than 27 million schillings out of the League of Nations Loan. The Bank had therefore to keep
the greater part of the loan funds invested abroad at a low rate of interest. The Austrian
Government has repeatedly pointed out to the Financial Committee that, in its opinion, it
was possible to find a better investment for the funds in the Treasury without prejudice to
their ready availability and in a manner which would increase the capital resources of Austria.
The Government was of opinion that it would be better to leave the investment of the loan
funds to the discretion of the National Bank.

After the December session of the Financial Committee, the Commissioner-General agreed to
increase from 27 to 35 million schillings that portion of the foreign currencies in “Account B”
which could be invested in Austria.

During its March session, the Financial Committee received a further request from the
Austrian Government, but preferred, as the system to be approved by the Committee would
only come into operation after the termination of the Commissioner-General’s control, to
reserve its decision on this question until the June session.

III. Monetary Situation. The Bank of Issue.

Austrian currency has remained perfectly stable since September 1925, and the rate of
exchange has shown only very slight variations without once touching the gold-points.
From a comparison of the balance-sheets of the National Bank of Austria on August 31st,
1925, and March 31st, 1926, it will be seen that the principal assets and the liabilities of the
Bank show only slight changes. The increase in circulation which occurred owing to end-of-year
settlements was rapidly re-absorbed. As regards assets, the reserve (gold and foreign curren-
cies) fell from 516 to 506 million schillings1. Forward exchange fell from 87 millions to 55 millions,
while holdings of bills increased from 73 to 92 millions. The State Debt to the Bank, on the
other hand, decreased from 198 to 183 millions.

As regards liabilities, the circulation decreased from 835 to 816 millions (of this latter sum
more than 95 per cent was already in the new schilling notes). The total circulation (including
current accounts and other sight liabilities) decreased from 875 to 842 millions. On March 31st,
60 per cent of this total was covered by the reserves (gold and foreign currencies). To the note
circulation must be added the circulation of metallic currency, which increased from 39
millions at the end of August to 71 millions at the end of March.

The stability of the Bank’s balance-sheet is all the more significant in that the National
Bank of Austria has continually reduced its official discount rate, which now stands at half
the maximum rate (15 per cent) fixed in August 1924. Since then the discount rate has been
reduced to 13 per cent (November 6th, 1924); 11 per cent (April 24th, 1925); 10 per cent
(July 23rd, 1925); 9 per cent (September 2nd, 1925); 8 per cent (January 28th, 1926); and
finally 7½ per cent on March 31st, 1926.

The free exportation and importation of gold have been allowed in Austria since September
1925.

IV. Economic Situation.

In June 1925, the Council of the League of Nations decided to entrust Mr. W. T. Layton,
editor of The Economist, and Professor C. Rist with a mission of investigation into the economic
conditions of Austria. The aim of this enquiry was to ascertain the relations which might
exist between these conditions and the work of financial reconstruction undertaken by the
League of Nations. Messrs. Rist and Layton submitted their conclusions to the Council in
the form of a report (Document C. 440(1). M. 162(1). 1925. II).

Part 1 of the report contains the general conclusions arrived at by the experts; Part 2
contains documentary annexes concerning Austrian industries, agriculture, foreign trade,
social conditions, monetary situation, banks, etc.

The experts state that Austria, like all other European countries, has not as yet succeeded
in healing the wounds caused by the war, but that, side by side with the process of financial
reconstruction, very great progress has also been made in the economic sphere. The financial
crisis which, following a period of speculation in 1924, led to the failure of one large bank and
many smaller institutions, and to a period of restricted credit and high interest rates, gradually
cleared away during the winter of 1924-25, and just as Vienna appeared to be recovering
from this financial crisis, unemployment began to increase rapidly.

This increase in unemployment was thought in some quarters to mean that Austrian
industry had been seriously hit by the financial crisis and that Austria would not be able
to cope with the economic conditions in which she had been placed. The experts are of the
opinion that these fears are unjustified. The unemployment is partly explained by the general
endeavour made by Austrian industry to reduce costs of production and to eliminate superfluous
labour; this reconstruction movement is the counterpart of what has been done in the sphere
of public finance.

As regards plant, efficiency of labour, wages level, and social charges, the experts are of
opinion that industry has no heavier burden to bear in Austria than in the neighbouring countries.
Whatever results may be expected in the way of improving local agricultural production, or
reducing the importation of fuel by developing the hydraulic resources of the country, the

1 1 Schilling = 0.2117 grmme of fine gold 0.694 gold crown = 10,000 paper crowns.
very size of the country within its new frontiers will form a permanent obstacle to Austria’s absolute independence of foreign countries. Industrial reorganisation in Austria cannot be confined to the adaptation of production to the home markets; it is essential that foreign trade should be aimed at also. The question whether Austria will be able to find the necessary markets depends partly upon her own production, but principally upon the tariff policies of those countries with which she is obliged to trade.

It is also a matter of extreme importance for Austria that she should be able to obtain capital at relatively moderate rates of interest. Inflation has determined the diminution of the capital accumulated in the country, and the working capital of the industries has been greatly reduced. At the beginning of 1923, the deposits in the banks were reduced to an insignificant sum. They have continually increased since then, but they still only amount to a small fraction of the 1913 figure.

It is of supreme importance to Austria that her foreign credits should not be withdrawn. This is not merely a question of the rates of interest. It also depends on the confidence of foreign money markets in the stability of Austria’s currency, the policy of the National Bank, and the internal political stability of the country.

Finally, the report points out that there are numerous favourable symptoms. The economic revival of Austria is, nevertheless, being accompanied by a very serious increase in unemployment. This crisis would not appear to be the result of an inherent defect in the economic constitution of Austria.

The level of Austrian prosperity will be raised if she can obtain wider markets and if she has the necessary capital available for the period of adaptation in which her industries find themselves engaged.

In order that Austrian reconstruction may be brought to a successful conclusion, two conditions are indispensable:

1. The first of these is obviously the maintenance of a financial policy of strict budgetary equilibrium and monetary stability. This policy, which was inaugurated in 1922 with the help of the League of Nations, has been and still is the indispensable foundation of any permanent improvement.

2. A second condition is the continuation of the work already begun in the direction of reducing cost prices throughout industry. The reduction in purchasing power all over the world means that in every country competition is keener than before the war, and that the reward will go only to those who can succeed in cutting their costs to the minimum by a combination of economy, efficient administration, and scientific development.

3. Austria was the first country in Europe to carry through a really successful programme of monetary stabilisation, and later reforms in other countries have been largely based on the model thus set. She could to-day perform a service which would be at least as full of hope for the future by initiating a new commercial policy based on the ideal of economic co-operation rather than that of narrow self-interest. If this policy were indeed realised, its beneficial results would not be limited to the Danubian States alone but would soon make themselves felt throughout the length and breadth of the European continent.

The Economic Committee, invited by the Council to examine the conclusions of the Layton-Rist report, proceeded, at its seventeenth session, held at Geneva from November 30th to December 4th, 1925, to investigate in detail the most effective means for removing the obstacles which the tariff policies of the Cession and Succession States of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire offer to their commercial relations amongst themselves. It recognised that among the methods which had been considered as appropriate for this purpose was a system of preferential tariffs between Austria and all or some of these States, but that this idea had not taken the form of a concrete proposal. In consequence, it submitted to the Council the following recommendations, which were approved by the Council on December 9th, 1925:

1. The improvement of Austria’s agricultural output would seem to be the most essential remedy for the shortage in her food supply, and should be promoted by a suitable system of long-term credits.

2. In order to extend those further markets which Austria requires, notably in her relations with the States which were formed out of or have received part of the former Austro-Hungarian territories, Austria and the States in question should be invited to conclude among themselves commercial agreements of the closest possible character which would by suitable means satisfy the needs of each State without affecting any obligations which it may have assumed towards other States.

3. As regards other States, the Committee is of opinion that they should be invited to seek means — either when their commercial conventions with Austria come to be renewed, or by readjusting those conventions before that date, or by other methods — of completing the economic reconstruction of Austria by extending the outlets for Austrian production and trade.

4. The Committee is further of opinion that the attention of those of the Central European States which have not yet ratified the Convention of 1923 on Customs Formalities be drawn to the urgent necessity of expediting ratification, in view especially of the prejudice caused to their commercial relations with Austria by a continuance of the present state of instability."
The decisions taken by the Financial Committee during its March session 1926, with the collaboration of the Economic Committee, regarding the employment of a sum of money to be taken from the balance of the Reconstruction Loan for the purposes of developing the dairy industry, constituted a first attempt at the practical application of the first of the above resolutions.

**Commercial Treaties.** — In accordance with paragraph 3 of the Economic Committee’s recommendation, Austria has actively continued commercial negotiations with the neighbouring countries. These negotiations have had important results.

A commercial treaty came into force on September 16th, 1925, between Austria and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. This treaty included the most-favoured-nation clause. On January 1st, 1926, the special tariff for Austrian goods in Belgium was suppressed, and Austrian goods henceforth receive the full benefit of the most-favoured-nation clause. A commercial treaty was signed with Switzerland on January 6th, 1926. Lastly, commercial negotiations between Austria and Hungary terminated on February 27th in the signature of a treaty under which Hungary grants Austria a reduction in the duties on industrial products and manufactured goods, whilst Austria grants Hungary reductions of duty on agricultural produce and certain industrial goods. Thanks to the most-favoured-nation clause, Austria will also receive, as from February 21st, 1926, the benefit in the Hungarian market of the tariff reductions stipulated in the Austro-Hungarian commercial treaty.

**Trade Balance.** — The table below shows the movement of Austrian foreign trade during the second half of 1924 and the first and second halves of 1925:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Imports (Millions of Schillings)</th>
<th>Exports (Millions of Schillings)</th>
<th>Deficit on Trade Balance (Millions of Schillings)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second half 1924</td>
<td>1,635</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First half 1925</td>
<td>1,247</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second half 1925</td>
<td>1,606</td>
<td>1,026</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The deficit on the trade balance shows a remarkable decrease for 1925 as compared with the previous year. Nevertheless, the second half of 1925 was less successful in this regard than the first half. Exports show a fair degree of stability with a regular tendency to increase.

**The Labour Market : Level of Prices.** — The number of unemployed, which was 111,000 on September 1st, 1925, rapidly increased during the autumn and winter until it reached the figure of 226,000. After that date, seasonal influences led to a decrease in unemployment, and on March 15th the number was 207,000.

Wholesale prices show an appreciable reduction, the index figure for August 1925 being 18,817, and for March 1926, 17,090.

Deposits in the Vienna savings banks and credit institutions continue to show a regular increase. In June 1925, they reached a total of 296 million gold crowns; in December, 392 millions; and in February, 445 millions.

It is noteworthy that the economic crisis has not as yet affected the Treasury revenue.

2. **FINANCIAL RECONSTRUCTION OF HUNGARY.**

The Report and Supplementary Report to the Sixth Assembly on the Work of the Council include an account of this part of the League’s work up to June 1925. The present report covers the period July 1925 to March 1926 inclusive. The following three months will be dealt with in the supplementary report for this year.

**Public Finance.**

It will be remembered that the first complete financial year of the reconstruction period, July 1924 to June 1925, instead of showing a deficit of about 100 million gold crowns contemplated for this period in the reconstruction programme, ended in fact with a surplus of approximately 63 million gold crowns. There remained in addition a sum of 185 million gold crowns out of the Reconstruction Loan.

The returns of the last nine months show that an equally favourable result may be expected in the present financial year, by the end of which (on June 30th) the Protocol contemplated the attainment of budget equilibrium on a sound and durable basis.

In the gross budget for the financial year 1925-1926, the gross expenditure had been estimated at 603.6 million gold crowns and the gross receipts at 607 million gold crowns, thus leaving a surplus of 3.4 million gold crowns. The actual results of the first half-year show: gross expenditure 300.2 million gold crowns; gross receipts 357.6 million gold crowns; and surplus 57.4 million gold crowns.

Expenditure during this period had not exceeded the budget estimates, while revenue was about 17 per cent higher, although the turnover tax, one of the chief sources of revenue, was reduced from 3 to 2 per cent.

1 See Official Journal, Special Supplement No. 33, pages 238 and 320.
The Commissioner-General stated in his twentieth report that, on the whole, the results of this period confirmed the opinion which had been frequently expressed in his reports: that the possibility of permanent equilibrium of the budget could be anticipated with confidence.

The next three months show a further surplus of 5.8 million gold crowns in receipts over the actual expenses of the Treasury.

On the revenue side, the most striking fact is the gradual and steady increase in the percentage of direct taxes collected, which amounted during the first half of this year to 83.1 million gold crowns, only 10 millions less than the amount collected from this source during the entire fiscal year 1924-1925. This is partly due to improved conditions, partly to better methods of administration and collection. Meanwhile, the turnover tax, which amounted to 36.5 per cent of the chief sources of revenue in 1923, has fallen to 18.9 per cent and this change in the relative importance of two of the chief sources of revenue indicates a much healthier and more normal state of affairs.

The returns from the pledged revenues converted into gold crowns at average monthly rates of exchange have been as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>16.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October</td>
<td>23.9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November</td>
<td>24.1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td>21.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average of these (21.9) is equivalent on an annual basis to 260 million gold crowns, or eight times the amount required to meet the service of the Reconstruction Loan.

The Commissioner-General points out that the average receipts during the first six months of this period were about 17 per cent larger than the same period of the fiscal year 1924-1925, and considers that they have become stabilised at the figure given above. Perhaps a further improvement in financial and economic conditions, which is proceeding slowly but steadily, may result in an increase, but this will probably be offset by some reduction in the Customs, due to the negotiation of commercial treaties.

The draft budget for the year 1926-1927, which was submitted to the Financial Committee and approved by the Council, estimates gross receipts at 619.1 million gold crowns; net receipts, 692.2 million gold crowns; gross expenditure at 618.6 million gold crowns; net expenditure, 692.1 million gold crowns.

This budget has been adopted by the Hungarian National Assembly without substantial modifications.

The Financial Committee commented upon it as follows, in a report adopted by the Council:

"The budget balances, after allowing for a reduction in the turnover tax from 3 to 2 per cent, for the progressive elimination of the State's participation in rents and for the suppression of certain minor indirect taxes. The level of this budget (after allowance for differences in the basis of calculation) is some 25 per cent higher than the level originally contemplated in the Reconstruction Plan, but, in view of the experience of last year and the Commissioner-General's opinion that the estimates are conservative and that the present total yield of taxation can be permanently maintained, the Financial Committee consider that this budget should be accepted as satisfactory."

In December of last year, an extensive plot was discovered at Budapest for the forgery of French banknotes. The leaders have been arrested and are on trial. The Commissioner-General, in his twenty-first report, commented upon this incident as follows:

"The situation was aggravated during January by the disclosures relating to the forgeries of French francs which originated in Hungary and produced a certain effect on the political situation, both internal and external. There is always a certain small section of the business community who are not ashamed to make the most of any trouble that arises and to attempt to turn it to their personal advantage. This section was in evidence for a short time during January and attempted to attack the stability of the currency. They were promptly met by the National Bank, which was in a position to offer foreign exchange, without limit, at the rates of the day; and the movement came abruptly to an end, with the only result that the speculators against the Hungarian currency succeeded in burning their fingers. The currency position in Hungary is sound, and this is due chiefly to the able and conservative policy followed by the Hungarian National Bank during the last eighteen months, the wisdom of which must now be apparent even to those who have criticised the management of the Bank for undue caution and conservatism. The credit position, as a whole, is sound; and local lenders should be prepared, with due discrimination,
to do business with sound borrowers, so that business will not be hampered by undue restriction of credit."

At the end of the first year of reconstruction 185 million gold crowns remained from the Reconstruction Loan. The Council gave authority that 50 million gold crowns out of this sum should be expended during the present financial year, subject to the agreement of the Commissioner-General, on such commitments for capital investments as the Government might propose and he might approve, and a further sum of 50 million gold crowns was allotted for the same purpose and under the same conditions for expenditure during the financial year 1926-1927.

The sums allocated to the present year, together with the realised budget surplus of 1924-1925, amounting in all to approximately 103 million gold crowns, are being expended with the Commissioner-General's consent on the following objects:

- Construction of the Port of Budapest.
- Building of small State dwellings.
- Loans to drainage societies.
- Construction of roads.
- State Railways; Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones; ironworks, forests, agricultural estates.
- Construction of an underground telephone cable to Vienna.
- Capital for an agricultural mortgage bank.
- Capital and reserve for the Geldinstitutzentrale.
- Construction of certain hospitals.

In determining the programme, the following principles have been followed so far as is practicable. The expenditure should be for permanent rather than purely temporary objects. They should not include items which may properly be considered as current maintenance of existing property which may recur annually and therefore ought to be carried in the Government budget as a part of the current expenditure of the State.

The details of these investments are given in the reports of the Commissioner-General.

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NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.

During the year 1925, the internal and external value of Hungarian currency was maintained, and the primary function of the National Bank was therefore fulfilled. The reserves in precious metal and foreign exchange, which are the security for the note issue, increased from 2,479 milliards of paper crowns at the beginning of the year to 3,340 milliards on December 31st, 1925. The increase, amounting to some 35 per cent, was practically continuous, and more than kept pace with the expansion of the currency, for the proportion of cover, calculated in the manner laid down by the Statutes of the Bank, rose from 53.8 per cent on December 31st, 1924, to 56.5 per cent a year later. Meanwhile, the note circulation, after rapidly expanding during the first six months of the National Bank's existence, in consequence of the return of confidence in the value of the currency, had established itself at what may perhaps be regarded as a normal level. At the beginning of 1925, it amounted to 4,514 milliards of crowns; at the end of the year, it was fluctuating around 5,000 milliards. This represents an active circulation of roughly 45 gold crowns (say 37 shillings or 9 dollars) per head of the population.

As explained in the last annual report, Hungarian currency was originally stabilised on a sterling basis. At that time, an agreement was concluded with the Bank of England, which advanced 4 million pounds at the time of the issue of the Reconstruction Loan. This advance, as appears from the weekly returns of the National Bank, had been completely repaid by June 15th. Meanwhile, sterling had risen to pre-war gold parity and had been again set on a gold basis. Stabilisation on a sterling basis was therefore abandoned in the autumn, and Hungarian currency was left to fluctuate naturally between gold points. A natural fluctuation according to the demands of the market was rendered possible by the complete abolition of exchange restrictions. Progress had already been made, step by step, towards a free market, and in November 1925 the position was sufficiently secure to justify the repeal of the Exchange Ordinance of June 1924. Since then, no authorisation has been required in Hungary for exchange dealings and the market has been absolutely free.

The policy of the National Bank was to continue with the gradual accumulation of a reserve in actual gold. Purchases on the London market increased the stock of gold, as shown in the returns, from some 500 milliards of paper crowns at the beginning of 1925 to 740 milliards at the end of the year, so that, on December 31st, 14 per cent of the active note circulation was covered by gold, a percentage which, in the course of the following three months, was increased to more than 20 per cent.

The reduction of the State debt to the National Bank has also been a feature of Hungarian monetary policy. The only regular provision for the reduction of this debt is the annual appropriation of the Government's share in the profits of the Bank and the 1/2 per cent per annum paid by the State by way of amortisation. This provision has been supplemented, wherever
possible, by special appropriations, with the result that the debt, which originally stood at 1,980 milliards of paper crowns, was reduced in the course of the first two years of the National Bank's existence by 82 milliards, or 4.1 per cent. The Commissioner-General was able to state in his report for April 1926 that a comprehensive agreement had been concluded between the Government and the National Bank by which, within a short period of years, the debt of the State to the Bank will have been halved.

Further progress was made during the year with the reduction of interest rates to a more normal level. Bank rate, at the beginning of 1925, stood at 12 1/2 per cent. Reductions to 11 and 9 per cent in March and May 1925 respectively were recorded in the last annual report. A further reduction to 7 per cent was made on October 22nd, 1925, and, in general, open market rates may be said to have followed suit. But in spite of an influx of foreign capital into Hungary, open market (and especially provincial) rates remain considerably higher than Bank rate, and the problem of making Bank rate really effective still remains to be solved.

The Protocols provide that Government balances must be concentrated with the National Bank in order that the independent control of the Central Bank over the money market may be assured. In the first stages of the reconstruction period, it proved to be difficult or impossible to arrange a complete concentration of Government balances. It is satisfactory to be able to record that such a concentration has now been effected in Hungary, without disturbance. The rate of interest on the State debt to the Bank has been reduced, provisionally, from 2 1/2 to 1 per cent in order to compensate the State budget for the loss of interest incurred by the transfer of Postal Savings Bank moneys to the National Bank.

In November 1925, an Act was passed by which a new currency will be introduced in Hungary from January 1st, 1927, though even before that date it may, and in the case of the National Bank it must, be used for accounting purposes. The monetary unit eventually selected was named pengő, and 3,800 pengő (or 3,794 after deduction of the charge for minting) are to be coined from one kilogramme of fine gold. The Note Printing Factory has been acquired by the National Bank and the new notes — which will be Bank notes instead of the Treasury notes at present in circulation — will be introduced at the beginning of next year in denominations up to 1,000 pengő. The Mint is engaged on the production of subsidiary coinage. There will be a silver coin of 1 pengő 640 fine; and also coins in nickel and bronze for 50, 20, 10, 2 and 1 filler, the filler being one-hundredth part of one pengő. The pengő will be interchangeable with 12,500 crowns of the existing paper currency.

The report of the National Bank for 1925 is available, as usual, in French, German and English, as well as in Hungarian. After completely writing off the cost of the new Note Printing Factory and its equipment, and after appropriating to the Pensions Fund (under an Act passed during 1925 to modify the Statutes of the National Bank in this respect) a sum of approximately 6 million gold crowns (£250,000), the directors were able to propose an increase of the dividend from 8 1/2 to 10 1/2 per cent.

**Administrative Reforms.**

The question of administrative reforms has always been of great importance in the reconstruction scheme. It will be remembered that, whereas before the war there were 313,000 State employees, there were still 188,000 at the beginning of the reconstruction period and 182,000 at the end of the first year of reconstruction, although Hungary has approximately one-third of the geographical area and 40 per cent of the population as it existed before the war.

The National Commission of Economies has worked through the previous year and the re-classification scheme which it has set up will leave the total establishment, including the administration of State enterprises and including the Army, at about 165,000, or well over 50 per cent of what it was before the war. Under the reconstruction programme, the Hungarian Government undertook to make a reduction of 15,000 posts and this agreement has been carried out, but the Financial Committee made the following comments upon the situation in December 1925 and March 1926, which were adopted by the Council:

"About 25,000 posts have been suppressed under the reconstruction law and a further 3,000 posts will have been suppressed by June 30th, 1927. While this reduction is greater than the minimum requirements of the reconstruction scheme, the Committee considers that the number of posts still remaining (some 165,000) is capable of considerable further reduction. It desires to refer to its previous declaration on this subject and to repeat its view that:

"'Nothing would so much assist the permanent equilibrium of the budget position as the preparation of a scheme of reformed administration appropriate to the present administrative requirements of Hungary, in accordance with which actual reductions would be gradually effected. The Committee recognises that, in view of pension charges, etc., the immediate effect upon the budget would not be considerable, but such a reform would make a vital difference to the permanent budget position of Hungary.'"

"The Financial Committee has noted the proposals made by the National Commission of Economies set up in January 1925 and approved by the Cabinet, and
certain other proposals by the Commission which are still under consideration by
the Government.

"While the measures approved or advocated go beyond the minimum require-
ments of the reconstruction programme of 1924, the Committee considers that, for
the reasons explained in its previous reports, more drastic reductions would be
both practicable and of great advantage to the future financial position of Hungary."

ECONOMIC LIFE.

The year 1925 was, on the whole, by far the best which Hungarian agriculture has had
since the war. The figures make considerable progress towards the normal pre-war production,
and indeed for maize and potatoes surpass the average pre-war production for the present
territory of Hungary.

As regards the present year, the Department of Agriculture has reported that autumn
 sowings of wheat and rye have stood the winter successfully and that prospects are good up
to the end of May.

Since the middle of last year, some commercial treaties have been completed, including
a provisional treaty between Hungary and Italy for one year, based on a partial application
of the most-favoured-nation clause. Other agreements have been made with Spain and Greece,
with France and Turkey, but the first commercial convention concluded with a country
whose commerce has a prime importance to Hungary was signed with Austria on February
27th, 1926.

The Commissioner-General commented upon it in his twenty-second report as follows:

"It is to remain in force for an indefinite period unless denounced by either
party on three months’ notice, and, in case it proves to prejudice seriously any vitally
important branch of production, may be terminated on one month’s notice, in which
case the treaty based on the most-favoured-nation clause, negotiated in 1922, will
also terminate. Important reductions are made in the tariffs of both countries.
From the point of view of the Hungarian export trade, the most important provi-
sions are those for the reduction of Austrian duties on flour and wine imported
from Hungary, which are to be reduced by approximately half.

"Duties are also to be reduced on certain other agricultural products. Hungary
has agreed to important reductions on clothing, linen, soap, boots, fancy leather
goods and smaller reductions on a long list of other articles, including stationery,
certain kinds of fabrics, yarns and threads, machinery and hardware, varying between
20 and 50 per cent. Many of the reductions by Hungary are so limited by close specifi-
cation as to apply to Austrian goods only, to the exclusion of similar classes in other
countries which might benefit by the most-favoured-nation clause."

The trade balance improved considerably during the year 1925, the excess of imports
over exports being the lowest since the war, as will be seen from the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Imports</th>
<th>Exports</th>
<th>Excess of Imports over Exports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>417.3</td>
<td>164.3</td>
<td>253.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>520.7</td>
<td>253.9</td>
<td>266.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>539.4</td>
<td>330.1</td>
<td>209.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>423.0</td>
<td>338.1</td>
<td>84.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>702.8</td>
<td>575.0</td>
<td>127.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>742.1</td>
<td>701.3</td>
<td>40.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The figures for the first two months of this year are the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imports</th>
<th>Exports</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>53.4</td>
<td>+ 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.7</td>
<td>50.3</td>
<td>− 12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116.0</td>
<td>103.7</td>
<td>− 12.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The corresponding figures for January 1925 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imports</th>
<th>Exports</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63.4</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>− 28.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the adverse balance of trade in January 1925 amounted to nearly three-fourths of
the total adverse balance during the whole year 1925, it will be seen that a good beginning
has been made towards still further improvements during 1926 in Hungary’s general trade.
Statistics regarding the movements of the retail and wholesale price indices, the stock
exchange index, the number of unemployed and the increase of saving banks deposits are
extracted from the twenty-third report and annexed.
Annex IV.

STATISTICS

Figures refer to the end of each month.

1. RETAIL PRICE INDEX (from the Pester Lloyd)  
(July 1914 = 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>21,817</td>
<td>22,018*</td>
<td>21,299</td>
<td>20,884</td>
<td>19,281</td>
<td>18,776</td>
<td>18,206</td>
<td>17,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>19,248</td>
<td>18,584</td>
<td>17,988</td>
<td>17,535</td>
<td>17,051</td>
<td>16,576</td>
<td>16,140</td>
<td>15,734</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX (issued by Hungarian Statistical Office)  
(1913 = 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>22,078</td>
<td>22,366</td>
<td>23,466*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>21,178</td>
<td>20,326</td>
<td>19,521</td>
<td>18,832</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>18,319</td>
<td>18,031</td>
<td>17,788</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX  
(Ten important securities quoted on the Stock Exchange)  
(1914 = 100)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>25.4*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. DEPOSITS IN THE POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS AND IN THIRTEEN OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BANKS IN BUDAPEST  
(Current Accounts and Savings Deposits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>68.1</td>
<td>86.5</td>
<td>119.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. UNEMPLOYED

(Figures relate only to members of the Union of Socialist Workers)

Total actual membership: approximately 160,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>24,598</td>
<td>26,020</td>
<td>33,095</td>
<td>34,015</td>
<td>36,873*</td>
<td>25,488</td>
<td>26,711</td>
<td>28,378</td>
<td>20,135</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1926</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The highest point reached by this index.
3. WORK OF THE GREEK REFUGEE SETTLEMENT COMMISSION.

The following resolution taken by the sixth Assembly will serve to mark the stage reached in this work at the beginning of the period covered by the present report:

"The Assembly

(a) Has learnt with satisfaction that the scheme which was prepared, and partially put into execution through temporary advances last year, for the settlement of Greek refugees has been realised through the successful issue of a loan, yielding an effective sum of £10,000,000 in Athens, London and New York, on the basis of the Protocol signed on September 29th, 1923, and the Additional Act signed on September 19th, 1924;

(b) Notes that, of the 1,200,000 refugees who, on the estimate of the original scheme, required settlement in productive work, over 700,000 have already been settled in agricultural districts or housed in urban settlements near Athens;

(c) Notes with pleasure the reports received that the refugees form an energetic and industrious class, rapidly taking advantage of the opportunities afforded them, and will put to good use the land and materials which it is the work of the Commission to place at their disposal;

(d) Observes that the Settlement Commission thus instituted under the auspices of the League has been able to effect a piece of work which, apart from the benefit to the refugees themselves, should have far-reaching beneficial results for Greece of both an economic and political character;

(e) Expresses the hope that, through close collaboration between the Greek Government and the Settlement Commission, the work may be successfully pursued and brought to a conclusion."

In spite of the hope expressed in the concluding paragraph of this resolution, certain difficulties arose, during the early months of the winter, in the prosecution of the Commission's work. As stated in the seventh quarterly report of the Commission, these difficulties arose out of "judicial proceedings taken against higher officials of the Commission, the circumstances in which these proceedings have been instituted, and the fact that the judicial authorities consider themselves entitled to carry out enquiries as to the profitable or non-profitable nature of the contracts or agreements concluded by the Refugees Commission ".

The question was eventually settled by the Council; the Greek Government promulgated a Decree, dated December 2nd, 1925, under which no judicial proceedings could in future be instituted against persons employed by the Commission except at the instance of the Commission or of the Minister of Justice; and the Decree applied to all cases then in progress. Early in the present year, the Greek Government agreed to the reinstatement of the Director-General of Colonisation in Macedonia and of his two engineers, whose absence during the winter had hindered the prosecution of the work. With this step the difficulties arising from this incident were happily settled.

The two Greek members of the Commission, M. Delta and M. Eustathopoulos, resigned and were replaced, with the approval of the Council, by M. Alexander Pallis and M. Achille Lambros.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

It will be remembered that the loan floated in 1924 for financing the settlement scheme amounted to £10 millions net. The sums remaining available for expenditure during the current year, without taking into account the balance of £766,567 and the sums to be received during 1926, which are for the moment earmarked for the reserve fund, are as follows:

(1) Sums available ................ £2,747,630
(2) Recoverable advances (not including interest) ................ £ 398,222

Less commitments ................ £ 40,571

£3,145,852

£3,105,281

As the average monthly expenditure is about £268,000, the Commission will probably have expended all its money, except the reserve fund, by the end of September 1926, and even earlier if expenditure is increased this spring.

The service of the loan has been regularly met through the International Financial Commission, and the price of the bonds has been well maintained in the financial markets where it is quoted.

AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT.

As the financial resources of the Commission hardly suffice to carry out the programme drawn up last year, a considerable number of agricultural refugees cannot be settled. On this point the Commission comments in its ninth report as follows:
"As regards the refugees for whom the Commission is responsible, it may be stated broadly that, although in most districts the condition of the agricultural colonies in the plains is satisfactory, the future of the refugees installed in the mountainous districts is not yet assured. This is a problem for which we can, in the present circumstances, suggest no solution unless funds are forthcoming."

By the end of last year, about 4½ million stremmas of cultivated and 2½ million stremmas of uncultivable land, or about 7 million stremmas in all, had been handed over to the refugees. There had been settled on agricultural land 147,333 families, comprising 550,635 persons. The number of dwellings constructed was 35,825 and there were 15,225 in course of construction, apart from some 56,000 dwellings abandoned by exchanged Turks and Bulgarians and built by the State. The Commission has also distributed large quantities of live stock, implements and tools, seed grain, fodder, food grain; it has made miscellaneous cash advances, building loans, and grants of building material.

The health of the refugees, as shown by the vital statistics for 1925, was, with few exceptions, satisfactory.

**Urban Settlement.**

The Commission found it was unable, owing to financial difficulties, to carry out the comprehensive programme which it had drawn up in 1925. With the exception of that portion which applied to Thrace the programme has had to be abandoned, but the construction of two new urban quarters in Macedonia has been decided on and the quarters of Athens and Piraeus have been completed and the refugees have taken possession of their dwellings. The Commission proposes to deal with this subject comprehensively in its next quarterly report, which will be summarised in the Supplementary Report to the Assembly.

**Conclusion.**

The work of the Commission up to the present time may be summarised as follows, the figures being approximate as no census has been taken and there are no accurate statistics:

The number of destitute refugees requiring establishment appears to have reached a total of approximately 1,200,000. The Commission has established in agricultural settlement, or has budgeted for similar establishment this year, approximately 600,000 refugees; it has also housed in permanent quarters about 100,000 urban refugees. After allowing for the agricultural and urban refugees established by the Greek Government itself, without the assistance of the Commission's funds, there still remain between 300,000 and 400,000 refugees awaiting establishment. Of this number, perhaps 80,000 persons (say 20,000 families) are agricultural refugees; the remainder, or perhaps 300,000 persons (say 75,000 families), are urban refugees, for whom the Government is unable to make housing provision. Some of these people have been in Greece for a considerable time, living in wooden barracks and in tents; their continuance much longer in such conditions will subject them to great hardships, increase their mortality rate, already high, and diminish appreciably the moral which their future successful establishment depends.

Apart from the possibility of carrying out further settlement work, which must depend upon whether more funds can be obtained, the main future task of the Commission is the progressive organisation of a system under which repayments of capital by the refugees are to be made.

On the last occasion on which the Council dealt with this subject, on March 15th, 1926, the Greek representative made the following statement:

"The League of Nations, in establishing the Greek Refugee Settlement Commission, and in taking under its auspices a loan which afforded a fixed basis for the work of the settlement of the refugees, has achieved a great success and has rendered a great service to my country. I would express to the Members of the Council the gratitude of the Greek people for having contributed to the settlement of the refugees, thus successfully carrying out a very charitable and humanitarian work.

Since the Council has taken so important a part in the settlement of the refugees, I think that some information which I am in a position to give you will be of interest.

Thanks to the systematic and disciplined effort which has been made, and in which the League of Nations, the Greek State, together with foreign organisations and the populations themselves have contributed, and thanks to the deep feeling of national solidarity and the powers of resistance of the Greek people, wonderful results have been achieved. The refugees are gradually becoming productive elements of the population. In the economic field they are providing Greece not only with abundant labour, but with a whole series of new industries, and are giving to the towns and to the countryside a development which is quite unprecedented. By the increase of the productiveness of the country through their labour, they will contribute to a solution of the financial problem and will develop the national wealth which will bring prosperity to the country. They are introducing a new political and economic life throughout Greece."
Unfortunately, the funds from the loan will, according to the report of the Refugee Settlement Commission, be exhausted towards the end of next September without it having been possible by that time to settle all the refugees. The greater proportion of the refugees have already been established, but there still remain some 300,000. In order to continue and to complete the settlement, new funds will be necessary. The Greek Government ventures to hope that the Council will at the appropriate moment give the same attention and support to this work, which it will not wish to see left unfinished.

4. DANZIG MUNICIPAL LOAN.

With the approval of the Council, the Municipality of Danzig issued in the spring of last year a loan of £1,500,000 (nominal) on the London market. The Council appointed one of the members of the Financial Committee, M. ter Meulen, Trustee of this loan. The principal task of the Trustee was to see that the loan was used exclusively for the purposes laid down in a programme of expenditure sanctioned by the Council. Experience having shown that it was desirable to modify the limitations set by this programme, the Council, on the Financial Committee's recommendation, authorised the Trustee to permit transfers between the various items of the programme of expenditure.

The Trustee has recently laid his first annual report before the Council. This document, which contains an analysis of the system of control established by the Trustee, shows that the system has worked satisfactorily.

5. DOUBLE TAXATION AND TAX EVASION.

A Conference of Experts on Double Taxation and Tax Evasion met on May 17th, 1926, and the following countries appointed representatives: Argentine Republic, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, and Venezuela. This Conference examined the possibility of preparing a draft convention based upon the resolutions submitted by the technical experts to the Council last year.

6. STAFF PROVIDENT FUND.

On two occasions the Financial Committee has advised the Board of Management of the Staff Provident Fund of the League as to certain stocks suitable for the investment of the funds available for that purpose.

II. ORGANISATION FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSIT.

At the time of writing, the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit has held no plenary session since the last Assembly. Its next session has been arranged for July 12th. The Communications and Transit Organisation, however, has held a large number of special meetings of Sub-Committees, special Committees and inter-Governmental conferences.

1. RAILWAYS.

The Sub-Committee for Transport by Rail met at Geneva from January 25th to 27th, 1926. At the request of the Acting President of the Council of the League of Nations, it considered the question of placing on the agenda of the Council the application of the Maramarosi-Tarsasag Railway Company, whose system is situated in Roumanian and Czechoslovak territory, that arbitrators be appointed by the Council of the League of Nations, under Article 304 of the Treaty of Trianon, to settle the questions at issue between the Roumanian and Czechoslovak Governments and the Company.

The Sub-Committee believes that there is a possibility of a friendly agreement between the parties before the September session of the Council. If such an agreement is not reached, it will forward a supplementary report to the Council in good time.

A similar question, that of the Arad-Czanad Railway, which was of interest to the Hungarian and Roumanian Governments, was considered by the Council at its March session and was adjourned, for similar reasons, to a later session.

The Sub-Committee further considered the enquiry undertaken in conjunction with the International Chamber of Commerce regarding the various facilities desirable in international trade, with particular reference to the question of international tariffs. Conjointly with the Sub-Committee for Inland Navigation, it decided to entrust to Committees of specialists the consideration of the questions relating to competition between railways and inland navigation, raised in Mr. Hines' reports regarding navigation on the Rhine and Danube, and questions connected with co-operation between railways and other transport undertakings with a view to developing combined traffic.
In pursuance of the last Assembly’s resolution regarding unification in various fields connected with the regime of railways, the Sub-Committee adopted the following resolution:

“...having noted the report of its Committee of Experts and the resolution of the last Assembly regarding the possible convening of a conference on communications and transit of the European States concerned, with a view to maintaining, preserving and, if necessary, adapting to present circumstances the unification of private law concerning internal transport as applicable to international transport on successive contracts, of the method of presentation of tariffs and of the method of presentation of operating regulations which were all effected before the war between certain railway systems in Central and Eastern Europe;..."

Considering that a regional agreement of this kind would be entirely within the scope of the General Convention on the International Regime of Railways and in harmony with the efforts of the League of Nations to give international traffic the fullest possible facilities:..." Declarers its readiness to give all possible assistance to these States should they so desire."

Lastly, the Sub-Committee considered various questions relative to the inspection of passports at frontier stations, the examination of passports in international trains, and railway statistics. It discussed the special traffic facilities with Geneva which it would be desirable to arrange when exceptional circumstances of international importance so require.

2. INLAND NAVIGATION.

A. Conference on Tonnage Measurement in Inland Navigation.

The projected Conference on the unification of the system of tonnage measurement for vessels engaged in inland navigation met at Paris, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, from November 20th to 27th, 1925. This meeting led to the conclusion, by the majority of European States, of a Convention establishing, subject to certain provisional arrangements, a uniform system of tonnage measurement for vessels used in inland navigation in Europe, and the reciprocal recognition of tonnage certificates. This agreement provides considerable facilities for navigation, as it will be possible henceforth to dispense with re-measurement at frontiers.

The Convention, which is open for signature until October 1st, 1926, has already been signed by the plenipotentiaries of the following States: Austria, Belgium, British Empire, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Roumania, the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom, Spain and the Union of the Socialist Soviet Republics.

B. Private Law in Inland Navigation.

The study of the questions relating to the unification of private law in inland navigation, to the importance of which from the point of view of international traffic attention has already been drawn in previous reports, has assumed more definite shape. A Committee of specialists held its first session at Strasbourg, at the headquarters of the Central Commission for Rhine Navigation, from January 11th to 14th, 1926.

M. Winiarski (Poland), Member of the Committee for Communications and Transit, was in the Chair.

The other members of the Committee were:

M. Hostie, Member of the Legal Committee of the Committee for Communications and Transit; M. de Jarmay, Director of the Royal Hungarian Navigation Company; M. Malinine, Legal Adviser to the River Navigation Board of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics; M. Millot, Director of the National Office of Inland Navigation, Paris, assisted by M. Chargueraud-Hartmann, Secretary of the French delegation to the International River Commissions; Professor Mittelstein, President of the Hamburg Court of Appeal; M. Nauta, of the Rotterdam Bar; M. Sitensky, Adviser to the Czechoslovak Ministry of Commerce.

The Committee had been requested by the Sub-Committee for Inland Navigation to draw up a programme of work and collect comprehensive information regarding the present status in European countries of private law in inland navigation with a view to achieving as complete a unification as possible of existing legislation.

The Committee began with a general discussion as to what matters of private law should first engage its attention. It decided to include in its programme the question of the nationality of vessels used in inland navigation, a point which concerns both public and private law. It drew up three questionnaires, which were forwarded to European Governments, bearing on questions of nationality; ownership, mortgages and privileges; collisions.

The Committee also had before it a draft questionnaire, prepared by M. Malinine, concerning engagements, contracts and labour conditions in inland navigation.
C. Sub-Committee for Inland Navigation: Consideration of Mr. Hines' Reports.

The Sub-Committee considered in detail what action could be taken on Mr. Hines' reports relating to navigation on the Rhine and Danube. In addition to the ordinary members of the Sub-Committee, the representatives of those among the riparian States of the Rhine and Danube which are not already represented on the Committee, and the representatives of the principal River Commissions concerned, attended this session.

The Sub-Committee adopted a number of resolutions designed to put into application those of Mr. Hines' conclusions with which it found itself in agreement. The following resolutions deserve special mention:

"I. The Sub-Committee considers that it is essential in the interests of navigation that, when it is considered necessary to affix Customs seals, such seals should be affixed in accordance with uniform regulations and should be respected by the different States.

"II. The Sub-Committee considers that the conclusion by the Danubian States of treaties of commerce would help to re-establish economic conditions favourable to the development of river navigation.

"III. The Sub-Committee considers that it is extremely desirable to simplify Customs formalities on the frontiers. In particular, it wishes to draw the attention of States to the following points, which it begs them to examine:

"(1) As regards the recognition of Customs seals, the Sub-Committee would refer to the resolution quoted above.

"(2) The Sub-Committee considers that convoying should be restricted to cases in which it appears impossible to affix seals, and it would draw the attention of the International Danube Commission to the complaints submitted with regard to the fees charged for convoying.

"(3) It is of opinion that the Customs offices at the frontiers should be open for carrying out Customs formalities during all the hours of the day when traffic is passing, as is the case at railway frontier-stations.

"(4) It considers it desirable that, in the case of journeys on duty of the staff of navigation undertakings and the transportation of navigation material, facilities should be granted in respect of circulation and Customs and passport formalities.

"IV. (1) The Sub-Committee requests the Czechoslovak Government to consider the possibility of abolishing the stoppage at Bratislava of vessels transporting exclusively goods in transit.

"(2) The Sub-Committee notes with satisfaction the communication by the German temporary member to the effect that the German Government is considering the possibility of liberal treatment in the matter of ship's stores and fuel, and that it is prepared to agree to the settlement of the question on international lines.

"(3) The Sub-Committee notes with satisfaction the statements made by the competent authorities, as reported by Mr. Hines, to the effect that these authorities are prepared in principle to have the necessary formalities connected with the passage of boats carried out at one single frontier-station.

"The Sub-Committee would request the States concerned to be good enough to continue the preparatory work necessary for a speedy realisation of this programme, and it holds itself at their disposal to help in putting the programme into effect should its assistance be of value.

"V. The Sub-Committee notes with satisfaction the statements made which show that the desired agreements will shortly be concluded for ensuring in all Austrian, Hungarian and Czechoslovak ports on the Danube entire equality of treatment for the shipping companies of the various countries as regards the allocation of wharfside and warehouse accommodation. It considers that the same spirit should be shown in settling such questions in the other Danube ports.

"VI. The Sub-Committee expresses a hope that the Convention for the improvement of telegraphic communications along the Danube will be put into force as soon as possible.

"VII. The Sub-Committee thinks it would be desirable for States to adopt as far as possible a liberal policy which would enable shipping companies to utilise in a rational and economic manner both the international system and national waterways, including ports.

"VIII. The Sub-Committee, having completed its examination of the report submitted by Mr. Hines, and after hearing the various members appointed by the States specially concerned, having indicated the steps which still remain to be taken in the interests of navigation, desires to place on record, in conformity with Mr. Hines' observations, the considerable progress which has already been realised in the last few years. The Sub-Committee is convinced that such efforts, if continued, will enable it soon to assure itself of further progress which will contribute to the development and prosperity of Danube navigation."
A number of questions were referred to the Central Commission for Rhine Navigation and to the International Danube Commission.

As stated above in connection with the work of the Sub-Committee for Transport by Rail, the questions arising out of relations between railways and navigation were submitted to Committees of specialists for consideration.

The Sub-Committee acquired the conviction that Mr. Hines' reports and their discussion by the representatives of all the States concerned in a spirit of full co-operation could not fail to be of great service to navigation, and that it would be possible, by persistent effort, to diminish or remove the obstacles to traffic, so far as they were not due to general economic conditions outside the range of transport problems.

The Sub-Committee will continue to keep in touch with all the States concerned, and with the River Commissions, with a view to examining from time to time, in pursuance of the resolution of the Genoa Conference, how far the proposed improvements have been carried out.

**III. PORTS AND MARITIME NAVIGATION.**

The Sub-Committee for Ports and Maritime Navigation held its second session at Paris from November 28th to December 2nd, 1925. In addition to the usual members of the Sub-Committee, two representatives of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics attended the meeting.

On the agenda of the meeting figured questions relating to the double taxation of maritime industries, the unification of tonnage measurement, health regulations in maritime navigation, and the organisation of life-saving at sea.

**Double Taxation of Shipping.**

The question of double taxation and its bearing on maritime trade had been studied by the Sub-Committee in July 1924. At its second session it noted the report of the Committee of Experts on Double Taxation. That body had suggested that, in the case of maritime navigation undertakings, taxes should be levied only by the country in which the real centre of management was situated.

The Sub-Committee took note of this suggestion, which will be discussed later at a Conference of Experts. It was of opinion that the meaning of the phrase "real centre of management" should be very carefully defined, in order to avoid difficulties in its application. It therefore decided, pending the results of the Conference of Experts, to draw the attention of Governments to the expediency of increasing the number of bilateral conventions between States.

**Unification of Tonnage Measurement.**

The Sub-Committee continued its examination of the question of tonnage measurement in maritime navigation. It decided to set up a special Committee to study means of securing uniformity of tonnage regulations and their application.

**Health Regulations and Maritime Navigation.**

The Sub-Committee pursued its study of the reforms necessary in existing health regulations, in order to lighten the burdens on international trade and navigation and reduce the number of declarations and formalities. It drew the attention of Governments to the necessity of allowing for the effect on the economic situation of new regulations for maritime navigation when this question came up for discussion at the Conference for the revision of the 1912 Health Convention, which was to be convened in 1926.

The Sub-Committee further decided that a Committee should be appointed to collect material on the requirements and demands of maritime navigation for the Governments and organisations preparing for the Conference. This Committee met soon afterwards and drew up a very full memorandum, which has been forwarded to all the States represented at the Conference for the revision of the Sanitary Convention.

**Organisation of Life-saving at Sea.**

On this subject, the Sub-Committee noted a memorandum presented by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and heard a statement by Mr. Shee, Secretary-General of that organisation. It came to the conclusion that the Council might draw the attention of States which had not as yet organised a rescue service to the important work accomplished by private and public rescue organisations. The Sub-Committee considered that private or public life-saving services should be organised in all countries where they did not already exist. Finally, it expressed its opinion that the most effectual means of bringing about the organisation of new services and the improvement of those already in existence would be the establishment of a permanent contact between life-saving services in the different countries.

The Sub-Committee again laid stress on the necessity of promptly ratifying the general Convention on the International Regime of Maritime Ports adopted at the Second General Conference on Communications and Transit. It framed a procedure intended to help the different States to agree on the solution of any difficulties which might delay ratification.
Unification of Buoyage and Lighting of Coasts.

The Sub-Committee for Ports and Maritime Navigation, having decided to enquire into the unification of buoyage and lighting of coasts in relation to the question of safety at sea, appointed a special technical committee, which had already held one meeting before the last Assembly. It met again from November 3rd to 7th, 1925, at Monaco, in conjunction with the International Hydrographic Bureau.

The present composition of this Committee is as follows:

- M. P. H. WATIER (Chairman), Director of Waterways and Seaports in the French Ministry of Public Works;
- M. P. VAN BRAAM VAN VLOTEN, Director of the Netherlands Technical Lighthouse Service;
- M. E. HÄGG, Director-General of the Swedish Pilotage, Lighthouse and Buoyage Service;
- Admiral L. Langois (Chilian);
- M. G. MEYER, Adviser to the German Transport Ministry, Department of Navigable Waterways;
- Captain M. Norton, Director of the Portuguese Lighthouse Service;
- Captain RAZICOTSICAS (Greek);
- M. A. DE ROUVILLE, Chief Engineer of the French Central Service for Lighthouses and Buoys;
- M. Y. SUGIMURA, Counsellor of Embassy, Director of the Japanese League of Nations Office; assisted by M. NAGAOKA, Secretary in the Japanese Ministry of Communications;
- Commander L. TONTA, Director of the Hydrographic Institute of the Italian Navy;
- Baron G. WREDE, Director-General of the Finnish Naval Administration.

The meeting was attended by the Board of Directors and the Secretary-General of the International Hydrographic Bureau at Monaco. The International Association of Officers of the Mercantile Marine, the International Federation of Transport Workers, and the International Seafarers' Federation were also represented. These bodies had been requested to send representatives in agreement with the International Labour Office.

In the course of this session the Committee proceeded with the study of various questions relating to lighthouses, day and night buoyage regulations, and the organisation of wireless lighthouses. It appointed a Sub-Committee to study the problem of signals in conjunction with the International Hydrographic Bureau, and to prepare for its next session, which will take place at Stockholm in 1926, a uniform scheme, distinguishing between coast signals and port signals.

IV. Road Traffic.

The work undertaken in previous years on the subject of road traffic by the Organisation for Communications and Transit achieved its object in large measure at an international conference convened by the French Government in April of the present year and attended by representatives of the Secretariat of the League.

The Special Committee of Enquiry on Road Traffic had prepared a draft Convention, the main provisions of which were adopted by the Conference. A meeting of the Special Committee was held at Paris shortly before the Conference with a view to making final adjustments in the draft. The text adopted by the Paris Conference marks a great advance, as regards facilities for international traffic, on the existing Convention of 1909.

In future, the work of the Organisation for Communications and Transit in connection with road traffic will be devoted in particular to assisting in the unification of the regulations in force in the different countries. This process will no doubt be difficult, but it is most desirable in view of the increase in road traffic.

V. Second Passport Conference.

The Second Passport Conference, decided upon by the last Assembly and convened by the Council, met at Geneva from May 12th to 18th, 1926.

Thirty-eight Governments were represented, namely, the Argentine Republic, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, the British Empire, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, the Irish Free State, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Siam, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, and Uruguay. Representatives of the International Labour Office, the International Chamber of Commerce, the Committee of the International Emigration and Immigration Conference, the International Shipping Conference, the Passport and Postal Reform Committee, and the International Railway Union attended the Conference in an advisory capacity.

The Conference elected as Chairman M. PUSTA (Esthonia), and as Vice-Chairmen M. DE AGUERO Y BETHANCOURT (Cuba) and M. POLITIS, Chairman of the Passports Sub-Committee of the Committee for Communications and Transit.
The programme of the Conference had been drawn up by a special Sub-Committee of the Committee for Communications and Transit. It was based largely on a resolution of the sixth Assembly recommending that steps should be taken with a view to the abolition, to the widest extent possible, of the passport system, and to mitigating the disadvantages and expense entailed by that system.

The Second Conference, like that of 1920, adopted a series of recommendations aiming principally at technical improvements in passports of the international type and in methods of establishing passports; the prolongation of the duration of their validity, and its extension to all foreign countries, or to as large groups of countries as possible; the reduction of passport fees, which should in no case exceed the expenditure entailed by their issue; and the simplification of frontier control.

The Conference was in favour of the total abolition of exit visas, and recommended that the suppression of entrance and transit visas should be made as general as possible by means of inter-State agreements. It also recommended that facilities should be granted to travellers, enabling them to break their journey in the countries through which they passed, more especially in ports of call, even though their passport should bear no transit visa; that visas should be valid for two years or for a period equal to that of the validity of the passport, and that they should be good for an unlimited number of journeys and for all frontiers.

It was further recommended that the visa fee should not exceed:

(a) 5 gold francs for entrance visas valid for a single journey;
(b) 10 gold francs for entrance visas valid for several journeys;
(c) 1 gold franc for transit visas of unlimited validity.

The Conference considered that fees should not vary according to the nationality of the passport-holder, his itinerary, or the flag of the ship upon which he embarked.

It recommended that the issue of passports, identity papers and visas should be organised so as to simplify formalities and to spare travellers and emigrants long and expensive journeys. Visas should be delivered within the shortest possible time.

With regard to frontier control, the Conference recommended that it should be carried out, whenever possible, when the trains are in motion; should this be impossible, during the stoppage of trains at one of the two frontier stations, and that police inspection by the two countries concerned should be effected simultaneously or follow rapidly upon one another. It drew the attention of States to the fact that these improvements would be of little value unless agreements were also concluded for the accomplishment of Customs formalities in the same conditions of time and place.

The Conference requested the League to prepare two draft agreements: one, based upon the system of transit cards to replace the consular visa, to facilitate the passage in transit of emigrants leaving Europe for overseas countries; the other, on the introduction of an internationally recognised identity document, to facilitate the movements of persons without nationality.

VI. ELECTRIC QUESTIONS.

The last Assembly drew the attention of the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit to the advisability of reconsidering certain international problems relating to the utilisation of electric power. The Sub-Committee on Electric Questions has not yet met; its next session has been arranged for the beginning of the autumn of the present year.

VII. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES.

At its session in July last, the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit, after adopting a certain number of resolutions dealing with the dispute submitted to it in connection with the jurisdiction of the European Danube Commission, decided that its Special Committee of Enquiry on that question should hold a joint meeting with the delegates of the European Danube Commission with a view to promoting a settlement of the dispute.

The Special Committee held a meeting with the delegates of the European Danube Commission last September. It was asked to draw up definite proposals for the revision of that part of the Danube Statute which relates to the jurisdiction of the European Commission, in order that the Governments concerned might have a better opportunity of making a definite pronouncement as to the acceptance or rejection of the Advisory and Technical Committee's proposals. The latter have been drawn up and forwarded to the Governments. A final joint meeting of the Special Committee and the delegates of the European Danube Commission is to take place in September 1926.

III. THE HEALTH ORGANISATION.

1. MEASURES TAKEN TO EXECUTE THE DECISIONS OF THE SIXTH ASSEMBLY.

The sixth Assembly, in its resolution approving the work of the Health Committee, noted with satisfaction that the Governments were more and more disposed to collaborate with the Health Organisation in matters concerning the prevention of communicable diseases and
the improvement of the health conditions of the people. The Assembly requested the Council to refer to the Health Committee for its consideration the following proposals, on the understanding that no expenditure would be involved beyond the estimates already submitted for 1926.

A. Proposal of the Delegation of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

(Control of the Manufacture and Distribution of Food Supplies in the Interests of International Public Health.)

The proposal was formulated by the Second Committee of the Assembly in the following terms:

"The Second Committee requests the Health Committee to study from an international point of view the measures that might be recommended to Governments, in the interests of public health, for the control of the manufacture of, and trade in, food supplies."

The Health Committee, during its session held in October 1925, requested the Medical Director of the Health Section of the Secretariat to prepare a preliminary report on this subject in consultation with the Economic Committee of the League; the Health Section has accordingly begun an enquiry on sanitary measures for the control of food, as provided in national legislation or dealt with by international organisations, with special regard to manufacture and trade (export and import). A comprehensive memorandum which the Economic Section of the Secretariat is preparing on the protection of foreign buyers and consumers against worthless goods will also deal with the sanitary regulations which guarantee the purity and quality of foodstuffs.

A preliminary report was submitted to the Health Committee by the Medical Director in April 1926, and it was proposed, in order to define and restrict the scope of the enquiry, to forward to the Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes a note on the information hitherto collected by the Health Section and by the Financial and Economic Sections of the League, and to ask for a more precise definition of the enquiry which it desires to be undertaken.

B. Proposal of the Cuban Delegation.

(Proposed Interchange in Countries of Latin America.)

The proposal was formulated by the Second Committee of the Assembly in the following terms:

"The Second Committee requests the Health Committee to consider the possibility of organising during the coming year an interchange of technical personnel in charge of institutes of public health and tropical medicine in the countries of Latin America."

The Health Committee, during its session in October 1925, entrusted the task of arranging for this interchange to the Medical Director, in consultation with the Latin American members of the Committee. Negotiations are now proceeding between the Health Section and the chiefs of these institutions in Cuba and Brazil.

C. Proposals of the Czechoslovak Delegation.

(Health Insurance, Morbidity in Hospitals, etc.)

The proposals were formulated by the Second Committee of the Assembly as follows:

"(1) In the interests of the economic, practical and efficient organisation of public health services, including national health insurance, the Second Committee requests the Health Organisation to undertake a comparative study of these aspects of health administration in various countries.

"(2) In view of the great interest attached to the collection of morbidity statistics, with special regard to the prevention of disease, the Second Committee requests that the Health Committee, among its other work, should include the study of a uniform international method of collecting information regarding diseases treated in hospitals.

"(3) The Second Committee recommends that the Health Committee should insert on its agenda a study of the conditions in which national pharmacopoeias might be made comparable as far as possible, in so far as prescriptions relating to the compounding of drugs are concerned."

The Health Committee, during its session held in October 1925, decided to include the study of health insurance in the programme of studies of public health administration in the various countries, on which a number of reports had already been published. It was understood that the study would include a detailed consideration of the relations actually established or capable of being established between the insurance medical services and the public health services, and the financial considerations involved. It was further decided that the study should be carried on in consultation with the International Labour Office.
The Health Committee at the same time requested the Medical Director, in the course of the study of health insurance, to collect information relating to hospital records as an index of morbidity.

The Health Committee has communicated with the sanitary administrations of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary and Poland, which decided to appoint competent medical investigators to make a preliminary survey of all the public health and sanitary agencies in Vienna, Prague, Cologne, Budapest and Warsaw, in order to ascertain their relationship with the national health insurance system. This preliminary survey will demonstrate how far the existing sanitary agencies are being, or may be, utilised by the national health insurance organisations for the purposes of preventive medicine.

The investigators appointed by the various public health administrations met at Prague in March 1926 to discuss a plan of investigation. The preliminary studies will take three or four months, and a further meeting will be held in June or July. On the basis of the experience gained in this preliminary investigation, a detailed plan of study will be drawn up in time for discussion by the Health Committee at its October session. These studies are being undertaken in consultation with the International Labour Office.

D. Proposal of the French Delegation.

(Proposed Establishment of a Health Bureau on the West Coast of Africa.)

The proposal was formulated by the Second Committee of the Assembly as follows:

"The Second Committee, having in mind the gravity and prevalence of endemic and epidemic diseases in West Africa and the international danger arising therefrom, recommends the Assembly to request the Health Organisation of the League of Nations to study the possibility of establishing a sanitary and epidemiological bureau on the West Coast of Africa."

The Health Committee, at its session in October 1925, decided that advantage should be taken of the forthcoming interchange of medical officers of the Colonial Services in West Africa to study the feasibility of establishing this Bureau. At the same time, it was recommended that the Governments possessing colonies in West Africa should be consulted.

A member of the Health Section accompanying the group of medical officers has ascertained the desires and views of the sanitary administrations of the colonies visited and he will present a report on the whole subject to the Health Committee in June. The final Conference on the interchange, which took place in Freetown at the end of May, also formulated an opinion as to the advisability of establishing a sanitary epidemiological information centre in West Africa and as to the scope and character of its proposed activities.

E. Proposal of the Italian Delegation.

(Enquiry into the Prevalence of Trachoma.)

The proposal was formulated by the Second Committee of the Assembly as follows:

"That the Health Committee, with the approval of the Council, undertake an enquiry into the prevalence of trachoma in various countries and into the measures that have been adopted for its prevention. Having obtained this information, the Health Committee should be in a position to formulate recommendations and eventually to advise as to the most suitable and effective measures to be applied for the prevention of this disease."

This enquiry, which is now being carried out, was entrusted to Dr. Lutrario and Dr. Jitta; other members of the Health Committee who are interested in the problem were invited to prepare reports on the subject. A considerable amount of data has been collected on the prevalence of the disease in the countries where it is notifiable, and a preliminary report on the subject was submitted to the Health Committee in April 1926.

F. Proposal of the Paraguayan Delegation.

(Despatch of an Expert Medical Statistician to Latin America.)

The proposal was formulated by the Second Committee of the Assembly as follows:

"The Second Committee, appreciating the value of the studies undertaken by the Health Organisation to secure the comparability of health statistics, recommends that an expert medical statistician be sent to a certain number of countries, notably in Latin America, to study, in collaboration with the competent authorities of those countries, the sanitary statistical methodology employed therein, with the object of making comparable the health statistics of a still larger number of countries."
The Health Committee, during its session held in October 1925, requested the Medical Director to study any proposal that might be received from the administrations of Latin America in regard to this matter.

The Medical Director reported to the Health Committee in April 1926 that the only communication received up to that time was from the Head of the National Health Department of the Argentine.

G. Proposal of the Venezuelan Delegation.

(Liaison between the Health Administrations and the Health Organisation of the League.)

The proposal was formulated by the Second Committee of the Assembly as follows:

"The Second Committee, desirous of strengthening the permanent ties which should bind the Health Organisation of the League of Nations to national public health administrations, recommends to each Government the establishment of a special bureau within its health administration, the function of which would be to ensure collaboration between the head of this administration and the Health Organisation of the League of Nations. It is desirable that the personnel of such special bureaux should already have collaborated with the Health Organisation of the League."

The Health Committee, commenting upon this proposal, noted with satisfaction that a number of countries had already established such bureaux, notably the Governments of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Roumania, and expressed the view that such action resulted in a closer and more valuable relationship.

H. Proposal of the Netherlands Delegation.

(Infant Mortality.)

The resolution of the Assembly was as follows:

"The Assembly...

"Decides to request the Health Organisation to investigate infant mortality from the point of view of feeding in infancy;

"Requests the Council to instruct the Health Committee to undertake this investigation and to enquire into the advisability of constituting a sub-committee which would be able to call upon the co-operation of specialists in various countries in questions concerning child hygiene and which would be requested to initiate the investigation of this and of any other questions connected with child hygiene, the consideration of which might be deemed expedient."

The Health Committee in October 1925 requested the Medical Director to prepare a report on infant mortality and related subjects, including questions affecting the hygiene of school-children and legislation for the protection of illegitimate children.

Tabular statements were prepared, in accordance with these resolutions, containing data for nineteen European countries during the forty-four-year period 1880-1924. Figures on infant deaths were collected, classified according to the month of death, the sex, the age at death, the reported cause of death, legitimacy or illegitimacy, and the birth rates were computed for the same period, legitimate and illegitimate birth rates being worked out in the usual manner per thousand total births and also per thousand married or unmarried women between the ages of 15 and 49. A considerable time will be necessary for the analysis of this large amount of statistical data.

Meanwhile, the Child Welfare Committee of the Advisory Commission of the League of Nations for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People had in March 1926 decided to ask for the help and advice of the Health Committee in collecting information concerning legislation dealing with the welfare of infants in the various countries. The Health Committee, during its session in April, in response to this request, instructed the Health Section of the Secretariat to co-operate with the Social Section in obtaining and classifying the necessary information.

Further, in accordance with the resolution of the sixth Assembly, the Health Committee decided to invite the co-operation of six experts in child hygiene, one each from France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, and Norway, to assist in the work as corresponding experts.

Invitations have been sent to, and accepted by, the following experts:

Dr. Arthur Collett (Norway);
Dr. Debré (France);
Dr. Gorter (Netherlands), and
Dr. Rott (Germany).

Nominations are still awaited for Italy and Great Britain.

In addition, Professor von Pirquet, of Vienna, has been requested to give his assistance in this investigation.
2. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INTELLIGENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS.

A. Current Epidemiological Statistics.

The work of the Epidemiological Intelligence Service of the Health Section has developed considerably during the last year. Periodical reports on the prevalence of notifiable diseases are received from over a hundred national and colonial administrations upon which falls the duty of watching over the public health of more than two-thirds of the population of the world. Most of the public health administrations forward this information to the Health Section before its publication in their own countries, and the intelligence thus received by the Section is immediately put at the disposal of the other health administrations.

There is still a lack of uniformity in so far as the periods covered by these reports are concerned, but it is hoped that a more uniform system will in time be obtained. For this reason, the numerous administrations which contribute information to the Singapore Intelligence Bureau have unanimously adopted a weekly period ending Saturday at midnight for purposes of tabulating epidemic disease in the chief ports, and it is hoped that this example will gradually be followed by other countries.

The Epidemiological Service is now issuing a weekly record, based on the telegraphic reports from Singapore and on information received directly by the Geneva office, regarding the prevalence of plague, cholera, yellow fever, typhus and smallpox. These reports contain telegraphic information from 100 ports, and they are at once sent to the members of the Health Committee and to all the European health administrations. Most of the European administrations receive this information within a week of the termination of the period covered by the report.

Special attention has been given to the development of current statistical information concerning mortality from epidemic diseases and other important causes of death in large cities; this information can be made available comparatively quickly, while in some cases a couple of years will lapse before the publication of the national mortality statistics. Reports are now received from some 700 cities, either through the national health administrations or directly from the cities themselves with the approval of these administrations. All this information is published currently in the Monthly Epidemiological Report, which, in the latter half of 1925, was enlarged from about 50 to an average of 72 pages.

Tables showing the number of cases of epidemic diseases reported in each country and the causes of death registered in each city have been prepared for the Annual Epidemiological Information of 1925. These tables are verified and completed by the various national health administrations.

B. The Eastern Intelligence Bureau at Singapore.

The Bureau at Singapore, to which reference has already been made, now serves a very large area, which extends as far west as Cape Town and Alexandria and as far east as Honolulu, and it has been found advisable to divide the corresponding administrations into four groups. There is a Western Group, which stretches from the East Coast of Africa and the Asiatic Coast as far east as, and including, British India; a Central Group, which comprises the Malay States, the Dutch East Indies, Borneo and the Philippine Islands; an Eastern Group, which includes the Asiatic coast from Siam to Siberia, with Japan and Formosa; and, finally, a Southern Group, which contains Australia, New Zealand and the South Sea Islands.

The Advisory Council of the Eastern Bureau met at Singapore, in January 1926, to determine the work of the Bureau and to consider its estimates for 1926. It was attended by members from the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Siam, India, Indo-China, Australia, the Dutch East Indies, Hong-Kong, Japan, China, British North Borneo and an observer from the Philippine Islands, and sat from January 4th to January 6th. All the administrations represented agreed that the Bureau was rendering them valuable services.

It is the essential task of the Bureau to collect by cable information on the prevalence of epidemic diseases in the various ports, to obtain information regarding the movements of infected ships, to classify this information and re-telegraph it in the form of weekly bulletins. The bulletins are broadcasted every Friday free of charge by the French station at Saigon. They are then relayed free of charge by the wireless stations at Malabar (Java), Sandakan (British North Borneo), Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Karachi (British India). This arrangement is necessary owing to the meteorological conditions prevailing in the Far East, which sometimes make it difficult for certain stations to pick up the messages.

The Advisory Council decided to ask the Health Committee to begin serious studies of the great public health problems of the East, and in particular to set up expert committees composed of the directors of research institutes in those countries where enquiries of this nature are actually in progress or about to be undertaken, with the addition of experts from Western countries selected for their special competence in the matter. This Committee will deal with the co-ordination of enquiries into such problems as the value of vaccination by the mouth against acute intestinal infections, endemic centres of cholera, certain aspects
of bubonic plague and the possibility of corporate action for the study of pneumonic plague.

The Health Committee considered these proposals during its session in April. It approved the budget estimates for the year 1926, passed by the Advisory Board, amounting to 39,763.77 gold dollars, and it expressed its thanks and appreciation to the administrations whose delegates at the meeting of the Advisory Council at Singapore had promised financial assistance to the expenses of the Bureau. The contributions promised were as follows:

The Government of:

- The Straits Settlements ........ 5,000 Straits dollars (for 1926);
- Siam ................................ 2,000 Straits dollars (for 1926);
- The Philippine Islands .......... 5,000 Straits dollars (for 1927);
- Japan ................................ from 7,000 to 10,000 yen (for 1926);
- French Indo-China ........... 6,000 piastres (for 1926);
- Hong-Kong ......................... up to 5,000 Straits dollars (for 1927);
- China ................................ 2,000 Straits dollars (for 1926);
- Netherlands East Indies ....... sum not stated (for 1926).

The Health Committee also thanked the administrations which were broadcasting free of charge the Bureau's weekly bulletin.

The Health Committee noted with interest the recommendation for the creation of expert committees to co-ordinate research in the Far East in public health questions of international importance, and it resolved, in particular, to proceed at once, in consultation with the administrations concerned, to the constitution of an expert committee to deal with the question of the administration by the mouth of vaccines against acute intestinal infections.


The Council, on June 9th, 1925, decided that the report of the Still-Birth Commission of the Health Committee, in which certain proposals are put forward for the definition of still-births, should be sent to the Governments of all States Members of the League and to Germany, Mexico, Russia and the United States. The Health Committee noted, during its session held in April 1926, that replies had already been received from seventeen Governments, the majority of which were in agreement with the definitions proposed and offered no further comment.

The Governments of Australia, Brazil and the Union of South Africa stated that they were prepared to introduce such new legislation as the adoption of the definitions would demand, if other Governments did the same. The British Government, however, was unable to consider the adoption of the definitions proposed, owing to numerous difficulties, in connection with existing legislation, to which such a change would give rise. The Brazilian Government recommended that the Health Organisation should undertake the preparation of an international nomenclature of causes of still-births. The same proposal was made by the Venezuelan Government, which also proposed that the Health Organisation should establish a standard form for the registration of still-births.

D. Statistical Handbooks.

A statistical handbook on Austria, prepared by Dr. Major Greenwood and Major P. G. Edge, was published in December 1925.

Professor H. Westergaard has prepared a handbook for the Scandinavian countries which deals with the vital statistics of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

The handbook describing the statistical system of the United States of America as a whole and of the individual States is being prepared by Mr. E. Sydenstricker, of the United States Public Health Service.

3. INTERCHANGES OF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

A. The Interchange in Japan.

The interchange in Japan began at Tokio on October 18th, 1925, and concluded at Dairen on December 4th. Public health officers from the administrations of the following countries participated: Australia, China, the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Hong-Kong, British India, the Dutch East Indies, Indo-China, New Zealand, Siam and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

The programme began with general lectures at Tokio by the principal officers of the Japanese Ministry of Health. The participating officers then visited the health organisations in Japan and afterwards went to Korea and to Southern Manchuria.
The Medical Director of the Health Section of the League, who, on the invitation of the Japanese Government, accompanied the interchange group, submitted a detailed report of his journey to the Health Committee during its April session 1926.

The visitors were impressed by the very great wealth of technical information available in Japan as a result of the accumulated experience of the Japanese Public Health and Medical Services. Japan has an unusually complete system of vital statistics, which has been built up during the last two or three hundred years. Every communal authority has for some two hundred years kept family registers, and since 1868 the police have also kept household registers which represent a permanent census of the entire population. A complete vaccination register is also kept in the district offices. The reports on vital statistics are centralised at a statistical bureau in Tokio, which is in the hands of a fully competent staff of modern statisticians thoroughly trained in the American schools of vital statistics.

The medical profession is numerous, the hospitals are exceptionally well provided with laboratories both for research and routine. The standard of the technical work is very high. Both in administration and in the medical work of the hospitals the influence of German teaching is much in evidence.

The Japanese Health Service has concentrated its efforts, in particular, on the attack against infectious diseases. The most difficult public health problem in Japan is the prevalence of intestinal diseases. The medical research institutes have devoted themselves, with the aid of field stations and field surveys, to discovering, describing and studying in detail the etiology of parasitic infection and conducting research into problems relating to typhoid and dysentery immunity. In spite of all these efforts, the incidence of typhoid fever and the proportion of deaths, as compared with the number of the population and of those suffering from the disease, continues to be very high.

The problem of tuberculosis is also difficult, and the central administration is very anxious to intensify on modern lines its campaign against tuberculosis.

The work of the Health Organisation of the League is followed closely by the officers of the Japanese Public Health Service and by the Japanese medical profession, and many Japanese specialists desire to associate their work with that of the expert commissions of the Health Committee. To this end, they have set up a Co-ordination Committee to follow the work of the Health Committee and to ensure the continuous co-operation of Japan. This Committee is presided over by Professor Miyajima, a former member of the Health Committee.

The Medical Director discussed with this Committee a plan of co-operation. This plan included the publication by the Health Committee of monographs based on recent original Japanese research, concerning public health problems of international importance and the appointment of corresponding members to take part in the work of the several committees and commissions of the Health Organisation. It was also proposed that fellowships should be given to Western public health and medical research workers who might desire to study at a Japanese institution, and that, in exchange, four Japanese public health and research workers should be given facilities for studying in Europe Western problems of importance to Japan. This plan of co-operation was adopted by the Health Committee during its session in April 1926.

B. Interchange of Health Officers in the Ports of the Mediterranean.

This interchange began at Barcelona in November 1925, and included health officers belonging to the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Spain and Syria.

Dr. Raynaud submitted to the Health Committee, during its session in April 1926, a report on this interchange, which took place under his direction. Dr. Raynaud emphasised how desirable it was, as much from the point of view of health as from that of shipping, that mutual confidence should prevail as between the health authorities of the various ports. In this connection, he pointed out that interchanges enabled a more direct contact to be established between the health officers of the ports, making it possible for them to familiarise themselves with the methods employed in ports which were in a close maritime relation with their own.

A final Conference of those participating in the interchange was held at Geneva in December 1925, in the course of which it was suggested that the Health Committee should appoint a Committee composed of doctors, bacteriologists, chemists, shipowners, marine officers and engineers, to make experiments in different ports on the various methods of fumigation now employed and to decide in what conditions the work of deratisation should be undertaken.

C. The Interchange in Great Britain.

The first general interchange held in 1926 began in London on February 22nd and ended at Geneva on April 1st. Health officers from the following countries participated: Austria, Brazil, Canada, the United States, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Panama, Poland, Roumania, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

The programme of the interchange was carried out not only with the aid of the various Government departments but also and especially with the help of the London County Council,
the Corporation of the City of London, certain Borough Councils and other metropolitan
organisations, to whom the most cordial thanks of those participating in the interchange are due.
The health administration of London and neighbouring counties was studied in all its details,
the interchange being specially organised for the benefit of municipal health officers occupying
important posts in the administrative services of great urban centres.

At the final Conference at Geneva, very interesting reports were presented by the partici-
cipants, who were unanimous in declaring that they had gained very valuable experience from
their visit to England and that they hoped to be able to profit by it in their own countries.

D. The Interchange in West Africa.

The interchange of health officers in West Africa began at Dakar on March 20th, 1926. It
was attended by health officers from the Belgian, British, French, Portuguese and Spanish
colonies and from the administrations of Guatemala and South Africa. It was also attended
by a representative of the Health Section of the League, who was specially instructed to investi-
gate the possibility of instituting an epidemiological bureau at Dakar on the model of the
Bureau at Singapore.

Very considerable difficulties were encountered in organising this interchange, as regular
shipping services between the different colonies are almost non-existent. Certain of the terri-
tories have tolerably good roads, but these rarely connect two colonies. The programme had
accordingly to be more or less provisional, and it was subject to any modifications which
might be necessary in order to take advantage of the existing facilities of communication. The
visits to the various ports were organised in close consultation with the Governors of the colonies
concerned and through the intermediary of the various Colonial Offices.

The interchange began at Senegal at the end of March 1926. The itinerary included
Gambia, Portuguese Guinea, French Guinea, Liberia, the Ivory Coast, Togoland, the Gold
Coast and Sierra Leone.

E. Sanitary Engineers.

The interchange programme for 1926 also included an interchange of sanitary engineers.
A circular letter was sent to forty-eight States, inviting them to submit a list of official engineers
attached to the central health authorities for work in large urban or rural centres. The inter-
change, necessarily limited to sixteen participants, will visit in groups of four the cities of Bir-
mingham, Glasgow, Liverpool and Sheffield. It will open with a preliminary course in London,
followed by a Conference with municipal and county engineers in Bristol.

In London the delegates will attend the Jubilee Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute,
to which they have been invited by the Council of the Institute. Accompanied by a small
Committee of specialists, the participants will visit the waterworks of the various towns, investi-
gate the port health organisations, study the construction of fever hospitals, housing and
town-planning schemes, and the methods adopted for the removal and utilisation of refuse,
and will visit model villages, such as Bournville, near Birmingham.

F. General Interchange in Denmark.

The third general interchange organised for 1926 is an interchange in Denmark from May
27th to June 30th. This is reserved for officials particularly interested in the organisation and
working of rural services. The following countries are participating: Bulgaria, Cuba, Czecho-
slovakia and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Esthonia, Germany, Great
Britain, Hungary, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

G. Collective Interchange in Holland, Belgium, France and Switzerland (Special Type
of Interchange).

A new type of interchange has been organised for the months of July and August, in which
an endeavour will be made to eliminate some of the less desirable features of collective inter-
changes and to combine the advantages of individual missions and collective study tours.
The interchange will be limited to ten participants, each chosen for his expert knowledge
of some definite subject. After some twelve days of individual study on special questions,
the participants will meet as a group and follow the initial stage of a collective interchange,
with the ordinary group conferences and visits to institutions of general interest. They will
then separate into groups of specialists, who will study four or five subjects in which they
are particularly interested, meeting at the end of each week for an exchange of views and a
general discussion.

The interchange is designed to cover a period of six weeks and will enable the ten partici-
pants to visit the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Switzerland. The study tour will finish
in Switzerland towards the end of August, and a final conference will then be held at Geneva.

The subjects selected by the participants include prophylaxis of venereal diseases,
prophylaxis of tuberculosis, disinfection, child welfare, and health insurance in its relation to
preventive medicine. The subjects will be dealt with by the lecturers selected by the public
health departments of the four countries concerned, and these lectures will be supplemented
by visits to typical institutions.
H. Individual Fellowships.

Individual fellowships for 1925-26 were accorded to health officers from the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and from Persia.

Fellowships for 1926 have been granted to health officers from Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, and Australia (two fellowships). Three fellowships have been reserved for Spain, one for the United States of America, two for the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and one for Poland. It has been arranged to accord four fellowships for medical officers from Japan and for four medical officers who desire to visit Japanese laboratories.

On the proposal of the Director-General of Public Health in Poland, an interchange of medical officers has been arranged between Poland and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

The arrangements for this interchange are now being made, and it will take place during the course of the present year.

I. Plan of Interchanges for 1927.

It is proposed to organise in Great Britain and in Germany collective interchanges for medical officers belonging to health services. It is also proposed to organise interchanges between health officers who have specialised in certain branches of administration and to arrange for a collective study tour for medical officers attached to national insurance organisations.

Further interchanges are being organised for professors of hygiene, and there will probably be a Parliamentary interchange. The possibility of an interchange for nurses is also under consideration, and also that of a second interchange for sanitary engineers. Plans for interchanges in Far Eastern ports and in Baltic ports are also under consideration, and may take place before the end of the year.

4. WORK OF THE COMMISSIONS.

A. Malaria Commission.

The Malaria Commission, during its session in October 1925, drew up a detailed programme of research for 1926, which was approved by the Health Committee during its following session in April 1926.

The following is a brief summary of the work which is now in progress.

As regards study tours, the report on the journey made by the Commission at the beginning of last autumn in Spain has been finally approved and will shortly be published. A study tour in Sicily has been organised for the autumn of the present year, in agreement with the Director-General of the Health Service of Italy.

An investigation with regard to the relation between anophelism and river deltas, such as the Ebro, the Po and the Danube, is at present in progress.

In the sphere of laboratory research, a very interesting memorandum was submitted to the Commission by one of its members, Colonel S. P. James, of the British Health Ministry, which relates the experiments made in England with a view to keeping a stock of mosquitoes constantly infected with the malaria plasmodium for the treatment of general paralysis by the intentional provocation of malaria.

Experiments of the same kind are being carried out in Bologna, Paris and Hamburg.

Clinical tests with a view to the substitution for quinine of certain of the secondary alcohols of cinchona, for which the cost of production is smaller, have been carried out in a certain number of hospitals in Algeria, Italy, Roumania, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and Spain, according to the principles laid down by the Malaria Commission. It would be premature to pass a final judgment on the therapeutic value of these alcohols, as the experiments will be continued during the next malaria season.

Special courses in malaria have been organised in the Tropical Medicine Institutes of Paris, London and Hamburg. These theoretical courses will be followed by a practical course in the anti-malaria stations of Corsica, Italy, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and Spain. The courses will be attended by participants from Armenia, British India, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Poland, Roumania, Spain and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

Lastly, an investigation into the relations which may exist between climatic and meteorological conditions and malaria will be pursued in Italian and Spanish anti-malaria stations situated in the immediate vicinity of meteorological information centres.

The Malaria Commission, in accordance with a decision of the Health Committee, was represented by certain of its members at the first International Malaria Congress, held at Rome in October 1925, and a special sitting of the Congress was devoted to the communications submitted by the members of the Commission. A permanent Malaria Congress was appointed by the Conference, six of the thirteen persons elected as members of the Congress being members of the Malaria Commission.
Wishing to honour the memory of Dr. Darling and Dr. Lothian, who died as a result of the accident at Beirut on May 21st, 1925, the Council approved, during its session held in December 1925, the following proposals of the Health Committee:

1. The founding of a Prize, to be known as the Darling Memorial Prize, for which the necessary funds will be collected by private subscription, to be awarded to the author of an original work on malaria. The rules concerning this prize were adopted by the Health Committee during its session of April 1926. They stipulate that the foundation shall award every two years a bronze medal and the sum of 1,000 Swiss francs to the living author of an original work on the pathology, etiology or prophylaxis of malaria.

2. To devote a portion of the credits of the budget of the Health Organisation to the creation of an individual scholarship, to be known as the Lothian Scholarship, and to be awarded by the Malaria Commission to a candidate chosen by itself.

B. Commission on Smallpox and Vaccination.

The Health Committee, during its session in October 1925, decided to constitute a special Commission to study questions relating to vaccination and the epidemiology of smallpox. The Commission met at The Hague from January 4th to January 7th, 1926, and examined a programme of work drawn up by its Chairman, Professor Ricardo Jorge. Experts from France, Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands and Switzerland attended the Commission.

A letter was sent by the Secretary-General to all public health administrations, drawing their attention to cases in which encephalitis was observed to follow vaccination in certain countries, and asking them to send to the Health Section detailed information regarding any such cases which might be observed. The Secretary-General also sent a questionnaire to all the public health administrations with a view to enabling the Health Committee to study the methods used in the official institutes and laboratories under State control for the preparation, examination, distribution and use of vaccines. Finally, the Health Committee arranged for a comparative study to be undertaken into various laboratory methods used to determine the activity of the lymph.

C. International Sleeping-Sickness Commission.

The resolutions of the International Conference on Sleeping-Sickness approved by the Council in 1925 were mentioned in the Supplementary Report of the Council to the sixth Assembly 1.

In addition to the generous subsidies offered by the Belgian, British, French and Spanish Governments, the Portuguese Government has intimated that it desires to contribute a sum of £500 to the expenses of the Commission. The Portuguese Government has appointed Dr. Maximo Prates, head of the Laboratory at Lourenço Marques, to collaborate in the work of the International Commission.

The Commission met at Entebbe in Uganda in February 1926, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Duke. It has undertaken laboratory and field studies regarding a series of problems of capital importance for the epidemiology, treatment and prophylaxis of sleeping-sickness. In view of the scope of the subjects the study of which has been entrusted to the Commission under the resolution of the International Conference of London, the Commission will not probably finish its work during the year 1926, and it is desirable that its mandate shall be prolonged beyond the present year.

There is every reason to hope that this international scientific collaboration will result in increasing our knowledge regarding sleeping-sickness, which for certain portions of the continent of Africa is so formidable a scourge.

D. The Tuberculosis Commission.

The Tuberculosis Commission, in April 1925, decided to continue its comparative study of the statistics of tuberculosis mortality in different countries. The problem was to be studied on the basis of a report by Dr. Biraud, in which it was maintained that a decline in tuberculosis mortality had really taken place in the various countries under consideration. The Tuberculosis Commission laid down the conditions under which the proposed enquiry should be effected, and it decided, that Denmark, Norway and Sweden appeared to be particularly suitable for a general enquiry of this character.

A Conference was accordingly held in September 1925, at Copenhagen, under the Chairmanship of Professor Madsen. The Conference adopted a programme of joint action, under the terms of which those pursuing the enquiry would forthwith proceed to prepare and exchange detailed statistics of tuberculosis mortality in the different countries.

Meanwhile, a general enquiry was concurrently undertaken in France, and more particularly in Paris, under the direction of Professor Léon Bernard, and a preliminary examination was made by the statistical service of the Health Section on the mortality figures for England.

1 See Official Journal, Special Supplement No. 33, page 332.
and Wales, Bavaria and Switzerland. It appeared from this general enquiry that tuberculosis mortality had declined more rapidly than the general figure for mortality from all causes.

The result of this research was communicated to the Tuberculosis Commission in a report by Dr. Biraud during the session of the Health Committee in April 1926.

E. Commission on Public Health Instruction.

The Commission on Public Health Instruction has held two sessions since the meeting of the sixth Assembly.

At its session in October 1925, Professor Léon Bernard reported upon his recent visit to Brazil, the Argentine Republic and Uruguay, where he had given a series of lectures on the health work of the League of Nations. The Commission also heard a report by Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer of the British Ministry of Health and Board of Education, who, at the request of his colleagues, agreed to draft a memorandum on the various systems of public health instruction followed in the countries which the Commission had already studied; this memorandum should make it possible to draw up certain general suggestions and to indicate the principles which should serve as the basis of such instruction.

In April 1926, the Commission held a meeting at Warsaw, where it had been invited by the Director-General of the Polish Public Health Service to assist at the inauguration of the new school of health attached to the State Institute of Health already existing at Warsaw. At this meeting, the Directors of the health schools of London, Prague, Belgrade and Zagreb attended. After a discussion on the prospective programmes of these schools, it was decided that the Commission should endeavour to collect all the documents concerning the health schools already existing in Europe and the United States, and to facilitate a mutual co-operation between these new bodies by means of an exchange of views between their Directors.

F. The Cancer Commission.

In October 1925, the Statistical Sub-Committee of the Cancer Commission asked Professor Niceforo and Professor Pittard to study the possible relation between cancer and the racial factor, and to prepare a preliminary report on this question. For this report two kinds of information were necessary: statistical data on cancer mortality in certain selected countries, and anthropological data for these countries.

The data as regards cancer mortality were collected by the Secretariat, and the necessary anthropological information by the Rapporteurs themselves.

It was observed, in the preparation of the necessary statistical information, that in some countries the rate of mortality from cancer was extremely low in certain districts, whereas in the same regions mortality from senility or from unknown causes was comparatively high. This discovery suggested a further investigation into the comparative mortality rates from these causes; this enquiry was carried out in April and May 1926. Dr. Greenwood (Great Britain), Dr. Hansen (Denmark), Professor Methorst (Netherlands), and Dr. Carrière (Switzerland) were accordingly asked to undertake similar studies, in order to discover whether there might not be an inverse relation between mortality from cancer and mortality from senility or unknown causes.

Towards the end of April 1926, Dr. Greenwood, Chairman of the Statistical Sub-Committee, called a series of informal conferences, during which the conclusions at which the experts had already provisionally arrived might be examined. It was decided during these conferences that Professor Niceforo and Professor Pittard should be invited to prepare a summary of their report and that this summary should be distributed to the Cancer Commission.

Meanwhile, Dr. Greenwood had drawn attention to the question of serological methods, and proposed that this question should be studied from the racial point of view. A document was accordingly prepared on the subject and distributed to the members of the Statistical Sub-Committee. The conclusions contained in this document appear to have opened up a new avenue of research.

G. The Opium Commission.

Article 8 of the International Opium Convention concluded at Geneva on February 19th, 1925, covers certain preparations containing narcotics which, owing to their composition, should be withdrawn from the effects of the Convention.

Article 10 of the same Convention covers narcotics recognised as liable to produce toxico- mania, to which, therefore, the provisions of the Convention should be made applicable.

By a resolution adopted by the International Opium Conference of 1925 and a resolution adopted by the Council of the League of Nations on March 14th, 1925, the Health Committee was asked to consult the Permanent Committee of the Office international d’Hygiène publique at Paris on questions arising under these articles.

As the result of a decision of the Health Committee in April 1925, the Permanent Committee of the Office international was asked to give an opinion in regard to two products, eucodal and dicodid, both derivatives of morphine and codein, as it was thought that, as these drugs contained injurious properties, they should be brought within the provisions of the
Convention. The Permanent Committee of the Office international in October 1925 appointed a committee of experts to study the question, and, on the advice of those experts, unanimously decided, in May 1926, that the two substances eucodal and dicodid might from prolonged use lead to the forming of the drug habit, and therefore proposed that they should be added to the list of drugs coming under the provisions of the International Convention.

With reference to Article 8, the Health Committee decided, in April 1925, to invite the Governments to supply it with a list of the products containing narcotics which should, in their opinion, be withdrawn from the effects of the Convention, and a circular letter was addressed to the Governments in November 1925. Up to the present (May 1926), replies have been received from sixteen Governments.

H. The Standardisation Commission.

(a) Standardisation of Sera.

The Danish Serotherapeutic Institute has continued as in the past the comparative titration of the standards of anti-diphtheric serum used by various countries for the standardisation of their national sera. This titration was carried out in relation to an international unit of anti-diphtheric serum deposited at the Copenhagen Institute. The results of these titrations have shown that there is an absolute agreement between the values of these various standards.

In conformity with the decisions of the Conference for the Standardisation of Anti-dysenteric Serum held at Geneva in September 1924, Dr. Madsen prepared a certain quantity of Anti-dysenteric Serum intended to be used as an international standard. This serum has been distributed among the various laboratories participating in the researches, with a view to comparative titration.

In spite of the very thorough study and the titrations carried out by the various laboratories of Europe and the United States, the anti-tetanic standard, which had been previously selected by the Commission and which represented a mean term between the extreme values of the anti-tetanic units in use in the various countries, has not met with unanimous approval. The Commission was therefore led to consider whether the solution of the problem did not reside in the adoption of one of the national standards at present in use.

(b) Tuberculin.

On the proposal of the Tuberculosis Commission, Professor Calmette, Deputy-Director of the Pasteur Institute, has undertaken an experimental study of the various methods used for the titration of tuberculin in the hope that a method might be devised for international use. In the remarkable report on this question which he submitted to the Health Committee during its session held in April 1926, Professor Calmette reached the conclusion that, in spite of the numerous methods of titration existing, it would be premature to propose the adoption of international rules in order to estimate the activity of the tuberculin, and that it was advisable for its titration to be made the subject of further experimental research.

The author proposes, however, to carry out the titration in relation to a tuberculin standard, and describes the method which, in his opinion, would enable the activity of tuberculin to be more exactly estimated.

(c) Biological Standards.

In order to give effect to the resolution adopted by the Health Committee in October 1925, the Secretary-General has communicated to the Governments for transmission to the services concerned the resolutions adopted by the Second International Conference for the Biological Standardisation of Certain Remedies, which met at Geneva from August 31st to September 3rd, 1925, under the Chairmanship of Dr. H. H. Dale. These resolutions were also communicated to the Second Conference for the Unification of the Formulae of Powerful Drugs, which was held at Brussels from September 21st to 29th, 1925. This Conference recommended:

1. That biological standardisation should be introduced into the pharmacopoeias wherever this is necessary;
2. That, unless there are good reasons to the contrary, the pharmacopoeias should adopt the methods which have been or may in future be recommended by the Health Organisation of the League of Nations;
3. That the Pharmacopoeia Commissions should forward to the Health Organisation of the League of Nations any observations or suggestions they may wish to make with regard to the methods in question.

The Conference at Brussels further considered that it was advisable to institute an international body for the unification of pharmacopoeias, and to set up two international committees which would undertake the study of the unification of the methods of chemical and physico-chemical titration of powerful drugs and of the methods of preparing powerful galenic preparations. To this end, the organising Committee of the Conference has been requested to approach the Belgian Government and to ask it to open negotiations with the League of Nations with a view to definitely setting up these bodies.
5. Special Studies and Miscellaneous Questions.

A. Disinfection.

An international enquiry on the question of disinfection was originally undertaken by the Health Committee on the proposal of Dr. Chodzko. At the request of the Health Section, the health administrations of certain European countries entrusted to experts the preparation of memoranda describing the position with regard to compulsory disinfection. Such memoranda were obtained from Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Germany, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and Scandinavia.

A report was presented to the Health Committee during its last session by Professor Chagas on the present practice in regard to terminal disinfection. The opinions of the sanitary administrations represented on the Permanent Committee of the Office international are now being obtained, and recommendations will be prepared by Professor Chagas in collaboration with the Health Section and the Director of the Office international for consideration by the Health Committee at its session to be held in October.

B. Leishmaniosis.

The Health Committee, during its session in April 1925, heard a statement by Professor Pittaluga regarding leishmaniosis which was of special interest in Spain and the Mediterranean basin. As a result of that statement, the Committee decided to entrust to Professor Pittaluga, in collaboration with Dr. Raynaud, a study of Mediterranean leishmaniosis. Professor Pittaluga and Dr. Raynaud presented reports to the following session of the Committee, which decided that the enquiry in the Mediterranean countries should be continued and completed.

An enquiry is now being made, which includes, on the one hand, statistical research in Spain, the South of France, Italy, Portugal and North Africa, and, on the other, a topographical study of the foci of leishmaniosis in relation to the presence of dogs and phlebotomi. For the carrying out of this plan, certain experts belonging to the interested countries, and particularly Dr. Nicolle, of Tunis, and Dr. Sergent, of Algiers, have promised their collaboration.

C. Leprosy.

The Health Committee, during its session in October 1925, decided that an investigation should be conducted into certain statistical and epidemiological aspects of the problem of leprosy.

The investigation was entrusted to Professor Chagas, who presented a report to the Committee in April 1926. The Health Committee requested Professor Chagas to continue his study in collaboration with experts appointed for this purpose in agreement with the Bureau of the Health Committee. The following experts have been nominated: Professor Marchoux (France), Dr. MacCoy (United States of America), Sir Leonard Rogers (Great Britain) has also promised his assistance.

D. International Conference on Rabies.

On several occasions during the last two years the President of the Health Committee has been asked to convene a Conference of the directors of the chief anti-rabies institutes of the world, in order to discuss the results of the experience gained as regards anti-rabies vaccination. In view of the interest attaching to such a discussion, the President of the Health Committee — having taken the above requests into consideration — got into touch with the authorities of the Pasteur Institute in Paris who entirely approved of the proposal, and were of the opinion that the initiative could be taken by the Health Committee. The Pasteur Institute having suggested that the future Conference should be held in Paris at the Institute, the Health Committee gratefully accepted this suggestion and at its April session adopted the following resolution:

"The Health Committee decides to take steps to convene in 1927, at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, an International Conference on Rabies, to which the directors of the chief anti-rabies institutions of the world will be invited."

The Conference will be convened during the spring of 1927. The Pasteur Institute and the Health Section of the Secretariat are now drawing up reports which would serve as a basis for future discussion.

E. Epidemiological Enquiries.

Memoranda on the epidemiology of cholera have been prepared by Major A. J. Russell, Director of the Health Service of the Presidency of Madras, who has studied the endemic centres in India, and by Professor Barikine and Dr. Cazeneuve, who describe the position as observed by them at Rostov-on-the-Don, a city which is an endemic centre for cholera.

The epidemiology of plague and, in particular, the relations existing between this disease and certain wild rodents have been studied by Dr. Wu Lien-Teh, Director of the Anti-Plague Prophylaxis Service of Manchuria, as well as by Dr. H. Cazeneuve during a mission to the south of Lake Baikal on the invitation of the People's Commissariat for Public Health of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

Other studies are in progress on the sero-prophylaxis of measles and on certain aspects of the epidemiology of scarlet-fever.
The Health Organisation has been invited to participate in the exhibition of public health, social welfare and physical education, for which a very large programme has been drawn up by the city of Düsseldorf, and in a similar exhibition which will take place at Budapest.

In response to these invitations, the Health Section has sent coloured schedules showing the various aspects of the activity of the Health Organisation, and has printed, for distribution to the visitors, a pamphlet relating to the work accomplished by the Organisation.

10.

HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS.

I. TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

Appointment of Assessors.

The Council, during its meeting in March 1926, appointed as assessors to the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium M. Henri Brenier (French) and Colonel Arthur Woods (American), the former for his knowledge of the commercial side of the opium question, the latter, as former Police Commissioner of New York City, as an expert on the police side of the administration of the laws dealing with the subject. The third assessorship — reserved for an expert on the conditions in the Far East — the Council decided to leave unfilled for the time being.

Commission of Enquiry into Opium Production in Persia.

On September 28th, 1925, the Council, having considered the decision of the sixth Assembly relative to the question of the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry into the opium situation in Persia, requested the Secretary-General to submit at the December session of the Council a list of persons suitable to serve as members of such a Commission. The Secretary-General was asked, in preparing this list, to act in accordance with the terms of Resolution 2 adopted by the Assembly with regard to this Commission.

The Commission was constituted on December 11th, 1925, in accordance with the instructions of the sixth Assembly. The members appointed were M. Frederick A. Delano (United States of America), Chairman; Professor Cavaera (Naples University), botanical and agricultural expert; and M. Victor Cayla (France), agricultural engineer. The Council thanked the American Social Hygiene Bureau for the gift of 20,000 dollars which it had contributed towards the expenses of the Commission.

The Commission of Enquiry, after a preliminary meeting at Geneva, embarked on March 12th, 1926, at Trieste, en route for Persia, in order to proceed with its investigation.

Eighth Session of the Advisory Committee.

The eighth session of the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs was held at Geneva from May 26th to June 8th, 1926. The report on the work of the Committee during that session, which will be considered by the Council during its September session, will be summarised in the Supplementary Report to the Assembly.

II. PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

A. TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The Traffic in Women and Children Committee met at Geneva from March 22nd to 25th, 1926. The following members of the Committee attended the meetings:

Delegates appointed by Governments.

Don Pedro Sangro y Ros de Olano, Chairman
M. Emilio Martinez Amador (substitute delegate).
M. Bourgeois (replacing M. Regnault), Vice-Chairman
M. Barbier (substitute delegate).
Count Carton de Wiart
Dr. Maxwell (replacing M. Harris)
Dr. Estrid Heinz
Mr. Marquis Paulucci de Calbooli
M. Yotaro Sugimura
M. Stanislas Posner
M. Ciuntu (replacing M. Comnène)

Spain.
France.
Belgium.
British Empire.
Denmark.
Italy.
Japan.
Poland.
Roumania.
Assessors.

Miss Baker .......................... International Bureau for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children.
Mme Avril de Sainte-Croix ........ Women's International Organisations.
Baronne de Montenach .......... Association catholique internationale des Œuvres de protection de la jeune fille.
Mme Curichod-Séretan .......... Fédération des Unions nationales des Amies de la jeune fille.
Mr. S. Cohen ...................... Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls and Women.

Secretary: Dame Rachel Crowdy.

Dr. Ferenczi, of the International Labour Office, acted as liaison officer with that institution.

Annual Reports.

After having noted the progress report submitted by the Secretary, the Committee examined the summary of the annual reports from Governments for the year 1924 and noted with satisfaction the continually increasing number of Governments which are sending detailed reports of great value to the work of the Committee. It also took cognisance of the reports which each of the Assessors laid before it on behalf of the Associations which they represented. The Committee was glad to note the co-operation which existed between the authorities in the various countries and the private organisations.

International Convention of 1921.

Since the last session ratifications had been received from China, Japan, Sweden and Switzerland; France had adhered to the Convention.

Collection of Laws and Regulations.

The Committee expressed its thanks to the American Social Hygiene Association, which has prepared a collection of the laws and regulations of many countries in relation to the traffic in women and children.

Replies to the Questionnaire of 1923 regarding the System of Licensed Houses.

Replies have been received by the Secretariat, since the last session of the Committee, from New Zealand, Japan, Norway, Austria and the Free City of Danzig. It was decided to request the Council to instruct the Secretariat to ask those countries which had not yet sent reports to do so, and those which have sent reports for any new comments. The Committee further requested the Secretariat to prepare for the next session a systematic and impartial abstract of the reports which, taken in conjunction with the reports themselves, would show the present position. This abstract should be suitable for use in the preparation of a report which the Committee proposes to make to the Council in accordance with Resolution 4 adopted by the Council on June 11th, 1924.

Expulsion of Foreign Prostitutes.

The discussion which had taken place last year on this subject was continued. The Committee thought it would be helpful to establish a closer co-operation between the Government authorities in the different countries and the voluntary associations willing to help foreign prostitutes who are to be expelled. Two resolutions were adopted with a view to promoting co-operation between the voluntary associations themselves on this important point. By a third resolution, the Council was requested to ask the Secretariat to invite the various Governments to furnish information on the question, in order that it might be considered at the next session of the Committee. M. Posner, delegate of Poland, was appointed Rapporteur.

Women Police.

The Committee noted the increasing interest which had been shown in the question of the employment of women in the police in several countries in all matters affecting the protection of women and children and, as these countries were of opinion that such appointments would largely tend to decrease the evils of the traffic in women, it requested the Council of the League to instruct the Secretariat to apply to all States for full information on the subject. It further decided that such information should be classified for presentation to the Committee at its next session.

Obscene Publications.

Several delegates made statements of great interest with regard to the difficult problem of stopping the sale of obscene publications, and the Committee decided to ask the Council to

1 See Official Journal, Special Supplement No. 33, page 376.
instruct the Secretariat to obtain the periodical reports recommended in paragraph 9 of the Final Act of the International Conference of 1923 for the Suppression of the Circulation of and Traffic in Obscene Publications, in order that these reports might be submitted, if possible, to the Committee at its next session.

Alcoholism in its Relation to the Traffic in Women and Children.

The Committee had before it a report furnished by the International Anti-Alcoholism Bureau on the subject of alcoholism in its relation to prostitution. The Committee was unanimously of opinion that an interdependence existed between these two evils and it invited the Secretariat to proceed with the study of this problem from the point of view of the traffic, in order that it might be considered at the next session of the Committee.

Emigration.

The Committee thought it desirable not to lose sight of the problem of the protection of migrant women and children which had for several years been of considerable interest to the members of the Advisory Committee. It received a statement made by the representative of the International Labour Office, M. Ferenčić, with regard to the very important question of the inspection of migrants on board ship. This question was considered of particular interest, inasmuch as it appeared on the agenda of the 1926 International Labour Conference.

* * *

The report of the Committee was placed on the agenda of the June session of the Council. The resolutions adopted by the Council as a result of the examination of this report will be summarised in the Supplementary Report to the Assembly.

B. CHILD WELFARE.

The Child Welfare Committee met at Geneva from March 25th to April 1st, 1926. The following members were present:

**Delegates appointed by Governments:**

Don Pedro Sangro y Ros de Olano (Chairman) ............ Spain.
Don Emilio Martínez Amador (Substitute delegate).
M. Bourgois (Vice-Chairman) .......................... France.
M. Martin (Technical Advisor).
Count Carton de Wiart .............................. Belgium.
M. Maxwell (replacing Mr. Harris) ..................... British Empire.
Dr. Estrid Hein ........................................... Denmark.
Marquis Paulucci de' Calioli ......................... Italy.
M. Yotaro Sugimura .................................... Japan.
M. Stanislas Posner ................................. Poland.
M. Ciuntu (replacing M. Comnene) ................. Roumania.

**Assessors:**

Miss Julia Lathrop, M.A. American National Conference on Social Work.
M. Henri Rollet International Association for the Protection of Children.
Mlle Burniaux International Federation of Trade Unions.
Dame Katharine Furse International Organisation of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.
Dr. Humbert League of Red Cross Societies.
Miss Eglantyne Jebb “Save the Children” Fund (International Union).
Miss Eleanor Rathbone Women’s International Organisations.

Mr. Johnston and M. Varlez attended on behalf of the International Labour Office.
Mr. Norman White, of the Health Section, also attended the meeting.

Secretary: Dame Rachel Crowdy.

At its fourth session the Commission had adopted a recommendation to the effect that the voluntary associations of the American continent should be represented by an assessor on the Child Welfare Committee. At its session of June 1925, the Council decided to give effect to this recommendation, and three assessors were appointed in December to represent the voluntary associations of Canada, South America and the United States of America respectively.

In addition, the International Federation of Trade Unions had also asked to be represented on the Committee by an assessor. At its meeting of September 5th, 1925, the Council resolved that the International Federation should also be invited to submit to the Council one or several candidates, together with their qualifications. At its December session, the Council approved the appointment of the candidate proposed.
Appointment of Sub-Committees.

The Committee decided that, in view of the large number of subjects under consideration and in view of the legal and technical difficulties inherent in some of them, it was desirable, after preliminary discussion, that certain of the subjects should be submitted to a Legal Sub-Committee for examination and report at the next session of the Committee.

The Committee considered generally the position with regard to several items on the agenda which fell within the joint sphere of action of both the Child Welfare Committee and other Committees and organisations, such as the Health Committee, the International Labour Office and the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation. The Committee decided that, to prevent overlapping of work and to ensure full co-operation in the interests of child welfare, it was desirable that a Liaison Sub-Committee should be set up to deal with those matters which affected other Committees or organisations jointly with the Child Welfare Committee.


The Committee considered the desirability of strengthening the Committee for the study of certain matters affecting child welfare and decided to request the Council to invite the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation to nominate a representative to serve on the Child Welfare Committee.

Laws relating to the Protection of Life and Health in Early Infancy.

The Committee considered a memorandum on infant welfare prepared by the Health Section of the Secretariat and decided that it would be well for the enquiry thus begun to be pursued from the special point of view of early infancy by collecting legislative material not only on matters of health but also on social and legal conditions affecting the protection of the life and health of infants.

Laws relating to the Age of Marriage and the Age of Consent.

After considering a provisional report prepared by the Secretariat, the Committee decided that the work which had been undertaken should be continued so that it might be again considered at the next session.

International Convention concerning the Assistance and Repatriation of Foreign Children.

The Committee decided that the whole subject should be referred to the Legal Sub-Committee to consider the various aspects of the matter in the light of the full discussion which had taken place and to report its conclusions at the next session.

Child Labour.

An interesting report was submitted by the International Labour Office on the ratification of international conventions and on legislation in so far as these subjects related to child labour. The Committee discussed the connection which exists between the age fixed for entering industry and the age for leaving school, and emphasised the danger which exists when there is an interval of one or two years between these two ages. Attention was also called both to child labour in agricultural districts and to the effects of work undertaken out of school hours on children of school-attendance age.

In the resolution which it adopted, the Committee expressed the hope that the International Labour Office would continue to make representations to the Governments with a view to the ratification by every country of international conventions on the admission of children to labour. It also drew attention to the fact brought out by the investigations of the International Labour Office as to the relation between the laws on school attendance and labour legislation, and emphasised the importance of extending the age of compulsory school attendance up to the age fixed by international convention as being the earliest at which children may be allowed to work.

The Committee's attention having been called to the methods employed in the education of adolescents and their relation with the normal family and social life of the adult, and also to the relation between the life of children in agricultural districts and the education they receive in preparation for the normal family and social life of the adult, the Committee asked the Liaison Sub-Committee to consider if and how far it would be practicable and desirable to make enquiries into these subjects and to present a report for consideration next year.

Family Allowances.

After considering a memorandum from the International Labour Office on family allowances and their effect on child welfare, the Committee decided to ask the International Labour Office to continue, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the voluntary associations, its
study of the subject, especially with a view to obtaining exactly comparable data, and to report progress at the next session of the Committee.

The Effects on the Well-being of Children of Social Insurance and of Measures taken to alleviate Distress caused by the Unemployment, Sickness or Death of the Wage-Earner.

The International Labour Office having furnished a note on the difficulty of establishing a report on the effect on the well-being of children of measures taken to relieve distress, the Committee decided to adjourn the consideration of this subject to a subsequent session.

Effects of the Cinema.

The Committee considered questions relating to the effect of the cinema on the mental and moral well-being of children. It recognised, on the one hand, the attraction and importance of the cinematograph, in certain circumstances, from the point of view of the healthy recreation, instruction and education of children and young people, but it expressed the conviction that the abuse of the cinema had definitely harmful effects upon the minds of children and young people and, according to certain medical authorities, upon their nervous system and physical health. Moreover, the Committee, appreciating the interest felt by the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation in the question of the cinematograph, desired to assure it of the importance which the Committee itself attached to the question from the point of view of the moral and intellectual development of children and young people, and requested it to devote special attention to the co-operation of all concerned in the production, circulation and utilisation of good films.

The Committee then went on to recommend that, in each State, offices for control or for preliminary censorship should be established, whose decisions should be enforced by fixed penalties, with a view to preventing the exhibition of demoralising films; that all possible means should be employed to encourage the exhibition and the international exchange of films calculated to promote the intellectual, moral and physical education of children and young people; that an international understanding should be entered into by the various national offices with a view to communicating to each other the decisions adopted and the penalties imposed by their respective countries, and that such understanding should eventually be extended by means of international agreements to prevent the circulation and use of demoralising films; and lastly, that each State should prescribe the necessary measures of hygiene and security in connection with the ventilation, the cubic capacity, the exits and emergency exits of cinema theatres, and should take steps as soon as possible to prohibit the exhibition of inflammable films.

Draft International Convention on Execution of Judgments relating to Maintenance, etc.

The Committee took note of a draft international convention drawn up by the International Association for the Protection of Children on the execution of judgments relating to maintenance payable on behalf of children by persons responsible for their support and living abroad; it also took note of representations as to the desirability of making provision for the reciprocal enforcement in different countries of all obligations on parents for the maintenance of their families, and of sentences imposed for the offence of deserting the family. It decided that all these questions should be submitted for examination to the Legal Sub-Committee, on its general which would report at the next session.

Recreation.

The Committee recognised the necessity of recreation in the lives of children and young people, providing as it does for their good health both mentally and physically. It expressed the desire that, in all future town-planning or improvement schemes, provision should be made for recreation spaces, both open and covered, and it resolved to keep the question of recreation on its general programme.

Biological Education.

The Committee decided that the consideration of this matter should be postponed.

Neglected and Delinquent Children.

The Committee examined the subject of neglected and delinquent children, but it decided that the matter was too wide to be considered at the present session, especially in view of the fact that no programme of work had been drawn up in connection with the subject. It was, however, decided that the subject should be placed early on the agenda of the next session. The Committee reconsidered the subject of juvenile courts and, after discussion, decided to ask the Council to instruct the Secretariat to collect information and to report to the Committee as to the scope, composition and practice in various countries of the judicial tribunals or other special bodies which deal with cases of children and young people. When this preliminary study is sufficiently advanced, such enquiries as may be necessary will be made on the spot according to a plan to be laid down by the Committee.
Alcoholism.

The Committee considered the report furnished by the International Anti-Alcoholism Bureau at Lausanne and discussed the grave dangers to the welfare of the child which resulted from the wrong use of alcohol.

In the resolution which it adopted, the Committee requested the Council to ask the Governments to protect children and young people from the danger of alcoholism by every possible means; it requested the philanthropic associations to do everything in their power to bring this danger to the knowledge of the public (parents, clergy, teachers, Press, etc.), and to educate children and young people themselves to a sense of this danger; it requested the Secretariat to remain in communication with the Lausanne Bureau with a view to supplementing the information already obtained; and it decided that the question should be placed on the agenda of a later session.

Other Matters.

(a) Subjects placed on the Agenda at the Request of the Representative of the Canadian Voluntary Organisations.

At the end of the session, the Committee decided to refer to the Liaison Sub-Committee draft resolutions prepared on certain subjects, the consideration of which had been deferred when the agenda was adopted.

(b) Procedure.

Certain members of the Committee having expressed the desire that modifications should be made in the Rules of Procedure in connection with the placing of subjects on the agenda and in the time-limit within which documents to be considered by the Committee should be submitted, the Committee decided that the proposed alterations in the Rules of Procedure should be referred to the Legal Sub-Committee and reported upon at the Committee's next session.

(c) The Welfare of the Blind.

At the request of the Chairman, a document from the "Comité international pour l'information et la propagande des aveugles" was distributed to the members. The Committee expressed its sympathy with the promotion of the welfare of the blind and decided to place on the agenda "The Problem of the Blind Child" for consideration at its next session. The Committee agreed that the "Comité international" should be asked to submit a report which would furnish a basis for discussion.

* * *

The report of the Committee was placed on the agenda of the June session of the Council. The resolutions adopted by the Council as a result of the examination of this report will be summarised in the Supplementary Report to the Assembly.

11.

INTERNATIONAL RELIEF UNION.

The sixth Assembly, which had on its agenda the report of the Preparatory Committee set up to consider Senator Cirio's scheme for the establishment of an International Union for the Relief of Peoples overtaken by Disaster, after expressing its interest in the Committee's proposal, considered that an international institution of this kind, which might include among its members both Members of the League and States which are not Members, should be constituted by special agreement between the various Governments.

The Assembly also felt that the different Governments should be consulted as to the expediency of establishing such a Union. It noted, moreover, that provision for such a consultation had been made in a resolution of the fifth Assembly, dated September 26th, 1924, and that it had not been possible for this consultation to take place.

In the course of the discussion on the Preparatory Committee's proposal in the Second Committee of the sixth Assembly, certain observations and criticisms had been made regarding the scheme submitted.

The sixth Assembly consequently referred the scheme back to the Preparatory Committee in order that the latter might introduce such modifications as it might consider desirable in view of these observations.

It furthermore invited the Council to submit the Statutes thus revised to the Governments of all States, whether Members or not of the League of Nations, for formal consideration, requesting them to communicate their views by a fixed date, in order that the Council might, if necessary, proceed to the convocation of a meeting of the duly authorised representatives of the aforesaid Governments with a view to the conclusion of the necessary arrangements for the definite
establishment of the proposed Union, if the Council considered that the replies received were such as to permit the conclusion of an agreement to this effect.

In accordance with this resolution, the Preparatory Committee was invited to introduce into its original scheme the modifications called for by the observations put forward in the Second Committee of the Assembly, and the Committee, having completed this work, submitted to the Council a final draft of the Statutes of the International Relief Union.

In pursuance of a Council resolution dated December 14th, 1925, the Secretary-General, in a circular letter dated January 23rd, 1926, forwarded to the Governments of all States, for formal examination, the revised Statutes, together with a statement of the objects of the Union, requesting them to make known the results of such examination before July 1st, 1926.

Up to the present, eight countries have communicated their views: Cuba, Egypt, Italy and Salvador have expressed themselves in favour of the establishment of the proposed Union.

The Government of the United States has stated, in reply to the Secretary-General's communication, that problems similar to those which the proposed Union would have to consider have always been dealt with, in the United States, by the American Red Cross, and that it does not appear that the Government can usefully assist in carrying the scheme into effect.

The Government of India has stated that it is still unable to adhere to the scheme. New Zealand also maintains its original opposition.

The Government of the Union of South Africa has declared that it can give no opinion for the moment, but that, if the proposals for a Conference were to be carried out, it would consider the matter afresh.

12.

WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION.

Since the last session of the Assembly, the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation has held a single session in Paris during the month of January 1926.

The representative of France, in the report which he presented to the Council in March 1926, emphasises that this session was particularly brilliant owing to the inauguration of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, of which the Committee is the Governing Body. The French Government had arranged that the solemn handing over to the President of the Council of the League of Nations of the historic rooms in the Palais Royal which it had placed at the disposal of the Institute should coincide with the session of the Committee.

During its session in January, the Committee dealt in particular with the question of the instruction of children and youth in the work and aims of the League of Nations, a question which had been referred to it by the Council at the request of the last Assembly. The Committee also approved the programme of work prepared by its new Sub-Committee for Arts and Letters, and examined the draft Statutes of the Institute for the Unification of Private Law which the Italian Government had offered to found at Rome.

The Committee, during the session to be held in July 1926, will be informed of the progress made by its other Sub-Committees, and the Supplementary Report which will be presented to the Assembly in September will deal particularly with the work which has been done on questions concerning scientific property, co-operation between universities and bibliography — in particular, the report and the proposals of the Committee of Experts for the Co-ordination of Analytical Bibliography in the Economic Sciences.

Composition of the Committee.

Three members of the Committee, M. Bergson, M. Ruffini and M. de Torres-Quevedo, have resigned, and the Council has appointed as their successors M. Paul Painlevé, member of the Academy of Sciences of the Institute of France, M. Alfredo Rocco, Professor of the Faculty of Law of the University of Rome, and M. Julio Casares, member of the Royal Academy of Spain.

M. Painlevé and M. Rocco have been asked, together with M. Einstein, to sit on the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation.

Further, M. Lorentz has replaced M. Bergson as Chairman of the Committee.

Reorganisation of the Sub-Committees.

The work of the Committee is at present prepared by four Sub-Committees: University Relations; Bibliography; Arts and Letters; Intellectual Property. Each of these Sub-Committees includes at least three members of the Committee and a certain number of specialists appointed...
as assistant members by the Committee or co-opted by the Sub-Committee. Under the rules of procedure of the International Institute in Paris, the work of each of the sections of the Institute is supervised by one of the Sub-Committees of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation. In order to facilitate this supervision, the Sub-Committee may appoint one of its members to keep in constant touch with the appropriate Section of the Institute and to assist it with advice.

The Committee has issued a recommendation for the institution of a new Sub-Committee for Sciences. The Council, during its March session, approved in principle the institution of this Sub-Committee when the need should arise and when the credits necessary for its work were granted by the Assembly.

**UNIVERSITY RELATIONS: MEETING OF A COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS.**

The Supplementary Report presented to the last Assembly referred to the fact that the Sub-Committee on University Relations had agreed to convene a meeting of representatives of international students’ associations. The aim of the meeting was to make a special effort to organise a better system of collaboration and the best possible division of labour among these associations.

A meeting was convened and was presided over by M. de Reynold, member of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation. The International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation was represented and delegates of the following associations participated: Confédération internationale des Étudiants; International Federation of University Women; Fédération universitaire internationale pour la Société des Nations; Fédération universelle des Associations chrétiennes d’Étudiants; International Student Service; Pax Romana (Secrétariat international des Associations catholiques d’Étudiants); World Union of Jewish Students; as well as the Auslandsamt der Deutschen Studentschafts Organisation, a body invited in an advisory capacity.

The resolutions adopted, which will be transmitted to the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, aim at ensuring, by a division of work among the associations and with the assistance of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, a co-ordination of effort in connection with the following subjects: travelling facilities for students; exchanges of students; international fellowships; equivalence of degrees, studies and diplomas; the creation of students’ centres and the financial steps to be taken for this purpose.

The possibility of annual meetings of representatives of the international students’ associations was also contemplated. Provision was made with a view to starting at once a preliminary study of the various questions which may be placed on the agenda of a further session. Among these questions is that of the organisation of a common international centre for students.

**SUB-COMMITTEE FOR ARTS AND LETTERS.**

The Sub-Committee for Arts and Letters, the constitution of which was approved by the last Assembly, aims at encouraging and promoting intellectual co-operation in the field of literature and the arts. Its work is prepared by two sections of the International Institute in Paris: the Section for Literary Relations and the Section for Artistic Relations. These sections may be assisted by the Legal and Intellectual Property Section for questions relating to the rights of the author.

The Sub-Committee decided to take as a basis for its work, apart from any suggestions which might come from its members, the recommendations formulated at the various international congresses. The Sub-Committee will choose from among these recommendations those of which the realisation appears to be desirable and possible with the help of the Institute.

With regard to artistic co-operation, the Sub-Committee, considering that museums constitute a remarkable instrument of education, which may be used in order to bring the nations together, decided, with the approval of the plenary Committee, to ask the International Institute in Paris to publish an international list of museums and an international year-book of artistic life. The Institute will also endeavour to bring about the publication of a national annual of artistic life in the various countries which do not yet possess such a publication. The Sub-Committee also began the examination of the question of the creation at the International Institute in Paris of an international office for museums, the idea being that the museums should mutually co-operate with a view to increasing their collections and widening their general activity and usefulness.

The Committee also decided, with a view to facilitating a better understanding among the nations, to undertake the examination of the question of an international congress and an exhibition of popular arts, as universal as possible, devoted to objects of a character clearly artistic manufactured by all races.

In regard to the cinema, which, when it is not a demoralising influence, is and may perhaps become to a great extent a remarkable educational force, the Sub-Committee emphasised the interest which it took in the work undertaken by the French National Committee of Intellectual Co-operation for the preparation of an international congress on the cinema. The Sub-Committee was happy to learn that the Section for Artistic Relations of the International Institute in Paris was closely following this work.

The question of a photographic inventory also claimed the attention of the Sub-Committee. It recommended the International Institute to continue the work which had been undertaken with a view to establishing a bibliography of printed catalogues of collections of photographs,
together with a list of collections of photographs and negatives taken from works of art and historical monuments.

As regards literary relations, the Sub-Committee considered it desirable, from the point of view of international intellectual exchanges:

1. That various handbooks intended to form a collection should be published on the history of the national literatures, beginning with those which were less known;

2. That, after making enquiries of literary associations and publishers and after a meeting of experts, the possibility should be examined of creating a central translation office (M. Emile Borel, replacing M. Painlevé, drew the attention of the plenary Committee to the great services which such an office might render, notably in the translation of scientific works);

3. That the Section on Letters of the International Institute should examine, in co-operation with the Legal Section of the same Institute, the various questions connected with the rights of authors from the point of view of translations.

The Sub-Committee also dealt with the question of international relations in the field of music, and M. Weingartner, an assistant member of the Sub-Committee, was asked to prepare a report on the subject.

INSTRUCTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE WORK AND AIMS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The sixth Assembly noted that the majority of States Members of the League had taken action as a result of the resolutions adopted by the fifth Assembly concerning the instruction to be given to young people on the work and aims of the League of Nations and concerning the development of relations between young people of the various countries.

It considered, moreover, that the report submitted to it by the Secretary-General on this question might be regarded as a first stage. It therefore invited the Council:

(a) To consider the possibility of requesting all States Members of the League of Nations and non-Member States to keep the Secretary-General informed of the progress made in their respective countries as regards the various points mentioned in the report, and to forward to the Secretary-General all publications on this subject as soon as they appear.

(b) To instruct the Secretary-General to collect the information mentioned above. This information should be communicated from time to time to States Members of the League and to other States interested in the question.

(c) To forward the Secretary-General's report, together with the proposals submitted by the Chilian, Haitian, Polish and Uruguayan delegations, to the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation and to request it to consider the possibility of summoning a sub-committee of experts to consider the best methods of co-ordinating all official and non-official efforts designed to familiarise young people throughout the world with the principles and work of the League of Nations and to train the younger generation to regard international co-operation as the normal method of conducting world affairs.

The Council, during its meeting of September 26th, 1925, decided to act on the recommendation of the Assembly.

At the request of the Council, the information which States were requested to furnish under (a) and (b) is brought to the knowledge of the Governments, as it is received, by means of the Official Journal of the League.

Point (c) of the resolution of the Assembly was, in accordance with the request of the Assembly, forwarded to the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.

The Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, in response to the invitation of the Assembly and of the Council, adopted, during its session held in January 1926, the following resolution:

"The International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation fully appreciates the value and importance of the invitation addressed to it by the sixth Assembly to participate in any steps which may be taken with the object of acquainting children and youth with the aims and work of the League of Nations. The Committee is fully aware of the importance of this task and of the difficulties which may arise in its execution. It accepts the suggestion of the Assembly to convene a Sub-Committee of Experts in order to discuss the means likely to spread as widely as possible the conviction that the nations must be organised in order to settle their differences by the method of peaceful understanding.

This Sub-Committee will examine, among other matters, whether it would not be useful:

(1) To propose to the Council of the League to convene an international conference, which may become periodical, for the purpose of a mutual exchange of information concerning what has been done in the desired direction, and concerning the results achieved and for the purpose of examining suggestions to be recommended;

(2) To publish one or two small works giving precise information concerning the Covenant and activities of the League of Nations."
Appendix. — The Committee on Intellectual Co-operation proposes to the Council to fix the number of the members of the Sub-Committee at ten or twelve. It wishes that three of its members may form part of the Sub-Committee and it appoints for this purpose Professor Gilbert Murray, M. Destree and M. Casarès. It expresses the desire that the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation may also be represented in the Sub-Committee.

The Council, on the proposal of the representative of France, who acted as Rapporteur during its March session, approved the proposals of the Committee relating to the composition of the Sub-Committee of Experts, and asked its President to appoint, after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, those members of the Sub-Committee who were not already members of the Committee. These members were to be chosen for their experience in the work of education, or in their capacity as officials of important educational authorities.

It was arranged that the meeting of the Sub-Committee of Experts should take place in August 1926.

The Council, after considering the question of convening an international conference as contemplated in the resolution of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, decided that the question was premature at the present stage of the work.

13. INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX.

(Article 24 of the Covenant.)

I. CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX.

As in previous years, co-operation with the following international bureaux, which have been placed under the direction of the League, has been maintained.

1. INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU.

The Bureau continues to keep in touch with the Secretariat by communicating copies of its annual report and of the circular letters addressed to its members. The Secretariat audits the accounts of the Bureau annually. The co-operation established between the Bureau and the Special Committee for Buoyage and Lighting of Coasts of the Committee for Communications and Transit of the League is maintained. The Bureau contemplates holding the next International Hydrographic Conference in the autumn of the present year.

The Bureau has recently suffered a loss in the death of the first President of the Directing Committee, Admiral Sir John F. Parry. Sir John Parry presided over the International Hydrographic Conference in 1919, at which the draft scheme for the establishment of an International Hydrographic Bureau was accepted by the Governments represented.

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

According to the terms of the Council’s resolution of January 11th, 1922, the Office continues to communicate copies of all returns concerning the importation of spirituous liquors into the various African colonies and mandated territories. At the request of the Permanent Mandates Commission, the Secretary-General has asked the Office to communicate annually to the Commission certain statistics relating to the African mandated territories and adjacent colonies, presented in a form proposed by the Commission.

3. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AIR NAVIGATION.

The International Committee for Air Navigation maintains its co-operation with the Section for Communications and Transit as well as with the Section dealing with International Bureaux. It has held two sessions during the year.

4. THE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF BUREAU (BUREAU INTERNATIONAL D’ASSISTANCE).

Efforts were made to arrange for the sixth International Relief Congress to be held in London in the autumn of the present year, and the Bureau consulted the Secretariat of the
League as to the items to be included in the agenda in order to avoid duplication of work already undertaken by the League. The British Commission of the sixth Congress, which is the body responsible for its organisation, decided, however, that it would be impracticable to organise a successful Congress in 1926. The Countess Carton de Wiart has been elected Chairman of the Comité international des Congrès d’Assistance publique et privée.

II. RELATIONS WITH VOLUNTARY INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

The Union internationale de la Propriété bâtie, a private international federation of national unions for the protection of property, the seat of which is in Paris, has made an application to the Council to be placed under the direction of the League in accordance with Article 24 of the Covenant. The Council, however, referring to its resolution passed on July 2nd, 1923, emphasised the fact that Article 24 refers solely to international bureaux which have been actually established by general conventions, and decided that it was not in a position to accede to the request of the Union internationale de la Propriété bâtie.

III. PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

Publication by the Secretariat of the Quarterly Bulletin of Information on the Work of International Organisations is continued. No. 14 of this Bulletin, issued in January 1926, contains a chart of the meetings held in 1925 by 110 international organisations, as well as an alphabetical index to Nos. 10 to 13 inclusive. Only such information as is supplied by the organisations themselves is published in the Bulletin. During the past year, a larger number of international organisations has been supplying the Secretariat regularly with information.

The third edition of the Handbook of International Organisations is in the press; it will be issued in French only.

14.

INTERNATIONAL MUNICIPAL CO-OPERATION.

In connection with the decision taken by the sixth Assembly with regard to the question of international municipal co-operation, the Council passed a resolution on December 7th, 1925, to the effect that the technical organisations of the League might grant assistance to or co-operate with the various private international organisations which deal with municipal questions, such as the Union internationale des Villes et Communes, the Commission permanente des Congrès internationaux des sciences administratives, the International Federation for Town and Country Planning and Garden Cities, the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses, the Comité permanent des Congrès internationaux des habitations à bon marché, the Union internationale des tramways, des chemins de fer d'intérêt local et des transports publics automobiles, and the Association générale des hygiénistes et techniciens municipaux.

15.

COMMITTEE OF PRESS EXPERTS.

The sixth Assembly, on the proposal of the Chilian delegation, adopted, on September 25th last, a resolution inviting the Council to consider the advisability of convening a Committee of Experts representing the Press of the different continents, with a view to examining methods of contributing to the organisation of peace by ensuring a more rapid and less costly transmission of press news and discussing all technical problems the settlement of which would be conducive to the tranquillisation of public opinion.

The Council, at its meeting of September 26th, 1925, in order to give effect to this Assembly resolution, decided to discuss at its December session the possibility of convening this Committee.
With this object in view, the Rapporteur, the representative of Belgium, asked his colleagues to consult in their own countries the journalistic trade unions and the associations of the directors of newspapers or agencies, in order to obtain an informed opinion on the advisability of convening such a Committee. He pointed out that the International Association of Journalists accredited to the League of Nations might be of great assistance to the Council in such an investigation. The Council further asked the Secretary-General of the League to collect, for submission to it at its December session, information on the views of the circles directly interested.

The Council felt it necessary, in investigating the question, to proceed with the utmost prudence and left completely open the very important and novel question which the Assembly resolution had raised. It caused it to be clearly understood that it must be for the persons themselves concerned to inform the Council whether they thought it advisable to convene a Committee of Press Experts, and whether they could give any indication of the manner in which such a Committee, were it to be constituted, ought to proceed with its work in order to achieve something of practical use.

The Press associations, consulted by the Secretary-General, welcomed the resolution of the Assembly, and in December 1925 the Council instructed the Secretary-General to continue his enquiries.

When the Council met in March 1926, Press associations belonging to more than twenty-five different countries had sent in their replies. Several Press associations of the United States of North America showed in their replies a very great interest in the proposal of the Assembly. A great number of associations, in adhering to the proposal, attached concrete suggestions concerning the programme of work of the future Committee, such as the reduction of telephone, telegraph and wireless telegraph and telephone rates, the secrecy of wireless and radio-telephone messages, news copyright, travelling facilities, scholarships, etc.

The Council therefore decided that a meeting of Press experts would be useful, and it instructed the Secretary-General to proceed, on the basis of the results obtained, to prepare a programme of work.

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16.

PRESENT SITUATION WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS REGISTERED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS 1.

REGISTRATION AND PUBLICATION OF TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS (ARTICLE 18 OF THE COVENANT).

The registration of Treaties by the Secretariat has been carried out as during the preceding years according to the method laid down by the Council's memorandum of May 19th, 1920. Between May 19th, 1920, and May 19th, 1926, 1,169 Treaties and International Engagements have been submitted for registration. During the period May 19th, 1925, and May 19th, 1926, 305 Treaties have been submitted for registration by Members of the League of Nations or communicated by other States. If this figure is compared with those of previous years, the progressive increase in the number of registered Treaties will be observed. These Treaties are of many different kinds, as can be seen from the following list, which, though of short length, gives a general picture of the kind of agreements registered during this period. Some of these Treaties may also be referred to under several other headings. Reference to them will be found in the analytical and alphabetical index attached to the Treaty Series.

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1 A special report on this question will be attached to the Supplementary Report on the Work of the Council which will be published immediately before the opening of the seventh Assembly.