IX : Add to end of second line :

"As the periods for which annual or monthly returns, respectively, shall be prepared."

Article 3.

Line 1 : After " apply " , insert " as far as possible ".

Article 8.

Line 1 : After " national " , insert the word " economic ".

Paragraph I , last line : After " categories of " , insert " economic ".

Protocol.

Paragraph I , line 2 : Before " banking " , insert " public debt, revenue and expenditure ".

Recommendation II.

(2) : Delete " it should be simultaneously applied in trade statistics " , and substitute :

" a corresponding basis should be adopted as far as possible in the preparation of trade statistics."

Annex II.

II , line 3 : After " indices " , insert " such as are available of ".

Annex III.

The text of a draft substitute for this annex is attached as a basis for discussion in association with the proposals of the International Chamber of Commerce.

Annex IV.

I (b) : After " waters " , add " where these are commercially important ".

Annex IV.

3 : Omit " and appliances ".

ANNEX III. — MINERAL AND METALLURGICAL STATISTICS.

The periodic mineral and metallurgical statistics shall include the following particulars:

General Provisions.

So far as practicable, particulars of production shall relate to the mineral in the condition in which it leaves the mine, quarry or other working for use in other works under the same ownership, or sold to customers, etc., and before its treatment by calcining (e.g., iron ore), refining (e.g., petroleum) or by other conversion processes.

In addition to aggregates for the country, separate particulars shall be shown under 1, 2 and 3 for the chief producing districts, so far as such subdivision may be practicable, and similarly under Section B (Employment) and C (Plant).

Statistics of production and employment in the chief branches of the mining industry shall be compiled and published at monthly, or at least quarterly, intervals for those branches of the industry which are of primary importance.

A. Production.

1. Non-metallic Mineral. — Quantity and selling value at mine, etc., of the mineral produced at all mines, quarries or other workings.

In the case of such minerals as potash, sulphur, etc., the average percentage of the essential constituent present in the mineral should, where practicable, be stated. For example, K₂O for potash, S for sulphur, etc.

2. Iron ore and ironstone (distinguishing: (a) magnetite; (b) hematite; (c) carbonate; (d) manganiferous; and (e) chromiferous and nickeliferous ores). Quantity, average metal content, average phosphorus content and selling value at mine, etc., of raw mineral produced at all mines and quarries.

In cases where the mineral is sold (or transferred to own works) as calcined or concentrated mineral, the tonnage should be expressed in terms of raw mineral by adding to the tonnage delivered the average loss on calcination or concentration.

3. Non-ferrous Metalliferous Ores. — Quantity, average metal content and selling value at mines, etc., of the dressed ore obtained at all mines, quarries and other workings.
4. Metals and Coke. — Statistics of the production of metal (smelter production) and coke shall be compiled and published in accordance with the provisions of Annex II. In those countries in which direct quantitative data are lacking, estimates of the production of the more important metals shall be provided.

B. Employment.

1. Personnel. — Average number of persons employed, classified as far as possible by age (distinguishing adults from young people), sex, and distinguishing those employed below and above ground, and distinguishing also between the operative staff (including workmen of the supervisory classes) and the administrative, technical and clerical staff in:

(a) Coal-mining;
(b) Lignite and brown coal mining and open-cast workings;
(c) Iron ore and ironstone mining and open working;
(d) Other principal minerals.

Where it is customary to record the number of equivalent "full-time workers", or figures of a similar character, an appropriate allowance should be made so as to show the average number of persons actually employed in each period.

2. Man-Shifts worked. — Number of man-shifts worked by wage-earners employed, distinguishing, where practicable, man-shifts worked:

(i) below ground at mines (or inside quarries);
(ii) above ground at mine (or outside quarries) in each of the groups of undertakings (a) to (d) specified in the preceding paragraph.

In cases where overtime and week-end shifts are paid for at rates in excess of the ordinary wage rate, such shifts should be reckoned on the basis of the time actually worked and not the time paid for. Where only a part of a shift is worked, the proportion actually worked should be included.

Where there is no record of man-shifts worked, the number of man-days should be shown, making the necessary allowance, where practicable, for short days and for overtime.

C. Plant.

The number of coal-cutting machines and similar mechanical appliances for getting coal and the output obtained by their use; and the number of mechanical conveyors used below ground and the quantity of coal conveyed by them.

(November 28th, 1928.)

C.S.O.9/Bureau. — AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 7, 8 and 9, PROPOSED BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION.

Article 7.

II. At the beginning, in the sentence: "In the Protocol to the present Convention are set forth the reservations and exceptions coming within the provisions of the preceding paragraph which have been agreed in favour of the High Contracting Parties . . . ", delete the words "which have been agreed".

III. After the words "to a committee of technical experts", word the rest of the sentence as follows:

". . . half of whom shall be designated by the Council of the League of Nations after consultation of any States not Members of the League which are parties to the Convention and half by the International Institute of Statistics".

Article 8.

Paragraph I to be worded as follows:

"I. Committees of technical experts, consisting of members half of whom shall be designated by the Council of the League after consultation of any States not Members of the League which are parties to the Convention and half by the International Institute of Statistics, shall be competent at the request of the Council to make recommendations with regard to the methods to be adopted in the compilation of those categories of statistics referred to in Article 1 for which no methodological principles have been agreed in subsequent articles of this Convention and all such other categories of statistics as may be decided upon from time to time. These recommendations shall be submitted to a later Conference with a view to a fresh Convention".

II. Delete this paragraph.

III. Delete this paragraph.

Article 9.

First paragraph: In the sentence "... submit the dispute with a view to an amicable settlement to such technical body as the Council of the League may appoint for this purpose", delete the word "technical".

Protocol.

Delete the qualifying clause: "relating to the scope of official economic statistics and to the methods to be applied in the compilation of certain official statistics".
Transfer paragraph I to the beginning of the Convention, adding that the statistics to which it applies also do not cover transport, except maritime transport, owing to the close relation between maritime transport and international trade.

II. Delete the first two paragraphs.

ANNEX III.

It is proposed to take as a basis for discussion, in lieu of the tables in Annex III, the British delegation's amendment and the proposals of the International Chamber of Commerce.

(November 30th, 1928.)

C.S.O.11/Bureau. — DECLARATION BY THE DELEGATE OF NORWAY.

ARTICLE 2, ii: DECLARED VALUES.

M. Jahn stated that Norway used declared values for exports but, up to the present, used official values for about 70 per cent of the imports.

He explained that his Government intended to adopt declared values in respect of imports, but as this depended on a reorganisation of the trade statistics and involved expense, the Government could not say when the said reform would be undertaken. Under the circumstances, the Norwegian Government must make a reservation on this point, the exact form of which would depend on the final form of this paragraph.

(December 3rd, 1928.)

C.S.O.12/Bureau. — AMENDMENT RELATING TO STATISTICS OF OCCUPATIONS, SUBMITTED TO THE BUREAU BY THE COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION STATISTICS.

Paragraph to be added at the end of Article 8:

"A Committee of Experts will be asked to submit to the several Governments a draft list of the main categories of occupations to be employed in the compilation of statistics of occupation."

(December 3rd, 1928.)


Paris, December 1st, 1928.

In your telegram dated November 26th, you were good enough to inform me that, before beginning its labours, the Conference on Economic Statistics wished to pay a tribute to the great value of the work done by the International Institute of Statistics. You added that this work constituted the foundation of the proposals at present before the delegates of the forty-two States represented at the Conference.

The International Institute of Statistics requests you, Sir, to convey to the Conference its warmest thanks for the expressions of esteem forwarded to it in such flattering terms, by which it was profoundly touched.

It was in full confidence in the efficacy of co-operation between our Institute and the League of Nations that we undertook this co-operation by means of a jointly organised Commission for the Study of Economic Statistics. The first results are now apparent and we have no doubt that this co-operation will continue to be fruitful, whether it be in its present form or in some new form which it may be given for the purpose of studying the methods to be applied in other categories of statistics, and of seeing that the adjustments which may be considered necessary to bring the resolutions into the sphere of practical politics should respect the essential principles of method so as to ensure that the statistics compiled in the different countries shall be truly comparable.

This is the principal object aimed at by our Statutes, and it was with this end in view that the eminent statisticians who founded our Institute came together. Hence we are most grateful to the League of Nations for having turned its great authority and its powerful resources to the achievement of this task which the economic situation of the world renders of increasing urgency.

(Signed) Albert Delatour,
President of the International Institute of Statistics.

C.S.O.18/Bureau. — RESERVATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE DELEGATIONS OF BRAZIL, ITALY, NORWAY, ROUMANIA AND SWEDEN.

Ad Article 2, Paragraph VII (Bunker Coal).

The article reads:

VII (as per document C.S.O./Commerce/29):

"To show the quantities (and, if possible, the values), estimated or ascertained, of bunker coal and other bunker fuel supplied in their ports to vessels engaged in international trade, for the use of the particular vessel to which supplied. The figures relating (a) to national vessels and (b) to other vessels shall be shown separately."

(December 6th, 1928.)
C.S.O.19/Bureau. — AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 7 PROPOSED BY THE BRITISH DELEGATION.

1. The High Contracting Parties agree to accept the reservations to the application of the present Convention which are set forth in the Protocol to this Convention and in respect of the countries therein named.

2. The Governments of countries which are ready to accede to the Convention under Article 12 but desire to be allowed to make any reservations with regard to the application of the Convention may inform the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to this effect, who shall forthwith, with such explanations thereupon as he shall think fit, communicate such reservations to the Governments of all countries on whose behalf ratifications or accessions have been deposited, and enquire whether they have any objection thereto. If within six months of the date of the communication of the Secretary-General no objections have been received, the reservation shall be deemed to have been accepted.

(December 6th, 1928.)


The Greek delegation would like to have certain points cleared up in connection with the interpretation of Article 9, the text of which does not seem to it very clear.

The Greek delegation would like to be assured that Article 9 could not be interpreted as meaning that, in the event of a dispute between the nationals of countries signatories of the Convention, a country could incur any liability in respect of its official statistical returns.

If such should be the interpretation of this article, the Greek Government could in no case accept such a liability, and would be obliged to make reservations.

(December 6th, 1928.)

C.S.O.21/Bureau. — PROPOSAL RELATING TO ARTICLE 8, SUBMITTED BY SIR SYDNEY CHAPMAN.

The Committee of Technical Experts shall be designated at a meeting of the Council of the League of Nations to which the Governments of States not Members of the League of Nations, having been represented at the Conference, which are parties to the present Convention shall, if they desire, send one representative each to participate in the designation of the Committee,

(December 6th, 1928.)

C.S.O.22/Bureau. — AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 10, PROPOSED BY THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION.

Third line, before the word "colonies", insert the words "overseas territories" and read as follows:

"... overseas territories, colonies, protectorates, or territories under suzerainty or mandate".

(December 6th, 1928.)

C.S.O.23/Bureau. — PARAGRAPH FOR THE PROTOCOL PROPOSED BY M. V. DORE.

It is understood that nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as limiting or affecting the competence of the International Institute of Agriculture.

(December 6th, 1928.)

C.S.O.25. — REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION STATISTICS.

Submitted to the Conference by M. Jahn (Rapporteur).

The following articles of the draft Convention (C.S.O.2) were referred to this Committee:

Article 1, paragraphs I, II, III, IV;
Article 3, Annex I;
Article 4, Annex II;
Article 5, Annex III;
Protocol, clause III;
Recommendations I, III, and IV.
The Committee appointed Sub-Committees to examine questions relating to:

- Agricultural Statistics (Article 1, III (a) to (c));
- Forestry Statistics (Article 1, III (d));
- Mineral and Metallurgical Statistics (Article 1, III (f), Article 5 and Annex III);
- Industrial Statistics (Article 1, III (g) and (h), Articles 3 and 4; Protocol: Clause III; Recommendations I, III and IV; and Annexes I and II).

After an examination and discussion of the reports presented by the Sub-Committees, the revised texts of the articles, Protocol clauses and Recommendations given below were adopted by the Committee.

Several amendments and proposals for extending the draft Convention which were laid before the Committee were referred to the Committee of Experts contemplated under Article 8.

**ARTICLE 1.**

No material change has been made by the Committee on Production Statistics in the substance of those paragraphs of Article 1 which were referred to it. It was felt, however, that the wording of the original draft was somewhat too rigid.

In order to meet the special difficulties of various countries, the Committee decided to render certain of the clauses somewhat more elastic with a view to making them more acceptable to all countries participating in the Conference.

**Paragraph I.**

The original draft was adopted with certain modifications and reads as follows:

"I. Occupations.

"Returns of the population according to occupations to be compiled and published at least once in each decade, and to relate to the closing year of the decade (that is to say, the years 1930, 1940, 1950 and so on) or to a year as near as possible to such closing year."

In this connection, the Committee decided that the following clause should be inserted in the Recommendations:

"In order to increase the value for economic purposes of the statistics referred to in Article 1, I, of the Convention, the Conference recommends that such statistics should show, in the case of each occupation, the distribution of the persons employed therein according to categories, and grades within such categories, and also according to the nature of the establishments in which they are employed."

**Paragraph II.**

A slight change of substance was made in this paragraph, which in its new form provides that the censuses of industrial establishments should cover at least establishments of any considerable importance. The paragraph in its revised form reads as follows:

"II. Establishments.

"General censuses at regular intervals and, if possible, at least once in every ten years, of:

- A. Industrial establishments, including at least all of such establishments of any considerable importance; and
- B. If possible, of commercial establishments.

"Such censuses may be taken in connection with the census of population or the census of industrial production or independently; and shall state, inter alia, with regard to each establishment:

- (a) The number of persons of each sex employed therein, and, so far as possible, showing them according to categories of their employment and distinguishing adults from young persons, the age at which this distinction is made being stated; (An estimate shall also be made, if possible, of the number of persons employed in establishments which are not included in the census)
- (b) In the case of industrial establishments, the rated capacity of the prime movers (if any) installed, distinguishing, if possible, between: (i) steam engines; (ii) internal-combustion engines; and (iii) hydraulic engines; and the rated capacity of the electric motors installed (if any), indicating whether the electric energy is generated in the establishment or elsewhere. In all the above-mentioned classes prime movers and electric motors normally in use should, if possible, be shown separately from those lying idle or in reserve."
Paragraph III (a).

The only change of substance made in this paragraph was the deletion of the years in respect of which it was suggested that the census of agriculture should be taken. It was felt that great difficulties of a practical order would arise in many countries if the agricultural censuses were taken in the same year as those of population and occupations and it was therefore decided to leave each State to determine the exact date of the censuses according to its convenience.

The revised text of this paragraph reads as follows:

"Paragraph III (a).

Paragraph III (b) (c) and (d).

The standard form of the World Agricultural Census Schedule adopted by the International Institute of Agriculture was recognised as a valuable basis for agricultural censuses. The Committee therefore decided that this standard form, together with the report of the Committee of Agricultural Statisticians of the Ninth General Assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture and various resolutions relating to the World Agricultural Census of 1930 should be annexed to the Convention for purposes of information and reference.

Paragraph III (f).

The Committee has eliminated certain minerals and ores from the list contained in the draft Convention.

The text which was framed as a result of the amendments introduced into the original text reads as follows:

"(f) Returns (at least annual) of the quantities produced of any of the minerals and metals mentioned below, the production of which in the country concerned is of national importance:

(1) Non-Metallic Minerals:
Coal (bituminous or anthracite), lignite and coke;
Petroleum and natural gas;
Nitrates;
Phosphates;
Potash mineral;
Sulphur.

(2) Metallic Minerals:
(a) Ores of the following:
Iron; Copper; Lead;
Aluminium; Tin; Zinc;
Manganese; Nickel.

(b) Smelter production, actual or estimated, of the following:
Iron and Steel; Copper; Aluminium; Lead;
Tin; Zinc; Manganese; Nickel;
Antimony; Tungsten; Molybdenum; Bismuth;
Silver; Gold; Platinum.”

Paragraph III (g) and (h).

No change of substance has been made in these paragraphs. The draft Convention has, however, been modified with the object of securing greater precision.
The text which was framed as the result of the amendments introduced into the original text reads as follows:

“(g) Returns of industrial production, as comprehensive as it may be possible in the case of each country to furnish with a sufficient degree of accuracy.

“(h) Returns, in the form either of absolute figures or of percentages of the production of a period taken as a basis of comparison, in respect of regular intervals, if possible quarterly or preferably monthly, showing the variations of the industrial activity of the most representative branches of production.”

In connection with the discussion of the above paragraphs, the following clause was adopted for insertion in the Protocol:

_Additional Protocol Clause:_

“While statistics relating to all kinds of production are of value and their provision should be encouraged, it is recognised that Sub-paragraphs (g) and (h) of Article 1, III, are not to be regarded as implying that, in the case of small enterprises, estimates may not furnish adequate information.”

The Committee decided further that the following provision relating to the whole Convention should be referred to the Bureau of the Conference for insertion in the Protocol:

_Additional Protocol Clause:_

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

**Paragraph IV. — Index Numbers of Prices.**

The original draft of this article was expanded and amended as follows:

“Index numbers expressing the general movement of wholesale prices from month to month and index numbers expressing the general movement of the cost of living at least quarterly.

“As regards cost-of-living indices, these need only cover a single representative town or some of the most representative towns, taken either separately or collectively.

“Each publication should refer to a short official statement indicating the items the prices of which have been used in the calculation of the indices and the methods employed in their compilation.

“Apart from the indices, the wholesale prices, in absolute or relative form, of the principal individual commodities should, so far as practicable, be published for the same periods.”

Further, the following provisions were adopted for insertion in the Protocol and in the Recommendations:

_Additional Protocol Clause:_

“In countries where, in view of local circumstances, such as the extent of the countries or the limited or scattered character of their industries, the monthly preparation of index numbers of wholesale prices is not requisite, a quarterly publication of these will be considered to meet the requirements of Article 1, paragraph IV.”

_Additional Recommendations:_

“The Conference recommends:

“That, so far as practicable, each country publish, in absolute or relative form, all the prices of individual commodities, or at least the prices of the more important commodities, used in compiling the indices of wholesale prices and of cost of living provided for in Article 1, IV, together with indices for major groups of commodities.”

“The Conference recommends:

“That, with a view to ensuring the comparability of index numbers furnished under Article 1, IV, of the Convention, the same year or period should be taken as a basis for such index numbers in all countries, and that the Committee of Experts, taking into account the work of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians convened by the International Labour Organisation and the work of the International Institute of Statistics, should investigate this point and present a report thereon (which shall be circulated by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to the Governments of all the High Contracting Parties).”

In this connection, the Committee decided that a number of detailed amendments and observations to Article 1, IV, presented by certain delegations, should be referred for consideration to the Committee of Experts contemplated under Article 8.

**ARTICLES 3 AND 4, AND ANNEXES I AND II.**

Articles 3 and 4 were modified in order to render them more elastic in character. The revised text of the articles reads as follows:

“Article 3. The High Contracting Parties express their general acceptance of the principles underlying Annex I, which is attached as a model scheme of a census of
industrial production, and agree to consider the question of giving effect to such of them as may be applicable when it becomes possible to contemplate a complete or partial census of the type indicated in that annex."

"Article 4. — The High Contracting Parties express their general acceptance of the principles underlying Annex II, which is attached as an illustration of a scheme for the compilation of indices of industrial activity, and agree to consider the question of giving effect to such of them as may be applicable when it becomes possible to contemplate the preparation of indices of industrial activity on a comprehensive scale."

In view of the reduced obligation imposed on the contracting parties by these articles in their new form, Annexes I and II have been left untouched and were adopted in their original form. The Committee decided that all amendments relating to these annexes should be referred for consideration to the Committee of Experts contemplated in Article 8, and to request the Bureau of the Conference to consider the insertion in the Final Act of the Conference of a statement on the following lines:

"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."

**ARTICLE 5 AND ANNEX III**

No change in substance has been made in Article 5. Both the scope and the details of Annex III in its new form are based on the proposals submitted by the International Chamber of Commerce.

It is contemplated that the Committee of Experts to be set up in accordance with the terms of this Convention will take measures for the elaboration of principles to be applied with a view to the comparison of statistics referring to categories of minerals and metals not covered by Annex III as redrafted.

The revised text of Article 5 reads as follows:

"Article 5. — The High Contracting Parties express their general acceptance of the principles of Annex III for use, so far as practicable, as a basis for their statistics of the production of the minerals and metals referred to in Article 1, III (f), whenever the production of such minerals and metals in the country concerned is considered to be of national importance, and agree, in the event of their compiling statistics of the production of other minerals and metals, to do so on similar lines."

**PROTOCOL, CLAUSE III.**

This clause was adopted in its old form and reads as follows:

"It is understood that the methods to be adopted in the compilation of general censuses of agriculture referred to in Article 1, paragraph III (a), are those contained in the Standard Form approved by the Ninth General Assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture.

"In the event of the General Assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture modifying this Standard Form, the High Contracting Parties will be free to adopt whatever modifications are introduced."

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION I.**

Paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) were adopted in their original form and a new paragraph was added. The recommendation in its extended form reads as follows:

Recommendation I.

"The Conference recommends that, in all countries in which the basic economic statistics are sufficiently developed to render such a course opportune, careful attention should be paid to the possibility of:

"(1) Further elaborating official statistics so as to facilitate the compilation of estimates of national income at regular intervals;

"(2) Publishing statistical series at regular intervals of such a character as to indicate the variations of economic activity in the widest sense of that term;

"(3) Collecting and publishing returns of the visible stocks of the more important raw materials of industry;

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

1 For Annex III Convention, Annex III (Part V of the present volume). The Conference made no change of substance in the text submitted by the Committee.
In this connection, the Committee adopted the additional recommendation given below:

Additional Recommendation.

"Having regard to the recommendations made by the International Conferences on Power held in London (1924) and at Basle (1926), and by the World Economic Conference of the League of Nations (1927), for the organisation of statistics of power employed, the Conference recommends all countries to extend and to render as precise as possible the statistical work in this sphere in accordance with the principles which may be laid down by the Committee of Experts."

Recommendations III and IV.

These two recommendations were replaced by a new Recommendation III, which reads as follows:

"Recommendation III.

"The Conference recommends that in all countries with adequately developed industries a census of production should be taken at least once in each decade or, preferably, once in each quinquennium, and it considers that it would be of advantage if the censuses were taken in the various countries at years which are as near to one another as possible."

C.S.O.26/Bureau. — REVISED PROPOSAL RELATING TO ARTICLE 8, SUBMITTED BY SIR SYDNEY CHAPMAN (see document C.S.O.21).

A Committee of Technical Experts shall be appointed at a meeting of the Council of the League of Nations and one delegate from each State non-Member represented at the Conference at Geneva on whose behalf ratifications or accessions have been deposited.

(December 7th, 1928.)

C.S.O.27/Bureau. — RESERVATION SUBMITTED BY THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION.

In the event of its accepting the present Convention, the Netherlands will assume no obligation as regards the Dutch East Indies, Surinam and Curacao.

(December 7th, 1928.)

C.S.O.28/Bureau. — RECOMMENDATION RELATING TO THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION PROPOSED BY M. ITO.

The Conference recommends that the Governments of countries on whose behalf the Convention has been signed should notify the Secretary-General of the League of Nations of their intentions in regard to the ratification of the Convention, should the latter not have been ratified within . . . months from the date of signature.

(December 7th, 1928.)

C.S.O.29. — REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE STATISTICS.

Submitted to the Conference by M. Julin, Rapporteur.

The Committee on Trade Statistics, presided over by M. Wagemann, German delegate, held its first meeting on Wednesday, November 28th; it immediately made up its Bureau by appointing M. de Blanck, Cuban delegate, as Vice-Chairman, and M. Julin, Belgian delegate, as Rapporteur. In accordance with the decisions taken by the Bureau of the Conference, the Committee had to deal with statistics of external trade(Article 1 of the draft Convention, V (a) and (b), and Article 2), index numbers of prices (Article 1, IV), and fisheries (Article 1, III (e) and Article 6). It decided to begin by examining the problems relating to statistics of international trade. As regards fisheries, the Bureau thought it desirable to consider the appointment of a special Sub-Committee; the delegations more particularly interested in the question were invited to send representatives to this Sub-Committee.

I. Statistics of International Trade.

The Committee began by examining Article 1, paragraph V, which stipulates that the contracting parties shall undertake to compile and publish "annual and monthly returns of the quantity and value of imports and exports". In the heading of the paragraph, the words
“and Shipping”, were suppressed. One member proposed that figures of quantities should not be compiled and published unless they were for amounts of some importance. In many cases the amount is small (importation of diamonds), or does not convey any definite information (works of art; pictures). Such quantitative statistics should possess a real significance, otherwise it is useless to collect them. At the same time, as it is impossible to lay down a minimum quantity, the question of the amount below which quantitative data might be neglected should be settled by subjective and non-scientific considerations.

Several delegations pointed out that the article in question involves the monthly publication of data on external trade; they propose to limit the scope of this obligation by prefixing to it the words “if possible”. A certain period of time will also have to be granted if this obligation is to be complied with. The Committee thought that, though the article required figures to be published for each month, it did not follow that this could be done at regular intervals, and no time-limit was stipulated. It was further pointed out that the monthly returns might be less elaborate and less complete than the annual figures. The Committee accordingly decided that the words “if possible” would not be inserted in the article. The delegations which voted for the insertion declared that they were satisfied with the commentaries made on the article; these declarations will be mentioned in the report. Nevertheless, as it was recognised that, if the data regarding quantities have no precise significance, it is useless to insist on declarations from merchants, the Committee decided to amend Article 1 paragraph V (a) as indicated.

** * *

Article 1, paragraph V (b), was simplified owing to the difficulty of laying down a general rule applicable to vessels entering and leaving in ballast. There did not appear to be any well-defined practice in the matter. An essential scientific rule is to include in numerical returns only figures for known and clearly defined cases. Where there is no certainty, it is best to omit figures altogether. The Committee accordingly proposed to delete the words “with cargo and also of those entering and leaving in ballast”. The rest of Article 1, paragraph V (b), is as given in the draft Convention.

In view of the fact that the general question of transport is submitted to the League Committee for Communications and Transit, the Committee decided to add to the Final Act the recommendation that:

“The inclusion in Article 1, paragraph V (b), of certain proposals relating to shipping shall not be held to prejudice the conclusion of any international agreement in the future concerning transport statistics.”

** * *

Article 2, paragraph 1. — One of the questions on which specialists on international trade statistics used to expend a great deal of thought was that of estimating import and export values. For many years, nearly all Continental Europe estimated the value of goods in international trade on the basis of revised official values. The characteristic feature of this system is that the Governmental authority fixes a list of prices for each of the classes of goods enumerated in the statistics. Contrasted with this method was the British “declaration” method, based on the declarations made by exporters or their agents in the case of goods consigned from Great Britain, and by importers or their agents in the case of goods consigned to Great Britain. The United States had also a system based on importers’ and exporters’ declarations, but differing from the British type in certain details of organisation, which it would take too long to explain here. Moreover, a nation having a very large foreign trade retained until 1917 unrevised official values for imports and retained official values for exports. This brief survey illustrates the variety of the systems and leads to the conclusion that Customs statistics dealing with values are not comparable. At the same time, as it is impossible to lay down a minimum quantity, the statistics of the external trade of different countries, in the absence of which the utility of the returns compiled by any individual State is necessarily restricted, undertake to adopt the following principles in the compilation of this class of statistics:

“The High Contracting Parties, in order to facilitate international comparisons of the statistics of the external trade of different countries, in the absence of which the utility of the returns compiled by any individual State is necessarily restricted, undertake to adopt the following principles in the compilation of this class of statistics:

1. To maintain or establish the system of valuations known as ‘declared values’, that is to say, values declared by importers and exporters (or their duly recognised agents) in respect of each individual transaction. Further, with a view to obtaining accuracy in international trade statistics, they undertake to subject such values to adequate verification, checking and control.”
This formula is unassailable in principle, observed one delegation, but scientific formulae are not always sufficient, and mention should be made of invoices — valuable documents which involve a certain measure of responsibility. One delegation pointed out that a certain period of grace should be allowed before the "declared values" system of valuation was made compulsory. The country represented by this delegation is at present using official values for about 70 per cent of imports. Its intention is to extend the system to all imports, but this change is conditional upon a costly reorganisation of its trade statistics. It was argued on the opposite side that this article was only a declaration of principle, and did not make special provision for any particular measure of control and organisation. Further, the evidential value of invoices was formally disputed; and the fear was also expressed that this system might have the effect of aggravating Customs complications in the form of consular invoices. A proposal that declarations of value should be supported by detailed invoices for each class of goods was rejected. The text of the draft Convention was then adopted unanimously.

It will not be out of place to emphasise the importance of this decision, which substitutes uniform scientific accuracy for the chaos that has too long prevailed. The International Institute of Statistics, which since 1891 had been calling attention to the superiority of the declaration system, and the mixed Preparatory Committee, composed of representatives of the League of Nations, the International Institute of Statistics and the International Labour Office, have cause for congratulation on the happy issue of their protracted and arduous labours.

** The value of the goods declared by the importers will be different according to the point at which the value is taken. This point cannot be left undecided; it is particularly difficult to settle because two groups of countries of approximately the same importance in world trade are diametrically opposed. One of these groups includes the United States of America, which calculate the value of the goods at the point of departure, like the United States of America, this system is necessary on account of tariff legislation which cannot be changed or modified without profound disturbances being caused in the economic and political life of the nation. Comparability, however, which is the most essential factor in statistics, would be secured if these countries gave every year a detailed estimate of costs of insurance and land and sea transport. These data are not at present available, but will in future be supplied. Further, certain countries use declared values either for the assessment of statistical duties or for collecting fiscal taxes. The original text had to be amended so as to enable these countries to use declared values for imports and exports when these values differ from the value declared at the time of consignment, plus carriage and insurance costs. This is expressed in sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph II of Article 2:

"When a country imposes ad valorem duties on imports or exports, the value calculated for the purposes of these duties in conformity with the fiscal laws of the country may be shown in the statistics of imports or exports, even though it may differ from the value as defined in paragraph (a) above. Similarly, if in such a country, the value of goods exempt from duty or subject to specific duties in that country may be determined on the same basis. When this method is adopted, the statistics must show clearly the difference in the method of valuation and should give at least an annual, and if possible also a detailed, estimate of the value as defined in paragraph (a)."

Apart from these cases, what is the value entered in the statistics of external trade? Article 2, paragraph II (a) gives the answer. The values to be taken are the:

"Frontier values (land frontier or sea frontier, as the case may be), i.e., for imports, value at place of despatch, plus cost of transport and insurance to the frontier of the importing country, and, for exports, the value free on board or free on rail or road vehicle at the frontier of the exporting country."

These definitions are clear and they are made still more so by what is excluded and included in the second part of paragraph II (a):

"For imports, the import duties, taxes and similar charges imposed by the importing country shall be excluded from the value. For exports, all inland and export duties, taxes and similar charges imposed by the exporting country shall be included, in so far as these duties, taxes and charges remain in fact charged on the exported goods."

The last clause in the above sentence was introduced to prevent the possibility of including in the value of exported goods, duties, taxes or charges which would be returned to exporters before the commodities left the country. There is good ground for believing that the adoption of these principles will lead to a considerable improvement in regard to the comparability of commercial statistics.

**
The obligation to indicate precisely the unit of measure in which quantities are stated — weight, length, surface, etc. (Article 2, III, first sub-paragraph) — led to an interesting discussion. One delegation pointed out that the variety of measures employed made international comparison difficult, if not impossible, and proposed that, as a general rule, the measure taken should be gross weight. In supporting this view, another delegation suggested that the question should be referred to the Committee on Customs Nomenclature, which might indicate opposite each item the measure best suited to the nature of the commodity. The objection was made to the first suggestion that net weight — the weight of the goods themselves — was essentially more important than gross weight. As regards the second suggestion, it was pointed out that it would necessitate a recasting of Customs tariffs — a lengthy and perilous undertaking, upon which Governments would not readily embark. Another delegation emphasised the difficulty of finding a single formula. Yet another advocated that several units of measure should be employed simultaneously. The Committee accepted this view and modified the text to read “the unit or units of measure”. The text of Article 2, paragraph III, is accordingly worded as follows:

“To define precisely the unit or units of measure in which quantities of each commodity are stated weight, length, surface, capacity, etc.: When the quantity of goods of any kind is expressed in any unit or units of measure other than weight, the annual returns shall indicate an estimated coefficient of the average weight of each unit or multiple of units.”

The second sub-paragraph of paragraph III merely emphasised the importance of precise definitions being given for terms such as “gross weight”, “net weight” and “legal net weight”, and indicated that the same term might connote different meanings as applied to different classes of goods.

A recommendation brings out clearly the meaning of this article and draws the attention of the Council of the League to its importance.

**

The Committee devoted much thought to the question of the divisions to be introduced in trade statistics. It began by deciding not to touch the problem of internal trade, though by no means denying its interest and importance. Certain members thought that, if trade statistics were to be complete, they must cover internal trade, but others pointed out that, as there could be no question of analysing the actual figures of commercial transactions, the problem was purely one of transport, and should be dealt with elsewhere. In regard to the main divisions of trade, several mutually inconsistent views were taken. These may be briefly summarised as follows:

Several delegates made a formal proposal that only special trade should be treated; in their view, transit should be dealt with separately, because the rules suitable for transit statistics were different from those accepted in other fields. This restriction to special trade would save a good deal of confusion. What concerned the Committee was the exchange of economic property, and that, after all, was to be found mainly in special trade. Direct transit was a matter of transport, and did not affect the exchange of goods. Furthermore, the information obtained regarding general trade was not sufficiently accurate or detailed; part of this trade, it was said, was under no Customs supervision; and identical figures might cover widely different situations. This opinion was not unanimously accepted. It was urged that special trade did not seem to be very accurately defined; that the countries using the Anglo-Saxon system, which was an entirely different system, could not abandon their system without a great deal of trouble; and that an analysis of the bonded-warehouse trade would show that goods underwent more than one transformation in the course of it — tobacco, for example, was kept for a long time in bond and constantly handled. Every country must be left free to calculate its trade as it thought best, provided always that it defined clearly what was included in the calculations.

The outcome of this debate was that the Committee maintained the division of paragraph IV into two sub-paragraphs: (a) and (b). The heading of sub-paragraph IV (2) in the draft Convention was shifted to appear as a heading to the whole paragraph, and the new draft, with slight amendments of form, is as follows:

“IV. The High Contracting Parties undertake to compile their trade statistics in one of the two ways indicated below (a) or (b):

(a) When figures of special trade are compiled alone or together with the figures of general trade: Special imports (into the statistical territory) shall include all goods declared for domestic consumption, and all goods declared (on the conditions normally applied to ‘improvement trade’ and ‘repair trade’) for transformation or supplementary treatment. Re-packing, sorting and blending do not constitute transformation or supplementary treatment.”

The original text did not include the word “sorting”, but, as sorting is frequently done in bond, it was thought well to mention it specifically in order to remove any doubt.
“Special exports shall include all goods exported, produced within the statistical territory or nationalised.

“Nationalised goods shall be taken to mean imported goods which are placed at the free disposal of the importers after payment of the duties, if any, to which they may be liable, or which have undergone the transformation or supplementary treatment for which they were admitted temporarily free of duty.

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

“General trade shall be taken to include: as regards imports, all goods arriving from territories external to the statistical territory; as regards exports, all goods leaving the statistical territory for a destination outside that territory. However, there shall be excluded goods in direct transit as well as goods merely transhipped in ports under Customs control.”

A new paragraph deals with direct transit and transhipment, and prescribes the publication of the methods used :

“(i) Indirect transit and (ii) direct transit (including transhipment) shall form the subject of separate tables showing the countries from which the goods were received and the countries to which they were despatched. The quantity of these goods shall be expressed in gross weight; in case this prove to be impossible, any other basis may be admitted, including that of value, on condition that the method used is stated in the publication.”

The definition of “direct transit (including transhipment)” given below is to be inserted in the Protocol; it will be the same for sub-paragraph (b) as for sub-paragraph (a).

Sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph IV ends, as in the draft Convention, with a passage dealing with “improvement trade” and “repair trade”, and specifying the manner in which they are to be shown in international trade statistics:

“When ‘improvement trade’ and ‘repair trade’ are shown in special tables, the full value of each category of goods (original value of the goods plus value of work and material added) shall be shown both on arrival and on despatch from the territory, and separate tables shall be drawn up to this effect.”

Notwithstanding the difficulty of the problem, the Committee felt that a definition of transit trade, direct and indirect, could not be dispensed with. The definition on which it decided is entirely new as regards the draft Convention; the Committee proposes that the Conference should insert it in the Protocol. It reads as follows:

“By transit trade shall be understood the total of all direct and indirect transit trade.

“The direct transit trade of any territory shall be understood to include all goods passing through that territory for purposes of transport only, without being placed at the free disposal of the importers or warehoused.

“The indirect transit trade of any territory shall be understood to include all goods coming from territories external to the territory to which the statistics apply which are entered into warehouses or depôts, actual or constructive, belonging to that territory, whether situated in its ordinary Customs territory or in its free ports or free zones, and subsequently exported therefrom without being placed at the free disposal of the importers and without having undergone any transformation or supplementary treatment other than re-packing, sorting or blending.”

Having considered these various hypotheses, all of which apply to a specified commercial regime, the Committee decided to deal with the second case, when the aggregate import trade alone is given. The Committee proposes the expression “aggregate trade” instead of “general trade” or “national trade”, in order to avoid any misunderstanding due to mistaken or divergent interpretations of these latter expressions. The Committee proposes that sub-paragraph (b) should read as follows:

“(b) Aggregate imports shall comply with the definition given in sub-paragraph (a) of general import trade.

“Exports and re-exports shall be shown separately.

“All goods dispatched from the territory to which the statistics apply which have been (a) produced therein; or (b) subjected therein to transformation or supplementary treatment, shall be shown as exports.

“All goods imported into the territory to which the statistics apply and subsequently exported therefrom without undergoing any transformation or supplementary treatment (excluding goods transhipped under bond, i.e., goods in direct transit or merely transhipped in ports, under bond) shall be shown as re-exports. Re-packing, sorting or blending do not constitute a transformation or supplementary treatment.

“Direct transit trade (including transhipments) shall form the subject of separate returns in the manner provided in sub-paragraph (a).”

1 The definition of “direct transit trade” given in the Protocol mentioned above under sub-paragraph (a) applies equally to sub-paragraph (b).
It will now be possible to make much better comparisons between the trade of two countries one of which uses the Continental system and the other the Anglo-Saxon system, because, under the Convention:

(i) The table of direct transit trade (including transhipments) will be compiled by both countries, and will be compiled according to an identical system; and

(ii) The "aggregate" trade of the Anglo-Saxon country will correspond, as regards aggregate exports, exactly to the "special exports" plus the "indirect transit" of the Continental-system country; while, as regards aggregate imports, it will correspond approximately to the "special imports" plus the "indirect transit" of the Continental-system country.

The correspondence in the case of imports will not be quite exact for any given period, owing to the fact that, under the Continental system, the warehoused goods are not included in "special imports" until entered for home consumption. Nevertheless, the Committee feels that a very great advance has been made, inasmuch as the correspondence within each of the two groups of countries will now be absolute, and the divergence between the two groups is now reduced to a minimum.

The Committee hopes that these detailed definitions, which have been accepted unanimously by the representatives of the administrations concerned, will have the effect of removing the uncertainties which have obscured this subject for so many years and have made it impossible to secure comparable external trade statistics.

* * *

In approaching the question of countries of provenance and destination, the Committee was fully alive to the difficulties it was going to encounter. For many years, the advocates and opponents of the systems in force in various countries have been unable to arrive at a clear-cut issue. It is well known that commercial statistics can have reference to the country of production, the country of origin, the country of consignment, the country of immediate provenance and the country of purchase. In the matter of exports, moreover, we have the country of consumption, the country in which the goods are declared to be intended for consumption, the country of destination to which the goods are consigned direct or the country to which they are sent in the first place, and the country to which the goods are sold.

Being anxious to deal with these difficulties seriatim, the Committee began by defining the meaning of "statistical territory", an expression already used in the preceding section:

"The territory to which the trade statistics of a country (Article 2, paragraph IV) apply shall be understood to include all the territory within its Customs frontier, all Customs bonded and other warehouses and depots under Customs control, and all free ports and free zones belonging to that country."

This definition settled a question which had long remained undecided, namely, that of free ports, which do not belong to the Customs territory but are within the statistical territory.

The free ports and free zones are now, for trade statistical purposes, included, in the same manner as bonded warehouses, in the trade statistical territory; while other Customs exclaves, provided they are not already Customs enclaves of another country, now become separate statistical territories, e.g., Heligoland and the Channel Islands.

The unanimous agreement reached by the delegations has put an end to the uncertainty which has long prevailed as to the interpretation to be placed on the statistics of certain countries.

It will still be necessary, however, to determine clearly, what these statistical territories will be, in order that comparisons may be made between the figures relating to them. It will also be necessary that the list should be modified without delay when circumstances require. These cases are provided for in the following clause:

"The statistical territories to be shown in the statistics of trade by countries shall correspond to the list contained in an Annex.

"Any one of the High Contracting Parties may at any time apply to the Council of the League of Nations to modify this Annex in view of changes that have occurred in the political or economic situation, etc., of the statistical territories in question."

This task of revision demands a continuity of work not be achieved by a Committee of Experts which only meets at intervals; this is why the continuous revision of the list has been entrusted to the Council of the League rather than to the Committee of Experts.

The latter is, however, obviously the appropriate body to draw up the minimum list of statistical territories to be shown. There can clearly be no question of mentioning in official publications all States whatsoever which maintain commercial connections, however slight, with a given country. A minimum list will therefore have to be drawn up. The Committee expressly recommended that the list should not include too many countries. The Committee was of opinion that this list should, if drawn up with proper care, be limited to a reasonable number of countries, but did not think it desirable to lay down any particular number here and now. The following text explains what the Committee had in view on this point:

"Within a period of six months after the coming into force of the present Convention, a Committee of Experts appointed as provided in Article 8 shall draw up a minimum
list of the statistical territories, whether isolated or grouped together, which shall be specified in the statistics of aggregate trade by countries. Any country shall be free to substitute for one (or more) of the items in this minimum list a complete list of the corresponding items in the Annex.”

Certain States have entered into Customs unions with others; the political territories remain separate, but a common Customs territory has been provided for. How is the statistical territory of States in the position just described to be defined? The following text meets this point:

“Where two or more countries have entered into a Customs union and publish trade statistics referring to the whole union, the trade statistical territory may be the joint territory, as defined above, of all the parties to that union.”

It may happen that the statistical territory does not consist of an aggregation of contiguous parts. Alaska, Porto Rico and Hawaii, in the case of the United States of America, and the Azores and Madeira, in the case of Portugal, have been quoted as instances of this. The draft adopted by the Committee also covers this point:

“Nothing in this definition shall be interpreted as preventing countries from publishing separate statistics for non-contiguous parts of their statistical territories.”

A further difficulty remained to be settled. Supposing that the minimum list of States to be mentioned is accepted, must this list be adhered to in regard to every class of goods, and must every country included in the minimum list be mentioned as soon as any commercial transaction, however small, is carried out with it? Common sense will furnish the reply, but the Committee was anxious to record its view in the following text:

“It is understood, further, that, in the statistical tables showing, for the various categories of goods, the countries with which that trade is conducted, those countries with which such trade is unimportant may be grouped under the heading ‘Other Countries’ without further distinction.”

Finally, the Committee ruled that “goods consigned on optional bills of lading” and cargoes “for orders” shall be shown separately as consigned “for orders”. It added the following recommendation:

“It is desirable, when goods are consigned on optional bills of lading or ‘for orders’, and shown as consigned ‘for orders’, that there should be compiled, at a later date, statistics showing the countries of actual discharge, as these become known.

“In this connection, it is recommended that the question of determining the best method of ascertaining the true destination of exports be referred to the Committee of Experts.”

Lastly came the vital problem: which country was to be selected — the country of origin, the country of provenance, the country of despatch or the country of purchase? And, similarly, which country was to be shown in connection with exports? One delegation wished the Convention to contain a provision indicating the countries to be mentioned in connection with imports and exports more formal than that which merely provided for an experiment with a view to throwing light on the advantages and disadvantages of the systems in use. In the opinion of that delegation, the Convention should have included a clause whereby, to the extent suggested, countries should show in their statistics of imports both the country of production and the country of consignment; and the latter being also, in a great majority of countries, that in which the goods were bought. The majority of the delegations, however, thought it more advisable that information should first be obtained in order that a definite opinion might be formed. The text drawn up by a Sub-Committee was subjected to certain amendments — of form rather than of substance — as the outcome of which it was accepted by all the States represented.

The method adopted in regard to the list of countries to be enumerated has already been explained. Further useful details are provided by the adoption of the following draft recommendation:

“Being desirous of facilitating the work of Statistical Departments in preparing accurate classifications of imported and exported goods in accordance with the particulars set out in the List of Countries and Statistical Territories (see Article 2, V, of the draft Convention), the Conference recommends that the Secretariat of the League of Nations be asked to draw up, before the stipulations of the Convention are actually applied, a ‘Schedule of Sea or River Ports of Loading and Unloading open to International Trade’ showing in each case the appropriate corresponding heading in the List of Countries and Statistical Territories.

“The Secretariat might also be requested to revise this List from time to time so that it may be kept up to date.”

In the course of the discussion, several delegations expressed doubt whether the proposed experiments should be made compulsory or should simply be recommended. A recommendation would, of course, leave greater latitude, and consequently ratifications might more easily be obtained; but, on the other hand, it was felt that a mere recommendation would not perhaps secure the desired results. If only a few countries made investigations and undertook the necessary experiments, the result, when communicated to the Committee of Experts, would not have sufficient evidential value to carry the conviction of the high contracting parties. In order to reach an absolutely final solution, it was essential that, in all the countries which are
parties to the Convention, enquiries and experiments of the nature contemplated should be made in a universal spirit of co-operation. The apprehensions that had been expressed in regard to the complications to which these experiments might give rise were dismissed by the Committee. It was urged that every country should be free to select the articles to which the various systems of classification should be applied. It was further pointed out that the obligation in question was undertaken for one year only. For all these reasons, the Committee agreed so far as concerned imports. In regard to exports, the difficulties were found to be yet more serious. Certain delegations pointed out that their countries could not take the desired action. To this it was replied that, if action were so difficult that no result could be obtained, those Powers which were in such a situation would call attention to such difficulties as they might encounter and state their inability to take part in the proposed experiments. One of the proper functions of the Committee of Experts would be to call attention to these difficulties, since it would be out of the question to embody in a future Convention obligations which exceeded the powers of the high contracting parties. Accordingly the text appears as follows:

"Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes, as an experiment, to prepare, so far as the means of investigation at its disposal permit, for a period of twelve consecutive months and in respect of a number of articles entering into its import and export trade to be selected by itself, statistical tables on a comparative basis showing respectively: (a) the countries of origin or production; (b) the countries of consignment (for imports); and (c) the countries of purchase; and the countries: (a) of consumption; (b) of consignment (for exports); and (c) of sale.

"By country of origin or production is meant, in the case of a natural product, the country where the goods were produced, or, in the case of a manufactured product, the country where it was transformed into the condition in which it was introduced into the importing country, it being understood that re-packing, blending or sorting do not constitute transformation.

"By country of consignment (for imports) is meant the country from which the goods were originally despatched to the importing country, with or without interruption of transit in the course of transport, but without any commercial transaction in the intermediate countries.

"By country of purchase is meant the country from which the goods are purchased.

"By country of consumption is meant the country where the goods will be put to the use for which they were produced, or simply undergo a process of transformation, it being understood that re-packing, blending or sorting do not constitute transformation.

"By country of consignment (for exports) is meant the country to which the goods were actually despatched, with or without interruption of transit in the course of transport, but without any commercial transaction in the intermediate countries.

"By country of sale is meant the country to which the goods were sold."

A few words of explanation may not be out of place.

Consumption may destroy the product in question, as in the case of foodstuffs for human consumption. On the other hand, consumption may consist in a simple transformation of matter used by an industry as raw material and transformed thereby into a manufactured product (for example, cotton yarn transformed into cotton tissues).

"One year after the entry into force of the Convention in a given country, the latter shall forward to the Committee of Experts, to be appointed for the purpose under Article 8, a report stating, in regard to each of the methods of registration tried, the advantages and drawbacks of all kinds noted in the course of the trial.

"Three months after the Committee of Experts has received all the reports of half the countries signing the present Convention, it shall summarise the results of its work, which shall be communicated to the High Contracting Parties with a view to a further Conference."

After the points just stated above, which represent the essential elements of trade statistics, the draft Convention deals with a number of minor questions, which we shall consider briefly with special reference to the new texts which have been adopted by the Commission after, in some cases, fairly lengthy discussion:

"VI. In view of the special importance of accurate monetary statistics, the High Contracting Parties undertake to show the imports and exports of: (a) gold coin; (b) gold in bars (in the form acceptable in inter-bank transactions); and (c) other gold, in special tables, under both weight and value."

It will be seen that a general adoption of this classification will make it possible to distinguish accurately between: (i) gold immediately employable for settlement of accounts between bank and (ii) gold intended for industrial purposes or ultimate refinement and minting.

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Draft Paragraph VII was adopted with two amendments: the original article provided that the quantities of coal and other fuel supplied to ships should be shown, but full and exact particulars regarding such transactions are not available in all countries; moreover, commercial transactions of this nature are very often quite insignificant, and the Committee therefore decided that these statistics might be based simply on estimates when detailed information is not forthcoming. Accordingly, in order to show plainly that the figures refer to coal supplied to
ships for their own immediate consumption, and not for transhipment, a sentence making this clear was added to the article, which now runs:

"VII. To show the quantities (and, if possible, the values), estimated or ascertained, of bunker coal and other bunker fuel supplied in ports, for their own use, to: (a) national vessels; and (b) other vessels, engaged in external trade."

* * *

The text of sub-paragraph VIII (1) (a) is as follows:

"(1) To exclude from statistics of international trade:

(a) Imports and exports, temporary or permanent, of any goods involving no commercial transaction."

All goods crossing the frontier of a country cannot be shown in international trade statistics. Such are, for instance, goods only temporarily brought into the Customs territory, a long enumeration of which might be given. It would be difficult, however, under this head, to draw up a list which might be regarded as at all complete, for the articles in question are governed by each country's own Customs legislation. It seems, however, a pretty safe rule that, if an article, as an "import", is subject to the payment of a duty, it may reasonably enough be assimilated to articles forming the subject of a commercial transaction. To take obvious examples of articles that are admitted freely in most countries, one might cite certain cases of temporary imports, such as vehicles (motor-cars, bicycles, etc.) crossing a frontier for touring purposes, articles sent to exhibitions, livestock sent to fairs and markets, provided they are re-exported; goods for possible sale, or goods "on consignment"; in so far as they are re-exported, samples of no value admitted duty-free. There are cases of final imports which cannot properly be included in international trade. Such are, for instance, articles brought free into the country under cover of diplomatic immunity, produce harvested on lands adjoining the frontier which are owned or leased by nationals of the importing country, etc.

"VIII. (1) To exclude . . . :

(b) Ships' stores for national vessels;

(c) In the imports, fishery products which are regarded by the importing country as national produce.

(2) There may be excluded from these statistics:

(a) Ships' stores on foreign ships;

(b) Insignificant quantities of goods imported or exported which may be regarded as of negligible importance in comparison with the total trade in these particular goods."

* * *

Paragraph IX was adopted in slightly amended form. In the original draft, the civil calendar year is described as running from January 1st to December 31st. It is also understood that the calendar month runs from the first to the last day of the month and that these periods are to be adopted for the purpose of international trade statistics. The Committee has omitted the words "from the first to the last day of each month". The reason for this omission is that, if the statistics were invariably drawn up so as to include all articles imported up to the last day of the month, considerable delay would be involved in closing. The Committee therefore preferred to leave it open for each of the contracting parties to fix the exact dates between which the monthly statistics should be compiled. The dates selected will necessarily depend on the geographical distribution of each country's goods, its internal means of communication, statistical organisation and other factors. The article was finally adopted in the following form:

"To adopt the civil calendar year (January 1st to December 31st) and the civil calendar month.

The provisions of this paragraph shall not prevent any High Contracting Party from maintaining, in addition, a statistical year differing from the civil calendar year."

II. FISHERY STATISTICS.

Article 1, paragraph III (e) ; Article 6 ; paragraph IV of the Protocol; and Annex IV to the Draft Convention.

The Committee decided to set up a Sub-Committee of representatives of the countries specially interested in the question; this Sub-Committee was formed of delegates representing the British Empire, Canada, Denmark, France, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Sub-Committee, under the chairmanship
of M. Jahn (Norway), held several meetings, and submitted its conclusions to the Committee, which adopted them on December 7th, after a short discussion.

Annex IV indicated under five headings what should be covered by fishery statistics.

Paragraph III (e) was adopted with a few amendments.

The draft Convention referred to countries to whose economy fishing is important. This description was too indefinite; the importance of any activity is relative both to itself and to other activities. Moreover, fisheries may be important and yet Governments may be unable to compile statistics for them because the industry has not reached such a state of economic organisation as to enable periodical returns to be instituted.

The original text referred simply to fisheries, not distinguishing between sea and inland fisheries. The Sub-Committee thought it desirable to make special mention of inland fisheries, but with the qualification "if possible". Accordingly, Article 1, paragraph III (e), is drafted as follows:

"In the case of countries in which fishing is an organised branch of economic activity, annual returns showing the products of the main sea fisheries landed, and, if possible, of inland water fisheries; the nationality of the vessels by which such products are landed; and the numbers and classes of national boats engaged in fisheries and the number of persons employed thereon. In the cases where it is not possible to furnish complete returns, an approximate indication of the extent to which such returns are defective shall be given."

Article 6 of the draft Convention was brought into line with Articles 3 and 4; slight drafting amendments result in making its provisions a little less rigid. The text is as follows:

"The High Contracting Parties express their general acceptance of the principles set out in Annex IV for the compilation of fishery statistics, and agree to apply them as far as possible in their respective fishery statistics."

Paragraph IV of the Protocol was deleted in view of the new wording of Article 6.

Annex IV was recast so as to make its provisions less strict and more acceptable to all Governments. The references to appliances employed in fishing were deleted, as these figures would be too difficult for those concerned to supply, and could not be effectively checked. In several countries, attempts in this direction have failed; and the Committee entirely agrees that in statistics it is useless to ask for the impossible.

The Committee introduced a new paragraph — paragraph III:

"If possible, the quantity of the principal categories of fishery products prepared in the country concerned."

It was agreed that the reference to the classes of national boats employed in sea fishing and, if possible, in inland-water fishing related to the main distinctions between sailing-boats, steamers, trawlers, etc.

In paragraph I, the Committee introduced the words "cultivated aquatic products" in place of the term previously used, which refers to fish living in free conditions.

After all these amendments, Annex IV was adopted in the following form:

"The statistics of fisheries shall show:

1. The quantity and value of all products of sea fisheries (including crustaceans, mollusces, and shellfish of every kind) landed direct in the country, shown separately accordingly to the principal kinds of fish and cultivated aquatic products; and the nationalities of the vessels by which they are landed, including also in the returns, if possible, and so far as it is applicable, the same information in the case of inland-water fisheries.

2. The quantity and value of the products of the fisheries mentioned above imported from other countries and exported to other countries.

3. If possible, the quantity of the principal categories of fishery products prepared in the country concerned.

4. As far as possible, the quantity of fish caught by national vessels, irrespective of the place of landing, and of cultivated aquatic products raised of the respective countries.

5. The number of persons engaged in fisheries, classified, as far as possible, by sex and according to whether fishery is their main or their secondary employment.

6. The number and classes of national boats employed in sea fishing and, if possible, in inland-water fishing.

7. As far as possible, the localities in which the fishery products landed in the country were obtained and the periods spent in obtaining such products."
C.S.O.30/Bureau. — RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS, PROPOSED BY SIR SYDNEY CHAPMAN.¹

The Conference:

Recognising that the present Convention represents a minimum standard for most countries:

Expresses the opinion:

(1) That the economic statistics furnished by most countries should, according to the degree of complexity of their economic organisation, be more comprehensive than those required by this Convention;

(2) That countries should gradually extend the scope of their statistical work, and to this end give due consideration to the recommendations of the Committee of Experts;

(3) That countries with highly developed statistical systems should endeavour to secure, by informal or formal understandings and with the aid of the Committee of Experts referred to in Article 8, comparability with regard to certain of the statistics published by them for which no provision is made in this Convention.

(December 8th, 1928.)

C.S.O.31/Bureau. — DRAFT RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS.

The Conference recommends that, before the appointment of the Committee of Experts referred to in Article 8, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations shall enquire whether those organisations which have collaborated in the preparatory work for the Conference — namely, the International Institute of Agriculture, the International Chamber of Commerce and the International Institute of Statistics — have any observations which they may wish to submit concerning the composition of the Committee of Experts.

(December 8th, 1928.)

C.S.O.32/Bureau. — PARAGRAPH PROPOSED BY SIR SYDNEY CHAPMAN.

Article 8, II, Functions of the Committee of Experts.

In addition to the particular functions which are entrusted to it under the provisions of the Annexes of the present Convention, the Committee of Experts referred to in the preceding paragraph of this article may frame any recommendations which appear to it useful, with a view to improving or amplifying the principles and arrangements laid down in the Convention concerning those classes of statistics dealt with therein. It may suggest other classes of statistics of a similar character in respect of which it appears desirable and practicable to secure international uniformity, provided that they do not relate to public or private finance (public debt, revenue and expenditure, banking, the money market, stock exchange, etc.) or to transport. It shall examine all suggestions to the same end which may be submitted to it by the Governments of any of the High Contracting Parties.

(December 8th, 1928.)

C.S.O.33/Bureau. — RESERVATION SUBMITTED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE FREE CITY OF DANZIG.

Ad Article 1, paragraph III (g) and (h), Industrial Statistics.

It is understood that, if the Free City of Danzig accepts the present Convention, it does not bind itself to compile the statistics mentioned in Article 1, Paragraph III (g) and (h); accordingly, it does not bind itself to apply the methods mentioned in Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention.

(December 8th, 1928.)

C.S.O.34/Bureau. — RESERVATIONS SUBMITTED BY M. MRÁZ ON BEHALF OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION.

With reference to the statements made during the discussions of the Committee on Production Statistics, I have the honour, on behalf of the Czechoslovak delegation, to submit to the Bureau the following reservations in view of Article 7 of the Draft Convention.

1. Czechoslovakia only undertakes to compile statistics of industrial establishments and agricultural undertakings (Article 1, Paragraphs II and III (a)) for 1930.

2. Czechoslovakia does not undertake to compile the statistics mentioned in Article 1, Paragraph III (g) and (h); she therefore cannot undertake to follow the corresponding methods mentioned in Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention.

3. With regard to Annex III concerning methods of compiling mining and metallurgical statistics, Czechoslovakia cannot undertake to compile monthly returns other than those dealing with coal, or returns of kinds of iron ore (e.g., magnetite, hematite, carbonate ore, etc.), or returns of the production of semi-finished and finished articles of steel and puddled iron.

(December 8th, 1928.)

¹ Proposal originally submitted to the Sub-Committee on Industrial Statistics by the United States delegation (see document C.S.O./Prod./13).
Article 1.
Paragraph III (e) (Fisheries).
Paragraph V (External trade).

Article 2.
Paragraph I (Declared values).
Paragraph II (Frontier values).
Paragraph III (Units of measure).
Paragraph IV (Special and general trade).
Paragraph V. Statistical Territory. — The territory to which the statistics (as referred to in Paragraph IV above) apply shall be understood to include all the territory within its Customs frontiers, all Customs bonded and other warehouses and depots under Customs control, and all free ports and free zones belonging to that country.

The statistical territories to be shown in the statistics of trade by countries shall correspond to the list contained in the Annex.

Any one of the High Contracting Parties may at any time apply to the Council of the League of Nations to modify this Annex in view of changes that have occurred in the political or economic situation, etc., of the statistical territories in question.

Within a period of six months after the coming into force of the present Convention, a Committee of Experts appointed as provided in Article 8 shall draw up the minimum list of the statistical areas, whether isolated or grouped together, which shall be specified in the statistics of trade by countries. Any country shall be free to substitute for one (or more) of the items in this minimum list a complete list of the corresponding items contained in the Annex.

Where two or more countries have entered into a Customs union and publish trade statistics referring to the whole union, the trade statistical territory may be the joint area, as defined above, of all the parties to that union.

Nothing in this definition shall be interpreted as preventing countries from publishing separate statistics for non-contiguous territories, instead of statistics relating to the whole of the Customs territory, when such Customs territory is composed of non-contiguous territories.

It is understood, further, that, in the statistical tables showing, for the various categories of goods, the countries with which that trade is conducted, those countries with which such trade is unimportant may be grouped under the heading “Other countries” without further distinction.

Goods consigned on optional bills of lading and cargoes “for orders” shall be shown separately as consigned “for orders”.

Statement of Reasons for the Adoption of the Following Sub-Paragraphs.

“Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes, as an experiment, to prepare, so far as the means of investigation at its disposal permit, for a period of twelve consecutive months and in respect of a number of articles entering into its import and export trade to be selected by itself, statistical tables on a comparative basis showing, respectively, (a) the countries of origin or production; (b) the countries of consignment; and (c) the countries of purchase; and the countries (a) of consumption; (b) of consignment or destination; and (c) of sale...”

[For remainder of Paragraph, see document C.S.O./Commerce/43.]
Paragraph IX (Period to which statistics relate).

Article 6.

Fishery statistics.

PROPOSED PROTOCOL CLAUSES.

3. The stipulations of Article 1, III (e), and of Article 6 (Fishery statistics) shall not apply to Austria, Brazil and Switzerland.

4. The stipulations of Article 2, II, shall not apply to Norway (document C.S.O.11).

5. The stipulations of Article 2, VII, regarding bunker coal shall not apply to Austria, Brazil, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

6. The stipulations of Article 2, IV (a), shall not apply to Switzerland.

7. The provisions of Recommendation I (d) (Recommendation II (4) of the draft Convention as amended) shall not apply to Italy.

8. Paragraph IV of the Protocol to the draft Convention is deleted.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. [This is the original Recommendation II of the draft Convention, as adopted with amendments.] The Conference, taking note of the facts that a common nomenclature for Customs tariffs is now being elaborated by the League of Nations and that, in the great majority of countries, the statistical nomenclature is based on that adopted in the respective Customs tariffs, recommends:

(a) That as and when this tariff nomenclature is adopted for tariff purposes, the Committee of Experts to be set up under Article 8 should draft, for submission to a later Conference, the statistical nomenclature which should be adopted in accordance with the principles laid down in that article; and

(b) That no changes should be made in existing statistical nomenclature until the new statistical nomenclature has been adopted, other than such as the immediate convenience of the individual States may demand;

(c) That the statistical nomenclature should be likewise adopted by those countries which are unable to employ the new tariff classification, as soon as the number of countries which have changed their classification is so considerable as to render such action desirable in order to achieve greater international statistical comparability;

(d) That, until such changes are introduced, States should supply the International Bureau of Commercial Statistics at Brussels with the summaries approved by the International Convention of Brussels, 1913.

2. Whereas it would contribute, not merely to the comparability of trade statistics, but also to the comparability of Customs tariffs, to the facility of international commercial transactions, etc., if all countries adopted:

(a) Standard definitions of the terms "gross weight", "actual net weight", "legal net weight", etc.;

(b) A standard unit as a basis for commercial statistics of one class of goods in all countries;

The Conference calls the attention of the Council of the League of Nations to the importance of this question, and requests it to instruct the Economic Organisation of the League to investigate the matter. (Document C.S.O.17.)

3. (List of ports.)

[For the statement of reasons for this recommendation, see Article 2, Paragraph V, in document C.S.O./Commerce/43.]

Being desirous of facilitating the work of Statistical Departments in preparing accurate classifications of imported and exported goods in accordance with the particulars set out in the List of Countries and Statistical Territories (Article 2, V, of the Convention), the International Conference on Economic Statistics recommends that the Secretariat of the League of Nations be asked to draw up, before the stipulations of the Convention are actually applied, a "Schedule of sea or river ports of loading and unloading open to international trade", showing in each case the appropriate corresponding heading in the List of Countries and Statistical Areas.

The Secretariat might also be requested to revise this list from time to time so that it may be kept up to date.

4. (Article 2, Paragraph V, Goods "for orders"). — It is desirable when goods are consigned on optional bills of lading or "for orders", and shown as consigned "for orders", that there should be compiled, at a later date, statistics showing the countries of actual discharge, as these become known.

In this connection, it is recommended that the question of determining the best method of ascertaining the true destination of exports be referred to the Expert Committee.

5. (Article 1, Paragraph V, Transport statistics). — The Conference:

Noting the declarations which have been made to the effect that work is being undertaken in a view to the unification of transport statistics;
Recognising the importance of the publication of such statistics on a uniform basis according to a uniform nomenclature, ensuring that they have as complete a degree of comparability as possible:

Expresses the hope that the work which is being done may be successfully concluded as soon as possible, in order that in the near future there may be concluded an international agreement on this subject. (Document C.S.O.13.)

Clause for Insertion in the Final Act.

That the inclusion in Article 1, Paragraph V (b), of certain provisions relating to shipping shall not be held to prejudice the conclusion of any international agreement in the future concerning transport statistics.

(December 8th, 1928.)

C.S.O.36/Bureau. — TEXT OF ARTICLES ADOPTED BY THE BUREAU AND SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE.

Article 8.

1. A Committee of Technical Experts shall be appointed at a meeting of the Council of the League of Nations and one delegate from each State not a Member of the League of Nations represented at the Conference at Geneva on whose behalf ratifications or accessions have been deposited.

2. In addition to the particular functions which are entrusted to it under the provisions of the present Convention and the instruments annexed thereto, the Committee of Experts referred to in the preceding paragraph of this article may make any recommendations which appear to it useful, with a view to improving or amplifying the principles and arrangements laid down in the Convention concerning those classes of statistics dealt with therein. It may also make recommendations in regard to other classes of statistics of a similar character in respect of which it appears desirable and practicable to secure international uniformity. It shall examine all suggestions to the same end which may be submitted to it by the Governments of any of the High Contracting Parties.

3. The Council of the League of Nations is requested, if at any time a desire to that effect is expressed by the Governments of not less than half of the Members of the League and non-member States on whose behalf ratifications and accessions have been deposited, to convene a conference for the revision and, if it seems desirable, the amplification of the present Convention.

Article 9.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to exchange with each other the statistical returns compiled and published by them, respectively, in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention.

Article 10.

Should a dispute arise between two or more High Contracting Parties as to the interpretation or application of the provisions of the present Convention, and should such dispute not be settled either directly between the Parties or by the employment of other means of reaching agreement, the Parties may submit the dispute, with a view to an amicable settlement, to the Committee of Experts referred to in Article 8. This Committee may request the Parties to submit their observations either orally or in writing and shall give an advisory opinion on the question at issue.

Article 11.

Any High Contracting Party may, at the time of signature, ratification or accession, declare that, in accepting the present Convention, he does not assume any obligations in respect of all or any of his colonies, protectorates, overseas territories or territories under suzerainty or mandate; and the present Convention shall not apply to any territories named in such declaration.

Any High Contracting Party may give notice to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations at any time subsequently that he desires that the Convention shall apply to all or any of his territories which have been made the subject of a declaration under the preceding paragraph, and the Convention shall apply to all the territories named in such notice one year after its receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

Any High Contracting Party may, at any time after the expiration of the five years' period mentioned in Article 16, declare that he desires that the present Convention shall cease to apply to all or any of his colonies, protectorates, overseas territories or territories under suzerainty or mandate, and the Convention shall cease to apply to the territories named in such declaration six months after its receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

The Secretary-General of the League of Nations shall communicate to the Governments of all the Members of the League of Nations and non-member States mentioned in Article 12 all declarations and notices received in virtue of this article.
Article 12.

The present Convention, of which the French and English texts shall both be authentic, shall bear to-day's date; it may, until the thirtieth day of September, nineteen hundred and twenty-nine, be signed on behalf of any Member of the League of Nations, or of any non-member State which was represented at the Conference of Geneva or to which the Council of the League of Nations shall have communicated a copy of the Convention for this purpose.

The present Convention shall be ratified. The instruments of ratification shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who shall notify their receipt to all Members of the League and to the non-member States referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Article 13.

As from the first day of October nineteen hundred and twenty-nine, the present Convention may be acceded to on behalf of any Member of the League of Nations or of any non-member States mentioned in Article 12.

The instruments of accession shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who shall notify their receipt to all the Members of the League and to the non-member States mentioned in Article 12.

Article 14.

The present Convention shall come into force on the ninetieth day following the receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations of ratifications or accessions on behalf of not less than ten Members of the League or non-member States.

The instruments of accession shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, who shall notify their receipt to all the Members of the League and to the non-member States mentioned in Article 12.

Article 15.

Ratifications or accessions received after the entry into force of the Convention in accordance with Article 14 shall take effect as from the ninetieth day following the date of their receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

Article 16.

After the expiration of five years from the coming into force of the present Convention in accordance with Article 14, it may be denounced by an instrument in writing deposited with the Secretary-General of the League of Nations. The denunciation shall take effect six months after its receipt by the Secretary-General and shall operate only as regards the Member of the League or non-member States on whose behalf it has been deposited.

The Secretary-General shall notify all the Members of the League and the non-member States mentioned in Article 12 of any denunciations received.

If, as the result of simultaneous or successive denunciations, the number of Members of the League and non-member States bound by the present Convention is reduced to less than ten, the Convention shall cease to be in force.

Article 17.

The High Contracting Parties agree to accept the reservations to the application of the present Convention which are set forth in the Protocol of this Convention and in respect of the countries therein named.

The Governments of countries which are ready to accede to the Convention under Article 13 but desire to be allowed to make any reservations with regard to the application of the Convention may inform the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to this effect, who shall forthwith, with such explanations thereupon as he shall think fit, communicate such reservations to the Governments of all countries on whose behalf ratifications or accessions have been deposited, and enquire whether they have any objection thereto. If within six months of the date of the communication of the Secretary-General no objections have been received, the reservation shall be deemed to have been accepted.

Article 18.

The present Convention shall be registered by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations on the day of its entry into force.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the above-mentioned plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention.

DONE at ..............., in a single copy which shall be kept in the archives of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, and certified true copies of which shall be delivered to all the Members of the League and to the non-member States referred to in Article 12.

(December 6th, 1928.)

C.S.O.41/Bureau. — TEXT PROPOSED BY THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE FOR NEW ARTICLE 1.

(See also revised text, document C.S.O.50.)

(1) The High Contracting Parties undertake to compile and publish, in respect of any of the territories to which the Convention applies, the statistics mentioned and at the intervals stated in Article 2 below.
(2) For the purposes of the statistics required by the present Convention, every territory possessing a separate statistical system for any class of statistics may be shown in such statistics as a separate unit. It shall be stated in all statistics published under this Convention to what territories such statistics apply.

(3) The obligations contained in this article are subject to the interpretations of the provisions of this Convention and to the reservations to its operation which are set out in the Protocol to the present Convention and to the reservations which may be allowed hereafter under the provisions of Article 17 below.

(December 10th, 1928.)

C.S.O.44/Bureau. — RESERVATION SUBMITTED BY THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION

Mineral Statistics.

The delegation of the United States of Brazil requests that an express reservation be inserted in the Protocol as regards the application to Brazil of the obligation contained in Article 1, Paragraph III (f), under 2 (b) (Smelter production).

(December 10th, 1928.)

C.S.O.45/Bureau. — RESERVATION SUBMITTED BY THE ROUMANIAN DELEGATION.

Indices of industrial activity.

The Roumanian delegation is compelled to make a reservation relating to the provisions of Article 1, Paragraph III (h), as Roumania is not — at all events, for the present — in a position to supply all the particulars referred to in that paragraph.

(December 10th, 1928.)

C.S.O.46/Bureau. — RESERVATION SUBMITTED BY THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION.

In accordance with Article 10, the Portuguese delegation declares, on behalf of its Government, that the present Convention does not apply to the Portuguese colonies.

(December 10th, 1928.)

C.S.O.47/Bureau. — RESERVATION SUBMITTED BY THE DANISH DELEGATION.

In conformity with Article 10, Greenland is declared to be excepted from the provisions of this Convention.

Furthermore, the Danish Government, in accepting the Convention, does not assume any obligation in respect of statistics concerning the Faroe Islands.

(December 10th, 1928.)

C.S.O.48/Bureau. — RESERVATION SUBMITTED BY THE GREEK DELEGATION.

The Greek delegation refers to the declarations and reservations which it submitted to the Committee on Production Statistics and which were dictated by technical considerations. It desires to state that Greece will be compelled to make a reservation in regard to the application of Article 1, Paragraph III (h), for a short period at least.

(December 10th, 1928.)

C.S.O.49/Bureau. — RECOMMENDATION PROPOSED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION.

It is considered desirable to put in train the discussions envisaged in paragraph 3 of the report of the Sub-Committee on Industrial Statistics (document C.S.O./Prod. /13).1

With this end in view, it is suggested:

1. That the Secretariat be asked to open immediately a list to which any countries described in that article and willing to do so shall inscribe their names.

2. That countries so subscribing shall undertake to prepare a document showing the categories of economic statistics on which they are prepared to discuss the introduction of uniform methods.

3. That they shall undertake to circulate this document, either directly or through the Secretariat, to the other signatories as soon as possible and in any case not later than (June, 1929)

4. That they shall undertake to send their comments on documents so received to the countries from which they emanated not later than (December, 1929).

5. That copies of all these documents be sent in all cases to the League Secretariat.

1 "That countries with highly developed statistical systems should endeavour among themselves to secure comparability with regard to the statistics published by them by informal or formal understandings and with the aid of any competent international expert groups now existing or hereafter created."
6. That the League be asked to arrange for the discussion of these documents by the competent Committee of Experts, as described in the article quoted above, with a view to an agreement or agreements with wider obligations.

(December 10th, 1928.)

C.S.O.50/Bureau. — TEXT OF NEW ARTICLE 1 ADOPTED BY THE BUREAU AND SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE.

Article 1.

1. The High Contracting Parties undertake to compile and publish, in respect of every part of their territories to which the Convention applies, the statistics mentioned and at the intervals stated in Article 2 below.

2. For the purposes of the statistics required by the present Convention, every territory possessing a separate statistical system for any class of statistics may be shown in such statistics as a separate unit. It shall be stated in all statistics published under this Convention to what territories such statistics apply.

3. The obligations contained in the present Convention are subject to the interpretations and to the reservations to its operation which are set out in the Protocol to the present Convention and to the reservations which may be allowed hereafter under the provisions of Article 17 below.

(December 11th, 1928.)

C.S.O.51/Bureau. — RESERVATION SUBMITTED BY THE BELGIAN DELEGATION.

In accordance with Article 10 of the draft Convention, the Belgian delegation desires, on behalf of its Government, to state that it cannot accept the obligations involved by the clauses of the present Convention in respect of the Belgian Colony of the Congo.

(December 11th, 1928.)

C.S.O.52/Bureau. — PROPOSAL BY THE U.S.S.R. DELEGATION RELATING TO THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS.

Article 7.

Omit Paragraph III.

Article 8.

In order to promote the development of national statistics on the bases and by the methods laid down in the present Convention, the High Contracting Parties accept the following provisions:

I. There shall be set up a Committee of Technical Experts appointed by the countries signatories to the present Convention. Each country shall be entitled to appoint a Government expert.

II. The Committee shall be competent: (a) to give an opinion on alterations in the text of the Convention for the purpose of improving its provisions; (b) to prepare the basis for the development of a world system of economic statistics by working out the questions to be put to the Governments of countries which have acceded to the Convention — in particular, the questions submitted to it by the 1928 Conference; (c) as soon as these questions have been examined and worked out to a degree which makes international comparison possible, the Committee of Experts may of its own motion, or at the request of a country party to the 1928 Convention, convene a new Conference with a view to enlarging the scope of the existing Convention and including fresh categories of statistics therein; (d) to discuss any reservations and exceptions which may be put forward after the date on which the present Convention comes into force in respect of the countries which have signed it; the right of the latter to insert reservations in the Protocol appended to the Convention shall not, however, be affected by such discussion.

III. The decisions of the Committee of Experts shall only be binding on countries if these decisions are accepted by each country that is a contracting party through its expert on the Committee, or in the absence of the latter, by written notification or any other available means; any other resolutions of the Committee which are not accepted or approved by the respective Governments shall be regarded as simple recommendations having no binding force.

(December 11th, 1928.)

C.S.O.53/Bureau. — DRAFT RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING OCCUPATIONS.¹

The Conference recommends that, in order to increase the value for economic purposes of the statistics referred to in Article 2, III, of the Convention, such statistics should show the distribution of the occupied population according to the branches of industry in which they are occupied

¹ Based on a proposal formulated by the Austrian delegation.
and, within each branch, their occupational status, i.e., employers, employed (supervisory staff, clerical staff, operative staff), workers on their own account and members of a family assisting the head of a family in his business. Within each branch the employed should, as far as possible, be classified according to their personal occupation.

(December 11th, 1928.)

C.S.O.55/Bureau. — RESERVATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION.

The Turkish delegation desires to make the following points clear in regard to Turkey:

1. The statistics of occupations provided for in Article 1, Paragraph I (document C.S.O.25), will be compiled in Turkey at each general Census of the population.

2. While undertaking to base its Censuses of agriculture on the principles laid down in the standard form adopted by the Eighth General Assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture and mentioned in Clause III of the Protocol, the Turkish delegation cannot guarantee that this form will be used without modification.

3. The annual return provided for in Article 1, Paragraph III (b), can be made in Turkey in the relatively near future, but no date can at present be specified.

4. Turkey cannot at present undertake to make the statistical returns provided for in Article 1, Paragraph III, sub-paragraphs (g) and (h).

5. Turkey cannot for the moment undertake to make the experiments provided for in Paragraph V of Article 2, or to carry out the provisions of Paragraph VII of the same article.

(December 11th, 1928.)

C.S.O.56/Bureau. — RECOMMENDATION RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, PROPOSED BY THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION.

The Conference recommends that, in the selection of members of the Committee of Experts, preponderance shall be given to expert knowledge of the subject-matter of the terms of reference.

(December 11th, 1928.)

C.S.O.57/Bureau. — RESERVATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE JAPANESE DELEGATION.

The Japanese delegation desires to make reservations regarding:

(1) Statistics of ores; and

(2) The special tables to be prepared experimentally in respect of countries of provenance and destination.

(December 11th, 1928.)

C.S.O.58. — DRAFT PROTOCOL.¹

Preamble.

Part I.

[Unchanged.]

[Unchanged. In the final text, a new paragraph (3), based on document C.S.O.72, is inserted.]

(December 11th, 1928.)

C.S.O.59. — DRAFT CONVENTION.²

Preamble.

Article 1.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to compile and publish, in respect of every part of their territories to which the Convention applies, the statistics mentioned and at the intervals stated in Article 2 below.

For the purposes of the statistics required by the present Convention, every territory possessing a separate statistical system for any class of statistics may be shown in such statistics as a separate unit. It shall be stated in all statistics published under this Convention to what territories such statistics apply.

The obligations contained in the present Convention are subject to the interpretations and to the reservations which are set out in the Protocol to the present Convention and to the reservations which may be allowed hereafter under the provisions of Article 17 below.

¹ This draft was adopted with very minor drafting alterations. The final text of the Protocol may therefore be consulted.

² The greater part of this draft was adopted as it stood or with very minor drafting alterations. For paragraphs marked [Unchanged] the final text of the Convention (below) may therefore be consulted.
The Conference also adopted the following resolutions:

1 and 2:

For Resolutions 1 and 2, see Resolutions 2 and 3 in the definitive text.

3. The Conference, realising the great utility of personal contact between the official statisticians of different countries and the difficulty experienced by countries situated at a long distance from Europe in being represented at international conferences by officials actually engaged in the preparation of their national statistics, expresses the hope that the League of Nations will take the initiative in suggesting to existing international statistical organisations the desirability of holding within as limited a period as possible any international conferences proposed for any particular year.

And the following recommendations:

I. That, in view of the fact that the present Convention represents a minimum standard:

1. The economic statistics furnished by most countries should, according to the degree of complexity of their economic organisation, be more comprehensive than those required by this Convention;
2. And that countries should gradually extend the scope of their statistical work and, to this end, give due consideration to the recommendations of the Committee of Experts;
3. And that countries with highly developed statistical systems should endeavour, with the aid of the Committee of Experts, to establish informal or formal understandings between themselves with a view to securing comparability with regard to certain of the statistics published by them for which no provision is made in this Convention;

II. That, in order to put into effect the third paragraph of the preceding recommendation:

1. The Secretary-General of the League of Nations should be requested to open a list for signature on behalf of any countries to which the third paragraph of the preceding recommendation applies.
2. That signature of such list should be deemed to be an undertaking:
   a. To prepare a document showing the categories of economic statistics on which the signatories are prepared to discuss the introduction of uniform methods;
   b. To circulate this document, either directly or through the intermediary of the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, to the other signatories as soon as possible and in any case not later than September 30th, 1929;
   c. To send their comments on documents so received from other signatories to the countries from which they emanated not later than June 1st, 1930; and
   d. To send promptly copies of all these documents in all cases to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations; and
3. That the Secretary-General of the League of Nations should be requested to arrange for the discussion of these documents by the Committee of Experts, with a view to the conclusion of an agreement or agreements with wide obligations.

III. That, in view of the great value of the work accomplished by the International Institute of Agriculture, the International Institute of Statistics and the International Chamber of Commerce in the preparation for this Conference, the Secretary-General...
should be requested to enquire whether these organisations desire to make any
observations as to the future work of the Committee of Experts;

"IV. That, in order to increase the value for economic purposes of the statistics
referred to in Article 2, II, of the Convention, the Committee of Experts, taking into
account the work of the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians convened
by the International Labour Office and of the International Institute of Statistics,
should: (1) prepare a draft nomenclature of industries and of occupations... [The rest
unchanged].

Recommendations V to XVI.
[Unchanged.] (December 11th, 1928.)

C.S.O.61/Bureau. — RESERVATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE
HUNGARIAN DELEGATION.

Although the draft Convention prepared by the International Conference relating to
Economic Statistics is of a fairly comprehensive character, and although Hungarian statistics are
sufficiently complete to obviate any difficulty or misconception, the Hungarian delegation feels
bound, in view of existing conditions in the Hungarian Statistical Office, to submit the following
exceptions and reservations 1:

1. Article 1, Paragraph II, (b). — We cannot at present extend our statistics to prime
movers lying idle or in reserve, as we cannot reorganise our returns until the budget year 1931-32.

2. Article 1, Paragraph II, B. — We cannot take a Census of our commercial establishments
except joint-stock commercial companies — in view of the great difficulties which would be
entailed.

3. Article 1, Paragraph III (d). — A survey of forest products is at present unnecessary,
in view of the extremely small extent of our forest areas as compared with those of other States.

4. Article 1, Paragraph III, E. — We cannot institute statistics of fisheries. Our only
fisheries are those on inland waters, and at present they are of little importance.

5. Article 1, Paragraph V (b). — Hungary has no seaports, and we cannot therefore give
statistics of maritime shipping.

6. Article 2, Paragraph V. — We cannot accept the list of States given in the foreign trade
statistics unless it is reduced to 100. Our foreign trade is very small compared with that of the
big commercial States and it would be useless to classify our statistical returns under 210 statistical
territories.

7. Article 2, Paragraph VII. — We cannot give the quantities of bunker coal and other
bunker fuel, as these statistics are of no importance except for maritime shipping. (The quantity
of bunker coal, etc., for the international river-port of Budapest need not be taken into account.)

8. Recommendations I, Paragraphs 1 to 4. (See document C.S.O.60). — We cannot accept
these Recommendations, in view of the expenditure they would entail and the lack of suitable
equipment at the Statistical Office.

9. Generally speaking, we cannot yet adapt our returns, more particularly our periodical
returns, to the periods recommended in the Convention, in view of the considerable expenditure
involved. We wish at present to reserve full freedom in this respect.

The Hungarian delegation desires to say here and now that it will do its utmost to enable
the above reservations and exceptions to be abolished as soon as possible.

Should the Bureau take the view that the considerations we adduce in the above-mentioned
reservations are superfluous, the Hungarian delegation is quite prepared to waive the reservations.

(December 11th, 1928.)

C.S.O.62/Bureau. — RECOMMENDATION PROPOSED BY THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION.

The Conference recommends that the co-operation between the League of Nations and the
International Institute of Statistics should be continued.

(December 12th, 1928.)

C.S.O.63/Bureau. — RESERVATION SUBMITTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICA DELEGATION.

Ad Article 1, III (b) (Agricultural Statistics).

Owing to the limited knowledge of mensuration held by the native population, it is necessary
to make a reservation on this article in respect of crops grown by natives.

(December 12th, 1928.)

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1 Refer to draft texts in documents C.S.O.25 and C.S.O./Commerce/43.
C.S.O.64/Bureau. — **RESERVATION SUBMITTED BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION.**

When signing the present Convention, France desires to state that her acceptance does not involve the assumption of any obligation in regard to her colonies, protectorates, and the territories placed under her suzerainty or mandate.  

(December 12th, 1928.)

C.S.O.66/Bureau. — **RESERVATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE GREEK DELEGATION.**

Ad Article 2, V (Recording of goods by countries).

The Greek delegation makes reservations with regard to the statistical tables relating to the provenance and destination of goods which are to be prepared as an experiment (see document C.S.O./Commerce 43).  

(December 12th, 1928.)

C.S.O.67/Bureau. — **RESERVATION SUBMITTED BY THE U.S.S.R. DELEGATION.**

_Agricultural census._

As the Government of the U.S.S.R. does not officially take part in the work of the International Institute of Agriculture, its delegation is unable to accept paragraph III of the Protocol.  

(December 12th, 1928.)

C.S.O.68/Bureau. — **RESERVATION SUBMITTED BY THE CANADIAN DELEGATION.**

_AGRICULTURAL CENSUS AND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS._

The Canadian Government desires to make a reservation regarding Article 2, III (A) and (B) (see document C.S.O.59).  

(December 12th, 1928.)

C.S.O.69/Bureau. — **RESERVATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE MEXICAN DELEGATION.**

The Mexican delegation desires to make reservations regarding:

1. The quarterly publication of the index of cost of living;
2. The special tables to be prepared experimentally in respect of countries of provenance and final destination (see document C.S.O./Commerce 43 ; Article 2, V).  

(December 12th, 1928.)

C.S.O.70/Bureau. — **RESERVATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION.**

According to the terms of the general provisions of Article 17, the Portuguese delegation declares, on behalf of its Government, that it cannot furnish the following statistics:

1. Article 2, Paragraph V, Industry, sub-paragraphs B and C.
2. Paragraph VI, Price index numbers: for the present, only (a) can be published quarterly.

With regard to Annex III (Mining and Metallurgical Statistics), only annual data can be furnished.  

(December 12th, 1928.)

C.S.O.71. — **DRAFT RESOLUTION I.**

The Conference declares that it is its desire that the Committee of Experts referred to in Article 8 should be composed of members selected for their technical competence only and in no way as representing the countries of which they are nationals.  

(December 12th, 1928.)

C.S.O.72. — **DRAFT ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL CLAUSE.**

The provisions of the present Convention may be suspended in the case of any High Contracting Party, exceptionally, for as limited a time as possible, and to the extent which his national security renders necessary, in the case of war or grave events affecting his national security.  

(December 12th, 1928.)
C. DOCUMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE STATISTICS.

Note. - Documents included in the Minutes are not given in this Section. For such documents see the Analytical List above (page 231).

C.S.O./Commerce/4. — AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION.

Article 2, Paragraph VIII (b) (Movements to be excluded from Statistics of Imports and Exports).
Replace the words "Ships' stores" by "Stores of national ships".
(November 29th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/5. — PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION.

Article 2, Paragraph V, Sub-Paragraph 3 (List of Countries).
The Islands of Madeira and the Azores come under the direct jurisdiction of the central Government of Portugal and form part of the home country. This connection has always been maintained. The delegation therefore proposes that Portugal (country No. 24) should be taken to include Madeira and the Azores. Consequently Nos. 126 and 127 in the list of countries (page 15) should be omitted.
(November 29th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/6. — AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE BELGIAN DELEGATION.

Article 1. Replace the text to be found under paragraph V (External Trade and Shipping) by the following:
"V. External Trade.
Annual and monthly returns of the quantities and value of imports and exports constituting Special Trade, as defined in Article 2, paragraph IV."

Article 2. Replace the text to be found under paragraph IV (Special and General Trade) by the following:
"IV. To observe the principle that Special Trade, while not including any part of Transit Trade, shall include:
(a) On importation, all goods directly imported for domestic consumption or cleared from bond for the same purpose, and all goods declared (under the conditions normally applying to Improvement Trade) for transformation or additional treatment, repacking and re-sorting alone being excluded;
(b) On exportation, all goods produced in the Customs area of the country or nationalised.
Nationalised goods shall be taken to mean goods coming from all territories external to the Customs area of the country in question which are placed at the free disposal of the importers after payment of the duties, if any, to which they may be liable, and shall include those which have undergone transformation or supplementary treatment and have been admitted temporarily duty free for these purposes.
When 'Improvement Trade' is shown in special tables, the full value of each category of goods (material plus added value) shall be shown both on arrival and departure, and separate tables shall be drawn up to this effect."
(November 29th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/11. — AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE LATVIAN AND ESTONIAN DELEGATIONS.

Article 2, Paragraph VIII.
In paragraph VIII of Article 2 add, after sub-paragraph (c):
(d) postal packets of a value not exceeding 10 gold francs (or 2 dollars);
(e) sea-going vessels of a gross tonnage not exceeding 20 tons register.
(November 30th, 1928.)
C.S.O./Commerce/12. — **AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE JAPANESE DELEGATION.**

**Article 2, Paragraph IV.**

Replace: “simple mixing and blending” in (a), sub-paragraph 1, and (b) by “re-sorting”, as used in the preparatory documents.

(November 30th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/13. — **PROPOSAL BY THE JAPANESE DELEGATION.**

**Article 2, Paragraph IV.**

1. In the Final Protocol the following clause should be inserted:
   “Under ‘Improvement Trade’ in Article 2 improvements made in bonded factories are not included”.

2. It would be useful to make clear whether repair trade is comprised under “Improvement Trade” or not.

(November 30th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/15. — **PROPOSED DEFINITION OF TRANSIT (TO BE INSERTED IN PROTOCOL) SUBMITTED BY THE GERMAN DELEGATION.**

**Article 2, Paragraph IV.**

By transit trade shall be understood the total of all direct and indirect transit trade. The direct transit trade of any country shall be understood to include all goods passing through that country without being placed at the free disposal of the importers or warehousing. The indirect transit trade of any country shall be understood to include all goods coming from territories external to the Customs or statistical area of the country which are entered into warehouses or depots, fictive or real, belonging to that country whether situated in its ordinary Customs territory or in its free ports or free zones or other Customs exclaves and subsequently exported therefrom without being placed at the free disposal of the importers and without having undergone any transformation or supplementary treatment, repacking, mixing or blending.

(November 30th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/16. — **AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE ROUMANIAN DELEGATION.**

**Article 2, Paragraph IV (b).**

The following sub-paragraph to be added:

“The transit and transhipment trade shall be shown in separate tables in which the country of origin and the country of destination of the goods in transit shall be indicated.”

(November 30th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/18. — **AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE LATVIAN AND ESTONIAN DELEGATIONS.**

**Article 2, Paragraph VIII.**

1. To be added before the present text of sub-paragraph (c) :
   “Imports” (to be followed by sub-paragraph (c) “fishery products”, etc.).

2. The following reference to be added in brackets after the text of sub-paragraph (c) of the same paragraph:
   “Cf. paragraph I (a) of Annex IV to the present Convention.”

(November 30th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/20. — **AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION.**

**Draft List of Countries (C.S.O.2, Annex).**

As regards the draft list of countries drawn up with a view to the indication of countries of provenance and destination in foreign trade statistics, the French delegation submits the following observations:

“A. At present the Saar forms a Customs Union with France, as is the case between France and Monaco and between Belgium and Luxemburg. Accordingly, No. 11 should logically be drafted as follows :

‘41. France, Monaco and the Saar (excluding Algeria and Andorra).’
"No. 30 should then be omitted.

"B. Mauretania (108), Senegal (109), French Sudan (110), Upper Volta (111),
French Niger (112), French Guinea (113), and Dahomey (115), are comprised in the
Government of French West Africa, in the same way as Gaboon, etc., are comprised
in the Government of French Equatorial Africa (118).

"Nos. 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113 and 115 should therefore be deleted and replaced
by the following item:

"108. French West Africa — comprising Mauretania, Senegal, the Area of Dakar
and dependencies, French Sudan, Upper Volta, French Niger, French Guinea
and Dahomey.

"C. The inclusion of the supplies of foreign ships in the accounts of the countries
of destination whose flags these ships fly gives rise to certain theoretical objections
and seriously complicates the work of the statistical departments. For these reasons
it would appear preferable to put down these exports to a special account:

"'206. — Supplies of foreign ships.'"

(November 30th, 1928.)


Article 1.

V. — External Trade and Shipping.

(a) Annual and monthly returns of the quantity and value of imports and exports.

(b) Annual and, if possible, quarterly or, preferably, monthly returns, showing the net
 tonnage of mercantile vessels engaged in international trade entering and leaving the national
ports, distinguishing the nationalities of the vessels.

Article 2.

The High Contracting Parties, in order to facilitate international comparison of the statistics
of international trade, in the absence of which the significance of the returns compiled by any
individual State is necessarily restricted, undertake to adopt the following principles in the
compilation of this class of statistics:

I. To maintain or establish the system of valuations known as "declared values", that is
to say, values declared by importers and exporters (or their duly recognised agents) in respect
of each individual transaction. Further, with a view to obtaining accuracy in international
trade statistics, they undertake to subject such values to adequate verification, checking and
control.

II. (a) To employ for this purpose frontier values (land or sea frontier as the case may
be), that is to say, for imports, the value at place of despatch plus the cost of transport and
insurance from the place of despatch to the frontier of the importing country, and, for exports,
the values free on board or free on rail at the frontier. In the case of imports, import and excise
duties and similar fiscal charges imposed by the importing country shall be excluded from the
values. On the other hand, in the case of exports, export duties shall be included, as well as
excise and similar fiscal charges imposed by the exporting country in so far as these in fact remain
charged on the goods exported.

(b) When a country imposes ad valorem duties on imports or exports, the value calculated
for the purposes of these duties in conformity with the fiscal laws of the country may be shown
in the statistics of imports or exports even though they may differ from the value as defined above.
Similarly, in such a country, the value of goods exempt from duty or subject to specific rate duties
in that country may be determined on the same basis. When this method is adopted, the statistics
must show clearly the difference in the method of valuation and should give at least an annual
and, if possible, a detailed estimate of the value as defined in sub-paragraph (a).

III. To define precisely the unit or units of measure in which quantities of each commodity
are stated — weight, length, surface, capacity, etc.

When the quantity of any description of goods is measured in any unit or units of measure
other than weight, a coefficient of the estimated average weight of each unit, or multiple of units,
shall be given in the annual returns.

Particularly in the case of weights, precise definitions shall be given for terms such as "gross
weight", "net weight" and "legal net weight", with due regard to the fact that the same term
may connote different meanings as applied to different classes of goods.

IV. In order to distinguish between exports of domestic origin and re-exports of foreign
origin and between imports of foreign goods and re-imports of domestic goods;
To compile their trade statistics in one of the two ways indicated below:

(a) **When figures of special trade are compiled alone or parallel with the figures of general trade:**

Special imports (into the Customs territory), shall include all goods directly imported for domestic consumption or cleared from bond for the same purpose, and all goods declared (on the conditions normally applied to "improvement trade") for transformation or supplementary treatment. Re-packing, sorting or blending do not constitute transformation or supplementary treatment.

Special exports shall include all goods exported, produced within the Customs territory of the country or nationalised.

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

Nationalised goods shall be taken to mean goods coming from all territories external to the Customs area of the country in question which are placed at the free disposal of the importers after payment of the duties, if any, to which they may be liable, and shall include those goods which have undergone transformation or supplementary treatment and which have been admitted temporarily free of duty for these purposes.

General trade shall be taken to include: as regards imports, everything arriving from all territories external to the Customs or trade statistical area of the country in question; and, as regards exports, everything leaving the Customs area for a destination outside that area. However, there shall be excluded goods in direct transit as well as goods merely transhipped in ports under Customs control.

Direct transit and transhipments shall form the subject of separate tables, showing the countries of origin and destination. The quantity of these goods shall be expressed in gross weight; in case this proves to be impossible, any other basis may be admitted, including the basis of value, on condition that the method used is stated in the publications.

When "improvement trade" is shown in special tables, the full value of each category of goods (original value of material, plus value of work and/or material added) shall be shown both on arrival and departure, and separate tables shall be drawn up to this effect.

**Note.** — The following definition of "transit trade" is to be given in the Protocol:

By transit trade shall be understood the total of all direct and indirect transit trade. The direct transit trade of any country shall be understood to include all goods passing through that country for purposes of transportation only, without being placed at the free disposal of the importers, or warehousing. The indirect transit trade of any country shall be understood to include all goods coming from territories external to the Customs or statistical area of the country which are entered into warehouses or depots, fictive or real, belonging to that country, whether situated in its ordinary Customs territory or in its free ports or free zones or other Customs exclaves and subsequently exported therefrom without being placed at the free disposal of the importers and without having undergone any transformation or supplementary treatment other than repacking, sorting or blending.

(b) **When the figures of imports relate to general trade only:**

General imports shall comply with the definition given above in sub-paragraph (a) of general import trade. Exports and re-exports shall be indicated separately. Re-exports shall include all goods imported into the Customs area of the country in question (excluding goods in direct transit and transhipments under Customs control) and subsequently exported therefrom without undergoing any transformation or supplementary treatment. Repacking, sorting or blending do not constitute a transformation or supplementary treatment.

Direct transit and transhipments shall form the subject of separate tables, showing the countries of origin and destination. The quantity of these goods shall be expressed in gross weight; in case this proves to be impossible, any other basis may be admitted, including the basis of value, on condition that the method used is stated in the publications.

**Note.** — The definition of "transit trade" in the Protocol given above under sub-paragraph (a) applies equally to sub-paragraph (b).

When "improvement trade" is shown in special tables, the full value of each category of goods (original value of material, plus value of work and material added) shall be shown both on arrival and departure, and separate tables shall be drawn up to this effect.

V. (Not yet dealt with.)

VI. In view of the special importance of accurate monetary statistics, to show: (a) gold in, (b) gold bullion bars and (c) other gold, in special tables, under both weight and value.
VII. To show the quantities (and, if possible, the values), estimated or ascertained, of bunker coal and other bunker fuel supplied in ports to vessels engaged in international trade for their own use, showing separately fuel supplied (a) to national vessels and (b) to other vessels.

(December 1st, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/22. — AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION.

Article 2, Paragraph V, Sub-Paragraphs (a) and (b).

Substitute the following text for the first sub-paragraphs of the Article:

"V. To show, in accordance with all the particulars obtained (accompanying documents, addresses of parcels, Customs declarations, commercial usages, etc.):

"(a) In the case of the statistics of imports, the country whence the goods appear to have been originally consigned to the importing country;

"(b) In the case of the statistics of exports, the probable country of final destination of the consignment."

(December 3rd, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/25. — PROPOSAL BY THE LATVIAN AND ESTONIAN DELEGATIONS.

Ad Article 1 and Article 2, Paragraph IV.

Insert in the Protocol immediately before the definition of transit trade proposed in the Sub-Committee’s report (document C.S.O./Commerce/21), the following:

"Pending the conclusion of an international convention on the unification of transport statistics, the Contracting States shall publish annual and, if possible, quarterly or monthly returns for transit trade, on the basis of the following definition and in accordance with the methods laid down in the present Convention."

(December 3rd, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/26. — AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE FREE CITY OF DANZIG.


1. At the head of the tables, after the word “country” add the words “or Customs union or Customs territory”.

2. On page 4, after No. 7, “Denmark”, add a separate line with the words “Free City of Danzig — See No. 23, Poland-Danzig”.

(December 3rd, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/27. — PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY M. JULES DE KONKOLY-THEGE, ON BEHALF OF THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION.

Article 1, Paragraph IV. — Index Numbers of Prices.

According to the Draft Convention, index numbers expressing the general movement of wholesale prices and cost of living should be compiled monthly.

Although the draft has already dealt once with index numbers, it would be well, in my opinion, in order to be able to follow the movement of prices in detail, to word the text of the Convention in such a way that the draft should extend to price indices for the whole range of economic life, and that a close relation should be established between the different indices.

If such a change cannot be made in the Convention itself, the different States should at any rate be recommended to compile all price indices relating to economic life on the basis of uniform principles.

A.

According to our proposal, each country will have to publish monthly, or at any rate quarterly, the following price index numbers:

I. Index numbers of production, on the basis of costs of production (cost at the factory).

II. Index numbers of foreign trade prices, on the basis of the unit prices of imports and exports respectively.

III. Index numbers of wholesale trade, on the basis of wholesale prices.

IV. Index numbers of retail trade, on the basis of retail prices.

V. Index numbers of the cost of living, on the basis of retail prices.
B.

The index numbers enumerated under A, from I to IV, should be compiled on the following bases:

I. Index Numbers of Production.
   (a) Agricultural products, live-stock, animal products;
   (b) Raw materials of industry, with the exception of those mentioned under (a);
   (c) Industrial products;
   (d) Average of (a) to (c).

II. Index Numbers of Foreign Trade Prices.
   1. Imports:
      (a) Agricultural products, live-stock, animal products;
      (b) Raw materials of industry, with the exception of those mentioned under (a);
      (c) Industrial products;
      (d) Average of (a) to (c).
   2. Exports:
      (a) Agricultural products, cattle, animal products;
      (b) Raw materials of industry, with the exception of those mentioned under (a);
      (c) Industrial products;
      (d) Average of (a) to (c).
   3. Average of (1) and (2).

III. Index Numbers of Wholesale Trade.
   1. Home production:
      (a) Agricultural products, cattle, animal products;
      (b) Raw materials of industry, with the exception of those mentioned under (a);
      (c) Industrial products;
      (d) Average of (a) to (c).
   2. Foreign production:
      (a) Agricultural products, cattle, animal products;
      (b) Raw materials of industry, with the exception of those mentioned under (a);
      (c) Industrial products;
      (d) Average of (a) to (c).
   3. Home and foreign production:
      (a) Agricultural products, cattle, animal products;
      (b) Raw materials of industry, with the exception of those mentioned under (a);
      (c) Industrial products;
      (d) Average of (a) to (c).

IV. Index Numbers of Retail Trade.
   1. Home production:
      (a) Agricultural products, live-stock, animal products;
      (b) Raw materials of industry, with the exception of those mentioned under (a);
      (c) Industrial products;
      (d) Average of (a) to (c).
   2. Foreign production:
      (a) Agricultural products, live-stock, animal products;
      (b) Raw materials of industry, with the exception of those mentioned under (a);
      (c) Industrial products;
      (d) Average of (a) to (c).
   3. Home and foreign production:
      (a) Agricultural products, live-stock, animal products;
      (b) Raw materials of industry, with the exception of those mentioned under (a);
      (c) Industrial products;
      (d) Average of (a) to (c).

V. Index Numbers of the Cost of Living:

(1) Foodstuffs:
   (a) Home products;
(b) Foreign products;  
(c) Home and foreign products.  
(2) Clothing.  
(3) Housing.  
(4) Heating and lighting.  
(5) Other goods.  
(6) Average of (1) to (5).

C.

In the categories proposed above, the following should be taken into consideration for each country:
1. Raw materials and the chief manufactured products.
2. If possible, the prices of the same products at various stages of manufacture.

This would be necessary to make the comparison of the index numbers as complete as possible.

D.

The comparison of Groups I to V should be based on the data for 1913 or 1914 (1913 or 1914 = 100).
Apart from other advantages, the proposed classification would make it possible for each country to determine:
1. The composition of agricultural and industrial prices separately,
2. The extent to which imports influence the course of home prices.

E.

In order to determine how far production or trade increase prices, the index numbers might with advantage be calculated as follows: take the prices shown under Group I from (a) to (d) for 1913 or 1914 as 100, and compare Groups II to IV.
The difference in the percentage obtained by the above-mentioned comparison would show the increase in prices due to manufacture or trade at the various stages.

F.

Index numbers calculated on a uniform basis as suggested above, would make it possible not only to follow the trend of home prices, but to effect comparisons between different countries.

(December 3rd, 1928).

C.S.O./Commerce/29. — THIRD REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL SUB-COMMITTEE.

Article 2.

V. First and second sub-paragraphs: Not dealt with.
Third sub-paragraph: Adopted to read:
"Goods consigned on optional bills of lading and cargoes 'for orders' shall be shown separately as consigned 'for orders'."

Recommendation.

"It is desirable when goods are consigned on optional bills of lading, or 'for orders', and shown as consigned 'for orders', that subsequent statistics should be compiled showing the countries of actual discharge as these become known.
"In this connection it is recommended that the question of determining the best method of ascertaining the true destination of exports be referred to the Committee of Experts."

Fourth sub-paragraph: Adopted to read.
"The countries and/or statistical areas, shown in the statistics of trade by country of provenance and destination will be those contained in Annex. . . . This Annex is accepted with the reserve that it will be revised by the Committee of Experts to be set up under Article 8. If two or more countries are grouped together, they may be shown by continents under the heading 'Other Countries'."

Recommendation.

"Being desirous of rendering it easier for the Statistical Departments to make an accurate classification of imported and exported goods in accordance with the items enumerated in the list of countries and statistical areas (Article 2, paragraph V of the Draft Convention) the Committee on Trade Statistics of the Diplomatic Conference on Economic Statistics recommends that the Economic Section of the League of Nations be asked to draw up, before the entry into force of the Convention, a 'Schedule of sea or
river ports of loading and unloading open to international trade' with references corresponding to the list of countries and statistical areas.

"The Economic Section might also be instructed to keep this schedule regularly up to date. (This is the recommendation contained in C.S.O./Commerce/23.)"

VII. Adopted to read:

"To show the quantities (and, if possible, the values), estimated or ascertained, of bunker coal and other bunker fuel supplied in their ports to vessels engaged in international trade, for the use of the particular vessel to which supplied. The figures relating (a) to national vessels, and (b) to other vessels, shall be shown separately."

VIII. Adopted to read:

"1. To exclude from statistics of international trade:
   (a) Imports and exports, temporary or permanent, of any goods involving no commercial transaction;
   (b) Ships' stores on national ships (other than bunker fuel);
   (c) Imports of fishery products which are regarded by the importing country as national produce (see paragraph 1 (a) of Annex IV).

"2. There may be excluded from these statistics:
   (a) Ships' stores on foreign ships;
   (b) Insufficient quantities of goods, imported or exported, which may be regarded as of negligible importance in comparison with the total trade in these particular goods."

IX. Adopted to read:

"To adopt the civil calendar year (January 1st to December 31st) and the civil calendar month. The provisions of this section shall not prevent any High Contracting Party from maintaining, in addition, a statistical year differing from the civil calendar year."

(December 3rd, 1928.)


Annex IV (Statistics of Fisheries).

We propose that the first sentence of Annex IV shall read as follows: "Statistics of fisheries shall cover the principal regions in which the fishing industry is carried on and shall show..."

We propose to add, after the words "of every kind" in paragraph 1 the following: "and indicating in particular the following three categories: herring, salmon, cod". At the end of paragraph 1, we propose to add the following observation: "The products mentioned under c and d are also considered as raw material."

We propose to insert in paragraph 2, after the words "Categories of employment" the words "and social categories (namely, workmen, employees, workers on their own account and employers)."

We propose to add to paragraph 3 the following words: "Distinction to be made if possible between sailing vessels and motor vessels; the respective tonnage, the number of crews and the equipment employed to be shown also."

(December 4th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/31. — AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY M. CLAESSENS OF THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION.

Article 2, Paragraph IV (See document C.S.O. Commerce/21).

To compile their trade statistics in one of the two ways indicated below:

(a) When figures of special trade are compiled alone or parallel with the figures of national trade:

Special trade shall include, as regards imports, all goods imported — either directly or through bonded warehouses, free ports, free zones or other Customs enclaves — for domestic consumption or for transformation or supplementary treatment, and goods nationalised, ipso facto, by being placed at the free disposal of the importers after payment of the duties, if any, to which they may be liable.

Special trade shall include, as regards exports, all goods produced within the Customs territory of the country, re-exported goods which have undergone transformation or supplementary treatment and nationalised goods, whether all such goods are exported directly or through bonded warehouses, free ports, free zones or other Customs enclaves.
Re-packing, sorting or blending shall not be regarded as constituting transformation or supplementary treatment.

Special trade shall not include any part of transit trade.

By transit trade shall be understood the total of all direct and indirect transit trade.

The direct transit trade of any country shall be understood to include all goods passing through that country, with or without transshipment, for purposes of transportation only, without being placed at the free disposal of the importers, or warehousing.

The indirect transit trade of any country shall be understood to include all goods coming from territories external to the Customs or statistical area of the country, which are entered into warehouses or depots, fictive or real, belonging to that country, whether situated in its ordinary Customs territory or in its free ports or free zones or other Customs enclaves and subsequently exported therefrom without being placed at the free disposal of the importers and without having undergone any transformation or supplementary treatment other than re-packing, sorting or blending.

National trade shall include, as regards imports, everything arriving from all territories external to the Customs or trade statistical area of the country in question; and, as regards exports, everything leaving the Customs area for a destination outside that area.

However, there shall be excluded goods in direct transit, as well as goods merely transhipped in ports, under Customs control.

(b) When the figures of imports relate to national trade only, exports being divided into exports and re-exports:

Imports in national trade shall comply with the definition given above in sub-paragraph (a) of national import trade.

Exports and re-exports shall be indicated separately.

Re-exports shall include all goods imported into the Customs area of the country in question (excluding goods in direct transit and transhipments under Customs control) and subsequently exported therefrom without undergoing any transformation or supplementary treatment. Re-packing, sorting and blending do not constitute a transformation or supplementary treatment.

"Direct transit and transhipments shall form the subject of separate tables for the two methods. The countries of origin and destination shall be shown. The quantity of these goods shall be expressed in gross weight; should this prove impossible, any other basis may be admitted, including value, on condition that the method used is stated in the publications."

When "improvement trade" is shown in special tables, the full value of each category of goods (original value of material, plus value of work and material added) shall be shown both on arrival and departure, and for this purpose separate tables shall be drawn up for arrivals and departures.

(December 4th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/34. — AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE JAPANESE DELEGATION.

Annex IV (Statistics of Fisheries).

For the sake of clearness and of practicability, the Japanese delegation proposes the following drafting:

"The statistics of fisheries shall show:

I. The quantity and value of all fishery products (including crustaceans, molluscs and shellfish of every kind) comprising the products of sea fisheries landed and those of inland water fisheries;

II. The quantity and value of the products of fisheries imported from other countries and exported to other countries;

III. If possible, the total quantity of prepared fishery products, limited to chief categories;

IV. As far as possible, the total quantity of fish caught by nationals, irrespective of the place of landing, separating fish and aquicultural products;

V. The number of persons engaged in fisheries, classified, so far as possible, by sex and categories of employment according to the extent to which fishing is regarded:

(a) As the main, or

(b) As the secondary employment of those engaged upon it;

VI. The number and class of boats employed in fishing."

(December 4th, 1928.)
C.S.O./Commerce/35. — AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION.

Article 2, Paragraph V. (Methods of recording Countries of Provenance and Destination).

Statement of Reasons.

The Committee on Trade Statistics:

Having undertaken a detailed study of the methods adopted by the different countries for the registration of imported and exported goods,

Considering

That, in order to supply negotiators of commercial treaties, producers, merchants, financiers, economists and transporters with the requisite information, commercial statistics should show simultaneously the countries of origin, original provenance, purchase and immediate provenance of imported goods;

That this solution cannot be taken into consideration owing to the excessive expenditure it would involve;

That a choice must therefore be made among the different methods;

That, in this choice, the international comparability of statistics must, in principle, yield precedence to considerations arising out of the special economic position of each nation;

But that, at present, for want of comparative experience, few countries have a clear idea of the real advantages and drawbacks of the different methods, of their respective difficulties of application, and of the differences they may present as regards numerical results;

That, until this experience has been acquired, any fresh discussion of the question must be of a purely speculative nature;

That it would therefore be well to make the necessary experiments, the Committee of Experts being required to draw its own conclusions therefrom;

Proposes the following amendment to Article 2, paragraph V:

A. Delete sub-paragraphs I and II.

B. Add the following sub-paragraphs:

Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes, as an experiment, to prepare, for a period of six consecutive months and in respect of a number of articles of trade to be selected by itself, import statistics indicating on a comparative basis the countries of origin and of provenance and any other countries it may think fit.

By country of origin is meant, in the case of a natural product, the country where the goods were produced, or, in the case of a manufactured product, the country where it was transformed into the condition in which it was introduced into the importing country, it being understood that repacking, mixing or re-sorting do not constitute transformation.

By country of provenance is meant the country from which the goods were originally despatched to the importing country, with or without breaking of bulk in the course of transport, but without any commercial transaction in the intermediate countries.

One year after the entry of the Convention into force in a given country, the latter shall forward to the Committee of Experts, to be appointed for the purpose under Article 8, a report stating, in regard to each of the methods of registration tried, the advantages and drawbacks of all kinds noted in the course of the trial.

Three months after the Committee of Experts has received all the reports of half the countries signing the present Convention it shall make reasoned recommendations concerning the best method or methods of registration of imports and exports by each country.

(December 4th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/36. — OBSERVATION BY THE GREEK DELEGATION.

Article 2, Paragraph V, Sub-Paragraph 1 (Methods of recording Countries of Provenance and Destination).

The Greek delegation wishes to state that its Government, while recognising the enormous advantages of the dual indication, considers that this would involve so great an increase of labour, and consequently such an addition to the staff of the Statistical Service that for reasons of economy it is unable to consider its adoption for the moment. On the basis of past experience, moreover, it doubts whether those concerned would declare these dual indications. Apart from this reservation the Greek Government will make every effort to apply the subsequent sub-paragraphs of Article 2, Paragraph V.

(December 5th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/37. — AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE GERMAN DELEGATION.

Article 2, Paragraph V, Sub-Paragraph 4. — (List of Countries).

The countries and/or statistical areas, shown in the statistics of trade by country of provenance and destination, will be those contained in Annex... This Annex is accepted with the reserve that it will be examined by the Committee of Experts to be set up under Article 8 and that it
will be established in such a manner as to show the countries which are to be indicated by all States in the tables by countries. In the case in which a State desires to show, in addition to these most important countries, still further countries, these latter countries should correspond to the countries enumerated in the Annex.

In the publication by commodities, the States may choose the countries which they wish to show separately, provided that these countries correspond to the Annex.

(December 5th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/38. — AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATION.


Is repair trade comprised under "improvement trade"?

1. This question has already been raised by the Japanese delegation (document C.S.O. Commerce 13).

Certain countries, for example, Austria and Switzerland, show repair trade in special tables.

We are of opinion that repair trade, whether shown separately or not, should be comprised under special trade.

Accordingly, we propose the following amendment:

In Article 2, IV, 4th Sub-Paragraph.

After the words:

"... for transformation or additional treatment"

insert the words:

"... or repairs":

and in 8th Sub-Paragraph, after the words:

"... which have undergone transformation or supplementary treatment"

insert the words:

"... or repairs".

(December 6th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/39. — AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION.

Article 2, Paragraph V, Sub-Paragraph 4 (List of Countries).

"The statistical areas to be shown in the statistics of trade by country of provenance and destination shall correspond to the definitions contained in the Annex. Any one of the High Contracting Parties may at any time apply to the Council of the League of Nations to modify this Annex in view of changes that have occurred in the political or economic situation, etc., of the statistical areas in question.

"Within a period of six months after the signature of the present Convention, a Committee of Experts designated in application of Article 8 shall draw up the minimum list of statistical areas, whether isolated or grouped together, to be specified in the statistics of trade by country of provenance or destination, any country being free to substitute, for one (or more) of the items on this minimum list, a complete list of the corresponding items contained in the Annex.

"These stipulations shall not preclude the publication by any country of separate statistics for the non-contiguous parts of their own statistical areas.

"It is understood, further, that, in the statistical tables of trade by categories of goods, non-specified countries of provenance and of destination may be grouped under the heading 'other countries' without further distinction."

(December 6th, 1928.)

C.S.O./Commerce/40. — DRAFT ARTICLES SUBMITTED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISHERY STATISTICS.

Note. — After discussion in the Committee, the draft clauses given below were slightly altered [document C.S.O./Commerce/42]. Passages that were omitted in the later text are shown in ordinary brackets [ ]; passages added or substituted are shown in double brackets [[ ]].

Article 1.

Paragraph III (c) adopted to read:

"In the case of countries [to whose economy fisheries are important], [[in which fishing is an organised branch of economic activity]], annual returns showing the products of the main sea fisheries landed and, if possible, of inland water fisheries; the nationalities of the vessels by which such products are landed; and the numbers and classes of national boats engaged in fisheries and the number of persons employed thereon.

"In the cases where it is not possible to render complete returns, an approximate indication of the extent to which such returns are defective shall be given."

(December 6th, 1928.)