

Fourth Committee.—Budget and Financial Questions:

Allocation of the expenses of the League; Erection of an assembly hall; Staff Provident Fund; Budget of 1926; Contributions in arrears.

Fifth Committee.—Social and General Questions:

Traffic in opium; Traffic in women; Protection of children; International municipal co-operation; Refugees.

Sixth Committee.—Political Questions:

Slavery; Minorities; Mandates; Collaboration of the press.

The report on the work of the Council and of the Secretariat, since the last Assembly, gave rise to long debates. The Protocol of 1924 was not formally brought before the Assembly. Nevertheless, most of the orators alluded to it. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, delegate of Great Britain, after having recalled the attitude of his Government towards the Protocol, stood for regional pacts. The Canadian delegate, Senator Bostock, explained that Canada had not found it possible to ratify the Protocol but that she had endorsed, in a general way, the principles of universal interest contained in this document. Her peculiar geographic position and the experience of the last war prevented her from assuming in advance the additional obligation of intervening in conflicts far removed from her shores.

A short review of the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Assembly will show the extent and the importance of the questions raised.

ARBITRATION, SECURITY, DISARMAMENT:

A resolution was adopted by the Assembly, accepting a Japanese proposal by which the Council is requested to submit to thorough study the subject of pacific settlement of international disputes and to report to the Seventh Assembly upon the progress which can be made in this matter.

Another proposal was submitted by the Belgian delegation and adopted by the Assembly, calling the attention of States members of the League to the advantages that can be obtained from the point of view of their security, by concluding particular conventions for arbitration in accordance with the guarantees of the Covenant.

A proposal initiated by the Spanish delegation and amended by the First and Third Committees was also adopted. By this resolution, the Assembly, convinced that the most urgent need of the present time is the re-establishment of mutual confidence between nations, declared afresh that a war of aggression should be regarded as an international crime; regarded favourably the effort made by certain nations to conclude arbitration conventions and treaties of mutual security conceived in the spirit of the Covenant of the League and in harmony with the principles of the Protocol; recorded the fact that such agreements need not be restricted to a limited area but may be applied to the whole world; recommended that the Council should report to the Seventh Assembly on the progress in general security brought about by these agreements and requested the Council to make a preparatory study with a view to a Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments.

The Assembly considered as an important step towards a general system of international agreements regarding arms and ammunition and implements of war the Convention for the Supervision of the Arms Trade and invited the Council to continue the preliminary work on the subject of the control of the private manufacture of arms so that a draft Convention may be prepared as speedily as possible and discussed by an international conference.