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REPORT
OF THE
CANADIAN DELEGATES
TO THE
THIRTEENTH ASSEMBLY OF
THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

GENEVA

SEPTEMBER 26—OCTOBER 17, 1932



OTTAWA
F. A. ACLAND
PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
1932

Price, 25 cents.

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Dept. of External Affairs
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Report of the Canadian Delegates to the Thirteenth Assembly of the League of Nations

The Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT, K.C., M.P.,
Secretary of State for External Affairs,
Ottawa, Ontario.

SIR:—We have the honour to submit the following report on the proceedings of the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the League of Nations which was held in Geneva from September 26 to October 17, 1932:

ORGANIZATION OF THE ASSEMBLY

Fifty-three of the fifty-six States Members of the League were represented at the Assembly. This number was later increased by the admission of Iraq to membership in the League. Nicaragua, which has long abstained from the work of the Assembly, was this time represented. The Argentine, the Dominican Republic and Honduras did not send delegates.

The Canadian delegation consisted of the Hon. Charles Hazlitt Cahan, Secretary of State; Mr. Henry F. Munro, Superintendent of Education of the Province of Nova Scotia, and Mme. Charles Frémont, Quebec, with Mr. W. A. Riddell, Dominion of Canada Advisory Officer, accredited to the League of Nations, as alternate delegate; Mr. P. E. Renaud, acted as Secretary-General to the delegation.

The election of the officers of the Assembly resulted as follows:—

President: M. Nicolas Politis (Greece)

Vice-Presidents:

Baron Aloisi (Italy)	M. Medina (Nicaragua)
Sir John Simon (United Kingdom)	M. Nagaoka (Japan)
M. Herriot (France)	M. Motta (Switzerland)
Baron von Neurath (Germany)	M. Hymans (Belgium)

Chairmen of Committees:

First: M. Beelaerts van Blokland (Netherlands)
Second: Mr. te Water (Union of South Africa)
Fourth: M. de Vasconcellos (Portugal)
Fifth: Count Carton de Wiart (Belgium)
Sixth: M. Lange (Norway)

The Canadian delegation was represented on the Committees as follows:—

First Committee:

Hon. C. H. Cahan
Mr. H. F. Munro

Second Committee:

Dr. W. A. Riddell
Hon. C. H. Cahan

Fourth Committee:

Mr. H. F. Munro
Dr. W. A. Riddell

Fifth Committee:

Mme. Charles Frémont
Dr. W. A. Riddell

Sixth Committee:

Hon. C. H. Cahan
 Mr. H. F. Munro
 Mme. Charles Frémont

No Third Committee was constituted as all the questions which were submitted at previous sessions to that committee were being examined this year by the various organs set up by the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments.

PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Mr. de Valera, as President of the Council, opened the Assembly. He drew the attention of the Assembly to certain criticisms of the League's activities. There were suggestions that the action of the League in the economic sphere might be paralysed by the pressure of powerful national interests, and that if the hand that was raised against the Covenant was sufficiently strong it might strike with impunity. The one effective way of silencing that criticism was to show unmistakably that the Covenant was a solemn pact, the obligations of which no State, great or small, would find it possible to ignore.

M. Politis (Greece), in a brief presidential address, emphasized, as the President of the Council had done, the need for constant vigilance. The will for peace seemed to have been weakening. It was essential to complete and strengthen the guarantees for peace which the League had already inspired or created.

M. Motta (Switzerland), who continued the general discussion, expressed his surprise at the threats made in certain quarters to abandon the League if this or that thing desired was not done, and done at once. The destruction of the League of Nations would mean, for the small countries, that they would have to renounce the opportunity they now had of bringing their helpful influence to bear in international matters. For the great countries it would mean a return to the old system of alliances, rivalries, and bitter competition.

M. Herriot (France) also said that the League had given proof time and again of its usefulness. The League had made the Lausanne Conference possible, and it was the League that had convened the Disarmament Conference. In the matter of disarmament the doctrine which France supported was "the Covenant, the whole Covenant and nothing but the Covenant." For France, the Covenant was the law. Furthermore, it was a matter of encouragement to the friends of peace to know that the most enlightened minds in the United States were collaborating with the Members of the League in order to strengthen the Briand-Kellogg Pact. By the new methods of international discussion which the League afforded, it should be possible to overcome the evils of the old order of things, notably, secret diplomacy and the system of alliances and balance of power.

Lord Cecil, speaking on behalf of the United Kingdom delegation, thought that the charge of League extravagance was no doubt pressed beyond all reason and justice. The amount spent on the League was a mere fraction of what the nations were spending in preparations for war. But the main charge was that the League had shown itself inefficient. What was really meant was that in certain great international questions the League had been unable to reach a successful result. This was primarily not a charge against the League, but against its Members. Wherever League machinery had been fairly and genuinely applied without fear and without hesitation, it had produced admirable results. If the policies of France and Germany were fully guided by the principles of the Covenant, their disputes would automatically come to an end. No

machinery for peace could work unless the will for peace was there. Every nation could disarm if it chose, and the nations could all agree to disarm if they chose. The question was, were the Governments, and especially the Governments with great military and naval forces, really in earnest?

Baron Aloisi restated Italy's disarmament policy: the need to reduce as much as possible the general level of armaments, to bring about a "per-equation" or proportional equalization of the potential war-strengths of States and to reinforce by disarmament the security of each nation. In economic matters, Italy was ready, in conformity with the recommendations of the Stresa Conference's report, to take part in an endeavour to restore better conditions of life in one important area of Europe. Similar action might be taken in the wider sphere of Europe as a whole and of the whole world. Italy, for her part, was ready for any international action based on a sound, balanced and liberal customs and currency policy.

Alluding to the decision taken by the Council to set up a committee to follow the further development of the dispute between Bolivia and Paraguay, M. Costa du Rels and M. Caballero de Bedoya declared the firm intention of their respective Governments to submit the dispute to pacific settlement.

ELECTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

The three non-permanent seats on the Council, made vacant by the retirement of Peru, Yugoslavia, and Poland, were filled on October 3 by the election of Mexico and Czechoslovakia and the re-election of Poland, which had previously been declared re-eligible, for three years ending in 1935.

ENTRY OF IRAQ INTO THE LEAGUE

On October 3, Iraq was admitted by a unanimous vote as a Member of the League of Nations. The moment was historic, for Iraq is the first State to emerge from the Mandatory regime into full nationhood. Sir John Simon recalled that Iraq was the country that had been the source of religion and of civilization for half of the world; that it enclosed within its boundaries the place that was the Garden of Eden and the area that was afflicted by the Flood; and that it could show to-day the records of Abraham and Ur of the Chaldees, the records of Nebuchadnezzar and the Kingdom of Babylon, records which still remained of the ancient Empire of Nineveh and Sennacherib.

FIRST COMMITTEE

(Legal and Constitutional Questions)

Nationality of Women

The First Committee of the Assembly was called upon for the second time to consider whether it should recommend the convocation of a conference to revise immediately Articles 8 to 11 of the Hague Convention of April 12, 1930, which deals with the nationality of women, as urged by various representative women's organizations, or whether it should find that the results of the Hague Conference represented the maximum that could be secured by general international agreement at the present juncture.

The delegations of Chile and Colombia were in favour of an immediate revision of the Articles in question, while the delegation of Canada expressed the hope that the Hague Convention would as soon as possible be put into effect, without prejudice to further international action when such action became practicable. The Committee decided in favour of the second solution.

The draft resolution put forward by the Chilean and Colombian delegations aimed at the complete revision of Articles 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the Hague Convention, which deal with the nationality of women, and the drafting of a new

convention based on the principle of equality between the sexes in the matter of nationality, and conceived in the same spirit as the draft resolution submitted to the Hague Conference by the delegation of Chile.

This proposal, which was supported by the delegations of China, Turkey, Cuba and Norway, was explained by its authors, who were not content to repeat the arguments set out in the successive reports of the Committee of Representatives of Women's Organizations. Emphasis was laid on the special significance of the Hague Convention as the first stage in the task of codifying international law undertaken by the League, and consequently on the particular importance of eliminating from that Convention all those Articles that mark the difference between the legal status of men and women.

Some countries absolutely refused to establish equality between men and women in the matter of nationality, arguing that the unity of nationality of husband and wife was one of the best means of securing the unity of legal status of the family. At least an equal number of countries, however, referred to the progress that had already been achieved in their national legislation in the direction of the independence of married women in the matter of nationality, which they did not regard as in any way incompatible with the unity of the legal status of the family. That unity could, they thought, be secured either by applying the national law of the member of the couple in whose country the family lived, or by applying the law of the country of domicile of the family, etc. Several delegates also referred to the resolutions to that effect adopted by the Institute of International Law at Oslo on August 22, 1932.

The differences between national laws influenced the great majority of delegations in believing that it would be useless at present to attempt to revise Articles 8-11 of the Hague Convention. The Convention was in the nature of a compromise, and it could not reasonably be anticipated that all laws on the subject would be made uniform in the near future. Emphasis was also laid on the difficulties of a general nature that might in future be encountered in codifying international law—a sufficiently difficult task already—if an attempt to rewrite the first Convention of its kind, which had been so laboriously prepared in 1930, were made before it had even come into force. Other considerations of a more positive nature, however, induced the great majority to adopt the draft resolution submitted by the Canadian delegation, expressing the hope that the Nationality Convention would shortly be put into force.

In the first place, it was pointed out, the Convention does represent a real improvement in the legal status of married women who are the victims of the differences between nationality laws. Convincing examples were given to show the urgency, in many countries, of putting an end to certain very distressing cases of statelessness, some of which arise when the legislation of the husband's country does not confer its nationality on the wife, while at the same time, according to the law of her country of origin, the wife loses her nationality on marriage. Only the entry into force of the Hague Convention can remedy cases of this kind, despite its recognized inadequacy as a remedy for all cases.

The practical advances thus made have not, moreover, been achieved at the expense of the general principles of justice and equality. It was not the Hague Conference's intention to affirm a principle contrary to the independence of married women in the matter of nationality; the Hague Conference, on the contrary, recommended States to respect the principle of the equality of the sexes in matters of nationality. (Recommendation No. VI).

Such were the main reasons that led the Committee to express the hope that the States which have signed the Nationality Convention would enact the legislation necessary to give effect to that Convention and would deposit their ratifications at an early date.

In the course of discussion, the Belgian delegation put forward an ingenious proposal for a textual alternative in the wording of these articles with a view to

removing any possible suggestion of discrimination against women. This proposal, on examination, was found to be impracticable and was ultimately withdrawn.

The draft resolution submitted to the Assembly calls the attention of Governments to the possibility of drafting laws which would bring their municipal laws into harmony with the Hague Convention, if they were prepared to accede thereto, in a form which would avoid discrimination between the sexes wherever it was possible to do so.

The proposals of the Austrian and French delegations, which were welcomed unanimously as supplementary to the Canadian proposal, were designed to indicate in what direction the League might usefully apply its activities in regard to the special question of the nationality of women.

In accordance with these proposals, the First Committee instructed the Secretary-General to request the Governments from time to time to submit information on the action that each of them may have taken on Recommendation No. VI of the Codification Conference. Furthermore, it requested the Council to keep itself constantly acquainted with the information received by the Secretariat and with the evolution of public opinion, so that it might be in a position to decide at what juncture new concerted international measures might be contemplated.

At the request of certain delegations the vote in the Assembly was taken by roll-call on the conclusions of the First Committee. Of the thirty-nine States voting, 30 delegations voted in favour of the resolution and 9 delegations abstained.

Revision of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice

Although the Protocol of September 14, 1929, concerning the Revision of the Statute of the Permanent Court, did not enter into force on the date originally contemplated, the Assembly in 1930 accepted the view that it could subsequently come into force if the necessary ratifications were received.

When the Thirteenth Assembly met forty States, including Canada, had ratified the Protocol. Cuba had withdrawn the reservations originally attached to her ratification, and the United States of America had intimated that they saw no reason to object to the coming into force of the Protocol between such nations as might become parties thereto. But the ratifications necessary are those of all the States which have ratified the Protocol of Signature of December 16, 1920, and the following States which have ratified this Protocol had not yet ratified the Protocol of September 14, 1929: Abyssinia, Brazil, Chile, Lithuania, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

The First Committee of the Thirteenth Assembly considered it important to make every effort to secure the early entry into force of the Protocol since the amendments set out in the annex to the Protocol are designed to secure important improvements in the jurisdiction and procedure of the Court. Some of them are designed to develop the activities of the Chamber of Summary Procedure and thus to provide States with a means of settling more rapidly disputes not regarded as of sufficient importance to justify a hearing before the Court as ordinarily constituted. Other amendments are designed to give to the advisory procedure of the Court under Article 14 of the Covenant the character of its ordinary jurisdiction. The Protocol also contains amendments designed to facilitate the appointment of judges to any vacancy which may occur during the term of office of a judge of the Court.

The committee therefore expressed the hope that States which have not yet ratified the Protocol would do so as soon as possible, and requested the Secretary-General to draw the attention of these States to the matter and to ask them to explain, in the event of their unwillingness to ratify, the nature of the difficulties which prevent them from doing so.

Amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly

During the last few sessions of the Assembly, it has occasionally happened that proposals have been submitted in the name of an exceptionally large number of delegations. It is conceivable that proposals might be submitted by so considerable a number of signatories that the other Members of the League would hesitate to express their misgivings or doubts as regards the expediency of a proposed measure whose adoption was already a foregone conclusion. This would be the case particularly with regard to the placing of new questions on the agenda. A proposal signed by more than half the Members of the League present would more or less settle the question in advance and would deprive the States Members of the League of the possibility of devoting the necessary time to a careful study of the problem raised.

To guard against this contingency, the Norwegian delegation submitted to the First Committee the proposal that Rules of Procedure 4 and 17 be amended so as to provide that no proposal for the placing of a new question on the agenda and no resolution, amendment or motion might be signed by more than ten Members of the League. The Canadian delegation supported this suggestion which was approved with an amendment raising to fifteen the number of signatures permissible.

On September 27, the Assembly referred to the First Committee the suggestion of the General Committee that Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, which provides that the Secretariat shall keep lists of the attendance at each meeting of the Assembly, has no practical utility and might with advantage be deleted.

The committee approved this suggestion.

SECOND COMMITTEE

(Work of the Technical Organizations)

Economic and Financial Questions

This year the Second Committee found it convenient to consider economic and financial questions together. As a basis of discussion it took the report reviewing the world economic and financial situation submitted by M. Bianchini, delegate of Italy. Most countries had abandoned the gold standard, and impediments to the exchange of goods, capital and labour had been multiplied, but, there were some grounds for encouragement: prices in recent months had been relatively steady; money rates were abnormally low; two great States had carried out debt conversion schemes on an unprecedented scale, and a great step forward in international economic co-operation had been taken by the Lausanne Conference.

The Rapporteur referred to the work done by the Financial Committee in Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece and Hungary and drew attention to the recent request from Roumania for technical assistance from the League. He emphasized the importance of the report of the Gold Delegation and expressed the opinion that it was owing to failure to follow the methods therein advocated that certain countries had experienced such difficulty in reestablishing their financial systems.

M. Bianchini reviewed the work accomplished in the matter of procedure for the friendly settlement of economic disputes between States, unification of customs nomenclature, veterinary conventions; international economic agreements, examination of the international situation of certain branches of production (coal, motor-car industry, timber, hops, tobacco), national economic councils, promissory notes and cheques, bribery and unfair commercial practices, and marks of origin.

Certain general considerations were brought forward during the discussion which followed, and these considerations will form part of the material placed at the disposal of the Preparatory Committee for the Monetary and Economic Conference. Present events, it was emphasized, confirm again the close interdependence of nations. National remedies have often proved inadequate and even harmful, as, for example, the system of restrictions upon operations necessary for the payment of commercial transactions. A final solution can only be found in concerted action upon an international scale. Technical considerations will certainly play an essential part in determining the solution, but psychological factors must not be neglected. An atmosphere of general distrust is weighing upon the future of the world. If the political atmosphere is lightened, if, in particular, progress is achieved in the direction of material and moral disarmament, action in the economic field will be considerably strengthened. It is not sufficient to frame plans of reconstruction. It is necessary to have a firm intention that those plans should be carried to success. The necessary collaboration requires that each nation shall be ready to sacrifice some of its interests for the success of the common task and that the leading statesmen shall be prepared to shoulder their responsibilities, before the public opinion of their own countries.

The discussion bore in particular on the problem of revalorization of cereals, the difficulties which certain countries are experiencing in insuring the service of loans concluded under the auspices of the League, the customs problem, restrictions on international trade and currency circulation, the problem of wholesale prices, the question of an international programme of public works as a measure against unemployment, the work of the Committee of Experts on Veterinary Questions and the possibility of summoning a conference on this subject, and, lastly, expectations of the forthcoming Monetary and Economic Conference.

A draft resolution urging "the revalorization of agricultural products as a measure calculated to remedy the difficult economic and financial position" of Central and Eastern Europe was submitted by the delegations of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Hungary and Bulgaria. It gave rise to a long discussion in which Mr. Cahan, the head of the Canadian delegation, took part. Mr. Cahan suggested jointly with the Australian delegate that the resolution should be made more general and refer to all agrarian countries throughout the world inasmuch as all were adversely affected by the decline in the prices of their products. The draft resolution was finally withdrawn.

Another question examined by the Second Committee was that of the initiation of large-scale public works. The committee noted with satisfaction the results of the thorough study which has already been made by the League, from the technical point of view and from the point of view of economic utility, of a considerable number of plans submitted by numerous Governments and particularly by the majority of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It endorsed the resolution adopted by the Council deciding to submit the question to the Preparatory Commission of the coming Economic and Monetary Conference.

On being informed that the three draft Veterinary Conventions prepared by the Economic Committee are regarded by many Governments as suitable to serve as a basis of discussion at an international diplomatic conference, the Second Committee expressed the desire that this diplomatic Conference might be convened during 1933. The committee further expressed the hope that the States concerned will be kept informed of the progress of the work which the Economic Committee is actively conducting with a view to framing one or more conventions relating to the import of live cattle and meat.

After laying down the lines along which the work undertaken should continue, the committee expressed its conviction that the most urgent task was to seek all practical means of eliminating as speedily as possible any impediments

which tend to paralyze international trade, and to facilitate the adjustments necessary for monetary stability and the restoration of credit. It urgently appealed to all the Governments invited to be represented at the Monetary and Economic Conference, to make every contribution in their power to the solution of the present difficulties and to enlighten public opinion as to the necessity of making the concessions indispensable to an international economic understanding, such action being the sole means of restoring normal conditions.

As Dr. Riddell, delegate of Canada, pointed out in the committee, it was possible to discern the gradual growth of a conviction that national solutions were inadequate and that concerted action alone would enable the world to emerge from the present depression. This change of attitude and the slight turn for the better already noticeable seemed to be a good augury for the success of future international action, and to justify the hope that something of real value would be attained at the London Monetary and Economic Conference.

Work of the Communications and Transit Organization

The Second Committee considered a report submitted by M. Schmidt (Estonia) on the work done by the Communications and Transit Organization of the League between the Twelfth and Thirteenth ordinary sessions of the Assembly.

The Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit, at its session in June, 1932, had reorganized its various permanent committees, and, by a general reduction in the number of members of those committees, a considerable saving has been effected without in any way impairing the competence and initiative of those committees.

Among the questions examined by the Communications and Transit Organization during the past year, mention should be made of the study of an international air network of essential connections, ground organization, the operation of the principal international services, conditions for the admission of foreign undertakings engaged in regular international transport, the progress of international co-operation in the operation of air lines, and certain legal and administrative questions affecting the development of international co-operation in air navigation. The conclusions arrived at after very close discussion are mentioned in the Organization's report, which has been submitted, through the Secretary-General of the League, to the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments.

In pursuance of the resolution adopted by the Fourth General Conference (1931) concerning the negotiability of railway transport documents, the Special Committee for the study of this question drew up, at its session in November, 1931, a general report in which it expressed the opinion that it was possible to consider a solution that would give trade and production the transport document they desired for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of goods in international relations and carrying out certain financial operations or measures to be taken in the course of the transport of goods, without imposing on the railways burdens materially greater than those which they are willing to assume.

Considerable progress has been made by the Communications and Transit Organization in its efforts to achieve the unification of transport statistics. The Committee for the Unification of Transport Statistics has completed a general report, including a draft International Convention relating to transport statistics for goods despatched by sea, rail, and inland waterways. The Governments concerned were requested to submit to the Organization any proposals they might think fit to make with regard to the method of applying the principles contained in the report. The Second Committee expressed the hope that, should the examination of the replies received from Governments appear to justify the

summoning of an international conference on transport statistics, the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit would take the necessary steps with a view to the convening of such a Conference by the Council.

The Canadian delegate on the Second Committee took advantage of the discussion on Communications and Transit to urge the Secretariat of the League to do something to remove the handicap upon sending telegraphic communications from Geneva to overseas countries. He pointed out the inequality which existed between the tariffs in force for press cablegrams sent from Geneva and those sent from France. The cable companies charged 36 centimes a word across the Atlantic for telegrams emanating from Switzerland, as compared with only 26 centimes for messages originating in France. On a message from Switzerland there was first of all a Swiss terminal charge of 6 centimes a word, then a transit charge through France of 7.5 centimes, and finally a transit charge from France across the Atlantic of 36 centimes, thus making a total of 49.5, almost double the charge on messages from France. The charges on messages from Geneva *via* London aggregated the same total. He suggested that the Communications and Transit Organization should try to improve the situation in view of the loss caused to press associations, on the other side of the Atlantic and more particularly in Canada, and the desirability of facilitating the communication of news from the League of Nations.

M. de Tessen, delegate of France, supported the Canadian delegate and said he hoped that results would be obtained which would prove satisfactory to everyone.

M. Schmidt (Estonia), Rapporteur, observed that the question of rates was one that was familiar to the Communications and Transit Organization and that the latter could be trusted to renew its efforts to reach a satisfactory result.

The Second Committee adopted M. Schmidt's general report with slight amendments and forwarded to the Fourth Committee a resolution expressing the hope "that the Fourth Committee may find it possible to vote, so far as the present situation permits, the funds necessary for the continuance of the activity of the Communications and Transit Organization as required by the task entrusted to the latter, lest the work that it has so fruitfully accomplished in past years be endangered."

Work of the Health Organization

The work of the Health Organization was reviewed by the Second Committee upon the report of Dr. Winter (Czechoslovakia). The Rapporteur observed that the Organization had passed through three stages. In the first stage of its existence the Organization had been obliged to select from among the problems with which National Health Departments are faced those which can be solved along international lines. The second stage was a stage of technical studies—research into leprosy, immunization against diphtheria, etc.—intended to lead to general conclusions based on the experience of the various countries. The third stage had now been reached, that of action.

The current activity of the Organization included: the scheme of sanitary re-organization prepared by the Greek Government in co-operation with the Health Organization which had led to the creation of the Athens Health Centre; in Bolivia, a study of the health conditions undertaken at the request of that country; the work of the Permanent Commission on Biological Standardization; the work to be envisaged as a result of the South African Government's request regarding a solution for the health problems confronting Central and South Africa (yellow fever), and the co-ordination of the campaign against epidemics in China.

On this last point the Rapporteur recalled that, following on the appeal issued by the Assembly in September, 1931, that the public in all countries should give practical demonstration of its sympathy towards the flood victims in China (numbering some 23,000,000), the Health Organization had been asked by the Council to co-ordinate the international campaign against epidemics and to forward to States Members a request from the Chinese Government for medical staff and sanitary material. Several Governments had generously responded to this appeal and sent to China sera, pharmaceutical products, field laboratories, medical staff and food. Other Governments had offered to supply vaccines but the representatives of the Health Organization in China had intimated that the Chinese laboratories were in a position to prepare this material.

Delegates of Eastern countries paid special tribute to the effective work accomplished by the Eastern Bureau—the outpost of the Health Organization at Singapore—in the campaign against epidemic diseases. The delegate of India, supported by the delegate of China, expressed the hope that, as soon as financial possibilities permitted, the Health Organization would convene in the East a conference on rural hygiene similar to the European Conference which was held in 1931. He emphasized the fact that such a conference would be an excellent means of making known in the East the beneficent influence of the League of Nations. The Second Committee therefore proposed that the Assembly should invite the Health Committee to consider the feasibility of convening such a conference and to present a report on the subject at the next Assembly.

The Hungarian Government proposed to the 1930 Assembly that the study of international reciprocity in the care of the sick should be included in its program of work. It considered that a multilateral convention should be drawn up in virtue of which the sick of foreign nationality would be treated by the contracting States on an equal footing with their own nationals. The Health Committee this year submitted a report on the proposal. The committee found that it would be inadvisable for the moment to contemplate a multilateral convention. It pointed out, however, the possibility of other solutions, and drew attention to the existence of the committee set up by the Council on May 20, 1931, to study in all its aspects the question of assistance to indigent foreigners. It suggested that this committee might be asked to consider possible solutions of the problem raised by the Hungarian Government.

The Second Committee decided to propose that the Assembly should accept these recommendations and should ask the Council to refer the further study of the question to the committee set up in 1931. Assistance to indigent foreigners necessarily entails, if it is to be comprehensive, medical assistance in case of sickness, and hence the question comes within the purview of that committee.

Regarding the report of the Reporting Committee on Maternal Welfare and the Hygiene of Infants and Children of Pre-School Age, observations were made by several delegations on certain points susceptible of interpretations which are contrary to the legislation of several countries as well as to the religious beliefs and moral principles of a large part of their population. In the circumstances, the Second Committee considered that the best procedure would be for the Assembly to invite the Health Committee to consider afresh the above-mentioned report in the light of the observations made, and to request the committee to present a report to the Council at its next session.

It will be remembered that the French Government has offered to create in Paris an International School of Advanced Health Studies under the auspices of the Health Organization. The Chamber of Deputies has already ratified this proposal, and the Second Committee noted with special appreciation the statement of the French delegation that the Senate would adopt the Bill not later than the beginning of November; thus the opening of the school might take place in the near future. It will constitute for the Health Organization a par-

ticularly valuable means of carrying out certain of its aims. When the latter was asked to give its technical help to various Governments, one of the most important problems with which it was faced was that of training medical health officers. Through its system of liaison with the Health Administrations, it sought to give health experts in the various countries an opportunity of keeping in touch with progress made abroad. It endeavoured to organize actual international training by means of collective study tours, individual missions, and exchanges of staff between the Health Administrations. The contact thus established between the health officers of various countries has brought about a valuable interchange of ideas and made possible the comparison of divergent conceptions. The International School of Advanced Health Studies, as planned, will give a permanent character to this system.

Draft Convention on Educational Films

It will be remembered that, in 1928, the International Educational Cinematographic Institute engaged in investigations with a view to the conclusion of an international agreement designed to encourage the use of educational films and to facilitate their circulation by exempting them from customs duties. A draft Convention had been prepared towards the end of 1929, revised by a Committee of Experts and referred to the governments, accompanied by a recommendation of the Economic Committee of the League. The large majority of Governments consulted declared themselves in favour of the objects of the Convention. Taking into consideration the replies of Governments, a Committee of Experts further revised the draft, which was subsequently placed on the Agenda of the Thirteenth Assembly.

The Second Committee appointed a special committee to introduce further modifications into the draft with a view to facilitating its acceptance. This Sub-Committee submitted to the Second Committee a revised draft Convention embodying amendments proposed by several of the interested Governments.

In the course of the discussion in the Second Committee, numerous delegations signified their approval of the main lines of the new draft and pointed out that the Convention would have the effect of encouraging the production and circulation of educational films which by reason of their character, might contribute to mutual understanding among the peoples in the spirit of the League of Nations.

In view, however, of the considerable changes made by the sub-committee in the draft placed on the Assembly's agenda, regarding which most of the delegations were not able to obtain instructions from their Governments, the Second Committee thought it better not to engage, for the time being, in an exhaustive discussion of the revised draft, but suggested that the Assembly request the Council of the League to convene a meeting at a convenient opportunity. At this meeting the delegates could decide whether the proposed Convention, with or without amendment, should be opened for signature by any Member of the League or any non-Member State. In the meantime, the Governments concerned could send their observations to the Secretary-General.

FOURTH COMMITTEE

(Budgetary and Financial Questions)

Reorganization of the Secretariat

The consideration of the budget was preceded this year by a long discussion concerning in particular the reorganization of the higher posts of the Secretariat. This question was finally referred to a Sub-Committee of which Mr. Munro, delegate of Canada, was appointed Rapporteur.

It was at once apparent that the alignment of opinion in the sub-committee did not materially differ from that which existed in the two Committees of

Thirteen and in the Fourth Committee of the Assemblies of the two previous years, and which had resulted in the temporary maintenance of the *status quo*.

Those who advocated the abolition of the posts of Under-Secretary-General argued that it was the best way of removing a certain atmosphere of dissatisfaction due to the fact that all the higher posts of the Secretariat were occupied by nationals of the Members permanently represented on the Council, and that public opinion noted an inconsistency between this kind of monopoly and the principle of the equality of States.

Those in favour of increasing the number of posts of Under-Secretary-General claimed that it would thereby be possible to give representation in the higher ranks of the Secretariat to other geographical groups in addition to those now represented. It would give the ablest officials of the League a better prospect of promotion and stimulate a higher standard of recruitment.

Those, again, who were in favour of maintaining the *status quo* argued that, in view of the imminent changes among the principal officers of the Secretariat, it was particularly unwise at the present moment to modify the existing structure.

In order to reconcile these opposing views and to achieve the unanimity which was so highly desirable, a text was finally adopted which reads as follows:—

The Assembly:

Once more affirms the principle that the holders of the highest posts of the Secretariat up to that of Secretary-General should, like all the officials of the League of Nations, be chosen for their abilities, their personal qualifications and the contribution they can make to the performance of the tasks of the League of Nations.

To facilitate the application of this principle and in order to give the Members which are not permanently represented on the Council a larger share in the responsibilities developing on the principal officers of the Secretariat, it decides that there shall be two posts of Deputy-Secretary-General. This would make it possible to assign one of these posts to a national of a Member not permanently represented on the Council in the event of the Secretary-General having been chosen from among the nationals of Members permanently represented on the Council.

The sub-committee agreed that the text should be interpreted as meaning (a) that, should the Secretary-General be a national of a Member permanently represented on the Council, the Deputy-Secretary-General having precedence should be a national of a Member not permanently represented; and (b) that only if the Secretary-General were a national of a Member not permanently represented on the Council could both Deputy-Secretaries-General be nationals of Members permanently represented.

The sub-committee further agreed that the summary of the discussion prepared by the Rapporteur should constitute the official minutes of the sub-committee, and should be available for the use of the Secretary-General, the Council, and any States Members desiring to consult it.

The sub-committee decided to retain three posts of Under-Secretary-General and to consider the Legal Adviser, the character of whose post is non-political, as holding the rank of an Under-Secretary-General.

It also decided that the Secretary-General should be appointed for ten years, the Deputy-Secretaries-General for eight years, and the Under-Secretaries-General for seven years, and that the appointment of the Secretary-

General might be renewed for three years, those of the Deputy-Secretaries-General for five years, and those of the Under-Secretaries-General for a further single period of seven years.

Finally, it agreed that, to give effect to the previous wishes of the Assembly, a more equitable representation of nationalities should be effected: not more than two nationals of any one Member of the League should be included among the higher officials of the Secretariat, including Directors, and this policy should be carried into effect at the earliest possible moment, existing contracts remaining unaffected.

The recommendations of the sub-committee were adopted by the Fourth Committee with the further provision that, in making appointments to the higher posts of the Secretariat, the main geographical divisions should be borne in mind in accordance with the policies followed in other leading bodies of the League.

Salaries of the Officials

The question of the salaries of officials gave rise to much discussion, during which certain delegations expressed the opinion that these were too high, in view of the reduction to which the salaries in almost all national administrations had been subjected. Other delegations, as well as the Supervisory Commission, which had made a special study of the matter, pointed out that the cost of living at Geneva was still "abnormally high," "higher than in the rest of Switzerland and in neighbouring countries," and that they considered the present salaries justified in view of various other considerations such as recruiting of competent staff, expatriation, difficulties regarding promotion.

Several delegates during this discussion raised the question as to whether the Assembly had or had not the right unilaterally to amend the contracts which it had made with its officials. This legal point was referred for consideration to a committee of jurists, which unanimously expressed the opinion that the Assembly had not the right to reduce the salaries unless this right was expressly reserved in the existing contracts.

The Fourth Committee, however, decided to reduce the scale of future salaries. It proposed to the Assembly that, for a period of two years dating from October 15, 1932, and for all future contracts, whether the continuation or renewal of expired contracts or the contracts of new officials, there should be a 10 per cent reduction on the present scale. It further recommended that there should be included in such contracts a clause giving the Assembly the right unilaterally to modify the salaries to be paid.

Rationalization of Various Services

One of the best means of effecting economies seemed to be the rationalization, combination and concentration of various services and activities of the League. The Fourth Committee therefore recommended that the Assembly ask the Supervisory Commission to proceed during the forthcoming year to a detailed examination of possible economies along these lines, subject of course to the reservation that the essential work of the League should in no way be impaired. Any posts which this examination might prove to be superfluous might be abolished by the Secretary-General before the next ordinary session of the Assembly. If more extensive re-organization were to be undertaken, the Secretary-General must first submit the question to the Council for approval.

The Fourth Committee requested the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, which had already undertaken studies on the subject of rationalization and taken certain steps to this effect, to assist the Supervisory Commission when it came to deal with the International Labour Office and its co-operation with the Secretariat.

FIFTH COMMITTEE

(Social and Humanitarian Questions)

Penal and Penitentiary Questions

The Twelfth Assembly decided to consult a number of international organizations dealing with these questions, and in particular to ask them how the League of Nations could be of assistance in achieving a gradual unification of criminal law and the co-operation of States in the prevention and suppression of crime. The views of these organizations were submitted to the Fifth Committee of the Thirteenth Assembly, which took no decision thereon as they are to be transmitted to the Governments in accordance with the decision of the Twelfth Assembly (see Report of the Canadian Delegates, 1931, page 24).

As regards penal administration—the original question brought before the Eleventh Assembly—no progress was made, as the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission has not completed the revision of the standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners which the Twelfth Assembly asked it to undertake. The whole question of the League's activity in this connection will therefore come up for review at the next Assembly.

Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People

The Fifth Committee discussed at length certain questions of interest to both the Traffic in Women and Children Committee and the Child Welfare Committee, which together constitute the Advisory Commission for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People. These were: the reorganization of the Advisory Committee, the budgetary provision made for the social work of the League, and the methods of obtaining more publicity for this work.

On the first question no decision was taken, as the matter is under consideration by a sub-committee. As regards the budget, the Fifth Committee addressed an appeal to the Fourth Committee and another to the Assembly, drawing attention to the importance of this aspect of the League's work and expressing the hope that sufficient funds would be allotted for it. On the question of publicity, a resolution was adopted requesting the International Federation of League of Nations Societies and the international organizations represented by assessors on the Advisory Commission to give special attention to this matter.

The Fifth Committee did not discuss the work of the *Child Welfare* Committee in any detail, but simply took note of its report. It considered that the Child Welfare Committee should study the question of desertion of the family, which presents certain international aspects. It also adopted a resolution urging the States Members of the League to redouble their efforts to assist, through public authorities and private organizations, the children who are suffering most from the effects of the economic crisis.

The Fifth Committee associated itself with the hope expressed by the *Traffic in Women and Children* Committee that the Convention of 1921 for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children would soon be more widely ratified. The principal questions considered recently by the Traffic in Women and Children Committee are the proposed abolition of the age-limit in the 1921 Convention, which has been found to put difficulties in the way of punishing traffickers, and the measures to be taken to repress the activities of souteneurs. The Fifth Committee considered it desirable that the 1921 Convention should be revised simultaneously on both of these points, and asked the Traffic in Women and Children Committee to study the best means of achieving this end. As some time will elapse before the revision can be accomplished; the Fifth Committee asked Governments in the meantime to make the necessary changes in their national legislation to ensure the punishment of the traffickers, even if their victims are over age and consent.

Traffic in Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs

The Fifth Committee noted with pleasure the progress of the ratification of the 1925 Opium Convention, and emphasized the importance it attached to the bringing into force of the 1931 Convention for limiting the manufacture and regulating the distribution of narcotic drugs. In this connection it welcomed the announcements made by some eighteen delegates of their Governments' intention to ratify. The Canadian delegate explained that the formal ratification by Canada would be completed in a few days.* On the proposal of Mme. Frémont, the Canadian delegate, the Committee adopted a resolution urging that the States that had not signified their intention as regards ratification should become parties to the Convention with the least possible delay.

The Fifth Committee drew the attention of the Fourth Committee and the Assembly to the necessity of providing sufficient funds to meet the expenses entailed by the putting into force of the 1931 Convention, and also to enable the Advisory Committee to meet twice yearly and to provide for the printing of its minutes.

Satisfaction was expressed with the progress made by the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat in the preparatory work for a conference on the limitation of the production of opium and the cultivation and harvesting of the coca-leaf. The Secretariat was authorized to ask each Government for any information that it might consider essential to ensure that the technical preparations for this conference should be as thorough as possible.

The results of the Bangkok Conference on Opium-Smoking were discussed by the Chinese delegate, who expressed his Government's regret that the Governments represented at this Conference had not taken stronger measures for the suppression of the opium-smoking habit and the manufacture of and trade in prepared opium. The Chinese Government considered that the monopoly system encouraged opium-smuggling, since the sale price of opium, in countries where there is a monopoly, is generally much higher than the price of contraband opium.

The delegates of States represented at the Bangkok Conference repeated the view expressed in the Final Act of the Conference that no radical measures for the suppression of opium-smoking were practicable while the production of opium continued on an enormous scale, and while large quantities of opium were smuggled into their territories. They considered that prohibition would merely result in the substitution of the use of smuggled opium, or even more dangerous drugs, for that of monopoly opium. They outlined the measures taken by their Governments looking toward the gradual suppression of opium-smoking in their Far-Eastern territories.

The Fifth Committee, realizing the difficulties encountered both by the Chinese Government and by the States signatories of the Bangkok Agreement, thought that the solution of the problem should be sought, not in systematically opposing the two views, but in closer and more continuous co-operation between all the Governments concerned.

SIXTH COMMITTEE

(Political Questions)

Protection of Minorities

In pursuance of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on the motion of the German delegation, the Sixth Committee devoted two meetings to the examination of that part of the Secretary-General's report on the work of the League since the last session of the Assembly which concerns the protection of minorities.

*The instrument of ratification was deposited at the Secretariat on October 17, 1932.

The usual difference of opinion was manifest among the delegations as to the relative competence of the Assembly and the Council to deal with minorities questions. The delegations of Greece, Poland, Roumania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia declared that, under the Minorities Treaties, the right to judge as to whether the treaties were improperly applied was within the competence of the Council alone.

Several speakers reaffirmed the principle on which agreement was unanimous in 1930, that the solution of the minorities problem was to be found in constant co-operation and mutual confidence between the majority and the minority in each country. While minorities had rights, they also had duties toward their respective States.

In the opinion of the Polish delegation, the League's task in regard to the protection of minorities could never give complete satisfaction to the moral conscience of the world until two conditions had been fulfilled, namely, that the claims of minorities should never be inspired by reasons unconnected with their object, and that all minorities should be protected. Further, the opinion was expressed that the Sixth Committee could, with advantage, give its opinion in the case of minorities not protected by special treaties.

The German delegation laid great stress on the need for establishing a procedure which would, in practice, more effectively ensure the protection of minorities, and suggested the creation of a body consisting of persons independent of the States which have signed undertakings in regard to minorities to advise the Minorities Committees or the Council when desired. The opinion of delegations in regard to this policy was divided.

Emphasis was laid by several delegations on the great importance of publicity in the protection of minorities. In the German delegation's opinion, the number of decisions of Committees rendered public has constituted only a very small fraction of the total of decisions taken and these related almost exclusively to questions of slight importance or to matters in which the opinion formulated was favourable to the Government concerned. It was pointed out by the Yugoslav delegation that the Governments concerned were sometimes obliged to refuse publication because the petitions in question contained, in their opinion, elements of propaganda.

Observations were also made to the effect that the provision in the Madrid resolution relating to the constitution of Minorities Committees of five members should be interpreted in as broad a sense as possible, and that—as is also contemplated in the Madrid resolution—the Committees should hold meetings between Council sessions more often than has hitherto been the case.

Finally, certain delegations emphasized the importance of Minorities Committees making use of any information they considered appropriate, and of bearing in mind that it was in their power to hear petitioners and to consult experts.

The Norwegian delegation proposed that it would be desirable for the Minorities Section of the Secretariat to collect the fullest possible documentary material and information, so as to avoid any needless delay in the examination of questions by the Committees and to lessen the burden laid on the Governments concerned by repeated requests for further information. This proposal was supported by several other delegations during the discussion.

Mandates

The Sixth Committee observed that, thanks to the efforts of the mandatory Powers and the able and impartial co-operation of the Permanent Mandates Commission, the mandate system has continued to produce excellent results. This is strikingly illustrated by the case of the Kingdom of Iraq, to which it has been possible to grant complete independence and admission to the League, the final stage in the system provided by Article 22 of the Covenant.

The Committee devoted particular attention to the problem of the determination of the frontier between Iraq and Syria. It noted that this question had been settled by the Council, subject to the opinion of the Permanent Mandates Commission.

There was a short discussion of the position in Western Samoa and in the Pacific Islands under Japanese mandate. The delegates of New Zealand and Japan were able to give the committee reassuring information.

Several delegates expressed regret that, owing to a decision of the Twelfth Assembly, the number of sessions of the Permanent Mandates Commission had been reduced from two to one for the year 1932. The Sixth Committee recommended that this decision should not in future be renewed, even as an exceptional measure, inasmuch as it would have the result of seriously hampering the effective and regular performance of the important duties entrusted to the League of Nations by Article 22 of the Covenant.

Commission of Enquiry for European Union

A Report on the Commission of Enquiry for European Union was submitted to the Sixth Committee by M. Motta, Vice-Chairman of the Commission, who emphasized in particular the conclusions of the Stresa Conference.

The viewpoint of extra-European States was expressed by Sir Donald Cameron, delegate of Australia, who emphasized the necessity for the League, as a universal agency, to consider and safeguard the interests of countries in all parts of the world.

The Sixth Committee invited the Commission to proceed with its work in conformity with the principles laid down in the Assembly resolution of September 17, 1930, and requested the Commission to report at the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

Slavery

On the recommendation of the special Committee of Experts on Slavery set up under the Council resolutions of September 29, 1931, and January 28, 1932, the Sixth Committee agreed that a permanent advisory Committee of Experts on Slavery should be constituted.

This committee will consist of seven members chosen solely for their special knowledge of slavery questions, all the members being of different nationalities.

The duties of the committee, which will meet once every two years, will be to study and examine the documents supplied or transmitted by Governments to the Secretariat in regard to slavery; to study on the basis of such documents and of the special knowledge of its members, the facts and institutions mentioned in Article 1 of the Slavery Convention of 1926; to study the means of gradually abolishing these institutions or customs, or of causing them to develop in such a way as to deprive them of any objectionable features; and to examine the assistance which the League of Nations could give to countries where slavery still exists.

It is understood that, in agreeing to the setting up of this committee, the Governments parties to the Slavery Convention of 1926 do not assume any obligation of such a nature as to modify those they have entered into in virtue of the Convention.

The Assembly approved this proposal and requested the Secretary-General to include in his draft budget for 1934 the necessary credit for this committee. In the meantime, the Council was requested to take all measures not requiring budgetary credits which would assist in the carrying out of the decisions taken.

Refugees

The Sixth Committee had under consideration the report of the Governing Body of the Nansen International Office for Refugees dealing with many aspects of the refugee problem and surveying the measures taken and contemplated by

the Office from the beginning of its activities to June 30, 1932. The Committee listened to a statement by Dr. Max Huber, the President of the Governing Body, in which he outlined the results achieved during this period, and the task which still lay before the Office.

The committee noted with satisfaction the important work done for distressed refugees, and requested the Nansen Office to examine the possibility of effecting the transfer from other countries to the Armenian Republic of a further 20,000 Armenian refugees who had expressed the desire to be settled there.

To carry out this plan, the committee recalled the offers of financial and other assistance which had previously been made by various Governments in connection with the Erivan Settlement scheme initiated by Dr. Nansen, and invited them to consider placing such financial assistance at the disposal of the Office. The various National Committees were recommended to resume their efforts for obtaining such funds, and Governments that had not done so were invited by the committee to nominate committees for this purpose. The committee also requested the Nansen Office to try to alleviate the unfortunate situation of the 20,000 Russian refugees in China rendered destitute by recent floods. It also expressed the hope that various private organizations interested in refugee work would agree to co-operate with the Office as far as possible.

In order to place more adequate funds at the disposal of the Office, the committee again recommended that Governments should apply more fully the Nansen Stamp System. Finally, the Committee urged Governments not to proceed to the expulsion of a refugee unless he had obtained permission to enter another country.

Intellectual Co-operation

The work of the International Organization for Intellectual Co-operation was reviewed by the Sixth Committee upon the report of M. Bech delegate of Luxemburg.

The committee noted with satisfaction the results achieved in the past year and approved as a whole the program of work for the year 1932-33.

The committee attached great importance to the documentary material collected by the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation regarding the efforts made to establish a procedure for facilitating the revision of school textbooks. It also emphasized the importance of promoting an international spirit through the proper instruction of youth in the aims of the League.

Appreciation was also expressed of the assistance given by the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation to China in her efforts to re-organize her system of education, and the committee hoped that this co-operation would be further extended and lead to practical results.

The conditions which international agreements concerning broadcasting should fulfill were also examined, and were held by the Committee to be of special importance.

In the field of moral disarmament the committee expressed its satisfaction with the co-operation which the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation had been able to give to the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments, and hoped that the latter would adopt measures which would assist the intellectual *rapprochement* between peoples.

The committee further stressed the importance of the scientific study of international relations, and expressed the hope that the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation would extend its activities in this sphere and endeavour to give wide publicity to the results of conferences such as the Milan Conference held last May on the problem of the intervention of the State in economic life.

Recognizing also the important part played by the National Committees on Intellectual Co-operation, the committee stressed the necessity of affording

these committees additional means of carrying out the numerous tasks which they have to perform.

The committee further approved the resolution of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation concerning the preservation of historical monuments and works of art, as recommended by the Athens Conference.

Finally, the committee took note of the work done by the International Educational Cinematographic Institute and expressed the hope that its activity would be extended and wider use made of the cinema as a means of disseminating information in favour of the League's work.

Co-operation of the Press in the Organization of Peace

The question of the collaboration of the Press in the organization of peace, which was the subject of an Assembly resolution in 1931, came before the Sixth Committee as the result of a Council decision to have a report prepared on the subject of "the dissemination of false information which may threaten to disturb the peace or the good understanding between nations."

A valuable contribution to the subject had been made by the Conference of Directors of Press Bureaux and Press Representatives at Copenhagen in January this year, and the problem had also been made the subject of consultation between the Secretary-General and various Press Organizations. It was generally agreed that two broad objects to aim at were greater independence of the press from outside control and greater freedom of access to news.

In the course of the Sixth Committee's discussion, several delegates suggested that the Governments might consider certain of the mechanical facilities suggested to meet difficulties such as those experienced by more distant countries in obtaining foreign news. This was a problem specially noted by the Roumanian delegate, and it bears close relation to the observations of the Italian and French delegates on the necessity for educating public opinion in international affairs.

The French delegate said he knew of no case in which a journalist had deliberately disseminated false news. It was possible to have tendentious and distorted or inspired news, news given undue prominence by suggestive headlines, incorrect news issued by Governments or Press Bureaux, or news fabricated by semi-official representatives of Press Bureaux which might mislead the most honourable journalists. A problem which was more serious than the dissemination of false news was the suppression of the truth.

The committee expressed the hope that a further conference, organized on similar lines to that held at Copenhagen, might be called to consider ways and means of assuring greater provision of accurate information, freedom of the press, and co-operation between the press organizations of the various countries.

The committee advocated the fullest possible publicity in connection with League meetings, the earlier and more complete distribution of documents, the supply to the press of the fullest possible information concerning the work of the League, and requested the Council to consider the possibilities of affording to journalists cheap facilities for communicating information to their newspapers through the League wireless station.

Collaboration of Women in the Organization of Peace

The Twelfth Assembly, at which the question of the collaboration of women in the organization of peace had been raised for the first time, had limited itself to the question of unofficial collaboration, as it had considered that official collaboration had already been settled by Article 7 of the Covenant, which stipulates that "all positions under or in connection with the League, including the Secretariat, shall be open to men and women."

The Sixth Committee of the Thirteenth Assembly was of the opinion that, as the Women's Organizations' memoranda were unanimous in attaching the greatest importance to official collaboration, it was justified in reconsidering

the line taken last year. Several speakers emphasized the view that the best way to secure the full collaboration of women in the work of the League was to increase the possibility of their taking an official part in its proceedings. They recognized that this possibility was already given by Article 7 of the Covenant but that experience had shown that the opportunities offered by this Article had not been taken advantage of in many countries.

The Hungarian delegate thought that Government should maintain a more intimate contact with Women's Organizations. In some countries, women's organizations were consulted already as to their views in regard to social questions brought before the League, but this custom might well be extended to all League problems.

The delegate of the United Kingdom considered that as the number of women qualified to fill higher posts was still small, Governments might be asked to grant women the same possibility as men of gaining the necessary knowledge and experience.

The Spanish delegate and several others insisted on the intimate connection which existed between the question of women's status and that of the effective collaboration of women in the work of the League.

On the proposal of the delegate of France, a resolution was adopted reminding Governments that the women's organizations consulted were unanimous in declaring that equal status between men and women was a pre-requisite in the collaboration of women in the work of the League, that this collaboration could be most effectively exercised through the competent official organs of the League and of the Governments, and that Article 7 of the Covenant offered the possibility for the Governments to appoint women to their delegations, for the Council to appoint women on technical committees, and for the Secretary-General to include women in the higher posts of the Secretariat.

The reports of the committees were duly approved at plenary meetings of the Assembly. The conclusion of the Assembly was delayed by the prolonged proceedings of the Fourth Committee for some days after the other committees had completed their work. The session ended on the 17th October, having lasted three weeks and one day.

We are, etc.,

C. H. CAHAN.

H. F. MUNRO.

THAÏS LACOSTE FRÉMONT.

W. A. RIDDELL.

