

SIXTH COMMITTEE

(POLITICAL QUESTIONS)

Mandates

In examining the reports and minutes concerning the execution of the provisions of Article 22 of the Covenant in the mandated territories, the Sixth Committee laid emphasis on economic equality, the liquor traffic, and the systematic and scientific organization of the work of the Mandates Commission and of the Mandates Section of the Secretariat.

The main interest, however, centered in a discussion of the relations between Iraq and Persia. H. H. Mohammed Ali Khan Foroughi (Persia) complained of ill-treatment of Persians in Iraq and protested against the discrimination in the Judicial Agreement of 1924 between Great Britain and Iraq whereby no nationals of Asiatic states except those permanently represented on the Council of the League should enjoy its benefits.

In reply, Mr. Locker-Lampson (British Empire) pointed out that Persians were not discriminated against and explained the impossibility of applying this agreement to nationals of that country in Iraq who numbered over 200,000. He deprecated the airing of diplomatic difficulties between two countries before the Committee and expressed the hope that more amicable relations would be attained by negotiation, making it unnecessary to bring the matter before the Council.

General satisfaction was expressed by several speakers with the work accomplished by the Mandatory Powers, and the relatively small number of petitions emanating from the various native populations was regarded as evidence of the healthy state of the system of mandates.

Slavery

Little comment was made on the question of slavery, the Committee confining itself to a review of what had been accomplished since the last Assembly. Abyssinia sent in a list of slaves recently liberated, and the Italian delegate told of the efforts to stamp out the slave trade in the Italian colonies. The number of ratifications or final accessions to the Slavery Convention of 1926 has increased from 13 to 26, and the hope was expressed that certain States would see fit to accede in order to ensure the universal application of the Convention.

*Intellectual Co-operation**

In presenting his report on the work of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation and of the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, M. Gallavresi. (Italy) reviewed the work already accomplished and pointed out some of the problems that were being studied by this branch of the League organization. He referred particularly to the Sub-Committee for University Relations, to the results of the Rome Conference on Copyright (which had recognized the moral right of an author over his work), and to the methods now being evolved regarding the instruction of youth in the existence and aims of the League of Nations.

In the discussion of the report, many phases of the Committee's work were touched on by the Polish, South African, Austrian and New Zealand delegates. The representative of Canada (Dr. Riddell) strongly supported that aspect of the Committee's work dealing with the education of the young in the aims and ideals of the League, stating that, as permanent representative accredited to the League, he received many enquiries on this subject.

* This question would normally have been referred to the Second Committee; as the latter, however, had a very heavy agenda, the Assembly referred it to the Sixth Committee.