

The Canadian Delegation was represented on the six committees as follows:—

First Committee:

Hon. R. Dandurand.  
Hon. J. C. Elliott.

Second Committee:

Hon. W. D. Euler.  
Mr. Malcolm McLean.

Third Committee:

Rt. Hon. Sir George Foster.  
Miss Agnes Macphail.

Fourth Committee:

Hon. J. C. Elliott.  
Hon. Philippe Roy.

Fifth Committee:

Mr. Malcolm McLean.  
Miss Agnes Macphail.

Sixth Committee:

Hon. R. Dandurand.  
Dr. W. A. Riddell.

## PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

### (a) *General Debate*

The Tenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the League of Nations is considered to have been one of the most productive and most constructive meetings in the whole history of the organization, and its success was in no small measure due to the special circumstances under which it met. The first session of the Conference at The Hague, which was looked upon as a final liquidation of the war period, had ended; the League had completed its first ten years of existence and the doubts and fears of these first years had yielded at last in the face of the tested worth of the new instrument of international co-operation. The evacuation of the occupied areas, under way at the time, the impending adjustment of the Reparations claims, and the renewed hope of ultimate naval disarmament, all combined to create the favourable international situation by which the Assembly profited.

### *Development of Compulsory Arbitration*

The outstanding achievement of the Tenth Assembly was undoubtedly the sudden harvest of signatures of what is known as the Optional Clause of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice. It will be remembered that when the Court was first contemplated, it was the intention of the framers of its constitution that whenever two States found themselves engaged in a dispute of the kind the Court was created to deal with, they should automatically go before it without either having the right to refuse. In the final revision of the Court Statutes, obligatory arbitration was abandoned in order to secure the unanimous acceptance of the Court's constitution by the members of the League. Provision, however, was made in Article 36, paragraph 2 of the Statute for the voluntary acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court in legal disputes concerning:

- (a) The interpretation of a Treaty;
- (b) Any question of international law;
- (c) The existence of any fact which, if established, would constitute a breach of an international obligation;
- (d) The nature or extent of the reparation to be made for the breach of an international obligation.

The gradual increase in the number of States signing the Optional Clause has been, therefore, a useful index of the Court's growing influence in the world. Through the eight years of the Court's existence, signatures of this Clause have been dropping in one by one. The Canadian Government had notified the Secretary General of the League in 1925, that it was ready to consider the