

was their common safeguard. If the four Great Powers met to debate among themselves, those who were not represented tended to regard this as arrogating to themselves the right to settle questions belonging to the Assembly as a whole. Yet they were continually being told that progress was delayed because the Great Powers had not agreed first upon a common line. In spite of existing anxiety certain important regional agreements had been reached—the Four-Power Pact, the Pact of the Little Entente, and the Pacts of Non-Aggression.

Mr. O'Kelly (Irish Free State) declared that, notwithstanding its achievements in many spheres of activity, the record of the League during the past year, as it appears to the world, is a record of three reverses—the Sino-Japanese Dispute, the Disarmament Conference, and the Economic Conference. He felt that the responsibility for the failure of the League must lie largely with the Great Powers, who, owing to their importance and their resources, exercise a decisive influence in the world. He felt, also, that the League must face its difficulties frankly and courageously because there is no alternative to failure save international anarchy.

The German delegation submitted in writing a draft resolution, which was adopted, to the effect that the general question of minorities should be referred to the Sixth Committee.

On September 30 the Italian delegation circulated to the delegates of the other leading Powers a memorandum on the economic consolidation of the Danube Basin. It was understood to be a series of suggestions for putting into practice the conclusions of the Stresa Conference of September, 1932, such as preferential tariffs for cereals in all the Succession States, and preferential treatment for Austrian industrial products.

#### ELECTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

The three non-permanent seats on the Council, made vacant by the retirement of Guatemala, the Irish Free State and Norway, were filled on October 2nd by the election of the Argentine Republic, Australia and Denmark. A week later Portugal was elected to the additional seat created on the Council.

#### FIRST COMMITTEE

##### (Legal and Constitutional Questions)

##### *Amendment of the Covenant*

The question of the "Amendment of the Covenant of the League in order to bring it into harmony with the Pact of Paris," which normally should have come before the First Committee, was withdrawn from the agenda, as the work of the Disarmament Conference, with which the question was connected, had not advanced sufficiently far to make it possible to carry out the preparatory study necessary for the discussion.

##### *System of Election to the Council*

The First Committee had before it the report of the Special Committee which was appointed in 1931 to study the existing system of election to the Council.

The principal purpose of the creation of the Special Committee was to examine the possibility of providing a remedy for the fact that the existing nine non-permanent seats on the Council were occupied in practice by States belonging to certain groups, and that there thus remained some ten to fifteen Members of the League which had no prospect of membership on the Council.

The Special Committee, on which Canada was represented, decided to propose a solution which would have the effect of giving provisional recogni-