

in so far germane to the labours of the Conference, as these also were avowedly directed to preparing the way for the more general acceptance of the Prize Court Convention. As it must clearly be desired by all countries interested in the establishment of the International Prize Court that the United States should be one of the Powers submitting to its jurisdiction and bound by its decisions, the Conference thought it right, notwithstanding its lack of formal authority, to go so far as to express the wish ("vœu") which stands recorded in the final Protocol¹ of its proceedings, and of which the substance is that the attention of the various governments represented is called by their delegates to the desirability of allowing such countries as are precluded by the terms of their constitution from ratifying the Prize Court Convention in its present form, to do so with a reservation in the sense of the first part of the United States' proposal.

44. On the other hand, the question of setting up the Judicial Arbitration Court, which seemed to have no necessary connection with the Prize Court Convention, was decided by all the Delegations, except that which had brought it forward, to be one which the Conference could not discuss. It was observed with conclusive force that the Conference was attended by delegates of the principal naval Powers, whose unanimous agreement on questions of naval warfare might not unreasonably be expected to carry weight with other States, but which had neither formal nor moral authority for taking up a scheme that had failed to find general acceptance at The Hague owing to the decided opposition of the very Powers not represented at the present Naval Conference.

45. In conclusion we desire to bring to your notice the admirable way in which we have been served by the secretaries attached to our delegation. Mr. Norman, who acted as Secretary-General of the Conference, earned the marked approval of all its members by the painstaking and thoroughly efficient manner in which he organized and superintended the business arrangements of so large an assembly. The secretariat was composed of the secretaries of all the delegations, and at our last meeting M. Renault, who, as Chairman of Committee, was necessarily in the closest touch with the secretariat, expressed, in terms which were warmly applauded, the appreciation by the Conference of the highly satisfactory manner in which its duties had been performed.

¹ See p. 187.