

The Assembly shall pronounce separately, by secret ballot, upon each request for re-eligibility. The number of votes cast shall be determined by the total number of voting tickets deposited, deducting blank or spoilt votes.

The Assembly may not decide upon the re-eligibility of a Member except upon a request in writing made by the Member itself. The request must be handed to the President of the Assembly not later than the day before the date fixed for the election; it shall be submitted to the Assembly, which shall pronounce upon it without referring it to a committee and without debate.

The number of Members re-elected in consequence of having been previously declared re-eligible shall be restricted so as to prevent the Council from containing at the same time more than three Members thus elected. If the result of the ballot infringes this restriction to three Members, those of the Members affected which have received the smallest number of votes shall not be considered to have been elected.

ARTICLE III

Notwithstanding the above provisions, the Assembly may at any time by a two-thirds majority decide to proceed, in application of Article 4 of the Covenant, to a new election of all the non-permanent Members of the Council. In this case the Assembly shall determine the rules applicable to the new election.

ARTICLE IV—TEMPORARY PROVISIONS

1. In 1926, the nine non-permanent Members of the Council shall be elected by the Assembly, three for a term of three years, three for a term of two years, and three for a term of one year. The procedure of the election shall be determined by the General Committee of the Assembly.

2. Of the nine Members thus elected in 1926, a maximum of three may be immediately declared re-eligible by a decision of the Assembly taken by a special vote by secret ballot, a separate ballot being held for each Member, and adopted by a majority of two-thirds of the number of votes cast. Immediately after the announcement of the results of the election, the Assembly shall decide upon the requests for re-eligibility which have been presented. Should the Assembly have before it more than three requests for re-eligibility, the three candidates having received the largest number of votes, in excess of two-thirds of the votes cast, shall alone be declared re-eligible.

3. The according in advance in 1926 to one, two or three Members elected at that date of the quality of re-eligibility shall not affect the Assembly's right to exercise the power given by Article II in the years 1927 and 1928 in favour of other non-permanent Members retiring from the Council in those years. It is, however, understood that, if three Members already possess the quality of re-eligibility, the Assembly will only exercise this power in very exceptional cases.

(For full particulars of the work of the Committee of Council, see League Documents—C. 299. M. 139. 1926. V.; C. 394. M. 137. 1926. V.; A. 48. 1926. VII.)

Owing to dissatisfaction with its non-permanent representation on the Council of the League, Brazil gave notice on June 12, 1926, of its proposed withdrawal from the League, and on the same grounds, Spain, on the 11th September, followed on the same line. As, however, neither of these nations had any disagreements with the principles and objects of the League and only differed on the question of a permanent seat on the Council, and as two years must elapse before withdrawal can be completed, it is hoped that in the case of two such devoted adherents, wiser counsels may in the meantime prevail and the old relations be resumed.

As at former Assemblies of the League, questions concerning the budget and expenditure were referred to the Fourth Committee for examination and report.

On a resolution affirming that it was desirable "to keep in view a maximum limit of expenditure with the object of securing that the contributions of individual states shall not normally in future exceed their contributions for the current year," the Committee decided that, while it might not be advisable, in view of the special circumstances under which the League activities were carried on, to set a hard and fast limit, every endeavour should be made to confine League expenditure within present bounds and to go beyond the present budget figure only in case of very exceptional conditions.