

seas to have an item like this in the estimates. Surely we can have a holiday from league meetings until the war is over.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Will the Prime Minister give some undertaking in connection with the matter I raised? There is a principle at stake. I did not raise this question just for fun.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I give my hon. friend the undertaking that I shall direct the attention of the Minister of Justice to his remarks and ask the minister to take such action as he thinks is advisable.

Item agreed to.

Canada's contributions to maintenance of external organizations.

43. The expenses of the League of Nations for 1941, including secretariat, international labour organization and permanent court of international justice, \$120,330.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): I do not understand why we should be expending this amount of money upon the League of Nations. Would the Prime Minister make a statement?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Possibly I can save time by giving my hon. friend at once such particulars as I have about the present situation. This item covers not only the work carried on by the league, but also matters connected with the international labour office and the permanent court of international justice. All of these bodies have suffered a certain amount of restriction in their work. The league itself has fallen on evil-days, but some of its services and other organizations still have their place in the world, and we believe that by making our contribution to its continued existence and the carrying on of that part of its work which is being done on this continent we shall be serving to some extent the purpose for which the league was intended, helping at any rate to keep that agency alive for better days.

The vote provides for Canada's contribution for the league as assessed in the league budget for 1941. This is about 80 per cent of the amount voted in 1940. The total league budget, however, has been reduced to approximately one-half of the budget of 1940 and one-third of that for 1939. This substantial reduction is not proportionately reflected by a reduction in Canada's contribution, but this is explained by the fact that it was not possible to assess any contribution for 1941 from nine member states whose territories have been occupied by Germany or the soviet union since the outbreak of the war. The proportionate contribution assessed against other member states which have suffered

greatly by war, including France, China and Finland, have been cut in half for 1941. In addition, three other states, Spain, Hungary and Peru, have given notice of withdrawal from the league, which will take effect this year.

In consequence of this, the total budget of the league organizations have been greatly reduced and a larger proportion of the total has had to be met by Canada. Since conditions prevented a meeting of the league assembly during 1940, the budget for 1941 was prepared by the supervisory commission of the league which met in Portugal last September. This committee was appointed by the assembly to supervise the administration of the league. Special powers were given to the supervisory commission at the last assembly because of the difficulty of holding international meetings in war time.

The vote includes the Canadian contribution to all the international organizations of the league. Nearly one-third of it will go towards the expenses of the international labour office, which at the invitation of the Canadian government has temporarily transferred its operations from Geneva to Montreal. Slightly over one-third will go towards meeting the expenses of the league secretariat. At present a very small staff, under the acting secretary general, Mr. Lester, remains in Geneva. A group of financial and economic experts, under Mr. Loveday, has moved with the approval of the Canadian government from Geneva to Princeton, New Jersey, where they are carrying on their valuable activities at the institute of advanced studies. The total strength of the secretariat in Geneva, Princeton and elsewhere has been reduced to 100 of all ranks in 1941 from 688 in 1939. A small proportion of the Canadian contribution, about one-twentieth, goes to the permanent court of international justice which normally sits at the Hague. The court has not been able, for obvious reasons, to act during the last year, and the sum provided for it in the league budget represents the irreducible minimum to maintain it in existence. Virtually all the remainder of the league budget, nearly one-third of the total, is devoted to the contractual obligations of the league pension fund and to meeting a deficit incurred in 1939.

The number of states listed as members of the League of Nations is 48, of which three will cease to be members during 1941. Several states, however, which are not members of the league are active members of the international labour organization, including the United States, Brazil, Chile and Venezuela.