

The Canadian Delegation was represented on the six Committees as follows:—

First Committee:

Hon. Hugh Guthrie,  
Hon. Philippe Roy.

Second Committee:

Dr. W. A. Riddell,  
Mrs. H. P. Plumptre.

Third Committee:

Hon. Hugh Guthrie,  
Hon. C. P. Beaubien.

Fourth Committee:

Hon. Philippe Roy,  
Hon. Martin Burrell.

Fifth Committee:

Mrs. H. P. Plumptre,  
Dr. W. A. Riddell.

Sixth Committee:

Hon. C. P. Beaubien,  
Hon. Martin Burrell.

On the proposal of the President, the Honourable C. P. Beaubien was appointed by the Assembly as a member of the Agenda Committee.

#### PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

The situation in which the Assembly met was entirely dominated by two events, the economic crisis and the forthcoming Disarmament Conference. Aspects of international co-operation unrelated to these urgent questions, if not ignored, were for the moment unregarded. This concentration on the vital and immediate problems of international politics characterized the general discussion, in plenary session, of the League's activities in the twelve months which had elapsed since the Eleventh Assembly. A brief review of the statements of policy made by the spokesmen of the principal Powers may usefully introduce the more detailed record of the proceedings of the several committees which will be found in subsequent chapters of this report.

Signor Grandi (Italy), in opening the general debate, took advantage of the occasion to explain fully Italian policy in regard to the principal enterprises in which the League was concerned. He felt that the proposals to amend the Covenant of the League, in order to bring it into harmony with the Pact of Paris, were put forward prematurely and were perhaps ill advised. In counselling caution, he argued with force that nations should scrupulously fulfil existing obligations under the Covenant before contemplating an extension of obligations which might be reluctantly accepted and imperfectly honoured. In particular, the provisions of Article VIII (the Disarmament Article) had not yet been carried out and Italy hoped that the forthcoming Conference would see the realization of the undertakings given by the Members of the League twelve years before. He believed that peace could rest only on national security and that security could result only from the harmonious development of two factors: the peaceful settlement of disputes and the general reduction of armaments. Signor Grandi then put forward, tentatively, a proposal that, taken up and developed in the Third Committee of the Assembly, emerged as the "Armaments Truce" to which all States participating in the Disarmament Conference have since subscribed.

"My idea is," he said, "that we should here and now conclude a genuine and effective armaments truce to last, at least, as long as the Conference itself is in progress. A general and immediate agreement between all States with a view to the postponement of the execution of programs for new armaments would not only give our people an immediate proof of goodwill but would invest the Conference with a calmer and more confident psychological and political atmosphere, which would do more than any declaration of principles to promote the successful progress of its work."

Lord Cecil, who spoke on the following day, welcomed the Italian proposal warmly and commended it to the consideration of the Assembly with a view to its translation into a formal and binding obligation upon the States