M. Michaykoff (Bulgaria) asked whether each country would decide for itself if the production of wood was important for its economy.

The Chairman replied that this point would be settled in the Protocol. He put the Japanese amendment to the vote.

The amendment was adopted.

The Chairman pointed out that here, again, it would be possible for countries which were prepared to give more detailed statistics to reach an agreement between themselves on the matter.

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION STATISTICS

Held on Monday, December 3rd, 1928, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Durand.

The Chairman explained that the Sub-Committee on Industrial Statistics and the Sub-Committee on Mining and Metallurgical Statistics had not yet been able to forward their reports owing to the considerable nature of the work which had been entrusted to them. He would add that certain delegates desired to present new amendments, which he would be happy to recommend to the Sub-Committee concerned. He was convinced that the delegates would be given every facility to express their views before the two Sub-Committees.


The Chairman said that a special meeting had been contemplated to deal with fishery statistics, in which the delegates of the countries chiefly concerned would participate. These delegates might be members of the Committee on Production Statistics or the Committee on Trade Statistics. The time for this meeting would be chosen so as not to coincide with the meetings of the two large Committees.


Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire), Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Industrial Statistics, submitted a brief provisional report on the present state of the work of that Sub-Committee. The work was proceeding rapidly and satisfactorily. The Sub-Committee had finished the examination of Article 1, Paragraph III, sub-paragraphs (g) and (h). It was proposing a new draft for those sub-paragraphs and various other additions and amendments. It remained for the Sub-Committee to examine Annex II and Article 4. He would propose that the Committee should only begin the discussion of industrial statistics when the Sub-Committee had presented its final report.

The Committee agreed.

Mr. Mitchell (British Empire), Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Mining and Metallurgical Statistics, explained that this Sub-Committee had already accomplished the larger part of its task, but there was nevertheless a considerable amount of work still to do. He proposed that the discussion should not be resumed until the Sub-Committee had completed its work.

The Committee agreed.

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION STATISTICS.

Held on Tuesday, December 4th, 1928, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Durand.


Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) submitted the report of the Sub-Committee on Statistics of Industrial Production (document C.S.O./Prod./13). The Sub-Committee had been asked to deal with Article I, Paragraph III, sub-paragraphs (g) and (h), in the light of the discussion which had taken place in the main Committee. The members of the Sub-Committee had attempted to meet the various criticisms which had been made, and hoped the text which had been proposed would be acceptable to everyone. The Sub-Committee thought that it was of importance to add to the Protocol a text which would clearly emphasise that the obligations embodied in sub-paragraphs (g) and (h) would not apply to home industries and to small workshops. The view had also been expressed that there should be added to the Protocol a clause to the effect that the obligation did not extend to very small industries carried on in one or two factories, so that an industrialist might not be obliged to publish his secrets. This principle had
been recognised by everyone. It did not seem necessary to mention it in the Protocol since it was evident from the new text adopted for sub-paragraphs (g) and (h). The obligation now contemplated was less strict than that which had been embodied in the previous text. It was understood that the countries which had an industry of small importance need not fear that they would be compelled to furnish the figures in question when they could not do so with a sufficient degree of certitude.

Articles 3 and 4 applied to figures which a great number of countries could not compile for many years to come. It had not been desired to insert in the Convention a formal obligation in respect of the figures for all States, but only to obtain their recognition of the general principle, and an admission that, when the time came, they would consider the possibility of following the methods laid down.

He would add that the Sub-Committee, in order to show clearly that it had desired to take into account the various observations which had been made, had endeavoured to reproduce the exact terms of the proposals submitted to it.

The Sub-Committee proposed also to add to Recommendation I the statistics of electrical power produced in factories using motive power. Recommendation III, on the other hand, had been drafted in a less definite form. It was not asked that the censuses should always be taken at the end of each decade, but only that they should be taken in years as near as possible to one another.

A member of the Committee had submitted a proposal for the addition of certain recommendations. Those recommendations had seemed to lie outside the scope of statistics of production, although the Sub-Committee had been in sympathy with the idea underlying them. The Sub-Committee had not thought itself called upon to examine these recommendations in detail and had referred them to the Bureau.

Finally, numerous amendments had been proposed to Annexes I and II. The Sub-Committee was aware that, during the preparation of these annexes, there had been numerous discussions of experts and discussions within the International Institute of Statistics which had given rise to many technical questions. It thought the best procedure would be on the lines of that adopted in the past — in other words, to submit these amendments for examination to the Committee of Experts to be set up under Article 8, without the Conference itself taking a hasty decision in regard to them. Articles 3 and 4 of their new form did not imply any strict obligations, and there was no urgency in regard to the matter, since a large number of countries would not be in a position to furnish the information required for a certain number of years. The Sub-Committee proposed that amendments to these articles should be referred to the Committee of Experts and that a reference should be made to the matter in the Final Act, reproducing the terms used at the end of its report.

Sir Sydney Chapman added that, owing to an omission, it was not stated in the text of the present report that the Sub-Committee proposed to suppress Recommendation IV because its substance had been embodied in another part of the Convention.

The Chairman asked the Committee, before considering the report paragraph by paragraph, to discuss generally the conclusions of the Sub-Committee.

M. Horček (Czechoslovakia), referring to the report which had just been submitted and to the proposal made by his colleague M. Mráz, said that Czechoslovakia could not promise to take for the next few years a general census of industrial production on the scale or by the method proposed, nor could it promise generally to proceed during the forthcoming years to compile special returns of the various factors indicating the variations of the economic movement of the more important industries. Czechoslovakia would in principle refuse to return statistics of industrial production or to compile indices of industrial activity. On the contrary, Czechoslovakia hoped within the next few years to compile individual returns relating to the various important branches of the national production. Thus, preparations were being made to compile statistics of the production of steel and electrical energy in the year 1929.

The Chairman noted that the work already done in Czechoslovakia appeared to be in conformity with the provisions of sub-paragraphs (g) and (h) in their present form, and observed that there was no obligation for Governments to take a census of industrial production as laid down in Annex I.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) said that, during the work of the Sub-Committee, the U.S.S.R. delegation had been in a minority in regard to several points, e.g., in respect of the detailed study of statistical problems within the field of industrial statistics, and especially in respect of the census. Several questions of great importance were not included within the framework of the contemplated censuses, as, for example, the study of fixed capital, problems of staff, the duration of the working day and the study of motive power. Similarly, in regard to the annual indices, there was no provision for the various regulations which would be required to render comparisons possible between the industrial development of the different countries. The American delegation, however, had supported the U.S.S.R. proposal concerning the necessity of an annual and compulsory enquiry into the statistics of electrical energy and concerning the desirability of taking an industrial census, if possible, every five years and not every ten years.
M. Van Dam van Issett (Netherlands) said that the Netherlands published annually statistics of the principal branches of industry; but in respect of certain of these industries the statistics only included establishments in which more than 25 workers were employed. The Netherlands delegation, therefore, proposed to complete the addition to the Protocol concerning sub-paragraphs (g) and (h) with the words: "nor an obligation to compile data concerning enterprises of small importance". Similarly, the Netherlands did not feel itself able to undertake to publish data concerning industries which were represented by a small number of factories. The draft proposed by the Sub-Committee for sub-paragraphs (g) and (h) did not altogether meet the case, as, even if there were few factories in the country, the industries carried on in those factories might be of considerable importance. The present declaration applied, not only to the Netherlands, but to the Dutch East Indies.

The Chairman asked the Netherlands delegation to submit its amendment when the Committee came to discuss the provisions in detail.

He declared the general discussion to be at an end, and asked the Committee to examine the report of the Sub-Committee paragraph by paragraph. He added that M. Huber, member of the Sub-Committee, had undertaken to revise the French text of the report so as to bring it into conformity with the English text, subject to the final revision of all the texts by the Drafting Committee of the Conference.

Draft Convention.

Article 1, Paragraph III, Sub-Paragraph (g).

The Chairman thought that certain amendments which might be proposed to sub-paragraph (g) might better be embodied in the Protocol. He asked the Netherlands delegation if it desired to submit an amendment to the sub-paragraph under discussion.

M. Van Dam van Issett (Netherlands) said that he had made a general reservation on this subject and that he would not present any specific amendment.

Sub-paragraph (g) was provisionally adopted.

Article 1, Paragraph III, Sub-Paragraph (h).

M. TheodoreSCO (Roumania) proposed (document C.S.O./Prod./7) to add, at the end of sub-paragraph (h), the following words: "This series of indices of industrial activity shall not be compulsory for countries whose industrial system is not sufficiently developed".

M. Pando y CIntra (Cuba) and M. Djelal (Turkey) supported the amendment of the Roumanian delegation.

Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) asked the delegations concerned whether they did not think that the best place for an amendment was the Protocol, which explained sub-paragraphs (g) and (h), and where it was laid down that the obligation did not apply to certain data.

The Chairman said that, if the delegations concerned were not satisfied, the Committee would take up again the examination of sub-paragraph (h) when it came to consider the corresponding passages of the Protocol.

Subject to that reservation, he would declare the sub-paragraph to be provisionally adopted.

Draft Protocol.

Addition proposed by the Sub-Committee.

The Chairman noted that the Committee had to consider two proposals for additions to the text suggested by the Sub-Committee. One of those proposals was wider in scope than the other, so that, if it were adopted, the second of the proposals might be abandoned. The first proposal came from the Netherlands delegation and was to the effect that there should be added to the text proposed the following words: "and industries with very few establishments, nor an obligation to compile data concerning enterprises of small importance". The second proposal, which came from the Roumanian delegation, was that the following words should be added: "This series of indices of industrial activity would not be compulsory for countries whose industrial system is not sufficiently developed".

Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) proposed that, in order to meet the views of the delegations concerned, the proposed addition to the Protocol should be completed by the words: "small industries or industries which are little developed."

Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) withdrew his amendment and supported the proposal of Sir Sydney Chapman.
He declared the addition to the Protocol to be adopted subject to the amendment first approved.

to the Protocol, the words: “of domestic industries and workshops” and to replace them by the vote in succession. The amendment of Sir Sydney Chapman was to suppress, in the draft addition word: “of small enterprises and industries with a small number of establishments.”

Sydney Chapman. If the amendment were rejected, he would put the other amendments to the vote of Experts appointed under Article 8.

The question would have to be studied by the Committee where industry in general consisted of small enterprises would escape the obligation to compile statistics. The form proposed would give rise to bad interpretations. Certain countries should not be provided with a means of evading any obligation whatever.

expressions “industries little developed” and “small industries” were too general. The countries which were always regrettable. In order to meet the various views which had been expressed, he would propose to suppress, in the addition to the Protocol, the following words: “of domestic industries and workshops”, and to substitute for this expression the words: “small industries and industries little developed or concentrated in a very small number of establishments”.

He asked, however, that the expression “small industries” should be replaced by the expression “small enterprises”.

Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) said he understood the desire of certain delegations not to be subjected to excessive obligations. He also understood the fear of other delegations that too much latitude might be introduced into the obligations laid down by the Convention. It appeared to him that the text for the proposed addition to the Protocol should be such as would meet the wishes of the former delegations. It was advisable as far as possible to avoid reservations, which were always regrettable. In order to meet the various views which had been expressed, he would propose to suppress, in the addition to the Protocol, the following words: “of domestic industries and workshops”, and to substitute for this expression the words: “small industries and industries little developed or concentrated in a very small number of establishments”.

M. Bernardi (Italy) opposed the amendment suggested by the British delegate. The expressions “industries little developed” and “small industries” were too general. The countries where industry in general consisted of small enterprises would escape the obligation to compile statistics. The form proposed would give rise to bad interpretations. Certain countries should not be provided with a means of evading any obligation whatever.

M. Van Dam van Isselt (Netherlands) supported the amendment of Sir Sydney Chapman. He asked, however, that the expression “small industries” should be replaced by the expression “small enterprises”.

M. Lorenz (Switzerland) said he would like to know whether the text proposed by the Sub-Committee was intended to replace the third sub-paragraph of Paragraph II of the Protocol, or whether that sub-paragraph was maintained.

The Chairman replied that the Sub-Committee had proposed an addition to the Protocol and not a suppression of anything contained in the Protocol.

M. Lorenz (Switzerland) said that, in these circumstances, when Articles 3 and 4 were discussed, he would draw attention to certain contradictions.

M. Djelal (Turkey) thought that the expressions “developed industries” and “undeveloped industries” were not sufficiently clear to be used in defining an undertaking. Where did industry and the work of the artisan begin or end? The question would have to be studied by the Committee of Experts appointed under Article 8.

The Chairman proposed that the Committee should first consider the amendment of Sir Sydney Chapman. If the amendment were rejected, he would put the other amendments to the vote in succession. The amendment of Sir Sydney Chapman was to suppress, in the draft addition to the Protocol, the words: “of domestic industries and workshops” and to replace them by the word: “of small enterprises and industries with a small number of establishments”.

The amendment was adopted, the Italian delegation voting against it.

The Chairman noted that this vote settled the question of the three previous amendments. He declared the addition to the Protocol to be adopted subject to the amendment just approved.
Article 3.
Adopted.

Article 4.
Adopted.

The Chairman said that the Greek delegation, whose representative was not present, asked that the following declaration should be placed on the Minutes:

"With reference to Articles 3 and 4, the Greek delegation would refer to the reservations formulated in respect of Article 1, Paragraph III, sub-paragraphs (g) and (h), and declares that the efforts of the Greek Government with a view to the census intended to establish the value of the production of the various industries and the indices of industrial activity will be based on the principles laid down in Annexes I and II of the Convention."

**Draft Recommendations.**

**Recommendation I.**

The Chairman said that the Sub-Committee proposed to add to Recommendation I a fourth paragraph in the following terms:

"(4) Collecting and publishing statistics of the electric power generated in power-stations, distinguishing between power generated by hydraulic means and by fuel."

He observed that this did not involve an obligation, but was a recommendation addressed to countries in which statistics were already developed.

M. Huber (France) had understood that the Sub-Committee had intended to deal only with the case of central stations for the public distribution of electric power, and not with all the stations producing electricity for the use of a single establishment. He proposed to complete the new paragraph with the words: "produced in central public distribution stations".

Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) said that such had been the intention of the Sub-Committee. He proposed that the French and English texts of the new paragraph should be revised in accordance with the suggestion of M. Huber.

The addition to Recommendation I, as amended, was adopted.

**Recommendation III.**

The new text of Recommendation III, proposed by the Sub-Committee, was adopted.

**Recommendation IV.**

The Chairman said that the Sub-Committee proposed the suppression of Recommendation IV. The proposal was approved.

**Clauses referred to the Bureau.**

The Chairman said that, as Sir Sydney Chapman had explained, the Sub-Committee had dealt with a certain number of recommendations which went beyond the field of industrial statistics. The Sub-Committee proposed that they should be forwarded directly to the Bureau without any discussion in Committee, to be submitted, if necessary, to the plenary Conference.

The proposal of the Sub-Committee was adopted.

**Declaration relating to Annexes I and II.**

The Chairman said that the Sub-Committee proposed the insertion of the following declaration in the Final Act:

"A number of amendments to Annexes I and II were proposed and it was decided by the Conference to refer these to the Committee of Experts contemplated under Article 8."

The proposal was adopted.

**Statistics of Internal Trade: Proposals of the U.S.S.R. Delegation.**

The Chairman said that the agenda of the Committee on Trade Statistics had been too extensive and the Bureau had therefore decided to refer the proposals of the U.S.S.R. delegation relating to internal trade to the Committee on Production Statistics, although these proposals did not fall within the province of that Committee.

The proposals of the U.S.S.R. delegation would be distributed to the members of the Committee and could be discussed on the following day.

**Declaration of the U.S.S.R. Delegation.**

M. Kritzmann (U.S.S.R.) explained that, as the Sub-Committees on Agricultural and Industrial Statistics had thought it preferable that the majority of the proposals and amendments submitted by the U.S.S.R. delegation on the extension of the framework of statistics should be studied by the Committee of Experts contemplated under Article 8, the U.S.S.R. delegation would not further insist on the compulsory character of those amendments. They asked that the amendments should be introduced among the Recommendations. A proposal to that effect would later on be submitted by the U.S.S.R. delegation.
22. Discussion of the Proposal of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics relating to Statistics of Arms and Munitions.

The Chairman said that he had received a proposal from the delegation of the U.S.S.R. (document C.S.O./Prod./15) to add to Article 1, Paragraph III, a new sub-paragraph (i) providing that detailed statistics should be prepared annually concerning the production of arms and munitions. He proposed to submit this amendment to the Sub-Committee on Industrial Statistics, of which Sir Sydney Chapman was Chairman.

M. Kritzmann (U.S.S.R.) thought that, before submitting this proposal to the Sub-Committee, it would be necessary for a general discussion to take place on the principle.

M. Colson (France) agreed with the U.S.S.R. delegation as far as the procedure was concerned. He asked the Committee, however, to decide against submitting such an amendment to the Sub-Committee. From an economic point of view, the industries concerned were not as important as those of coal or steel; it was therefore useless to treat them separately.

M. Kritzmann (U.S.S.R.) asked the Chairman whether he might be allowed to make certain observations on the proposal of the U.S.S.R. delegation relating to statistics of arms and munitions before the general discussion on this proposal was opened. He would first repeat that, in proposing to insert into the scope of industrial statistics returns relating to the manufacture of arms and munitions, the U.S.S.R. delegation was convinced that this industry, while increasing the danger of further war, was at the same time a most important economic factor without which economic statistics would be quite incomplete.

He was convinced that no statistical argument independent of political motives could be invoked against the thesis that industrial statistics must necessarily cover particular branches of industry, as, for example, the manufacture of arms and munitions. For this reason, the U.S.S.R. delegation insisted that the statistics in question should be included in the Convention. He hoped that, through the courtesy of the Secretariat, the delegations present had already been able to study the U.S.S.R. proposal, and that a discussion on the basis of its purely statistical interest might be opened.

He was, however, obliged to reply to a question which he would himself have hesitated to raise during this discussion in the fear that it would be considered as outside the purely statistical sphere. The Italian delegation had asked what guarantees existed that returns relating to production for military purposes would be reliable. The U.S.S.R. delegation was obliged to confess that, if it had not clearly heard what M. Gini had said on the previous day, it would not have been able to understand the meaning of this question, nor even now, after it had been able to study its implications. Evidently, the question of guarantees could be raised in connection, not only with industrial statistics relating to military production, but also with all statistics the publication of which was provided for in the present Convention. In addition to the manufacture of armaments, a considerable number of economic statistics existed the importance of which was not so small that the question of guarantees could not be usefully studied in connection with them; he would cite, as an example, mineral production. It was evident that, on account of the importance of this production to the high interests of State, one must at least, according to M. Gini, envisage the possibility of a perversion of the statistical data furnished. Such perversion might be due to the influence of the interests engaged in economic competition, and in the fight for world markets, or to other similar causes, not excluding military causes; for example, to the fear of the application, on the basis of the information provided, of the economic sanctions.

But the question posed by M. Gini assumed that the question of guarantees was only of interest in regard to statistics of arms and munitions. The motives underlying such a question were sufficiently clear and, although they went beyond purely statistical considerations, M. Kritzmann would remind M. Gini that it was by an international control that the U.S.S.R. had always proposed to solve the problem of guarantees. The Italian delegate, doubtless knew that the question of control had been raised many times during the work of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission and that on each occasion the Italian delegate at that Commission had declared himself a resolute opponent of a system of international control or of any kind of guarantees, claiming that the good faith of Governments was one of the surest guarantees of the carrying out of international obligations.

"The Italian delegation", General de Marinis had declared on many occasions during the third session of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission, "could not associate itself with any form of control". In view of this opposition, the U.S.S.R. delegation had thought it would not raise the question of the form of guarantees in spite of its desire to avoid the dangers which M. Gini so rightly appreciated. The U.S.S.R. delegation was grateful to the Italian delegate for not having hesitated to raise this serious question. From the importance which the Italian delegate gave to this question at the present Conference, M. Kritzmann thought that he might draw the
conclusion that the Italian Government was ready to change its attitude in this matter and consider the possibility of establishing guarantees for the carrying out of international obligations. He would inform his Government of this attitude on the part of the Italian delegation without delay.

The U.S.S.R. delegation again thanked M. Gini for what he had done and, although it did not coincide with its original intentions, it declared that it was ready to discuss at this Conference the possibility of organising an international control in order to avoid the dangers of a perversion of the statistical data compiled in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention, and to ensure by that means the scrupulous carrying-out of the obligations involved therein.

M. Colson (France) said that, in proposing not to refer the examination of the amendment proposed by the U.S.S.R. to the Sub-Committee on Industrial Statistics, he did not wish it to be thought that statistics relating to armaments should not be included among industrial statistics, but only that they ought not to be made the object of a separate study, as was the case with statistics of fuel and the metallurgical industries, whose economic position was important.

The Convention only laid down principles to be followed by the basic industries producing raw materials, such as the mining and metallurgical industries. At some future date, the Committee of Experts would doubtless study in detail those industries which produced entirely manufactured articles. At that stage, and at that stage only, would the question of detailed statistics for arms and munitions logically arise.

M. Gini (Italy) said that he had heard with curiosity the reply which, after a delay of five days, the delegation of the U.S.S.R. had just given to the question he had put. He would scarcely need five minutes to reply in his turn, for his reply was so easy. In putting the question, M. Gini had had a scientific conception in view. It was to the following effect. It was useless to ask for statistics unless there could be a guarantee that no personal influence was at work to destroy their accuracy. M. Jensen had already put his finger on the danger spot. As far as statistics other than military statistics were concerned, the situation of States — apart from the U.S.S.R. — was such that they could be checked impartially. It might be possible that, as a consequence of the peculiar economic system in force in the U.S.S.R., those perversions of mining, industrial or other statistics in that country of which the representative of the U.S.S.R. had just spoken might be made.

M. Gini was compelled to note that the delegation of the U.S.S.R. thought that the only guarantees to be obtained would be in an international form of control. Such an international control, however, had not so far existed, and to establish it or even discuss it was beyond the terms of reference of the Conference. He was unaware whether M. Kritzmann was authorised to discuss this question, but he thought that it was not included in the instructions given to delegates to the Conference. He could not, in consequence, continue in this direction and he must therefore confine himself to noting that the supposition expressed by the representative of the U.S.S.R. was so great that there was any contradiction between the question that he had put and the point of view of the Italian delegate to the Disarmament Commission, as well as the supposition that the Italian Government was ready to change its attitude, was quite unfounded and was only a further expression of that somewhat venturesome imagination on which the Chairman had already had occasion to remark.

Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) wished merely to state that he could not agree with the views of M. Kritzmann. Another Committee of the League of Nations was at the moment studying problems which, though they might not exactly cover the question of political control, obviously included it.

M. Kritzmann (U.S.S.R.) repeated that the question of guarantees and of control had been placed in the forefront, not by his delegation, which was, indeed, ready to study them, but by the Italian delegation. For this reason it was difficult for him to understand the arguments of M. Gini, which were based on the strange notion that a Government might have different opinions on the same question just because that question was studied by different Committees. The guarantees might be of an internal or an external kind. Guarantees of an internal kind were represented by the signatures of Governments signing the Convention. If M. Gini were not content with these, others of an external kind would have to be provided — that was to say, some form of international control.

M. Kritzmann replied to M. Colson that the reason why he had urged the insertion of a special classification concerning arms and munitions of war was because of their economic importance. This importance was due, first, to the fact that they were a non-productive industry, and, secondly, to the fact that they involved several branches of industry.

M. Coppola d’Anna (International Chamber of Commerce) pointed out that, as the question of international control of statistics was of a political nature, it was not within the terms of reference either of the Committee or of the Conference. Statistics of arms and munitions, just as statistics of other mechanical and chemical industries, were also covered by sub-paragraph (g). It was impossible to go further. The representative of the U.S.S.R. had also declared that he proposed his amendment owing to the great economic importance of the manufacture of arms and munitions. M. Coppola d’Anna thought that, though this manufacture might be of considerable political importance, its importance from the economic point of view was limited.

The Chairman put the amendment of the delegation of the U.S.S.R. to the vote. It was rejected.

The Chairman called on the Committee to discuss the report of the Sub-Committee on Mineral and Metallurgical Statistics, of which the Chairman had been Mr. Mitchell. The Sub-Committee, having had much to do in order to conciliate differing points of view, had not had time to revise the text very carefully. The Chairman proposed, therefore, that amendments of detail should be inserted in the text by a special Drafting Sub-Committee, to be composed of M. Huber, Sir Sydney Chapman and a representative of the International Chamber of Commerce to be chosen by the delegation of that organisation.

This proposal was adopted.

Mr. Mitchell (British Empire), Rapporteur, said that the Sub-Committee had unanimously approved the report, not that all members had been fully satisfied with all the recommendations put forward, but because they had realised the necessity of achieving a compromise. The text of Article 1, Paragraph III, sub-paragraph (f), had been somewhat amended. Article 5, as contained in the report, had been made more elastic at a further meeting held that morning. It was necessary to insert, after the words “serve as a basis”, the words “as far as practicable”. On the other hand, this expression should be deleted in the first line of the general provisions of Annex III. The phrase meant that, if a country was not able to give exact statistics, it could give estimates.

Mr. Mitchell pointed out that the stipulations concerning the production of steel were given in the form of tables, in order to make them clearer. It might be thought that such a form was not suitable for a convention. In that case, the small Drafting Committee might produce a new text more in conformity with customary practice. Finally, Mr. Mitchell paid a tribute to the Secretariat, which had facilitated the execution of the Sub-Committee’s tasks.

The Chairman said that he had received the following declaration from the Greek delegation:

"Observations on Article 5.

The Greek Government declares its ability to accept the proposal that statistical tables on mining and metallurgical industries should be prepared in conformity with the principles indicated in Annex III. Nevertheless, it must make certain reservations in regard to the data concerning imports and the cost of production, in view of the fact that, in regard to imports, metallurgical products shown in the statistical bulletins of foreign trade follow the nomenclature adopted for the Customs tariff, which makes no provision either for the fineness or degree of purity of the metal. In so far as the cost of production is concerned, this can only be calculated very approximately and with great difficulty. It also makes reservations in regard to exports, more particularly concerning the place of destination of the cargoes."

Mr. Mitchell (British Empire) pointed out that this statement was not in order since the Annex in question dealt with neither imports nor the cost of production.

The Chairman concluded that the Greek delegation had referred to the first text and not to the text of the Sub-Committee.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) regretted that, although the observations of her delegation in regard to Annex III had been submitted in sufficient time, they had not yet been distributed to members. She wished to make certain observations, while hoping that the proposals of the U.S.S.R. would be submitted to the Sub-Committee.

The report seemed to her to be satisfactory except on three or four points of detail, to which she would refer when each article was under discussion.

The Chairman opened the discussion.

Article 1, Paragraph III, Sub-Paragraph (f).

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) was surprised that no mention of peat occurred among the non-metallic minerals. It was, however, to be found in the first draft.

Mr. Mitchell (British Empire) said that there were grave objections to the insertion of peat. For the most part it was produced by private persons for their own use, which meant that it was practically impossible to establish statistics for it.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) said this was not the case in the U.S.S.R. any more than it was in Germany. Her Government could give figures concerning the production of peat.

The Chairman recalled that, according to the recommendations of the Sub-Committee, the minerals in question must be of national importance. The peat industry in countries where it was carried on by private persons was not of national importance.
M. JAHN (Norway) said that peat was of national importance in Norway. Peasants cut it almost everywhere along the coast but, although an endeavour had been made to establish statistics, no satisfactory result had been achieved; and he thought that, in view of the unorganised form of this industry, it was almost impossible to get trustworthy statistics of peat production.

The CHAIRMAN put the amendment of the U.S.S.R. to the vote.

The amendment was rejected.

Article I, Paragraph III, sub-paragraph (f), was adopted.

ARTICLE 5.

The CHAIRMAN observed that, after the words "for use", the expression "as far as possible" should be added.

The article was adopted without discussion.

ANNEX III. — MINING AND METALLURGICAL STATISTICS.

General Provisions.

M. HORAČEK (Czechoslovakia), after stating that he was fully satisfied with the report on Article I, Paragraph III, sub-paragraph (f), and on Article 5, desired to make certain observations on Annex III. He would begin by saying that Czechoslovakia was able to fulfil most of the stipulations of the draft annex. Nevertheless, she could not undertake to give certain statistics, either because of technical difficulties or because the object of these statistics was not of sufficient importance. She could not undertake to give monthly statistics except in the case of coal, or to give the different kinds of iron ore (hematite, etc.), the content being a sufficient indication of the character of the ore. These statistics could not possibly be furnished by Czechoslovakia in view of the geological position of a certain number of her beds of ore. In Czechoslovakia, lignite did not correspond to what was generally described by this term but to brown coal, which possessed a far higher calorific content.

The CHAIRMAN asked the representative of Czechoslovakia whether he was merely making a number of observations or whether he wished to submit a definite amendment. He would recall that, by the terms of Article 5, States, while accepting Annex III in principle, were not compelled to conform strictly to its provisions. It was to emphasise this fact that the words "as far as possible" had been introduced into Article 5.

M. HORAČEK (Czechoslovakia) was satisfied with this explanation.

The general provisions were adopted.

A. Production of Non-Metallic Minerals.

Coal.

Mme. FALKNER-SMIT (U.S.S.R.) objected to the deletion of Tables XXXIV, XXXV and XXXVI of the original draft (production per coal-getter of lignite, bituminous and anthracite coal).

These tables were very interesting, for they made it possible to compare the productive value of work in the various countries. She proposed that these three tables should be re-inserted.

Mr. MITCHELL (British Empire) said the Sub-Committee thought it preferable not to insert tables of this kind in the text of a Convention but to confine itself to a statement of general principles.

The amendment of the delegation of the U.S.S.R. was rejected.

Mme. FALKNER-SMIT (U.S.S.R.) proposed a new amendment to the effect that tables of fuel should be drawn up. The new paragraph drafted to this effect by her delegation had unhappily not yet been distributed, and the proposal was not therefore, perhaps, very clear without the text of this paragraph. She hoped, however, that the members would understand her meaning.

The CHAIRMAN asked Mme. Falkner-Smit whether she would agree that this amendment should be submitted to the Drafting Committee.

Mme. FALKNER-SMIT (U.S.S.R.) agreed.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that this would not modify the remainder of the present text, upon which the Committee could accordingly take a decision.

The provisions relating to coal were adopted.

Other Non-Metallic Minerals.

Adopted.

B. Production of Various Ores and Iron Ore (Minette).

M. JAHN (Norway) thought that it might be useful to provide for countries where iron-mines, although of national importance, were very few in number. Such countries would probably not wish to communicate monthly statistics.
The Chairman thought that it would be useless to mention these cases in view of the freedom given to States by Article 5.

M. van Dam van Issett (Netherlands) thought that in Article 1 it would be useful to use the same formulae for sub-paragraph (f) as for sub-paragraphs (g) and (h).

The Chairman pointed out that there was a difference between sub-paragraph (f) on the one hand and sub-paragraphs (g) and (h) on the other. Sub-paragraph (f) referred to certain minerals in regard to which States were required to publish statistics, when such minerals were of national importance. Sub-paragraphs (g) and (h) only applied to special industries. The difference in the text was therefore justified.

M. van Dam van Issett (Netherlands) thought that States only possessing a few establishments would have to make a reservation.

M. Huber (France) pointed out that the reservation was not to be found in sub-paragraphs (g) and (h). It was contained in the Protocol. If anything were to be added, it should be added to the Protocol.

M. Bernardi (Italy) thought that it would be dangerous to introduce reservations of this nature. Any country might say that it could not furnish statistics by districts because of the small number of its establishments. In his view, there was no reason for such reservations.

M. Coppola d'Anna (International Chamber of Commerce) thought that the question raised by the representative of the Netherlands applied to the whole Convention. It had been desired to make the Convention elastic, but it was impossible to go further without completely emasculating it. If a country did not think itself able to assume an undertaking in regard to a particular matter, it could insert reservations in the Protocol. The Committee should be careful not to insert in the text stipulations which would make it possible for any country to refuse to subscribe to any undertaking. He proposed, therefore, that the text should be adopted unchanged.

(M. Breisky took the Chair.)

Mr. Durand desired to speak in the name of the American delegation. The American delegation thought that there was a difference of principle between sub-paragraph (f), concerning the main minerals, and sub-paragraphs (g) and (h) concerning manufactured products. The minerals covered by sub-paragraph (f) were raw material used throughout the world. They could be considered more or less in the same light as the main agricultural products for which no State had ever hesitated to give statistics. It was somewhat difficult to ask industrialists to furnish special statistics, for this was equivalent to giving confidential information. For mines, however, the figures were very well known, and more detailed statistics than were at present given would not in any way change the situation from the point of view of international competition. Any country was perfectly free to make reservations of a particular kind.

Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) thought that everyone could be satisfied by inserting a sentence in the Protocol stating that countries were not compelled to publish figures if such publication would mean that they would have to disclose information regarding any particular establishment. The adoption of such a solution would make it possible to delete the words covering industries which only possessed a small number of establishments.

M. Jahn (Norway) said that, having raised the question, he agreed with the observations of Mr. Durand and with the proposal of Sir Sydney Chapman.

The Chairman pointed out that this involved an amendment to the Protocol, which should therefore be put in writing in order that it might be discussed.

He read the final text proposed by Sir Sydney Chapman:

“There is no obligation to publish figures which involve the disclosure of information relating to any particular establishment.”

He then read the sentence added to the Protocol on the previous day concerning industries concentrated in a small number of establishments.

M. Bernardi (Italy) reserved his right to take up the question at a plenary meeting, for he did not think that this amendment should be adopted.

The Chairman put the amendment of Sir Sydney Chapman to the vote.

It was adopted.

The Chairman then consulted the Committee as to whether it desired to delete the sentence introduced on the previous day into the Protocol (document C.S.O./Prod./13).

M. Huber (France) did not think that the amendment of Sir Sydney Chapman would necessarily lead to the deletion of this sentence. Sir Sydney Chapman was referring to the existence of a single establishment. Provision must also be made for the case of two or three establishments.

The Chairman thought that, when an industry was concentrated in two or three establishments, the publication of statistics would be equivalent to disclosing information on each of these establishments. He proposed that the text of Sir Sydney Chapman’s amendment should be submitted to the Sub-Committee on Industrial Statistics, as well as the question of the deletion or maintenance of the amendment adopted on the previous day.

This proposal was adopted.

The whole of Section B was adopted.

Adopted.

C. Production of Non-Ferrous Metal Ores.
D. Production of Metals.

I. Iron and Steel.

1. Pig-Iron.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) proposed to add, after the words "furnaces in existence", in section B, the words "as well as their capacity".

Mr. Mitchell (British Empire) said that the question had been discussed in detail by the Sub-Committee. It had been agreed that figures concerning the capacity of production might be very misleading. This capacity depended on the number of days the furnace worked, the quality of the coke and the iron ore, etc.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) would nevertheless urge the adoption of her proposal.

This proposal was rejected.

The text regarding pig-iron was adopted.

2. Steel and Puddled Iron.

The Chairman observed, in regard to sub-paragraph (a), that Mr. Mitchell had agreed that the tables could be replaced by a text.

M. Colson (France) pointed out that it was not very convenient to give such clear explanations as these in a text. He proposed that the tables should be maintained.

The Chairman said that the question would be re-submitted to the Drafting Committee. M. Huber, who was a member, could take account of the views of M. Colson.

The text concerning steel and puddled iron was adopted.

II. Other Metals.

Adopted.

TENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION STATISTICS.

Held on Thursday, December 6th, 1928, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Durand.

Draft Recommendations.

Recommendation I.

The Chairman recalled that the Committee had decided to approve the addition of a fourth paragraph to Recommendation I, but that it had not yet taken a decision as to the text of the recommendation.

Recommendation I was provisionally adopted.

Draft Convention.

Article 1, Paragraph III, Sub-Paragraph (a).

The Chairman recalled that this sub-paragraph referred to a general census of agriculture to be carried out in accordance with the suggestions put forward by the International Institute of Agriculture. These suggestions were explained in a pamphlet which the International Institute of Agriculture had distributed to members. It had been thought that, as far as the needs of the Convention were concerned, it should be possible to refer to this text, and the Chairman proposed that the latter part of the pamphlet, from page 33 onwards (Report of the Committee of Agricultural Statisticians to the Ninth General Assembly of the Institute), should be added to the Convention for purposes of information but not as an actual annex.

This proposal was adopted.


The Chairman said that the proposal of the U.S.S.R. delegation was in the nature of an amendment to the report of the Sub-Committee on Mineral Statistics, which had already been approved by the Committee.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) explained that a large number of the proposals of her delegation had been made before the nature of the work of the Sub-Committee on Mineral Statistics had been known. Now that this report had been submitted by the Sub-Committee, some of the Russian proposals could be omitted. There remained, however, the proposal concerning the balance-sheet of fuel production and consumption. The problem of the consumption of fuel was of the first importance in the economic life of all countries. It was not only necessary to ascertain the consumption in any particular country, but a detailed table should also be prepared showing the quantities produced and consumed in all countries. The proposal of the U.S.S.R. delegation in regard to coal, anthracite, bituminous coal, peat, crude petroleum and its derivatives, wood, charcoal and various fuels covered the whole table of the production of fuel. The draft table submitted by the U.S.S.R. delegation also covered imports and exports of fuel and quantities consumed by the principal consumers, that was to say, the main industries of a country, the
transport services, etc. Thanks to this table, each country would possess all the data indispensable, not only for each national economic unit, but also for the great fuel syndicates. The U.S.S.R. delegation considered that, in proposing this table of returns, it was acting on practical considerations and was submitting a suggestion which all countries could find acceptable.

Mr. Mitchell (British Empire), Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Mineral Statistics, pointed out that what was asked for by the U.S.S.R. delegation applied partly to certain statistics for which provision had already been made in another form in the draft which had been adopted. The proposal was not, therefore, a proper amendment to the report of the Sub-Committee. As far as production was concerned, it would be almost impossible to obtain information as to calculations in calories, or distinctions between fuel extracted by machinery and by hand. Requests for statistics concerning consumption came rather within the category of industrial statistics. Finally, the problem of stocks had been very fully discussed, and it had been decided by the Committee to make no mention of them.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) replied that the table in question was only partly contained in the proposals of the Sub-Committee. What was lacking in these proposals was a general view enabling anyone to compare what had been produced with what had been consumed. The balance-sheet method for fuel was as important for a Government as a balance-sheet was to a commercial or industrial company. The report of the Sub-Committee contained many special proposals, but there was a lack of unity.

The Chairman put the proposal of the U.S.S.R. delegation to the vote.

The proposal was rejected.

The Chairman pointed out that, in the United States, which possessed perhaps the most complete coal statistics in the world, it was possible to furnish a certain amount of the information requested. From the statistics of production, and of import and of export, it was possible to obtain the figures for consumption. It was difficult, however, to distinguish between the various kinds of consumption. Nevertheless, the United States would, on their own initiative, try to furnish as much of the information demanded as was possible.


M. Kritzmann (U.S.S.R.) recalled that, at the very first meeting, he had laid emphasis on the fact that it was labour which created wealth in the world, and that, without a fairly well-developed system of statistics in regard to the labouring classes and their well-being, no system of economic statistics would be complete. If it were desired to conclude a convention on economic statistics, it was indispensable to deal with labour statistics. He had already drawn attention to the fact that, despite the importance of these statistics, the draft Convention paid little attention to them. The draft only dealt with one point concerning labour — the cost-of-living index. Certain branches of labour statistics, however, had already been widely developed. In Russia, monthly and quarterly labour statistics were published. It was indispensable to include in the Convention a table of labour statistics, which would make it possible to collect information on the position of the working class, the number of wage-earners, the well-being of labourers, etc., established on an internationally comparable basis. The proposal of the U.S.S.R. delegation set forth the essential desiderata and contained an annex showing the methods to be followed in order to obtain the necessary data.

M. Colson (France) said that he would not discuss the use of keeping international statistics of labour, but would point out that there was an organisation in existence — the International Labour Office — which regularly dealt with this class of problem. The Conference could not attack the problem without provoking a regrettable confusion. M. Colson asked that the Committee should decide that the problem came within the competence of the International Labour Office.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) replied that the Government of the U.S.S.R. did not belong to the League of Nations. In the opinion of the U.S.S.R. delegation, problems of economic statistics, such as labour statistics, should be discussed independently of the League of Nations. A convention adhered to by nations, and not the League of Nations itself, should deal with them.

The proposal of the U.S.S.R. delegation was rejected.

The Chairman pointed out that various aspects of these problems of labour statistics were already covered by the provisions which had been adopted, and that the monthly statistics provided for could be adapted by countries which might undertake to furnish them in such a way as to make it possible to obtain information on labour.


The Chairman said that the delegation of the U.S.S.R., in document C.S.O./Prod./17, proposed to add a certain number of recommendations, of which the first concerned agricultural statistics, and of which others applied to industrial statistics. He proposed to examine in the first place the recommendation concerning agricultural statistics.
Mr. Estabrook proposed that such an investigation should be adjourned for ten years. He was convinced that, in the majority of cases, the objects aimed at by the U.S.R. delegation were the same as those which had been put forward by the experts possessing special knowledge of problems of agricultural statistics. Nevertheless, if there was one industry where it was difficult to obtain information, it was the agricultural industry. For the first time in the history of the world, a universal agricultural census was about to be undertaken.

Questions had been sent to two hundred countries, of which ten perhaps possessed an adequate organisation. A third part at least of the world's agricultural production came from tropical countries, which were usually those least organised in so far as statistics were concerned. Thanks to the efforts of the International Institute of Agriculture, and as a result of tours made by Mr. Estabrook, success had been achieved in stimulating interest in those countries in favour of a census and in creating the nucleus of an organisation. Only a beginning, however, had as yet been made, and the only hope lay in the future development of these efforts. If it were desired to carry out a census in more than twenty countries, a model formula as simple as possible should be used, and only indispensable data should be asked for; that was to say, data regarding the area under cultivation, the quantities of crops harvested and the number of head of cattle. Every ten years a little more would be asked for and, in the end, information would be obtainable, not only on agriculture properly so-called, but on the financial, economic and social aspects of the problem. It was impossible to ask for everything at once. However legitimate might be the proposal of the U.S.S.R. delegation, and however much everyone might desire to obtain the most complete information, it would have to be postponed for ten years.

With regard to the verification of results, Mr. Estabrook pointed out that, in the United States, data were verified as furnished, and no use was made of a representative system consisting, for example, in the verification of 3 per cent of the figures obtained. It was impossible to contemplate the employment of a system of returns. Experiments had been made in the United States and also in Great Britain and in South America, and this system was still employed in many public and private organisations. It was a very uncertain and unsatisfactory method, and it could only be optimistically recommended at the moment of its inauguration and before the meagre results which it achieved were realised. To take, for example, the question of visible and invisible stocks, it was possible to obtain a certain idea of what was meant by the first, but not of what was meant by the second. Perhaps in determining certain factors, such as the quantities consumed by farmers and by cattle, the quantities imported, etc., and by a process of subtraction, it would be possible to obtain the balance available for export, but the figures could never be more than approximate. They must always be non-scientific, and in actual fact no country in the world knew precisely of what these invisible stocks consisted.

Mr. Estabrook did not wish that this question should be bound up with the world agricultural census, but he hoped that the U.S.S.R. delegation would consent to adjourn for ten years its proposal, which was of a somewhat theoretical kind.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) wished to reply to four points in the observations of Mr. Estabrook.

1. The U.S.S.R. delegation was glad that on all sides an endeavour was being made to achieve the same object, and particularly to note that the International Institute of Agriculture considered that the object of the agricultural census would be, not only to discover the amount of agricultural production, but also to study the problem in its social and economic aspect. Nevertheless, Mr. Estabrook proposed that such an investigation should be adjourned for ten years. The U.S.S.R. delegation reserved the right to return to this point.

2. The representative of the International Institute of Agriculture had pointed out that only ten Governments out of two hundred could accept any very detailed programme. It should, however, be pointed out that the U.S.S.R. proposal consisted merely of a draft recommendation applying not to all Governments, but only to those which possessed a sufficiently developed statistical system.
3. According to Mr. Estabrook, only a beginning was to be made and requests should therefore be moderate. Precisely, however, because this was to be the first world agricultural census which had ever been carried out, it was essential that such a census should show a marked difference from the current and summary statistics which were at the moment being kept by the various countries. To emphasise that difference, a necessary minimum must be required in order to make it possible to form an opinion on the state of agriculture and of agricultural production.

4. The representative of the International Institute of Agriculture thought that the system of returns was not a sufficiently precise and scientific system if statistics were to be verified by means of a representative method. He had referred to several countries in which that instrument had not given scientific results. He had forgotten to quote the only country in which that method had been really applied and where most satisfactory results had been achieved — that was to say, the U.S.S.R. That country had applied the method of returns for several years in regard to several branches of statistics — for fuel, corn, forage and industrial crops, for example. If Mr. Estabrook would study the work of the U.S.S.R. in this field, he would note that this method had made it possible to go very far in the collection of accurate economic data, such as were necessary in a country like the U.S.S.R. in order to place its economic organisation on a scientific basis.

Obviously, in all nations the psychology of the peasant was more or less the same, and it was scarcely possible to obtain any accurate data from him in regard to his economic conditions of life. Nevertheless, in all countries nowadays, scientific instruments were available to correct such inaccuracies ; for example, surveying instruments, aerial photography, etc., could be employed.

There was no objection to recommending countries to make use of such completely accurate instruments.

Mr. Pullerits (Estonia), referring to sub-paragraph (1) of Recommendation V, proposed by the U.S.S.R. delegation, thought that all States should not be obliged to undertake the verification asked for. Some States might be quite sure that the census would give fairly accurate figures. If the contrary were the case, it should be perfectly permissible for countries to adopt one or several means of verification.

As far as the second paragraph was concerned, the representative of Estonia pointed out that his country was already conducting investigations into a certain number of the points enumerated by the U.S.S.R. delegation in sub-paragraphs 2 A and B, but that the enquiries carried out on this subject covered 10 per cent of the total number of agricultural enterprises, and he did not understand why this enquiry must compulsorily cover 3 per cent of that number.

M. Michaykoff (Bulgaria) considered that the object of the U.S.S.R. proposal was, not only to verify the statistics obtained, but also to obtain more detailed statistics on agriculture. This proposal seemed to him to be somewhat wide. Further, it would be very difficult, he thought, to connect such detailed enquiries with an international census of agriculture. If the U.S.S.R. delegation was prepared to modify its text in order to make it of a general character, and if it were prepared to submit it as a recommendation to the various countries, the Bulgarian delegation was prepared to support it.

Mr. Estabrook (International Institute of Agriculture) wished to set right two points raised in the observations of the representative of the U.S.S.R.

1. He had not said that only ten countries were qualified to proceed to the census contemplated or had agreed to carry out such a census, but that, in the whole world, there were perhaps only ten countries which were sufficiently scientifically organised to be able to collect the necessary statistics. In actual fact, nearly all countries had already agreed to carry out the census in 1930.

2. The representative of the Institute of Agriculture was stated to have omitted reference to any country in which the system of returns had given satisfactory results. In the United States of America, however, that system had been in use for forty years.

The CHAIRMAN called on the Committee to examine one by one the various paragraphs of Recommendation V proposed by the U.S.S.R. delegation.

First Paragraph.

Only two members voted in favour of the first paragraph, which was consequently rejected by the majority of the Committee.

Second Paragraph.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) said that her delegation would not press the proposal that the proposed enquiry should be attached to the world agricultural census. It could be made the object of a separate recommendation.

The second paragraph was rejected.

Third, Fourth and Fifth Paragraphs.

The CHAIRMAN explained that the object of the fifth paragraph was to instruct the future Committee of Experts to draw up a plan for the execution of the recommendations contained in the first to the fourth paragraphs.

Mr. Estabrook (International Institute of Agriculture) asked that, should the fifth paragraph be approved, it should be amended by inserting in the first line the words : “in co-operation with the International Institute of Agriculture”. 

The CHAIRMAN proposed to discuss the three draft recommendations together. The Committee would subsequently vote upon them separately.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) summarised the proposals of the U.S.S.R. delegation and laid special emphasis upon Recommendation VIII. She thought that members were aware of the proceedings of the international conference on power held in London in 1924 and Basle in 1926, as well as of the world Economic Conference held at Geneva in 1927, where recommendations had been passed regarding the organisation of statistics of motive-power. The present Conference ought itself to adopt a recommendation drawing the attention of all countries to this problem, which was so important for the various aspects of national economic life. That life depended in a very great measure on the development of motive-power. There were only two countries, France and Italy, which had made a special study of the problem. Nevertheless, at the moment when the development of power was so widely extended, statistics in this field, far from having progressed, had on the contrary fallen off. It was regrettable more particularly that the valuable censuses carried out in France at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries had not been renewed. What the U.S.S.R. delegation desired to obtain was a greater degree of comparability than that provided by the present data. The Subcommittee on Industrial Statistics had discussed at great length the line of demarcation to be laid down between the main production of a country and that of small workshops, etc. No country had felt able to make any definite proposal. As had been pointed out in the Subcommittee, countries should be recommended to deal with this problem, and the experience acquired by any particular country could serve as a guide to other nations. By an actual mistake in the present methods of compiling statistics, small countries—for example, the Balkan States—owing to the manner in which they laid down the limit between large and small industries, appeared to be more developed industrially than countries such as Germany. The question should be immediately dealt with in order that, at the next Conference, it should be possible to reach an understanding in regard to the distinction to be made between the various forms of industries.

The CHAIRMAN noted that Recommendation VIII of the U.S.S.R. delegation was drafted in wider terms than Recommendations VI and VII, and that it laid special emphasis on statistics of power. If there were no objection, he would call upon the Committee to discuss Recommendation VIII in the first place, and then Nos. VI and VII. He recalled that the Committee had already dealt with statistics of power and had recommended that countries whose organisation was sufficiently developed should collect statistics relating to electric power, distinguishing between hydro-electric power and power produced by other means. In the annex relating to mineral statistics, it had inserted statistics of coal, petroleum and natural gas, that was to say, three main factors for the production of electric power.

Recommendation VIII.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) pointed out that electric current and primary power were two different things. In the United States, 72 per cent of primary power was electrified. In countries like Great Britain and the U.S.S.R., the ratio was 50 per cent, and only 40 per cent to 50 per cent in France and Italy. If countries confined themselves to measuring electric power, only 50 per cent of the primary power would be obtained in the case of most European countries, and 72 per cent in the case of the United States.

The CHAIRMAN said that obviously no industrial establishment, and certainly no country, kept statistics on the power produced by machines in factories apart from electric power. What it was desired to obtain was the quantity of fuel used, or figures for industrial plant. It was impossible to discover for how long they were used; only their fuel consumption would be known.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) said that these statistics already existed in the U.S.S.R.

The CHAIRMAN explained that he did not criticise the draft resolution, but merely desired to throw light on the discussion.

Recommendation VIII was adopted by twelve votes to eleven.

Recommendation VI.

The CHAIRMAN stated that Recommendation VI referred to the industrial census and was therefore closely connected with Annex I. The Committee had already decided to submit several amendments proposed to Annex I to the future Committee of Experts. He asked the U.S.S.R. delegation whether this decision of the Committee could be considered as applying to its recommendation, or whether it desired the Committee to decide that this recommendation should be sent to the Committee of Experts.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) did not understand whether the Committee had sent to the future Committee of Experts only amendments to Annex I, or, in addition, the whole of Annex I. Even in the latter case, the U.S.S.R. proposal could remain as a recommendation, not in connection with the census, but in connection with industrial statistics in general.
The CHAIRMAN explained that the Committee had already approved Annex I, but that it would naturally be submitted to the full Conference for approval. The question would arise of the powers to be given to the experts composing the future Committee. Perhaps they might be granted, among other powers, that of making amendments to Annex I, and, if this proved to be the case, the Committee had decided to refer to them those amendments which had been submitted to the Committee.

Mme. FALKNER-SMIT (U.S.S.R.) had not understood that the Sub-Committee on Industrial Statistics had accepted Annex I as such. She had thought, on the contrary, that the submission of the annex to the future Committee of Experts had been voted. Nevertheless, she agreed that Recommendation VI should be sent to the experts, though she thought that a difficulty still remained as to whether the Sub-Committee had adopted Annex I.

The Committee decided to submit draft Recommendation VI to the future Committee of Experts.

Recommendation VII.

Sir Sydney CHAPMAN (British Empire), Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Industrial Statistics, said that the Sub-Committee had gone as far as it was possible to go in adopting the new draft of Article 1, Paragraph III, sub-paragraph (g).

Only three members voted in favour of Recommendation VII, which was consequently rejected by the majority of the Committee.

5. Proposal regarding the Insertion of a Paragraph on Internal Trade in Article I (document C.S.O./Prod./16).

The CHAIRMAN noted that this recommendation applied to commercial establishments in the interior of a country and had no connection with transport. Article 1, Paragraph II, of the draft Convention contained the following phrase: "General censuses of industrial and, if possible, also of commercial establishments ". This clause had a more restricted scope, since it only covered the staff engaged and the power used. The U.S.S.R. proposal went further and covered factors such as turnover, the capital invested, the salaries paid, the profits, etc.

He also pointed out that provision had not been made for a compulsory industrial census; there was merely a recommendation that such a census should be carried out. When, therefore, the U.S.S.R. delegate, in his draft recommendation, made use of the phrase "simultaneously with industrial censuses, etc.", he appeared to assume that an obligation existed regarding industrial censuses, whereas in actual fact this was not the case.

M. DVOLAIJSKY (U.S.S.R.) said that the U.S.S.R. delegation submitted this proposal independently of the industrial census; it attached great importance to the question. The problem of the distribution of goods was of capital importance in national economic life. The question of the cost of the circulation, construction and organisation of commercial apparatus was of special importance, and certain economists, especially American economists, thought that it was by attacking the problem of internal trade that the very grave question of wastage would be solved. When this problem came to be studied, it would be noted that statistical data were invariably lacking. The object of the U.S.S.R. proposal was to remedy this defect.

The proposal of the U.S.S.R. delegation was rejected.

M. DVOLAIJSKY (U.S.S.R.) asked whether the Chairman could put the same proposal to the vote as a mere recommendation, explaining that, in that case, the U.S.S.R. delegation would submit the proposal in a shorter form at a future date.

The CHAIRMAN, in order not to delay the work of the Committee, proposed that it should take a decision on the principle of making a recommendation in the sense proposed by the U.S.S.R. delegation. If the principle was adopted by the Committee, then the U.S.S.R. delegation would present its proposal in another form at a subsequent date.

M. DVOLAIJSKY (U.S.S.R.) said that various interesting attempts had been made in this field, especially in the United States of America and in Germany. A reference to an innovation in this matter was to be found in the preparatory documents (census carried out in Denmark). It was not, therefore, a new question.

The CHAIRMAN said that, in the United States, a very strong movement had been noticed for the last three years in business and statistical circles in favour of a general census of commercial establishments. The American Congress had had before it a Bill by the terms of which such a census would be carried out in 1930 or 1931. He was under the impression that this draft was due to the initiative of the Census Office.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the question of principle — that was to say, whether the Conference would adopt any text in regard to the question of internal trade.

Only two members voted in favour of the proposal, which was therefore rejected by the majority of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee had submitted to the Sub-Committee on Industrial Statistics the question of statistics of industries comprising a very small number of establishments. To furnish these figures would in such cases be equivalent to revealing the production of these industrial establishments.

Sir Sydney CHAPMAN (British Empire), Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Industrial Statistics, asked that the Committee should take a decision on the three proposals of the Sub-Committee one after another.

The Committee adopted the proposal to insert the following clause in the Protocol:

"There is no obligation to publish figures which in effect involve the disclosure of information relating to any particular establishment."

In regard to the second proposal, to delete the words "and industries with very few establishments" in the addition to the Protocol which was adopted at the eighth meeting of the Committee, M. FUNK (Free City of Danzig) pointed out that the Free City could not furnish the figures in question, and asked that the words under discussion should be maintained.

The CHAIRMAN said that the passage had been deleted as the result of the adoption of the above text to be inserted in the Protocol. It was clear, according to this text, that the Government of a country possessing only a very small number of establishments could with reason refuse to furnish these figures. The words of which the deletion was requested were too vague. The danger of a country containing 20 or 25 establishments, for example, refusing to furnish figures on the pretext that it only possessed a small number of establishments within the meaning of the Protocol, must be avoided.

M. FUNK (Free City of Danzig) asked that the Protocol clause previously adopted should be completed by the addition of the words "there is no obligation to draw up and to publish".

Sir Sydney CHAPMAN (British Empire) agreed to this amendment.

The second proposal of the Sub-Committee was adopted.

In regard to the third proposal of the Sub-Committee, Sir Sydney CHAPMAN (British Empire) explained that, according to sub-paragraphs (g) and (h), it would be possible to furnish estimates in the case of small industrial enterprises, and that such estimates could be considered as constituting sufficient information.

The third proposal of the Sub-Committee was adopted.

ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION STATISTICS.

 Held on Friday, December 7th, 1928, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Durand.

26. Article 1, Paragraph IV: Index Numbers of Prices.

The CHAIRMAN observed that, as the Committee on Trade Statistics was overburdened with work, the Bureau had decided to transfer the discussion on Article 1, Paragraph IV, of the draft Convention (Index Numbers of Prices) to the Committee on Production Statistics.

He said that the Hungarian delegation had submitted to the Committee a proposal on this subject (document C.S.O./Commerce/27), including a detailed list of the groups and a description of the methods to be followed. The Hungarian delegation did not press for the examination of its proposal at the present moment, or for its insertion in the Convention, but asked that it might at any rate be referred to the Committee of Experts. The Chairman asked the Committee to take a decision on this question.

Sir Sydney CHAPMAN (British Empire) proposed that there should be introduced into the Protocol a general clause indicating that all questions of detail should be referred to the Committee of Experts for examination.

The CHAIRMAN noted that there was no objection to this proposal and declared it adopted.

The only amendment received hitherto was that from the American delegation (document C.S.O./Commerce/32), which proposed to replace Paragraph IV in its present form by the following:

"Index numbers expressing the general movement of wholesale prices and cost of living from month to month, and in this connection a short official statement indicating the items whose prices have been used in the calculation of the indices and the methods employed in the compilation."

M. van Dam van Isselt (Netherlands) also had an amendment to propose with the object of safeguarding the freedom of action of many countries which were not in a position to publish index numbers of the cost of living monthly.

The CHAIRMAN asked all delegations to intimate if they had amendments to propose.
Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) said that, in the proposal relating to labour statistics (document C.S.O./Prod./6, Annex II) submitted by her delegation, there were certain recommendations in regard to indices of the cost of living. It would be more logical to discuss all the proposals relating to that question simultaneously. She observed that attention should be paid, not only to the question of the variations in prices, but also to that of changes in working class consumption. In America, for instance, in the compilation of indices of the cost of living, account was taken, in a very detailed manner, of the commodities consumed by the working class. That method should be applied in all countries. For this reason, the U.S.S.R. delegation proposed the following additions:

"In order to obtain a more accurate and comparable scheme of the fluctuations in the level of real wages, it is desirable that the principles on which cost-of-living index figures are based should be made uniform. This shall be done on the following lines:

(a) The data shall cover all the essential commodities and the principal services used by the workers, weighted in proportion to their importance in the worker's budget.

(b) The figures shall be obtained by means of an enquiry into real consumption, and shall be periodically revised in the light of particulars obtained from the most recent enquiries.

(c) The items included in the index shall be representative of the typical budget of a factory worker earning average wages; it is also desirable that special indices should be compiled for groups of workers earning different wages and for clerical workers.

In order to study the fluctuations in the workers' standard of living and consumption and to obtain cost-of-living index numbers on a regular basis, enquiries into consumption shall be made at least once in every five years covering households of different degrees of prosperity, in sufficient numbers to provide reliable information."

The Chairman remarked that the U.S.S.R. delegation's amendment would be discussed in due time. He would propose at once that the Committee should not consider it as a suggestion for the amendment of the text of the Convention, but should submit it to the Committee of Experts, in accordance with the course adopted for the similar proposal made by the Hungarian delegation.

Mr. Holloway (South Africa) had an amendment to submit which was closely related to that of the Netherlands delegation. The amendment was to add, after the words "month by month", the following words:

"Provided that, in countries where the local conditions do not necessitate a monthly publication of indices of wholesale prices and of cost of living, a quarterly publication may be considered sufficient to comply with the requirements of the present article."

M. Nathan (Germany) observed that it was important that the countries should employ the same methods in the compilation of indices. As the Belgian representative had pointed out in the Committee on Trade Statistics, the discussion of any problem in regard to indices was useless unless it was understood that the States all took an identical basis. Various countries were proposing to take as a basis a post-war year: the date must be the same for all. The German delegation therefore proposed the following amendment:

"In order to ensure the comparability of variations in indices, it is essential that all countries should take the same period as a basis. The Committee of Experts will examine this question and will report to the League of Nations, which will communicate the results."

M. Kovero (Finland) said that his Government could not in any circumstances consent to the publication of actual wholesale prices, since Finnish business men considered that these came under the rule of professional secrecy. The Government could only publish index numbers.

The Chairman pointed out that this reservation referred more particularly to the American amendment and said that it would be examined in due course when the American amendment came up for discussion.

M. Szturm de Sztrem (Poland) said that, since 1921, Poland had calculated indices of the cost of living for 12 principal towns and indices of the cost of foodstuffs for 175 towns. The indices of wholesale prices were grouped in nine groups (four groups for agricultural products and five for industrial products). Indices of the prices of the principal agricultural products were calculated on the basis of prices quoted on the spot. The prices were published immediately—not only those which served as a basis for calculating the index numbers, but many others as well. All the methods followed were explained in the publications of the Polish Central Statistical Office.

On behalf of the Polish delegation, M. Szturm de Sztrem supported the proposal of the American delegation. He merely proposed the addition of the words: "Furthermore, the States undertake to publish the wholesale prices and retail prices of the principal commodities."

M. Gini (Italy) said that the statement made by the Polish delegate indicated the necessity of a small addition to the text of the draft Convention.
Poland published statistics of wholesale and retail prices for a certain number of towns. The same was done by many countries. It would also be helpful to state clearly that the data relating to the cost of living were only necessary in respect of the principal towns.

M. HUBER (France) observed that the draft required that, in connection with the publication of indices, there should be a brief official statement of the methods which were used as a basis for the calculation. Did this mean that the statement was to be issued every month? Obviously not, but the point must be made quite clear. He proposed, therefore, to omit the words “in this connection” and to say simply “each country to publish a short statement”, etc.

The CHAIRMAN thought that it would be best to begin by discussing each amendment separately. He thought that the amendments naturally fell into a number of groups. He proposed to take together those of the Netherlands delegation and of the South African delegation with regard to the periodicity of publication. If the Committee thought that it was losing too much time by this discussion, it might perhaps set up a Sub-Committee, but it must be hoped that a conclusion would be reached without too much delay and without having recourse to this procedure.

The Chairman first opened the discussion on the South African delegation's amendment, which, if adopted, would make the Netherlands amendment nugatory.

27. Discussion of Various Amendments relating to Index Numbers of Prices.

Amendment of the South African Delegation.

M. GINI (Italy) thought it right to call to mind what had been said in the Committee on Trade Statistics, namely, that the draft had been adopted by the Preparatory Committee after an exhaustive discussion. In the course of that discussion, two tendencies had emerged — one to extend and the other to restrict the obligations resulting from the Convention. These two tendencies had reappeared again in the Committee's proceedings.

It was better not to take a decision except after mature reflection. The South African amendment tended to restrict the obligations of the Convention. It was, however, realised that, from one month to another, prices might change appreciably, and that quarterly returns had been found inadequate in view of the interposition of a certain number of factors — in particular, seasonal factors. Moreover, it appeared that statistical bureaux would find no difficulty in giving monthly returns if they were willing to undertake a little more work and perhaps certain fresh expenditure. In conclusion, M. Gini pressed the South African delegation to examine the question once again and to withdraw its amendment.

Sir Sydney CHAPMAN (British Empire) observed that there were two distinct questions to be considered — that of wholesale prices and that of the cost of living. As to wholesale prices, the general opinion inclined towards monthly publication. Nevertheless, quarterly publication might suffice in certain countries and provision might be made for the insertion in the Protocol of an expression on the lines of that submitted by the South African delegate.

With regard to the cost of living, monthly publication, which in latter years had been very useful, was now of less importance. Governments, therefore, might be given greater latitude and publication be required “at least every three months”.

Finally, M. Gini had raised an important question of method. Sir Sydney Chapman agreed with him entirely in thinking that, for the calculation of indices, it was helpful to have monthly and even weekly returns. That, however, was a question which affected the working of the statistical bureaux, whereas in the Convention the only question was that of publication. It was for the Committee of Experts to study the problem of methods.

Mr. HOLLOWAY (South Africa) hastened to say that he was not among those who wished to weaken still further the force of the Convention. He had merely desired to find out whether other countries were in the same position as South Africa. If they were not, he was prepared to withdraw his amendment and to make a reservation for South Africa.

He admitted that, in regard to the question of wholesale prices, his amendment went further than that of the Netherlands, but he wished to urge that attention must be paid not only to countries in which the factory was situated near to the consumer. Moreover, except in a period of collapse such as that which had followed the war, monthly publication would afford no indispensable particulars.

The CHAIRMAN thought it right to recall the situation of the United States in regard to the periodicity of publication. The official indices of wholesale prices were published every month and private organisations issued them every week. Indices of the cost of living were published by the Government twice a year and by non-official organisations — which, however, worked on the same methods — every month. The considerable fluctuations in the post-war period had given particular importance to these publications, but for two years the changes had been quite insignificant, as little as one-half per cent from one week to another. The Governments might therefore rightly consider that the monthly publication of indices of the cost of living would involve useless expenditure. With regard to retail prices, it was well to remember that they changed very slightly and only slowly followed the movement of wholesale prices.

Mr. HOLLOWAY (South Africa) wished to know, in order to settle immediately the question of his amendment, whether other countries were in the position of the Union of South Africa.

Mr. MECK (India) and M. VILLEGAS (Mexico) said that their countries were in a similar position, and M. LE COSQUINO DE BUSSEY (Netherlands) made the same remark for the Dutch East Indies.
Mr. M. COPPOLA D'ANNA (International Chamber of Commerce) drew special attention to the great importance to business circles of the publication of indices of prices. He greatly hoped that the Convention would contain an undertaking to publish monthly statistics, inasmuch as the regularity with which the enquiries were carried out depended on certain measures which had still to be taken by the Government.

In these circumstances, the Brazilian delegation would request the Committee to consent to a reservation in regard to the compilation and publication of index numbers. It would, however, feel it its duty to call the Government’s attention to the importance attached by the Conference to the question.

Mr. MEEK (India) observed that hitherto the Committee had been considering only the question of time. Other questions of equal importance could be raised, such as that of the groups of commodities on which the indices were based, the system of weighting, etc. All these different points had been examined by the International Labour Office, which had published very helpful memoranda on the subject. Perhaps the question of the periodicity of publication might be usefully referred to the Committee of Experts, to which so much allusion had been made, and whose attention might also be drawn to the resolutions of the International Labour Office. In this way, it would be possible to delete from the Convention any allusion to the frequency of publication.

The Chairman thought that the nature of the work expected from the Committee of Experts must not be forgotten. That Committee could not take the place of the Conference. On the other hand, he would remind the Committee that the International Labour Office had decided upon the publication of monthly indices.

Most important of all, he did not think that the fact that the world was at present passing through a period of stability was a reason for abandoning monthly returns. It might well happen that circumstances would change again and in that case the Convention would be inadequate. He would further point out that the present stabilisation was only relative, and that certain commodities would change again and in that case the Convention would be inadequate. He would further point out that the present stabilisation was only relative, and that certain commodities on which the indices were based, the system of weighting, etc. All these different points had been examined by the International Labour Office, which had published very helpful memoranda on the subject. Perhaps the question of the periodicity of publication might be usefully referred to the Committee of Experts, to which so much allusion had been made, and whose attention might also be drawn to the resolutions of the International Labour Office. In this way, it would be possible to delete from the Convention any allusion to the frequency of publication.

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M. GINI (Italy) observed that, in the League Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, apart from South Africa, which gave quarterly indices, all countries either gave monthly indices or none at all.

M. CAVALCANTI ALBUQUERQUE DE GUSMÃO (Brazil) said that experiments had been made in Brazil with a view to compiling index numbers of prices and the cost of living. Generally speaking, the data related to the retail prices of the principal foodstuffs. At first, the enquiries had been restricted to certain localities, but now they comprised a large number of populous centres in Brazil. The work was carried out by a department of the Ministry of Agriculture which regularly collected the monthly bulletins. It would require a certain period of time before the official service, which had been set up only a very short while ago, could extend its field and embrace all the chief groups of expenditure in the family budget, such as housing, fuel, light, clothing, etc.

The Federal Administration had already published a few monographs. One of these, which had appeared in 1920 and the author of which had been Dr. Leo de Alfonseea, the Director of the Service of Trade Statistics, related to the cost of living in the city of Rio de Janeiro; a second, in 1924, from the pen of the Director-General of Statistics, Dr. Bulhoes Carvalho, dealt with index numbers of the retail prices of the principal foodstuffs in Brazil. This latter monograph had been submitted to the International Institute of Statistics at its Rome meeting in 1925. Furthermore, certain other indices made it possible to ascertain the variations in prices in the past few years as compared with the prices of 1914. The municipal administration of Rio de Janeiro also collected monthly valuable details as to retail prices. Investigations had been made, too, into the index numbers of wholesale prices. It would not be difficult to continue these enquiries in respect of the capital, where the official Bureaux regularly registered the quotations of the different foodstuffs. It would not, however, be equally easy to get together statistical data on the prices in other commercial centres. The regularity with which the enquiries were carried out depended on certain measures which had still to be taken by the Government.

Mr. MEECH (India) observed that hitherto the Committee had been considering only the question of time. Other questions of equal importance could be raised, such as that of the groups of commodities on which the indices were based, the system of weighting, etc. All these different points had been examined by the International Labour Office, which had published very helpful memoranda on the subject. Perhaps the question of the periodicity of publication might be usefully referred to the Committee of Experts, to which so much allusion had been made, and whose attention might also be drawn to the resolutions of the International Labour Office. In this way, it would be possible to delete from the Convention any allusion to the frequency of publication.

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M. Coppel D'Anna (International Chamber of Commerce) drew special attention to the great importance to business circles of the publication of indices of prices. He greatly hoped that the Convention would contain an undertaking to publish monthly statistics, inasmuch as that was the present practice in the majority of countries and as a great number of the others would be in a position to supply those statistics within a short time. Lastly, those States which could not enter into this commitment would be perfectly free to make reservations.

Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) was entirely in agreement with M. Coppola d'Anna on the point of substance, but he thought that the existence of special cases must be recognised in the Protocol. He proposed that in the Protocol there should be introduced one of the following sentences which would meet with the endorsement of his South African colleague, viz., either:

"In countries where local circumstances do not require the monthly preparation of index numbers of prices, quarterly publication will be held to satisfy the requirements of the present section";

Or — and this was a more hard-and-fast formula:

"In countries where, in view of local circumstances such as the extent of the countries or the limited or scattered nature of their industries, the monthly preparation of index numbers of wholesale prices is not requisite, a quarterly publication of these will be held to satisfy the requirements of this section."
Mr. Holloway (South Africa) said that he would accept the second formula proposed by Sir Sydney Chapman.

Mr. Meek (India) withdrew his proposal in favour of that made by Sir Sydney Chapman.

The Chairman noted that the Committee preferred the more hard-and-fast formula, and he declared its inclusion in the Protocol adopted.

Amendment of the Netherlands Delegation.

The Chairman then placed before the Committee the Netherlands amendment, authorising the quarterly publication of indices of the cost of living, and reading as follows:

"Index numbers expressing the general movement of wholesale prices from month to month, and index numbers expressing the general movement of cost of living quarterly and, if possible, monthly."

Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) preferred the term "at least quarterly". Certain countries might have grounds for doubting whether it was better to have monthly statistics.

The Chairman noted that the Committee approved the formula suggested by Sir Sydney Chapman.

The Netherlands amendment as revised by Sir Sydney Chapman was adopted by sixteen votes to eight.

Amendment of the German Delegation.

"To ensure the comparability of index numbers, it is necessary that all countries should adopt the same basic period. The Committee of Experts shall examine this question and present a report to the League of Nations, which will communicate the result."

M. Platzter (Germany) observed that his proposal was chiefly of importance in regard to indices of wholesale prices. In the case of the cost of living, the year 1930 had already been taken as a basis in the negotiations conducted by the International Labour Office.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) agreed in principle with the proposal as to publication made by the German delegation, but made certain reservations as to the expediency of limiting the discussion of the question to the League of Nations.

Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) asked if the German proposal formed an addition to Paragraph IV of Article 1.

The Chairman thought that it would be better to give the proposal the form of a recommendation, in view of the nature of the Convention and because it was not in the intentions of the Conference to go into details. Consequently, the opening words might be amended to read: "With a view to ensuring the comparability of variations in indices, it is desirable that..."

M. Platzter (Germany) accepted the interpretation suggested by the Chairman.

M. Bernardi (Italy) approved the recommendation, but, as the International Labour Office was working on this question, he proposed that it should also be recommended that the Committee of Experts should take into consideration the work done by the International Labour Office both in the past and at the present time.

M. Platzter (Germany) agreed.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) was opposed to this addition, because the International Labour Office was an organisation placed under the auspices of the League of Nations.

The Chairman noted that the Committee did not agree with Mme. Falkner-Smit.

M. Huber (France) pointed out that the work of the International Labour Office was conducted in co-operation with the International Institute of Statistics.

The Chairman suggested that allowance should be made for this fact.

The Committee assented.

The Chairman then read the following final text of the German proposal:

"With a view to ensuring the comparability of variations in indices, it is desirable that all countries should take the same basic period. The Committee of Experts, taking into account the work done by the International Labour Office and by the International Institute of Statistics, will examine this point and present a report to the League of Nations, which will communicate the result."

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) explained that her delegation was not opposed to the substance of the proposal, but to co-operation with the International Labour Office.

The recommendation proposed by the German delegation was approved.

Proposal by M. Huber (France).

After an exchange of views between M. Huber (France), M. Gini (Italy) and the Chairman, the Drafting Committee was instructed to find a satisfactory formula in regard to the publication of the official statement indicating the items the prices of which were used for the calculation of index numbers.
Amendment of the Italian Delegation.

M. Gini (Italy) said that his amendment (referred to earlier in the meeting) was intended to indicate that for the data relating to the cost of living it was sufficient to consider one or more big towns.

Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) supported this proposal and suggested that the question should be referred to the Drafting Committee, which would find the formula to be included in the Protocol.

M. Colson (France) approved Sir Sydney Chapman’s proposal.

The Italian amendment was adopted in substance.

Amendment of the United States Delegation.

Mr. Durand (United States of America) ceded the Chair to M. Breisky and addressed the Committee as a member of the American delegation. The latter had proposed its amendment because it was desirable to ascertain the reasons for fluctuations which occurred in the indices. They might be the result of a rise or a drop in agricultural products or in industrial products, or simply in one single product, as had been recently observed in the United States in the case of rubber.

Mr. Durand understood, however, that, in certain countries, the publication of such prices would be equivalent to the divulgation of business secrets and, furthermore, he realised that it might involve heavy expenditure. Accordingly, after full reflection, and after having considered the possibility of proposing that the stipulation made in this amendment should be optional, the American delegation now withdrew that amendment and proposed a second on the following lines:

“And, as far as practicable, each State undertakes to publish at the same intervals the real prices of the different items used for the calculation of the index numbers.”

Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) was prepared to accept this proposal. He thought that the publication of the items should be compulsory, but he recognised that there were difficulties in giving the prices of those items.

M. Gini (Italy) said that most countries would be unable to meet an engagement of that kind. There was no necessity to know the individual price in order to compile an index of prices. In the past, the Italian Customs, for instance, published each year a first estimate of imports and exports based on the prices of the preceding year and then a final estimate based on the prices of the current year. These estimates made it possible to calculate the index of import and export prices without knowing the individual prices. He did not deny that it would be desirable for all States to publish the prices of the items, but at the present time that was not possible. M. Gini thought that the best solution would be for the Conference to restrict itself to a recommendation.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) approved the American proposal and suggested that, after the words “wholesale prices”, the words “and retail prices” be added.

M. Huber (France) thought that Mr. Durand’s proposal should be included among the Recommendations, and that the different countries should be left free to publish either the absolute or the relative prices.

Mr. Durand (United States of America) approved the second part of M. Huber’s suggestion in regard to the publication of absolute or relative figures, but he would be glad to know the percentage of countries which published the prices of the individual items, and he thought that the majority of countries did so. In any case, he would prefer that his proposal should form the subject of something better than a recommendation. If this were not agreed to, however, the American delegation would acquiesce in a recommendation. The recommendation might be given the following form:

“It is desirable that countries should publish the prices of the individual items used for the calculation of the indices, in so far as they divulge no business secret.”

M. Coppola d’Anna (International Chamber of Commerce) observed that the monthly publication of all these various data would involve very appreciable expenditure. He proposed that, in view of the particular importance of wholesale prices, the publication of the prices of the individual items should be limited to them and that the retail prices which were used for the compilation of index numbers of the cost of living should be omitted.

The discussion was adjourned.

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION STATISTICS.

Held on Friday, December 7th, 1928, at 5.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Durand.

In the Chair: M. Breisky (Austria), Vice-Chairman.

28. Article 1, Paragraph IV: Index Numbers of Prices (continued).

Proposal of the American Delegation.

Mr. Durand (United States of America), said that, in order to make allowance for the suggestions and criticisms made in regard to the original proposal of the American delegation,
he was submitting two distinct texts to the Committee. The first consisted of a recommendation as follows:

"The Conference recommends that, so far as practicable, each country should publish, in absolute or relative form, all the prices of individual commodities used in compiling the indices of wholesale prices and of the cost of living provided for in Article I, Paragraph IV, together with indices for the major groups of commodities."

M. Nathan (Germany) thought it better to mention the prices, not of the various commodities, but only of the principal commodities. In Germany, so many prices were used for the compilation of indices that it would be almost impossible to publish them all, and no doubt other countries were in the same position.

Mr. Durand (United States of America) pointed out that the words "so far as practicable" answered the German delegation's objection. This optional clause could be adduced by countries like Germany which did not wish to publish all the prices. The publication of all prices would be possible for the United States of America.

M. Nathan (Germany) pressed his amendment. With the text of the American proposal as it stood, the public might insist upon knowing all the prices, and that would involve covering an immense field.

Mr. Durand (United States of America), in order to satisfy the German delegate, consented to the insertion, after the words "individual commodities", the words "or at least the prices of the more important commodities."

M. Van Dam van Issett (Netherlands) observed that it was sometimes in regard to the most important commodities that secrecy was considered desirable.

The American proposal, as amended, was adopted.

Mr. Durand (United States of America) thought that it would be expedient to have a provision of a more hard-and-fast nature than a simple recommendation, and submitted, on behalf of the American delegation, the second text, as follows, to be added to Paragraph IV of the Convention:

"Furthermore, the States undertake, so far as practicable, to publish for the same intervals the absolute or relative prices at wholesale and retail of the principal individual commodities."

He added that, for the American delegation, it would be preferable to omit the words "and retail" and to refer solely to wholesale prices.

M. Bernardi (Italy) said that his delegation considered sufficient the recommendation which had been approved earlier. In Italy, the chambers of commerce and various publications gave price quotations, etc. The States could not be placed under an obligation to issue official publications on that subject.

The Chairman put to the vote the American proposal with the omission of the words "and retail".

The proposal was adopted by ten votes to seven.

(Mr. Durand (United States of America), Chairman, resumed the Chair.)

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the U.S.S.R. delegation had submitted an amendment on the question which had just been discussed. In agreement with that delegation, he proposed now to begin the examination of the Committee's report and to take the U.S.S.R. amendment later.

The Committee assented.


M. Jahn (Norway), Rapporteur, submitted the Committee's draft report and drew attention to a number of amendments to be inserted in the text, the French translation of which had been made somewhat hastily.

Acting on a suggestion by M. Ito (Japan), the Chairman requested the Rapporteur to assist the Drafting Committee in establishing the final text of the report. The same request was made to the other members of the Committee who might desire to bring certain questions of form to the notice of the Drafting Committee.

Draft Convention.

Article 1.

Paragraph I. — Occupations.

At the request of M. Huber (France), the word "relevés" was replaced by the word "statistiques".

M. Kritzmann (U.S.S.R.) reminded the Committee that on this as on almost all points on which the U.S.S.R. delegation had submitted amendments it had been outvoted. His delegation did not wish to raise again during the discussion of the report its objections in regard to each article considered, but it would submit to the plenary Conference all its amendments and proposals together.
Paragraph II. — Establishments.

M. Bernardi (Italy) said that, when countries held no general census of the establishments in question, it appeared necessary that they should nevertheless supply information as to the scope of the census and indicate the approximate proportion of the number of workers employed in these establishments to the total number of workers. He proposed that sub-paragraph (1) should be completed by the words:

"An estimate shall be made of the number of persons employed with a view to determining the importance of establishments not covered by the census."

Sir Sydney Chapman (British Empire) supported the amendment. He asked, however, for the addition of the words "if possible", since certain countries might be unable to supply such an estimate.

M. Bernardi (Italy) nevertheless thought that every country could give a general indication of the following kind: "We do not include in the census establishments of less than 10 workers; these represent x per cent of the total."

M. Van Dam Van Isselt (Netherlands) pointed out that, although the number of persons employed in the Netherlands in the wooden-clog factories covered by the census could be given, it was not possible to estimate the number of persons in that industry working outside those factories.

The addition proposed by Sir Sydney Chapman to the Italian amendment was adopted by twelve votes to seven.

The Italian amendment thus amended was adopted.

M. Bernardi (Italy) asked for the elimination of the words "of the persons employed and power equipment . . . "

The Chairman reminded the Committee that these words had been introduced in order to elucidate the text, since, in the United States of America, a general census of establishments would mean the same thing as a general census of industrial production.

The proposal of the Italian delegation was rejected by seven votes to six.

M. Bernardi (Italy) drew attention to a difference between the English text ("all establishments of any considerable importance") and the French text ("tous ceux qui présentent une importance considérable"). What was really desired was only to exclude small establishments, and not to limit the census to establishments of any considerable importance. He proposed that the French text should read: "d'une certaine importance".

The Chairman observed that this point would be brought to the attention of the Drafting Committee.

At the request of M. Huber (France), the Chairman added that the Drafting Committee would endeavour to find an appropriate French term for "power equipment". What was wanted was the capacity of the machines producing the power.

Paragraph III. — Industries: Sub-Paragraphs (g) and (h).

With regard to the new clauses to be introduced in the Protocol, M. Jahn (Norway), Rapporteur, observed that the second addition appeared to refer only to sub-paragraphs (g) and (h) whereas, in point of fact, it applied equally to sub-paragraph (f).

The Chairman recalled that it had been agreed that the clause in question should apply to the entire Convention. However, the Committee had only to deal with the articles which had been specially submitted to it. It might therefore be held that the first of the two clauses in question was the only one which concerned the Committee; the second would be submitted to the Conference by the Bureau for approval.

M. Michaykoff (Bulgaria) thought the wording of the first clause not very clear.

The Chairman replied that the Drafting Committee would adjust the French and English texts. He added that, in regard to the second clause, the procedure to be followed would be to request the Bureau to recommend its adoption by the plenary Conference.

The text of the report down to the end of Article 1 was approved with various drafting amendments.

THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION STATISTICS.

Held on Saturday, December 8th, 1928, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Durand.


Articles 3 and 4.

Articles 3 and 4 were adopted without discussion.
The CHAIRMAN recalled that a number of the amendments proposed to Annexes I and II had been submitted to the Committee of Experts. This method was particularly practical as the amendments related to optional provisions.

Mr. HOLLOWAY (South Africa) asked that this explanation should appear in the Minutes.

The CHAIRMAN, in order to satisfy Mr. Holloway, drew the Committee's attention to the paragraph in the report which read as follows:

"A certain number of amendments to Annexes I and II had been proposed, and the Conference decided to submit them to the Committee of Technical Experts referred to in Article 8."

Annexes I and II were adopted.

M. COLSON (France) asked whether the Committee of Experts would deal with these questions by the terms of the Convention or under the general powers conferred upon it.

The CHAIRMAN replied that the Committee of Experts would be called upon to study this question in virtue of terms of reference which, in his view, should not appear in the Convention but in the Protocol or in the Recommendations.

M. COLSON (France) recalled that the Bureau of the Conference would meet at 11.30 to draw up a text defining the powers of the experts. It would be useful if it could be known whether the question would be examined by the experts in virtue of the terms of the Convention or on their own initiative.

The CHAIRMAN was in favour of a special recommendation, but, if the Bureau thought that this recommendation should not be included in the Final Act, he hoped that his colleagues would see no objection. He proposed that the question should be submitted to the Bureau.

M. COLSON (France) said that the Committee had no list before it of the questions to be submitted to the experts. He would be happy if the Secretariat would draw up such a list.

The Committee decided that the question should be sent to the Bureau.

Article 5.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a mistake in this article. It referred to Annex III and not to Annex IV. He suggested a slight amendment, consisting in substituting for the words "acceptance of Annex IV", the words "acceptance of the principles of Annex III". This amendment had been approved by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Mining and Metallurgical Statistics.

The amendment was adopted.

Annex III.

The CHAIRMAN observed that the text of this annex had been considerably amended.

General Provisions.

M. HUBER (France) pointed out that part of the provisional text of the report of the Sub-Committee had been included in the annex instead of the revised text drawn up by the Drafting Committee. He would agree to the general provisions provided that the text of the Drafting Committee were re-inserted.

The CHAIRMAN said that this had already been done and that account would be taken of it.

Mr. MITCHELL (British Empire) pointed out that the same mistake had occurred in the English text. The Drafting Committee had proposed to substitute, for the phrase: "the Committee of Experts will be instructed to bear in mind", the formula: "A Committee specially convened by the Committee of Experts will be instructed", etc.

The general provisions, with the modification proposed by Mr. Mitchell, were adopted.

A. Production of Non-Metallic Minerals.

1. Coal.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the fact that the representative of the Netherlands had proposed an amendment to the effect that actual production at the end of each month should be given in conformity with the table prepared by the International Chamber of Commerce. He wondered whether it would be useful to change the formula. What was essential was to have monthly statistics, whether they were average figures or figures relating to the beginning, end or middle of the month.

Mr. MITCHELL (British Empire) agreed with the Chairman that this question was of little importance. It had been discussed at great length by the Sub-Committee and the solution that average figures should be given had appeared preferable. If the figure of output for a particular date were asked for, an accident or a strike on that day might reduce the real output, and thus cause the figure to be inaccurate. The Governments were left perfectly free by the formula contained in Article 5, which stipulated that the figures should be furnished "as far as possible".

M. COLSON (France) also thought that average figures would be preferable to other figures.

The CHAIRMAN asked, in view of the very wide form in which Article 5 had been drafted, if it was not possible for the representative of the Netherlands to withdraw his amendment.
He said that, in submitting the formula, he had not intended to express any opinion or preference, but merely to suggest a compromise which would satisfy everybody.

M. Coppola d'Anna (International Chamber of Commerce) thought that the formula of the Drafting Committee was sufficiently supple, which was all to the good. Though, however, an elastic text might be necessary, it was equally necessary to have something precise. He proposed, therefore, that the present text should be maintained.

M. van Dam van Issett (Netherlands), in view of the formula “as far as possible” in Article 5, withdrew his amendment.

2. Other Non-Metallic Minerals.
   Adopted.

B. Production of Iron Ore and Minette.
   Adopted.

C. Production of Non-Ferrous Metallic Ore.
   Adopted.

D. Production of Metals.
   Adopted.

Draft Protocol: Paragraph III.

M. Dore (International Institute of Agriculture) pointed out that the reference to the Eighth Assembly of the Institute should be replaced by reference to the Ninth. It had been the Ninth Assembly which had just been held, and which had adopted the standard form.

Draft Recommendations: Recommendation I.

Sub-paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4) were adopted.

The Chairman pointed out that sub-paragraph (5), since it did not refer to countries whose basic economic statistics were not highly developed, should be kept separate from the others.

The Committee agreed to this proposal and the paragraph was adopted.

Recommendation III.

Adopted.


The new draft proposed by the Rapporteur was adopted.

M. Jahn (Norway), Rapporteur, said that two additions to the Protocol and two Recommendations had been prepared. He submitted first the additions to the Protocol (documents C.S.O./Prod./23 and 24).

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) said that, at the last meeting but one, she had proposed an amendment on behalf of the U.S.S.R. delegation regarding the insertion in the Protocol of a part of document C.S.O./Prod./6, Annex II, regarding cost-of-living indices. The object of this amendment was to make the statistics really comparable.

The Chairman put the amendment of the U.S.S.R. delegation to the vote.

The amendment was rejected.

The Chairman repeated what he had said in connection with the proposal of the Hungarian delegation, to the effect that all proposals would be examined by the Committee of Experts.

Documents C.S.O./Prod./22 and C.S.O./Prod./26 were adopted.


The Chairman said that the work of the Committee on Production Statistics was now finished. The Committee had undoubtedly improved the documents which had been submitted to it by making them clearer and wider in scope, and by introducing optional provisions in order to diminish the number of reservations which States might feel compelled to make. He warmly appreciated the activity and spirit of conciliation shown by the members of the Committee and of the Sub-Committees. He also wished to thank the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur and the members of the Secretariat who had co-operated in the work of the Committee, which would, he hoped, be approved by the Conference.

M. Gini (Italy), on behalf of his colleagues, thanked the Chairman for the able and energetic manner in which he had presided over the discussions. His task had been a delicate one in view of the number of nations represented and the divergence of views.

Mme. Falkner-Smit (U.S.S.R.) expressed her thanks to the Chairman on behalf of her delegation for the clear and impartial manner in which he had presided over the discussions.
IV. Documents.
### A. ANALYTICAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS.

The numbers missing from the following list refer to documents containing circular letters of an administrative order by the Secretariat, documents which were never distributed, etc.

Articles and paragraphs cited in the following list refer to the Draft Convention (Part II of the present volume), unless otherwise stated.

### B. Plenary Conference Documents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document ID</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.1</td>
<td>(Extract) Resolution of International Institute of Statistics relating to systems of compilation of International Trade Statistics</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.2</td>
<td>Draft Convention (Part II of this volume)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.2.Annex</td>
<td>List of Countries. [This list as finally drafted is reproduced in Part V (Constitution, Annex I, Part II).]</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.6</td>
<td>Reports submitted by the International Chamber of Commerce.</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.7</td>
<td>Recommendation proposed by the South African Delegation (Grouping of Statistical Conferences).</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.8</td>
<td>Amendments proposed by the British Delegation.</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.9/Bureau</td>
<td>Amendments to Articles 7 (Reservations), 8 (Committee of Experts) and 9 (Settlement of Disputes), proposed by the French Delegation</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.10/Bureau</td>
<td>Recommendation proposed by the Brazilian Delegation (Article 2, paragraph III : Units of Measure).</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.11/Bureau</td>
<td>Declaration by the Delegate of Norway (Article 2, paragraph II : Declared Values).</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.12/Bureau</td>
<td>Amendment relating to Statistics of Occupations proposed by the Committee on Production Statistics.</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.13/Bureau</td>
<td>Draft Recommendation relating to Transport Statistics, submitted by the Polish Delegation.</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.16</td>
<td>Letter from the President of the International Institute of Statistics to M. Rappard.</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.17/Bureau</td>
<td>Recommendation proposed by the French Delegation (Article 2, paragraph III : Units of Measure).</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.18/Bureau</td>
<td>Reservation submitted by the Delegations of Brazil, Italy, Norway, Roumania and Sweden (Article 2, paragraph VII : Bunker Fuel).</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.19/Bureau</td>
<td>Amendment proposed by the British Delegation (Article 7 : Reservations).</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.20/Bureau</td>
<td>Observations of the Greek Delegation (Article 9 : Settlement of Disputes).</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.21/Bureau</td>
<td>Proposal submitted by Sir Sydney Chapman (Article 8 : Committee of Experts).</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.22/Bureau</td>
<td>Amendment proposed by the Netherlands Delegation (Article 10 : Colonial Clause).</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.23/Bureau</td>
<td>Protocol Clause relating to the competence of the International Institute of Agriculture, proposed by M. V. Doré.</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.25</td>
<td>Report of the Committee on Production Statistics.</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.26/Bureau</td>
<td>Revised proposal submitted by Sir Sydney Chapman (Article 8). (See also C.S.O.21).</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.27/Bureau</td>
<td>Reservation submitted by the Netherlands Delegation (Article 10 : Colonial Clause).</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.28/Bureau</td>
<td>Recommendation proposed by M. Ito (Article 11 : Ratifications).</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.29</td>
<td>Report of the Committee on Trade Statistics.</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.30/Bureau</td>
<td>Recommendation regarding the Development of Statistics proposed by Sir Sydney Chapman.</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.31/Bureau</td>
<td>Draft Recommendation concerning the Constitution of the Committee of Experts.</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.32/Bureau</td>
<td>Paragraph proposed by Sir Sydney Chapman (Article 8, paragraph II : Functions of the Committee of Experts).</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.O.33/Bureau</td>
<td>Reservation submitted by the Danzig Delegation (Article 1, paragraph III (g) and (h) : Industrial Statistics).</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C.S.O.34/Bureau. Reservations submitted by the Czechoslovak Delegation

C.S.O.35. Text of Articles adopted by the Committee on Trade Statistics.

C.S.O.36/Bureau. Text of Articles adopted by the Bureau.

C.S.O.37. Census of Industrial Production (See Convention, Annex IV).

C.S.O.38. Indices of Industrial Activity (See Convention, Annex V).


C.S.O.41/Bureau. Text proposed by Drafting Committee for new Article 1.

C.S.O.42. Recommendations adopted by the Committee on Production Statistics (contained in C.S.O.25).

C.S.O.43/Bureau. Reservations submitted by the Latvian and Estonian Delegations (Recommendation II, 4 : Customs Nomenclature).


C.S.O.49/Bureau. Recommendation relating to further statistical agreements proposed by the South African Delegation.

C.S.O.50/Bureau. Text of New Article 1 adopted by the Bureau (See also C.S.O.41).


C.S.O.54. Draft Additional Protocol Clause (ad Article 1, paragraph III (g) and (h): Industrial Statistics).

C.S.O.55/Bureau. Reservations submitted by the Turkish Delegation.

C.S.O.56/Bureau. Recommendation proposed by the Egyptian Delegation (ad Article 8: Committee of Experts).


C.S.O.60. Draft Resolutions and Recommendations for the Final Act.


C.S.O.62/Bureau. Recommendation proposed by the Egyptian Delegation (Co-operation between the League and the International Institute of Statistics).


C.S.O.68/Bureau. Reservation submitted by the Canadian Delegation (Article 2, paragraph II (a) and (b): Agricultural Statistics).


C.S.O.71. Draft Resolution 1 (ad Article 8: Committee of Experts).

C. Documents of the Committee on Trade Statistics.

C.S.O./Commerce/2. Amendment proposed by the Netherlands Delegation (Article 1, paragraph V: External Trade and Shipping). ........................................ 107
C.S.O./Commerce/4. Amendment proposed by the French Delegation (Article 2, paragraph VIII (b): Movements to be excluded from Statistics). ........................................ 270
C.S.O./Commerce/5. Proposal relating to the Draft List of Countries submitted by the Portuguese Delegation ........................................ 270
C.S.O./Commerce/6. Amendments proposed by the Belgian Delegation (Article 1, paragraph V: External Trade, and Article 2: Statistical Methods). ........................................ 270
C.S.O./Commerce/7. Report of the Sub-Committee on the Definition of Special and General Trade ........................................ 121
C.S.O./Commerce/11. Amendment proposed by the Latvian and Estonian Delegations (Article 2, paragraph VIII: Movements to be excluded from Statistics). ........................................ 270
C.S.O./Commerce/12. Amendment proposed by the Japanese Delegation (Article 2, paragraph IV: Special Trade). ........................................ 271
C.S.O./Commerce/15. Definition of Transit Trade proposed by the German Delegation ........................................ 271
C.S.O./Commerce/17. Amendments proposed by the Delegations of Poland and Danzig (Article 2, paragraph V: Recording of Goods by Countries). ........................................ 138
C.S.O./Commerce/18. Amendments proposed by the Latvian and Estonian Delegations (Article 2, paragraph VIII: Movements to be excluded from Statistics). ........................................ 271
C.S.O./Commerce/23. Recommendation proposed by the French Delegation (ad Article 2, paragraph V, § 4 : List of Countries). ........................................ 150
C.S.O./Commerce/24. Amendment proposed by the Polish Delegation (Recommendation II : Statistical Nomenclature). ........................................ 156
C.S.O./Commerce/25. Proposal for Protocol relating to Transit Trade submitted by the Latvian and Estonian Delegations (ad Article 2, paragraph IV) ........................................ 274
C.S.O./Commerce/27. Proposal submitted by the Hungarian Delegation (Article 1, paragraph IV: Index Numbers of Prices). ........................................ 274
C.S.O./Commerce/29. Third Report of the principal Sub-Committee ........................................ 276
C.S.O./Commerce/31. Amendment proposed by M. Claessens (Article 2, paragraph IV: Special and General Trade). ........................................ 277
C.S.O./Commerce/32. Proposal submitted by the American Delegation (Article 1, paragraph IV: Index Numbers of Prices). ........................................ 152
C.S.O./Commerce/34. Amendment proposed by the Japanese Delegation (Annex IV: Fishery Statistics) 278
C.S.O./Commerce/35. Amendment proposed by the French Delegation (Article 2, paragraph V: Recording of Goods by Countries) 279
C.S.O./Commerce/36. Observation by the Greek Delegation (Article 2, paragraph V, No. 1: Double Indication of Countries) 279
C.S.O./Commerce/37. Amendment proposed by the German Delegation (Article 2, paragraph V, § 4: List of Countries) 279
C.S.O./Commerce/38. Proposal submitted by the Austrian Delegation (Article 2, paragraph IV: Repair Trade) 280
C.S.O./Commerce/39. Amendment proposed by the French Delegation (Article 2, paragraph V, § 4: List of Countries) 280
C.S.O./Commerce/40. Draft Articles submitted by the Sub-Committee on Fishery Statistics 280
C.S.O./Commerce/41. Draft Paragraphs (Article 2, Paragraph V) submitted by the principal Sub-Committee 281
C.S.O./Commerce/42. Text of Articles relating to Fisheries adopted by the Committee (Modifications interpolated into C.S.O./Commerce/40) 281
C.S.O./Commerce/43. Text of remaining Articles adopted by the Committee 283
C.S.O./Commerce/44. Report of the Committee on Trade Statistics (See C.S.O./Commerce/35) 249
C.S.O./Commerce/45. Final Text of Articles adopted by the Committee and submitted to the Conference (See C.S.O./Commerce/35) 260

D. Documents of the Committee on Production Statistics.

C.S.O./Prod./2. Amendment proposed by the Czechoslovak Delegation (Article 1, paragraph III (g) and (h): Industrial Statistics) 194
C.S.O./Prod./3. Proposal submitted by the Japanese Delegation (Article 1, paragraph III (b) and (c): Agricultural and Live-stock Returns) 190
C.S.O./Prod./4. Amendments proposed by the Italian Delegation (Article 1, paragraph III (a), (g) and (h): Agricultural and Industrial Statistics) 186
C.S.O./Prod./5. Amendments proposed by the Polish Delegation (Articles 7, Reservations; 8, Committee of Experts, and 15, Duration of Convention) 286
C.S.O./Prod./6. Annexes I, II and III: Further Amendments proposed by the U.S.S.R. Delegation 292
C.S.O./Prod./7. Amendment proposed by the Roumanian Delegation (Article 1, paragraph III (h): Indices of Industrial Activity) 296
C.S.O./Prod./8. Amendment proposed by the Polish Delegation (Article 3: Census of Industrial Production) 296
C.S.O./Prod./9. Amendments proposed by the Italian Delegation (Article 3 and Annex I: Census of Industrial Production) 296
C.S.O./Prod./10. Draft Texts contained in C.S.O./Production/13 297
C.S.O./Prod./11. Declaration of the Finnish Delegation relating to Annexes I and II (Industrial Census and Indices of Industrial Activity) 297
C.S.O./Prod./12. Report of the Sub-Committee on Industrial Statistics 297
C.S.O./Prod./14. Proposal relating to Statistics of Arms and Munitions submitted by the U.S.S.R. Delegation (Article 1, paragraph III) 301
C.S.O./Prod./15. Proposal relating to Statistics of Internal Trade submitted by the U.S.S.R. Delegation (Article 1) 301
C.S.O./Prod./16. Recommendations proposed by the U.S.S.R. Delegation (Additional Agricultural and Industrial Statistics) 301
C.S.O./Prod./17. Report of the Sub-Committee on Industrial Statistics on proposed Additions to the Protocol 302
C.S.O./Prod./18. Text of Articles, Protocol Clauses and Recommendations adopted by the Committee on Production Statistics 303
C.S.O./Prod./19. Report of the Committee on Production Statistics (See C.S.O./25) 244
C.S.O./Prod./20. Texts interpolated in C.S.O./Production/19 303
B. PLENARY CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS.

Note.—Documents included in the Minutes are not given in this Section. For such documents see the Analytical List above (page 223).

C.S.0.1 (Extract).—RESOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS RELATING TO SYSTEMS OF COMPILATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS (Brussels, 1923).

EXTRACT FROM THE PREPARATORY DOCUMENTS.

The International Institute of Statistics is of opinion that statistics of international trade should make it possible to ascertain exactly the special trade of each State. Special trade should not include any part of transit trade; the imposition of a statistical duty appears to offer a method of minimising the confusion which often arises between special trade and transit trade. Uniform regulations should be agreed to as regards goods introduced into the country or exported abroad for the purposes of undergoing additional treatment.

The International Institute of Statistics is, moreover, of opinion that, when countries reorganise their trade statistics, the following general principles might with advantage be adopted:

(a) Special Trade and General Trade indicated in Separate Tables.

1. Special Imports (into the Customs territory). These should include all goods directly imported for domestic consumption or cleared from bond for the same purpose, and all goods declared for transformation or additional treatment. Re-packing and re-sorting do not constitute transformation or additional treatment.

2. Special Exports. These should include all exported goods produced in the country or nationalised. Nationalised goods should be taken to mean goods coming from abroad placed at the free disposal of the importers after payment of any duties to which they may be liable, and those which have undergone transformation or supplementary treatment and which have been admitted temporarily duty free for these purposes.

With the exception of goods the exclusion of which is specifically recommended above, general trade should be taken to include: as regards imports, everything arriving from abroad or from the colonies, regardless of the origin or destination of the goods, and intended either for consumption or for warehousing in bond, or for re-exportation or transit; and, as regards exports, everything leaving the country for a foreign destination, whatever may be the origin of the goods in question.

When the improvement trade referred to at the end of the first paragraph of this chapter is shown in special tables, the International Institute of Statistics recommends that the full value of each category of goods (material plus added value) should be shown both on arrival and departure, and that separate tables shall be drawn up to this effect.

(b) General Trade and Special Trade not indicated separately.

In this case, it is desirable that at least exports and re-exports should be indicated separately. The re-exports should include all goods imported and subsequently exported without undergoing any physical process; their re-packing and re-sorting are not considered as constituting a physical process for this purpose.

(c) General Remarks.

It is desirable that the tables of each country should indicate the quantities (and the values, if possible) of coal and other fuel supplied in ports to foreign-trade shipping separately: (a) to national vessels, and (b) to foreign vessels.

The temporary importation and exportation of goods involving no commercial transaction (e.g., goods for exhibition, horse-races, etc.) should be excluded from the statistics of international trade.

Ships' stores, in view of the technical difficulty of their inclusion, should likewise be excluded. Gold coin, gold bullion and silver coin should be shown in special tables. Refined and unrefined gold should be indicated separately, under both weight and value.

Fishery products which are regarded by a State as national produce should not be included in the imports of that State.

C.S.O.6.—REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.†

REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE COAL-MINING INDUSTRY.

July 10th, 1928.

In no industry is the need for international statistics in regard to production greater than in the coal-mining industry. There is no necessity to dwell on its importance. We need only mention, on the one hand, the enormous value of its products and the number of workers it

†The International Chamber of Commerce submitted reports covering the whole of the work on industrial statistics which it had undertaken in the course of the year. Only the reports that were directly relevant to the work of the Conference are reproduced here.
employs in various countries and, on the other, the direct dependence of the most important world economic activities, such as maritime and river navigation, the operation of railways, metallurgical production and, in fact, of industrial enterprise as a whole on the coal-mining industry. The cost of heating — an essential item in the domestic budget — depends on the fluctuations of the coal market, as does also cost of production in a number of industries which are affected to a greater or lesser degree, according to the processes employed. Moreover, world prices of commodities are influenced by the state of the coal market to such an extent that it is not too much to say that these fluctuations react on the world economic system as a whole.

The value of world statistics is dependent on two conditions, namely, that the statistical data for each country should be absolutely homogeneous, and that they should be confined to the particulars which it is possible for national statistical organisations to furnish at the moment.

Official statistics relating to the coal output are published in many countries, especially in those where it is largest. This is the case in the United States of America, Great Britain, Germany, France, Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands and Spain. The statistics which it would be useful to possess concerning coal are not only those concerning output. The quantities delivered for foreign trade are no less important. These are given in the foreign-trade statistics drawn up by special departments in the above-mentioned countries. The figures representing exports and imports, respectively, make it possible to calculate how much of the home output remains in each country, how much coal is imported from abroad and the total quantity placed on the world market.

It would not be possible, however, to compile international statistics merely by collecting all the statistical data compiled by each country independently. At the present time, national statistics have certain features in common, but they likewise differ in some respects. In most countries which prepare statistics for the extraction of coal, the number of workers employed in the mines is given in addition to the coal raised. In several cases, the output of coke and of coal agglomerates, and in a few cases the output of lignite, are shown separately. These monthly statistics are published as rapidly as possible. They should be compiled in each country, and should be forwarded to the collecting office, which should publish the international statistics as widely and as rapidly as possible.

The representatives of the coal, lignite and coke industry are all of the opinion that it is extremely useful to have world statistics concerning these three products. Pit coal could not be considered alone, as it is used in such a way that statistical data would be completely inadequate if they were not supplemented by figures concerning lignite and coke, as well as briquettes made from compressed coal or lignite.

The differences are more important. They primarily concern the various categories of coal. Thus, the United States statistics give bituminous coal and anthracite under two separate headings. A second difference is that of the unit of weight. The use of the metric ton is practically universal, but there are exceptions. The United States statistics are based either on the short ton of 2,000 lb. or the long ton of 2,240 lb., as the case may be. Nearly all statistics indicate the net or marketable output, namely, the quantity of coal raised less dirt, stones and other useless matter. In a few cases, the quantities exported together with their origin or destination, and the quantities imported with their place of origin ; in some cases, a separate statement is given of the quantities of bunker coal taken on board by steamers for their own requirements.

The differences are not so great as to make it utterly impossible to unify national statistical data with a view to their co-ordination in a body of international statistics. The requirements laid down by the Consultative Committee of Experts of the Coal-mining Industry have been formulated within the limits of these possibilities.

The first essential is to obtain monthly statistics in addition to annual statistics. The former are undoubtedly required at the present time for the practical appreciation of conditions in the coal-mining industry and of national and international coal markets. These monthly statistics should be published as rapidly as possible. They should be compiled in each country within a maximum period of one month and transmitted to the international collecting organisation. The international statistics should be issued within a fortnight.

Absolute accuracy will not be required in monthly statistics. The figures might be regarded as provisional and subject to correction when they are totalled at the end of the year for incorporation in the annual statistics.

The annual statistics should be compiled in each country within a maximum period of six months, and should be forwarded to the collecting office, which should publish the international statistics as quickly as possible.
As regards coal and lignite, the monthly statistics should indicate the net output, i.e., less dirt washed and screened out. They should also give the output of coke, coal briquettes and lignite briquettes. The latter data should, for the present, be confined to the centres of production attached to the coalfields.

These monthly statistics should also specify the number of workers employed at the end of the month in the mines (not including at coke ovens and attached industries) and the number of working days in the month.

The monthly international statistics should also include for each country, according to the monthly foreign-trade statistics, the quantities of the various categories of fuel imported and exported, together with their country of origin or destination, and also the quantities of bunker coal and briquettes taken on board. Owing to the uncertainties arising in connection with transit trade through third countries, the Consultative Committee of Experts of the Coal-mining Industry expresses the wish that Customs statistics should indicate, as far as possible, the final destination of the coal exported and the original source of imported coal.

The annual statistics to be furnished by each country to the international collecting organisation should contain the same data as the monthly statistics, which should be corrected, if necessary, and totalled. The Consultative Committee of Experts also recommends the inclusion of the following data in the annual statistics for each country:

1. The respective output of coke, coal briquettes and lignite briquettes, including that of non-mining establishments.
2. A coefficient for the conversion, according to the position during the past year, of coke, coal briquettes, lignite and lignite briquettes into their coal equivalent.
3. The total labour employed in the mine and at surface, and the joint total in the mine and at surface.

The value of these statistics would be considerably reduced if they merely included the total figures for each country. The position of the coal market, and more especially the position of the international coal market, may be differently affected according to the state of production in various parts of a country. The Consultative Committee of Experts therefore considers it necessary that the national statistics should give, in addition to the total figures for the various items, separate figures for each of these items according to the geographical subdivisions of the coalfields. In order to keep the statistical tables within reasonable limits, these coalfields should be shown in large groups, e.g., in France, the Northern and Pas de Calais coalfields; in Great Britain, the Northern and Welsh coalfields, the Central coalfields, the Scottish coalfields, etc.; in Germany, the Westphalian, Lower Silesian, Upper Silesian coalfields, etc.

* * *

The products to be shown in the statistics required by the Consultative Committee of Experts are included in the draft framework for a Customs Nomenclature prepared by the Sub-Committee of Experts of the League of Nations. On page 34 of this draft,1 the following headings are given: Crude Coal, including Anthracite, Carbonised Coal (coke), Agglomerates of Coal (briquettes, boulets, etc.), Lignite, including agglomerates. To satisfy the statistical requirements of the Consultative Committee of Experts of the Coal-mining Industry, the headings of the draft framework for a Customs Nomenclature should also provide for a distinction between crude lignite and agglomerated lignite. The Consultative Committee of Experts recommends that this distinction should be made.

(Signed) H. DE PEYERIMHOFF DE FONTENELLE,  (Signed) G. DE LEENER,
Chairman.             Rapporteur.

COAL AND COAL BRIQUETTES.

Monthly Statistics of Mining Production.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Basin</th>
<th>Net monthly production (in metric tons)</th>
<th>Number of working days in month</th>
<th>Registered workers at end of month (under ground and surface)</th>
<th>Monthly production (in metric tons)</th>
<th>Monthly production (in metric tons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1 Document C.349.M.103.1928.II.

2 Excluding unusable waste after washing and sifting.
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON IRON ORE.

The Committee, which met on October 1st, 1928, was convened to consider the possibilities of arriving at a uniform classification for statistics of production of iron ore in the various iron-ore producing countries.

The tables drawn up by the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau and published in the Preparatory Documents for the International Conference on Economic Statistics were taken as basis of discussion. It was agreed that, in the main, attention should be directed to the value of the statistics from the commercial point of view rather than that any attempt should be made at a scientific geological classification of the ores. It was, however, thought desirable to maintain the broad classification suggested in Table I, viz., magnetite, hematite and carbonate ores, etc., but it was agreed that there was no necessity to subdivide hematite ore into red and brown. In place of the suggested division between Bessemer ore and phosphoric ore, it was agreed that it was desirable to have three columns, the purpose of which would be to show, respectively, whether the iron ore:

(a) Was so low in phosphorus that it was suitable for the manufacture of hematite pig-iron;
(b) Was too high in phosphorus for hematite pig-iron, but too low in phosphorus by itself to be suitable for the manufacture of basic pig-iron;
(c)Contained sufficient phosphorus to be suitable for the manufacture of basic pig-iron.

The headings would therefore be:

A general heading to the effect that the phosphoric content shall be based on 50 per cent of iron, with sub-headings as follows:

1. Ore containing not more than 0.04 per cent phosphorus.
2. Ore exceeding 0.04 per cent phosphorus, but not exceeding 0.70 per cent phosphorus.
3. Over 0.70 per cent phosphorus.

It was agreed that it was desirable that the output of iron ore by the principal producing areas should also be shown.

The table regarding the disposal of iron ore (Table II in the Preparatory Documents) was considered at considerable length, and there was a disposition to dispense with this table on the understanding that Table I should relate to saleable iron ore despatched from the mines. It is apparently the general practice on the Continent that the concentration of ores takes place at the mine or quarry, whereas in Great Britain a considerable proportion of the ore raised is despatched in its raw state, and calcined or otherwise treated at the blast furnace. It therefore seems desirable to retain the table relating to the disposal of iron ore, but to modify somewhat the questions regarding its further treatment. These questions should be modified in the following manner:

Raw ore treated at the mines:
A. Calcined.
B. Concentrated:
   1. Mechanically.
   2. Magnetically.

Should it, however, be decided to dispense with the table dealing with the disposal of ore, it was agreed that the figures in the previous table should relate to saleable ore despatched from the mines.

It was recognised that there was another source of iron in the residue of pyrites, and the Committee recommends that every country shall endeavour to obtain particulars of the iron ore resulting from the burning of iron pyrites.

It was agreed that it was desirable that the figures relating to production should be collected monthly and the results should be made available before the end of the ensuing month.

Draft tables as modified by the Committee are attached.

The question of the classification of pig-iron, which had been referred to the Iron Ore Committee from the Consultative Committee of Experts on the Metallurgical Industry, was also considered and it was agreed to recommend the following classification:

Pig-iron:
1. Hematite pig-iron containing not more than 0.12 per cent of phosphorus.
2. Basic pig-iron for the manufacture of steel.
3. All other pig-iron.

4. Ferro-alloys.

Although a detailed specification of the ferro-alloys is not thought necessary for the current monthly statistics, it is recommended that this should be given for the annual statistics.

5. All other iron or its alloys extracted directly from iron ore (specify kind according to process of manufacture). For example: iron and steel obtained in electric furnaces, etc.

(Signed) Hugh Bell,
Chairman.

(Signed) M. S. Birkett,
vice M. Willing,
Rapporteur.

IRON ORE.

Table I. — Production of Iron Ore in ............... 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phosphoric content (based on 50% iron)</th>
<th>Not more than 0.04% phosphorus</th>
<th>More than 0.04% but not exceeding 0.70% phosphorus</th>
<th>Exceeding 0.70% phosphorus</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Magnetite:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity of ore raised</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated iron content</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks of raw ore:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematite:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity of ore raised</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated iron content</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks of raw ore:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbonate ores:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity of ore raised</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated iron content</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks of raw ore:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manganiferous iron ore:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity of ore raised</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated metal content / Fe / Mn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock of raw ore:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromiferous and nickeliferous iron ore:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity of ore raised</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated metal content / Fe / Ni / Cr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks of raw ore:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Manganiferous iron ores are those containing 5 to 30 per cent of manganese and 20 to 65 per cent of iron.

Carboniferous and nickeliferous iron ores are those oxide iron ores that contain not more than 5 per cent of nickel and chromium.

Table II. — Production of Iron Ore in the Chief Producing Areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>Phosphoric content (based on 50% iron)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not more than 0.04% phosphorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Manganiferous iron ores are those containing 5 to 30 per cent of manganese and 20 to 65 per cent of iron.
2. Carboniferous and nickeliferous iron ores are those oxide iron ores that contain not more than 5 per cent of nickel and chromium.
Table III. — Disposal of Iron Ore produced in ..............

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ore raised:</th>
<th>Magnetite</th>
<th>Hematite</th>
<th>Carbonate ores</th>
<th>Other kinds of ore</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raw ore despatched from mines without treatment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raw ore treated at mines:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcined</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentrated:</td>
<td>(a) Mechanically</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Magnetically</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treated ore despatched from mines:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i) Quantity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Estimated metal content</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks of treated ore at mines:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON SEMI-MANUFACTURED METALLURGICAL PRODUCTS.

The Consultative Committee of Experts on Semi-Manufactured Metallurgical Products, which met on September 22nd, 1928, examined the means of arriving at a uniform classification for statistics of production of iron and steel in the various producing countries. The tables drawn up by the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau and published in the Preparatory Documents of the International Conference on Economic Statistics were taken as the basis of discussion.

The members agreed that it was desirable to have prompt and accurate statistics regarding the iron and steel position and that the statistics of the various countries should be rendered comparable as far as possible. It was necessary to distinguish between two kinds of statistics, namely:

(a) Monthly statistics which, on account of their practical utility, should be presented as promptly as possible and not later than the end of the month following that to which the figures relate; and

(b) Annual statistics giving more detail and more exact figures, the compilation of which would take longer and which, therefore, could not be published until, say six months after the end of the year to which they relate.

After careful consideration of the tables contained in the Preparatory Documents, the Committee suggested a modification of those tables on the lines of the schedules attached.

The Committee considered that the tables relating to the production of pig-iron, puddled iron, crude steel and finished steel and to the delivery of semi-products should be furnished monthly and the tables relating to the production of basic slag and to plant and furnaces annually.

(Signed) E. Poensgen,
(Signed) M. S. Birkett,
Chairman.
Rapporteur.

Table I. — Information regarding Plant for the Production of Iron and Steel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Converting</th>
<th>Siemens-Martin furnaces</th>
<th>Electric furnaces</th>
<th>Puddling furnaces</th>
<th>Other furnaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number existing on......¹:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Acid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Basic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number in activity on......¹:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Acid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Basic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Statistics to be furnished annually, giving the situation at the end of each quarter.
Table II. — Production of Iron and Steel (Ingots and Castings).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of manufacture</th>
<th>Total production</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ingots (metric tons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siemens-Martin process:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Acid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Basic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Converter process:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Acid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Basic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric furnace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puddling furnace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table III. — Total Production of Basic Slag (annually).

Table IV. — Raw Materials consumed in the Production of Ingots and Castings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Raw materials consumed</th>
<th>Type of plant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pig-iron (metric tons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siemens-Martin furnace:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Acid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Basic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Converter:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Acid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Basic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric furnace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puddling furnace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table V. — Production of Finished Products.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tyres, wheels and axles
Other forgings
Plates and sheets of all kinds:
(a) ½ inch (3 millimetres) thick and over, and universal plates ½ inch (3 millimetres) thick and over, and 6 inches (150 millimetres) wide.
(b) Less than ½ inch thick.
Tin plates
Railway rails 36 lb. per yard (18 kilograms per metre) and over.
Other rails
Sleepers
Soleplates and fishplates
Hoops and strips for tubes
Other hoops and strips
Hot-rolled or welded tubes:
(a) 12 inches (318 millimetres) and over.
(b) Less than 12 inches (318 millimetres).
(c) Steel bottles
Girders, joists, beams and channels 3 ⅞ inches (80 millimetres) high and over
Wire rods
Other products not enumerated above, such as rounds, squares, flats, etc., and small sections under 3 ⅞ inches high.
Table VI. — Despatches of Semi-Products for Sale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ingots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blooms and slabs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheet and tinplate bars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C.S.O.7. — RECOMMENDATION SUBMITTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION.

The Conference:
1. Realising the great utility, from the point of view of international statistical co-operation, of actual contact between the official statisticians of different countries; and
2. Realising the great difficulty experienced by countries situated at a long distance from Europe in being represented at international conferences by officers actually engaged in the preparation of their national statistics:

Recommends that the League of Nations take the initiative in suggesting to existing international statistical organisations the desirability of communicating with one another at any time when they may be contemplating the holding of an international conference, with a view to considering the possibility of holding any two or more conferences determined on for a particular year or shorter period within as limited a period as possible.

(November 28th, 1928.)

C.S.O.8. — AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT CONVENTION PROPOSED BY THE BRITISH DELEGATION.

Article 1.
I: After "published at least ", delete the remainder of the section and substitute:

"Once in each decade and should relate to the closing year of the decade (that is to say, 1930, 1940, 1950, and so on) or to a year as near as possible to that closing year."

III (f): For the present heading, read:

"Metals (smelter production, actual or estimated)."

V (a): After "quantity ", insert "(where significant)".

Article 2.
II: Delete last two lines, and for line 3 read:

"Frontier, but excluding import duties, and showing, for exports, values free on board at port or free on rail at frontier, exclusive of any excise charges refunded on export, and including export duties, if any."

IV: Delete opening portion of section down to "indicated below" and substitute the following:

"In order to distinguish between exports of domestic origin and exports of imported merchandise and between imports from other countries and re-imports of goods of domestic origin, to compile their trade statistics in one of the two ways indicated below:

"(a) When . . . ."

Between second and third sub-paragraphs of the section, insert the sentence:

"Special imports and special exports shall not include any part of transit trade."

V, third sub-paragraph: The second sentence should read:

"If, in the statistics showing the division of imports and exports as a whole, two or more countries . . . ."

VII, line 1: After "quantities ", insert "estimated or ascertained ".

VIII (c): Delete and substitute:

"Such fishery products as, when landed in the country concerned, are regarded by the State as national produce."