

oppose it, appealing for unanimity on what, he said, was, after all, only a question of procedure. M. Tardieu accordingly had his way, only to see Mr. Henderson elected Chairman of the Political Committee on the following day.

The other Committees set up were those on Budgetary Limitation and on Land, Naval, and Air Armaments, and work in these began on March 9th. It was at once seen that matters of procedure alone were going to present very considerable difficulties. For example, the General Committee opened a discussion on the internationalisation of civil aviation, one of the proposals included in the French scheme. It was decided to refer the question to the Air Committee, but the latter adopted the standpoint that it was not a purely technical matter, and that the General Committee should first examine the preliminary question as to whether the principle of the internationalisation of civil aviation would be recognised at all. And this question of principle is a political one to which the Political Committee will also have to devote its attention. In the meantime the General Committee has sent it back again to the Air Committee on the ground that the latter would first have to give a decision as to the technical feasibility of internationalisation. Eventually the Air Committee set up yet another Committee to draft a resolution calling upon the Bureau of the Conference⁽⁴⁾ to prepare an objective study on the internationalisation of civil aviation, a study on the organisation of international aviation, and a programme for the work of the Committee. The danger of this practice of reference and delegation to other bodies becoming general has been recognised by many of the delegates, and on March 16th M. Tardieu deplored the delay that was being caused by the habit of referring every question back and forth between the General and Technical Committees. "This racquet game," he said, "should not continue any further, and we ought to get down to work on the general questions."

The arrangement of the programme of work was in the first place entrusted to the Conference Bureau just referred to, and this body had the task of deciding upon the manner in which the fifty different proposals complementary to the Draft Convention should be handled and presented to the Conference. It began by turning them over to the General Committee for preliminary examination and co-ordination. The latter drew up a synoptic table containing all the proposals, and this was embodied in a report which M. Benes, the *rapporteur* of the Committee, prepared and submitted to the Conference Bureau. This contained the following proposals as to procedure:—

- (1) The General Committee will, as a general rule, discuss all questions in the first place from the point of view of principle.
- (2) After this discussion the questions will, if necessary, be referred in due course to the special Committees.

(4) This consists of 14 Conference Vice-Presidents elected by ballot, i.e., the heads of the delegations of Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the U.S.A., Japan, Sweden, Spain, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Poland, the Argentine and the U.S.S.R.