

PREFACE

In view of the very great interest at the present time in the Conventions and signed Declarations of the First and Second Hague Conferences, and because of the need of accurate information as to ratifications of and adhesions to the Conventions and Declarations relating to war, the Endowment has prepared a series of pamphlets in order that the public may learn from reliable sources the status of these international agreements and the extent to which the Powers at war are bound by their provisions. The pamphlets have now been brought together and issued in volume form, to which there have been added introductory matter and a carefully prepared and elaborate index.

Attention is called to the tables of signatures, ratifications, adhesions and reservations of the two Conferences, pages 229 *et seq.* The compilation has been made from official sources, and the tables have been certified as correct by the Department of State of the United States and by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. In all cases the reservations contained in the proceedings of the two Conferences, but only referred to in the tables issued by the International Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, have been translated and printed in full, with the references to the official reports where the reservations are found. Without the complete text of a reservation, it is impossible to know to what extent a Power is bound.

The Conventions and signed Declarations of the two Conferences are accompanied by the respective lists of countries which have (a) *ratified*, or (b) *adhered to*, or (c) *signed but not ratified* them, with the date of the particular action taken. Each Convention or Declaration is followed also by the texts of reservations.

The English translations of the original French texts of the several Conventions and Declarations, and Final Acts of the Conferences reproduce the official translations of the Department of State, except that a few obvious misprints and occasional mistranslations have been corrected. Marginal notes have been added to facilitate reference.

The Conventions and Declarations are numbered as in the Final Acts.