

M. Madariaga (Spain) formerly Chief of the Disarmament Section of the League Secretariat, advocated a stricter observance by Members of the League of the obligations accepted by them in the Covenant, some of which certain Members of the League have shown a tendency to explain away. He hoped the Disarmament Conference would realize a drastic measure of disarmament including the direct limitation of military material and the internationalization of civil aircraft. M. Madariaga observed that "if each State Member of the League had sent to Geneva a sum equal to five per cent of its naval and military expenditure in the year 1930, and if that sum had been invested by the League Treasury at five per cent interest, the income accruing would have maintained the League for ever on its present scale of expenditure."

#### *Entry of Mexico into the League*

A resolution, adopted by the Assembly on the 8th September, 1931, invited Mexico to accede to the Covenant; this resolution was communicated to the Government of Mexico from whom a reply accepting the invitation was received on the 10th September and on the 12th September Mexico formally entered the League of Nations.

This departure from the normal procedure established by Article I of the Covenant governing the entry of States into the League, is, it was carefully explained, not to be construed as a precedent but as simple reparation for the omission of Mexico from the list of States named in the annex to the Covenant.

#### *Elections to the Council*

The three non-permanent seats on the Council, vacated by the retirement of Persia, Venezuela and Spain, were filled on the 14th September, 1931, by the election of China and Panama and the re-election of Spain for three years ending in 1934.

#### *Presentation of Portrait of Senator Dandurand*

A portrait in oils of Senator Dandurand, President of the Sixth Assembly, was formally presented to the League of Nations by Mr. Guthrie in the course of his address to the Assembly. The painting by Jules Baschet, who was commissioned by the friends of the Senator, was exhibited in the Library of the Secretariat during the meetings of the Assembly. In accepting it on behalf of the League, M. Titulesco expressed the hope that it would initiate the establishment of a portrait gallery of past presidents of the Assembly.

#### FIRST COMMITTEE

#### (Legal and Constitutional Questions)

#### *Amendment of the Covenant*

The First Committee considered the question of inserting in the Covenant of the League of Nations the general prohibition of recourse to war embodied in the Pact of Paris.

During the previous discussions the fear had been occasionally expressed that certain difficulties might result from the fact that some members of the League had not acceded to the Paris Pact, and that some signatories of that Treaty were not Members of the League. The First Committee expressed the view that, at the present time, there need be no further apprehensions on either point. On the one hand, some Members of the League which had not acceded to the Paris Pact had acceded or announced their intention of acceding since last year. On the other hand, as regards States signatories of the Paris Pact which were not Members of the League, obviously no decision could be taken in their absence as to the scope they should give to their obligations, but the task undertaken by the League had the same end in view as the Paris Pact, and reinforced the authority of the principle formulated therein.