

the other territories could not perhaps be held to be absolutely legitimate. In reply, Mr. Henderson assured his colleagues that the proposals of the Hilton Young Commission were still under consideration, and that, before a definite decision was taken, the Permanent Mandates Commission would be communicated with.

The point emphasized in the Report to the Council on the economic work of the League was the question whether the various Governments could not encourage a greater consumption of sugar by the lowering of the excise duty. Governments are to be invited to have their observations or comments on the question forwarded to the League by March 30, 1930.

In connection with the problem of smuggling, Mr. Procope suggested the following:—

“Any vessel obviously engaged in smuggling certain produce or serving as the place in which such smuggled goods are stored can be seized on the high seas by the authorities of the country to which the smuggled goods are being taken or which is threatened by the results of such smuggling. Countries can also, after seizing the vessel, apply their laws in regard to smuggled goods and in regard to the penalties imposed on the crew of such vessels”.

The Council took note of the above, it being understood that it did not imply any opinion on the substance of the idea on their part.

After having had the matter under consideration for some years, the Council at its Fifty-sixth Session decided to reduce the number of annual meetings from five to four so that in future there will be two meetings about the time of the Assembly, a further meeting on the third Monday of January, and the fourth on the second Monday of May.

FIRST COMMITTEE

(LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS)

Revision of the Statute of the Permanent Court

The 1928 Assembly had adopted a resolution in which the Council's attention was drawn to the advisability of proceeding to the examination of the Statute of the Permanent Court with a view to the introduction of such amendments as might be desirable, and to the submission of the necessary proposals to the next ordinary session of the Assembly.

A Committee of twelve members, aided by the President and Vice-President of the Court, was accordingly appointed, and its recommendations and suggested amendments were submitted to the Council at its June Session in Madrid. The Council then decided to convoke in September a Conference of all States Signatories of the Statute of the Court. The Conference met in Geneva on September 4, under the chairmanship of Jonkheer Van Eysinga (Netherlands) assisted by two Vice-Presidents, Prince Varnvaidya (Siam) and Sr. Urrutia (Colombia).

The Conference held five meetings and from the beginning practically all the States represented expressed willingness to accept the proposed revision without any further alterations. The changes and the new Articles refer particularly to the election of and increase in the number of judges, and the question of procedure with regard to advisory opinions. In referring to the latter point, Sir Cecil Hurst explained that there existed in the United States considerable apprehension in connection with advisory opinions, and that it would be necessary to show the extent to which the opinions given bound the Council, and to point out that Article 13 of the Covenant, especially the last paragraph which provided for the case of failure to carry out an award, did not apply to advisory opinions.