

perpetual session instead of sitting only from the middle of June each year. As this extension of the Court's sessions made additional demands on its judges, it was decided to increase their salaries to something over \$18,000 a year, with special allowances for the President and Vice-President of the Court. The qualifications of the judges were made somewhat more exacting, it being laid down that no judge may exercise any political or administrative function, or engage in any other occupation of a professional nature. A further change, dictated by experience, was the appointment of fifteen full judges instead of eleven full judges and four deputy judges as at present.

In this general connection, it may be noted that the general Act on Arbitration and Conciliation framed at the Assembly of 1928, has already received the adherence of four or five countries, and may be expected to figure prominently on the agenda of the next Assembly.

The Amendment of the Covenant

It will be remembered that at the 1928 Assembly the Lithuanian representative proposed that the Covenant of the League should be amended so as to bring it into harmony with the provisions of the Kellogg Pact, which almost all members of the League of Nations had accepted. The proposal was rejected as premature at the moment when the Kellogg Pact had only been signed and not ratified. Circumstances had altered when at the 1929 Assembly Great Britain put forward a very similar suggestion which this time secured the general approval of the Assembly. Mr. Henderson moved that "it is desirable to re-examine Article 12 and Article 15 of the Covenant of the League, in order to determine whether it is necessary to make any modifications therein." This resolution was referred to a special committee, which will report to all governments with a view to definite action being taken in the course of the Eleventh Assembly, in 1930.

Removal of Trade Barriers

The starting point of all the League's economic work in the last two years has been the series of resolutions drawn up by the World Economic Conference of 1927, and, in particular, the declaration by that Conference that the general level of tariffs in the world has been raised too high and that the time has come to move in the opposite direction. Acting on this suggestion, Great Britain and France introduced a joint resolution recommending that "States should agree not to increase their protective tariff above the present level for a period of from two to three years or to impose new protective duties or create new impediments to trade. It is understood that this undertaking should not lead to any relaxation in the efforts which States are making to reduce their tariff to the greatest possible extent by autonomous or bilateral action in conformity with the recommendations of the World Economic Conference." It was decided to call a preliminary Economic Conference of the States endorsing the object of this resolution at which they could work out the terms of the proposed tariff truce. Of the general proposition that existing trade barriers delayed and, indeed, endangered the economic recovery of Europe, there was little criticism in the Assembly. But when the implications of the Franco-British proposal which had been referred to the Second Committee for examination, were realized, the representatives of the British Dominions voiced their dissent. Spokesmen for Australia, South Africa, and the Irish Free State declined to accept any international obligations which might interfere with their free exercise of tariff autonomy.

The Canadian delegate on the Second Committee, Hon. W. D. Euler, after referring to the special factors involved in Canada's neighbourhood to a highly industrialized country like the United States, concluded as follows:—

"Given the circumstances to which I have referred, due to the dangerous developments of tariffs in other countries and the fact that it may consequently be necessary to find other