

The Swiss Delegate said that his Government abstained because of the special situation which Switzerland occupied in the League of Nations and the necessity of maintaining, in conformity with the declaration of London of 1920, that regime of neutrality which had been alluded to recently in the Swiss Government's reply on the question of a European Union; that attitude of neutrality had been for many centuries the basis of the political status of Switzerland.

The Canadian Delegate made the following statement:—

“I should like to explain that I could not vote either for or against the Convention for the following reasons: I am not at all confident that the traditional policy of the late administration in Canada would have justified me in supporting some of the proposals it embodies. On the other hand, the Convention has so worthy and important a purpose and is surrounded by so many safeguards that I do not feel at all justified in voting against it. I desire to explain that, having regard to the fact that a new administration has recently come into power in Ottawa, and that domestic problems of a very urgent character have greatly occupied its attention, naturally it has had no opportunity of considering the Convention in its present form. I shall take the earliest opportunity that presents itself to advise my Government of what has taken place here, and if I should receive authorization to adhere to the Convention, I shall be glad to inform the Committee.”

The Convention was accepted subject to the above abstentions.

The Committee instructed “the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to bring the Convention officially to the notice of all States Members of the League that had not signed it before the end of the present session of the Assembly, in order that they might be able to do so on or before December 31, 1931, or to accede thereto after that date.”

At the Twenty-first Plenary Meeting of the Assembly, held on the 2nd October, the representatives of 26 States signed the Convention; as two other States have since signed, there are now 28 signatory States

*(e) Preliminary Draft General Convention to strengthen the means of preventing War.*

It will be remembered that the Ninth Assembly recommended the above Treaty for the consideration of States Members and non-Members of the League, and hoped that it might serve as a basis for States desiring to conclude a treaty of this kind. The idea of the Model Treaty originated in 1927, when the German Government asked that certain suggestions which it made then, to strengthen the means of preventing war, should be embodied in a General Convention open to the signature of all States. During the Third Session of the Committee on Arbitration and Security (June-July, 1928) there was such opposition, however, to the idea of a General Convention, that it was decided to give to the Treaty the form of a model multilateral treaty which might be used also as a bilateral treaty.

At the Tenth Assembly, the Delegate of Great Britain revived the original idea of a general Convention: the Tenth Assembly, giving effect to this proposal, requested the Committee on Arbitration and Security to consider the possibility of transforming the Treaty into a General Convention. In pursuance of the Assembly's wish the Committee on Arbitration and Security at its fourth Session (April-May, 1930) examined the question, but was unable to agree upon a text; it decided to communicate to the Members of the League the draft dual-texted Convention.

When the matter was considered again by the Third Committee it was believed generally that there was no hope of achieving more in the Committee