

World Court of Justice Constitution Seems Certainty In Near Future

Sessions of Jurists Advisory Committee, Which Started June 16, Prepare Plans for Selection of Judges

The Hague, July 24.—The constitution of a World Court of Justice to be composed of the most eminent international jurists, sitting in permanent session, and deciding disputes between nations solely on the basis of law, seems a certainty of the very near future as a result of the meetings at The Hague of the Jurists Advisory Committee, which was called together on June 16 by the Council of the League of Nations to prepare plans for such a court under the provision of Article XIV. of the Covenant.

The commission found itself before a problem upon which the most earnest and the most ingenious of international jurists had never been able to reach agreement. It found itself faced by national susceptibilities and fears which had hitherto been insurmountable. It also found itself divided evenly among its own members by the different schools of thought which stood committed through years of partisanship and argumentation to mutually irreconcilable views.

But it had before it an entirely new international situation. In the thirteen years which had elapsed since the failure of the second Hague conference to create a permanent court of law a fundamental change had taken place in the

relations of states. The great war had been fought and an association of nations formed. The disastrous bloodshed and the pride of extreme national sovereignty evidenced in 1907 had largely fallen away because of the example of co-operation between nations during the war and of organization among the nations after the war.

Complete Plan Outlined.

In less than three weeks time, therefore, the committee was able to outline a complete plan for the constitution of the court. Under this plan all the various conflicts at issue seem to have been solved by a most ingenious combination of principles which term, first, to harmonize the hitherto insoluble conflict between the big powers and the little powers as regards the selection of judges, and second, to give every assurance of the choice of the most eminent and the most representative jurists in the world.

The court is to consist at the outset of eleven judges and four alternate judges, serving for a term of nine years. It will sit permanently at The Hague to decide all cases of a purely legal nature, arising between nations, and will form a complement to the existing Court of Arbitral Justice, which will retain its competence to deal with all cases of arbitration between nations. The functioning of these bodies, one besides the other, will form a centre of international law and justice which is expected to be one of the landmarks in international development.

The first step in the selection of the judges of the court is, of course, the nomination of candidates, which obviously will have a very deep effect upon the final character of the court. It was felt that no better method could be found than to instruct this original nomination to the permanent Court of Arbitral Justice at The Hague, which will not only assure the highest judicial character to the candidates named, but will also make it unnecessary for any Government to commit itself to a choice before the actual time of decision.

The four jurists of each nation represented on the court would be requested to form a national group to select not over six candidates, of whom not over two might be their own nationals. These national groups would in turn be requested to make their selection in consultation with the highest judicial authorities in their respective countries, such as the Supreme Court and the various international law societies. The results would be to provide a long list chosen on the broadest principles, assuring a truly international character and providing a rough consensus of legal judgment as to the men best qualified for the final choice.

Method of Selection.
After the nomination of the judges, however, comes the selection. It is just here that all previous plans for a world court have broken down. Where there are fifty nations in the world, it is obvious that each one cannot have a national sitting on a court composed of but eleven members. Until the meetings of the present committee no solution has ever been found for this difficulty.

The big Powers had maintained that they must always have a national sitting on the court, not only because they represent the force which must be the essential backbone of the court, but also because they were entitled to an assured position by their role of leadership in the world and by the predominance of their business before the court. They had refused to admit any system of selection placing them under the control of a court selected by collusion of the small states, especially as many of latter were inferior in civilization and judicial development.

But the little states had similarly refused to admit any method of selection which did not recognize their equality as sovereign Powers. Starting from the admitted principle that justice had nothing to do with the size of a nation, but that it is an abstract principle applicable to all alike, they had refused to recognize the preponderant interest of the big Powers or to agree to any system which placed the latter in a preferential position regarding the selection of judges.

Since the Hague conference of 1907, however, this same difficulty as regards the equality of states had been harmonized in the political field through the creation of the League of Nations. There two bodies had been established—one the council, to consist of the nine larger powers, and to serve as a sort of executive committee, and the other the assembly, which they will call to Manila, where a Sunday school convention will be held.

Sunday school workers in the Philippines are preparing to give this company of delegates an enthusiastic reception. On two different steamers these convention pilgrims will proceed to South China, where two or more conventions will be conducted at Hong-kong and Canton. Each of the outgoing and returning tour parties will hold similar conventions before and after the great convention in Tokyo. Four steamers bearing convention delegates will sail from a Pacific port in September. Each tour party that goes to the Sunday School Convention in Tokyo will be captained by a special representative of the World's Sunday School Association. These men will begin their work by registering the delegates and supplying them with one of the convention badges. On the Montenegro and the Siberia Maru each passenger will be wearing the Sunday school insignia, since these boats are exclusively for those going to the Tokyo convention.

Brasils will be well represented at the convention. Rev. Alvaro dos Reis and other representative Brazilians will leave Rio de Janeiro on August 17 for Tokyo via New York. Word has been received from Australia that a tour party is also being formed there. Two Egyptians will sail this month from Port Said that they may participate in the convention and its programme.

October 10 is World's Sunday School Day. This is the Sunday when the World's Convention will be in session. A responsive service has been prepared by Prof. H. Augustine Smith of Boston University, which will be used by the hundreds of delegates at Tokyo.

Substitute for Ice.
(Sun and New York Herald.)
An interesting substitute for ice is provided in some parts of Syria. Snow gathered in the mountains is packed in a conical pit, dug in the ground and provided at the bottom with a drain to carry off the water formed—for some of the snow unavoidably melts. The snow

is tramped firmly and covered with distributed to customers on pack horses and costs all the way from ten cents to From these pits the solidified snow is twenty-five cents per 100 pounds.

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Equally certain, however, agreement would not be reached on the first ballots for all members of the court. Consequently each electoral body would proceed to another ballot, knowing more exactly the views of the other body. All parliamentary experience with this method of selection goes to show that a large measure of agreement is reached at the balloting continues.

Experience also shows that there is strong probability of agreement on the last places to be filled. Obviously a method must be found to resolve such a deadlock. The solution agreed upon is to have each electoral body appoint a committee of three members to discuss privately with a similar committee from the other body the possible bases of agreement. This would reduce the issue to the mediation of six men, who would be free to agree on any names, whether on the original list of candidates or not.

Experience again shows that in practically all such cases agreement is reached. Men placed upon a committee of this sort are confronted by the fact that they must make some kind of recommendation if the bodies to which they belong are not to abdicate their functions. They are consequently driven on by a sense of necessity, while at the same time intrusted with full powers of compromise.

Joint Mediation Succeeds.
When such a joint medium committee reports its decision to the two parent bodies, experience similarly shows that its recommendation is almost always accepted, for, in a matter of fact, that recommendation comprises the only way out of a difficulty which has till then proved insoluble. In order, however, to foresee all possible contingencies, provision is to be made that any places which should still be filled shall be filled by the vote of the judges who already compose the court. The assembly agreed from the knowledge that if they did not agree their powers would be defaulted and the choice would be made by another body.

This plan is felt to meet all the intricacies of the situation. The nomination of candidates by a body such as the Hague Court of Arbitral Justice would seem to assure the choice of men truly representative of the principal civilizations and judicial systems of the world. The final selection of judges by the council and the assembly would seem to reconcile the hitherto irreconcilable conflict between the big powers and the little powers by giving each a check upon the other. It is hoped that this compromise, based as it is upon the system already accepted by most nations of the world, will prove acceptable to the nations represented on the council and in the assembly and make it possible to bring the long-expected world court of justice into being shortly after the meeting of the assembly in Brussels in November.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EXPERTS EN ROUTE FOR TOKIO

Getting Ready for International Convention to Be Held There in October

Delegates are now on their way to the World's Sunday School Convention, which will convene in Tokyo, Japan, October 5. The first of ten tour parties sailed from Seattle on July 30. They will be touring in Japan, Korea, and China, returning to Seattle just before the opening day of the convention. Three other groups will sail on August 21, going from both Seattle and San Francisco. The last August tour party will be larger than the others, and will sail on the Empress of Japan from Vancouver on the 26th. The Asia delegates will be joined at Shanghai by the Fushimi party on September 10, and to

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