

In the course of the Committee's discussion on the future work of the Advisory Committee the Canadian delegate, Mrs. McClung, congratulated the Advisory Committee on the work accomplished. The Canadian delegation, she said, were gratified at the indication contained in the report of the Advisory Committee that the latter appeared to have been gradually clearing its agenda of what might be described as incidental and abnormal aspects of various social problems. In its early days, the Committee had had to seek specific remedies for specific evils, such as the delinquent child, the orphan and the illegitimate child, and such questions as the rehabilitation of prostitutes, and the employment of adolescents. Most of those problems had now been discussed and the time seemed to have come when a broader conception of the Committee's work should gradually be adopted. The Committee should now find itself freer to deal with the problems of the social services in their relation to the community, the problems of the normal family, the normal mother, the normal adolescent, and the normal child, and thus, by the prevention of social evils and abnormalities, increase the usefulness of that section of the League's work. She thought that this broader conception of the relations between society and the well-being of the family and its individual members was in accordance with the trend of the world to-day, as the discussion had shown. The Canadian Government, she stated, welcomed the Committee's efforts towards a more comprehensive visualisation of its work and hoped that the Committee would find it possible to press forward with the study and elucidation of the needs of the individual child and the family.

The problem of the protection of children in time of war was also discussed in connection with the future work of the Advisory Committee. The Committee were informed that it had been considered by the Advisory Committee at their last session and that the International Red Cross had called upon National Red Cross Societies, in collaboration with other competent national organs, to bring the problem to the attention of their Governments. The Spanish delegate spoke of the suffering of children in Spain and of the efforts that had been made to alleviate it.

Traffic in Women and Children

The Committee discussed the question of the calling of a conference for the conclusion of a convention "to protect persons of full age and of either sex against procuration for profit, even when they consent and are not taken abroad, and also against any other form of exploitation of their prostitution." The replies already received from Governments, to which a draft convention on the subject has been submitted, indicate that some modifications may be necessary in detail but that the principles are generally accepted as satisfactory. The Committee recommended to the Assembly the passage of a resolution requesting the Council to call a diplomatic conference in 1940 for the conclusion of the proposed convention.

The Committee discussed the new form of questionnaire adopted for returns by Governments on the traffic in women and children. This revised questionnaire makes a clearer distinction between the national and international traffic. The hope was expressed that the new questionnaire would result in an increased number of returns from Governments. The Canadian delegate, Mrs. McClung, pointed out, however, that, in the opinion of the competent Canadian officials, the new questionnaire, although an improvement on the old, was not yet completely satisfactory for countries with federal constitutions and expressed the hope that further modifications would be considered to adapt it to their needs.

Assistance to Indigent Foreigners

The Committee had before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Assistance to Indigent Foreigners and noted its opinion that a multilateral convention would not be sufficiently acceptable to be practicable at the present time, and that the Expert Committee had, therefore, contented itself with framing a number of general recommendations on the question. The Committee