to Greece and obtain the necessary material on the spot. The report prepared by Colonel Proctor was presented in July to the Sub-Committee of the Council appointed under the resolution of April 23rd.

Dr. Nansen, in presenting this report to the Sub-Committee of the Council, paid a tribute to the valuable work accomplished on behalf of the refugees by the American relief organisations, which, during the last nine months, had fed some 800,000 refugees practically unpaid. He also referred to the valuable assistance afforded to the High Commissioner by the official observer of the United States Government.

Dr. Nansen pointed out that the American organisations only contemplated emergency relief measures until arrangements could be made for a constructive solution of the refugee problem. The American Government had intimated, however, that the American agencies would be ready to co-operate still further if a constructive scheme could be arranged.

It was understood that not only would an American representative be willing to serve on the Refugee Settlement Commission to be set up under the scheme described in the Report of Colonel Proctor but that support might be expected towards its maintenance.

Dr. Nansen drew particular attention to the fact that the Financial Committee, in its Report to the Council (see the section of this report on the Greek loan), had laid emphasis on the necessity of encouraging voluntary organisations not to abandon their efforts on behalf of the refugees, but to consider their activities as complementary to any constructive work undertaken by the League. The relief organisations were not, however, disposed to exert themselves further unless the League was prepared to carry out a constructive policy.

Dr. Nansen read to the Council extracts from letters to that effect which the High Commission had recently received from the Near East Relief, from the All-British Appeal and from the Save-the-Children Fund.

He particularly emphasised the importance of the assistance which these organisations had afforded to the Greek refugees in Constantinople. The position of these refugees in January and February 1923 had been disastrous, and the death rate in the camps had averaged 500 per week. The All-British Appeal and the Save-the-Children Fund had placed the sum of £1,000 at the disposal of the High Commission and had made valuable gifts of tents and clothing. Epidemics had been stamped out and mortality reduced to normal. These organisations, however, had intimated that they could not continue their emergency feeding of the refugees indefinitely and would only entertain further responsibility if arrangements were made for the early absorption of the refugees into the economic life of Greece.

In conjunction with the Near East Relief and the All-British Appeal, the High Commission has since succeeded in making an arrangement with the Greek Government for the immediate transfer of the remaining 16,000 of these refugees to Greece. This solution has met with the hearty approval of the Allied and Turkish authorities, the situation of these refugees having caused the former the greatest possible concern.

The Sub-Committee of the Council adopted the suggestion contained in Colonel Proctor’s report and decided to recommend the establishment of a Refugee Settlement Commission which would be charged with the responsibility of administering any funds obtained by means of the proposed loan, with the modification that the League should nominate only one member of the Commission instead of two as proposed by Colonel Proctor (see section of this report on the Greek loan; Economic and Financial Organisation).

The Council approved the report of the Sub-Committee on July 5th and adopted the following resolutions:

“The Council of the League of Nations has requested its experts to examine the problem of the Greek loan for the refugees and to study a scheme for the settlement of these refugees.

‘‘The securities offered by the Greek Government appear to be suitable as a basis for the negotiation of a loan, the proceeds of which would be devoted to settling the refugees and ensuring them productive employment. The International Financial Commission, which has been in existence since 1898, might help in the control of these securities.

‘‘If the Greek Government succeeds in arranging a loan for the purpose, the Council will be willing, after having verified the conditions of the loan, to assist in organising the administration of the funds produced by the loan, in order to give the lenders assurance that the funds will be employed in accordance with the scheme.”

The Council further appointed a small Committee composed as follows: Dr. Nansen, High Commissioner for Refugees; one representative of the American relief organisations; one representative of the Greek Government.

The duty of this Committee was to consider what measures the Greek Government might take for the temporary relief of the refugees until funds became available for this purpose from the proceeds of the proposed loan. The Sub-Committee of the Council drew particular attention to the fact that the refugee problem could only be solved satisfactorily be means of the continued co-operation of the American and other relief organisations, both in the interval during which the loan was being negotiated and afterwards for the relief of distress among such refugees as could not be absorbed into the economic life of the country.

Bearing in mind the intimation received from the American Government that further support from the American relief bodies would depend largely on the measure of support afforded...
by other agencies, Dr. Nansen made immediate representations to the Greek Government and to certain European relief organisations.

An immediate reply was received from the Greek Government promising to make available ten million drachmae per month for the feeding of the refugees. The Near East Relief promised to continue the feeding of at least 60,000 refugee orphans in Greece and elsewhere and to co-operate in further feeding to the extent of its resources. The All-British Appeal and the Save-the-Children Fund promised to guarantee the feeding of 50,000 refugees and to commence a campaign in Great Britain and the Dominions in order to secure funds to enable it to extend its activities. Scandinavian organisations also promised substantial support.

The Near East Relief and the All-British Appeal and the Save-the-Children Fund also guaranteed the feeding for a certain time of the 16,000 Anatolian refugees from Constantinople after their arrival in Greece. This enabled the Greek Government to receive these refugees. A large number of the refugees in the Western Thrace settlement were now able to support themselves, and the High Commissioner, in response to the request of the Greek Government and the American and British organisations, agreed to absorb into this settlement at least 4,000 of the Anatolian refugees, the Save-the-Children Fund undertaking to feed them for a certain time.

The American Government intimated that it could not nominate a member of an American Relief Organisation on the Emergency Relief Commission appointed by the Council, as it considered that the Greek Government was in a position, in view of the food stocks handed over to it by the American Red Cross, the good crops in Greece and the improved exchange, to meet the refugee situation until November. The American Government further intimated that the American Red Cross might be unwilling to nominate the Chairman of the proposed Refugee Settlement Commission, as it feared that such a participation might involve it in further responsibility in the event of insufficient funds being provided from other sources for the permanent solution of the refugee problem. The final decision on this point, however, was understood to be contingent very largely on the amount of support obtained from European sources.

Dr. Nansen addressed a letter on this subject to Colonel Logan, the American observer on the Greek Sub-Committee, inviting him to draw the attention of his Government to the following considerations:

The Greek Government did not entirely share the view of the American Relief Organisations that it was in a position to meet the refugee problem until the beginning of November, but feared that the Refugee Relief Commission would have to take the matter in hand as from the beginning of September.

The American Government, in a letter addressed to the British, French, Greek and Italian Governments on March 31st and subsequently communicated by the American observer to the Finance Committee of the League, stated that, although the American Red Cross would be obliged to discontinue its relief efforts on June 30th:

“If a constructive plan can be worked out for the apportionment of the task and for the gradual solution of the refugee problem, American Relief Organisations will be ready to co-operate even after the termination of the emergency relief work of the American Red Cross on June 30th next.”

Dr. Nansen pointed out that a constructive plan in conformity with the above suggestion had been worked out, and that substantial contributions to meet the immediate situation had been made by the Greek Government and by other European agencies as already mentioned. It was feared that the contributions of ten million drachme per month by the Greek Government could not be increased without resorting to measures which would inevitably produce an unfavourable effect on the all-important question of the flotation of the loan.

Finally, the information regarding the prospects of the loan was of such an encouraging nature that Dr. Nansen made a confident appeal to the American Government to invite the American Relief Organisations not to discontinue their valuable co-operation at a moment when the solution of the refugee problem was in sight.

III. BULGARIAN INHABITANTS EXPELLED FROM WESTERN THRACE.

The Council, on April 21st, passed a resolution requesting Dr. Nansen, as High Commissioner for Refugees, to do all in his power to improve the condition of the persons expelled from Western Thrace.

In conformity with this resolution, Dr. Nansen invited Colonel Proctor, Deputy High Commissioner, who had gone to Greece to study the plan for the permanent establishment of the Greek refugees, to enquire into the situation of the Bulgarian inhabitants expelled from Western Thrace and to consider what effect could be given to the Council resolution.

It appeared that the Greek Government had thought it necessary for military reasons to deport temporarily about 4,000 of the Bulgarian inhabitants from Western Thrace to the interior of Greece, but the Deputy High Commissioner was informed that these persons would be returned to their homes as soon as improved local conditions in Western Thrace rendered such a measure possible.

It was ascertained that a certain amount of hardship had been experienced by these deportees as the result of an order sent out by the Greek Government to discontinue relief to Greek refugees,
which had been interpreted by the local authorities as applying also to the Bulgarian deportees. On the intervention of the Deputy High Commissioner, however, the Greek Government immediately gave instructions not only for an allowance of 2 drachmae per day to be made to the Bulgarian inhabitants but in addition a bread ration of about one-third kilo. daily, the payment of 2 drachmae, per day to be made operative as from the time of their expulsion. These allowances were similar to the allowances made by the Greek Government to the Greek refugees.

**Bulgarian Deportees in Thessaly.**

The main body of Bulgarian deportees arrived at Volo in three separate convoys of 950 on March 25th, 1,000 on the 27th and 1,000 on March 30th, followed by smaller groups of two or three families. They were dispersed throughout Thessaly in 49 villages which lie on either side of the railway-line running from Larissa to Velestino and from Velestino to Demerli.

For the reasons mentioned above, no distribution of flour took place before April 5th, and a certain amount of hardship resulted. Subsequently special distributions of flour were arranged on April 28th and May 22nd.

Some of the deportees were housed in tenements similar to those of the inhabitants of the villages in which they were distributed, but the majority of the people, through lack of other accommodation, had been installed in barns, stables, and empty flour mills and in any other vacant accommodation which could be requisitioned.

Blankets had been issued to them, and the general conditions appeared to be clean and sanitary. There was fortunately very little sickness among the deportees, and medical attendance was provided free of charge.

It should be pointed out that the deportees had been distributed in the richest agricultural areas in Thessaly, and many of them were able to earn from 5 to 12 drachmae per day by means of agricultural labour.

Families were kept together as much as possible, and on the whole it was reported that the situation of the Bulgarian deportees was at least as good as, and in certain respects better than, that of the Greek refugees in the same region.

**Deportees on the Greek Islands.**

About 1,300 of these deportees had been sent to Crete and about 660 to the Island of Rethymos. These refugees were given an allowance of 2 drachmae per day and received a bread issue of 300 grammes from the military authorities. Those on the island of Crete were satisfactorily accommodated, but the deportees on the island of Rethymos were only lodged in the citadel. It was not, however, thought necessary to transfer them to the empty barracks in the neighbourhood as it was the intention of the Greek Government to return them to their homes at the earliest possible moment.

Information has been received that this operation has already begun.

The repatriation of the Bulgarian inhabitants expelled from Western Thrace has already been begun by the Greek Government.

DEPORTED WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE NEAR EAST.

**Constantinople.**

Dr. Kennedy, Chairman of the Commission of Enquiry on Deported Women and Children, forwarded from Constantinople on July 21st, 1923, a further report on the work of this Commission (for previous history, see General Report A. 10., p. 85).

The events of the last few years in the Near East have led to the separation from their families of many women and children, and, in the consequent confusion, no records or information are available which might facilitate their early return to a normal life among their own people.

The Commission at Constantinople is dealing without distinction of race or religion particularly with the problem of the children, of whom there are many thousands scattered throughout the Near East.

The children are received into the house established at Constantinople for this purpose under the direction of Dr. Kennedy. From this house the children are passed to other institutions or to their own people. During their stay in the house they are fed and clothed.

Many children have been assisted in various ways without being received into the house, either by direct help or by calling the attention of the relief societies to their condition. Children have been assisted to return to their relatives, to obtain medical and hospital treatment, to attend school or to emigrate. The Commission is in touch with the various national, official and relief agencies, whose attention has been drawn to many thousands of children in the city and in the various camps.
During the first six months of the present year, seventy-eight children were received in the League of Nations house, the largest number at one time being thirty, and the usual average about 25.

Some 400 women have been assisted by the Commission to rejoin their relatives or to emigrate. In such cases the Commission has helped them to obtain the necessary papers.

Aleppo.

The work of the Commission of Enquiry at Aleppo is proceeding on the same lines as at Constantinople. At Aleppo, however, there are fewer philanthropic societies to co-operate with the Commission.

The League of Nations Home at Aleppo has received about 300 women and children and provided for nearly 200 of them either by bringing them into touch with their relatives or by teaching them various trades. If at the end of six months no other home has been found for the women and children, they are transferred to a camp where they are under supervision and where an endeavour is made to find a place for them among their own people.

The Danish and Swedish Friends of Armenia have provided funds for schools and for the teaching of trades, and are preparing to start an orphanage. These institutions are intended to provide for the children who, after staying for six months at the League of Nations Home, cannot be placed with their relatives. The Commission proposes that, when peace is restored in the Near East an agricultural colony should be founded in connection with this work.

This plan has been favourably considered by the Christian International Society for Peace and Reconciliation.

Early in the year the reception house in Aleppo was burnt down, and a large barrack has since been constructed by the Armenian Red Cross which accommodates at least 200 persons. This arrangement saves the cost of rent and provides the people with more suitable accommodation.

The Commission reports that it has not been possible to obtain from the United States any special permission for the immigration of the women and children. It represents that such permission would be extremely helpful, as many of these people have relatives who entered the United States in the period immediately succeeding the armistice.

15.

INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The question whether the International Committee on Agriculture should be placed under the direction of the League was referred to the Economic Committee by the Council in January 1923 (see General Report A. 10., p. 93).

The Economic Committee, while attaching great value to the collaboration of non-official organisations in the investigation of special problems, came to the conclusion that the placing of these organisations under the direction of the League might give rise to serious difficulties.

It accordingly expressed the view that Article 24 of the Covenant should be applied in the strict and literal sense, and that only international organisations established by general treaties should be admitted.

The Council endorsed this opinion in a resolution adopted on July 2nd, 1923, but it was decided to include in the minutes a reservation of the British representative concerning the general proposition that only organisations created by means of international conventions should be affiliated. It was felt desirable not to establish definitely a hard and fast rule but to make it possible that special cases might be open to consideration and that a door should be left open for further discussion of the general principles if it should be convenient to take up the question at a later date.

16.

THE COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION.

The Committee on Intellectual Co-operation held its second plenary session at Geneva from July 26th to August 2nd, 1923. This session was preceded by meetings, each lasting a day, of the
three Sub-Committees. The following details should be added to the General Report on the Work of the Council (A. 10, p. 94) concerning the results of the work accomplished.

Composition of the Committee.

The Committee decided to appoint three correspondents, one in Latin America, one in Canada and one among Russian emigrant intellectuals.

Position with regard to Intellectual Work.

The Committee heard reports from its experts in charge of the enquiry and decided to publish as soon as possible the memoranda submitted to it, amounting to some 30 in number. These memoranda contain the results of the enquiry into the position with regard to intellectual work undertaken by the Committee. The Committee decided to continue this enquiry, recognising the great interest which it had aroused in the majority of countries and the extremely interesting facts contained in the preliminary reports. It noted, in particular, as a result of the enquiries already made, the very valuable information which had been obtained in regard to the assistance required by countries where intellectual life was especially endangered. (See below.)

Work of the Sub-Committees.

The resolutions of the three Sub-Committees were approved by the plenary Committee.

As regards bibliography, the Committee considered as particularly urgent the preparation of technical conferences for the co-ordination of analytical bibliography (abstracts). It was of opinion that preliminary experiments in this field might be made for physics, classical philology and the social sciences. It instructed the Sub-Committee on Bibliography to study means for using and developing the alphabetical index of the International Institute of Bibliography. It also instructed the Sub-Committee to collect as rapidly as possible the materials necessary for the publication of the *Index Bibliographicus*.

Among the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Inter-University Relations, the plenary Committee attached the greatest importance to the scheme for creating an international bureau of university information. It approved a scheme for the regulation of this bureau, the creation of which it regarded as indispensable for the development of inter-university relations and in general for the continuation of its work.

The Committee noted the report of M. Ruffini on the protection of scientific property which it had received from the Sub-Committee on Intellectual Property. This report concluded with a draft international convention under which an international union for the protection of scientific property would be instituted. This union would find a place between the two unions existing at the moment for the protection of artistic and literary property and for the protection of industrial property, and, like these existing unions, would have as administrative organ the offices at Berne. The Committee noted the exceptional importance of this scheme and decided to recommend it urgently to the notice of the Council and of the Assembly of the League.

Conventions relating to the International Exchange of Publications.

The plenary Committee, taking into account the investigations conducted by the Sub-Committee on Bibliography, considered that a technical conference of the directors of the national exchange bureaux should be convened as soon as possible by the League of Nations in order to prepare a revision of the Conventions of 1886.

The Committee noted the ratification of these Conventions by the Hungarian Government and by the Government of San Domingo.

Assistance for Countries where Intellectual Life is especially endangered.

The Committee very carefully studied this problem and approved the formation, already carried out in certain countries with depreciated currencies, of National Committees on Intellectual Co-operation. It decided to recommend the extension of this system to countries whose position was more favourable and to invite to its next session a delegate from each of the National Committees in order to frame a systematic plan of mutual intellectual help and exchanges.

The Committee begged the Council to facilitate this part of its activity by inviting the Governments of the Members of the League of Nations to give their moral and financial support to the National Committees of Intellectual Co-operation and by authorising the International Committee to receive funds destined for these Committees.

The Committee also studied means for coming to the assistance of emigrant Russian intellectuals.

Various Questions.

The Committee approved the report by M. Ruffini on intellectual collaboration in archaeological researches and decided to forward the draft Convention regulating Archaeological activities in Mandated Countries, elaborated in 1922 by the International Academic Union, to the Permanent Mandates Commission, provided the Council should authorise it to do so.

The Committee also examined the questions which had been referred to it for investigation by the Third Assembly, particularly the problem of an international language. It did not feel able to recommend the League of Nations to adopt an artificial language for international use, considering that its efforts should tend above all to encourage the study of living languages and of modern literatures as the most powerful means of bringing the various nations intellectually together.
17.

THE WORK OF THE LATIN-AMERICAN BUREAU OF THE SECRETARIAT.

The Latin-American Bureau of the Secretariat was established by a decision of the Third Assembly in order to facilitate and strengthen relations between the Secretariat of the League and the Latin-American countries. It was decided that the names of two nationals of Latin-American countries, one from Venezuela and one from Panama, should be proposed to the Secretary-General by their respective Governments as members of the office. In accordance with this decision, M. Manuel Arocha (Venezuela) and M. Cristobal Rodriguez (Panama) were duly appointed for a period of two years. They are assisted in their duties by M. Julian Nogueira, a Latin-American member of the Information Section.

The Bureau started work in January 1923 under regulations approved by the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General has made a practice of consulting the Bureau on any questions of interest to the Latin-American countries, and in all such matters the various sections of the Secretariat invited its co-operation and aid.

It has, for example, by means of personal communications, assisted the Secretariat in keeping these Governments informed of the progress of such questions as unfair competition, the traffic in opium, amendments to the Covenant, disarmament, and the Treaty of Mutual Guarantee. It has given particular attention to the work of the Technical Organisations of the League, obtaining by similar methods information concerning epidemiological conditions in Latin-America, facilitating the association of Latin-American doctors in the interchange of public health officers to be held in the United States in the autumn of 1923, and helping the co-operation of the Latin-American Governments in the International Customs Conference to be held in Geneva in October next and in the work of the Organisation for Communications and Transit.

The Bureau has aided the Information Section of the Secretariat to keep in touch with events and with public opinion in the Latin-American countries and to spread information in these countries on the work of the representatives of Latin-America on the Council and on the various Committees of the League. Communications relating to these activities have been published in most of the leading South American newspapers.

The Bureau has also placed itself at the disposal of the Latin-American diplomatists accredited in Europe and the United States for the purpose of supplying information regarding the work of the League, and it has, with the same end in view, entered into correspondence with the universities, chambers of commerce, academies and similar institutions in Latin America.

It has further arranged for a Spanish edition of the Monthly Summary of the Information Section of the Secretariat to be specially prepared, in order to emphasise matters of particular interest to the Latin-American countries.

The work of the Bureau has been of great value to the Secretariat, and the Secretary-General has had every reason to believe that it has also been appreciated by the Governments of the Latin-American States.

1 The recommendation made by the Fourth Committee and adopted by the Assembly on this subject was as follows: "Upon the proposal of all delegations of the Central and South American countries, the Committee recommended that the Liaison Office with Central and South America should be established at Geneva and not in America. The adoption of a roster would enable the Republics in Central and South America to be represented by officials of each nation in turn."