

licensed houses of prostitution, which had been shown to be an essential factor in the international "white slave" traffic. The representative of Hungary declared that licensed houses had been abolished there; the Rumanian, that it was anticipated this end would be reached within a year; and the German, that licensed houses would be abolished after October 1, 1927, "except in the area occupied by Allied troops". The French delegate intimated that there was some doubt as to the measure of success actually attained in the abolitionist countries. The Canadian representative stated that abolition had been an accepted success from both hygienic and moral standpoints.

Child Welfare

The more constructive side of the League's interest was instanced in the discussion of the report of the Child Welfare Committee. A year ago the Council criticized the programme of work outlined by this committee, on the ground that some of the questions proposed for study appeared to be of national rather than international concern. The Seventh Assembly agreed generally with the conclusions of the Council, and the Child Welfare Committee had therefore, as the rapporteur pointed out, "endeavoured to make a judicious choice of the questions to be placed on its agenda, in order to concentrate its attention on the problems whose study and solution are of practical value to governments". It had decided in particular to pursue the inquiry into the effects produced on children by the cinematograph and, in collaboration with the International Labour Office, the inquiry into the effects of family allowances on the welfare of children, and to study the position of the illegitimate child in the various countries. It had also decided to retain on its agenda the question of blind children and the question of mental and physical recreation. The representatives of Canada, Great Britain, South Africa, Belgium, Italy, and Norway commented favourably on its report.

SIXTH COMMITTEE

Slavery, which, as many people first realized from the League's inquiries of the past three years, still prevails in open form in one Christian country, Abyssinia, and several Mahommedan countries, and in disguised or modified form in other states, was the first subject on the Sixth Committee's agenda. It was noted that reports on progress in abolishing slavery had been received from Burma, Abyssinia, Portugal, and the Sudan, but that the majority of members of the League had not yet ratified the Convention drafted last year. At a later stage a British representative announced that the Legislature of the Sierra Leone Protectorate had passed the first reading of a law to end the surprising legal recognition of slavery in that territory implied in a recent court judgment.

Mandates proved of interest as usual. The friction which had existed earlier in the year between the Permanent Mandates Commission and several of the mandatory powers over what the latter were inclined to consider the unduly inquisitorial character of the Commission's inquiries appeared to have been lessened. The Dominions were much to the fore in the discussion, between New Zealand's troubles with its wards in Western Samoa and South Africa's contention as to possessing "sovereignty" over the mandated territory which was formerly German Southwest Africa. Note was taken of the Council's action in appointing a German member to the Mandates Commission, and further regulation of the liquor traffic in the B and C mandated areas was urged.