

*Amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly*

During the last few sessions of the Assembly, it has occasionally happened that proposals have been submitted in the name of an exceptionally large number of delegations. It is conceivable that proposals might be submitted by so considerable a number of signatories that the other Members of the League would hesitate to express their misgivings or doubts as regards the expediency of a proposed measure whose adoption was already a foregone conclusion. This would be the case particularly with regard to the placing of new questions on the agenda. A proposal signed by more than half the Members of the League present would more or less settle the question in advance and would deprive the States Members of the League of the possibility of devoting the necessary time to a careful study of the problem raised.

To guard against this contingency, the Norwegian delegation submitted to the First Committee the proposal that Rules of Procedure 4 and 17 be amended so as to provide that no proposal for the placing of a new question on the agenda and no resolution, amendment or motion might be signed by more than ten Members of the League. The Canadian delegation supported this suggestion which was approved with an amendment raising to fifteen the number of signatures permissible.

On September 27, the Assembly referred to the First Committee the suggestion of the General Committee that Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, which provides that the Secretariat shall keep lists of the attendance at each meeting of the Assembly, has no practical utility and might with advantage be deleted.

The committee approved this suggestion.

SECOND COMMITTEE

(Work of the Technical Organizations)

*Economic and Financial Questions*

This year the Second Committee found it convenient to consider economic and financial questions together. As a basis of discussion it took the report reviewing the world economic and financial situation submitted by M. Bianchini, delegate of Italy. Most countries had abandoned the gold standard, and impediments to the exchange of goods, capital and labour had been multiplied, but, there were some grounds for encouragement: prices in recent months had been relatively steady; money rates were abnormally low; two great States had carried out debt conversion schemes on an unprecedented scale, and a great step forward in international economic co-operation had been taken by the Lausanne Conference.

The Rapporteur referred to the work done by the Financial Committee in Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece and Hungary and drew attention to the recent request from Roumania for technical assistance from the League. He emphasized the importance of the report of the Gold Delegation and expressed the opinion that it was owing to failure to follow the methods therein advocated that certain countries had experienced such difficulty in reestablishing their financial systems.

M. Bianchini reviewed the work accomplished in the matter of procedure for the friendly settlement of economic disputes between States, unification of customs nomenclature, veterinary conventions; international economic agreements, examination of the international situation of certain branches of production (coal, motor-car industry, timber, hops, tobacco), national economic councils, promissory notes and cheques, bribery and unfair commercial practices, and marks of origin.