

into effect by the President of the Assembly on September 2nd, 1939, and under them a number of questions which would ordinarily have been brought before the Assembly had already been decided by the Supervisory Commission. It was agreed that it was necessary to extend this emergency régime until the next meeting of the Assembly. The Assembly also confirmed the action of the Supervisory Commission in adding to its membership Count Carton de Wiart (Belgium) and M. Colijn (Netherlands).

#### *Other Questions*

The Fourth Committee approved proposals made by the Special Committee on Contributions for the cancellation of the debt to the League of certain States. The Committee was reappointed for another year by a resolution of the Assembly in which the hope was expressed that States Members would, in spite of present difficulties, testify their attachment to the League by the prompt and early payment of their contributions for 1940.

The Fourth Committee also considered at some length the conditions which should be adopted in dispensing with the services of League officials, and made a number of proposals which were approved by the Assembly for the amendment of the Staff Pensions Regulations.

### CO-OPERATION IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

A Special Committee to examine the development of international co-operation in economic and social affairs was set up by the Council in May, 1939, under the Chairmanship of Rt. Hon. Stanley M. Bruce. The Assembly appointed a committee on which all delegations were represented to consider the report of the Special Committee.

The Bruce Report reviews the economic and social work of the League in its broadest sense, stresses its importance, and points out the desirability of maintaining and improving co-operation with non-member States in this field. The main proposal of the report is the creation of a Central Committee for Economic and Social Questions which would direct and supervise the economic and social work. It would appoint the members of the various standing technical committees and set up new committees where necessary. This proposed Central Committee would consist in part of representatives of Member States, but a number of seats would be set aside for non-official members sitting in a personal capacity; this would allow the representation of non-member States and the inclusion in the Committee of experts whose advice would be helpful. The Central Committee would also examine the budget for economic and social work before its submission to the Supervisory Commission and to the Assembly.

The objects sought by the Report are to bring all the League's economic and social work under effective and representative supervision and to provide more co-ordinated direction. It was felt by the Bruce Committee that this would add fresh vigour and efficiency to the work and bring it into greater prominence, since it would not be overshadowed, as sometimes happens in the Council or Assembly, by questions of international policy.

The committee of the Assembly held a discussion on the Report in which various delegations expressed the views of their Governments. The Canadian Delegate (Mr. Rive) said that the Canadian Government welcomed any initiative which might tend to increase the collaboration of countries of the New World in the social and economic work of the League, which the Canadian Government regarded as most important. He supported a proposal that representatives of the Workers' and Employers' groups on the Governing Body of the International Labour Office should be named to the Central Committee, since this would help to ensure a close connection between the work of the League in this field and that of the International Labour Organization. After