In this connection it should be noted that the Mixed Sub-Committee of the Health Committee and of the Opium Advisory Committee has definitely concluded that heroin as a medical remedy is unnecessary. 1

The Council, on December 13th, 1923, adopted a resolution instructing the Secretary-General to ask the various Governments for their views on the subject.

THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN DRUGS.

The Advisory Committee in 1923 emphasised the importance of direct communication, between the Governments and the Secretariat of the League, of particulars concerning all important seizures of drugs intercepted in course of transmission as a result of the endeavour to suppress the illicit traffic. It was felt that publicity was one of the most effective weapons in dealing with the illicit traffic in drugs, and that its suppression required the fullest possible exchange of information.

The Council on December 13th, 1923, adopted a resolution endorsing the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. It instructed the Secretary-General to communicate them to the Governments with a request, on behalf of the Council, for favourable consideration.

The Council at the same time considered the opinion expressed by the Advisory Committee that the infliction of severe penalties on persons engaged in the illicit traffic was one of the best means of preventing the spread of the traffic. It endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that penalties should be increased in certain countries, that the existing penalties should be strictly applied, and that provision should be made for the punishment of offences committed in foreign countries.

III. CONFERENCE FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE CIRCULATION OF AND TRAFFIC IN OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS.

The Conference for the Suppression of the Circulation of and Traffic in Obscene Publications met on August 31st, 1923, and its proceedings were contemporaneous with the session of the fourth Assembly. It was accordingly impossible to include an account of the proceedings of the Conference in the general report of last year.

The Secretariat of the League of Nations was authorised to assist in the organisation of the Conference under a resolution adopted by the third Assembly on September 28th, 1922.

The Conference met under the auspices of the League of Nations at the invitation of the French Government, and representatives of 35 States attended. The draft convention which had been drawn up in Paris in 1910, but never signed, was examined and amended, and a new text was unanimously adopted on September 11th, 1923. The Convention was opened for signature on September 12th, and during the next few days was signed by the representatives of 29 States.

The contracting Parties undertake to prosecute persons who produce or trade in obscene publications or circulate or distribute them publicly or privately. Each State is left to attach to the word "obscene" the legal meaning which it considers right.

Provisions are inserted for the punishment by the contracting Parties of offences committed in another country when the laws of the country permit. Further articles deal with the taking of evidence by commissions, the exchange of information, and the search of premises on suspicion.

The Council of the League is asked to consider the advisability of calling a further conference at the end of each period of five years, or, upon a request by five of the parties, for a revision of the Convention. The Conference recommended that the Secretariat of the League should record and publish the names of the States ratifying or adhering to the Convention and that it should also be periodically instructed to issue a questionnaire and circulate the information thus obtained. This information would include the number of cases in which proceedings had been taken, particulars of the offences, and the results of the prosecutions.

The Convention was open for signature up to March 31st, 1924, and, in accordance with Articles 7 and 9 of the Convention and Article 13 of the Final Act, the Council might invite States to sign or to adhere to the Convention which were neither Members of the League nor had been represented at the Conference.

The Conference, in accordance with these provisions, decided on December 10th, 1923, to send copies of the Convention and the Final Act to the following countries:

| Afghanistan | Germany | Mexico |
| Free City of Danzig | Hedjaz | Russia |
| Ecuador | Iceland | San Marino |
| Egypt | Liechtenstein | Turkey |

1 See under the Health Organisation for the work of the Mixed Sub-Committee of the Health Committee and the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Opium on the question of the estimation of legitimate requirements of opium, etc.
The following 43 States have signed the Convention:

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IV. INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE RELIEF OF PEOPLES OVERTAKEN BY DISASTER.

On September 27th, 1923, the fourth Assembly noted with interest the proposals of the Council with reference to the scheme of Senator Ciraolo, President of the Italian Red Cross. It authorised the Council to instruct the Secretary-General to communicate this scheme, together with a report by the Secretary-General on the same subject, to the Governments for their observations, and to keep the Council informed of their replies, in order that the Council could make such proposals based on these replies as it might see fit for submission to the Assembly.

On December 8th, 1923, the Secretary-General despatched a circular letter to all the Members of the League, to the United States and to Germany, enclosing a copy of the text of the scheme of Senator Ciraolo and of the various relevant documents.

The Governments of Austria, Great Britain, Greece, India, Peru, Roumania, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Spain, and the United States of America have so far replied to the circular letter.

The replies from Great Britain, Greece, Roumania, and the United States, while expressing interest and sympathy in the scheme, expressed the opinion that the difficulties to which it would give rise were such as to make it impracticable at the moment.

The reply of the Greek Government indicated that the Greek Red Cross would be willing to take part in any scheme which resulted in the reorganisation of the International Red Cross on the basis of contributions made by the different Members of the League.

The reply from the Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was to the effect that it fully concurred in the views expressed regarding the necessity of convening an international conference for the purpose of giving practical effect to the scheme of Senator Ciraolo.

MEASURES TO HELP REFUGEES.

The fourth Assembly, on September 27th, 1923, expressed its entire satisfaction with the way in which the High Commissioner of the League of Nations for Refugees had discharged the duties entrusted to him, and invited him to continue to apply the same methods of work as hitherto, especially in the matter of relief and assistance. It recognised that the High Commissioner would throughout the coming year be concerned with two distinct problems, namely, the problem of the Russian refugees scattered throughout certain countries of Europe and the Far East, and the
refugees from Asia Minor. On behalf of the refugees from Asia Minor, Dr. Nansen was requested to continue to co-operate in the work already undertaken and to co-ordinate the efforts of the other interested organisations.

The Council, at a meeting on September 28th, 1923, requested the High Commissioner to consider the possibility of having the necessary arrangements made for the issue of identity certificates to Armenian refugees, and also issued an appeal to all Members of the League to support by such charitable means as were in their power the work of assistance for the Armenian refugees.

I. RUSSIAN REFUGEES.

General Position.

The position of the Russian refugees in the autumn of 1923, though sensibly improved, was still precarious, and the Assembly considered that the termination of the activities of the High Commission would materially destroy the progress already realised on their behalf. It accordingly invited the Council to request the Governments of the Members of the League to continue to afford the High Commissioner support and assistance, especially as regards the development of the means of general and professional education and the securing of employment.

Large numbers of refugees still remained in Constantinople, in Poland, in Central Europe, in the Baltic States, and in the Balkans. In the Far East the refugees were scattered throughout various regions of China and Korea. The total number of the refugees was estimated at over one and a half million, of which 500,000 were in Germany, some 400,000 in France and approximately 60,000 in China. 7,000 refugees still remained in Constantinople, and there were large numbers in Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. The number of refugees in Roumania was 15,000, in Latvia 14,000, in Lithuania 2,400, and in Estonia 15,000. A large proportion of the refugees in Europe were women and children, a fact which greatly added to the difficulty of the problem. The conditions under which they lived were pitiable in the extreme. The vast number of the refugees in China had insufficient clothing and no money, and in Germany their situation was rapidly becoming worse owing to the growth of unemployment and the increased cost of living.

Legal Status of the Refugees.

The High Commissioner reported to the Council on March 15th, 1924, that China, Estonia and Hungary had adopted the system of identity certificates for Russian refugees, thus bringing up to thirty-four the number of Governments (including Germany and Mexico) which had formally adhered to the system or had adopted it in principle.

At Constantinople, when the diplomatic and consular institutions of the former Russian regime were suppressed, the High Commission for Refugees, with the approval of the local authorities, undertook the protection of the Russian refugees in Turkey.

In Lithuania, the juridical position of the refugees presented serious difficulties. The Lithuanian Government, however, has adhered to the system of identity certificates, and has begun the regular issue of passports. As the result of negotiations with the High Commission, the Lithuanian Government has consented to the organisation of a Refugees Committee in Lithuania.

The Polish Government has granted a definite and universal legal status to all Russian refugees within her territory.

The Estonian and the Latvian Governments have maintained their friendly attitude towards the refugees, and have in particular allowed them to form organisations.

The adoption in principle of the identity certificate system by practically the whole of the Governments directly interested in the Russian refugee problem was regarded as an important step towards the regularisation of the legal status of the refugees. Very great difficulties were often encountered in connection with the practical application of the system, but in the majority of instances they have been overcome by means of the close co-operation established between the Governments concerned and the delegates of the High Commission.

Emigration and Repatriation.

The High Commissioner reported to the Council in December 1923 that a further 1,451 Russian refugees had been sent from Constantinople to France. A large proportion of these refugees were able to contribute towards their travelling expenses. Others were granted loans to be repaid during the first year of their settlement in the countries to which they were sent. The French authorities at Constantinople gave invaluable assistance in the work of evacuation. 3,589 Jewish refugees, out of a total number of 3,600 who received special permission to remain in Poland for a certain time, have been evacuated to America. Further arrangements have been made by the High Commission with the French Ministry of Labour for the despatch of Russian and Ukrainian refugees from Poland, and a further contingent of 1,500 refugees has been accepted for agricultural and industrial work in France. The High Commission has endeavoured to make similar arrangements for the Russian refugees in Austria, and in this case also the French consular authorities have done their utmost to assist.

France has also absorbed a large number of refugees who left Germany as a result of the recent economic crisis. The refugees from Germany left the country for the most part on their own initiative, but by far the greater number, having no means at their disposal, are for the moment compelled to remain. The problem of enabling the refugees in Germany to emigrate...
is extremely urgent. They are now almost wholly unemployed, and form a floating population which is regarded by the authorities as constituting a danger to public security.

The emigration problem is almost equally serious in the Far East, where the refugees have only intermittent employment, and are for the most part dependent on charity. Arrangements for housing, clothing, feeding and providing them with medical assistance are most inadequate. The delegate of the High Commission recently visited and reported upon the refugees in China and urged the High Commission to open negotiations with the Governments who require white labour, with a view to admitting these refugees as immigrants. It should be noted in this connection that the Russian Red Cross Society at Harbin has arranged with the Canadian Government for the registration of a number of refugees in Manchuria, some of whom, it is hoped, may be admitted as immigrants into Canada. It is hoped that arrangements may also be made to send some selected Russian applicants to other immigration countries.

The High Commission, in co-operation with private relief organisations, has endeavoured to arrange for the evacuation of Russian refugees from Poland, Roumania, and Constantinople to the United States. These efforts are, however, limited by the United States immigration restrictions. A delegate of the High Commission went to the United States at the beginning of the year and discussed this question with the authorities at Washington and New York, who made it quite clear that the restrictions in force as regards Russian immigration could only be removed should the eight-hour day be adopted in the United States.

The delegate of the High Commission recently visited and reported upon the refugees in China and the general economic situation. No cases of established unfavourable discrimination against the repatriated refugees have been brought to the notice of the representatives of the High Commission, either directly or through the delegates of the foreign relief organisations still working in Russia.

Most of the repatriated refugees are from the Balkan States, but a strong feeling in favour of repatriation is reported to exist among large numbers of refugees in Central Europe.

The Soviet Government has expressed a wish to continue the work of repatriation in co-operation with the High Commission. It agrees that this co-operation could best be secured by means of repatriation committees consisting of a representative of the Government in whose territory the refugees are to be found, a representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and a representative of the High Commissioner. The High Commissioner reported to the Council in March 1924 that negotiations were then in progress with the Soviet Government with a view to establishing such committees under a formal agreement.

**Employment of Refugees.**

It has been extremely difficult to find employment for the refugees, although almost universally they are able and anxious to work, either as industrial or agricultural labourers. Several Governments, however, in spite of the present economic crisis, have admitted thousands of Russian refugees to their territory, for whom they have endeavoured to find work. Reference has already been made to the facilities accorded to Russian immigrants desirous of seeking work in France.

In Constantinople, the situation in regard to the employment of Russian refugees is becoming increasingly critical. Russian doctors and barristers have been prohibited from practising. The Russian pharmacies and restaurants have been closed, and Russian workmen have been superseded in favour of Turkish workmen. In Germany, the economic crisis has led to a systematic dismissal of foreign workmen carried out by districts and by industries.

The High Commissioner, in suggesting measures for the alleviation of the general situation of the refugees, emphasises the desirability of obtaining the abolition of regulations forbidding the employment of Russian labour, and of the institution of machinery for the protection of refugees against exploitation.

**Education.**

A serious effort has been made in various countries to establish or develop schools for the Russian refugees, particularly in the Slav countries and the border States on the frontiers of European Russia. In Czechoslovakia and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, secondary schools for Russian refugees are supported by the Governments, and the Government of Czechoslovakia has made special efforts for the professional education of the refugees. Thousands of Cossacks are studying agricultural science in that country. Technical courses have also been organised in the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes for railway instruction, electrical engineering, mining, etc. Czechoslovakia and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes are spending some twenty million francs a year on the maintenance and education of Russian refugees. It should also be noted that the Bulgarian Government has contributed 500,000 levas per month for the maintenance of schools supported by the High Commission.
The High Commission has assisted materially in the development of educational facilities in Germany. A high school has been established in Berlin, known as the Russian Scientific Institute, and a representative of the High Commissioner during his recent visit to the United States obtained from an important American organisation, the "Joint Distribution Committee", a grant of 10,000 dollars towards its establishment. The High Commission itself contributed £200 to cover the cost of converting a building in order to house the students of the Institute. The Institute is managed by professors from the Moscow and Petrograd Universities, expelled from Russia towards the end of 1922. The students attending this Institute definitely aim at preparing themselves for a life of productive work in their own country.

The Russian professors in Berlin have also endeavoured to organise secondary education and the relief of refugee children.

Action taken by the Council of the League.

The Council heard reports from the High Commissioner during its session in December 1923 and again during its session in March 1924.

In 1923, it decided to invite the Governments of the Members of the League and other interested Governments to continue to afford to the High Commissioner the support and assistance which they had given him in the past, especially as regards the development of the means of general and professional education and the securing of employment for the refugees. Moreover, taking into consideration the increasing desire manifested by Russian refugees in many countries to return to their homes if satisfactory arrangements could be made for their reception, it invited Governments to afford the High Commissioner every possible facility to give effect to the wishes of the refugees in this direction.

II. GREEK REFUGEES.

(a) Settlement of the Refugees.

The Council of the League of Nations approved on September 29th, 1923, a scheme for the settlement of the Greek refugees from Asia Minor. The circumstances in which this scheme was framed were described in the general report to the fourth Assembly on the work of the Council.

The scheme was embodied in a protocol containing the general conditions of a loan of from three to six million pounds to be raised for this purpose by the Greek Government, and of the establishment of a Refugee Settlement Commission.

The Greek Government undertook to transfer to the Settlement Commission the full ownership of not less than 500,000 hectares of land suitable for settlement, and to hand over to the Settlement Commission the proceeds of the loan and of any provisional advances. The service of the interest and amortisation of the loan is guaranteed in the first instance by certain Greek revenues, and the proceeds of these revenues will be handed over to the International Financial Commission at Athens to meet the service of the loan. The International Financial Commission is the body which has for many years controlled the receipts of the monopolies and of certain Customs for the service of the external Greek debt.

The service of the loan is also guaranteed by a first charge upon the property and income of the Settlement Commission, i.e., upon the lands to be transferred to the Commission and upon the sums paid by the refugees as rent or as reimbursement of advances. Taxes paid by the refugees will also be handed over by the Government to the Settlement Commission, and, if the Commission sells any land, the proceeds of such sales will be paid into a special sinking fund.

The Greek Government undertakes to make every effort to secure as soon as possible an equilibrium of the State budget. To prevent depreciation of the Greek currency, it further undertakes not to create charges upon its revenues, except for the purpose of meeting its external obligations or of improving the financial position of Greece.

The Commission consists of a chairman, appointed by the Council, another member appointed by the Council, and two members appointed by the Greek Government with the approval of the Council. Decisions are taken by a majority vote and the Commission reports to the Council every three months.

The task of the Commission is to promote the establishment of refugees in Greece either upon the land or otherwise, and the income and funds of the Commission may not be expended on the relief of distress or other charitable purposes as distinct from settlement in productive work. All assistance is given on terms involving ultimate repayment.

The Council, in adopting the scheme for the settlement of Greek refugees, laid special emphasis on the fact that there were several hundred thousands of refugees who could not be dealt with at once under the scheme, and that many months would pass before even those refugees who could be settled on the land would be able to raise their first crops. The Greek Government was unable to cope with the consequent distress, and the help of charitable societies was, therefore, an essential complement to the settlement scheme. The Council accordingly expressed the hope that charitable subscribers would continue to support the benevolent societies engaged in relief work, in the knowledge that their support would not, as hitherto, be merely palliative, but an essential factor towards a definite and final solution of the problem of the Greek refugees.

1 See Records of the Fourth Assembly Plenary Meetings, Official Journal, Special Supplement No. 13, page 790.
The Council appointed as Chairman of the Commission Mr. Henry Morgenthau, of the United States. It also appointed as League member Mr. Campbell, and approved the appointment of the members nominated by the Greek Government. The Chairman of the Commission arrived from New York early in November 1923. He joined the other members of the Commission at Salonica, and the full Commission proceeded at once to Athens.

The Greek Government deposited with the Secretariat of the League its ratification of the protocol on November 22nd, 1923, and, under Article I of the Protocol, this ratification constituted an assurance that the Greek Government had already taken the measures required by its internal law to establish the Commission and to secure to it the prescribed capacity and powers.

The Council considered the first quarterly report of the Settlement Commission during its session held in March 1924. Mr. Morgenthau, Chairman of the Commission, and M. Colocotronis, who sat on the Council as representative of the Greek Government for this question, attended, and Mr. Morgenthau explained the difficulties with which the Commission was confronted.

At that moment there were more than a million refugees in Greece, all, with the exception of 60,000 Armenians, of Greek nationality. Half a million of these refugees were in urgent need of help. The Commission estimated that, in order to solve the settlement problem as a whole within the next two years, it would require from six to eight million pounds.

At the end of 1923, the Bank of England advanced to the Commission the sum of one million pounds sterling, the money having been paid to the National Bank of Greece acting as intermediary. This sum of one million pounds sterling was granted on the condition that the money should be repaid later out of the international loan.

The Commission expended this money between November 1923 and the end of April 1924.

The Greek Committee of the Council, under special authority accorded by the Council in a resolution dated March 12th, 1924, met in London on May 7th to examine the situation again, in collaboration with Mr. Morgenthau, Chairman of the Commission, and M. Diomedès, Governor of the National Bank of Greece. Negotiations took place at the same time with the Bank of England and resulted in a new advance of one million pounds sterling by the Bank of England to the National Bank of Greece for the assistance of the refugees, under conditions similar to those upon which the first advance was made.

The condition of the financial market does not yet allow of the issue of the real international loan, but the requirements of the refugees are fully met for one year by this new advance.

The Council, after having noted the results of the negotiations with the Bank of England, insisted on the urgent necessity of continuing the relief by charitable means of the refugees who cannot be immediately placed in productive work.

(b) Relief Measures. — Co-ordination of Relief Activities.

The Council had under consideration, at its session in March 1924, a report by the High Commissioner indicating the steps taken by him to give effect to the resolution of the fourth Assembly under which he had been invited to co-ordinate the efforts of the other organisations working for the refugees.

At the urgent request of the Governor-General of Macedonia, the delegation of the High Commission in Greece had been transferred from Athens to premises put at its disposal by the Greek authorities in Salonica.

The High Commission had founded an Association of Foreign Relief Organisations, which had become a valuable clearing-house of relief information and effort, and overlapping in this connection had been in consequence reduced to a minimum.

The experience gained by this Association was of such a useful character that the High Commission was prompted to extend its activities. A Central Co-ordination Committee, representative of fifty relief organisations and public departments, was, therefore, formed, with the President of the Greek Red Cross at its head, for the co-ordination of relief efforts, and for the collection and distribution of vital statistics regarding the refugees.

The formation of this Committee was welcomed by public authorities and private bodies alike, as appeals to the charitable public coming from so representative a Committee carry far greater weight than separate appeals.

Relief Work of the High Commission.

Statistics received from the Central Co-ordination Committee showed that, in March 1924, there were still half a million refugees in need of relief.

The High Commissioner gave details in his reports of the progress made, by means of funds placed at his disposal from private sources, in the establishment of refugees in Western Thrace.

In order to settle these refugees in productive employment, charcoal, carpet and laundry industries had been started and had shown satisfactory results.

Contracts had also been obtained from the army authorities and executed, under the High Commission, for the employment of some hundreds of refugee men and women.

With funds amounting to £6,600 generously promised by the Knights of Malta, the High Commission had drawn up plans, in consultation with the Government and the Refugee Settlement Commission, for the construction of 200 maisonnettes, forming two model villages near Salonica.
The High Commission had also administered further funds, subscribed by the Knights of Malta, for the establishment of several dispensaries, which were providing medical aid to 12,000 refugees in 52 villages in the Sedes area.

In addition, over 2,000 milk rations and 500 soup rations had been issued daily for over three months to children and aged persons in the Salonica district.

III. BULGARIAN INHABITANTS OF WESTERN THRACE.

This matter was dealt with by the Council in April 1923 and details were given in the general report to the fourth Assembly. The Council, in April 1923, had requested Dr. Nansen to do all in his power as High Commissioner for Refugees to improve the condition of Bulgarian inhabitants expelled from Western Thrace.

On March 8th, 1924, Dr. Nansen, High Commissioner, presented a report to the Council. He reminded the Council that he had already reported to the fourth Assembly on the preliminary steps he had taken to give effect to the decision of the Council, and paid a tribute to the cordial co-operation of the Greek Government, which had agreed to issue rations to the deportees.

The repatriation of the deportees desiring to return home was completed by the end of October 1923. The Bulgarian Government, however, subsequently drew the High Commissioner’s attention to the fact that, during the absence of the deportees, refugees from Asia Minor had been established in their houses, so that the Bulgarian inhabitants on their return were unable to enjoy the normal occupation of their homes. The High Commissioner caused an inspection to be made on the spot, by which it was established that all the deportees had been returned to their homes, with the exception of some who had refused to return. It was established that they had suffered a very substantial loss of cattle, grain and agricultural implements. The Greek Government thereupon agreed to provide relief in money and kind and to give medical services. Up to March 8th, 1924, a sum of 12½ million drachmae had been provided by the Greek Government for the economic re-establishment of the Bulgarian inhabitants of Western Thrace.

The High Commissioner refers in the warmest terms to the manner in which the Greek Government has co-operated with him in this work.

FAMINE IN NORTHERN ALBANIA.

The Albanian Government, on March 7th, 1924, addressed an appeal to the Council pointing out that, in consequence of the ravages caused by the Great War, followed by two successive bad harvests, the mountainous regions throughout the whole of north and north-eastern Albania, with a total population of about 200,000, had been reduced to a state of famine. The Albanian Government was doing its utmost to alleviate the sufferings of the population, but, owing to the very limited means at its disposal, it had only been able to obtain a very small proportion of the supplies required. It therefore appealed to the generosity of the Members of the League to take up, on purely humanitarian grounds, the cause of these suffering populations and thereby prevent any further loss of life.

The Council, recognising the justice of the appeal, resolved that it was a matter which, in its opinion, was of such an exceptional character as to call for action by the League. It therefore instructed the Secretary-General so to inform the Members of the League and to enquire whether and in what measure each Government might be disposed to assist with contributions, either in money or in kind, begging at the same time for an early answer in view of the urgency of the case.

Further, the Council resolved to allot the sum of 50,000 Swiss francs, to be taken from “Unforeseen Expenditure subject to Special Vote of the Council”, so that it might be possible to render the necessary help pending the receipt of direct contributions from the Members of the League.

The Council expressed the hope that assistance from private sources would be forthcoming for the efforts to alleviate this distress.
The Council finally directed the Secretary-General to request the Joint Committee of the International Red Cross Committee and of the League of Red Cross Societies to nominate a representative to be responsible for the administration, on behalf of the League, of the funds made available by the decision of the Council and of any sums made available for expenditure on behalf of the League by Members of the League or from private sources.

In conformity with the above resolution, Professor Eugène Pittard, of the University of Geneva, was appointed Administrator and proceeded in the latter part of March to Albania.

On April 28th, he submitted a preliminary report indicating the extent of the famine and outlining the measures taken to cope with it. He stated that the money received or promised up to that date was insufficient, and that he would require another 75,000 Swiss francs in order to buy the quantity of maize necessary to supply the necessitous with food. He hoped the Members of the League who had not yet subscribed would do so.

**Contributions received.**

From Members of the League:

- Czechoslovakia: £500
- Italy: 500,000 lire
- Great Britain: £5,000
- Spain: 10,000 pesetas
- Sweden: 10,000 Swedish crowns
- Roumania: 25 truck-loads of maize.

From other sources:

- Some citizens of the United States of America: $10,000
- International "Save the Children" Fund: £600
- International Red Cross: 5,000 Swiss francs
- Roumanian Red Cross: 10,000 lei
- Italian Red Cross: Clothing and medicaments.

14.

**WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION.**

**Action taken on the Resolutions of the Fourth Assembly.**

**Composition of the Committee (Resolution I).**

"The Assembly,

"Considering it desirable to increase the authority of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation by enlarging it so that it represents not only the various intellectual methods but also the various national cultures;

"Having noted with satisfaction the intention expressed by the Council at its meeting of April 23rd, 1923, of adding to the Committee on the occasion of the next vacancy a professor of the University of Vienna as representative of the Germanic culture;

"Having noted also the legitimate demands expressed by the delegates of Roumania, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and Czechoslovakia, by the Spanish-speaking delegates of America, by the Asiatic delegates and by the delegates of Ireland and of the Finno-Ugrian nations:

"Requests the Council to consider the possibility of increasing the number of members on the Committee, introducing at the same time a system of rotation to be determined."

The Council examined this question on December 13th, 1923. The French representative, acting as Rapporteur, concluded that the moment was not favourable either for the introduction of a system of rotation or for increasing the membership of the Committee.

"If," concluded the Rapporteur, "some of the members originally appointed are now liable, after only a few months' work, to be required to leave the Committee as the result of a system of rotation, this cannot but be harmful to the satisfactory working and good results which we are entitled to expect from the Committee. This solution, therefore, would appear for the moment to be out of the question." An increase in the membership of the Committee was, moreover, impracticable without increasing the expenses of the Committee. As M. Hanotaux had remarked, the object which the Assembly had in view in adopting the recommendation in favour of such an increase was to assure the representation of various national cultures on the Committee. This object might be realised by associating with the work of the International Committee certain
members of the National Committees on Intellectual Co-operation as foreign correspondents. At the third session of the Committee in December 1923, delegates of the National Committees already constituted had for five meetings assisted at the examination of problems of intellectual co-operation, together with the members of the International Committee, and the bases of a future collaboration were established.

The British representative, on behalf of his Government, insisted on the need for economy when the Council approved the conclusions of the report of M. Hanotaux.

Previous to June 1924, the only change introduced into the composition of the Committee was made by the proposal of the British representative, who moved that Mr. Bannerjea should be replaced by Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose, F. R. S., Emeritus Professor of the Presidency College of Calcutta and Director of the Bose Institute of Research.

**Mutual Intellectual Assistance (Resolution II).**

“(a) The Assembly expresses the hope that the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, availing itself of the help of the delegates of the National Committees, will at its next session take up with renewed energy the urgent problem of intellectual assistance.”

The Committee, in conformity with this resolution, examined during its third session (December 5th to December 8th, 1923) the problem of intellectual assistance, with the help of representatives of the National Committees already constituted.

The National Committees established in the following countries were represented: Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Roumania, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation of the Russian emigrants.

The first task to be dealt with by this meeting was to organise collaboration between the National Committees and the International Committee. The National Committees were to serve as intermediary between the organs of intellectual life of their respective countries and the International Committee. It was therefore decided that they should forward to the Secretariat or directly to the other National Committees concerned the most urgent requests of the institutions and intellectual workers of their respective countries, particularly as regards books and apparatus, travelling facilities and inter-university exchanges. It was understood that they would also endeavour to meet requests of the same character addressed to them through the Secretariat or directly by the other National Committees. It was decided that each National Committee should entrust to one of its members the correspondence with the Secretariat and with the other National Committees. The name and address of this member, together with all information in regard to the composition and working of the National Committee, and all communications or proposals which it might wish to make, will be sent to the Secretariat, which will publish them in the *Bulletin of the International University Information Office*.

The International Committee, after having drawn up the general lines of the programme of international co-operation, continued its examination of the principal problems of intellectual assistance with the help of the delegates of the National Committees already constituted, who, as already noted, were representatives of countries of Central or Eastern Europe which were either countries newly constituted or suffering as a result of the war in respect of their intellectual life.

The delegates of these National Committees have particularly emphasised the difficulties experienced by the universities, libraries and laboratories of their countries in procuring books and other indispensable apparatus. The Committee accordingly decided again to draw the attention of countries where intellectual life was normal and prosperous to the obstacles which poverty and economic distress had placed in the way of intellectual life and the higher studies in an extensive region of Europe. The Committee appealed to the sentiments of solidarity which should unite persons of intellect throughout the entire world, and invited them to collaborate in the work of intellectual co-operation initiated by the League of Nations.

The Committee will endeavour within its means to develop and above all to systematise intellectual assistance on the basis of exchanges. It has asked committees on intellectual co-operation established in new countries, or countries whose exchanges have depreciated, to draw up a list of the most urgent needs of their establishments for higher education, laboratories and libraries. These lists will be communicated to the National Committees of countries whose exchanges are more favourable or to institutions pursuing analogous objects.

The delegates of the National Committees having, moreover, approved the efforts already made by the International Committee to facilitate exchanges of students and professors and the co-ordination of bibliographical work, the Committee has been able to give greater precision to its programme in regard to these various points, thanks to the collaboration of the National Committees.

In particular, as regards the exchange of students, it has been decided to approach the Governments and the high schools with a view to ascertaining to what extent they may be disposed to place scholarships and subsidies at the disposal of the most deserving students of countries whose exchanges have depreciated. The Committee has decided to undertake similar steps in regard to Customs and travelling facilities for students. Moreover, it has decided to ask the Governments and the higher educational establishments of the countries whose exchanges have
depreciated to establish a small list of students specially qualified to take advantage of scholarships and subsidises abroad. The National Committees on Intellectual Co-operation are specially qualified to act as intermediaries between the International Committee and the various national institutions for the purpose of this enquiry. Information thus obtained and the proposals made on either side will be published at once in the Bulletin of the International University Information Office.

As a result of this conference with the delegates of the National Committees, the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation issued an appeal on behalf of the National Committees, requesting donations for all those from whom it daily received urgent appeals: for the universities, laboratories, libraries, learned societies, and for the organisations of students which represented the future of intellectual life in every country.

Those who contributed might, if they so desired, indicate the use to which the sums placed by them at the disposal of the International Committee should be put. For example, they might choose the National Committee or institution to which they desired these sums to be allotted, and say whether they preferred to encourage more particularly purchases of books and apparatus, or the publication of scientific works, or the creation of travelling scholarships.

It was felt desirable that those contributing should enable as far as possible an immediate use to be made of their gifts, without the Committee being always obliged to capitalise them. The crisis through which intellectual life was passing should in fact be likened to material disasters for which the capital and not the revenue of the donations raised was expended.

"(b) The Assembly is of opinion that National Committees should also be established in those countries which have already organised intellectual co-operation on definite lines and in a different way."

In order to facilitate the carrying out of this recommendation, the Committee has added to the appeal on behalf of the National Committees mentioned above, suggestions concerning the organisation of National Committees, as well as a list of the Committees already established or on the point of being established. (See Bulletin of the International University Information Office, Nos. 1 and 2, page 77 et seq.)

"(c) The Assembly requests the Council to ask the Governments of the Members of the League of Nations to be good enough to lend their moral and financial support to these National Committees if they have not already done so, and to authorise the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation to receive from any institution or private person interested in the work funds destined for this purpose."

The Council approved this resolution on December 13th, 1923, and the appeal on behalf of the National Committees and of the work of intellectual assistance which it was co-ordinating was duly issued.

"(d) The Assembly invites the Committee to continue the investigation into the conditions of intellectual life which it has started, and to communicate the results obtained."

The first results of the enquiry have been published, either in pamphlets or, as from the beginning of 1924, in the Bulletin of the International University Information Office, the publication of which will enable the enquiry to be kept up to date by means of information received from the various countries.

The pamphlets on the enquiry were published with the following note:

"The object of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation in publishing this series of pamphlets is to call attention to the problems of organisation and intellectual assistance to which each subject gives rise. The Committee does not propose to treat these subjects exhaustively, but desires rather to bring them to the notice of the public, and to provide an opportunity for further suggestions."

International University Information Office (Resolution III).

"The Assembly, taking note of the statements of the Committee and of its Chairman in regard to the impossibility of continuing their work unless an international university information office is formed, authorises the Committee to convert its secretariat into an International University Information Office."

"The initial activities of this office might include:

(a) Communication of the recommendations of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation for their information to the competent authorities and particularly to the national university information offices.

(b) Publication of any information which it may receive, especially from national university information offices, where such offices exist, in regard to the equivalence of studies and diplomas recognised by different countries, the curricula of universities, especially university courses relative to modern nations, the teaching of modern languages, literatures and civilisations and international vacation courses.

(c) Preparation of a meeting between the University Sub-Committee and delegates of the international students' associations with a view to examining methods of extending the exchange of students, with the concurrence of their universities.

(d) Establishment of relations with all the organisations existing in various countries for the purpose of rendering exchanges of professors more frequent."

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(d) Establishment of relations with all the organisations existing in various countries for the purpose of rendering exchanges of professors more frequent."
The International University Information Office has begun its work within the limits fixed by the Assembly.

It should be pointed out, with special reference to paragraph (c) of the resolution of the Assembly, that the University Sub-Committee presided over by M. Bergson, conferred during its December session with the delegates of the following international students' associations: The International Confederation of Students, the Universal Federation of the Christian Students' Associations, the International Federation of University Women. The representative of Pax Romana (the international Secretariat of the Catholic Students' Associations), who had been heard at a previous session, was prevented from attending on this occasion, but his association had replied to a preliminary questionnaire addressed to it in regard to exchanges of students.

The exchange of views of the representatives of international students' associations was summarised in Nos. 1 and 2 of the Bulletin of the International University Information Office (page 10 et seq.).

The Committee on Intellectual Co-operation has taken into account the recommendations of the international students' associations in the resolution which it adopted concerning exchanges of students (see above). It has, moreover, invited the National Committees on Intellectual Co-operation to get into touch with the European Student Relief Organisation of the Universal Federation of Christian Students Associations for everything relating to assistance for students. It noted with satisfaction that the other international students' associations had co-operated in this work.

A special committee, appointed by the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation to supervise the International University Information Office, was instructed to collaborate with the representatives of the students' associations, in order that permanent contact might be established with the international students' associations in establishing the rules of procedure of the Office. In particular, it recommended collaboration with the central office of the General Confederation of Students.

In view of the usefulness of the students' organisations, especially as regards travelling facilities for students, the Committee recommended that the Governments or competent institutions should be asked to support these organisations financially as far as they were able to do so.

International Organisation of Bibliography (Resolution IV).

"The Assembly, sharing the Committee's conviction that the international organisation of bibliography serves to establish closer touch between scholars in different countries and to facilitate their individual studies:

"(a) Invites the Committee to publish the Index Bibliographicus which it has planned and to pursue its enquiries in regard to co-operation between the libraries or groups of libraries which have been formed in the different countries, and in regard to the utilisation of the work of the International Bibliographical Institute at Brussels;

"(b) Authorises the Committee forthwith to take the necessary steps to summon technical conferences for the purpose of co-ordinating the work of analytical bibliography abstracts in certain specified sciences;

"(c) Requests the Council, in agreement with the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, to convene a conference of experts to prepare the eventual revision of international conventions relative to the exchange of publications of every kind: books, periodicals, catalogues, papers and theses."

The Index Bibliographicus, a collection of existing bibliographical publications and institutions will probably appear during the current year.

Enquiries with regard to co-operation between libraries or groups of libraries have been continued by the Sub-Committee on Bibliography, and the Committee has noted with satisfaction that the French Government, basing its action upon the recommendations of the Committee, has prepared a scheme for the reorganisation and co-ordination of the Paris libraries with a view to rendering more accessible to all readers the valuable collections which they contain.

The use of the work of the International Institute of Bibliography at Brussels has been studied in a preliminary way by the Sub-Committee on Bibliography. The plenary Committee will deal with the question during its session to be held in July 1924.

As regards the co-ordination of the work of analytical bibliography (preparation and publication of abstracts of articles in scientific journals), one of the technical conferences mentioned in the Assembly resolution met at Brussels on May 1st and May 2nd, 1924, with a view to co-ordinating the work of analytical bibliography in the field of physics. This Conference consisted of the members of the Sub-Committee on Bibliography and experts representing the bibliographical associations and publications of Europe and America for physics and physical chemistry. The Conference met under the chairmanship of M. Lorentz.

The application by the bibliographical publications and the scientific journals of the recommendations drafted by this Conference should enable all analytical documentation to be made as rapid, complete and precise as possible, in accordance with the proposals formulated by Mme. Curie, and adopted by the Committee in the interests of scientific work.

In order to give effect to the decision of the Assembly in regard to the exchange of publications, the Council, upon the suggestion of the Committee, has decided to convene, under the chairmanship of M. Bergson, a committee of seven experts (a Belgian, an Italian, an expert of the United States, a South American and a British subject, with the French and Polish experts of the Committee). These experts will examine the conditions necessary for a possible revision of the Conventions of 1886.
relating to the international exchange of publications. The meeting has been convened for the month of July, and will be held at the same time as that of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation. Its proposals will be communicated to the Governments.

Reconstitution of the Library and Scientific Collections destroyed in Japan (Resolution V).

“The Assembly, grieving at the calamity which has stricken the universities and libraries of Japan, invites the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation to study means of affording international assistance to facilitate the reconstruction of the library and scientific collections which have been destroyed in Japan.”

The Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, on the proposal of Professor Nitobe, Under-Secretary-General of the League of Nations, has decided to concentrate on the reconstitution of the collections of the library of the Imperial University at Tokio, which has lost 700,000 volumes.

Universities, learned societies and private persons have been asked to send books to this library through the various Japanese Embassies.

The National Committees on Intellectual Co-operation have been invited to collaborate in this work of intellectual assistance, and the first Bulletin of the International University Information Office has noted the first despatches of books made as a result of this appeal (pages 83 and 84).

Other Assembly Resolutions.

The sixth resolution of the Assembly deals with a scheme put forward by Senator Ruffini in regard to the protection of scientific property. The Committee will examine during its July session the observations communicated by the Governments on this scheme, and will submit a report to the fifth Assembly.

The Committee will examine during the same session the offer of the municipality of Capri, which proposed to place the Charter House at Capri at the disposal of the artists of the various countries (seventh resolution of the Assembly).

The eighth resolution of the Assembly urges Governments to arrange that the children and youth in their respective countries should receive instruction concerning the existence and objects of the League of Nations and the terms of the Covenant. This resolution was communicated to the Governments on October 19th, 1923. A summary of twelve replies so far received will be found in the Official Journal for June 1924. The following States Members of the League have answered: Albania, Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Guatemala, Italy, Liberia, Persia and Peru. Replies have also been received from the Free City of Danzig and the Governing Commission of the Territory of the Saar.

The ninth resolution of the Assembly deals with proposals made by the Spanish Government concerning the equivalent recognition in all States of certain secondary educational diplomas, the creation of an international university and the foundation of a higher educational establishment in each of the countries Members of the League whose diplomas shall be valid in each of these countries. This resolution has been referred by the Council to the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation for examination.

The Sub-Committee on Inter-University Relations studied these proposals during its session held in April 1924, with the assistance of M. Castillejo, Secretary-General of the Junta Para Ampliacion de Estudios, appointed as expert for this purpose with the agreement of the Spanish Government.

The plenary Committee will examine the conclusions of the Sub-Committee during its July session, and will submit a report to the fifth Assembly.

15.

INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX.

(Article 24 of the Covenant.)

I. — INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU.

The International Hydrographic Bureau, which came under the direction of the League following a decision of the Council on October 2nd, 1921, has continued to keep the Secretariat informed of its activities.

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

This office, the position of which under the direction of the League was regulated by a decision of the Council of January 11th, 1922, continues to keep the Secretariat supplied with lists and
statistics of imports of spirituous liquors into the various African colonies and mandated territories. It also communicates the texts of the different ordinances in force in that continent with regard to the liquor traffic.

III. — The International Committee for Air Navigation.

This Committee was placed under the direction of the League by Article 35 of the Paris Convention of October 13th, 1919, and it held its fifth session at Rome in October last. The Committee keeps in constant touch with the section of the Secretariat dealing with communications and transit, to which it forwards its bulletin. It has done a great deal of work in regard to the application of the International Air Convention.

IV. — The International Association for the Promotion of Child Welfare.

By a decision of the Council of March 14th, 1924, subject to ratification by the Assembly, the work of the International Association for the Promotion of Child Welfare will in future be carried out by the Secretariat of the League. This Association is to hold a final session in July.

V. — The International Relief Bureau (Bureau international d'Assistance).

This Bureau has not submitted any reports concerning its activities since it was taken under the direction of the League (June 27th, 1921).

VI. — Publications relating to International Organisations.

The Secretariat of the League has continued the publication of a Quarterly Bulletin of Information on the Work of International Organisations, which records the meetings and general activities of the various existing international institutions. The Bulletin serves as a means for giving a certain amount of publicity to the activities of these institutions.

In No. 6 of this Bulletin, which appeared in January 1924, a chart was published giving the date and places of all international meetings held in 1923, by seventy-nine international organisations; a list of the countries represented at these meetings was also given. The information in the Bulletin is drawn from the organisations themselves and not from any unofficial source. It has thus been possible to maintain contact, by means of frequent correspondence, with a large number of international organisations.