

drawn up by the League, of which twenty-two had made practically no progress. It was dangerous to arouse hopes which came to nothing, thus supplying arguments to sceptics and those inclined to ridicule the work done at Geneva. Since previous methods had proved inadequate, Mr. Andersen suggested:—

- (1) That a special time should be laid down in the proposed convention within which it would have to be ratified if it was to come into force, and a provision might be included whereby a new meeting of the contracting States could be held if the number of ratifications obtained on the expiration of that period were insufficient.
- (2) That at the opening of each Assembly the Delegations would report on the progress of the ratifications in their respective countries, and state the reasons for failure to ratify.

Mr. Noel Baker (Great Britain), in supporting the Danish proposal, suggested that the Council in the first instance should send a questionnaire to governments asking for information as to their practice on certain specific matters in connection with ratification, and upon the basis of material thus collected the Commission of Enquiry could make a report of the Assembly at its next session. Other views expressed were that the League should have fewer international conferences, that better preparation should be made for those which are convened, and that the Delegates on their return home could do a great deal to interest their respective governments in the ratification of conventions still outstanding.

The Delegate of Canada suggested a resolution whereby a delegate from each State would be called to the platform at the next Assembly to submit a list of ratifications deposited since the close of the last Assembly, a list of Conventions which the State does not intend to ratify, and a list of Conventions which are at present being considered.

Considerable objection was voiced as to the manner in which the documents containing the signatures and the list of ratifications were compiled. The resolution finally adopted by the Assembly took note of the various suggestions made in the First Committee, and a Committee of seven members familiar with the technical aspects of general conventions or with parliamentary and constitutional practice is to be set up to investigate the reasons for the delays in ratifications, and the means by which the number of signatures and ratifications or accessions might be increased. In addition, the Secretariat, for greater clarity, is to draw up annual double column tables indicating the position as regards signatures and ratifications of, or accessions to, the various Conventions concluded under the auspices of the League of Nations.

SECOND COMMITTEE

(TECHNICAL ORGANIZATIONS)

Economic Work

By far the most important question before the Second Committee was the work of the Economic Organization of the League. Interest was added to the discussion by the statement made in the Assembly by M. Hymans (Belgium), proposing a "tariff-truce" for two years, and by the public statement made by M. Briand regarding the "United States of Europe".

In submitting his Report on the work since the last Assembly, Dr. Breitscheid (Germany) made a very comprehensive review of economic conditions since the Economic Conference of 1927. None of the three methods—autonomous tariffs, bilateral treaties and collective conventions—tried out to reduce or