

The proposal of the Military, Naval and Air Advisory Committee that defensive preparations should be undertaken was rejected, and no alternative measures were adopted.

17.—(e) The post-box dispute in 1925 arose out of the setting-up of Polish post-boxes in the town of Danzig on the 5th January, 1925. The boxes were promptly defaced by unknown hands; and when the Polish Government complained, the Danzig Senate claimed that Poland's right, under the Treaty of November 1920, to establish direct postal communications between Poland and the port entitled her only a single post-office, in premises previously acquired in the Heveliusplatz. The High Commissioner, when appealed to, gave his decision in favour of the Danzig claim. On appeal by the Polish Government to the League, the matter was referred to the Permanent Court of International Justice, which gave it as its opinion that Poland had the right to set up post-boxes elsewhere than in the Heveliusplatz, but only in the port of Danzig, the area of which had not yet been defined. The Council of the League accepted this opinion, appointed a commission of experts to delimit the port, and adopted the Commission's recommendation on the 19th September, 1925.

18.—(f) The zloty dispute was occasioned by the Polish Government's announcement on the 25th October, 1932, that from the 1st December only Polish currency would be accepted for fares and charges on the railways in Danzig territory. The railways were under the general Polish railway administration, but Danzig had its own currency, and under a decision of Sir R. Haking as High Commissioner in 1921, amplified by a clause in a German-Polish agreement of September 1923, all payments in the city were to be made in Danzig gulden. The acting High Commissioner protested to the Polish Government, and referred to Geneva, where the Council of the League was due to meet. Agreement was reached direct, however, between the Polish Foreign Minister, Colonel Beck, and Dr. Ziehm, the President of the Danzig Senate, at Geneva, to the effect that the Polish announcement should be withdrawn, but that negotiations should be opened between Poland and Danzig for the establishment of a common currency.

19.—(g) Other disputes concerned the rights of Polish citizens in Danzig; the treatment of the Polish-speaking minority among the citizens of Danzig; and German goods allowed into Danzig duty-free. Finally there was the Polish complaint against the employment by Danzig of an excessive number of persons who were subjects of the German Reich and against the employment of Danzigers in Germany; the Poles believed that this system was designed to prevent the growth of a feeling for genuine independence in the Free City. The effect of this series of disputes on the Poles was that they came to dislike and mistrust the League of Nations. Disappointed as they had been by their failure to obtain unrestricted ownership of Danzig, they had refused to believe that the Free City could not be induced to draw nearer to Poland as time went on. In fact, however, the separation became wider and more firmly fixed; and the League was often the agent through whose decisions this unpleasant truth became known in Poland. The Germans, on the other hand, contended that Poland was perpetually striving to place on her treaty rights in regard to Danzig an interpretation corresponding as closely as possible to the original Polish standpoint at the Paris Peace Conference.

#### *Danzig's Politics and Nazification.*

20. *Political Parties.*—The degree of Danzig's co-operation with Poland varied in accordance with the relative strength of Danzig's political parties, which reflected to a very great extent the political movements within the Reich. From 1920 to 1925 the Danzig Nationalists were in office. They were pro-German, sceptical about Poland's capacity to survive, and hopeful of a return to the Reich. They were concerned with preserving the German character of the Free City fully as much as they were with ensuring its economic progress by adaptation to the needs of Poland. After a brief interlude (1925-26) in which the Catholic Centre, the Liberals, and the Social Democrats formed a Coalition Government, the Nationalists returned to office for another year, and the unfriendly relations and mutual distrust between Danzig and Poland, which had ceased under the Coalition Government, reappeared. In 1928 the Social Democrats formed a second Coalition Government with the Centre and the Liberals. The National Socialist Party, which had captured seven seats on its first appearance in 1923, was represented by one member only, out of 120, in 1927. The goodwill of the new Government was reciprocated on the Polish side, although relations were soon vitiated by economic difficulties, especially by the effects of the growing competition from Gdynia. When this Government