

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 25

Arbitration Conventions with the United States and with France.—With Canada's concurrence the Arbitration Convention between His Majesty and the United States of April 4, 1908, was renewed for a further period of five years from June 4, 1923, by the exchange of notes dated June 23, 1923, between His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington and the United States Secretary of State.

Similarly, the Arbitration Agreement with France, originally concluded October 14, 1903, was again renewed for a period of five years from October 14, 1923, by notes exchanged at Paris August 29, 1923.

Modification of International Air Convention, of 1919.—The International Commission for Air Navigation, set up in accordance with the provisions of Article 34 of this convention, held its first meeting at Paris on July 11, 1923, subsequent meetings being held at London in October and at Brussels in February and March, 1923, Canada's interests being represented on the Commission by Major General Sir W. S. Brancker, the permanent representative of Great Britain. Under powers conferred by the convention, a protocol was prepared at the October meeting, modifying Article 5 so as to allow of special arrangements for flight over their territories being made between parties to the convention and non-adhering States. This protocol was approved by Canada and signed on her behalf at Paris on April 9, by the Honourable P. C. Larkin, Canadian High Commissioner in London.

CONFERENCES

Assembly of the League of Nations.—The Third Assembly of the League of Nations met at Geneva on September 4, the sessions continuing until September 30, 1922, Canada's delegates to the Assembly being the Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance, the Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and the Hon. P. C. Larkin, High Commissioner for Canada at London. Canada's proposal made in the previous assembly for the amendment of the Covenant of the League by the elimination of Article 10, failing to obtain any general approval, a new proposal was put forward by the Canadian delegation for the addition of words directing the Council, in advising as to the means to be taken to carry out the obligation imposed by the article, to take into account the political and geographical circumstances of each State, and providing for the consent of the Parliament or Legislature of any member, as a necessary condition, before it should be obliged to engage in an act of war. This proposal meeting with strong opposition, its further consideration was postponed until the Fourth Assembly.

The question of the status of Eastern Galicia being still unsettled, Mr. Fielding moved a repetition of a motion of the previous year urging that the attention of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers be drawn to the desirability of an early decision in the matter. A provisional arrangement for the allocation of the expenses of the League was adopted, valid for the year 1923, under which Canada's contribution will be somewhat reduced. The number of non-permanent members of the Council was increased from four to six.

The Assembly agreed that an International Conference should be summoned by the Council as soon as possible to consider the extension of the principles of the Washington Treaty for the Limitation of Naval Armaments to all non-signatory States, and further expressed approval of a Treaty of Mutual Guarantee as a means of achieving a general reduction of armaments. Hungary was admitted to membership in the League.