

accepting the same obligation, the jurisdiction of the Court in all or any of the classes of legal disputes defined in the article. The classes so defined being disputes of a juridical character.

Disappointment has been expressed in many quarters that the Assembly did not decide in favour of compulsory jurisdiction. While the delegates from Canada favoured compulsory jurisdiction, they did not feel that any just criticism could be levelled against the great powers for not being willing to go beyond the terms of the Covenant at the present time. The view expressed by the representatives of the great powers was that it was better that the Court should be established under the conditions named in the Covenant and that by its strength and its prestige it should win the confidence of all the nations of the world, rather than that compulsory jurisdiction should be conferred on it at its organization.

Members of the Assembly differed on a very important question of procedure, namely, as to whether the Assembly as such had the power to finally pass the statute creating the Court, or whether, owing to the peculiar wording of Article 14 of the Covenant, it was necessary that the question should be referred to the members, and that the Governments of the respective members should give their adherence to the Statute in the form of a protocol signed and ratified by them. It was, therefore, agreed that the Statute constituting the Court should be submitted to the members of the League for adoption in the form of a protocol duly ratified and declaring their recognition of this Statute, and that as soon as this protocol had been ratified by the majority of the members of the League, the Statute of the Court should come into force, and the Court should be called upon to sit in conformity with the Statute.

May I now refer briefly to the organization of the Court, its competence and its procedure.

*Organization of Court.*—The Court shall be composed of fifteen members, eleven judges and four deputy judges, "elected regardless of their nationality from amongst persons of high moral character, who possess the qualifications required in their respective countries for appointment to the highest judicial offices, or are jurisconsults of recognized competence in international law."