

after the close of the Extraordinary Assembly in March Germany continued her application, on which that Assembly had taken favourable action, and which was confidently expected to hold good for the Seventh regular Assembly. The contingency centred around the Council and the bare possibility that again there might appear a dissentient representative ready to re-enact the role played by Brazil in March, and rumours flew thick and fast as to wrecking possibilities. All these, however, proved baseless, and Germany was accorded by unanimous vote of Council and Assembly her permanent seat at the Council and a sympathetic and cordial entry into the Assembly. Never have there been more tense moments in the history of the world than the hour on the 8th day of September, 1926, when in the presence of the representatives of 48 nations of the world the vote was taken and recorded by individual states—one uninterrupted affirmative—and that on the 10th of September when the German delegation as a sequence to that vote took its seat and was welcomed by the warm plaudits of that august Assembly into the world circle of the workers for peace. The manly, frank and statesmanlike utterance of Dr. Stresemann, head of the German delegation, and the fervid and spontaneous welcome of M. Briand, were both masterpieces of their kind and worthy of the great institution whose spirit they expressed, and of the world of onlookers who applauded them.

The entrance of Germany into and her participation in the work of the League possesses a deep and far-reaching significance. It means the transference of the principal antagonist of the Allies in the Great War from the position of an outside opponent of and menace to the League, into that of a member and co-worker therein, and brings all questions of difference from a cold, formal, long-distance, outside consideration, to the intimacy and sympathetic treatment of the family circle of nations, in which all have taken on them the common obligations and duties of the League, and the pledge of mutual co-operation. It brings into the counsels of the League a powerful and practical intellectual and business factor for the consideration and decision of its many and weighty problems, and gives greatly added force to its decisions. It practically marks the entry into common compact and action of all the enemy nations, and thus presents a more united front in the promotion of peace settlements as substitutes for force settlements between nations in international affairs, and records a notable advance towards universality in the constitution and influence of the League. The results have already been manifested in the altered attitude of the French and German peoples towards each other along economic, business, social and political lines, and the stimulation of a like attitude, and of arbitration compacts, between Germany and Italy, and other European countries. The argument of opponents of the League, that it was ineffective in Europe with Germany outside, and liable to a constant menace of an entente between Germany, Russia and Turkey in opposition to its aims, has been eliminated and with vast positive gain to the prestige and influence of the League. In the United States as well the repercussion will be generally powerful and persistent, and especially upon certain important elements of its population now that Germany and the Irish Free State have entered into League co-operation.

In the general League activities the record presented by the Council for 1926 was eminently satisfactory. Continued and effectual progress was reported in the supervision of the administration of minorities in the 15 States which are under treaty obligations to ensure to them their rights of property, of language, and freedom of religious observances, and in the administration of mandates affecting so many millions of backward peoples, two of the most delicate and complex subjects within the scope of the League's work. In both fields there is observable a better understanding of the situation and the proper methods of treatment, as well as of the relative obligations and duties of the nation members and the League Council and Assembly, coupled with a publicity that acts equally on the conscience and counsels of the parties involved.