

are, therefore, not of a legal nature, but rather of an economic and internationally fraternal nature. It is nevertheless true that whenever men attempt to accomplish anything through agreement or through joint action, the coöperation of trained jurists is always an advantage: and this thought, it is understood, has prompted those, who are asking for a conference on international coöperation, to ask also that its sessions be held while the legal conference is in session.

It is anticipated, therefore, that the Conference on International Coöperation will seek the guidance and collaboration of the Pan-Pacific Legal Conference. It is thought that this may be accomplished without substantially interfering with the due consideration of the subjects forming the agenda of the Legal Conference. The legal assistance which is hoped for would not be limited to the drafting of a text to express the agreement reached by the Conference on International Coöperation so to prevent to the greatest possible extent, any misunderstanding of the true nature and effect of the agreement. It would include also such collaboration in enabling an advantageous agreement to be reached, as seeks to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past, as shown by the non-ratification of negotiated treaties and by the working and effect of ratified treaties. The aid of members of the Legal Conference will also be needed to avoid entering into an agreement out of harmony with the fundamental principles of international law, which principles are the fruit of the experience of nations extending over many centuries. Where, in an international agreement, these fundamental principles are departed from, the advantage derived from the agreement is usually found to be superficial and the agreement is not an enduring one.

It will, of course, be for the Pan-Pacific Legal Conference, when it meets, to say whether it is willing to collaborate in the work of the Conference on International Coöperation and,

if so, in what way. It may be found best for the Legal Conference to appoint a committee of its members to give to the Conference on International Coöperation the guidance which it needs; such a committee would serve also as a liaison committee between the two conferences. It may be, also, that certain subjects before the latter conference will be deemed to merit the consideration of the Pan-Pacific Legal Conference as a whole.

9. It ought, perhaps, to be added that the local committee on the scope and purpose of the Pan-Pacific Legal Conference of 1927 favors avoiding such subjects as present no special conditions affecting the countries bordering the Pacific, provided (1) the advantage of a world agreement overshadows that of a Pan-Pacific agreement; (2) there is a reasonable expectation of reaching a world agreement; and (3) an initial Pan-Pacific agreement would tend to retard a world agreement.

Upon the principle just stated, the local committee has thought that the following subjects, important and interesting though they are, may well be omitted from the agenda of the Pan-Pacific Legal Conference: the law of collisions at sea, of contracts of affreightment, of marine insurance, of salvage and of the law maritime, in general; the law of patents and copyrights; and the law of extradition.

It is thought also that the law governing alien ownership of land and alien leases thereof and the law of citizenship, as affected by the place of birth, by the race and nationality of parents, by marriage, and by acts of naturalization may best be left to be dealt with by conferences instituted by the governments themselves, rather than by voluntary organizations.

For the Committee on the Scope and Purpose of the Pan-Pacific Legal Conference. Col. Fredk. M. Brown, Chairman.