

The Canadian delegation was represented on the six committees as follows:

- Hon. R. Dandurand, Second and Third.
- Hon. C. Stewart, First and Fourth.
- Dr. O. D. Skelton, First and Fifth.
- Hon. Philippe Roy, Second and Sixth.
- Dr. W. A. Riddell, Third and Fifth.

PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

(a) *General Debate*

The Assembly held twenty-two plenary meetings. The opening sessions were devoted to a review of the work of the League during the past year and to discussion of proposals for future activity. In some respects the discussion corresponds to the debate on the Address in a Canadian Parliament. On the present occasion it was marked by an unusual degree of continuity and of direct reply, with a corresponding gain in frankness and reality. The discussion was shared in by representatives of every continent and covered a wide range, but the main interest was concentrated on criticisms of the slow progress of disarmament, proposals for reviving or modifying the principles of the Geneva Protocol, criticism and defence of the procedure of the Council or rather of the larger powers represented on the Council, support of the findings of the Economic Conference, and advocacy of a forward step in the codification of international law.

When the Assembly opened there was apparent a considerable measure of disappointment over the failure of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission of the League to attain unanimity in its spring meeting and the breakdown of the Geneva Conference for the Reduction of Naval Armament, though this latter was not a direct League responsibility. The Continental states which had supported the Geneva Protocol most enthusiastically were not reconciled to the view that the opposition particularly of Great Britain and the Dominions presented insurmountable obstacles to its revival. In addition there was some complaint among the smaller countries against an alleged tendency of the larger powers or Locarno group to settle matters in private conversations rather than in full Council or Assembly. All these views found vigorous expression in the opening days. The Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, Jonkheer Beelaerts van Blokland, urged the Assembly to take up again the study of the fundamental principles of the Geneva Protocol; the Polish delegation were known to be preparing a resolution for the outlawing of all wars; the Foreign Minister of Latvia protested against Europe's failure to reduce armaments; while the President of the Norwegian Chamber of Deputies, Mr. C. J. Hambro, speaking in English, criticized the growing tendency to send professional diplomats to Geneva as representatives, and the tendency of an inner circle within the Council to take the settlement of affairs into its hands. M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, repeated the latter point.

Under these circumstances the speeches of the representatives of the Locarno powers attracted special attention. M. Briand protested his devotion to disarmament, and defended the settlement of questions at issue by private meetings as a means of eliminating unnecessary difficulties. He asserted the need of sanctions for the enforcement of League decisions, and referred to the recent judgment of the Permanent Court of International Justice in the *Lotus* case as an illustration of France's readiness to settle disputes by arbitration or judicial means rather than by force. Herr Stresemann denounced war as the parent of misery and anarchy, protested against the assumption that no steps could be taken towards disarmament until perfect security was attained, and announced