

the study of the problem and requesting that the work of investigation be continued with a view to "the establishment of a Radio-Telegraphic Station at the seat of the League of Nations" and, more generally, to "enabling the League of Nations to be prepared at any moment to meet any emergency with the greatest possible rapidity."

The Third Committee was called upon to consider the reports prepared by the Communications and Transit Committee and a memorandum from the Swiss Federal Government suggesting joint action by the League of Nations and the Swiss Government in the establishment of a wireless station.

There was a general discussion on the principle involved, during which the consensus of opinion showed little enthusiasm for the idea of a League of Nations Station. Various objections on financial and technical grounds were put forward by the British and Japanese representatives.

The Hon. C. A. Dunning (Canada) was of opinion that the discussion showed that the question before the Committee resolved itself into the utility of such a station in times of emergency since no complaint had been made that existing facilities were not adequate for normal times. This raised, in his view, a technical question—i.e., whether in times of emergency a nation in Europe which found it necessary or expedient in its own interests to close, censor or interfere in any way with ordinary means of communication would not find it equally possible to interfere with the wireless communications from a League of Nations station. Unless this question could be answered satisfactorily he personally would prefer to see the money expended on other activities of the League which were very much in need of funds.

The matter was referred to a sub-committee, which considered the following alternatives:—

(1) The construction and operation of a wireless station by the League of Nations.

(2) The construction, jointly financed by the Swiss Federal Government and by the League of Nations, of a medium and short-wave station. In time of peace this station would be operated by the Swiss Government, but in time of emergency it would be handed over to the League of Nations on the following conditions:—

That the Swiss Federal Government be allowed to place an observer at the wireless station to keep his Government informed of all radio-telegraphic activities.

That the Assembly should pass a resolution recognizing that the use to be made of the station by the League in times of crisis would not involve the international responsibility of Switzerland.

Neither of these alternatives was received with any degree of favour and the whole question was referred to the Communications and Transit Committee for further report.

(g) *The Preparation of a draft Convention on the Private Manufacture and Publicity of the Manufacture of Arms and Ammunition and of Implements of War*

Ever since December, 1920, the question of Private Manufacture has occupied the attention of the Assembly which, in view of paragraph 5 of Article 8 of the Covenant, has, on several occasions, requested the Council to take the necessary preliminary measures which would lead eventually to the convening of a General Conference on the subject.

The study of Private Manufacture, after having been successively undertaken by the Temporary Mixed Commission, and by the Committee of the Council, was handed over, in December 1926, to a Special Commission, which has held two sessions, the first in March-April 1927, and the second from the