Chairmen of the Committees

First Committee (Legal and Constitutional Questions):

M. Scialoja (Italy).

Second Committee (Technical Organizations):

M. Motta (Switzerland).

Third Committee (Reduction of Armaments):

M. Carton de Wiart (Belgium).

Fourth Committee (Budget and Financial Questions):

M. de Vasconcellos (Portugal).

Fifth Committee (Social and Humanitarian Questions):

M. Matos (Guatemala).

Sixth Committee (Political Questions):

M. Marinkovitch (Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes).

The Canadian delegation was represented on the six committees as follows:—

Hon, R. Dandurand—First and Fifth.

Hon. C. A. Dunning—Second and Third.

Hon. Philippe Roy-Second and Fourth.

Dr. O. D. Skelton—First and Fourth.

Dr. W. A. Riddell-Third and Sixth.

PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

General Debate

The Reformation Hall at Geneva filled with delegates from fifty countries, an audience occupying every available seat, and the President of the Assembly vainly begging someone to mount the rostrum to initiate the general debate—such was the unusual spectacle offered at Geneva by the first session of the Ninth Assembly after the preliminaries of election had been carried out. If, however, at the first plenary meeting the delegates were timid about addressing the Assembly, once the debate was under way there was no dearth of speakers to discuss candidly and critically the accomplishments of the Geneva organization since the last Assembly. Indeed nineteen plenary sessions, eight of which were devoted to the general debate, were necessary before this discussion had ended.

The subjects principally considered by this Assembly of Frankness, as it has been termed, were the recently concluded Pact to outlaw war, the problem of minorities, the economic work of the League, and the question of disarmament.

Coming as it did within a week of the historic ceremony in Paris it was only natural that the general debate should devote considerable attention to the Briand-Kellogg Pact to outlaw war. The Prime Minister of Canada interpreted it as an endeavour to develop and focus world opinion against war, and declared that its value lay in the brevity and simplicity of its terms, while practically all the other speakers greeted the Pact as a triumph for the cause of peace. Reference was also made to it in the discussions of the First and Third Committees.

M. Beelaerts van Blokland (Netherlands) invited the views of his colleagues on the institution of a permanent Minorities Committee, similar to that for Mandates, by which the Council should be relieved of the work of handling minorities questions. M. Zaleski (Poland) could see no necessity for establishing such a committee, but agreed that if all members were prepared to sign a Convention