

then begin the negotiations referred to above, and a final Conference, to which all States will be invited, will take note of the results of the negotiations and will supplement them if necessary.

A second resolution deals with the question of coal. The Governing Body of the International Labour Office is to be invited to consider the inclusion in the Agenda of the International Labour Conference of 1930 of questions relating to hours, wages and conditions of work in coal mines, with the object of agreeing upon an international convention or conventions. The Governing Body is to be further requested to consider the advisability of convening at an early date a preparatory technical conference consisting of representatives of the Governments, employers and workers of the principal coal-producing countries of Europe, in order to advise it as to what questions relating to conditions of employment in coal mines might best be included in the Agenda of the 1930 International Labour Conference, so that a practical international agreement might be reached.

A third resolution requested the Council to examine such recommendations as the Economic Committee may put forward in regard to the present conditions in the sugar industry, especially price fluctuations and the existing disproportion between supply and demand, and to consider, having regard more particularly to the results of the investigation, whether it is desirable or not to summon a meeting of the representatives of the Governments concerned to study these recommendations.

Other economic questions discussed in the Report of the Second Committee to the Assembly included the Convention for the abolition of import and export prohibitions and restrictions, and the international arrangements relating to the export of hides, skins and bones.

Work of the Financial Committee

The work done by the Financial Committee falls into two categories, one dealing with subjects of a general nature, the other with work accomplished for particular States. Questions of a general character which were considered during the last year were the purchasing power of gold, the counterfeiting of currency and of other bills and securities, double taxation, a scheme of financial assistance in the case of war or threat of war, and the publication of monetary and banking laws.

Work for particular countries was done in connection with Greece, Bulgaria, the Saar Territory, Esthonia, Danzig, Austria and Hungary. The policy of the League is to withdraw its financial control as soon as possible; thus the financial supervisory organs in Austria and in Hungary have completed their task, and it is now proposed to wind up the work of the Greek Refugee Settlement Commission.

During the year a new technical organ of the League has been set up: the Fiscal Committee*, which was created as a result of a recommendation of the Government experts on double taxation and tax evasion. Its special duties will be to study taxation questions, and to advise the Council in regard to them.

An inquiry has also been started, to examine and report on the causes of fluctuation in the purchasing power of gold, and its effect on the economic life of the nations.

* The Council appointed as a corresponding member of this Committee Mr. Watson Sellar, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance.