

The report, after expressing general satisfaction with the progress achieved, noted that all States had signed the Convention for the Execution of Foreign Arbitral Awards and that five new ratifications of the 1923 Protocol on Arbitration Clauses had been registered. It also recommended the early conclusion of the preparatory work for the establishment of a simplified uniform customs nomenclature; the framing, by the Economic Committee, of a doctrine in regard to commercial policy; further investigations in regard to veterinary measures and to problems relating to coal and sugar; and a systematic study on the problems of agriculture.

Hon. C. A. Dunning (Canada) referring to the Report stated that he considered it of the greatest importance that the work of the Economic Committee should continue and develop as it was only at Geneva that economic questions could be discussed from an international point of view.

Health Organization

The report of the Health Organization showed an increasing activity in this branch of the League's work. Besides numerous meetings of the various commissions on cancer, malaria, and smallpox, reference was made to the increasing contact with the South American countries and with the Far East through the Bureau at Singapore, which during the year had been able to give warning of infected people on board as many as 162 vessels. The interchange of public health and medical personnel, and the new departure in the study of rural hygiene were felt to be highly advantageous means of making the League's work better known. A tribute was paid by the Japanese delegate to the work of the Singapore Bureau, while work in the field of rural hygiene was highly praised by the representatives of Poland and India.

Communications and Transit

In this field, a great variety of activities was noted. The reorganization of the special Committees set up by the Advisory and Technical Committee has enabled the latter to enlist assistance from a great many quarters, and the Permanent Committee for Transport by Rail now includes distinguished new members with particular knowledge of the development of railway transport on the American continent. Work is being actively pursued with a view to facilitating newspaper distribution and the unification of road signals, while, by the investigation into air navigation, it is hoped to establish a few principles of public international law therein. With regard to marine navigation, a study is being made of the unification of tonnage measurement, of buoyage and the lighting of coasts, and it is hoped to bring about the unification of certain sections of river law.

Inland navigation statistics, calendar reform, passports, and broadcasting for purposes of propaganda—these were some of the other questions raised in connection with the work of the Communications and Transit Section.

Alcoholism

The Second Committee was requested to consider a proposal which had originally been placed before it in 1926. At the 1926 Assembly, the Finnish, Polish and Swedish delegations had proposed that the League should enquire into certain aspects of the question of alcoholism; owing, however, to strong opposition chiefly on the ground that it was doubtful whether such an enquiry was within the competence of the League, the question was postponed until the following Assembly. The 1927 Assembly decided that some aspects of the question might well form the subject of a League inquiry, and it was finally agreed to place the item on the agenda of the 1928 Assembly.