

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE

TO THE

ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 8, 1933.

Particularly during the present period when, to use the words of the Director of the International Labour Office "the world is moving with great rapidity out of its old tracks into new and untried paths," # no forward looking organization can afford not to subject itself frequently to self-examination. Such an examination of the League of Nations Society is the subject matter of the report we now beg to submit to you for your consideration.

The study which has been made was commenced in January last when two committees of the Central Executive - the Editorial Committee and the Policy Committee - recommended that it be undertaken.

In general, it may be said that it has followed upon a realization that one period in the history of the Society is ending and that a new period with new and even greater opportunities, requiring different methods and facilities, is awaiting to be entered. The recommendations we have decided upon will make it possible for the Society to take the first steps forward on a new programme.

By way of introduction, some of the general considerations and contentions which have been brought to our attention may be stated.

When the Society was organized and during its early years its principal task was contending that there should be international organization such as was projected in the League of Nations and making the League of Nations known to the people of Canada. The task is more complex not to say more interesting today. What form shall the further development of international organization take has been substituted for the first issue of whether or not there should be international organization at all and the multitudinous issues before the international organization today are now the concern of this Society.

Not only is it apparent that the Society is concerned with the issues before international organization today but also that these issues rank among the greatest political, social and economic issues of our time. Recent discussions of international economic conflict, its control and adjustment, make it scarcely necessary to reiterate the statement made on a great occasion a few years ago that "economic conflicts and divergence of economic interests are perhaps the most serious and most permanent of all the dangers which are likely to threaten the peace of the world."

Still another consideration seems to have been emphasized by the events of recent years; it is that international organization must be designed for a dynamic, changing and not a static world.

For the Society it is our judgment that the following are indicated as being the requirements of its future programme:

- (a) More effective leadership in the formation of public opinion on the issues facing international organization;
- (b) Improved facilities for making what has been termed the "expertise appeal."

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#Statement made by Mr. H.B. Butler at Seventeenth International Labour Conference: "The world is moving with great rapidity out of its old tracks into new and untried paths. We must play our part in that journey of discovery."