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I.—SUMMARY OF THE MONTH.

September, 1934.

The Assembly and Council of the League met during September, the first for its fifteenth ordinary session, and the second for its eighty-first and eighty-second sessions.

The main features of these meetings was the entry of three new members into the League: The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Afghanistan, and Ecuador.

Acting in co-operation with the Council, the Assembly appointed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to a permanent seat on the Council. It also elected Spain, Chili and Turkey as non-permanent members of the Council.

The Assembly paid a tribute to the memory of two statesmen, formerly active supporters

of the League, whose death had occurred since its last session: the Austrian Chancellor, M. Dollfuss, and M. Vittorio Scialoja, the eminent Italian jurist.

Further, the Council recalled the distinguished services rendered by the late M. Villegas, representative of Chile.

A bust of Mr. Arthur Henderson, President of the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments, by the Hungarian sculptor Sigismond Kisfaludy Stroble, which has been presented by M. O. Legrady, has been handed over to the Secretary-General by the Hungarian delegation.

A bronze bust of M. Vittorio Scialoja has been

presented to the League by M. Scialoja's family.

The Council has also been informed that the portrait of Sir Eric Drummond, first Secretary-General of the League, ordered by the Assembly in 1932, is now finished.

The Assembly met from September 10th to 27th. Fifty-three of the fifty-seven States Members were represented: Abyssinia, Albania, S. African Union, Argentine Republic, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iraq, Irish Free State, Italy, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Persia, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Siam, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

The admission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the entry of the Russian delegates on September 18th, brought the number of States represented up to fifty-four.

There were present at this fifteenth session of the Assembly five Prime Ministers (Austria, Canada, Irish Free State, Luxemburg, Norway) and twenty-five Ministers for Foreign Affairs: (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Irish Free State, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Persia, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia).

The session was opened by the President in Office of the Council, M. Benes (Czechoslovakia).

Referring to the crisis through which the world was passing, he reviewed the credit and debit side of League activity during the past year as follows:

"The League is generally debited with a number of international occurrences unfavourable to the policy of Geneva. Rightly or wrongly we are blamed for the present state of the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments. I have always been of opinion that it was wrong to place the responsibilities which belong primarily to individual States upon the shoulders of an international institution which, as a collective international organ unprovided with any direct executive authority of its own, can only be held responsible indirectly and in a secondary capacity."

M. Benes placed on the debit side of the League's account the recent departure of Japan and Germany, the dispute between Bolivia and

Paraguay, the present state of affairs in the far East, and the failure of the London Monetary and Economic Conference, enumerating in each case the difficulties which the League had been unable to surmount.

On the credit side M. Benes placed the fact that the United States of America had undoubtedly drawn nearer to the Geneva organisations; the efforts to bring the Soviet Union into the League, the settlement of the Leticia dispute, and the signature of a number of pacts of friendship, of special co-operation and non-aggression.

M. Benes then said:

"On striking a balance between the whole of the debit and the whole of the credit items in the present general situation, I thus find that the result is not discouraging for the League. There are doubtless many destructive forces now at work in the public life of the world and they are acting with extraordinary violence and energy. They are, however, being opposed and neutralised by positive and beneficent forces and tendencies which are no less energetic and effective. The first and most important of these vital forces is the League of Nations itself, the efforts it is making, and the ties it has established between nations—ties which cannot be destroyed outright. Though we must frankly admit that in some cases the League is not strong enough to prevent errors or misfortunes, yet it nevertheless remains an indestructible force and an insurmountable barrier to the powers of darkness."

Further, speaking of the possibility of war, M. Benes declared:

"I am aware that certain circles from time to time express a fear that war will break out. Some even think that war is perhaps in the air and is looming immediately over our heads. When I reflect again on what I have just said and on the experience we have gained since the last war, I believe that, even if these fears can to some extent be explained by the present situation, yet it is none the less true that war is in no sense to-day an ineluctable fatality; for responsible men and those who guide the world to-day possess, to a greater extent than ever before, appropriate means to prevent it."

M. Sandler, delegate of Sweden, was elected President of the fifteenth ordinary session of the Assembly by forty-nine out of fifty-two votes. He thanked the Assembly in a short speech for the honour done to his country by his election.

Allocation of work.—The work of the Assembly was divided between five Committees. As in 1932 and 1933, it was not thought necessary to establish a larger number, since all questions relating to the reduction of armaments, formerly submitted to the Third Committee, were under discussion in the various Committees of the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments.