agriculture. — The Committee suggested that information should be collected concerning the intensification of agricultural production, training, cooperation, credits, means of transport, marketing and development of direct relations between producers' and consumers' Cooperative Societies.

Economic Tendencies Affecting the Peace of the World. — The Committee asked that a preliminary study should be made of some of the more important principles and tendencies in financial and economic policy which tend to create or destroy conditions favourable to peace, a subject on which the Economic Conference has laid particular stress declaring that "the maintenance of world peace depends largely upon the principles on which the economic policies of nations are framed and executed".

Purchasing Power of Gold. — The fact that the currency of most countries has now been or is about to be stabilised on a gold basis made it necessary, in the opinion of the Committee, to recall certain resolutions of the Genoa Conference of 1922. Attention was drawn to the desirability of regulating credit with a view not only to maintaining currencies at par with one another, but also to preventing

undue fluctuations in the purchasing power of gold — in other words to maintain not only exchange stability but also stability of prices and so far as possible to reduce the alternation of booms and slumps in trade.

* * *

In brief outline these were the main recommendations of the Committee which also dealt with a number of other subjects, such as commercial and industrial statistics, administrative protectionism (in particular the use of veterinary and other sanitary regulations as a means of excluding animal and vegetable products), customs nomenclature, which, as the Committee pointed out, underlies a great deal of the work on collective action for the reduction of tariffs, general adoption of the most-favoured-nation clause and the simplification of customs formalities. The question of methods, particularly that of the committee to be set up in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation, the International Chamber of Commerce, the Institute of Agriculture, the Institute of Scientific Management, etc., was also touched upon, always with the proviso that the details should be settled by the technical bodies actually carrying out the work.

In its report the Committee drew attention to the fact that out of the vast field before it it had selected only the branches of work which seemed ripe for action, met urgent immediate requirements and offered a prospect of practical results. It concluded :

While the Committee has thought it well to emphasise the large amount of additional work thrown upon the organs of the League, it considers it no less important to emphasise the great extent to which the achievement of the purposes desired by the Economic Conference depends upon the Governments of the different countries and upon the efforts made in those countries by all those whose advice is sought by the Governments and who are in a position to educate public opinion. For all the work which can be initiated or carried through by the League organs the limiting factor is necessarily to be found in the attitude of the several countries and their willingness to proceed further in the direction recommended by the Conference in the interests alike of the increased prosperity and the more assured maintenance of the peace of the world.

b) *Meeting of the Financial Committee.*

The Financial Committee met on May 30th at Geneva, with Sir Otto Niemeyer (British) in the Chair.

Its agenda includes consideration of the Bulgarian and Greek refugee settlement work, the question of a Bulgarian loan, the Conventions between the Greek Government and the Greek National Bank, the administration of the Austrian and Hungarian loan balances, and questions concerning the Danzig Municipal loan of 1925. The Committee will continue its examination of a scheme of financial assistance for States victims of aggression.

The meeting was attended by :

Mr. Roland Boyden (American), M. de Chalendar (French), M. Dubois (Swiss), M. Janssen (Belgian), Dr. Melchior (German), M. Ter Meulen (Dutch), M. Pospisil (Czechoslovak), Sir Henry Strakosch (South African), M. Suvitch (Italian), M. Tsushima (Japanese).

3. — COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSIT

Meeting of a Special Committee of Telegraphic and Press Experts.

A Special Committee of Telegraphic and Press Experts convened by the Committee on Communications and Transit met in Paris from May 22nd to 24th under

the presidency of M. Ito, Councillor of Embassy and Member of the Committee on Communications and Transit.

There were further present :

M. Arendt, Ministerial Adviser in the German Postal Administration; M. Boulanger, Director of the Telegraphic Department of the French Postal and Telegraphic Secretariat; Mr. F. J. Brown, representing the International Cable Companies Association, London; M. R. Gesell, Editor in Chief of the "Telegrafen Union", Berlin; M. G. Gneme, Chief of the Telegraphic Department of the Italian Ministry of Communications; Mr. Thomas Wilson McAra, Secretary of the British Newspaper Proprietors' Association; M. Meynot, Director of the Havas Agency, Paris; Mr. Phillips, Assistant Secretary in the British General Post Office; Dr. J. Raeber, Director of the International Telegraph Union, Berlin.

The Committee's mandate was to examine what action might be taken on certain recommendations of the Conference of Press Experts held in Geneva in August 1927.

These recommendations concerned priority for press telegrams and wireless messages, "urgent" press telegrams and wireless messages, long-distance telegraph and wireless communications, regional telegraphic agreements, telephone rates, the authorisation to receive press messages by wireless, wireless rates, code telegrams, and the importance of telegraphic and wireless communications between the different continents.

The Committee formulated its conclusions in a report which will be transmitted to the League Committee on Communications and Transit.

4. — INTELLECTUAL COOPERATION

a) *Constitution of a Spanish National Committee on Intellectual Cooperation.*

A Spanish National Committee of Intellectual Cooperation has been officially constituted in Madrid under the Presidency of M. Julio Casares of the Spanish Academy. About twenty members, representing university, scientific, literary and artistic circles have already promised to collaborate.

b) *Inauguration of the Institute for the Unification of Private Law in Rome.*

The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law was inaugurated in Rome on May 30th. An account of the opening meeting will be published in the next number of the Monthly Summary.

This Institute originated in a proposal of the Italian delegation to the Assembly of 1924. The Italian Government offered to found in Rome an Institute for the Unification of Private Law and to grant for its upkeep an annual sum of one million lire. This generous offer was accepted by the Assembly and subsequently by the Council; and the latter, after consulting the competent organisations, in particular the Committee of Experts for the Progressive Codification of International Law the Committee on Intellectual Cooperation and the League technical organisations, concluded with the Italian Government the necessary agreements for the organisation, existence and normal working of the Institute. The general principles of these agreements are similar to those governing the creation of the Institute of Intellectual Cooperation in Paris. The engagements entered into by the Italian Government towards the Council of the League were ratified by Royal Decree of September 3rd, 1926. As premises for the new Institute the Italian Government decided to offer the Villa Aldobrandini.

The Institute will be under the direction of a Governing Body composed of an Italian President and fourteen members of different nationalities. On March 12th, 1927, the Council appointed M. Scialoja as President of the Governing Body

and nominated twelve members (the thirteenth member, of Spanish nationality, was appointed later).

The main object of the Institute is to study how to harmonise and coordinate the private law of the different States or different groups of States and gradually to prepare for the adoption, by the different States of a uniform system of private law.

V. — Administrative Questions.

TIRTY-THIRD REPORT OF THE SAAR GOVERNING COMMISSION

The Governing Commission of the Saar territory has addressed to the Secretary-General the report on its work and the situation in the territory during the first quarter of 1928.

Economic and Social Situation. — In the economic field the most important event was the signature of the Franco-German Agreement on commerce between the Saar and Germany. By this Agreement the German markets for the Saar metal finishing, porcelain, glass, chemical and tobacco industries are extended. Fresh markets are provided for the furnishing and paper industries and the agricultural products of the northern part of the territory.

The Agreement replaces the various provisional arrangements and will henceforth regulate the entire trade between the Saar and Germany. It is a guarantee for the stability and the development of the economic life of the territory.

Mines. — On March 1st, 1928, the State Mining Administration dismissed some 3,800 workers, 1,800 of whom reside outside and 2,000 in the territory. This situation is a result of the general European coal crisis. The Administration also desires to reduce as far as possible the number of non-working days. Despite the dismissals, the total number of workers now employed is higher than in 1920. The Governing Commission is studying how to assist the dismissed workers.

On March 15th, the total number of unemployed in the territory was roughly 4,500 (2.6 % of the total number of workers employed).

The Governing Commission began negotiations with the French Government for the revision of the 1924 regulations concerning the contribution of the State mines to the Saar budget. Agreement was reached on the maintenance of the *status quo* as regards the contribution of the mines and the increase of the quota contributed by the French State to the communal budget of the territory. The Governing Commission recognised that it would be difficult in the prevailing conditions to increase the burden of the mines and that any new taxes would result in a rise in coal prices in districts where there is no competition, more particularly in the Saar Basin itself. The negotiations will continue.

Political Questions. — The Advisory Council of the Technical Committee met several times and gave their opinion on some ten draft decrees. The elections for the new Advisory Council were held in March 1928. There were no incidents.

The results of the elections are as follows : Social Democrats 5, Communists 5, German Economic Group 1, Saar German People's Party 3, Christian Socialists 1, German Nationalists 1, Centre 14.

The outgoing Advisory Council was composed as follows : Social Democrats 6, Communists 5, German Economic Group 1, Saar German People's Party 4, Centre 14.

The report gives details concerning administration, finance, social insurance, public works, social welfare, health, agriculture, etc.

The Governing Commission issued a Decree providing for the gradual development of the vocational training.

VI. — Political Questions.

1. — INCIDENTS BETWEEN THE JAPANESE AND CHINESE TROOPS AT TSINAN-FOU

The Japanese representative on the Council has communicated to the Secretary-General, for the information of the Council and Members of the League, a statement setting forth the facts and circumstances since the beginning of May which led to the incidents between Japanese and Chinese troops at Tsinan-Fou.

The statement may be summarised as follows :

The Japanese Government begins by recalling the more noteworthy incidents which took place in China in 1927. On January 3rd, the British Concession at Hankow was attacked and occupied by Chinese rioters. On January 6th a similar outrage was perpetrated on the British Concession at Kiu-Kiang. On March 24th the Southern Army entered Nanking, the Communist troops looted the Japanese Consulate and houses of Japanese residents. Serious outrages were committed on the Consuls and residents of other countries. British and American warships were compelled to open fire as a protective measure. On April 3rd the Japanese Concession at Hankow, numbering 2,500 inhabitants, was attacked, most of the Japanese residents had to leave the town and the same was the case as regards certain other towns on the Yang-Tse. On December 11th a collision occurred at Kanton between Communist and non-Communist groups of Chinese troops, leading to pillage, massacre, and the summary execution of the Communists.

It is then pointed out that since the first Chinese revolution civil wars have continually followed one another and the activities of the Communists have rendered general conditions still more disturbed.

At present the situation is such that foreign residents cannot depend, for the protection of their lives and property, on the Chinese authorities alone. It is inevitable, therefore, that Japan, a country contiguous to China, the interest of which are profoundly involved and many of whose people live there, should, if occasion require, endeavour to safeguard her people and her vested rights by her own exertions on the spot.

When recently the Southern Army commanded by General Chiang Kai-Shek was advancing northwards from Nanking in the direction of Tsinan, Japan dispatched her troops to Tsinan for the protection of 2,000 Japanese residents there. It need scarcely be said that this dispatch of Japanese troops is a measure of self protection rendered unavoidable by the above-mentioned state of affairs prevailing in China.

The incident of Tsinan-Fou is described in the following terms :

The unfortunate incident owes its origin to the fact that Southern soldiers looted the house of a Japanese resident, and that they fired on the Japanese soldiers who went to the rescue.

Before the incident occurred, the responsible officers of the Southern Army repeatedly declared that they would assume the responsibility for the maintenance of peace and order, and demanded the removal of the Japanese defence works. The Japanese troops removed their defence works on the night which, it so happened, preceded the outbreak of the disturbance, and some of the Japanese residents, who had gone to places of safety returned home.

The incident occurred immediately after the Japanese defence works were removed. At the moment that happened, the Chinese troops, in various places,

simultaneously began to attack the Japanese troops and to outrage and plunder the Japanese residents.

This outrage and plunder were almost entirely confined to the Japanese. These circumstances produced the impression that the disturbance was designedly brought about by the Chinese, at least by the lower classes among them.

In the face of much difficulty, the Japanese repeatedly established contact with the Chinese and arranged for the suspension of hostilities. On each occasion, orders failed to be obeyed on the Chinese side, and hostilities had necessarily to be continued.

As the Chinese troops, including "un-uniformed soldiers", fired indiscriminately under cover of any houses they could find, the Japanese troops had to engage in street fighting in the most difficult circumstances.

The brutalities which the Chinese soldiers committed on some of the resident Japanese men and women immediately after the incident occurred are so cruel that description of them is impossible.

It is alleged that the limit of twelve hours attached to the demand which was made by the Japanese Commander on the 7th gave the Southern Army scarcely any time for consideration (1). It must be noted, however, that at that moment the circumstances were so urgent that the Japanese Commander was convinced that, if there were any delay, sharp practice on the part of the Southern troops would find its opportunity and place not only the Japanese residents but the Japanese troops themselves in the most dangerous position. His precaution was but natural in view of the faithlessness hitherto manifested on the Chinese side.

It is to be sincerely regretted that these outrages compelled the Japanese troops to resort to force for the protection of the Japanese residents.

If it should be thought that the present deplorable incident would not have occurred but for the dispatch of Japanese troops to Tsinan, such a view would obviously be erroneous in the light of the above-mentioned incidents at Hankow and Nanking, occasions on which no foreign troops were present.

The present dispatch of the Japanese troops is for no other purpose but to protect the lives and property of Japanese residents, and implies nothing approaching interference with the military operations of any of the Northern or Southern forces, and the troops will be withdrawn as soon as the necessity for their continued presence ceases to exist, as was announced by the Japanese Government at the time they were dispatched.

When a disturbed state of affairs came into existence at Tsinan last year, the Japanese Government dispatched their troops to that district in June in order to afford the necessary protection to Japanese residents. As soon as the situation became such that the presence of the Japanese troops was no longer required, they were recalled, their complete withdrawal having been effected by September 8th.

Prior to this communication the Secretary-General had received a telegram on the same subject from M. Tan Yen Kai, President of the "Nationalist Government of the Chinese Republic". This telegram was immediately communicated for information to the Members of the Council.

2. — COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE STRAITS COMMISSION

In accordance with the provisions of the Convention relating to the regime of the Straits (Lausanne 1923), the President of the Straits Commission has addressed to the Secretary-General a copy of a statement from the Government of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics concerning its naval and air forces in the Black Sea.

This statement has been circulated to all Members of the League and the Governments of the United States, the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics and Turkey.

(1) On the 7th, at 4 p.m., the Chief Staff Officer of the Japanese troops demanded that the Chinese troops should withdraw to a limit of 20 Chinese-miles (*i. e.* about 7 English miles) from Tsinan and from either side of the Shantung Railway. He also demanded the disarming of the Chinese troops who committed outrages on the Japanese troops and residents, and the punishment of the responsible officers.

VII. — Other Questions.

VISIT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO BRUSSELS AND COLOGNE

At the invitation of the Belgian Government the Secretary-General, Sir Eric Drummond, accompanied by M. Sugimura, Under-Secretary-General and Director of the Political Section, paid a visit to Belgium during the first days of May.

The Secretary-General then proceeded to Cologne, where he attended the opening ceremony of the International Press Exhibition.

VIII. — Forthcoming Events.

- June 15th : Meeting of the Supervisory Commission in London.
- June 18th : Meeting of the Special Committee on the Jurisdiction of the European Commission of the Danube in Vienna.
- June 20th : Meeting of Experts on Veterinary Questions at Geneva.
- June 22nd : Meeting of the Committee of Experts for the Progressive Codification of International Law in Geneva.
- June 25th : Meeting of the Malaria Commission at Geneva.
- June 25th : Meeting of the Economic Committee at Geneva.
- June 27th : Meeting of the Committee on Arbitration and Security at Geneva.
- June 27th : Meeting of the Technical Committee on the Unification of Maritime Tonnage in London.
- June 29th : Second Conference for the abolition of export restrictions on Hides and Bones.
- July 2nd : Course in Malariology in Rome.
- July 2-4th : Meeting of the Committee of Health Experts on Infant Welfare in London.
- July 3rd : Meeting of the Second Conference on the Abolition on Import and Export Prohibitions and Restrictions at Geneva.
- July 9th : Meeting of the Sub-Committee on University Relations at Geneva.
- July 12th : Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Intellectual Rights at Geneva.
- July 16th : Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Arts and Letters at Geneva.
- July 20th : Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Sciences and Bibliography at Geneva.
- July 24th : Meeting of the Plenary Committee on Intellectual Co-operation at Geneva.

IX. — Publications of the League of Nations.

REPORT AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

The Report and Proceedings of the World Economic Conference, which have recently been published in two volumes by the Secretariat, complete the series of documents issued in connection with the Economic Conference.

Volume I contains a general statement and a summary of the work of the Conference. The agenda of the Conference was divided into two parts including,

in the first place, a study of the general economic situation and, in the second, a discussion of problems concerning international trade, industry and agriculture.

The first volume further contains the plenary debates of the Conference, its report, and the debates of the Council on the report submitted by M. Stresemann on the work of the Conference.

Volume II contains a summary of the minutes of the three main Committees of the Conference, which dealt with the three principal categories of economic problems, commerce, industry and agriculture.

° These two volumes constitute a complete record of the work of the Conference and one of the principal sources of study for all the economic problems of the present day.

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OFFICIAL JOURNAL

The *Official Journal*, which is published monthly (since January 1922) in separate editions in English and French, contains the complete Minutes of the Sessions of the Council of the League of Nations, the text of the Reports and Resolutions adopted by the Council, as well as the principal official documents received or despatched by the Secretariat of the League.

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THIRD YEAR

(C. H. 599. 1927. III. 7).

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(Prepared by the Information Section)

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The League of Nations : Constitution and Organisation (<i>Revised Edition including the Covenant</i>).	6 d. 15 cents.
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