The Council has continued to consider in what way the League's authority over international Bureaux should be exercised in accordance with Article 24.

In order that States Members of the League might have at their disposal information as to the number, objects and general activities of the different international institutions, established by private initiative or created by general treaties, a Handbook of International Organisations was prepared by the Secretariat and published on February 23rd, 1922. This handbook does not include institutions and organisations which, notwithstanding their disinterested and international object, are clearly national in their constitution and in their sources of financial support. The handbook gives information concerning 21 public and 292 private organisations.

I. INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU.

On October 2nd, 1921, the Council adopted a report by M. Léon Bourgeois to the effect that the International Hydrographic Bureau, constituted by 19 adherent States and thus forming a public international bureau, came within the meaning of Article 24 of the Covenant. The Council decided therefore that it should be placed under the direction of the League. It was noted that the Bureau is an advisory organisation for the purpose of furthering international co-operation in hydrography and similar questions.

From time to time information prepared by the Bureau is published in the Official Journal of the League. In the April number of 1922 appeared a summary of its first annual report.

II. CENTRAL INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR THE CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC IN AFRICA.

At its meeting on January 11th, 1922, the Council considered a request from the Belgian Government of that a Central International Office for the Control of the Liquor Traffic in Africa be established in Brussels. Article 7 of the Convention of St-Germain-en-Laye, signed on September 10th, 1919, provided for the establishment of this Office under the direction of the League of Nations. The work had formerly been carried out by the International Office for the Suppression of the Slave Trade, established at Brussels by the General Act of the Brussels Conference in 1892; and the Committee which drew up the Convention of September 10th, 1919, expressed the wish that the Office should continue the task required by Article 7 of the Convention. Belgium, France and Great Britain have ratified the Convention, which is therefore now in force.

The Council decided, in view of the past valuable experience of the Office, to ask the Belgian Government to continue in Brussels the work begun by the International Office, and to take charge of the duties relating to the control of the liquor traffic in Africa. It was understood that the expenses of the Office would be met by each of the Signatory Powers and collected by the Belgian Government in the proportions to be fixed by those Powers. It was considered that as the Office would now be placed under the direction of the League, it should conform to the general principles laid down by the Council for international bureaux coming under its control. The Council reserved the right of reconsidering the question of the seat of the Office if at any time extra duties are imposed on the Office involving the Members of the League, and wished it to be understood that the establishment of this public international Office under the direction of the League of Nations elsewhere than at the seat of the League should not serve as a precedent in dealing with international bureaux in the future.

The invitation of the Council to continue the work in Brussels has subsequently been accepted by the Belgian Government, which announced that the International Office for the Suppression of the Slave Trade had been reconstituted and was in complete readiness to carry out its functions. The necessary funds are being advanced by the Belgian Government in anticipation of reimbursement by the various Governments signatory to the Convention.

III. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF COMMERCE.

At its session of August 31st to September 8th, 1921, the Provisional Economic and Financial Committee carefully considered the invitation received from the Council to express an opinion concerning the International Institute of Commerce at Brussels, and also a proposal of the Belgian Government that that organisation should be considered as the organ of economic documentation of the League. The Committee came to the conclusion that this particular bureau was not strictly an international body established by international convention but that it had certain claims to be regarded as an official international bureau since it had been established by the International Parliamentary Trade Conference in 1919 and was financially supported by grants made by the States (seventeen in number) which adhered to it. The Committee decided that it was premature to consider the recognition of the Institute by the League of Nations until its precise relations to the International Bureau of Commercial Statistics, established by international convention in 1913, were defined.
On September 19th, 1921, the Council noted the opinion of the Provisional Economic and Financial Committee.

IV. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF CHILD WELFARE.

An invitation was extended to the Secretariat to send a representative to the second International Congress for the Promotion of Child Welfare, held in Brussels in July 1921. The first International Congress met in Brussels in 1913, when, in agreement with the Swiss Government and with the assent of the official delegates of 36 Governments represented at the Congress, it was decided to establish at Brussels an International Office for the Promotion of Child Welfare. The war intervened, and negotiations were resumed by the Belgian Government only after the armistice. The Congress of 1921 confirmed by a majority the decision of the previous congress to constitute the International Office in Brussels; a permanent secretariat was established and subsidies were granted by the Belgian Government to enable it to start its work. In May 1922, the Secretariat received an invitation to send a representative to the first session of the International Committee of the Association convened in Brussels in July; and in June, the Association made an application to the Council to be placed under the direction of the League in accordance with Article 24 of the Covenant.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION.

On September 21st, 1921, the second Assembly adopted a resolution proposed by M. Léon Bourgeois, in the name of the Council, to the effect that the Council should nominate a Committee to examine international questions regarding intellectual co-operation. The members of the Committee were not to exceed twelve in number and were to include women.

On January 14th, 1922, the Council decided to appoint this Committee, and on May 15th, 1922, nominated the following eleven persons as members of the Committee, the twelfth to be appointed later:

Mr. D. N. Banerjee  
M. H. Bergson  
Mlle Bonnevie  
M. A. de Castro  
Mme Curie-Skłodowska  
M. J. Destrée  
Professor A. Einstein  
Professor G. A. Murray  
M. G. de Reynold  
M. F. Ruffini

Professor of Political Economy at the University of Calcutta.
Honorary Professor of Philosophy at the "Collège de France"; Member of the "Académie française"; Member of the "Académie des Sciences morales et politiques."
Professor of Zoology at the University of Christiania; Delegate to the Assembly of the League of Nations.
Director of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Rio de Janeiro.
Professor of Physics at the University of Paris, and Honorary Professor of the University of Warsaw; Member of the "Académie de Médecine" at Paris, and of the Scientific Society at Warsaw.
Former Minister of Sciences and Arts; Member of the "Académie belge de littérature et de langue française".
Professor of Physics at the University of Berlin; Member of the Royal Academy of Amsterdam, of the Royal Society of London, and of the Academy of Sciences at Berlin.
Professor of Greek Philology at Oxford University; Member of the Council of the British Academy, and Delegate of South Africa to the Assembly of the League of Nations.
Professor of French Literature at the University of Berne.
Professor of Ecclesiastical Law at the University of Turin; former Minister of Public Education; President of the Union of Associations for the League of Nations; Vice-President of the Royal Academy at Turin.
M. L. de Torres Quevedo Director of the “Laboratorio electricmecanico” at Madrid; Member of the Committee for the Extension of Scientific Studies (Junta para Ampliacion de Estudios); Member of the “Academie des Sciences de Madrid.”

It was decided that the Committee should hold its first meeting at Geneva on August 1st, 1922.

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ESPERANTO.

On September 15th, 1921, the second Assembly adopted the report of the Committee appointed to examine the question of the universal teaching of Esperanto in schools as an auxiliary international language. The Committee recommended that the question should be placed on the agenda of the third Assembly and that the Secretariat of the League should in the meantime prepare a complete report on the results obtained in this field.

In accordance with these instructions, the Secretary-General sent a circular letter to all States Members of the League and to the National Esperanto Associations regarding the teaching of Esperanto in schools, together with a questionnaire asking for certain information. In addition, a report by Dr. Nitobe, Under-Secretary-General, on the Language Question and the League of Nations, was circulated. Replies have been received from the Governments of Austria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Haiti, Italy, France, Great Britain, Norway, Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, Roumania, South Africa, Sweden, Siam, Switzerland, Venezuela. The information thus collected has been embodied by the Secretariat in a report to be presented to the third Assembly.

ADDENDA


Since this report went to press, three further instruments of ratifications of these Conventions have been deposited with the Secretariat, namely:—

British Empire, Bulgaria and New Zealand.


The instrument of ratification of the British Empire has recently been deposited with the Secretariat.