

that Germany had decided to sign at once the Optional Clause of the Permanent Court, which provides for compulsory acceptance of arbitration in certain matters of law and fact. Sir Austen Chamberlain in a particularly vigorous address, after associating himself with M. Briand's defence of private conferences, answered the implication that Great Britain had taken no steps toward disarmament, had held back from arbitration, and had made no sacrifices to guarantee the security of other powers; challenged any other state to do as much as Britain had done in Locarno, and insisted that it would be impossible and would involve disrupting the British Empire to undertake further unlimited guarantees.

A warning from M. Politis, representative of Greece and one of the chief authors of the Protocol, against too great haste in endeavouring to force it through; a reminder by M. Scialoja of Italy, the only representative present who had taken part in the framing of the Covenant of the League, that over-anxiety to reinforce the Covenant by Assembly resolutions and similar proposals might weaken public faith in the authority of the Covenant itself; a resolution presented by M. Sokal of Poland, modified to denounce and renounce not all wars but merely wars of aggression; a strong endorsement of the work and findings of the Economic Conference by Sir Edward Hilton Young, of the British delegation; an appeal from Count Apponyi of Hungary that the former victors should disarm as had been promised when the defeated powers were forced to disarm; a defence by Sir George Pearce, leader of the Australian delegation, of voluntary as opposed to compulsory arbitration, whether in labour disputes or in international disputes; and a plea from Senator Dandurand for tolerance toward minorities as a means of effecting moral disarmament and genuine security, along with a reference to Canada's previous announcement that it was in sympathy with arbitration though opposed to the Protocol; these were among the more significant features of the remainder of the debate. The various proposals made and modified in the course of the debate, as well as the original agenda, were then referred to the appropriate committees for more detailed consideration.

(b) *Election of the Council*

The Council, which has become practically the executive organ of the League, consists, since the reorganization effected in 1926, of five permanent members (Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and Germany) and nine temporary members, three being elected each year for a three-year term. Further to ensure a reasonable measure of rotation, it was provided that a retiring member should not be eligible for re-election for three years, unless the Assembly specifically declared it re-eligible by a two-thirds vote.

The 1927 Assembly was the first in which the new system was fully applied. The retiring states were Belgium, Salvador, and Czechoslovakia. Belgium announced its wish to have a vote taken on its re-eligibility. Respect for the distinctive part Belgium had played in the Council ever since the League had been established was countered in some degree by the belief that on this first test it was desirable to insist on the principle of rotation adopted last year after long debate. The vote in favour of re-eligibility was 29 to 19, but the requisite two-thirds majority was lacking. Belgium's good League spirit was at once made evident in a statement by its Foreign Secretary, M. Vandervelde, recognizing that the vote had been based on questions of principle, and assuring the League of Belgium's continued strong support.

For the three vacant seats there were half a dozen serious candidates. In accordance with instructions from the Canadian Government, the delegation announced Canada's candidacy. It was felt that Canada, sufficiently detached from European complications to be impartial and sufficiently in touch to be interested, might contribute something of value to the work of the Council; and