

Demographic Questions

The Committee considered the proposal that the Economic and Financial Organization should continue the work undertaken on the question of international movement of goods and capital as part of the study of the population problem and it was decided that the Council should be requested to appoint a special *ad hoc* Committee on demographic questions. The work of the International Labour Office on the question of Migration for Settlement was also reviewed and it was noted that an inter-governmental committee on the question was contemplated by the Labour Organization.

Social-Economic Problems

A good part of the time of the Second Committee was devoted to problems of social-economic policies, which have in recent years occupied a place of increasing importance in the work of the League. Nutrition, housing, rural hygiene and other problems have been and are being studied in collaboration with other technical sections of the Secretariat. In its report the Committee pointed out that the importance of the League's work in this field lies in the fact "that the application of science to agriculture and industry has greatly increased the world's productive capacity; while, at the same time, evidence continues to accumulate which shows that consumption falls short of minimum human requirements, with consequent ill-health, inefficiency, premature death and social unrest. The bridging of the gap between what can be produced and consumed and what is being produced and consumed is the fundamental economic problem of our times and one to which the League is very rightly paying special attention."

THIRD COMMITTEE (Disarmament Questions)

The Third Committee, meeting under the Chairmanship of the Right Honourable Ernest Lapointe (Canada), was asked by the Assembly to deal with the following questions:—

- (1) Reduction and Limitation of Armaments:
Action taken on the Assembly's resolution of September 30, 1937.
- (2) Protection of the Civilian Non-Combatant Population against Air Bombing in case of War.

Reduction and Limitation of Armaments

Mr. Lapointe, in opening the discussion, briefly reviewed the work undertaken during the past year in pursuance of the Assembly's resolution. He dealt first of all with the question of concluding a convention on the publicity of national defence expenditure which, it was hoped, would be the first step towards the conclusion of a general convention for the reduction and limitation of armaments. Twenty-two states out of the sixty-one consulted had, he pointed out, indicated acceptance of the proposal in principle although accompanied in many cases by reservations as to reciprocity. He touched also on the progress being achieved in the unification in different countries of the nomenclature and definition of arms and war materials and the growing tendency in recent years for states to subject the manufacture of, and trade in, arms to supervision upon an agreed basis. There remain, however, a considerable number of countries which have not co-operated with the League in furnishing information on their activities in this field and the Chairman suggested that it was for the Committee to consider whether it would be desirable to call the attention of these governments to the matter and once again endeavour to secure their co-operation.

The United Kingdom representative, Captain Wallace, outlined the progress made during the year in regard to the limitation of naval armaments, more especially with reference to the entry into force of the Anglo-German and Anglo-Soviet Naval Agreements, the signature of the Anglo-Polish Naval Agreement, the negotiations for bilateral agreements with Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Turkey, and the Exchange of Notes with Italy concerning