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MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

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I. — Summary of the Month.

DECEMBER 1928

The fifty-third session of the Council was held at Lugano from December 10th to December 15th, with M. Briand (France) in the Chair.

Quite unexpectedly, the Council had to deal with a conflict which had broken out some days before its session between two States—Bolivia and Paraguay—both of them Members of the League. The Council's attention was drawn to this matter by a note from the Secretary-General containing press despatches on the subject, though both parties had, in fact, already taken the initiative in addressing communications to the Council.

On December 11th, the Council sent telegrams to both parties, expressing its conviction that they would maintain the obligation incumbent on all Members of the League of settling by pacific methods any conflict that might arise between them. In reply to this telegram, the Paraguayan Government informed the Council that it would not refuse any conciliation procedure, and the Bolivian Government confirmed its resolution not to depart from the principles and obligations of the Covenant.

In view of the events that were taking place on the disputed frontier, the Council sent a further telegram to both parties again calling their attention to the obligations of League membership and suggesting that, if any military defensive measures were considered necessary, great care should be taken to avoid any possibility that they might appear to have an aggressive character. Immediately after the close of the session, the President of the Council, who had been requested to follow events, and, if need be, to call an extraordinary session, had interviews in Paris with the Bolivian and Paraguayan Ministers. He also received the Chargés d'Affaires of the Argentine and the United States, and informed them that in the view of the Council it was essential that there should be full co-ordination of the efforts that were being made in different quarters to prevent the outbreak of war. On the same day telegrams were received from the Paraguayan Government informing the Council that it had accepted the good offices of the Pan-American Conference on Conciliation and Arbitration meeting in Washington, and from the Bolivian Government stating that instruction had been given to the military commanders to refrain from any advance or attack; this telegram was followed by another the next day to the effect that the Bolivian Government had, in accordance with the suggestions of the Council, also accepted the good offices of the Pan-American Conference. Thus, on December 19th, just eight days after the Council's first intervention, its President was able to express his gratification at the cessation of the conflict and his desire that the procedure adopted by both parties might lead to a solution of the dispute and the prompt restoration of good understanding and peaceful cooperation between them.

As regards the Polish-Lithuanian negotiations, the Council noted that, although the results of the Koenigsberg Conference had not been such as the parties themselves had expected, peace nevertheless existed between the two countries, and the Polish and Lithuanian Governments were agreed as to the desirability of continuing negotiations for the conclusion of an arrangement regulating trade between their territories. Noting that the documents submitted mentioned obstacles to free communications, the Council, to continue the work of pacification and agreement begun in December, 1927, referred this question to the League Committee for Communications and Transit.

The fifty-third session of the Council—which was the last to be held in 1928—was mainly devoted to the execution of the Assembly resolutions of September. Some were referred to technical committees; in respect of others, new committees

were set up, or experts or commissioners appointed. In this connection, a special mention must be made of the constitution of the Permanent Central Board, as provided for by the 1925 Opium Convention; of an Advisory Commission attached to the High Commissioner for Refugees; of a Special Sub-Committee of the Health Committee to assist the Greek Government in reorganising its health services; of Committees of Jurists to examine the Court Statute with a view to possible amendment and to establish a systematic survey of the questions of international law which the League proposed to codify; and, finally, of the decision to create a fiscal committee for the study of taxation questions, as recommended by the Conference on Double Taxation and Tax Evasion.

The Council referred to the Financial Committee the question of the loan which the Saar Governing Commission proposed to issue for public works. It renewed the appointment of the Chairmen of the military Investigation Committees and of the members of the Saar Governing Commission. It renewed the appointment of Sir John Hope Simpson as Vice-Chairman of the Greek Refugee Settlement Commission. It appointed M. de Chalendar and Sir Otto Niemeyer as trustees for the Bulgarian Stabilisation loan and nominated Count de Penha Garcia to succeed General Freire d'Andrade as a member of the Mandates Commission.

II. — Dispute between Bolivia and Paraguay.

Newspaper despatches concerning the dispute between Bolivia and Paraguay having been submitted by the Secretary-General, the Council, on December 11th, sent both Governments a telegram expressing "its full conviction that the two States which, by signing the Covenant, had solemnly pledged themselves to seek by pacific means the solution of disputes arising between them, would have recourse to such methods as would be in conformity with their international obligations and would appear in the present circumstances to be most likely to ensure the maintenance of peace and the settlement of the dispute".

After this telegram had been despatched the Council received from the Bolivian Government a detailed account of the antecedents of the conflict, and a statement from the Paraguayan Representative in Paris, both despatched before their Governments had received the Council's communication.

On December 12th, the Bolivian Foreign Minister intimated that he had submitted the Council's recommendation to the President of Bolivia. The Paraguayan Foreign Minister replied by a telegram concluding with the statement: "Paraguay does not refuse any conciliation procedure for the settlement of her disputes, still less the procedure laid down in conventions to which she has given her solemn acceptance."

On December 14th, the Council received a telegram signed by the President and Foreign Minister of Bolivia, referring to the communication of December 11th and stating that the Council of the League and its President "might rest assured that Bolivia would not depart from the principles and obligations contained in the Covenant of the League".

This telegram also stated that "in contradiction with the stipulations of Articles 10 and 13 of the Covenant of the League of Nations" Paraguay "had committed an aggression" which the Bolivian Government solemnly denounced to the Council. While declaring that it was its duty "to demand the satisfaction which is due in such cases and to take military measures of a defensive character to safeguard its security, the Bolivian Government requested that the Council would take note of its declaration of its intention to act on the Council's recommendations and to observe the stipulations of the Covenant".

On December 15th, at the close of its ordinary session at Lugano, the Council sent telegrams to the Bolivian and Paraguayan Governments expressing its satis-

faction at having gathered from their communications the conviction of "their attachment to the principles and obligations of the Covenant". It added that it hoped that the parties would carefully abstain from any act "which might aggravate the situation and render a peaceful settlement more difficult". It expressed its firm conviction that the obligations of the Covenant would be respected, and recalled that "when a dispute likely to lead to a rupture arose between two States Members of the League of Nations, they could not, without failing in their obligations, and notably those contracted under Article 12, omit to resort by some method or other to one of the procedures of pacific settlement provided for in the Covenant".

The Council also drew attention to the fact that the Covenant mentioned, among others, "disputes as to the existence of any fact which, if established, would constitute a breach of any international obligations, or as to the extent and nature of the reparation to be made for any such breach". At the same time it emphasised the fact that "in its experience it was most important to confine all military measures of a defensive character to those which could not be regarded as aggressive against the other country, and which could not involve the danger of the armed forces coming into contact, as this would lead to an aggravation of the situation rendering very difficult the efforts at present being made for the maintenance of peace".

The parties were notified that the Council had charged its President to follow the events with a view to any action that might be necessary, consulting, if need be, his colleagues, through the intermediary of the Secretary-General. The telegram previously received from the Paraguayan Government was communicated to the Bolivian Government and that received from the Bolivian Government was communicated to the Paraguayan Government.

On December 16th, the President of the Council received from the Bolivian Foreign Minister a telegram despatched on the 15th, informing him of fresh incidents between Paraguayan and Bolivian troops. "In conformity with its international obligations" the Bolivian Government "hastened to inform the Council of this new development".

The President immediately communicated this telegram to the Paraguayan Government. By telegrams despatched simultaneously to both Governments, he reminded them that the facts reported showed still more clearly "the dangers to peace created by the contact between the military forces belonging to the two countries on the frontier" and the urgency, to which the Council had drawn their attention "of taking measures to prevent further incidents capable of compromising the success of any peaceful procedure". He emphasised further the suggestion made by the Council on receipt of the "solemn assurances" given by both Governments "that they would respect the obligations of the Covenant".

The President of the Council left Lugano on the morning of December 17th, arriving in the evening in Paris, where he was joined next morning by the Secretary-General.

* * *

Replying to the President of the Council, the Bolivian Foreign Minister wired as follows on December 17th :

I have the honour to refer to your telegram of the 16th of this month in which Your Excellency, on behalf of the Council, renews his recommendations with a view to avoiding further incidents that might compromise the success of pacific procedure in the dispute between Bolivia and the Republic of Paraguay. My Government, accepting these suggestions, assures Your Excellency that it has ordered the commanders of military posts to refrain from any advance and any attack as far as they are concerned, and to confine themselves to defensive measures. I notify the Council that Paraguay has decreed the mobilisation of the classes from 18 to 28 years. Bolivia is confining herself to the measures of precaution essential to her security.

By a telegram sent on the same date the Paraguayan Government protested against being accused of any aggression, stating that "Paraguay, keeping strictly to her international obligations, asked from the outset that an investigation should be made into the facts and had accordingly accepted without objection all the suggestions and modes of pacific procedure put before her". It added that it had just "accepted the good offices of the Pan-American Conference".

Meanwhile, the President, after consulting the Secretary-General and notifying his colleagues that he might have to summon them for an extraordinary session towards the end of the week, took further steps with a view to settlement.

On December 18th, he conferred with the Bolivian and Paraguayan Ministers; with the Argentine Chargé d'Affaires, whose Government had also taken steps to persuade the parties to accept mediation; and with the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States, a representative of that Government being President of the Pan-American Conference.

In his conversations with the Argentine and United States Chargés d'affaires, the President of the Council explained that, unless the Bolivian and Paraguayan Governments agreed during the next few days to accept some form of procedure enabling a pacific settlement to be contemplated, the Council would hardly be able to avoid holding an extraordinary session to examine what measures should be taken, as war would either have broken out or be on the point of breaking out between two Members of the League. He added that he would consider as essential the complete coordination of all endeavours to secure a pacific settlement of the dispute.

On the 18th, press despatches reported that Bolivia accepted the mediation of the Pan-American Conference, which had already been accepted by Paraguay as stated in her telegram to the President of the Council. This news was confirmed by the following telegram from the Bolivian Government dated December 18th :

M. Briand, President of the Council of the League of Nations, Paris.

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that, in accordance with the nobly inspired suggestions of the Council of the League of Nations, the Bolivian Government has now accepted the good offices of the Conciliation and Arbitration Conference at present in session in Washington. Bolivia once more affirms that she maintains her loyal observance of international treaties and that, in accepting the good offices of the Washington Conference, she asks that an investigation should first be made into the attack on Fort Vanguardia, independently of the essential questions in the dispute which are submitted to the principle of arbitration on concrete and specific points. My Government will not cease to declare and reiterate at every opportunity that Bolivia did not provoke the conflict and has throughout observed with the utmost strictness the rules of international law.

In these circumstances the President of the Council, reporting on his mission in the evening of December 19th, informed the Members of the Council that he would not be obliged to convene them for an extraordinary session. In his telegrams to Bolivia and Paraguay he added that the Council, all of whose efforts had been directed towards preventing any aggravation of the dispute and promoting a pacific settlement by any possible method, could not but be gratified at the cessation of a conflict between two Members of the League, and trust that the procedure to which they had agreed might lead to a prompt settlement of their dispute and the restoration of good understanding and peaceful cooperation between them.

* * *

The Belgian, Chinese, Colombian, Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduras, Mexican, Nicaraguan, Netherlands, Persian, Siamese, Venezuelan and Uruguayan

Governments acknowledged receipt of the communication of M. Briand's telegram of December 15th, most of them expressing their satisfaction at the steps taken by the Council.

III. — Arbitration, Security and Reduction of Armaments.

1. — SUPERVISION OF THE MANUFACTURE OF ARMS MUNITIONS AND IMPLEMENTS OF WAR

The Special Commission appointed to draw up a preliminary draft convention on the supervision of the private manufacture and publicity for the manufacture of arms, munitions and implements of war, met in Geneva from December 5th to 7th, with Count Bernstorff (Germany) in the Chair.

The preliminary draft convention drawn up by the earlier sessions of the Commission was examined by a Sub-Committee [M. Guerrero (Salvador, Chairman), M. Masigli (France), Mr. Wilson (United States), General de Marinis (Italy), M. Rutgers (Netherlands), Mr. Cadogan (British Empire), M. Sato (Japan), M. Cobian (Spain)], which suggested certain modifications in the text.

The Sub-Committee further took note of explanations given by the Belgian delegate with regard to a reservation made by his Government concerning the drafting of the list of arms, munitions and implements of war to be covered by the Convention. At the invitation of the Sub-Committee, the Belgian delegate submitted detailed proposals.

The plenary Commission was not able to consider the report of the Sub-Committee, as several of its members had to leave for Lugano for the Council session. In these circumstances, the Commission asked its Chairman to inform the Council that it could not submit a report for the moment. It approved a proposal of its Chairman that a Committee of Experts representing the various delegations should be convened to examine the proposals of the Belgian delegate and the date of this meeting was fixed for March 11th, 1929. The plenary Commission will not hold a further meeting until it has received the report of the Committee of Experts.

The December session was attended by : Baron Moncheur (Belgium), Dr. W. A. Riddell (Canada), M. Hsiao Chi-Ying (China), M. Zdenek Fierlinger (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Alexander Cadogan (British Empire), M. Holsti (Finland), M. René Massigli (France), Baron E. Von Weizsaecker (Germany), General de Marinis (Italy), M. Sato (Japan), M. Rutgers (Netherlands), M. François Sokal (Poland), M. Constantin Antoniadé (Roumania), M. J. G. Guerrero (Salvador), M. Eduardo Cobian (Spain), Mr. Hugh R. Wilson (United States).

2. — APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF INVESTIGATION (1)

On December 13th, the Council renewed for one year the appointments of the Presidents of the Investigation Committees set up under the regulations issued by the Council concerning the exercise of its right of investigation.

The Presidents in office are General Baratier, for the Committee of Investigation in Germany; General Calcagno, for the Committee of Investigation in Austria; Colonel Schuurman, for the Committee of Investigation in Bulgaria; General Kirwan for the Committee of Investigation in Hungary.

It was further decided that these appointments should in future be regarded as tacitly renewed each year, unless a Member of the Council requested that the question of the renewal of one or more of them should be formally included in the Council agenda.

(1) Rapporteur : the Roumanian representative.

IV. — Legal and Constitutional Questions.

1. — PROPOSED REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF COUNCIL SESSIONS

On the proposal of the Finnish representative, M. Procope, the Council postponed till autumn 1929 its discussion of the question of reducing the number of its sessions.

2. — CODIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (1)

In pursuance of a resolution of the ninth Assembly (2) the Council on December 14th appointed a Committee of three jurists to establish a systematic survey of the subjects which the League proposed to cover in its work of codification, and to assemble in the form of a code various international conventions of a general character.

The Committee is composed of M. Diena (Italian), M. Guerrero (Salvador) and M. Schücking (German), members of the Committee for the Progressive Codification of International Law.

V. — The technical Organisations.

1. — THE HEALTH ORGANISATION

a) *The Health Committee.*

The report of the Health Committee on its thirteenth session was considered by the Council on December 11th.

On the proposal of M. Quinones de Leon (Spain), the Council approved the proposal of the Health Committee to ask the Finnish, Polish and Swedish Health Administrations to submit suggestions concerning the details of an international enquiry into the question of the abuse of alcohol.

It requested the Secretary-General to apply the procedure contemplated under Articles 8 and 10 of the Geneva Opium Convention concerning respectively the exemption of certain products from the Convention and the inclusion of certain narcotics within its scope.

The Council approved the plan of the Health Committee for cooperation with the health services of several Latin-American countries.

b) *Cooperation with the Greek Health Authorities.*

On December 13th the Council considered a request from the Greek Government for assistance in the reorganisation of the Greek Public Health Service.

It invited the Health Organisation to place at the disposal of the Greek Government the various technical possibilities of collaboration of the Health Committee in order to insure complete cooperation in the preparation and subsequent development of the plan for the reorganisation of public health in Greece.

(1) Rapporteur : the Italian representative.

(2) See *Monthly Summary*, Vol. VIII, No. 9, p. 289.

The President and Vice-President of the Health Committee Dr. Th. Madsen and M. O. Velghe, Professor L. Bernard and Sir George Buchanan, together with the Chairman of the Malaria Commission, will hold themselves at the disposal of the Greek authorities with a view to studying the situation and furnishing such suggestions and advice as may be required.

c) *Second Conference on Sleeping Sickness.*

The Council drew the special attention of Governments to the recommendation of the Second Conference on Sleeping Sickness concerning the conclusion of bilateral agreements with a view to the application of a programme of preventive measures, sanitary control and medical treatment. It is asked the Health Committee to study as from 1929 the execution of the programme of further research drawn up by the Conference. It expressed the desire that the colonial administrations of the countries represented at the Conference might furnish the Health Organisation with documentation concerning the prevalence and importance of sleeping sickness in relation to other causes of disease as well as the results of the medical and administrative measures undertaken to combat the scourge in different parts of Africa.

2. — THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ORGANISATION

Conference on economic statistics (1).

The Diplomatic Conference convened by the League to examine the question of economic statistics came to an end on December 14th, with the conclusion of a convention which was signed on the same day on behalf of twenty-three States, and a few days later by two others.

Forty-two States sent delegations and the International Institute of Agriculture, the International Chamber of Commerce and the League Economic Committee, Transit Organisation and Sub-Committee on Customs Nomenclature were represented. The President of the Conference was M. William Rappard, Professor at Geneva University and member of the Mandates Commission; the Vice-Presidents: Sir Sydney Chapman (Great Britain), M. Colson (France), M. V. Gini (Italy), Professor Kritzmann (U. S. S. R.), and M. Methorst (Netherlands). As Chairmen of the two Committees between which it divided its work, the Conference appointed M. Wagemann (Germany) and Mr. Dana Durand (United States). The Bureau of the Conference was composed of the President, the Vice-President and the Chairmen of the Committees, M. Julin (Belgium), Rapporteur of the Commerce Committee, and the members of the Economic Committee who took part in the work, namely, M. Barboza Carneiro (Brazil), M. Ito (Japan), M. Jahn (Norway), Rapporteur of the Industry Committee, and M. Neculcea (Roumania).

Proceedings. — The general debate brought out clearly the interest which was manifested in this endeavour to improve the comparability of economic statistics not only by the official delegations themselves but also by the representatives of the business world. Indeed, a number of delegations would have desired that the minimum programme of statistics, which it was proposed that all countries should undertake to publish, should have been appreciably expanded. It was felt in the end preferable, however, to lay down a minimum which could be accepted by States whose economic organism was in an early state of development, and to make provision in the recommendations of the Convention for those States which were more highly industrialised.

The Conference divided itself, after a preliminary discussion of the main outlines of the various problems, into two Committees, one of which dealt with statis-

(1) See *Monthly Summary*, Vol. VIII, No. 10, p. 348.

tics of production and the other with statistics of trade. The Bureau of the Conference considered the articles of a general character.

The results. — The Conference concluded a Convention with Annexes, a Protocol, and a Final Act. On the closing day, December 14th, the Convention and Final Act were signed by the plenipotentiaries of Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Free City of Danzig, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal. On December 15th, the plenipotentiary of Roumania and on Dec. 21st the representative of the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom also signed on behalf of their Governments, bringing the total number up to twenty-five.

The Final Act was signed by the delegates of Australia, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, who reserved their signatures of the Convention itself. The Final Act was moreover signed on behalf of the organisations represented in an advisory capacity — the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Institute of Agriculture, the Economic Committee, the Transit Organisation and the Sub-Committee on Customs Nomenclature.

The Convention, together with its annexed documents, falls naturally into the followings divisions :

(a) A series of clauses under which the Governments undertake to publish certain classes of statistics at certain defined (or undefined) intervals.

(b) An annex containing stipulations which are obligatory concerning the methods to be applied in the compilation of statistics of international trade.

(c) Five further annexes laying down, as a guide, principles which it is recommended should be [adopted in so far as possible in the compilation of statistics of minerals and of fisheries, in the computation of indices of economic activity, and in the taking of censuses of industrial or agricultural production.

(d) Provision for the appointment of a special Committee of Experts to continue the study of the improvement of economic statistics and the ways and means of achieving still greater comparability in the future.

(e) General articles dealing with the date of the entry into force of the Convention, the settlement of disputes, the duration of the Convention, etc.

(f) A series of definitions and recommendations comprised in the Protocol, and Final Act, amongst which may be mentioned as of special interest recommendations proposing that measures should be taken to provide that those countries whose statistics are the most advanced should be developed on comparable lines.

The minimum programme covers statistics of external trade, occupations, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, mining output and metallurgical production, industrial establishments, industrial production, indices of industrial activity and index numbers of wholesale and retail prices. The obligation to publish these classes of statistics is not in all cases absolute, but is dependent either on the importance of the particular economic phenomena to the individual State (e. g. forest resources) or to the practical possibility of obtaining accurate and comprehensive data. The obligation to publish the following classes is, however, obligatory in all cases : annual returns of the area under crops and the quantities of crops harvested, monthly statistics of the production of a given list of minerals and metals whenever they are of national importance, monthly and annual returns of quantities and values of imports and exports, annual returns of the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at national ports, monthly indices of wholesale, and quarterly indices of retail prices. The publication of certain of the other classes of statistics mentioned above are in addition obligatory, irrespective of the economic organisation of the country; but the date at which the first return should be made is not specifically defined.

The annex dealing with the methods to be employed in the compilation of trade statistics is extremely detailed and comprehensive. Indeed, the only points for which a definite solution has not yet been found are those of the classification of trade statistics by country of origin or destination and the classification by commodities.

At present States follow three different methods in classifying their imports : (a) by countries of origin or production, (b) by countries of consignment or provenance, (c) by countries of purchase; and three different methods of classifying their exports : (a) by countries of consumption, (b) by countries of consignment or destination, (c) by countries of sale. The problem of unification presents particularly serious difficulties, linked as it is with tariff practice and policy. By the Convention, the Contracting Parties undertake to draw up special tables for the purpose of testing various systems for the best practical results. It is hoped that these experiments will result in a satisfactory solution of this extremely complicated question.

The problem of classification of commodities was deliberately adjourned—since trade statistical classification in most countries depends upon tariff classification—until the League Committee on Tariff Nomenclature had reached a more advanced state in its work.

General Provisions. — To supervise the application of its provisions and to encourage the further development of economic statistics the Convention prescribes that a committee of technical experts shall be appointed.

In addition to the particular functions entrusted to it by the Convention, the Committee may make any suggestions which appear useful for improving or amplifying principles and arrangements concerning the classes of statistics dealt with in the Convention and also in regard to other classes of statistics of a similar character in respect of which it appears desirable and practicable to secure international uniformity. It will examine all suggestions to the same end which may be submitted to it by the Governments of the Contracting Parties.

A second Conference may be convened for the revision of the Convention should at any time a desire to that effect be expressed by not less than half the Contracting Parties. It is, moreover, agreed that the statistical services of the signatories shall exchange statistical returns compiled and published by them.

Economic Committee (1).

The work of the Economic Committee was discussed by the Council on December 13th. After noting the measures contemplated by the Committee to give effect to the resolutions of the Economic Conference concerning the reduction of customs tariffs, the Council empowered the Secretary-General :

1. To invite the principal States concerned to send authorised representatives to a preliminary meeting with a view to collective action for the reduction of customs tariffs on cement;
2. To invite the States concerned to the contemplated diplomatic conference for the conclusion of a convention on the treatment of foreigners and to fix the date of the conference.

The Economic Committee having drawn the Council's attention to the slowness of ratification procedure, the latter, with a view to bringing into operation certain international agreements concluded under the League's auspices, requested the Secretary-General :

1. To remind the Contracting Parties to the Protocol on Arbitration Clauses of September 24th, 1923, of the connection between that Protocol and the Conven-

(1) Rapporteur : the German representative.

tion of September 26th, 1927, on the Execution of Foreign Arbitral Awards, the latter being supplementary to the former, so that they might consider the desirability of securing by participation in the new agreement advantages which could not be obtained from the first alone. (This Convention, whose coming into force is conditional upon two ratifications, has so far not been ratified by a single State);

2. To remind the signatories of the Convention for the Abolition of Import and Export Prohibitions and Restrictions of November 8th, 1927, the Supplementary Agreement of July 11th, 1928, and the two Agreements on the export of hides and bones, of the importance which the Council and the Economic Committee attach to the entry into force of these agreements as soon as possible.

On the proposal of M. Scialoja (Italy), the Council requested the Secretary-General, when forwarding these recommendations to Governments, to ask those which abstained from ratifying the Conventions to give their reasons. M. Scialoja thought that delay in ratifying was often due to the slow working of administrations.

Dr. Stresemann (Germany) said that a bill had recently been brought into the Reichstag concerning the execution of the recommendations of the Economic Conference and the ratification of the Convention for the Abolition of Import and Export Prohibitions and Restrictions and the Agreements on Hides and Bones.

The French representative said that a bill of the same character had also been submitted to the French Parliament.

The Thirty-third Session of the Financial Committee. — The Financial Committee sat at Geneva from December 4th to 8th; there were present Count de Chalendar, Chairman (French), M. Janssen (Belgian), M. Melchior (German), M. ter Meulen (Dutch), Sir Otto Niemeyer (British), Sir Henry Strakosch (South African), M. Pospisil (Czechoslovak), Mr. Jeremiah Smith (American), M. Suvich (Italian), M. Tsushima (Japanese) and M. Wallenberg (Swedish).

The principal questions on the agenda were financial assistance to States victims of an aggression, fluctuations in the purchasing power of gold, the progress of the refugee settlement work in Bulgaria and Greece and the report of the Conference on Double Taxation and Tax Evasion.

In regard to the important question of fluctuations in the purchasing power of gold, the Committee came to the conclusion that a systematic international investigation should be made. It accordingly suggested that a special committee should be constituted "to examine into and report upon the causes of fluctuations in the purchasing power of gold and their effect on the economic life of the nations". This body might consist of a total of eight or nine persons, including a few members of the Financial Committee, and other persons of international authority.

On the question of financial assistance to States victims of aggression, the Committee was able to prepare a full draft convention with an explanatory note, which it proposes to submit to the Council at its March session.

The refugee settlement work and the question of double taxation and tax evasion are dealt with in special chapters of this number.

The Council approved the report of the Financial Committee and its proposals regarding the formation of a special committee on fluctuations in the purchasing power of gold.

Both the Council and the Financial Committee paid a tribute to the memory of the late Chairman of the Committee, M. Leopold Dubois (Swiss) who had been a member of the Committee since 1924.

Settlement of Greek Refugees.

The twentieth quarterly report of the Greek Refugee Settlement Commission was considered by the Financial Committee and the Council.

In its statement on the financial situation, the Commission draws attention to the fact that the progress in the settlement work has been somewhat slower owing to the circumstance that only £500,000 of the £3,000,000 Refugee Settlement Loan has so far been available.

Despite these difficulties the work of agricultural settlement has advanced. A large number of agricultural improvement stations are now in operation, their work concerning the production of cereals on a large scale, stock breeding, vine growing, the culture of the silk-worm and arboriculture. The settlement of the refugees and the creation of nurseries by the Commission has given a marked impetus to the cultivation of fruit trees. The report further gives details of the destruction of insect plagues, the instruction of the peasants in the use of artificial fertilisers and experiments in the cultivation of winter wheat, undertaken with the most satisfactory results, an increase in production of 50 to 75 % being registered.

Other chapters deal with the cadastral survey, the cooperative movement among refugees, cultivation of the use of machinery, public health and drainage and irrigation works. In regard to the last point, the Commission draws attention to the fact that the Greek Government has just concluded negotiations with capitalists for an important loan of \$75,000,000 to finance public works which are very closely connected with the work of the Commission and include the construction of roads and the execution of drainage and irrigation works. A portion of the loan will be used for the drainage of the valley of the Axios, another portion for works in the Plains of Serres and Drama, where the Commission has created a large number of well populated settlements. An agreement has been reached between the Government and two foreign companies with a view to the regulation of the course Struma and the drainage of Lakes Boutkovo and Achinos and the marshes of Philippi. These works will extend over a period of six years, will recover for cultivation 1,600,000 stremmas of fertile land and will absorb a sum of about \$20,000,000. The Commission draws attention to the importance of this work, which will render a vast tract of land available for settlement.

The scheme for the settlement of refugees in the islands of the Eastern Aegean and, more particularly, Mitylene and Chios, has now been completed. It provides for the construction of 330 houses in five different parts of Mytilene, 130 for families and 200 for fishing colonies. It also includes the construction of 200 houses at Chios.

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The Council renewed for one year the appointment of Sir John Hope Simpson (British) as Vice-Chairman of the Greek Refugee Settlement Commission.

Bibliographical Note. — Twentieth Quarterly Report of the Refugee Settlement Commission Geneva, November, 1928. 10 pages. Document C. 569. M. 181. 1928. II (F. 591).

Settlement of Bulgarian Refugees and Stabilisation Loan.

The successful issue of the Bulgarian 7 1/2 % stabilisation loan, and progress in the settlement of Bulgarian refugees were noted by the Financial Committee and the Council. The final arrangements for the issue of the loan were made in October and November when the Bulgarian Minister of Finance concluded a loan contract which was ratified by the Bulgarian Parliament on November 15th, this being the last of the legislative acts necessary before the loan could be floated. The loan was finally issued on November 21st and 23rd and December 3rd, in London, Paris and New York respectively.

According to the ninth quarterly report of the League Commissioner in Sofia, M. René Charron, considerable progress was made during this quarter in the allocation of land and in the completion of dwellings. The general impression reported from the settlement colonies was unanimously satisfactory. The harvest, the first many of the refugees had known for years, was, in general, good.

The number of self-contained dwelling houses now completed is 15,026, compared with 620 on August 1st, and it is expected that four or five hundred more will be occupied by refugees during the winter. Buildings are now completed or under construction in 175 villages.

The total amount of land surveyed was 801,773 decares on November 1st. At the same date 588,583 decares had been allotted. The report further contains details concerning the distribution of seed, cattle and material; mechanical ploughing, clearing and draining; means of communication and public health.

The anti-malaria work in the refugee districts is proceeding normally. In September, 1928, Professor Swellengrebel, of the League Malaria Commission visited the districts of Burgas and Petritch, to study the results achieved and the possibility of extending this branch of the work. Following this enquiry it has been decided, subject to the Rockefeller Foundation's agreement, to extend the sphere of action of the health centre of the Rockefeller Foundation at Petritch, by providing a sanitary detachment to operate in a district 20 kilometres north of the Petritch centre.

The Council congratulated the Bulgarian Government on the successful issue of the stabilisation loan. It appointed Count de Chalendar (French) and Sir Otto Niemeyer (British) as trustees to represent the interests of the bond-holders of the loan.

(Bibliographical Note. — Settlement of Bulgarian Refugees. Ninth Report of the Commissioner of the League of Nations in Bulgaria. Geneva, November, 1928. 13 p. No. C. 570. M. 182. 1928 II.)

Double taxation and tax Evasion (1).

The work of the Committee on Double Taxation and Tax Evasion was considered by the Council on December 14th.

On this occasion the Council expressed the hope that conventions and provisions of internal law for the avoidance of double taxation and tax evasion would be widely adopted, and urgently recommended States to begin negotiations for the conclusion of conventions on the subject. On the recommendation of the Conference of Government Experts, it decided to create within the framework of the League organisation a committee for the study of taxation questions, to be known as the Fiscal Committee. This body will consist of some ten members selected on account of their technical qualifications and in such a manner that, as far as possible, the various fiscal systems shall be represented. Corresponding members may be appointed in any State, Member or not of the League, which has no national on the Committee, this decision being based on similar measures adopted in the case of the Economic Committee. In principle the corresponding members will not take part in the proceedings unless specially summoned, but they will receive all documents and thus be kept informed of the work of the Committee.

The Fiscal Committee will meet once a year, its object being to stimulate the campaign against double taxation and to encourage negotiations for the purpose.

3. — COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSIT

Creation of a League radio-telegraphic station (2).

The question of the creation of the League radio-telegraphic station was considered by the Council on December 11th, when it decided to request the Secretariat

(1) Rapporteur : the Cuban representative.

(2) Rapporteur : the Polish representative

to make a preliminary study of the legal points involved. The results of this investigation will be communicated to the Swiss Government so that it may forward its observations before the next session of the Council.

The Assembly requested the Council last September to make arrangements for the necessary technical, financial and legal studies in connection with this question; and at its September session the Council referred to the Transit Committee the technical and financial aspects of the matter.

4. — INTELLECTUAL COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX (1)

a) *Intellectual Property.*

The question of intellectual property was considered by the Council on December 11th.

The Assembly had asked the Council to cause investigations and consultations to be made regarding the eventual unification, on an international basis, of all laws and measures for the protection of intellectual property.

The Council asked the Committee on Intellectual Cooperation to institute the necessary enquiries.

b) *International Educational Cinematographic Institute.*

The draft general, administrative and financial regulations drawn up by the Governing Body of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute were approved by the Council on December 13th.

The Council noted that the Italian Government had consented to grant the Institute during 1929 a further subsidy of two hundred thousand lire in addition to the ordinary subsidy of six hundred thousand lire and that, at the same time, it had placed a sum of ninety thousand lire at the disposal of the Governing Body and of the Director of the Institute as an entertainment allowance.

The Council instructed the Secretary-General to thank the Italian Government.

In its report the Governing Body of the Institute informed the Council that it had instructed the Institute to keep itself informed and to collect all the material possible on the progress made by television and broadcasting in the service of cinematography.

It was also recommended that the Committee on Intellectual Cooperation should study the question of the relations between educational cinematography, television and broadcasting, and should make suggestions as to the future work of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute.

c) *Communications from non-official organisations.*

The question of communications from non-official international organisations was discussed by the Council on the basis of a memorandum submitted by the Secretary-General.

In virtue of resolutions adopted by the Council in 1923, the Secretary-General prepares a list of communications from international organisations before each session of the Council, so that any Member wishing to examine these communications may do so.

On December 10th, the Council decided that the term "international" should be used only for the structure and organisation of the associations in question but should not refer to the scope or character of their work.

(1) Rapporteur : the French representative

d) *Request of the International Criminal Police Commission.*

A request of the International Criminal Police Commission at Vienna to be represented at the Conference for the Suppression of Counterfeiting Currency, convened for April 9th, 1929, and on various League Commissions dealing with matters connected with crime (traffic in women, traffic in opium, obscene publications, juvenile crime, etc.) was considered by the Council on December 12th. The request had been transmitted by the representative of the Austrian Government at Geneva.

On the proposal of the Venezuelan representative, M. Zumeta, the Council requested the Secretary-General to invite the International Criminal Police Commission to be represented in an advisory capacity at the Conference for the Suppression of Counterfeiting Currency. It also asked the Secretary-General to communicate the request of the International Criminal Police Commission to such League Commissions as he might think desirable, so that they might, when necessary, call in representatives of the International Criminal Police Commission as criminal experts.

VI. — Administrative Questions.

1. — THE SAAR

a) *The Saar Governing Commission loan.*

The question of the issue of a loan by the Governing Commission of the Saar Territory was considered by the Council on December 13th, when it requested the Financial Committee to examine the plans with the Governing Commission and to submit a report at the next Council session.

The Governing Commission had informed the Council that it had decided, in principle, to issue a loan, the proceeds of which would be used for the execution of urgently necessary public works (improvements in the railway and telephone services, the building of dwellings for government agents, the reconstruction of the road system, etc.). The Governing Commission had felt called upon to communicate on the subject with the Council, owing to the exceptional position of the Saar Territory.

On this occasion, Dr. Stresemann (Germany) noted that the question of the Saar loan had been placed on the Council agenda at very short notice. While recognising that there were very important material reasons for this procedure, he expressed the desire that, as far as possible, longer notice might be given when such items were placed on the agenda. With regard to the procedure recommended by the Council, he expressed the opinion that the Financial Committee, when examining the question, should take steps to ensure that the conditions for the proposed loan were determined in such a way as not to create any difficulties or complications in the settlement of the Saar problem as a whole.

b) *Appointment of the Saar Governing Commission.*

On December 13th, the Council proceeded to the appointment of the members of the Saar Governing Commission. It appointed for one year from April 1st, 1929, M. Ehrnrooth (Finnish), M. Kossmann (Saar), M. Morize (French), M. Vezensky (Czechoslovak), Sir Ernest Wilton (British). Sir Ernest Wilton was appointed Chairman of the Commission for the same period.

The Council decided to fix the salaries of the members of the Commission at 180,000 French francs a year and the entertainment allowance of the Chairman at 120,000 French francs a year, with retroactive effect as from July 1st, 1928, the date of the stabilisation of the French franc.

2. — MANDATES ⁽¹⁾

Appointment of a new Member. — To succeed M. Freire d'Andrade (Portuguese) who had resigned from the Mandates Commission on account of his health, the Council appointed Count de Penha Garcia, doctor of laws of Coimbra University, former Minister of Finance, President of the Lisbon Geographical Society, Director of the Higher School for Colonial studies, Member of the Supreme Council of the Colonies, Vice-President of the Brussels International Colonial Institute, Portuguese delegate to the Peace Conference and to the ninth Assembly of the League of Nations.

The Council paid a tribute to the distinguished services rendered by M. Freire d'Andrade, and expressed its wishes for his prompt and complete recovery.

VII. — Political Questions.

1. — THE HUNGARIAN OPTANTS

Nothing that direct negotiations were about to begin on the subject of the Hungarian optants, the Council, on its President's proposal, postponed the question in the stage then reached till its next session.

It expressed to both parties its best wishes for the success of the direct negotiations.

2. — THE POLISH-LITHUANIAN RELATIONS

The state of the negotiations between Poland and Lithuania was considered by the Council on December 12th. The representatives of the parties made statements showing that the Kœnigsberg negotiations, whilst furthering the conclusion of a provisional arrangement giving facilities to the population on either side of the Polish-Lithuanian administrative line, had not produced all the results that might have been expected. Nevertheless, since the Council's intervention in December, 1927, a state of peace had existed between the two nations and the Polish and Lithuanian Governments concurred as to the advisability of continuing direct negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement regulating trade between their territories.

On the report of M. Quinones de Leon (Spain), the Council adopted, on December 14th, two resolutions, the first recalling the solemn declarations made before it in December, 1927, that Lithuania did not consider herself in a state of war with Poland and Poland fully recognised and accepted the political independence and the territorial integrity of Lithuania.

The Council then urged the parties to be guided in their future negotiations by the letter and spirit of its resolution of December 10th, 1927, and by the report submitted in September by M. Beelaerts van Blokland. Further, noting that the documents submitted mentioned obstacles to free communications, the Council referred this question to the League Committee for Communications and Transit, with a view to continuing the work of pacification and agreement begun in December, 1927.

(1) Rapporteur : the Finnish representative.

This resolution is based on Article 23 of the Covenant, which stipulates that "subject to and in accordance with the provisions of international conventions existing or hereafter to be agreed upon, the Members of the League will make provisions to secure and maintain freedom of communications and of transit and equitable treatment for the commerce of all Members of the League", and on a resolution passed by the Assembly on December 9th, 1920, charging the Transit Committee "to consider and propose measures calculated to ensure freedom of communications and transit at all times".

The Lithuanian representative, M. Voldemaras, said that, as he was convinced that Lithuania had fulfilled all her international obligations, he did not see any objection to this resolution, but would, on the contrary, welcome its adoption by the Council. While noting that the action of the League had not brought about a final solution of the Polish-Lithuanian relations, he assured the Council that its exhortation to continue negotiations in the spirit in which they had been begun would be followed to the letter.

The Polish representative, M. Zaleski, said that, in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the resolution of December 10th, 1927, the use of the term "Polish-Lithuanian administrative line" in the arrangement concluded between Poland and Lithuania on local traffic could in no case be interpreted as implying the abandonment by Poland of her territorial rights.

VIII. — Protection of minorities ⁽¹⁾.

The following minority questions—most of them concerning educational matters in Polish Upper Silesia—were considered by the Council at its fifty-third session on the report of the Japanese representative.

1. Appeals from the *Deutscher Volksbund* concerning the situation of the minority schools at Janow and Nowa Wies and the private minority schools at Swierklaniec, Nowa Wies and Lipiny;
2. Petitions regarding : (a) property rights over the St. Julius Hospital at Rybnik; (b) entries for primary minority schools in the Voivodship of Silesia; (c) closing of certain minority schools; (d) the German minority school at Brzezinka; (e) the failure to open an elementary German minority school at Koszecin; (f) the minority school at Giszowiec.

As regards the petition concerning property rights over the St. Julius Hospital the rapporteur drew attention to the strictly legal character of this question in regard to which proceedings had been instituted in the Polish Courts. Dr. Stresemann, while appreciating this point of view, asked that the Polish Government should exercise its influence with the Courts so that they might take a definite decision as soon as possible.

With regard to entries for primary minority schools, the Polish representative observed that the principal difficulties met with in the normal working of the minority schools arose from the fact that, on the one hand some declarations as to the children's mother-tongue were not in conformity with the actual facts, and that on the other hand the Polish authorities could neither verify nor contest these declarations. He recalled that last June he had expressed regret that the Council had not contemplated practical means of settling this question. M. Zaleski added that recent reports from Polish school inspectors showed that in a considerable number of minority schools instruction could not be given under normal conditions owing to the fact that a large percentage of the children did not know German at

(1) Rapporteur : the Japanese representative, M. Adatci.

all or knew it very imperfectly. To conclude, he stated that if this situation were to be prolonged he would have to ask the Council to take the necessary measures.

The German representative, Dr. Stresemann, pointed out that the question of languages in Upper Silesia was an extremely complicated, difficult and delicate one as it was a territory in which mixed languages were spoken. He thought that the substance of the question might be fully discussed when Poland thought fit to bring the matter before the Council.

At the request of the rapporteur, the Council decided to adjourn to its next session the examination of two of the points raised in this petition concerning (1) the obligation imposed upon the persons responsible for the education of children belonging to the minority to appear in person when entering them for the minority schools, and (2) the formation of special enrolment Committees for minority schools. The Council agreed to ask its President to appoint jurists to assist the rapporteur in studying these points.

As regards the Brzezinka school, the rapporteur asked that the Polish Government might give favourable consideration to the request of the *Deutscher Volksbund* as soon as the technical conditions made this possible. M. Zaleski said that the Polish Government would not fail to give effect to the Council's recommendation as soon as circumstances permitted.

Dr. Stresemann noted M. Zaleski's statement and expressed the hope that this question would be settled in conformity with the interests of the minority.

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At the meeting of December 15th, which the Council devoted to the examination and adoption of the reports submitted by M. Adatci, statements were made by the Canadian, Polish and German representatives and by the President.

M. Dandurand referred to the debate which took place last September at the Assembly and notified the Council that he would raise the question of the procedure to be followed in regard to minority petitions at its next session.

The Polish representative, M. Zaleski, drew attention to the fact that a considerable number of petitions and appeals, often quite groundless or insignificant, were submitted to the Council without following the local procedure set up under the Geneva Convention on Upper Silesia. In these circumstances, he added, it was difficult to avoid the impression that, in submitting claim after claim to the supreme court of the League, the petitioners' object was not so much to satisfy the desiderata of the minority as to persuade world opinion that the rights of the German minority were disregarded and that the Geneva Convention had been infringed.

He drew attention to the fact that, for a German population of about two hundred thousand souls in Polish Upper Silesia, there existed ninety elementary minority schools, attended by 20,500 school-children. In these circumstances, it was impossible to state that the position of minority education in Polish Upper Silesia was deplorable. He added that, since part of Upper Silesia had been attached to Poland, this district had entered upon a period of remarkable economic development. The conflict between nationalities in Polish Upper Silesia, he asserted, would not exist if the *Volksbund* were to abstain from constantly stirring up the population against the present status of the country and from creating political agitation with a view to undermining the authority of the Polish Government. He drew attention to the extreme liberalism shown by the Polish Government in tolerating the existence of an organisation some of whose members had notoriously committed the crime of high treason. He observed that the minority treaties and the minority provisions of the Upper Silesian Convention had been established in order to afford minorities equitable treatment on the part of the authorities and the free enjoyment of their rights, but should not be used as a legal basis for the

activity of a minority association whose objects were directed against the State. That the Council's agenda should be overburdened with questions of secondary importance was a State of affairs calculated to impair its authority.

Dr. Stresemann said that he had heard with the greatest amazement the speech of the Polish representative, which appeared to him to have been prompted by a spirit of hatred towards the German minority. He considered that the question at issue—the education of the minority—formed part of the rights accorded and guaranteed by the League to minorities, and he could not conceive how the submission of minority petitions to the Council could be regarded as an abuse. He expressed his astonishment at M. Zaleski's allusion to the industrial development of Upper Silesia and wondered what was his reason for referring to a question which had no connection with that of minority schools, the more so as the economic prosperity of Upper Silesia was largely due to German cooperation. He asked if this speech was intended to reopen old wounds.

Dr. Stresemann then examined the criticisms made by M. Zaleski with regard to the Volksbund, declaring that minorities had most certainly a right to form associations and to bring certain questions before the Council and that this right could not be regarded as undermining the authority of the State to which they belonged.

Dr. Stresemann was glad to note that the Canadian representative intended to ask that the question of minority procedure should be placed on the agenda of the Council. He considered that if the League endorsed the Polish view, its authority would be diminished. Observing that it was on account of the protection of minorities that many people had placed their hopes in the League, Dr. Stresemann said that, if the League did not defend minorities and their rights, certain Powers might ask whether the League still represented the ideal which had induced them to join it.

Dr. Stresemann then stated that he would request that the whole question of minorities should be included in the agenda of the next session.

The President, M. Briand, remarked that this exchange of views had led the Council somewhat far from the problems actually before it, in particular those dealt with in the reports of the Japanese representative.

It would be unfortunate, he added, if a bad impression were to subsist at the moment of the Council's dispersal. It would be unfortunate if observations that have been offered were to result in any misrepresentation on the part of public opinion. I wish to say as clearly as possible that there can be absolutely no ground for assuming that, in any possible way, the League of Nations or the Council can at any time in the future become indifferent to the sacred cause of minorities. That cause is one of the fields of the League's activity and is bound in honour to occupy our attention whenever our notice is drawn to it either by the Assembly or in the Council.

Whatever explanations may be exchanged between us, therefore, it is certain that at no time can there be any possibility of our becoming indifferent to the sacred rights of minorities. The truth of that has been shown to-day by the large number of cases that have been brought before the Council, by the scrupulous attention with which the rapporteur has examined the questions involved and by the care he has taken to investigate the most minute details with the constant desire to submit satisfactory solutions. The task has been an arduous one and our rapporteur has discharged it in a way which deserves our unanimous congratulations and thanks. This discussion and examination of delicate questions must not convey the impression that we have any intention of neglecting the interests of the minorities.

It may perhaps be desirable to find a more expeditious procedure but in any case—I wish to say this with particular emphasis and I am sure I am voicing the feelings of the entire Council—the rights of the minorities will not be disregarded. Every time that the League and the Council are required to deal with a question bearing on their rights, they may be sure that the matter will be considered with the deepest respect for the sacred interests of the minorities and that the organs of the League will endeavour to discharge their duties to the satisfaction of those concerned.

IX. — Social and Humanitarian Questions.

1. — TRAFFIC IN OPIUM

Two questions concerning the opium traffic were considered by the Council—the appointment of the Permanent Central Board provided for in the Geneva Convention of 1925 and the British proposal to appoint a Commission to enquire into the control of opium smoking in the Far East.

a) *Appointment of Permanent Central Board.*

On December 14th, the Council appointed the following eight persons to sit on the Permanent Central Opium Board: Dr. O. Anselmino (German), M. C. J. J. Bonin (French), Prof. Giuseppe Gallavresi (Italian), Mr. L. A. Lyall (British), M. H. L. May (American), M. M. Miyajima (Japanese), Sir B. K. Mullick (Indian), M. Henrik Ramsay (Finnish).

These eight candidates were selected from a list of seventeen nominated by the members of the Council and the signatories to the Geneva Convention. The choice was made by a Sub-Committee composed of the Canadian, Finnish and Japanese representatives, which was guided in its selection by the provisions of Article 19 of the Convention (1).

It was decided that the Permanent Central Board should hold its first meeting on January 15th, 1929, and that it should make arrangements and suggestions for its work for consideration by the Council at its March session.

In this connection the Council considered the communication from the United States Government (2) declining its invitation to take part in the appointment of the Central Board and expressing certain criticisms of the Geneva Opium Convention.

In its reply the Council expressed its regret that the United States Government had not found it possible to accept its invitation, while cordially welcoming the statement that Government, in addition to observing its obligations under the Hague Convention, would endeavour to furnish the information required by the Board.

In response to the criticisms of the Convention, the Council pointed out that its provisions regarding limitation of production represented the maximum obtainable in 1925 by a Conference of forty-one States, after discussions lasting three months. The opinion expressed by the United States Government that the Geneva Convention tended in some respects to nullify the provisions of the Hague Convention was not shared by the Council, which considered that the former should be regarded as supplementary to the latter, and that the best method of securing effective control of the drug traffic was to press for the widest possible ratification of the Geneva Convention, in addition to the strictest enforcement of the Hague Convention.

The Geneva Convention, it was further emphasised, represented the accumulated experience of several years effort—such as, for instance, the import certificate system and the extension of the system of control to crude cocaine, ecgonine, coca leaves and Indian hemp, etc.—and had been definitely ratified or acceded to by twenty-seven States as offering a valuable advance on the Hague Convention.

Returning to the point most strongly emphasised by the United States—that the drug traffic could only be controlled by international cooperation—the

(1) For Article 19 see *Monthly Summary*, Vol. VIII, No. 9, p. 276.

(2) See *Monthly Summary*, Vol. VIII, No. 10, p. 359.

Council expressed its appreciation of the cooperation already given by the United States, and its earnest hope that, even if there were not complete agreement on all points, this collaboration might be continued.

b) *Opium Smoking in the Far East.*

Following the discussion on this question at the ninth Assembly, the British Government consulted the States concerned in the investigation—the French, Netherlands, Siamese, Portuguese and Japanese Governments—on the subject of financial provision for the enquiry, the hospitality they were prepared to extend to the Commission and the territories to be visited. The United States Government informed the Secretary-General that it was prepared to welcome the Commission to the Philippine Islands and that the Governor General of those islands would render it all possible assistance.

The rapporteur, M. Dandurand (Canada) suggested that if the Commission started on its journey in September, 1929, instead of early in the year as anticipated, this would enable detailed financial and other arrangements to be made and would leave the Commission six months of cooler weather for its investigations.

He also submitted that the Conference of the signatories to the Geneva Convention of 1925, timed to take place not later than 1929, for which this enquiry had been planned as a preparation, might possibly be postponed until 1930.

In view of these reasons, and also of the fact that the British Government had not yet received all the replies, the Council adjourned its decision to its March session.

2. — PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Request of the Union internationale des Ligues féminines catholiques.

The request of the *Union internationale des Ligues féminines Catholiques* to be represented on the Advisory Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People was granted by the Council on December 13th. The Council, nevertheless, decided to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that the steadily increasing number of delegates and assessors might be detrimental to its work, and to ask it to devise some scheme by which assessors should only attend its meetings when subjects of special interest to their organisations were discussed.

3. — REFUGEES

In pursuance of an Assembly resolution of September 25th, 1928 ⁽¹⁾ the Council invited the Governments of Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Poland, Roumania, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and Switzerland to be represented on the Advisory Commission for Refugees which is to be attached to the High Commissioner.

The Secretary-General was authorised to summon the Commission, in consultation with Dr. Nansen, for such time as might seem desirable.

X. — The Permanent Court of International Justice ⁽²⁾.

1. — THE CHORZOW FACTORY

On November 12th, an agreement was concluded between the Polish Treasury and the German Companies mainly interested, which, if approved by the Govern-

(1) See *Monthly Summary*, Vol. VIII, No. 9, p. 296.

(2) Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this chapter have been prepared with the assistance of the Registry of the Permanent Court.

ments concerned in the Case before the Permanent Court, would render purposeless the continuance of the proceedings in progress before that tribunal. This agreement of November 12th was in effect approved by the Governments concerned by means of an exchange of notes dated November 27th.

The foregoing was brought to the knowledge of the Court by means of letters from the Agents of the Parties dated December 6th and 13th, which letters announced that the Parties had "concluded an agreement", in accordance with the terms of Article 61 of the Rules "regarding the settlement of the dispute".

The President, whilst leaving it to the Court when it meets "officially to record the conclusion of the agreement", in accordance with the same Article, has made an Order, dated December 15th, terminating the expert enquiry ordered as already stated.

2. — BRAZILIAN FEDERAL LOANS FLOATED IN FRANCE

In conformity with the terms of the Special Agreement under which this case was submitted to the Court for decision, it has been ready for hearing since December 1st, 1928.

3. — INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS RELATING TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

The name of Venezuela should be added to the list of States having agreed to communicate such agreements to the Registry. This list now comprises thirty-three States.

4. — CASE CONCERNING THE ODER COMMISSION

By an Order dated December 24th, the President of the Court, under the powers conferred upon him by the Rules of Court, fixed as follows the time-limits for the filing of the documents of the written procedure in this case :

- for the filing of the Cases : Friday, March 1st, 1929;
- for the filing of the Counter-Cases : Wednesday, May 1st, 1929 :
- for the filing of the replies, Saturday, June 1st, 1929.

This decision was taken subject to the right of the Parties, under Article 32 of the Rules, jointly to propose a different course.

The time-limits so far fixed will enable the case to be ready for hearing in the course of the Ordinary Session of the Court, to be held in June next.

5. — REVISION OF THE COURT STATUTE (1)

On December 14th, the Council appointed as follows the Committee of Jurists charged with the preliminary study of the question raised by the ninth Assembly (2) regarding the eventual amendment of the Court Statute : M. Fromageot (French), M. Gaus (German), Sir Cecil Hurst (English), M. Ito (Japanese), M. Politis (Greek), M. Raestad (Norwegian), M. Rundstein (Polish), M. Scialoja (Italian), M. Urrutia (Colombian), M. Van Eysinga (Dutch).

The Council requested its President and the Rapporteur to appoint an American jurist to sit on the Committee. The President and Vice-President of the Court, M. Anzilotti and M. Huber, were also invited to take part in the work.

(1) Rapporteur : the Italian representative.

(2) See *Monthly Summary*, Vol. VIII, No. 9, p. 288.

6. — PROCEDURE REGARDING ADVISORY OPINIONS (1)

The question of the procedure for seeking the advisory opinion of the Permanent Court came before the Council on December 10th, when it invited each of its Members to study the subject individually, with a view to discussion at a future session.

A resolution of the ninth Assembly invited the Council to study, circumstances permitting, whether the Council or the Assembly might seek the advisory opinion of the Court by a simple majority.

XI. — Other Questions.

PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE SUPERVISORY COMMISSION

On the report of the Persian representative, the Council decided on December 11th to propose that the Assembly should follow, in regard to the nomination of the Supervisory Commission, the procedure adopted for the constitution of the Committee of Five, appointed in 1927 to choose a plan for the League buildings.

This Committee was set up by the Assembly on the basis of the proposals submitted by its General Committee.

XII. — Forthcoming Events.

- January 15th : Permanent Central Opium Board, Geneva.
- January 17th : Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs, Geneva.
- January 18th : Supervisory Commission, Geneva.
- January 28th : Preparatory Committee for the Codification Conference, Geneva.
- February 8th : Technical Committee on the Buoyage and Lighting of Coasts, Genoa.
- February 20th : Committee for Ports and Maritime Navigation, London.
- February 25th : Committee on Private Law in Inland Navigation, Geneva.
- March 4th : Fifty-fourth Session of the Council, Geneva.
- March 11th : Special Commission for the drafting of a Convention on the Manufacture of Arms, Munitions and War Material, Geneva.
- April 9th : Conference on Counterfeiting Currency, Geneva.
- April 15th : Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference, Geneva.
- June 17th : Permanent Mandates Commission, Geneva.

(1) Rapporteur : the Italian representative.

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(Volume VIII — 1928)

Abbreviations

Cl.	=	Council
Comm.	=	Commission
Cttee.	=	Committee
Govt.	=	Government
Int.	=	International.
Memo.	=	Memorandum.
Perm.	=	Permanent
Prelim.	=	Preliminary
Repr.	=	Representative
Resol.	=	Resolution
Sec. Gen.	=	Secretary-General
Tel.	=	Telegram

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