

Welfare Committee, and the Council decided to set up a special committee to consider them. The Governments of the following States have been invited to nominate experts for this committee: Argentine, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland.

Several speakers pointed out the danger to adolescents, from the standpoints of health, education, and employment, constituted by the world economic depression, and emphasized the necessity of measures to counteract its effects, to prevent juvenile delinquency, and to deal adequately with the juvenile delinquent. The Fifth Committee expressed appreciation of the study of the juvenile court system now being carried on by the Child Welfare Committee, and recommended that countries where no such system exists should set up juvenile courts and associate women in their work.

Traffic in Women and Children

The Canadian Delegate (Mrs. H. P. Plumtre) was appointed Rapporteur for this question.

During the discussion, particular emphasis was laid on the necessity for international action to suppress this traffic, which is organized on an international basis, and on the opportunities afforded to its agents by the unemployment and economic distress existing at the present time.

The Fifth Committee noted with satisfaction that there were already 38 parties to the Convention of 1921 for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children, and expressed the hope that further ratifications would be registered in the near future.

For some years the Traffic in Women and Children Committee has been studying the measures taken against souteneurs. A summary of national legislation on this point has been prepared, and the Governments are being consulted as to the possibility of adding to the 1921 Convention a number of provisions dealing with this question. In this connection, it was pointed out that in Canada souteneurs may be punished by ten years' imprisonment, with the lash for a second offence. The question is to be studied further in order to ascertain, if possible, the results of the penalties, with special reference to the recurrent conviction of habitual offenders.

In presenting the Fifth Committee's Report to the Assembly, the Rapporteur said:—

“The work upon which the Fifth Committee has reported clearly demonstrates the importance of a central body, like the League, whose humanitarian operations are not confined within national barriers. The traffic in women and children is only one manifestation of a world-wide network of underground criminal activities in which are interwoven the illicit traffic in habit-forming drugs, the circulation of obscene publications of all kinds, the issuing of counterfeit money, and varied forms of smuggling. In all these activities the risks are great, but the potential gains are greater in the eyes of the dangerous criminals who are engaged in them. To make the risks greater than the rewards required the united efforts of the legislative, judicial and police forces of the world, supported by an informed and intelligent public opinion; and the abstention of Members of the League from the Conventions seriously weakens the international offensive against these criminals.

“In the discussions of the Fifth Committee, it was emphasized that the need for complete international co-operation against these evils—and especially the traffic in women and children—is particularly urgent at this time, when economic pressure and widespread unemployment are forcing many to seek new methods of earning money. Money is hard