

THE  
MONTHLY SUMMARY  
OF THE  
LEAGUE OF NATIONS

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Vol. VIII. No. 4.

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# MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Vol. VIII. No. 4.

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### I. — Summary of the Month.

The principal meetings in April were devoted to the humanitarian and social work of the League. The Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium held its Eleventh Ordinary Session. The Cancer and Smallpox Commissions of the Health Committee met towards the end of the month, and the Plenary Committee assembled on the 30th. In the economic and financial field, mention must be made of meetings of the representatives of the statistical services of banks of issue, and of experts on legislation on bills of exchange and cheques.

The Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium met from April 12th to 27th. The principal items discussed were the annual reports of Governments on measures

to combat the clandestine traffic, the situation in the Far East, the general position as regard the traffic, the question of the administrative control of the traffic, and certain special questions in connection with the Geneva Opium Convention of 1925.

The Health Committee met on April 30th, and continued in session in May. The session was preceded by meetings of various commissions, such as the Permanent Commission for the Standardisation of Sera and Biological Products at Frankfurt-on-Main; the Smallpox and Vaccination Commission and the Cancer Commission, at Geneva. It will be followed by a conference of Laboratories and Serological Institutes at Copenhagen.

The experts on bills of exchange drew up four draft conventions for submission to an international conference. Representatives of twenty-five banks of issue met in Paris at the League's invitation to discuss the comparability of monetary statistics.

The Permanent Court of International Justice gave judgment in the case concerning the admission of children to minority schools in Polish Upper Silesia.

The Honourable John Bassett Moore, formerly Counsellor of the State Department, Washington, sent in his resignation as judge of the Permanent Court.

The Straits Commission sent in its third annual report.

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

### 1. — CASE CONCERNING GERMAN MINORITY SCHOOLS IN POLISH UPPER SILESIA (2)

On April 26th, the Permanent Court of International Justice, at a public sitting held for the purpose, delivered judgment in the case concerning the question of the admission of children to the minority schools in Polish Upper Silesia.

The origin of the case was as follows, according to the statement of facts of the Judgment :

When Upper Silesia was divided between Germany and Poland, in accordance with the result of the plebiscite provided for in the Treaty of Versailles, a Convention was drawn up between the two neighbouring States designed to regulate the conditions in the divided province. This convention contained, amongst other things, provisions for the protection of the racial, linguistic and religious minority in both parts of Upper Silesia, some important stipulations being devoted to the question of education. According to these stipulations, minority schools were to be created and to these schools were to be admitted children whose language—according to declarations to be made by the persons responsible for their education—was a minority language. The authorities were to abstain from any verification or dispute as to the veracity of the declarations in question. The same prohibition applied as regards the question whether a person did or did not belong to a minority. The provisions just referred to are contained in Articles 74, 106, and 131 of the above-mentioned Convention.

In 1926 the Polish authorities took certain measures with a view to verifying whether children, for whose admission to German minority schools or classes application had been made, ought, properly speaking, to attend such schools or classes, and, as a result of the enquiry, more than seven thousand children were excluded from those schools. A complaint in this respect having been eventually addressed to the Council of the League in accordance with the provisions of the German-Polish Convention, the Council adopted a resolution under which the Polish Government was recommended not to insist on the exclusion from the minority schools of

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(1) This article has been written with the aid of information furnished by the Registry of the Court.

(2) See *Monthly Summary*, Vol. VIII, No. 1, p. 2; No. 2, p. 46; No. 3, p. 66.

certain categories of the children just referred to, whilst it was held that it was not opportune to admit to those schools children speaking only the Polish language. Measures were indicated to ensure the just and proper application of this resolution.

A few months later, the Council had again to deal with the same question from the point of view of the applicability of its resolution to a certain category of children. On this occasion the German representative, stating that the Council was faced with a dispute of a legal character, announced his intention of bringing the matter before the Permanent Court of International Justice in order to obtain from it an interpretation of the relevant provisions of the Convention concerning Upper Silesia. The Council noted this statement, and within a month the Court had before it the Application on which it has now passed judgment.

This Application and the German Case in support of it having been duly communicated to the Polish Government, the latter filed a Counter-Case containing submissions on the merits of the Application of the German Government. In the further course of the written proceedings, however, the Polish Government expressly took objection to the jurisdiction of the Court and to its power to entertain the German Application.

The latter, in the view of the Court, comprises the following three contentions :

(1) Articles 74, 106 and 131 of the Geneva Convention establish the unfettered liberty of any person to declare, according to his own conscience and on his own personal responsibility, that he does or does not belong to a racial, linguistic or religious minority, subject to no verification, dispute, pressure or hindrance in any form whatsoever on the part of the authorities.

(2) The above-mentioned articles also established the unfettered liberty of any person to choose the language of instruction and the corresponding school for the pupil or child for whose education he is responsible—likewise subject to no verification, dispute, pressure or hindrance in any form whatsoever on the part of the authorities.

(3) Any measure singling out the minority schools to their detriment is incompatible with the equal treatment granted by Articles 65, 68, 72, para. 2, and the Preamble to Division II.

The Polish Government on its side had asked the Court to reject the German submissions and secondly to give an interpretation of the articles quoted differing from that set forth in the German contentions. Poland further held that, as well as the articles quoted in support of the first two contentions of the German Government, Article 69 of the Convention must also be taken into account.

As regards the Polish plea to the jurisdiction, the Court has arrived at the conclusion that it is inadmissible. The German Application was based on Article 72 of the Convention concerning Upper Silesia, under the terms of which Poland agrees that any dispute concerning questions of law or of fact arising out of the articles preceding the said article shall, at the request of the other party, be submitted to the Permanent Court of International Justice. The Polish Government contended that the Court had no jurisdiction over the present dispute under this article, because the provisions, the interpretation of which was asked for in the German submissions, were articles following and not preceding Article 72. The German Government for its part, invoking Article 38 of the Rules of Court, according to which any preliminary objection shall be made at latest in the Counter-Case, contended that the Polish objection had in any case been presented so late that it could not be taken into account.

The Court does not share this opinion of the German Government, for it holds that the article in question regulates the case only where the Respondent asks for a decision upon the objection before any further procedure on the merits. But it also holds, on the other hand, that, as the jurisdiction of the Court always depends

on the will of the parties, the Court has jurisdiction in every case where its jurisdiction is accepted by them. This acceptance, however, is not dependent on the observance of any formalities, for instance, the preparation of a special agreement submitting a dispute to the Court. It can, the Court holds, result also from express declarations subsequent to the unilateral submission of an application, and even from mere acts conclusively establishing it; and, in the Court's opinion, the attitude of a Government in entering upon the discussion of the merits of a case should be considered as an unequivocal manifestation of its will to obtain a decision thereon. Moreover, such an expression of will, if once made, cannot be withdrawn in the further course of the proceedings, except in very special circumstances, which the Court holds do not exist in the present case. The Court, therefore, concludes that the Polish Government has implicitly accepted the Court's jurisdiction to pass judgment on the merits of all the contentions of the German Government. As concerns the last of these contentions, moreover, it is, the Court says, covered by the jurisdiction conferred on the Court by Article 72 of the Upper Silesian Convention, for it refers to Articles 65 and 68 of that Convention, that is to say, to articles preceding Article 72.

Dealing next with the Polish plea according to which the Court would not be entitled to entertain the German submissions, it likewise arrives at the conclusion that this plea cannot be admitted, for, whereas it is based on the contention that the subject-matter of the dispute had already been settled by the decision of the Council of the League, the Court holds that its own jurisdiction and that of the Council under the Convention concerning Upper Silesia are different in character. It observes, moreover, that the Council itself declared that it did not intend to settle the question of law that had arisen as set out above.

Having thus arrived at the conclusion that it is incumbent upon it to pass judgment on the merits of the various contentions of the German Government, the Court next examines those contentions. In this respect the Court first deals with the divergence of views between Germany and Poland as to whether the question of membership of a linguistic minority is a question of intention or a question of fact. In this respect it holds that Poland is justified in construing the provisions of the Convention concerning Upper Silesia as meaning that this question is in reality a question of fact. But it adds that, especially in Upper Silesia, there are a great number of cases where the answer to the question does not clearly result from the mere facts. This, in the Court's opinion, may well be the reason why the Convention, whilst requiring declarations in accordance with the situation of fact, prohibits any verification or dispute as concerns the truthfulness of the declarations. The Court does not fail to see that difficulties may ensue from this interpretation; but it is of opinion that the parties have deliberately preferred these difficulties to those which would result, should the authorities have the power to verify or dispute the veracity of the declarations.

Similarly, as concerns the second contention of the German Government, the Court arrives at the conclusion that the Polish Government is right in holding that the declaration designed to state what is the language of a pupil or child, should be a mere statement of fact, and does not admit of any freedom of choice. But it again adds that, in the appreciation of the facts, a subjective element may properly enter into account, more especially in cases where children speak both German and Polish, or when they have not a sufficient knowledge of either of these languages.

On a point of detail the Court holds that there is nothing contrary to the Convention concerning Upper Silesia in the contention put forward by the Polish Government, but disputed by the German Government, that as a condition for the admission of children to existing minority classes a declaration concerning its mother-tongue should be made. In particular, the Court does not see therein

anything contrary to the principle of equality of treatment laid down in the Convention.

With regard, finally, to the third contention of the German Government, the Court confines itself to establishing that there does not seem to be any divergence of opinion between the two Governments on this point, so that it is not necessary for the Court to pass judgment thereon.

The operative part of the Judgment is as follows :

(1) That the objections, whether to the jurisdiction or respecting the admissibility of the suit, raised by the Respondent, must be overruled;

(2) That Articles 74, 106 and 131 of the German-Polish Convention of May 15th, 1922, concerning Upper Silesia, bestow upon every national the right freely to declare, according to his conscience and on his personal responsibility, that he does or does not belong to a racial, linguistic or religious minority and to declare what is the language of a pupil or child for whose education he is legally responsible;

That these declarations must set out what their author regards as the true position in regard to the point in question and that the right freely to declare what is the language of a pupil or child, though comprising, when necessary, the exercise of some discretion in the appreciation of circumstances, does not constitute an unrestricted right to choose the language in which instruction is to be imparted or the corresponding school.

That, nevertheless, the declaration contemplated by Article 131 of the Convention, as also the question whether a person does or does not belong to a racial, linguistic or religious minority, are subject to no verification, dispute, pressure or hindrance whatever on the part of the authorities.

(3) That the Court is not called upon to give judgment on that portion of the Applicant's submission according to which any measure singling out the minority schools to their detriment is incompatible with the equal treatment guaranteed by Articles 65, 68, 72, paragraph 2, and by the Preamble of Division II of Part III of the Convention.

The Judgment was given by eight votes to four, M. Huber, M. Nyholm, M. Negulesco and M. Schucking not being able to agree with the terms thereof.

## 2. — CASE OF THE FREE ZONES OF UPPER SAVOY AND THE PAYS DE GEX

The President of the Court has decided to fix the time limits for the presentation of the documents in the written proceedings so that these proceedings will be concluded by the beginning of June 1929. The case can therefore be put in the list of cases for the Court's (ordinary) session which opens on June 15th, 1929.

## 3. — NEW CASE : BRAZILIAN GOLD LOANS CONTRACTED IN FRANCE

On April 26th, 1928, the French Legation at The Hague filed a special agreement for arbitration signed on August 27th, 1927, between the Governments of the United States of Brazil and the French Republic, submitting to the Court for decision a dispute concerning the payment in gold of Brazilian Federal Loans contracted in France.

The Brazilian Legation at The Hague has in due course also filed the same document.

The written proceedings in the case will be concluded before the end of 1928 so that the Court will be able to hear the case during a session to be held in 1929.

This being the first case submitted to the Court which directly concerns a State in the American continent it may be of interest to reproduce here the main clauses of the arbitration agreement.

#### ARTICLE I.

The Permanent Court of International Justice shall be requested to give judgment on the following question :

With regard to the Brazilian Federal Government's 5 % loan of 1909 (Port of Pernambuco), 4 % loan of 1910, and 4 % loan of 1911, is payment of coupons which have matured and are not barred by prescription at this date, and coupons which shall mature, as also repayment of bonds drawn for redemption but not actually paid which are not barred by prescription on the date of the Court's decision, or of bonds subsequently to be redeemed, to be effected by delivery to the French holders, in respect of each franc, of the value corresponding, in the currency of the place of payment at the rate of exchange of the day, to one-twentieth of a gold piece weighing 6.45161 grammes of 900/1000 fineness, or is such payment or repayment to be effected as hitherto in paper francs, that is to say, in the French currency which is compulsory legal tender?

#### ARTICLE VI.

In estimating the weight to be attached to any municipal law of either country which may be applicable to the dispute, the Permanent Court of International Justice shall not be bound by the decisions of the respective courts.

#### 4. — CLOSING OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COURT

At a public sitting of the Court held on April 26th the President declared the XIIIth (extraordinary) session closed. During this session, which was opened on February 7th, 1928, the Court gave an advisory opinion (the case of the jurisdiction of the Danzig Courts) and a judgment (case concerning certain minority rights in Polish Upper Silesia).

The next session will be the ordinary session which opens on June 15th, 1928.

#### 5. — RESIGNATION OF JUDGE MOORE

The Hon. John Bassett Moore has just transmitted to the Secretary-General a letter by which he tenders his resignation as a Judge of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

Judge Moore, formerly Counsellor of the State Department, Washington, was appointed to the Court by the Assembly and the Council for the regular term of nine years at the first election which took place in September 1921, and his term of office would therefore normally expire on December 31st, 1930.

In his letter of resignation, he states as his main reason that he now finds it necessary "to give definite and continuous personal attention to the publication now beginning of a voluminous collection of all international arbitrations, ancient and modern, for which he began to gather material 42 years ago".

Judge Moore asked that his resignation be effective as soon as possible and renounced all claims to pension.

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The Statute of the Court provides that vacancies which may occur shall be filled by the same method as that laid down for the first election and for the duration of the original term.

This method is, in general, as follows :



The Members of the Court are elected by the Assembly and by the Council from a list of persons nominated by the national groups in the Court of Arbitration.

In the case of Members of the League of Nations not represented in the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the lists of candidates is drawn up by national groups appointed for this purpose by their Governments under the same conditions as those prescribed for members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration by Article 44 of the Convention of The Hague of 1907 for the pacific settlement of international disputes.

The nominations are made by the groups just mentioned in accordance with the following provisions :

At least three months before the date of the election, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations shall address a written request to the Members of the Court of Arbitration belonging to the States mentioned in the Annex to the Covenant or to the States which join the League subsequently, and to the persons appointed under paragraph 2 of Article 4, inviting them to undertake, within a given time, by national groups, the nomination of persons in a position to accept the duties of a member of the Court.

When there is only one seat to be filled, each group may nominate not more than two candidates, both of whom may be of its nationality.

Before making these nominations, each national group is recommended to consult its Highest Court of Justice, its Legal Faculties and Schools of Law, and its National Academies and national sections of International Academies devoted to the study of Law.

The Secretary-General of the League of Nations shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all the persons thus nominated. The Secretary-General shall submit this list to the Assembly and to the Council.

At every election, the electors shall bear in mind that not only should all the persons appointed as members of the Court possess the qualifications required, but the whole body also should represent the main forms of civilisation and the principal legal systems of the world.

### III. — The Saint-Gotthard Incident.

In virtue of the powers conferred upon it by the Council, the Committee of Three appointed in March to examine the Saint-Gotthard Incident has invited two groups of experts to assist in the preparation of its report.

The first group comprises two arms experts, M. Rudolf Kjellman (Swedish) and Mr. Oscar Skerman (British) who, on the instructions of the Committee, proceeded to the Saint-Gotthard station on the Austro-Hungarian frontier and drew up an inventory and detailed description of what remained of the five truck-loads of machine guns parts held up on January 1st, 1928. They also noted any circumstances calculated to enlighten the Committee as to the nature and present condition of the material.

The second group consists of two experts on international railway traffic, goods transport and customs formalities, M. Jacob Kalff, Director General of the Netherlands Railways, and M. A. Verzinger, President of the Managing Board of the Transport Agency, Danzas & Company, Bâle, who met in Bâle at the end of April, and remained at the disposal of the Committee of Three.

The Committee itself (M. Beelaerts van Blokland (Netherlands), M. Procopé (Finland) and M. Villegas (Chili) will meet at The Hague at the beginning of May under the presidency of the Netherlands Foreign Minister, M. Beelaerts van Blokland, to prepare its report for the Council. It will take note of all the material collected including the reports of the experts.

#### IV. — Legal and Constitutional Questions.

##### 1. — LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA

The Acting-President of the Council M. Urrutia (Colombia) has addressed to the Foreign Minister of Costa Rica the following letter :

I have the honour to inform you that the Council of the League of Nations, at its meeting on March 9th, 1928, decided, on the proposal of its President, to make known to your Government that considerable satisfaction would be felt not only by the Council, but by all the Members of the League, if the Government of Costa Rica would reverse its decision and cooperate as formerly in the work of the League.

I am particularly happy to express the feelings with which the League would welcome Costa Rica, being myself a national of one of those American countries which have placed so many hopes in the beneficial action of the League of Nations for the development of international relations, the consolidation of the principle of equality of States, and the maintenance of the peace of the world.

I take the liberty of enclosing part of the minutes of the Council of March 9th, 1928, containing the speeches made by several members who expressed their desire that your country should once more become a member of the League, and I am happy to interpret the feelings of all my colleagues who, by requesting me to take this step, have no intention of expressing an opinion on the question which I have the honour to submit to the Government of Costa Rica, but only wish to inform Your Excellency of the sincere desire of the League of Nations as a whole, that the Republic of Costa Rica should once more take its place in our Organisation.

##### 2. — INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

###### *Registration.*

Among the treaties and international engagements registered in April figure :

A series of conventions between Belgium and Portugal, signed on July 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd at Loanda, concerning health, economic, communications and territorial questions in Belgian-Congo and Angola, presented for registration by Belgium;

An Arbitration Treaty between Denmark and France, signed in Paris on July 5th, 1926, presented for registration by Denmark;

Commercial agreements between Haiti and Italy, Finland and Sweden, France and the economic union of Belgium and Luxemburg;

A Convention between Sweden and the U. S. S. R. concerning the rights and obligations of the U. S. S. R. Commercial Delegation in Stockholm, signed in Moscow, on October 8th, 1927, presented for registration by Sweden;

A declaration concerning the reciprocal recognition of tonnage certificates, signed at The Hague on December 24th, 1927, by the Netherlands and Sweden, presented by the Netherlands.

An Exchange of Notes between Finland and Japan, dated February 25th, 1928, concerning the suppression of passport visas between the two countries, presented for registration by Finland.

## V. — The Technical Organisations.

### 1. — TWELFTH SESSION OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Twelfth Session of the Health Committee opened on April 30th in Geneva. The meeting was attended by the following members :

Dr. Th. Madsen, Chairman (Danish).  
M. O. Velghe, Vice-Chairman (Belgian).  
Dr. H. Carrière, Vice-Chairman (Swiss).  
Sir George Buchanan (British).  
Dr. Carlos Chagas (Brazilian).  
Dr. Witold Chodzko (Polish).  
Surgeon General H. S. Cumming<sup>r</sup> (United States).  
Dr. Park, replacing Dr. J. H. L. Cumpston (Australian).  
Colonel J. D. Graham (British).  
Dr. C. Hamel (Allemand).  
Dr. N. M. J. Jitta (Netherlands).  
Prof. Ricardo Jorge (Portuguese).  
Dr. A. Lutrario (Italian).  
Prof. B. Nocht (German).  
Prof. Donato Ottolenghi (Italian).  
Dr. M. Tsurumi (Japanese).  
Dr. C. E. A. Winslow (United States).  
Dr. Nagayo (Japanese).

The session was preceded by meetings of various Commissions, such as the Permanent Commission for the standardisation of sera and biological products at Frankfort-on-Main, April 25th and 26th; the Smallpox and Vaccination Commission (April 25th and 26th) and the Cancer Commission (April 27th and 28th) at Geneva, and will be followed by a Conference of Laboratories and Serological Institutes on the sera-diagnosis of syphilis at Copenhagen on May 21st.

The agenda of the session includes a review of the work done by the Health Organisation since October; a study of the Medical Director's report and the reports of Committees and Commissions; plans for the work of the organisation in 1928 and 1929; the examination of the decisions adopted by the Council in December concerning the development of relations with Latin-America and interchanges of health officers in 1928 for which the Rockefeller Foundation has offered a supplementary credit of 25,000 dollars; reports by the President of the Health Committee and the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India on the interchange held in India from January 1st to February 18th.

This interchange was attended by fifteen Health Officers from twelve Far-Eastern Administrations, namely, Australia, Ceylon, China, Egypt, the Federated Malay States, French, Indo-China, Japan, Dutch East Indies, New Zealand, Philippines, Siam and the Straits Settlement.

The President of the Health Committee attended the Third Session of the Advisory Council of the Singapore Epidemiological Intelligence Bureau, which was held at Delhi at the end of December. The agenda of the Eleventh Session also includes an examination of the President's report on this meeting, and of a report on the work of the Epidemiological Intelligence Bureau, in connection with the general development and functioning of the Service of Epidemiological Intelligence and Public Health Statistics.

The following member and expert advisers are taking part for the first time in the work the Committee : Colonel Graham, Public Health Commissioner with

the Government of India; Dr. Nagayo (Japanese) Director of the Tokyo Institute of Infectious Diseases, and Professor Winslow (United States), Director of the Public Health School of Yale University.

The session was also attended by Dr. Scoseria, who is on a special mission to Europe, with a view to developing cooperation between the Health Organisation and Latin America, and the Director of the Greek Public Health Services, Dr. Copanaris, who is in Geneva to examine the question of tuberculosis among the Greek refugees.

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The President of the Health Committee telegraphed to the Bulgarian and Greek Health Services offering to send a member of the League Health Section to cooperate in emergency measures in connection with the recent earthquakes.

The Bulgarian Health Service, having accepted this offer, Dr. Wroczinsky (Polish), who took part in the work of the League Epidemic Commission in Greece, has left for Bulgaria.

## 2. — THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ORGANISATION

### a) *Meeting of representatives of Central banks.*

At the suggestion of the Financial Committee, representatives of the Information and Statistical Services of twenty-five banks of issue met from April 11th to April 17th in Paris, in the *Galerie dorée* of the Banque de France, under the chairmanship of M. Quesnay.

The Banks represented were : The National Banks of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Roumania, Kingdom of the Serbs-Croats-Slovenes, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and the Federal Reserve Board.

The discussions, which were limited to the work of the information and statistical services, were in no way concerned with problems of monetary policy. They were directed to the examination of the characteristic features of the different money markets, the volume of money and of credit, clearing statistics, the velocity of circulation, indices of economic activity, and, finally, to the definition of the different rates of money and the manner in which these rates are quoted. In all these discussions the primary object was to find means of rendering monetary statistics more comparable and more easy of interpretation. The meeting also discussed the conditions under which information on these subjects might be exchanged between banks.

Before dispersing the delegates recorded their sense of the great value of the exchange of views which had taken place during the week in which they had been working together at the invitation of the League of Nations, and expressed the conviction that the personal relations thus initiated would be found to be of permanent utility, and that their future development could not fail to be of advantage for the observation of monetary phenomena. They also expressed their cordial thanks to the Bank of France and to their Chairman for the many courtesies which had been extended to them throughout their work.

### b) *Bills of exchange and cheques.*

The experts appointed by the Economic Committee to study the possibility of bringing into harmony the laws of the so-called continental type of bills of

exchange and cheques, met at Geneva from April 11th to 13th, with Professor Percerou (French) in the chair.

They drew up four draft conventions which, after being submitted to Governments for their observations, are to serve as a basis for the discussions of an international conference.

Generally speaking, the experts have endeavoured to establish principles which might serve as a basis for reducing the divergencies of the various laws of the continental type including those of Latin American countries. They came to the conclusion that the best method would be that States of the continental group should adopt certain rules which they would undertake to introduce into their legislation.

The first draft convention (bills of exchange) and the second (cheques) formulate certain rules capable of being generally accepted by the various States with a view to obtaining a certain uniformity in national legislation on the subject. The third and fourth conventions lay down rules for the solution of conflicts of laws which may arise from such divergencies as may continue to exist between the laws of the countries concerned, even after partial unification.

Such conflicts of laws may arise (a) between States parties to these agreements; (b) between States parties and States not parties to these agreements; and (c) between States not parties to these agreements.

It appeared to the Committee that the advantage of knowing exactly in advance what would be the law applied in a given case by the courts of a given country, might possibly induce countries which, for special reasons, desired to abstain from unification, to accede to conventions providing uniform solutions for problems raised by conflicts of laws.

The meeting was attended by M. J. Percerou (Chairman), Professor of Law at Paris University; M. Hans von Flotow, Privy Councillor, Berlin; M. Karel Hermann-Otavsky, Professor at Prague University; M. Xavier Janne, Barrister, Professor of Law at Liège University; M. Joseph Sulkowski, Professor of Law at Posen University; M. Max Vischer, Barrister and Solicitor, First Secretary of the Swiss Bankers' Association, Bâle; M. Auguste Weiller, Barrister, Delegate of the Fascist General Banking Federation, Milan.

#### c) *Double taxation and tax evasion.*

With a view to the publication of texts concerning the prevention of double taxation and tax evasion, as prescribed by the Council in September 1927, the Secretary-General has asked all States to communicate :

(1) Any article in national laws providing, subject to reciprocity, for certain exemptions from taxation for the purpose of preventing double taxation, and

(2) Any articles in their commercial treaties providing for the negotiation of conventions for the prevention of double taxation;

(3) Any articles in commercial treaties for the prevention of double taxation.

The volume to be prepared will include a general table of texts for the prevention of double taxation and tax evasion including both those which are and those which are not in force. There will also be a bibliography of studies on double taxation and tax evasion and, in order to make it as full as possible, the Secretary-General has asked States Members for information as to the studies published in their country on the subject.

The collection will be submitted to a conference on double taxation and tax evasion which will be held in the latter half of 1928.

### 3. — INTELLECTUAL COOPERATION

#### a) *Formation of a German National Committee on Intellectual Cooperation.*

The German National Committee on Intellectual Cooperation was officially inaugurated on March 26th, 1928, at Berlin, under the Chairmanship of Dr. von Harnack, Privy Councillor. Some fifty members representing university and scientific interests have promised their cooperation, and it is hoped that the arts and letters will also be represented.

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A certain number of meetings arranged by the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation took place in March and April. The more important concern :

#### b) *The coordination of International University Studies.*

There was a meeting of experts at Berlin from March 22nd to 24th study the coordination of international university studies.

Professor Jäckh was elected chairman. The Institute was represented by its Director, M. Luchaire, and the following institutions took part :

*Deutsche Hochschule für Politik*, Berlin; the Geneva School of International Studies; the University of Berlin; *Institut für Auswärtige Politik*, Hamburg; the Consular Academy, Vienna; *Centre européen de la Dotation Carnegie pour la Paix internationale*, Paris; *Seminar für orientalische Sprachen*, Berlin; the Institute of Politics, Williamstown (Mass); Paris University; the Institute of International Affairs, London; Rome University; the Academy of International Law, The Hague; *Institut universitaire de hautes études internationales*, Geneva; the International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation.

After submitting their reports on the work of the Institutes they represented, the experts passed resolutions with a view to the coordination of the work of establishments dealing with international university studies.

#### c) *Third Session of the Committee of Representatives of the International Students Organisations.*

The Third Session of the Committee of Representatives of International Students Organisations was held from April 23rd to 25th in Paris. This meeting had been summoned at the Institute of Intellectual Cooperation and included delegates from seven associations : (The International Students' Confederation, The International Student Service, The International Federation of University Women, The World Student Christian Federation, The International University Federation for the League of Nations, the Pax Romana and the World Union of Jewish Students).

A member of the International Labour Office attended the meeting at which M. de Reynold, member of the Committee on Intellectual Cooperation, presided.

The questions discussed were of a practical nature. They included the question of the unemployment in connection with brain workers, international students statistics, a scheme for an international university year-book; the appointment of delegates to the University Relations Section of the International Institute, the creation of an international university sanatorium at Leysin, a study of methods of self-help and mutual aid and the cooperative organisation of students, the coordination of the dates of international students' conferences, the encouragement of foreign studies, the distribution of the international students' identity card, a study of the most suitable means of making known the travelling facilities for students already granted by Governments and travelling agencies and how to obtain

these facilities, the encouragement of international studies and, in particular, of studies concerning the work of the League of Nations.

d) *Meeting of Directors of National University Offices.*

From April 17th to 18th there was a Third Annual Meeting of Directors of National University Offices who came together at the invitation of the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation. The national university offices deal with the relations between their own and foreign universities.

The delegates of the national offices studied, in particular, questions concerning the movements of professors and students between the different countries; the obstacles (difference of language, cost of living, depreciated currency) to the international exchange of professors and students; the equivalence of university degrees, special courses for foreigners (these courses being more and more numerous and attracting more and more people); measures to facilitate students' travels and to enable them to benefit as far as possible by these travels. There was an exchange of views on the protection of university degrees and the publication of studies conducted in university institutes.

These exchanges of views are intended to clear the way for international agreements. In this connection the Institute of Intellectual Cooperation has also undertaken several enquiries; for instance, it is studying, at the request of the American Council of Education, the organisation of scholarships for foreigners in Europe.

At this year's meeting the number of countries represented had increased, the members attending being Professor C. Remme (Germany), M. Ch. du Bus de Warffaffe (Belgium); M. C. A. Bodelsen (Denmark); Dr. Stephen P. Duggan and Professor C. Vibbert (United States); Professor L. Eisenmann and A. Desclos (France); Professor G. Remoundos (Greece); Mme Fekete-Techert (Hungary); M. Amedeo Giannini (Italy); Professor N. van Wijk (Netherlands); Professor O. de Halecki (Poland); M. C. Zaharescu (Roumania); and Professor E. von Waldkirch (Switzerland).

## VI. — Administrative Questions.

### • APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE DANZIG PORT AND WATERWAYS BOARD

The League High Commissioner at Danzig has informed the Secretary-General that the Polish and Danzig Governments have agreed to extend the appointment of M. de Loes (Swiss) as president of the Danzig Port and Waterways Board for a further period of three years from April 24th, 1928. M. de Loes has agreed to remain in office for this period.

## VII. — Political Questions.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STRAITS COMMISSION

The Secretary-General has received the annual report of the Straits Commission for 1927.

This Commission, which operates at Constantinople under the auspices of the League, was set up under the Convention signed at Lausanne in 1923 by Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Bulgaria, Greece, Roumania, the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom and Turkey. It is composed

of representatives of the Powers which have ratified the convention, namely, Bulgaria, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Japan, Roumania and Turkey, and is presided over by its Turkish member, Admiral Vassif Pasha.

The 1927 report is in two parts, one dealing with the work of the Commission in 1927, the other containing information on conditions of passage through the Straits for vessels and airships.

The Commission observes that the information service on the passage of war vessels through the Straits is working smoothly and satisfactorily. In 1927 the Governments represented on the Commission were notified of the latter's desire to be kept informed of any abnormal circumstances in connection with passage, and more particularly of such as might tend to deprive the Straits of their character as a transit zone. At the end of 1927, the Turkish Government closed the Gulf of Ismid to foreign warships, and the Commission proposes to examine carefully any questions raised in connection with this measure.

As in 1926, the Commission requested and received from the coastal States of the Black Sea information on the composition of their naval forces in these waters.

The Commission reports on changes to administrative regulations made at its suggestion, and calculated to make it easier for navigation companies to exploit their lines. Where it has been impossible to amend regulations, instructions were given by the Turkish authorities for them to be applied in a liberal spirit. The Commission also notes measures for the practical solution of questions such as the exercise of local maritime control, the use of wireless on board ships, supplies at Constantinople for ships in transit, etc. On these subjects there were exchanges of views between the Turkish authorities and foreign navigation companies in Constantinople.

The Commission expresses the wish that Turkish law now being prepared may in the near future authorise ships passing through the Straits to use their wireless apparatus subject to the usual international regulations.

As regards health questions, the Commission makes several recommendations; one concerning the prompt ratification of the decisions of the Paris Health Conference (1926) which would result in the virtual suppression of the sanitary inspection of ships in transit, another concerning the appointment at the earliest possible date of three European specialists as administrative health counsellors on the Turkish frontiers, who would cooperate in establishing regulations for the coastal and frontier health service.

The Commission observes that the life-saving service in the Black Sea has been improved, that increasing special facilities were granted in 1927 to merchant ships passing through the Straits, and that certain formalities were suppressed. On the other hand, while recognising that as regards merchant ships, the Turkish health, police and customs services have been improved, the Commission draws attention to the desire of the navigation companies concerned that these three inspections should take place simultaneously.

The second part of the report contains the body of regulations applicable from January 1st, 1928, to sea and air traffic. These regulations are based on the provisions of the Straits Convention or on the Turkish regulations in force.

There are several annexes, in particular, regulations for foreign warships and auxiliary vessels and aircraft accompanying them on visits to the ports and territorial waters of the Turkish Republic, as well as a tabular statement of the maritime traffic in the Straits in 1927.

In accordance with the Council resolution of June 16th, 1927, this report has been forwarded to the Members of the Council and to the signatories of the Straits Convention.



## VIII. — Social and Humanitarian Questions.

### ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC IN OPIUM

The eleventh session of the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium was held at Geneva from April 12th to 27th under the chairmanship of Dr. Carriere, Director of the Swiss Health Office.

During this session, the Committee discussed in particular the position as regards the ratification of the Geneva Opium Convention of 1925, the Progress Report of the Secretariat, the annual Reports submitted by Governments, the situation in the Far East, the problem of the illicit traffic, the relations of the Committee with the Central Board contemplated in the Geneva Convention, M. Cavazoni's proposal concerning the administrative control of the drug traffic, the Swedish reservation to Article 6 of the Geneva Convention, etc.

*Progress Report.* — The Committee took note of the Progress Report prepared by the Secretariat showing how and to what extent its resolutions had been put into effect, particularly as regards measures to suppress the illicit traffic.

It suggested that the attention of Governments should be drawn to the necessity of stating in their annual reports what action had been taken with regard to narcotics seized, and of furnishing any other particulars that might be of use.

*Illicit Traffic by post.* — The Committee again examined the question of postal traffic and possible abuses thereof. It instructed its Chairman to discuss with the Committee of the International Postal Union how suggestions for the suppression of illicit traffic by post could be brought before the Union Conference to be held in London in 1929.

*Free Ports.* — The Committee noted further information received from Governments on the subject of free ports and free zones.

A summary of the information received will be drawn up by the Social Section with the help of the Transit and Economic Sections.

*Unification of statistics.* — The Committee considered the replies received from certain Governments to a request to show in their statistics only the quantities of narcotics actually imported or exported and not those for whose importation or exportation authority may have been given. This raised another question — that of gross and net weight. It had been found that in certain statistics the weight given for consignments was the gross and not the net weight.

The Committee decided to call the attention of Governments to this point and to ask them to base their statistics on the net weights of the narcotics imported or exported.

*Ratification of the Geneva Convention.* — The Committee noted that the Geneva Convention of 1925 had been ratified by sixteen States, including four members of the Council — France, Great Britain, Finland and Poland. The Committee thought that it was possible to hope that the Convention might come into force before the end of 1928.

*The Swedish Reservation.* — The Committee had been instructed by the Council to examine the reservation on which the Swedish Government had made its ratification contingent. This reservation raises certain points in connection with paragraph (c) of Article 6 of the Geneva Convention which requires that chemists shall either enter sales in their books or file the prescriptions.

After proceeding to a fresh examination of this question, the Committee decided to inform the Council that it was not in favour of the acceptance of the reservation.

*List of drugs covered by the Convention.* — In 1925 the Committee had appointed a Sub-Committee to prepare a list of the drugs covered by the Convention. On the basis of data furnished by various Governments, the Sub-Committee drew up a provisional list which had to be completed. As one of its members had retired and had not been replaced by an expert in pharmacology, the Advisory Committee decided to add two experts to this Sub-Committee, namely Dr. Knaffl-Lenz, Professor at Vienna University and Dr. Burg, Professor at the University of Berne.

*Relations between the Permanent Central Board and the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium.* — In December, 1927, the Italian representative on the Council, M. Scialoja, suggested that the Secretary-General should be requested to constitute the Secretariat of the Central Board as an integral part of the Social Section of the League Secretariat.

The Committee, being invited to give its opinion, adopted by a majority a resolution put forward by M. Bourgois, France, stating that M. Scialoja's proposal is in conformity with Article 20 of the Convention which invites the Secretary-General to ensure the working of the administrative services of the Central Board.

The Committee adjourned until its next meeting its examination of its relations with the Central Board.

*Annual reports of Governments.* — As usual, the Committee took note of the annual reports submitted by Governments on the drug problem. On this occasion, its members explained the policies of their Governments with regard to the control of the trade in narcotics, the Japanese delegate furnishing important information with regard to the extraction of raw morphine from smoking opium in Formosa.

*Graphs.* — With a view to presenting official statistics in a new and convenient form and thus facilitating the work of the Committee, one of its assessors, M. Brenier, had prepared a certain number of graphs which the Committee examined and discussed.

These graphs are established on the basis of official data bearing on 1921, 1925 and 1926 and give information on the production, manufacture, export and consumption of opium and morphine. The data are classified as follows :

1. Opium producing countries.
2. Morphine manufacturing countries.
3. Smoking countries.

In this connection, the question of codeine was raised. This product is manufactured from morphine and it was thought that this fact might invalidate the statistics concerning the manufacture of morphine since codeine did not come within the scope of the Convention.

The Committee accordingly expressed the opinion that Governments should obtain from manufacturers all necessary information concerning the quantities of morphine employed in manufacturing codeine and in general for the manufacturing of products which did not come within the scope of the Convention. It considered that only in this way it would be possible adequately to supervise the manufacture and use of morphine.

*Situation in the Far East.* — After examining the position as regards the anti-drug campaign in the Far East, the Committee decided to ask the Secretary-General to remind the Persian Government of the resolution adopted by the 1927 Assembly, inviting that Government to keep the League informed of the progress made in

carrying out the scheme proposed for the gradual diminution of the cultivation of the opium poppy in Persia.

With regard to China, the Committee heard a statement by Mr. Lyall, one of its assessors, on the general situation in this country. Mr. Lyall emphasised the fact that the contraband trade in narcotics which existed on a very large scale was a serious danger to China. He pointed out the absolute necessity of taking energetic steps to counteract this situation.

The Chinese delegate described the situation caused in China by the smuggling of narcotics from other countries. He requested the various Governments to co-operate to the fullest possible extent with the Chinese Government in order to enable the latter to combat effectively the illicit traffic from which it was suffering so heavily. He reminded the Committee that the Peking Government had forbidden the cultivation of the opium poppy and that the opium monopoly established by the Nankin Government had been abolished by Decree of March 30th, 1928.

*The illicit traffic.* — From the documents submitted, the Committee was able to note that the situation as regards the illicit traffic was still highly unsatisfactory. The seizures effected in various countries, particularly in the Far East, still concerned considerable. During the discussion several members described various devices employed by traffickers. This examination, further, showed that while the contraband traffic was being vigorously dealt with in many countries and in a way that already given good results, it was nevertheless necessary to increase and strengthen these measures by a general system of certificates. The Committee considered that the attention of Governments should be drawn to the necessity of inflicting on traffickers heavy penalties, such as imprisonment and fines, in view of the profits obtained from their transactions.

The Committee also decided to invite the Council to draw the attention of Governments to the necessity of controlling traffic in benzoyl morphine.

The Committee reached the conclusion that the situation still gave cause for anxiety and, in view of the possibility that the Convention might very shortly come into force, it expressed the hope that as a result of the general extension of the supervisory measures, more particularly licences and certificates, and of the constitution of the Central Board, it would be possible to discover with greater certainty and accuracy the sources from which the illicit trade derived its supplies and thus to solve the problem of the illicit traffic.

*M. Cavazzoni's proposal.* — In October last the Italian member of the Committee, M. Cavazzoni, submitted a memorandum proposing a system of supervision which he considered might give effective results. The matter was referred to a Sub-Committee, composed of Dr. Anselmino (Germany), M. Bourgois (France), Dr. Carrière (Switzerland), Sir Malcolm Delevingne (Great Britain), M. van Wettum (Netherlands), and M. Cavazzoni himself. The Sub-Committee was asked to draw up, on the basis of this memorandum and material supplied by eight of the delegates to the plenary Committee a species of code for the supervision of the traffic in narcotics.

The Sub-Committee met some days before the plenary Committee and submitted a report which the latter adopted and proposed to communicate to Governments. The Sub-Committee found that while certain of the provisions of the memorandum could be adopted, others were new departures, foreign to the methods of supervision now in force, and more difficult to apply.

The methods contemplated by the Sub-Committee are the centralisation and unification of the control, licences, guarantees to be furnished by traders etc. It also contemplated a series of standard regulations to be recommended to Governments, with a view to suppressing the illicit traffic.

The meeting was attended by the following members :

Dr. Carrière (Chairman) (Switzerland).  
M. Fotitch (Vice-Chairman) (Kingdom of the Serbs, Croates and Slovenes).  
Dr. Anselmino (Germany).  
M. Bourgois (France).  
Sir John Campbell (India).  
M. Chao (China).  
Dr. Cuellar (Bolivia).  
Sir Malcolm Delevingne (Great Britain).  
M. Cavazzoni (Italy).  
M. Sato (Japan).  
M. W. G. van Wettum (Netherlands).  
M. Ferreira (Portugal).  
Prince Charoon (Siam).  
Prince Vipulya (Siam).

Mr. Kenneth Caldwell (United States of America).  
Mr. Pinkney Tuck (United States of America).

*Assessors.*

M. Brenier.  
M. Lyall.

The Committee decided to hold its next ordinary session in the second fortnight of January 1929.

## IX. — Other Questions.

### 1. — MEETING OF THE SUPERVISORY COMMISSION

The Supervisory Commission met on April 27th at Geneva with Mr. Stefan Osusky, Czechoslovak Minister in Paris in the chair, to examine the League budget for 1929 and the audited accounts for 1927 of the League Secretariat, the International Labour Office and the Permanent Court of International Justice, together with certain other budget and administrative questions.

The meeting was attended by M. Reveillaud (France), M. Nederbragt (Netherlands), M. Parra-Perez (Venezuela), Lord Meston of Agra (India).

### 2. — THE GRAECO-BULGARIAN EARTHQUAKES

The Secretary-General of the League has addressed to the Bulgarian and Greek Foreign Ministers the following telegrams :

#### TELEGRAM TO THE BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER.

We have been profoundly grieved to learn of the terrible disaster which has stricken the Bulgarian nation at a moment when it was engaged in reconstruction work. On behalf of the Secretariat of the League of Nations I beg you to convey to His Majesty the King, to your Government and to the Bulgarian people our sincere condolences and our deep sympathy.

TELEGRAM TO THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER.

The news of the terrible disaster which has stricken the district of Corinth—famous in the history of civilisation—has caused us profound emotion. On behalf of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, I beg you to convey our heartfelt sympathy to the Greek Government and people.

The Bulgarian and Greek Governments have replied as follows :

TELEGRAM FROM THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT.

I have been greatly touched by the sympathy that you express on behalf of the League of Nations on the occasion of the disaster in Southern Bulgaria and thank you very sincerely. I shall not fail to transmit to His Majesty and to the Bulgarian Government and people your heartfelt condolences. In this moment of distress, it is a great consolation that an institution which has so many times proved its goodwill towards our country show such sympathy in our present trouble.

(signed) BOUROFF,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

TELEGRAM FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT.

The sincere sympathy of the League of Nations Secretariat in these distressful circumstances is greatly appreciated by the whole country. On behalf of the Greek Government and people I tender my most cordial thanks for this mark of the deep sympathy of the Geneva institution.

(signed) ZAIMIS,  
President of the Council.

3. — NEW PUBLICATIONS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

a) *Memorandum on Production and Trade.*  
1913 and 1923-1926.

The Economic and Financial Section of the League of Nations has published a second edition of its memorandum on Production and Trade. The first edition was published for the Economic Conference, which expressed the wish that this work should be continued.

The first edition deals with 1913, 1923, 1924 and 1925, and describes the changes in world population since 1923, in the production of basic raw materials and foodstuffs and in the quantum of world trade and its distribution.

The second edition bears on 1926 and contains, for the first time, a study of the purchasing power of a unit of manufactured commodities in terms of raw materials and foodstuffs before and after the war.

It should be noted that the statistics on which the general results of the memorandum are based are in some cases defective and of doubtful comparability. For this reason importance should be attached, not so much to the absolute magnitude of this or that figure, as to the direction towards which the whole mass of accumulated data tends to point.

The general conclusions of the memorandum are as follows :

(a) By 1926, world production of basic raw materials and foodstuffs was about 17 per cent greater than before the war, world trade about 10 per cent greater and world population about 6 per cent greater.

The world is accordingly richer per head of population and there is a greater international exchange of goods.

(b) The production of foodstuffs has not grown so rapidly as that of industrial raw materials. In 1926, the foodstuffs index was 109/10 and the raw materials index about 127 per cent.

(c) The harvest in Europe in 1926 was less abundant than in 1925 and general economic conditions were further adversely affected by the British coal dispute. As a result, the European production index fell from two points above to one or two points below the pre-war level, and the trade index dropped one point to exactly 10 per cent below that of 1913.

(d) The British coal dispute naturally influenced most the Western and Maritime group of European countries, in which the United Kingdom is included. In consequence, the production index of the Central and Eastern countries (exclusive of Russia), although lower than in 1925, was practically equal to that of the rest of Europe. The quantum of trade of these countries remained, as in 1925, about one-sixth short of what it had been in 1913.

(e) The trade of Eastern and Central Europe, including Russia, was likewise the same in 1925 and 1926, and, owing largely to the great decrease in post-war Russian trade, 25 per cent below the 1913 level.

(f) But, on the basis of the available published information, the effect of the inclusion of Russia is to raise the production index of this group of countries from 92/5 to 102 — a result due largely to an apparent enormous increase in the Russian potato crop.

(g) Progress in the rest of the world in recent years has been much more rapid than in Europe, though certain countries, more especially in Central America and Africa, were affected by the fact that the 1926 harvest was considerably smaller than that of 1925.

(h) In North America the population is between one-fifth and one-fourth, the production of raw materials and food stuffs not far from one-third and the foreign trade one-half, greater than in 1913.

(i) The population of South America has grown slightly more rapidly than that of North America. The indices of raw-materials and foodstuffs production of these two continents are about the same. But South American trade is only 4 per cent greater than in 1913.

(j) The group of Caribbean countries present a remarkable contrast, for their population has only increased by some 5 per cent, while foreign trade is 33 and production 60 per cent higher.

(k) The growth of production in Oceania is of the same order of magnitude as that of South America. The increase in the foreign trade of Oceania slightly exceeds that of the Caribbean group and its population has grown by one-fifth.

(l) The growth of population in Asia (5 per cent) and Africa (9 per cent) has been much less rapid than in America and Oceania. But the production of Asia is one-fifth to one-quarter greater and its trade is half as large again as it was in 1913. In Africa production has risen by 40 per cent and trade by 12 per cent.

The Memorandum draws attention to the fact that the development of industry has been more rapid than the growth in the production of raw materials, and that the rapid development in the production and exchange of commodities in America, Asia and elsewhere has resulted in important changes in the relative shares contributed by the different groups of countries to the world totals. Thus Europe's share in the international trade of the world has fallen by 18 per cent (from 58.5 per cent to 47.9 per cent of the total). The share of North America has risen by 36 per cent, that of the whole American continent by 23 per cent and that of Oceania likewise by 23 per cent. But the share of Asia has increased most, namely, by 39 per cent, while that of Africa remains practical unchanged.

The changes in the contributions of the various continents to the total production of the goods here considered are less marked. The share of Europe has shrunk by 15 per cent, that of the American continent and the joint share of Africa and

Oceania have each increased by a little less than 15 per cent and that of Asia by about 5 per cent.

The changes that have taken place in the distribution of the population of the world are negligible.

b) *Index cards to the publications of the League of Nations* (1).

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## X. — Forthcoming Events.

- May 18th : Conference on the Sero-Diagnosis of Syphilis, Copenhagen.
- May 22nd : Committee of Telegraphic and Press Experts, Paris.
- May 26th : Interchange of Public Health Officers, Ljubljana.
- May 30th : Financial Committee, Geneva.
- June 4th : Fiftieth Session of the Council, Geneva.
- June 4th : Committee on Experts on Tariff Nomenclature, Geneva.
- June 12th : Permanent Mandates Commission, Geneva.
- June 18th : Special Committee on the Jurisdiction of the European Commission of the Danube, Vienna.
- June 20th : Meeting of Experts on Veterinary Questions, Geneva.
- June 22nd : Committee of Experts for the Progressive Codification of International Law, Geneva.
- June 25th : Malaria Commission, Geneva.
- June 25th : Economic Committee, Geneva.

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(1) See *Advertisements*.

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