

Communications and Transit

The work of the Organization for Communications and Transit was considered by the Second Committee with special reference to the results obtained in the following fields: transport facilities for newspapers, unification of transport statistics, air transport co-operation, unification of river law, unification of buoyage and lighting of coasts, the efforts made to bring commercial motor transport within the scope of international regulations for freedom of communications and transit, and the reform of the calendar.

It now seems probable that, in the course of 1931, the Transit Committee may be able to reach definite conclusions, and present a comprehensive plan for the unification of transport statistics, which may be presented for approval and adoption by a Conference to be held in 1932.

A sub-Committee of the Air Committee has been organized to study in detail the constitution and operation of the main network of permanent air routes. The sub-committee will also study the question of postal air transport.

The Conference on Buoyage and Lighting of Coasts met in October, 1930, and the Conference for the Unification of River Law in November. The European Conference on Road Traffic has been summoned for March, 1931. Its agenda will include the question of road signalling, abolition of taxes on foreign motor vehicles, and the international regulation of commercial motor transport.

It is proposed that the Fourth General Conference on Communications and Transit should meet towards the end of 1931. It will examine the question of stabilization of movable festivals and the general problem of the institution of a perpetual calendar. The Transit Committee has expressed its conviction that the discussions between Governments and between experts will refer only to the social and economic aspects of such questions, and not to the religious aspects.

Health Organization

The Health Organization has been occupied in a great variety of studies—in studies regarding tuberculosis, malaria, sleeping-sickness, rabies, infantile mortality, a particularly laborious enquiry into syphilis, and an enquiry into the proper methods of utilizing radium. Springing from such studies is the movement for the further education of health officers, whether by short courses of study or by prolonged periods of training.

The Second Committee noted with satisfaction that the activities of the Organization were being continually extended, and noted with pleasure the work being done in Greece, Bolivia, and China, which had asked for the technical advice of the League in the development of their public health services; it expressed the hope that the experience gained by the Organization might be made increasingly available to Governments.

A very great number of suggestions were made. Some delegates asked that the work of the Singapore Bureau should be extended; others demanded fresh studies on such subjects as medicinal plants, leprosy, cholera and plague, and additional work with regard to malaria, inquiries into maternal mortality, and the care of the blind, and into the care of children under school-age.

The Second Committee also considered a proposal by the Hungarian Government that the League should study the question of international reciprocity in the care of the sick. The Hungarian Government suggested that a multilateral convention should be framed under the auspices of the League or, if this were not feasible in the near future, the League should recommend its Members to conclude bilateral agreements on this subject. This proposal was referred by the Assembly to the Health Committee.

Intellectual Co-operation

The Second Committee was in full agreement with the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry which had been appointed to suggest ways and means of improving the organization for intellectual co-operation.