

OTTAWA, February 28, 1925.

*To His Excellency,  
The Governor-General in Council.*

The undersigned delegates, appointed to represent Canada at the Fifth Assembly of the League of Nations, have the honour to report as follows:—

The Fifth Assembly began its sessions at Geneva on September 1. Representatives were present from all the Members of the League except Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Nicaragua, and Honduras. On September 24 the Assembly decided to admit the Dominican Republic to the League, making fifty-five States Members of the League, and fifty in attendance.

M. Motta of Switzerland, a former President of that republic, was elected President of the Assembly, and representatives of the British Empire (Great Britain), France, Italy, Poland, China, and Colombia Vice-Presidents. Representatives of Australia, Panama, Rumania, Japan, Denmark, and Finland were elected as Chairmen of the six Standing Committees, and of the Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Venezuela, Canada (Mr. Dandurand), and the Irish Free State as Vice-Chairmen.

The full Assembly, consisting of some hundred and fifty members, deals with all proposals in the first instance, and disposes of them finally. The greater part of the actual work of the session is done by six committees, each composed of one representative from each state: all new questions brought before the Assembly are assigned to one or other of these committees for investigation and report, and they also consider, as regular order of business, the work done during the year by the various permanent organizations of the League. Each committee in turn appoints sub-committees to deal with each of the more important matters referred to it. When the Assembly is not in full session the committees meet both morning and afternoon, and sometimes in the evening. The meetings are so arranged that one delegate may take part in the work of two committees. Mr. Dandurand was the Canadian representative on the First Committee (Legal and Constitutional Questions) and the Fifth Committee (Social and Humanitarian Questions). Mr. Macdonald was the representative on the Third Committee (Armaments) and the Sixth Committee (Political Questions). Mr. Skelton served as substitute on the Second Committee (Technical Organizations of the League) and the Fourth Committee (Finance).

The most important question which came before the Assembly was the proposal as to arbitration, security, and disarmament, which eventually took shape in the Protocol for Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, or the Protocol of Geneva, as it is termed more briefly. The Draft Treaty of Mutual Assistance, framed by the Fourth Assembly, had been rejected during the year by a number of Members, including Great Britain and Canada. The question as to what further action should be taken was given a new turn by proposals from Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, emphasizing the need of further resort to international arbitration, and from M. Herriot, accepting a rejection of arbitration as the test of aggression and emphasizing the need of joint enforcement of arbitration awards. The Assembly undertook the examination of these suggestions, which were in turn remitted to the First and Third Committees and to sub-committees. The draft which was eventually agreed upon as the basis of dis-