

eliminated in relations between Canada and the United States. Any disputes could be resolved by the International Joint Commission, which had been set up to settle differences arising between the two countries. In all twenty-three cases submitted to this Commission, twenty-one of which had resulted in unanimous decisions, the award of the Commission had been accepted by both parties. The speaker pointed out that, in his estimation, the prosperity of the New World was caused largely by the elimination of fear of aggression.

Elections to the Council.

On the 10th September, the Assembly elected Spain, Persia and Venezuela non-permanent members of the Council in succession to Colombia, the Netherlands and China, whose term of office (of two years) had expired. The election of Venezuela further strengthened the principle (which has been generally accepted although no definite rule has been laid down) that a South American State should each year be elected to the Council, so that three of the nine non-permanent seats are, in practice, reserved for South America; while the election of Persia met with the desires of those who felt that China's seat should devolve upon an Asiatic country.

An interesting discussion was provoked by Spain's request for re-eligibility. It will be remembered that Article IV, paragraph two, of the rules (adopted in 1926) for the method of election to and tenure of the non-permanent seats in the Council, contained a temporary provision whereby a maximum of three members might be immediately declared re-eligible by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly. A proposal for the application of this provision to the 1928 election was put forward by the British, French and German Governments and approved by the General Committee, but met with considerable criticism from the Swedish and Norwegian delegates who claimed that, in their opinion, there was not sufficient justification for departing from the regular procedure. The resolution was adopted, however, by a majority of 44.

The application of the 1926 temporary provisions having been agreed to, Spain's request for re-eligibility was successful in obtaining the necessary two-thirds majority while a similar request from China failed.

Election to the Permanent Court of International Justice

In accordance with the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice, the Assembly and the Council proceeded independently to the election of a successor to Mr. John Bassett Moore, who had resigned from the Permanent Court. Mr. Charles Evans Hughes (United States of America) was elected unanimously by the Council, and in the Assembly 41 votes out of a total ballot of 48 were cast in favour of Mr. Hughes.

Meetings of the Council

The Fifty-First and Fifty-Second Sessions of the Council, held from August 30 to September 8 and from September 12 to September 26, respectively, were devoted mainly to co-operating with and to giving effect to the decisions of the Assembly. In addition, consideration was given to the Polish-Lithuanian dispute, the question of the Hungarian optants, methods of appointment to the Opium Central Board, and the proposed enquiry into opium smoking in the Far East. An interpretation of Article 21 of the Covenant, given by the Council in answer to a communication from Costa Rica, was largely instrumental in bringing back that country to the League.