3. Petition from the "Association of Poles in Germany", dated March 1st, 1933, concerning the Decree of the President of the German Reich of February 2nd, 1933, modifying the German Electoral Law.

On March 1st, 1933, the "Association of Poles in Germany" addressed to the Council a petition against a decree of the President of the German Reich, dated February 2nd, 1933, on the ground that it modified the German electoral law in such a way as to impose differential treatment as between the German and Polish sections of the population and would, in practice, restrict the electoral rights of the Polish minority.

The German Government, in its observations on the petition, emphasised that the decree was applicable to all citizens equally and throughout the territory of the Reich. It further represented that the decree could have no material effect on the electoral rights of the Polish minority, which occurred on August 10th, 1932, at Potempa. It was stated in the petition that the Extraordinary Criminal Court at Beuthen had condemned five of the murderers to death, but that the Government, yielding to German public opinion, had commuted the death penalty to imprisonment. It was further stated that the five murderers had, on April 7th, 1933, been released by order of the German Chancellor, and that a spectacular demonstration had been organised in their honour accompanied by a joyous outbreak of satisfaction in certain German Upper Silesian newspapers.

The petition represented that as a result of these events, the minority had lost all feeling of security. The German Government contested the assumption that the crime had any connection with the fact that the victim had belonged to the Polish minority. The action of the murderers was directed exclusively against Communists as internal political opponents. The case accordingly had nothing whatever to do with the position of the Polish minority.

The German Government had, on August 9th, 1932, promulgated a law under which homicide committed for political motives was henceforth to be punished by the death penalty. The murder was committed on the night of August 9th and proceedings were instituted by the Public Prosecutor on August 14th. The death sentence was passed upon the murderers, but the sentence had been commuted to penal servitude for life on the ground that, at the time of the murder, the condemned men could not have had any knowledge of the decree under which they had become liable to capital punishment. The release of the prisoners on March 15th, 1933, had been ordered under an Amnesty Act which applied to the whole of Germany, and there was no evidence that the decision of the authorities in this particular case had led to any acts of violence against persons belonging to the Polish minority.

The representative of Spain, acting as Rapporteur to the Council, submitted his conclusions in the following terms:
"A study of the material submitted to the Council produces the impression that the sense of security has been seriously shaken in certain minority circles, which is explained by the facts set forth in the petition. However, the material also shows that this uneasiness is chiefly due to the manner in which certain newspapers presented the murder and that this uneasiness has been increased by the fact that the guilty persons—although as a result of a general amnesty—have been released. In the supplementary observations which it has submitted on the petition, the German Government has communicated to the Council information which, I hope, will tranquillise the atmosphere. I would remind my colleagues, in particular, that it has made it quite clear to the population by means of the official Press service that no punishable act will be excused or tolerated. I venture to express the hope that the attitude of the authorities in Upper Silesia—a territory with a mixed population—will always be such as will enable the minority to have full confidence in them and that they will use all the means at their disposal to ensure that the political atmosphere in this territory is in conformity with the spirit in which the minorities clauses of the Convention were conceived."

The Council associated itself with these observations. (Council Minutes, seventy-sixth session, fourth meeting; seventy-seventh session, third meeting.)

6. Petition from M. Gustav Koziolek, dated August 29th, 1932, concerning his Personal Situation.

The Council, on May 26th, 1933, decided to adjourn its examination of this petition until the Polish Government could communicate the text of a decision which the Supreme Administrative Tribunal of Warsaw had been called upon to take in regard to the matter. The Council, on January 18th, 1934, noting that the text of the decision had been communicated to its Rapporteur, decided on his recommendation to close its examination of the petition. (Council Minutes, seventy-eighth session, third meeting.)

7. Petition of the "Deutscher Volksbund", dated July 14th, 1933, concerning the Measure taken by the Polish Authorities against Two Newspapers.

The "Deutscher Volksbund" addressed to the Council a petition, complaining that two newspapers published in German in the Voivodie of Silesia had, on numerous occasions, been confiscated during the months of April and May 1933, under decisions taken by the District Court of Katowice in application of certain articles of the Criminal Code. The articles of the Criminal Code under which action was taken were designed, among other things, to prevent the encouragement of criminal acts and the publication of false news liable to disturb public peace. The petitioner represented that the provisions of the Criminal Code had been wrongly applied.

The Polish Government urged that it was necessary to consider the general situation in Upper Silesia during the period of the confiscations; the excitement prevailing on the other side of the frontier had made it necessary for the Polish authorities to exercise increased vigilance in order to prevent any disturbance of public tranquillity. The Polish Government drew attention to the fact that, not only had action been taken against minority papers, but that articles printed in the Polish Press had also been prohibited.

The Council, after reviewing the facts of the case, confined itself to noting the observations of the Polish Government. (Council Minutes, seventy-eighth session, fifth meeting.)

B. APPEAL TO THE COUNCIL UNDER ARTICLE 149 OF THE CONVENTION.

Appeal of the "Deutscher Volksbund", dated April 28th, 1933, concerning the Case of M. Ernest Pietsch.

The Polish delegation accredited to the League of Nations forwarded to the Council on July 6th, 1933, an appeal addressed by the "Deutscher Volksbund" to the Minorities Office at Katowice concerning the personal situation of M. Ernest Pietsch. The appeal was submitted under Article 157 of the German-Polish Convention relating to Upper Silesia of May 15th, 1922.

M. Ernest Pietsch, prior to June 30th, 1927, had for some twenty years been Chief Director of Mines of the Joint Stock Company of Zjednoczone Huty Krolewska i Laura. He had, on June 30th, 1927, been compelled to leave his position owing, as he alleged, to pressure exercised on the supervisory board of the company by the Voivode of Silesia and by the head of the Trade and Industry Department of the Voivodeship.

The case had been examined by the President of the Mixed Commission for Upper Silesia, who, on June 9th, 1932, had issued an opinion to the effect that the complaint of the petitioner was justified as regarded the character of the intervention of the administrative authorities.

The Council, on September 29th, 1933, concurred in the opinion of the President of the Mixed Commission. No action on the appeal was necessary, since M. Pietsch had, by friendly agreement, accepted a pension and substantial compensation for his dismissal and had waived all his rights under his contract of employment.
V. PROTECTION OF MINORITIES IN IRAQ.

The Catholic Patriarch of the Assyrians, Eshai Mar Shimun, on July 31st, 1933, appealed to the League of Nations on behalf of the Assyrians of Iraq, alleging that the Assyrian minority in Iraq had been subjected to treatment which was contrary to the obligations assumed by the Government of Iraq at the moment of the entry of Iraq into the League.

The Government of Iraq, on August 6th, 1933, asked the Secretary-General to communicate to the Members of the Council and to States Members of the League a protest against the attitude and conduct of the Assyrian Patriarch. It stated that 1,000 Assyrians had crossed into Syrian mandated territory. They had subsequently returned to Iraq and there had been further encounters with the Iraqi forces. The steps taken by the Government of Iraq to restore order had resulted in a serious loss of life and destruction of property.

The Assyrian Patriarch, on August 17th, 1933, declared that Assyrian women and children had been massacred by Kurdish tribes armed by the Government of Iraq, and called for immediate action by the League.

On August 31st, a Minorities Committee of the Council, consisting of the representatives of Mexico, the Irish Free State and Norway, asked that the question should be placed on the agenda of the Council. The situation of the Assyrian minority in Iraq was considered by the Council on October 4th, 1933, in the light of further communications received from the Assyrian Patriarch and of written and oral statements submitted by the representative of the Government of Iraq.

The representative of Iraq allowed that excesses had been committed, but added that his Government would take all possible steps to prevent their recurrence and was doing its utmost to compensate the victims. He expressed the view that the situation was no longer susceptible of a local remedy and that the Assyrians could not live in peace with their neighbours after what had occurred. His Government was therefore prepared to accept a solution which consisted in finding outside Iraq a new home for the Assyrian emigrants who desired to leave the country, and it was prepared to contribute generously to the expenses of such a scheme.

The Council did not feel that it was in a position to form an accurate idea of the confused and complicated events which had occurred in Iraq. It was clear, however, that a section of the Assyrian population of Iraq did not regard it as permanently and finally incorporated in the State of Iraq and would prefer to leave the country if it were given the indispensable facilities and reasonable guarantees that its departure and resettlement in another country would be effected under satisfactory conditions. The Council accordingly appointed a committee of six members, with instructions to consider whether the establishment of the Assyrians outside Iraq was possible in practice and, if so, to take, in close co-operation with the Iraqi Government, all such steps as it might think fit with a view to the preparation and execution of a detailed scheme of settlement. It was understood that the Government of Iraq would keep the Committee regularly informed of the measures taken to ensure the safety of the Assyrians in Iraq, to assist the families left destitute and to rebuild the villages which had been wholly or partially destroyed.

The Committee appointed by the Council consisted of the representatives of Spain, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Denmark and Mexico. It met for the first time on October 27th and held periodical meetings during November and December 1933. It got into touch with the Government of Iraq with a view to appointing a local body consisting of officials of the Iraqi Government and the heads of the Assyrian villages concerned. It was understood that the local body would explain to the Assyrians the exact meaning of the decision of the Council and further assure them that a Committee of the Council was actively considering plans for the application of that decision. Further, it was the duty of the local body to ascertain what persons desired to leave the country and to take all necessary steps for their departure.

The main task of the Committee of the Council, however, was to find land for the settlement of the Assyrians and, with this object in view, it got into touch with the Governments of States which appeared to offer possibilities of immigration. It also applied for assistance to the Nansen Office for Refugees. The Nansen Office, in agreement with the Committee, approached several large colonisation companies and, in particular, the Paraná Plantations, Limited, owning vast tracks of land in Brazil. This company submitted a comprehensive plan of settlement.

The Committee then approached the Government of Brazil, enquiring whether it was prepared to authorise the settlement of the Assyrian population on its territory. The Brazilian Government informed the Chairman of the Committee on January 9th, 1934, that it was prepared, subject to certain conditions, to accept the whole of the Assyrians in groups of 500 families per month as and when the Paraná Plantations, Limited, was able to provide for their settlement.

The Committee accordingly recommended the Council to arrange for an investigation to be made on the spot with a view to ascertaining that the land selected would meet the special needs of the Assyrian population. The Council, on January 9th, approved this suggestion. The mission was entrusted to Brigadier-General Browne (British), who had a thorough knowledge of Assyrians and had lived for a long time in Iraq in close touch with them. Brigadier-General Browne was assisted in his task by M. Redard, Counsellor of the Swiss Legation in Rio de Janeiro, and Mr. Johnson, Secretary-General of the Nansen Office.

The Council, on January 9th, 1934, expressed its gratitude to the Brazilian Government for offering to admit the Assyrians to its territory. It noted, in reference to the difficult problem of financing the scheme of settlement, that the Government of Iraq was prepared to make a
generous contribution. It authorised the Committee of the Council, however, to study carefully the question of a payment of part of the expenditure by the Assyrian population itself and accepted a proposal of the Committee that an appeal should be made to the generosity of Governments and certain private organisations to make up any possible deficiencies. The Council noted in this connection that the United Kingdom Government had announced its willingness to make a contribution provided such payment might be regarded as part of a general scheme of the League of Nations.

The Mission of Enquiry left for Brazil in January, where they remained from February 12th to April 8th, 1934, keeping in close touch with the Committee of the Council, which met on March 26th and March 27th, 1934, and on April 9th and April 10th, 1934. The report of the Mission was formally placed before the Committee of the Council on May 7th, 1934.

The Mission of Enquiry inspected settlements already established upon the estate of the Paraná Plantations, Limited, and ascertained that, from the point of view of climate, settlement conditions and suitability for the raising of live-stock, the land was entirely satisfactory. The Mission, moreover, ascertained that previous settlers had succeeded in becoming self-supporting within about eight months after their arrival in the country. It came to the conclusion that the Assyrians would, in normal circumstances, be equally successful and would probably have no difficulty in repaying the expenses of land purchase, settlement and transport within a period of twelve years. The Mission further satisfied itself that, in respect of diet, medical attention, educational facilities and freedom for the practice of their religion, satisfactory arrangements might be made without serious difficulty.

The Mission summed up its conclusions in the following terms:

"The position as regards the scheme for settlement in Paraná is that the Brazilian Government, when made aware of the grave problem with which the Council of the League is faced, declared, in January last, its readiness in principle to accept the Assyrians. Before proceeding further, the Committee felt it necessary to assure itself that the Assyrians could be expected to adapt themselves to conditions in Paraná and to develop into an element useful to Brazil. As a result of Brigadier-General Browne’s Mission, it is now satisfied that, given goodwill, initiative and energy on the part of the Assyrians, which there is no reason to doubt, there is every cause to believe that they would thrive in the area concerned. The transfer of so large a population raises, however, problems more difficult than is generally realised and it is yet too early for the Committee to express an opinion whether the scheme for settlement in Brazil can be put into effect. The next step will be to enter into detailed negotiations with the Brazilian Government as soon as circumstances permit in the hope of working out a plan acceptable to that Government."

Meanwhile the Committee of the Council was in continuous touch with the Iraqi Government, which was keeping it informed of the situation of the Assyrians in Iraq. The Iraqi Government was maintaining some 1,500 persons, mostly women and children, rendered destitute by the events of August 1933 in a camp at Mosul. A large number of Assyrians, moreover, who had fled to Mosul had proved unwilling to return to their villages and were living mainly on the charity of their relatives and friends.

The Committee received communications from the Government of Iraq concerning the measures of security and relief taken during the months of December 1933 and January and February 1934 by the Iraqi Government on behalf of the Assyrians who had returned to their villages which they had previously abandoned, and it decided to accede to a request received from the representative of Iraq that it should help to relieve the situation by sending a message to these Assyrians recommending them to pursue their normal life. The message was despatched to the representative of Iraq on April 9th, 1934. The Assyrians were warned of the many difficulties to be overcome before a suitable home was found for them outside the country and all the necessary arrangements completed. They were urged to be patient and not to dispose of their household goods, crops and flocks until the question of their future home had been finally determined.

The Committee, in sending this message, pointed out, in its communication to the representative of Iraq, that the measure in which the Assyrians were likely to respond to its advice would necessarily depend on the steps taken by the Government of Iraq to ensure their security and, in authorising the communication of the message, it declared that it relied implicitly on the Iraqi Government to take all possible measures for the welfare and protection of the Assyrians and for the maintenance of stability and order in the districts where they might reside until emigration should be possible.

The Council, on May 17th, 1934, adopted the conclusions of the report submitted by the Committee and requested it to continue its efforts in helping the Government of Iraq to find a solution of the problem as rapidly as possible. (Council Minutes, seventy-sixth session, fourth meeting.)

VI. EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS BY MINORITIES COMMITTEES.

The procedure in force for minorities petitions has been regularly applied in the period under review. Minorities committees have met, not only during the sessions of the Council, but in the intervals between them. Whenever the examination of a petition was closed without
the members of the respective committees asking that it should be placed on the Council agenda, the other Members of the Council were informed by letter of the results of the examination. In a certain number of cases, with the assent of the Government concerned, the result was published in conformity with the resolution of the Council on June 13th, 1929, by the insertion of the letters in the *Official Journal* of the League.

Under the same resolution, the *Official Journal* has also published statistics relating to the number of petitions received by the Secretariat of the League of Nations during the year 1932-33, the number of petitions declared to be non-receivable, the number of petitions declared receivable and referred to Committees of Three, the number of committees dealing with petitions, the number of meetings held by the committees for the examination of petitions and the number of petitions whose examination by the Committees of Three has been finished in the course of the year 1932-33.

5.

MANDATES.

The report of the Permanent Mandates Commission on the work of its twenty-third session, held at Geneva from June 19th to July 1st, 1933, in which it reviewed the administration of Palestine and Transjordan for 1932, Syria and the Lebanon for 1932, Tanganyika for 1932, South West Africa for 1932 and New Guinea for 1931-32, was submitted to the Council on September 28th, 1933.

The Commission held its twenty-fourth session at Geneva from October 23rd to November 4th, 1933, when it reviewed the administration of the mandated territories of Syria and the Lebanon, the Cameroons and Togoland under British mandate, the Cameroons and Togoland under French mandate, Ruanda-Urundi, the islands under Japanese mandate and Western Samoa. The Commission also examined a report submitted by the United Kingdom Government on the administration of Iraq during the period January 10th to October 3rd, 1932, the date on which the mandate for Iraq came to an end. The report of the Commission on the work of its twenty-fourth session was considered and approved by the Council on January 17th, 1934.

I. GENERAL QUESTIONS.

1. INFLUENCE OF THE CINEMATOGRAPH ON NATIVE POPULATIONS.

The Mandates Commission, in the report submitted to the Council on September 28th, 1933, expressed the view that the influence of the cinematograph on native populations was a problem which should receive the closest attention of the mandatory Powers, and it endorsed a proposal that they should be invited to submit information in regard to it.

The Council accordingly recommended the mandatory Powers to communicate to the Secretary-General, for the use of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute at Rome, any data based on facts brought to light in the mandated territories which might assist the Institute in prosecuting an enquiry into the use of the cinematograph among races of various mentalities and civilisations. (Report adopted by the Council, document C.496.I933. V.)

2. STATISTICAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE TERRITORIES UNDER MANDATE.

On January 25th, 1932, the Council requested the mandatory Powers to check and complete a revised edition, compiled by the Secretariat, of tables showing the trade, public finances and population of the mandated territories. The Council, in September 1933, asked the Secretary-General to circulate this revised edition to Members of the League and to publish it. (Document C.496.I933.V.)

3. TABLES OF BILATERAL CONVENTIONS APPLIED IN TERRITORIES UNDER MANDATE.

The Council, in September 1933, noted that the mandatory Powers had unanimously consented to the publication of tables showing the bilateral Conventions applied in mandated territories. It decided, however, on the recommendation of the Mandates Commission, to postpone the publication of this document for reasons of economy. (Document C.496.I933.V.)

II. SPECIAL QUESTIONS.

1. QUESTION OF A CLOSER ADMINISTRATIVE, CUSTOMS AND FISCAL UNION OF THE MANDATED TERRITORY OF TANGANYIKA WITH THE NEIGHBOURING BRITISH POSSESSIONS OF KENYA AND UGANDA.

The Mandates Commission, in July 1933, noted that the Government of the United Kingdom was of opinion that the time was not yet ripe for the introduction of a closer political or
constitutional union of the mandated territory of Tanganyika with the neighbouring British possessions of Kenya and Uganda. The mandatory Power had, however, decided to resort more frequently to a Conference of Governors of the different territories of East Africa for the purpose of ensuring closer co-operation and co-ordination in matters of common interest to the territories concerned.

The Commission, in the light of these developments, expressed the view, in its report to the Council in September 1933, that a political or constitutional union of the mandated territory with the neighbouring territories could not be carried out as long as the present mandate was in force, while a majority of its members considered that any measures tending during that period towards a de facto establishment of such a union should be avoided.

The Council devoted special attention to the question. The Italian representative observed that the Permanent Mandates Commission had confirmed the views expressed by the Italian Government when the problem had first come up for consideration before the Council in 1929.

The terms of the B mandates authorised a union such as might facilitate the administration of a mandated territory by uniting it with a big administration already in existence; but such a measure must not be incompatible with any provision of the mandate or be at variance with its general spirit and purpose. The Italian Government could hardly admit that an arrangement under which a mandated territory with an area of 1,000,000 square kilometres would be united with territories which, taken together, covered less than 800,000 square kilometres was in conformity with this intention.

The United Kingdom representative emphasised that the whole discussion related rather to preoccupations about the future than to doubts either about the past or present. The mandatory Power neither had done anything nor would do anything which would constitute a breach of the mandate, and it seemed undesirable to discuss in the abstract hypothetical problems and solutions.

The German representative noted that the views expressed by the Mandates Commission largely endorsed the opinion which the German Government had from the first maintained. The whole mandates system was based on the assumption that the mandated territories constituted international and independent units and he therefore welcomed the declaration of the Mandates Commission that, in future, any fusion of services should be avoided if there were any possibility of it leading to a gradual realisation of a result which had, in principle, been condemned.

Two petitions disputing the legitimacy of the amalgamation of the postal services of Tanganyika with those of Kenya and Uganda, to which the Mandates Commission had directed special attention, were also considered by the Council on September 28th, 1933. The Council confirmed a suggestion that the mandatory Power should communicate to the Commission the documents referring to the amalgamation and any other information which might help the Commission to estimate from year to year the effects of the step which had been taken on the efficiency of the postal service, the finances of the territory and its autonomy. (Annual Report on the Work of the League, document A.6(a).1933; Report adopted by the Council, document C.406.1933.VI; Council Minutes, September 28th, 1933; Minutes of the Twenty-third Session of the Permanent Mandates Commission, document C.406.M.209.1933.VI.)

2. EQUALITY IN RESPECT OF SUCCESSION RIGHTS IN SYRIA.

The Permanent Mandates Commission, during its twenty-third session, in considering a petition regarding the application of Syrian law in a succession case, while rejecting the petition, found it necessary to call the attention of the Council to the fact that the law applied in this instance appeared contrary to the principle of equality of rights. Difference of nationality had been eliminated as an obstacle to the enjoyment of succession rights in Syria in 1930, but sex was still a valid obstacle under the law.

The French representative on the Council pointed out that the legal question had been completely settled by the highest judicial authority in Syria. The Mandates Commission had, however, criticised the law under which judgment had been given and regretted that this law was still valid. The mandatory Power was maintaining the law of the Koran, which France had undertaken to administer and which had even been incorporated, particularly in matters of succession, in the customary law of the Christian communities established in Syria. The mandatory Power was under a definite obligation to guarantee the customary law of the land, and it was necessary to exercise the utmost prudence in preparing for a progressive and methodical adaptation of this law to ideas more in conformity with the principles applied in western countries. France, moreover, had already introduced a freedom of bequest which, in practice, made it possible, for anyone who so desired, to depart from the strict rules of Koran law. (Council Minutes, September 28th, 1933.)

3. FRONTIER BETWEEN SYRIA AND PALESTINE: WESTERN SECTION.

The Permanent Mandates Commission, during its twenty-third session, in its observations to the Council on the administration of Palestine, referred to a promise made at a meeting of the Council on January 30th, 1932, by the representatives of France and the United Kingdom, to the effect that the two mandatory Powers would communicate for approval at the earliest possible date the provisions of an agreement, made on March 27th, 1923, concerning the frontier between Syria and the Lebanon and Palestine. The purpose of this agreement was to establish the exact line of the western section of the boundary between the territories
detached from the former Ottoman Empire and placed under British and French mandates, as defined in the Franco-British Convention of December 23rd, 1920.

The Governments of the United Kingdom and France, in a joint letter dated February 15th, 1934, addressed to the Secretary-General of the League, expressed their conviction that, in refraining from asking the approval of the Council in this matter, no necessary measures on their part had been overlooked. The two Governments had, however, decided, in deference to the wish of the Council, without prejudice to their view on the legal question involved, to submit the Agreement of March 7th, 1923, for the approval of the Council.

The Council, in a resolution adopted on May 14th, 1934, declared its willingness to examine the Agreement with a view to its approval, and invited the Permanent Mandates Commission to inform it as soon as possible of its opinion on the line fixed by the Agreement from the point of view of the execution of the mandate.

The representative of the United Kingdom, supported by the representative of France, raised no objection to this decision, but doubted whether a reference to the Permanent Mandates Commission was really necessary. He called special attention to a paragraph in the Rapporteur's report, in which it was stated that the Agreement for which approval was requested was dated over ten years back and that its provisions did not seem to have given rise to any objection, either on the part of the populations concerned, or of third States, or of Members of the Council or of the Permanent Mandates Commission.

The Commission accordingly refrained from expressing any definite opinion on recent administrative and political developments in the mandated territory, considering it premature to express an opinion until more definite data as to the policy of the mandatory Power was available and the results of the negotiations then in progress were known. It hoped that the mandatory Power would keep it informed of the development of the situation.

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III. ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORIES UNDER MANDATE.

REPORT BY THE PERMANENT MANDATES COMMISSION ON THE WORK
OF ITS TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION, OCTOBER 23RD TO NOVEMBER 4TH, 1933.

TERRITORIES UNDER A MANDATE.

1. Administration of Iraq during the Period January 1st-October 3rd, 1932.

The Government of the United Kingdom submitted a report to the Permanent Mandates Commission on the administration of Iraq during the period January 1st to October 3rd, 1932, the date on which the mandatory system in that territory came to an end and Iraq was admitted to the League.

The Commission, while reviewing the administration of the ex-mandatory Power and obtaining verbal information from its accredited representative, refrained from submitting to the Council any detailed observations. (Permanent Mandates Commission : Minutes of the Twenty-second Session, document C.772.M.364.1932.VI ; Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Session, document C.619.M.292.1933.VI.)

2. SYRIA AND THE LEBANON.

The annual report for Syria and the Lebanon was examined by the Mandates Commission in June 1933, during its twenty-third session. The Commission, however, decided to submit its observations on the report at its autumn session, after hearing the statements of the High Commissioner for Syria and the Lebanon, as suggested by the mandatory Power.

M. Ponsot, High Commissioner for Syria and the Lebanon, however, prior to the autumn session, was transferred to another post, and the accredited representative of the mandatory Power, in the absence of the High Commissioner, felt obliged to maintain a certain reserve. The Commission accordingly refrained from expressing any definite opinion on recent administrative and political developments in the mandated territory, considering it premature to express an opinion until more definite data as to the policy of the mandatory Power was available and the results of the negotiations then in progress were known. It hoped that the mandatory Power would keep it informed of the development of the situation.

It expressed the view, however, as a result of its examination of a series of petitions relating to the general organisation of the Levant territories under French mandate, that the creation in Syria of a unitary State in which no part would enjoy local autonomy or the grant of full independence to any part of the mandated territory which was not Syria or the Lebanon would be contrary to the fundamental charter of the mandate.

Reference was made by members of the Commission to the suppression by the mandatory Government of corrupt practices and the use of influence in the Government services of the Lebanon. Enquiries and judicial investigations had been undertaken and persons arrested pending trial. Most of the cases, however, had been dismissed, as it was difficult to secure evidence that would satisfy the courts. The Commission, in its report to the Council, deplored the acts of corruption and traffic in influence to which its attention had been drawn, and expressed the hope that the mandatory Power would be able to put a stop to them.

The Commission discussed at some length the question of equality of rights guaranteed to all Syrians under the Syrian Constitution, which provides that they shall be on the same footing before the law and that there shall be absolute freedom of conscience and respect for the free exercise of any form of worship consistent with public order and good morals. Free access of all Syrians to public employment is also explicitly assured. The attention of the accredited representative was drawn to certain statements which appeared to indicate that these provisions were not always respected. Reference was made, in particular, to cases...
where Moslems converted to Christianity had been obliged to leave their native towns in order to reach safety. The accredited representative emphasised the difficulties which arose from ancient customs based on religious inequalities, but his attention was drawn to the incompatibility of such a situation with the terms of the mandate.

The Commission, in its report to the Council, regretted to note that the application of Syrian legislation prescribing equality before the law was still sometimes impeded through the absence of a spirit of toleration on the part of the local authorities.

The Commission expressed the hope that the measures taken for the preservation of the forests and re-afforestation would be intensified.

The French representative on the Council assured his colleagues at the meeting on January 17th, 1934, that the observations of the Commission would receive the closest attention on the part of his Government. (Mandates Commission: Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Session, document C.619.M.292.1933.VI; Minutes of the Twenty-third Session, document C.406.M.209.1933.VI; Council Minutes, January 17th, 1934.)

Territories under B Mandate.

i. The Cameroons and Togoland under British Mandate.

The Commission noted with anxiety that the natives of the two territories were becoming increasingly addicted to illicit distilling and hoped that the mandatory Power would indicate steps for dealing with the practice. The accredited representative informed the Commission that the Administration was doing all it could to suppress illicit distilling and that many offenders had been caught.

The attention of the Commission was directed to the position of women in the Cameroons, which, according to various sources, was unsatisfactory in the Cameroons, both under the French and British mandates. The missionary societies had drawn attention to many grievances and there was an impression that the Administration was apathetic in dealing with the situation. The accredited representative affirmed that the problem was engaging the attention of the Administration, and the Commission noted that it was the settled policy of the mandatory Power to improve the condition of women in the territory.

The attention of the Commission was drawn to certain regulations made under a Minerals Ordinance of 1932, under which a duty of 50 per cent was levied on exports of tin ore, except in cases where the exporter furnished proof that the mineral exported would be treated in the United Kingdom or in a British possession. The Ordinance apparently applied, not only to Nigeria, but to the Cameroons under British mandate.

The accredited representative observed that there were no tin mines in the Cameroons, so that the Ordinance did not in fact apply. The Commission nevertheless raised the question whether this regulation could be regarded as compatible with the principle of economic equality, and the United Kingdom representative on the Council, when the report of the Commission came up for consideration on January 17th, 1934, intimated that the Government of the United Kingdom would amend the regulation to which its attention had been drawn.

The Commission further expressed the hope that the Administration would take steps to ensure adequate medical treatment for native labourers on European plantations in the Cameroons, and that the northern area would be provided with a medical staff of its own.

Togoland.

The attention of the Commission was drawn to the administrative re-organisation of the territory of the northern section of Togoland under British mandate, whereby certain regions had been re-incorporated in the three native States of Mamprussi, Dagomba and Gonja (Gold Coast). These regions had been separated from the native States when the boundaries between the Gold Coast and German Togoland had been delimited. The question was raised whether the action of the mandatory authorities might not infringe the territorial integrity of the mandated territory. The accredited representative observed that the areas re-incorporated would still politically be quite separate. The territorial advantage, moreover, would be with the mandated territory. It was realised that the question would only become of importance in the event of the emancipation of the territory, which might, as a result of these measures, involve a further dismemberment of the three native States. The Commission intimated that it would be glad to receive an assurance that the territorial integrity of the mandated territory would in no event be imperilled.

The Commission noted with satisfaction a statement contained in the annual report of the mandatory Power that the sums paid by the Gold Coast Colony to cover the deficits in the budget of the mandated territory of Togoland were regarded as grants-in-aid which the mandatory Power did not intend to recover.

The Commission asked that a clear statement might be submitted showing which ordinances of the Gold Coast applied to the northern and southern portions of Togoland under British mandate.
It expressed the hope that the mandatory Power would be able to develop education in the northern section of Togoland and hoped that the next report of the mandatory Power would indicate whether the recent investigations into sleeping-sickness had resulted in any special measures being taken by the Administration. (Mandates Commission, Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Session, document C.619.M.292.1933.VI; Council Minutes, January 17th, 1934.)

2. The Cameroons and Togoland under French Mandate.

The Commission noted a law, dated August 6th, 1933, under which the right to a bounty instituted by a law of March 31st, 1931, was made conditional, in the case of traffic served directly or indirectly by a French line, upon transport under the French flag of the colonial products enjoying the bounty. The view was expressed in the Commission that such an arrangement amounted to a preferential treatment of the French merchant marine to the detriment of other merchant shipping and was consequently incompatible with the terms of the mandate. The Commission hoped that it would receive full reassurance in the matter.

The Commission, while appreciating the efforts made by the mandatory Power to explain the financial administration of the two territories, expressed the hope that the chapter of the annual report dealing with finance would in future be simplified and presented in a more comprehensible form. The Commission noted that budget equilibrium had been maintained in the Cameroons owing to rigorous measures of economy.

The accredited representative informed the Mandates Commission that the French Government had studied the question of educational films and that such films were actually being shown in mandated territory. The Government was endeavouring to organise a central service for the distribution of educational films in the French Colonies and the Governor had instituted a censorship of films. The Commission expressed the hope that it would be kept informed of the results of these measures.

The Commission asked for further information in future reports regarding the illicit distillation of alcohol by the natives in Togoland under French mandate.

The Commission noted with satisfaction that the mandatory Power had taken measures to determine the rights of the natives in respect of land and that it intended to supplement these measures by a system of registration.

The French representative on the Council assured his colleagues, at the meeting on January 17th, 1934, that the observations of the Commission would receive the closest attention on the part of his Government.

The Commission examined petitions dated February 13th, 1933, and August 15th, 1933, relating to the incident which occurred at Lome in January 1933, together with the observations of the mandatory Power.

Towards the end of 1932, there was unrest in Togoland owing to the imposition of new taxes and certain adjustments made by the authorities in existing fiscal arrangements. This unrest gave rise to serious disorders and material damage assessed at 88,000 francs. It was clear to the Commission from the observations of the mandatory Power that the disorders had not been of a spontaneous origin, but had been provoked by a wealthy native element affected by the new taxes and that the ringleaders had used the new measures of taxation to excite the population against the notables.

The Commission decided that the petitions called for no special action on the part of the Council, noting that in the circumstances the local authorities of the mandatory Power had taken only such measures as the maintenance of order in the territory seemed to render necessary. (Mandates Commission, Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Session, document C.619.M.292.1933.VI; Council Minutes, January 17th, 1934.)

3. Ruanda-Urundi.

The attention of the Commission was directed to a modification in the territorial organisation of the territory under an Ordinance dated March 17th, 1932.

The accredited representative explained that the object of the re-organisation was to ensure that the new administrative districts should coincide with the native provinces and chiefdoms. The Administration had tried to effect a concentration of States and communities and the chiefs had willingly concurred in the arrangement.

Reference was made to the fact that there had recently been a considerable number of depositions of chiefs and petty chiefs. The annual report for 1932 showed, in particular, that this process still continued. The accredited representative stated that, now that the re-organisation of the territory was completed, there would be greater stability. A chief was only deposed after his case had been carefully considered and such depositions did not arouse any strong public feeling. Every effort was being made to reconcile the interests of education and progress with native custom. The natives desired chiefs of noble blood, and the mandatory Power had accordingly organised at Nyanza a school for the sons of chiefs, and the new chiefs were educated men.

The Commission, in its report to the Council, intimated that it would continue to follow with interest the progress made in the work of re-organisation.

The Commission carefully examined the financial relations between Ruanda-Urundi, Belgium and the Belgian Congo. It expressed concern at the precarious financial situation of the territory and, in particular, at the burden it would be called upon to bear in future. The floating debt, which had been 6½ million francs in 1930, stood, in 1932, at 703 million francs, and the mandated territory owed large sums to the Belgian Congo and Belgium. The
Commission expressed the hope that the mandatory Power would find effective means of dealing with this situation and asked for detailed information as to the financial policy which the mandatory Power was proposing to follow.

The Commission noted a statement by the mandatory Power on the results of the Customs union between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo on the economic and financial situation of the territory. It hoped that, in future reports, it would be kept informed of the development of the Customs policy of the Administration and its effects on the territory.

The Commission congratulated the mandatory Power on the measures taken to prevent famine in the mandated territory and on the results achieved.

The Commission observed that the mandatory Power had introduced a new system of piece-work in Ruanda. Certain companies divided up their estates into parcels which they distributed to the natives for ploughing. The natives, knowing they would receive a fixed amount for each parcel, were encouraged to plough as many parcels as possible and had expressed their satisfaction with the arrangement. The Commission intimated that it would follow with interest the results of this form of labour.

The Commission hoped that the mandatory Power would endeavour to increase the number of doctors in the territory. It noted that measures had been taken to deal with sleeping-sickness which, in the opinion of the mandatory Power, would not fail to produce results in the very near future. (Mandates Commission, Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Session, document C.619.M.292.1933.VI; Council Minutes, January 17th, 1934.)

**Territories under C Mandate.**

1. *Islands under Japanese Mandate.*

The Commission, noting the increasing frequency of tuberculosis, particularly in the island of Yap, hoped that the mandatory Power would consider the possibility of combating this endemic disease by all appropriate means.

The attention of the Commission was directed to a considerable increase in Japanese emigration. It was concerned to note that the native population had remained stationary and had even declined in numbers in certain of the islands and it hoped that appropriate measures would be taken by the mandatory Power to deal with this situation. (Mandates Commission, Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Session, document C.619.M.292.1933.VI; Council Minutes, January 17th, 1934.)

2. *Western Samoa.*

The Commission noted that British certificates of naturalisation had been granted to native Samoans, and it asked for detailed information in the next annual report regarding the conditions under which the various categories of inhabitants of the mandated territory might acquire New Zealand nationality.

The Commission, reviewing the general political situation in the mandated territory, enquired whether there was still any restlessness among the population and to what extent it was co-operating with the Administration. It hoped that the next reports would contain further details as to the political situation.

The accredited representative assured the Commission that there was no active trouble for the moment. The native organisations were not carrying on any political activity or levying taxes independently of the Administration.

The Commission noted with satisfaction that larger appropriations had, in 1932, been made for the public health services. (Mandates Commission, Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Session, document C.619.M.292.1933.VI; Council Minutes, January 17th, 1934.)

3. *South West Africa.*

The Commission examined petitions dated March 5th and June 8th, 1933, from M. Eichhoff, together with the observations of the Government of the Union of South Africa upon them. These petitions were the sequel to others submitted by the same person in December 1932 and February 1933. The petitioner claimed compensation for losses of stock raided by the Hereros and complained that he had been denied protection owing to his German nationality.

The Commission, in June 1933, expressed the opinion that the petitioner, in acquiring a farm on the borders of the Hereros Reserve, must be presumed as being ready to face the risks involved and that his claim to compensation was not valid. It noted that a deputation of Hereros had asked for the farm as an extension to their Reserve and that the petitioner was willing to take other land in exchange.

This recommendation was endorsed by the Council in September 1933, and the Commission expressed the hope that the mandatory Power might find it possible, in the interest alike of the petitioner and of the Hereros, to carry this arrangement into effect. (Mandates Commission, Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Session, document C.619.M.292.1933.VI; Council Minutes, January 17th, 1934.)
The Assembly, on October 12th, 1932, decided that an Advisory Committee of Experts on Slavery should be set up and defined its competence and duties. The Advisory Committee was to consist of seven members chosen solely for their special knowledge of slavery questions. The duties of the Committee, which was to meet once every two years if necessary, were to be strictly advisory, and it was to have no powers of supervision. It would study and examine the documents supplied or forwarded by Governments to the Secretariat of the League. It would not be authorised to consult organisations or persons on facts concerning slavery, and any complaints or observations from such persons or organisations must reach it through the intermediary of their respective Governments. It was to submit a report to the Council on the conclusion of each session, and it would be for the Council to decide whether the whole or part of the report should be published.

The Assembly, on October 11th, 1933, voted the necessary credits to enable the Advisory Committee to begin its work in 1934. The appropriation made in the budget was intended to enable the Advisory Committee to hold, in the course of that financial year, a single session devoted to framing its rules of procedure.

The Council, on October 12th, 1933, appointed the following members to sit on the Advisory Committee: M. Albrecht GOHR, Belgian; Sir George MAXWELL, English; Mme. Isabel OYARZABAL DE PALENCIA, Spanish; M. MARCHAND, French; Commendatore Tullio ZEDDA, Italian; M. NEIJTZELL DE WILDE, Dutch; and M. José D'ALMADA, Portuguese.

The Advisory Committee met for its first session from January 8th to January 10th, 1934. It framed its rules of procedure, which were reviewed and approved by the Council on January 19th, 1934. M. Gohr was elected Chairman, and M. Neijtzell de Wilde, Vice-Chairman, of the Committee.

The Committee, in its report to the Council, stated that the rules of procedure had been drawn up in strict conformity with the indications contained in the resolution adopted by the Assembly in 1932. Article 13, in particular, defines the ordinary duty of the Advisory Committee in the following terms:

"During each ordinary session, the Committee:

(a) Will study and examine the documents supplied or transmitted by the Governments since its last session;

(b) Will study, on the basis of such documents and of the special knowledge of its members, the facts and institutions mentioned in Article 1 of the Convention of 1926 and their rôle in the social system;

(c) Will study the means of gradually abolishing these institutions or customs or of causing them to develop in such a way as to deprive them of any objectionable features.

If a country where slavery exists asks for financial assistance from the League of Nations in settling questions relating to the abolition of slavery, the Committee shall, at the request of the Council, examine the objects for which this financial assistance is requested, the minimum amount necessary and the guarantees offered."

The Council instructed the Secretary-General to communicate the rules of procedure of the Advisory Committee to the States Members of the League and to the non-member States parties to the Slavery Convention of 1926. It reaffirmed the hope expressed by the Assembly, in 1932, that the competent organs of the League would be kept informed of the measures which the Governments continued to take for the total abolition of the slave-trade and of slavery in its different forms, and it authorised the Secretary-General to communicate to the Advisory Committee the documents forwarded by Governments in accordance with the terms of the Convention of 1926 and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly on the subject of slavery. The representative of the United Kingdom hoped that the Advisory Committee would be able to hold its first effective session early in 1935, and he made an urgent appeal to the Governments to furnish the Advisory Committee with the information which would enable it to carry out its essential task.

The representative of Spain, while recognising that the rules of procedure framed by the Advisory Committee were closely based upon definite recommendations of the Assembly, hoped that it would, in the course of its future work, come to the conclusion that these rules were somewhat too narrow, observing in this connection that Article 1 consisted of a series of negations: the Committee was strictly advisory and it had no powers of supervision; the question of forced or compulsory labour lay outside its province; it might not receive depositions other than those transmitted by Governments.

The representative of the United Kingdom, acting as rapporteur, observed that the rules of procedure as drawn up were, in fact, in strict compliance with the Assembly decisions,
and that the work of the Advisory Committee would necessarily depend on the extent to which the Governments themselves took advantage of the machinery thus established. He added that, if the response of the Governments should be inadequate, the Assembly might find it necessary to extend the authority of the Committee.

7.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL WORK.

A. SECTION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

I. GENERAL WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE.

The Economic Committee, reconstituted by the Council in October, met for a short session from November 14th to November 17th, 1933. This was the first meeting of the Committee since June 1933, immediately prior to the Monetary and Economic Conference.

The meeting in November was almost entirely devoted to a consideration of questions which had been referred to it by the Monetary and Economic Conference. The members of the Committee, however, had an exchange of views on the general economic situation. Two main and contradictory tendencies were observed. A country might fall back on its own resources and close its frontiers to imports, even at the risk of renouncing exports. This tendency found its extreme expression in certain doctrines of economic nationalism, according to which all purchases made outside the country or travel by tourists abroad were regarded as an offence against the higher interests of the home country. The second tendency was for a country to seek an improvement in its situation by increasing its exports, rather than by a systematic reduction of its imports. The Economic Committee again felt it necessary to emphasise the danger to international economy of the tendency towards economic autarchy. (Report of the Economic Committee to the Council, document C.643.M.306.1933.II.B.)

II. UNIFICATION OF CUSTOMS NOMENCLATURE.

The draft uniform Customs nomenclature, established under a decision adopted by the Council on September 1st, 1931, and approved by the Assembly in that year, was sent to the Governments and all the States Members and non-members of the League in November 1932, with a request for any observations which their competent departments might wish to submit. Only a small number of Governments have so far responded to this request.

The Economic Committee recognises that the examination of the draft must necessarily be a lengthy process involving consultation with industrial and commercial circles. It nevertheless feels it necessary to emphasise that States should endeavour to communicate their views as soon as possible, it being understood that they are merely asked to express a technical opinion on the draft without committing themselves as yet to its application. The observations of the various Governments are required in order that the Secretariat may revise the draft with a view to the preparation of a nomenclature corresponding as exactly as possible to the requirements of the various countries.

The Economic Committee further urges that Governments proposing to revise their tariffs should have regard to the framework of the draft, pointing out in support of this recommendation that certain countries have already made use of it and that important international associations have endorsed the nomenclature suggested in certain chapters, as, for example, in the chapters covering silk, wool and wine. (Document C.643.M.306.1933.II.B.)

III. FURTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON SUBJECTS CONSIDERED BY THE MONETARY AND ECONOMIC CONFERENCE HELD IN LONDON.

The Monetary and Economic Conference, held in London, suspending its work on July 27th, 1933, proposed that certain questions which had been entrusted to the Economic Commission of the Conference should be further considered and, on September 28th, 1933, the Council of the League authorised its Economic Committee to render such assistance for this purpose as might be necessary. The extent and form of the co-operation thus established, more particularly with the Chairman of the Economic Commission of the Conference, was to be determined by agreement and according to the needs of each particular case.

The Chairman of the Economic Commission of the Conference, acting in accordance with this arrangement, thereupon invited the Economic Committee to give its views as to the action which should be taken upon the questions which had been reserved for further consideration.

I. VETERINARY QUESTIONS.

(a) The Monetary and Economic Conference, held in London, adopted a resolution to the effect that the three draft Veterinary Conventions established by the Economic Committee of
the League should be submitted as soon as possible to an international diplomatic conference. These Conventions, framed in 1931, were intended to prevent strictly veterinary measures, as applied to the export, import and transit of animals and animal products, from being used as an indirect form of economic protection.

The first Convention covers the organisation of the veterinary services. The second Convention covers the transit of animals, meat and other products of animal origin. The third Convention covers the export and import of products of animal origin other than meat and meat preparations.

The Monetary and Economic Conference invited the Council to fix the date of the proposed international conference at its session in September 1933. The Council, before summoning the proposed conference, felt it necessary to take the advice of the Economic Committee as to the desirability of holding the conference at an early date and as to the most appropriate method of achieving an international agreement. The Chairman of the Economic Commission of the Conference also requested the Economic Committee to express its views on the subject.

The Economic Committee came to the conclusion that, before convening a general conference, it was desirable that there should be a preliminary meeting of the representatives of the countries whose co-operation was essential for the successful application of the draft Conventions. It suggested that this preliminary meeting should be confined to the following countries: Austria, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Roumania, Switzerland and Yugoslavia; it being understood that other countries desiring to attend the conference would not be excluded. The Economic Committee, in suggesting that a preliminary meeting was necessary before a general conference could be called with any real prospect of success, had particular regard to the fact that a number of countries, particularly outside Europe, did not yet possess veterinary organisation required for an effective application of the measures proposed. The participation of these countries in a general conference would not be of any immediate value, either to themselves or to other countries. Moreover, there was a considerable number of countries for which the question of the transit of animals, meat and other products of animal origin by land was, owing to their geographical position or special conditions existing in their territories, of no effective interest.

The suggestions of the Economic Committee were adopted by the Executive Committee of the Monetary and Economic Conference, which authorised the Secretary-General of the Conference to take the necessary steps to give effect to them. The proposed preliminary meeting will be convened to meet shortly.

(b) The Economic Committee was requested by the Monetary and Economic Conference to examine, with the assistance of a body of special experts, taking into account the conclusions of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome (1928) and the Institut international du Froid (1932), a whole series of problems relating to the importation and exportation of fresh and preserved or prepared meat. The Conference further expressed a hope that the veterinary work in connection with the export and import of cattle would be continued.

The Economic Committee did not consider the moment was opportune for undertaking a study of the kind suggested. It noted that the Institut international du Froid, an official organisation created in Paris under an international Convention established on June 21st, 1920, had offered to submit a preliminary report of a purely scientific and technical nature upon the international regulation of the meat trade, and it expressed the view that this offer should be accepted. (Document C.643.M.306.1933.II.B.)

2. PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL QUESTIONS.

The Monetary and Economic Conference, held in London, requested the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome to study, with the assistance of specially qualified experts representing importing and exporting countries and with the assistance of the Economic Committee of the League of Nations, the scientific and technical questions involved in the control of the importation and exportation of plants and other vegetable products.

An International Convention for the Protection of Vegetable Products had already, on the proposal of the International Institute of Agriculture, been concluded on April 16th, 1929. This Convention, signed by more than twenty States, has, however, only been ratified by eight countries.

The Economic Committee has suggested that the Institute should make enquiries as to the reasons for which many countries, and particularly the importing countries, have remained aloof from the agreement. (Document C.643.M.306.1933.II.A.)

3. CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

The Monetary and Economic Conference, held in London, expressed the view that, in regard to certain questions relating to indirect protectionism, especially questions of Customs formalities, the work of the Economic Committee of the League of Nations was sufficiently advanced to allow of the convening of a special conference on these matters at an appropriate date.

There are three groups of questions to which this recommendation relates: (1) questions covered by a preliminary draft international agreement for the purpose of facilitating commercial propaganda; (2) questions covered by draft international rules applicable to the notion of weight, gross or net, and to the system of tares and packing; and (3) questions to be
covered by an amplification of certain provisions of the existing international Convention for the Simplification of Customs Formalities.

The proposed agreement relating to commercial propaganda aims at facilitating such propaganda and at unifying or simplifying the frontier formalities in regard to it. The draft international rules applicable to the notion of weight aim at establishing a uniform interpretation of the different conceptions of weight, according to which specific Customs duties are levied or statistics established with a view to the estimation or determination of tares and for the Customs treatment of packing. The amplification of certain provisions of the international Convention for the Simplification of Customs Formalities may be introduced either as a development of the Convention itself or upon the request of the interests concerned.

A consultation of Government departments has indicated that there is substantial agreement upon the underlying principles of the drafts relating to the first two groups of questions, and the Economic Committee is of opinion that steps should be taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Monetary and Economic Conference. It does not consider, however, that the nature of the proposed agreements justifies the convening of a general international conference, but suggests that the Chairman of the Economic Commission of the Conference should forward the drafts to a certain number of States with a view to their final revision by the Secretariat and subsequent consideration at a meeting of Government representatives.

The Secretary-General, in accordance with these recommendations, communicated the drafts, on January 16th, 1934, to the Governments selected by M. Colijn, which were asked to forward their observations not later than May 1st, 1934.

The consultation of the national administrations in regard to the third group of questions has not yet suggested any definite conclusions. The Secretariat, under instructions from the Economic Committee, is actively pursuing this consultation and will collect, in a general publication, the results of these preliminary enquiries. The Economic Committee feels that adequate preparations should be made for a revision of the Convention for the Simplification of Customs Formalities or for the preparation of a supplementary agreement to be brought forward when more stable commercial conditions have been established. (Document C.643.M.306.1933.II.B.)

4. MARKS OF ORIGIN.

The Monetary and Economic Conference, held in London, desired that arrangements should be made for a continuation of its work relating to marks of origin, and the Chairman of the Economic Commission of the Conference has consulted the Economic Committee on the procedure to be followed. Certain members of the Economic Committee took the view that only insignificant results could be achieved in this field. Others held that certain alleviations in the law regarding marks of origin might be secured. The Committee finally decided that the prospects of effecting a serious improvement in the situation were too uncertain to justify it in recommending any immediate action. (Document C.643.M.306.1933.II.B.)

5. CO-ORDINATION OF PRODUCTION AND MARKETING.

The Monetary and Economic Conference, held in London, adopted a series of recommendations relating to the co-ordination of the production and marketing of certain products. The Economic Committee has reviewed these recommendations and suggested such action as appeared to be appropriate in each particular case.

(a) Wheat.—An international agreement between the wheat-exporting and wheat-importing countries was concluded in London on August 25th, 1933.

The Advisory Wheat Committee, set up under this agreement, has held several sessions in the course of which the wheat problem was considered under its various aspects. The Committee considered, in particular, a series of measures for increasing consumption, and studied the question of minimum prices for and control of exports. (For the Conference of wheat-exporting and wheat-importing countries and the Agreement concluded in London, see the Supplementary Report on the Work of the League for 1933, document A.6(a).1933.)

(b) Dairy Products.—The Economic Committee, after considering the results of an enquiry undertaken by Dr. Laur (Switzerland) at the request of the Chairman of the Economic Commission of the Monetary and Economic Conference, and hearing a representative of the International Institute of Agriculture, informed the Council of the opinion expressed by Dr. Laur that a meeting of representatives of a certain number of countries should be convened to consider future action. The International Institute of Agriculture proposed that the meeting should be convened in April to carry out this preliminary investigation. The meeting had, however, to be postponed, as the majority of the countries invited were unable, in present circumstances, to attend. (Document C.643.M.306.1933.II.B.)

(c) Sugar.—The Monetary and Economic Conference recommended that measures for a better co-ordination of the production and marketing of sugar should be further studied by Governments and by the competent bodies with a view to the submission, if necessary, of proposals or data to the Secretary-General of the Conference.
The International Sugar Council suggested, as a result of this recommendation, that a meeting, to be attended by a limited number of countries, should be convened by the Chairman of the Economic Commission of the Conference to consider the desirability of calling together a more representative conference of importing and exporting countries for the purpose of framing an international sugar convention.

The International Sugar Council is the executive body appointed under the International Sugar Agreement signed on May 9th, 1931. This Agreement, known as the Chadbourne Agreement, embodied an undertaking on the part of certain countries to limit the amount of sugar placed on the international market over a period of years. The Agreement was signed by Belgium, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary, Java, Peru, Poland and Yugoslavia. The International Sugar Council suggested that invitations to attend the proposed meeting should be sent to the countries which were parties to the Agreement, to the United States of America, and to the United Kingdom. The meeting took place in London from March 5th to March 10th, 1934.

The United Kingdom delegation intimated that the Government of the United Kingdom was prepared to limit the amount of home-grown sugar, assisted by direct Exchequer subsidy, to an amount based on present production plus a small margin to allow for increased efficiency in the production of sugar beet. It was also prepared to agree that exports from the British non-self-governing colonies should be stabilised for two years at 850,000 tons. During the third, fourth and fifth years, the maximum exports would be 879,000 tons, 914,000 tons and 950,000 tons respectively.

The United States delegation announced that plans for the control of the sugar market were before Congress. The marketing of sugar produced in America and certain colonial areas would be very materially reduced; special measures would result in the allocation to Cuban sugar of a definite quota in the United States market; the production of sugar in the Philippine Islands would be limited, and the Philippine Islands would be permitted to ship to the United States only 925,000 long tons. In 1934-35, the Philippine crop would be reduced by approximately 14 per cent, and the surplus to be placed on the world market would be progressively decreased.

The delegates of the countries parties to the Chadbourne Agreement noted with satisfaction that the American Government desired to co-operate in an attempt to improve the sugar industry, but were seriously concerned at the prospect of a surplus of production in the Philippine Islands during the years 1933-34 and 1934-35, which might have to be placed on the world market.

The meeting expressed the opinion that the participation of San Domingo, Australia, South Africa, British India and Portugal was essential to any conference, even of a preliminary nature, which might be convened at a later date. It further considered that, for the purposes of a final convention, the co-operation of all the principal countries interested was desirable.

The further question arose whether the countries parties to the Chadbourne Agreement, in the event of other countries adhering to an international scheme, would be able to agree as to the distribution among themselves of the market remaining available for them. The countries parties to the Chadbourne Agreement replied to this question in the affirmative, with the exception of the Netherlands. The Netherlands delegation saw no prospect of agreement on the question of quotas, contending that the only effective way of dealing with the sugar problem was by a reduction of protective measures. It attributed the present crisis to the steady growth of protection in the sugar industry, and it urged that the problem could not be solved by trying to divide a shrinking market among the exporting countries.

The meeting was accordingly driven to conclude that there was not at present sufficient hope of agreement among the countries parties to the Chadbourne Agreement to justify it, for the moment, in proposing that a further meeting should be summoned. It strongly urged, however, that the situation should continue to be watched by the officers of the Monetary and Economic Conference, while the Chairman of the meeting, Lord Plymouth, expressed himself as willing to consider any communications which might reach him and to recommend such further action as might seem appropriate. (Document C.643.M.306.1933.II.B.)

Wine.—The Economic Committee noted that the International Wine Office had requested the International Institute of Agriculture to convene a meeting of experts to prepare an international convention for the unification of the method of presenting results of the analysis of wines. The meeting took place in April 1934 and resulted in arrangements satisfactory to the circles concerned. (Document C.643.M.306.1933.II.B.)

Timber.—The Monetary and Economic Conference, held in London, set up a Subcommittee on Timber, which decided to postpone its discussions until the beginning of October 1933, in order to allow of the consideration by the different countries of the possibility of preparing and concluding agreements with regard to the export of soft wood, sawn or plane, and the collection in the meantime of the necessary statistical material by the Permanent International Committee on Timber Production, Industry and Trade. The Economic Committee, after taking the views of the circles concerned, recommended the President of the Economic Commission of the Conference to summon, in December 1933, a Conference of the representatives of a certain number of countries exporting the kinds of timber to be covered by the agreements. It was the opinion of the circles concerned, however, that the Conference should be preceded by a meeting of the exporting interests and this preliminary meeting took place at Berlin on December 11th and 12th, 1933.
On December 20th, 1933, the President of the Permanent International Committee on Timber Production, Industry and Trade forwarded to the Economic Committee the results of the meeting at Berlin. He announced that the negotiations had resulted in a limitation of the amount of sawn soft wood offered for export by the countries represented to a figure approximating to the estimates made of the import demand. Circumstances precluded for the moment a formal international agreement and there was little likelihood of practical results being achieved by any further conference. The results obtained, however, were due, for the most part, to the initiative taken by the Monetary and Economic Conference, held in London, and international understanding in regard to the timber trade could not develop in a satisfactory manner unless its development were closely followed and encouraged by the League of Nations. Meanwhile, the most appropriate method of procedure was that of private negotiation under the supervision of the more important national organisations and of the Governments, it being understood that active intervention on the part of the League would be invited whenever the need or the opportunity might arise. (Document C.643.M.306.1933.II.B; Economic Committee, document E.843, January 10th, 1934.)

(f) Coal.—The Monetary and Economic Conference, held in London, invited the principal coal producers to make an effort to organise coal production on an international basis, on the understanding that the agreements to be reached would be followed and supplemented, if necessary, by agreements with the importing countries. The competent organisations of the League were instructed to follow these efforts, and the Council of the League was invited to convene a conference of the principal producing and consuming countries to consider the situation if no results had been achieved within a time-limit of six months.

Information obtained by the Secretariat of the League of Nations indicated, however, that the British mine-owners did not think it possible to take any initiative in the matter of negotiations between the producing countries. They further considered that an international meeting of the kind proposed was very unlikely to yield practical results. (Document C.643.M.306.1933.II.B.)

(g) Copper.—The Monetary and Economic Conference recommended that a meeting should be convened to consider whether an agreement for the limitation of the production and the regulation of the marketing of copper was desirable and practicable. Various suggestions have been submitted to the Governments concerned as to possible forms of procedure, from which it appears that the majority of them consider it preferable to leave to the producers themselves any initiative in the matter. (Document C.643.M.306.1933.II.B.)

IV. CONVENTIONS OF JUNE 7TH, 1930, AND MARCH 19TH, 1931, FOR THE UNIFICATION OF LAWS RELATING TO BILLS OF EXCHANGE, PROMISSORY NOTES AND CHEQUES.

The conditions laid down for the entry into force of the six Conventions for the Unification of the Laws relating to Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes and Cheques have been fulfilled, and these Conventions accordingly came all into force at the beginning of the year.

V. CONVENTION FOR THE REGULATION OF WHALING.

The Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, opened for signature by the Assembly on September 24th, 1931, although it has been signed by twenty-six countries and has received twelve ratifications or accessions, has not yet come into force, owing to the fact that it has not been ratified by the United Kingdom. The ratification of the United Kingdom, under Article 17, is necessary to that effect.

B. WORK OF THE FINANCIAL ORGANISATION.

I. GENERAL.

During the past year, the Financial Committee has been mainly occupied with questions relating to the finances of Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria. It has reviewed the situation of these three countries periodically with representatives of the respective Governments and central banks and with the League resident representatives and bank advisers.

The quarterly reports submitted to the Council by these representatives furnish a detailed account of the financial and economic developments in these countries. Certain of the more important of the events and tendencies recorded are mentioned in the next three sections of this report. This brief summary of recent happenings, however, fails necessarily to throw into its proper perspective the specific work of the Financial Committee—a work which consists largely of discussing with Finance Ministers, central bank officials and others the manifold problems that arise for solution in the course of a year.

In addition, the Committee followed the course of events in other countries in Europe with whose financial reconstruction it has been directly concerned in the past and gave advice to the
Counsel on special questions referred to it, such as the financing of the Saar Plebiscite, the work of the Fiscal Committee, the composition of the League Investment Committee.

In September 1933, the fourteenth Assembly expressed the hope that, as the problems now before the Committee are gradually being solved, it might prove possible for it to deal also with problems of a more general order, including such as would be of direct concern to overseas as well as to European countries, and that the Council, both in the questions it refers to the Committee and in the determination of its composition, would have in mind this consideration.

The Council, in January 1934, came to the conclusion that before taking any decision on this matter, it should be guided by the nature of the work which the Financial Committee may be called upon to undertake during the next three years, at the end of which period the Council would be in a better position to decide upon the most appropriate procedure to be adopted. Meanwhile, the Council decided, in order to facilitate the presence of overseas members on the Committee, that in the case of overseas members of the Committee not domiciled in Europe, the Council would appoint substitute members of the same nationality who would act for and on behalf of the full members in their absence.

II. AUSTRIA.

The foreign loan guaranteed by the Governments which signed the Protocol of July 15th, 1932, was successfully placed in August 1933 in London, Paris, Rome and Switzerland. Austria was thereby enabled to reimburse all her foreign short-term liabilities and a great part of her internal floating debt.

Following this, the Austrian Government floated successfully in November 1933 a domestic lottery loan. The net proceeds of the lottery loan amounted to 173 million schillings. The loan was used in part for the redemption of the State debts to the National Bank and for financing a programme of public works.

Appreciable progress was made in consolidating the monetary situation as a result of the two loans. The foreign loan brought into the National Bank considerable quantities of foreign exchange which enabled it to repay the foreign credits granted in 1931, while the success of the internal loan restored confidence in the financial stability of the country and thus further strengthened the position of the National Bank. The rate of the schilling remained stable as from May 1933. The foreign exchange market continued to work smoothly and the foreign exchange necessary for the service of the foreign debts of the State were acquired without any difficulty. There has been an increase of confidence in the national currency and a tendency for capital to be repatriated.

Transfers for account of State foreign debts, resumed after the floating of the foreign loan, have been regularly maintained and, though transfers for account of the funded debt of public bodies other than the State and for account of private enterprises have not yet been resumed, deposits in schillings corresponding to the amounts due in foreign currencies have been regularly made, and many creditors have accepted schillings in liquidation of their claims. The standstill agreement which expired on January 15th, 1934, has been provisionally extended. A banking re-organisation has been effected under which the Credit Anstalt absorbs one of the other large commercial banks, the Wiener Bankverein, and takes over the banking business of a third, the Niederösterreichische Escompte-Gesellschaft, which becomes an industrial holding company.

The estimates for the first quarter of 1934 show a deficit of 64.71 million schillings. These estimates show an improvement to the extent of 10.6 million schillings as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. The increased requirements for account of the State debt, national defence and the Federal railways were more than balanced by a larger estimated yield of the Customs and of turnover taxes. The political disorders of February 1934, though their consequences were less serious than might have been expected, inevitably affected the situation of the public finance and the Government was obliged to establish a new tax on income for two years, calculated to yield 28 million schillings in 1934.

The falling-off in economic activity, which continued steadily during 1932 and the first months of 1933, ceased towards the end of the year and an improvement, shown in the movements of various statistical indices, became apparent towards the end of the year and has since been maintained. This improvement was reflected in the railway traffic returns and in the statistics of foreign trade, unemployment and industrial production. The import surplus for January and February 1934 was 22 per cent smaller than in 1933, and unemployment remained well below the level of the previous year.

Agreement was reached in Rome in March 1934, in the course of negotiations between Austria, Italy and Hungary, on several fundamental questions affecting the trade of Austria. It was decided that the scope of existing commercial agreements based on railway rate and credit preferences should be widened and Italy declared herself ready to establish unilateral preferential Customs rates for such goods as had hitherto been exported to Italy in unsatisfactory quantities. Moreover, a reduction of harbour dues in Trieste and free harbour and bonded warehouse facilities are under consideration for developing traffic to Italian Adriatic ports over the Austrian railways.
On March 23rd, 1934, a Franco-Austrian agreement for the preferential treatment of
Austrian timber exports to France came into force, and it is hoped that under this agreement
the timber exports of the western provinces of Austria will be increased.

III. HUNGARY.

The position in Hungary during the period under review improved both in respect of
budgetary receipts and foreign trade returns. This improvement was due partly to increases
in taxation and partly to an excellent harvest.

The Financial Committee, reviewing the situation in May 1934, considered that the deficit
estimated for the financial year 1933-34—namely, 76 million pengő—would not be greatly
exceeded. This deficit compares favourably with that of the previous year, which amounted
to 138 million pengő. The improvement in the trade balance must be viewed in the light of
the fact that, in the present abnormal circumstances, the proportion of Hungary's exports
which brings available foreign exchange to the National Bank has been decreasing, since the
funds derived from the exports of Hungary abroad are under existing international clearing
agreements largely applied to the purchase of imports and the payment of outstanding
commercial debts.

The budget estimates for 1934-35 show a deficit of 66 million pengő, as compared with
76 millions in the previous year. The losses incurred for account of the State undertakings
are responsible for almost the whole of this deficit. Expenditure has been estimated at a figure
slightly lower than that of the previous financial year, but this reduction is explained almost
entirely by decreases in the service of the foreign debt in pengő due to a depreciation of the
pound sterling and the dollar. The revenue has been estimated on the basis of the yield
obtained during the current financial year.

The Committee, in its comments on the budgetary situation, observes that expenditure
includes the full service of the public debt, whereas only about one-tenth of the debt is actually
transferred to the creditors, except in cases where agreements with the creditors exempt the
State from making any payments. The sums not actually transferred to creditors are for the
most part represented by the deposit of Treasury bonds either in the pengő fund of the foreign
creditors or in the account of the revenues assigned as security for the stabilisation loan of
1924. These Treasury bonds do not appear in the budget receipts, but partially counterbalance the
deficit. The Finance Minister of Hungary informed the Committee in May 1934 that he will
this year be obliged to continue the same procedure.

The improvement in the general economic situation is shown, not only by an improvement
in the foreign trade balance, but by an increase of commercial transactions within the country
and a reduction of internal indebtedness. The decline in savings-bank deposits, which, during
the last three years, has been constant, has now ceased, and there has been a reduction in the
short-term debts of the commercial banks. The number and amount of bills protested in 1933
fell to nearly half the figures for the previous year, and the number of failures during the same
period declined from 1,368 to 525. The excess of exports over imports, which, in 1932, was
6 million pengő, amounted in 1933 to 79.7 millions. The goods traffic on the railways, which
in 1933 was slightly in excess of its volume in 1932, increased sharply in January and
February 1934. Postal traffic is improving and the output of iron and steel shows a large
increase.

Following upon the signature by the Prime Ministers of Hungary, Italy and Austria,
on March 17th last, of the Rome Protocols, negotiations were opened on April 5th, 1934, with
a view to an extension of trade between the three countries and the development of transit
through the Adriatic ports. Hungary in the year ending June 30th, 1933, exported 670,932
quintals of wheat to Austria. She has obtained for the year ending June 30th, 1934, wheat
contingents for Austria amounting to 1,570,000 quintals. A new commercial treaty between
Germany and Hungary came into force on April 1st, 1934, providing increased opportunities
for the export of Hungarian agricultural produce to Germany.

IV. BULGARIA.

The Financial Committee, in May 1933, in a report upon the financial situation in Bulgaria,
noted that the Bulgarian Government was spending on an average some 110 million leva a
month more than it received and that this expenditure had been financed by incurring new
debts. The credit of the Bulgarian Government was seriously affected and there were
considerable arrears in the payment of the salaries and pensions of its officials. The
Committee recommended energetic measures in three directions: public receipts, public expen-
diture and a revision of the economic and financial policy of the country. The Prime Minister of
Bulgaria indicated the measures which the Bulgarian Government had decided to take in
order to restore the public finances of the country and to maintain its currency and credit.

The Financial Committee considered the financial situation of Bulgaria at a special session
held from October 4th to October 7th, 1933. It noted that the Bulgarian Government had
endeavoured to put into execution most of the fiscal provisions and to effect some of the
economies which it had recommended in May 1933.

Since then, further progress has been made in the execution of the programme of reforms,
the results of which are becoming apparent. The provisional results of the budgetary year
1933-34 showed a deficit appreciably lower than those of previous years and the efforts of the
Minister of Finance had resulted in stabilising receipts and reducing expenditure. The
efforts of the Bulgarian Government have prevented any fresh decrease of revenue, despite a considerable fall in Customs receipts, and had ensured certain economies. The difficulties of the Treasury have recently been less serious and measures to ensure the regular payment of salaries and pensions and the consolidation of arrears have been successfully applied. The Committee expresses concern, however, at the danger to Bulgarian economic life from certain measures of Government intervention and some misgiving as to the budget of the State for the year 1934-35, which was voted in the spring.

The trade balance of Bulgaria since April 1933 has been consistently favourable, the surplus for the year amounting to some 850 million leva. During this same period, the net surplus in foreign exchange obtained by the National Bank amounted, however, to only 5 million leva. The resources of the National Bank in foreign currency, as in Hungary, derive little benefit from a favourable trade balance, since the commercial transactions of the country tend increasingly to be in the form of clearing and compensation arrangements. The volume of exports during the period under review was about the same as that of the corresponding period in 1932-33, imports on the whole continuing to decrease. Both in respect of imports and exports, the lowest level appears to have been reached in the summer of last year.

The Council on May 18th, 1934, accepted the resignation of M. Watteau, Commissioner of the League of Nations in Bulgaria. The Council warmly thanked M. Watteau for his services and decided to appoint a new Commissioner at its next ordinary meeting.

V. ROUMANIA.

The Council on January 28th, 1933, approved an agreement for the organisation by the League of Nations of advisory and technical co-operation with the Roumanian Government in the framing and application of a programme of financial and economic reconstruction. The Roumanian Government, which ratified the agreement on May 18th, 1933, informed the Council on May 18th, 1934, that the conditions existing in June 1932, when it had first requested co-operation, and those obtaining on the conclusion of the agreement at the beginning of 1933, had so changed that it could not see any possibility of carrying out the programme of co-operation at the present time and was obliged to renounce the application of the Agreement. It reserved, however, the right to submit a request for technical co-operation with the League, should the need for such co-operation arise in the future.

VI. GREECE.

The Financial Committee, during its session held in May 1934, heard a statement on the position of the Bank of Greece made by the Adviser to the Bank. The Committee noted that the situation as a whole showed a tendency towards improvement. (Reports of the Financial Committee to the Council, documents C.538.M.262.1933.II.A, C.37.M.II.I934.II.A and C.192.M.78.1934.II.A.)

C. FISCAL COMMITTEE.

The Fiscal Committee, at a session held at Geneva from June 15th to June 26th, 1933, adopted a draft bilateral Convention for restricting the double taxation to which industrial and commercial enterprises carrying on their activities in more than one country are subject owing to conflicts of jurisdiction between fiscal administrations.

The Council, on October 12th, 1933, approved the conclusions of the Committee mentioned below. (Supplementary Report on the Work of the League for 1933, document A.6(a).1933; Report of the Financial Committee to the Council, document C.538.M.262.1933.II.A.)

D. COMMITTEE OF STATISTICAL EXPERTS.

The Committee of Statistical Experts, constituted to facilitate the practical application of the international Convention relating to economic statistics established in 1928, met for its second and third sessions from December 7th to December 12th, 1933, and from April 12th to April 14th, 1934. The Committee had not come together since March 1931. In its December report to the Council it expressed the view that it is essential for the fulfilment of its task that it should hold at least one session a year, though it fully appreciated the various reasons, both administrative and financial, why it was unable to meet in 1932. The Committee noted, in December 1933, that twenty-three countries had ratified or acceded to the Convention and that a certain number of countries had announced their intention of doing so.

The Council, on January 15th and on May 14th, 1934, approved the conclusions of the Committee mentioned below. (a) INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY TRADE STATISTICS.

Article 3 of the Convention relating to economic statistics provides that the contracting parties, in order to facilitate comparison between the statistics of external trade of the different countries, shall prepare certain statistical tables for purposes of experiment.
The tables relating to imports were required to show for certain selected articles the countries of origin or production, the countries of consignment, of provenance and of purchase. The tables relating to exports were required to show the countries of consumption, of consignment or destination and of sale.

The contracting parties were asked to forward to the Committee of Experts reports stating, in regard to each of these methods of classification, the advantages and drawbacks of all kinds noted in the course of the experiment, and the Committee of Experts, within three months after receiving reports from half the countries to which the Convention applied, was required to present a memorandum for circulation to the Governments reviewing the results.

The Committee, in December 1933, was able to consider reports from the following countries: Austria, United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Greece, Irish Free State, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Union of South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland.

After reviewing these reports and a summary of results prepared by the Secretariat, the Committee came to the conclusion that it was not generally feasible to determine the course of trade in different varieties of goods by associating import and export records relating to the same goods and that a complete and accurate view of the destinations of the goods exported by the various countries could only be obtained by an improvement in the import records of all countries which would make it possible for the exporting country to ascertain the destination of its consignments.

The Committee concluded that the application of a uniform system would furnish records of the distribution of imports according to source which would be in a large measure comparable among themselves and thus contribute to more reliable information regarding the destination of exports. It expressed the view that the most effective method of rendering the statistics comparable would be for the countries which did not at present record their imports by countries of origin to supplement their existing returns by a further record based on that system in respect of a selected list of basic commodities, and it recommended that the Secretariat of the League of Nations should be entrusted with the task of receiving the records relating to the specified commodities from the countries responding to this invitation and of arranging and publishing these annual data for general use.

The Council, on January 15th, 1934, decided to:

(a) Recommend to all Governments parties to the Convention (relating to Economic Statistics) which do not at present record their imports by countries of origin, to prepare a supplementary annual record of the commodities contained in the special list to be drawn up by the Committee based on that system;

(b) Invite all other Governments to collaborate in this field by taking similar measures, so that the information to be secured may become as comprehensive as possible;

(c) Authorise the Secretariat of the League of Nations, subject to the approval by the Assembly of the necessary budgetary provision, to collect, aggregate and publish the data in question.

The Committee of Statistical Experts during its session held in April 1934 prepared a list of thirty-five basic commodities for which it considered that the supplementary annual record should at first be compiled. It also agreed in principle upon the instructions relating to the technical application of the recommendation of the Council for circulation to the Governments.

The Committee recommended that the list of selected commodities, together with the technical instructions, should be circulated to Governments early in the autumn of 1934, so that the countries might arrange to establish their auxiliary import records as from January 1st, 1935.

(b) Minimum List of Commodities for International Trade Statistics.

The Statistical Conference of 1928 recommended that the Committee of Experts, when the work on tariff nomenclature was sufficiently advanced, should submit to the Governments of the contracting parties a minimum nomenclature for statistical purposes. It further recommended that a standard statistical nomenclature should be adopted for returns of foreign trade, even in countries which were not in a position to adopt the new Customs tariff nomenclature.

The Committee of Statistical Experts, in December 1933, adopted at first reading a minimum list of commodities for the purpose of international trade statistics and requested its members to submit in writing any comments suggested by a further study of this provisional nomenclature. The comments subsequently submitted proved to be sufficiently numerous and important to render a further discussion of the list by the Committee as a whole desirable or even necessary.

The Committee accordingly devoted the major part of its session held during April 1934 to completing the minimum list of commodities for international trade statistics and it also prepared a statement regarding the principles which had guided it in preparing the list. The Committee recommended that the list should be submitted to all Governments Members or non-members of the League of Nations for their observations.

The Committee expressed the hope that any comments submitted by the Governments might be received not later than the end of November 1934, in order that the list might be given its final form early in 1935, and the Council took measures to this end.
(c) Uniform Base Period for Index Numbers and Prices.

The Statistical Conference for 1928 referred to the Committee of Experts the problem of fixing a uniform base period for price-index numbers. After considering a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat, the Committee has concluded that no post-war period fully satisfies the conditions desirable for a uniform base period for economic index numbers and that it would accordingly be premature to give effect to the recommendation of the Conference.

(d) Mineral and Metallurgical Statistics.

Problems relating to mineral and metallurgical statistics, referred to the Committee of Experts under the Convention of 1928, have been under consideration since 1931, but no final decisions have yet been reached.

(e) Timber Statistics.

The Committee noted a resolution of the London Monetary and Economic Conference of 1933 to the effect that each country, acting in concert with the League of Nations and the International Institute of Agriculture, should organise rational statistics of the production of timber and the international trade in that commodity.

The Committee has made arrangements for a preliminary study of the various aspects of the problem. (Reports of the Committee of Statistical Experts to the Council, documents C.672.M.322.1933.II.A and C.152.M.63.1934.II.A.)

E. Economic Intelligence Service.

Apart from the preparation of its regular publications, the Service has been occupied with the execution of the Statistical Convention described above and the results of this activity are already making themselves felt and will lead to an improvement of the data available to the Service for its publications.

Certain of the volumes issued by the Service, namely the Statistical Year-Book, the Review of World Trade and Production and Prices, appear between the date of the issue of this report and the opening of the Assembly. An account of them will accordingly be given in the supplementary report.

The following publications have appeared since the last Assembly:

World Economic Survey, 1932-33, continued the similar volume published in September 1932. It gave in a brief compass a description of the major economic events of the world from the meeting of the Lausanne Conference to the end of July 1933. Prices, production, international trade, tariff policy, business profits, public finance, banking and monetary policy, indebtedness, and international balances of payments are among the subjects covered.

The final chapter included a report of the proceedings of the Monetary and Economic Conference in London, a description of recent legislation in the United States of America and a summary of the economic situation at the end of July 1933.

The next issue of the Survey, which will be described in a supplementary report, will appear during the forthcoming Assembly.

International Trade Statistics and Balances of Payments.

International Trade Statistics, published in 1933, contains detailed trade statistics of sixty-five countries showing imports and exports of merchandise and of bullion and specie, imports and exports by countries, by principal articles and by classes of commodities. A synoptical table shows the percentage distribution, by countries of provenance and destination, of each country’s imports and exports. The edition covers the years 1930, 1931 and 1932.

Balances of Payments, 1931-32, published in December 1933, contains detailed international accounts for thirty-two countries over a series of years, in most cases up to 1932 inclusive. In a comparative table covering all the countries, the balances for the main groups of items are recorded in dollars. Special synoptical tables show international transactions in individual items, such as interest and dividends, remittances of emigrants, expenditure of tourists and long-term capital transactions.

Commercial Banks 1925-1933.

Commercial Banks 1925-1933, published in February 1934, is a study of the recent banking experiences of forty countries. It covers both the boom period from 1925 to 1929 and, in more detail, the years of depression from 1930 to 1933.

The decline of bank deposits in the depression, the freezing of credit, the effects of the financial crisis of 1931 upon the various banking systems, the testing and straining of the banks in the years that followed, reconstructions and reorganisations and, finally, the end of contraction in certain countries in 1933, are among the developments in the depression years to which attention is directed.
For each of the forty countries considered, there is a separate section, summarising national developments and commercial banking statistics in the period under review.

The introduction which precedes the national summaries gives an analytical account of general tendencies, furnishes supplementary data and information for the year 1933.

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF STATISTICS.

The issue of this publication has been continued regularly. Apart from the regular tables which give in respect of a great number of countries the principal statistics relating to production, transit, trade, prices and currency, each number contains an introduction of two or three pages giving technical information on special statistics and on changes made in methods employed in drawing up the statistics given in the Bulletin, and special tables and graphs on selected subjects of contemporary economic interest.

8.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSIT.

I. PUBLIC WORKS.

The Committee of Enquiry on Questions relating to Public Works and National Technical Equipment of the Organisation for Communications and Transit submitted to the Monetary and Economic Conference, held in London, on June 13th, 1933, a report reviewing its work and presenting its conclusions.

The Monetary and Economic Conference, unable to consider the subject in detail, recommended that a sub-committee should be constituted to make a further examination of the problem, having regard to its economic, social and financial aspects.

The Assembly, in 1933, adopted a report urging that the proposed sub-committee should be summoned as soon as possible. It further endorsed a suggestion that the Secretary-General of the League should make enquiries to ascertain from the Governments what measures they had taken or were proposing to take for the inauguration of a national policy of public works, and what economic and social results they had obtained or expected to obtain from its execution.

It was felt that such information would enable Governments to judge how far it was possible or desirable to undertake programmes of public works on parallel lines. A comparison of the experience acquired in the various countries could not, in any case, fail to be of value as indicating the effects of such a policy on economic activity and unemployment.

The Secretary-General, acting on these instructions, on March 7th, 1934, invited the Governments to communicate to him, by August 15th, 1934, information in response to a questionnaire.

The Governments were asked to give a brief description of the main public works undertaken since the beginning of the year 1929, either completed or in course of execution or in preparation. They were requested to indicate the principal administrative methods followed or contemplated in the execution of their public works and any legal provisions relating to them. They were further desired to indicate the principal methods employed for financing such works and to submit an estimate of the allocation of expenditure for their execution as between (a) materials and equipment provided by national or foreign industries and (b) wages and miscellaneous social services. Finally, the views of the Governments were invited upon the effects obtained or expected upon the resumption of economic and industrial activities and upon unemployment.

The public works in regard to which information was invited included the following categories: Roads and bridges; railway lines, including tramways and metropolitan railways; agricultural land reclamation, including drainage, irrigation, construction of dwelling-houses and buildings, establishment of new settlements and country roads; canals or inland waterways; land improvement work, the bringing of new land under cultivation and afforestation; the provision of drinking-water supplies and sewage disposal; works carried out in sea and river ports, including their mechanical equipment; work for the establishment of air ports; building and construction work forming part of a general plan and carried out with the participation or approval of public authorities; electric installations, hydro-electric and heating power centres and motive power transmission; gas-works and long-distance gas supply; telegraph and telephone installations and wireless broadcasting stations. (Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit, document C.98.M.33-1934.VIII and Circular Letter No. 24.1934.VIII.)
II. IMPROVEMENT OF THE APPROACHES BY SEA TO THE PORT OF BANGKOK AND OF THE INSTALLATIONS OF THE PORT.

The Siamese Government, in February 1933, applied to the Communications and Transit Organisation for advice on the question of improving the approaches to the Port of Bangkok and the installations of the port.

A Committee of Experts, appointed as a result of this request, asked one of its members to make investigations on the spot with a view to supplementing the technical and economic information required. The member in question visited Siam in June 1933 and submitted his report to the Committee of Experts in April 1934.

The Committee of Experts examined this document at its meeting on April 17th, 1934, and drew up a report which will be communicated to the members of the Committee of Enquiry on Questions relating to Public Works and National Technical Equipment and subsequently forwarded to the Siamese Government.

III. DISPUTES RELATING TO THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE RAILWAYS OF THE FORMER AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN MONARCHY.

Under Article 320 of the Treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye and Article 304 of the Treaty of Trianon, disputes arising between the Governments concerned and the railway companies whose systems are intersected by the new frontiers established by the treaties may be submitted to arbitrators appointed by the Council. Requests or petitions relating to such disputes are normally referred by the Council to the Advisory Committee for Communications and Transit, which appoints a Committee of Experts to decide whether it is advisable to recommend arbitration. In the course of the period under review, five such disputes have been under consideration.

A request submitted by the Zeitweg-Wolfsberg and Unterdrauburg-Woellan Railway Company, Ltd., Vienna, after consideration and report by a Committee of Experts appointed by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Communications and Transit, was, on May 30th, 1933, submitted to three arbitrators appointed by the Council. The arbitrators have not yet concluded their examination of this request.

A petition submitted by the Barcs-Pakrac Railway Company, Ltd., Budapest, after consideration by a Committee of Experts appointed by the Chairman of the Advisory and Technical Committee, was examined by the Advisory and Technical Committee in November 1933, and the Council, on the advice of the Committee, appointed three arbitrators on January 17th, 1934. The arbitrators have not yet concluded their examination of the petition.

A third petition, submitted by the Torontal Local Railway Company, Ltd., Budapest, was, in accordance with the same procedure, examined by a Committee of Experts in September 1933. The Advisory and Technical Committee was notified, however, on November 30th, that the petitioning company, in view of negotiations pending between itself and the Governments concerned, desired the suspension of the procedure for the appointment of arbitrators, as there seemed a possibility of reaching a friendly settlement. The Advisory and Technical Committee accordingly decided to suspend for the moment its examination of the question. This decision was duly noted by the Council.

A fourth petition was submitted by the Radkersburg-Luttenberg Railway Company, Ltd., Vienna, and the Advisory and Technical Committee, in November 1933, recommended the Council to appoint arbitrators at its next session.

The Council referred the legal question raised by the Yugoslav Government to the Permanent Legal Committee of the Communications and Transit Organisation. The Permanent Legal Committee, meeting in March 1934, adopted the following conclusions:

"(a) Notwithstanding the Rome agreement, the Klagenfurt agreement and the Maribor protocols, the nature of the dispute raised by the petition of the Radkersburg-Luttenberg Railway Company, Limited, is such as to bring it as a whole within the scope of Article 320 of the Treaty of St. Germain.

"(b) The Council and, if necessary, the arbitrators have power to interpret the Hague agreement in so far as such interpretation is required to enable them to discharge the task entrusted to them under Article 320 of the Treaty of St. Germain.

"(c) Article III of the Hague agreement does not preclude the Council from designating arbitrators with instructions to carry out the task referred to in Article 320 of the Treaty of St. Germain."
The Yugoslav member of the Committee was unable to associate himself with this report and submitted a statement upon the points in regard to which his opinion differed from that of the majority.

A fifth petition to the Council from the Local Railway Company Noskowci-Slatine-Nasice, Belgrade, was considered in April 1934 by a Committee of Experts in accordance with the usual procedure. The Committee, having heard the statements made by the parties concerned, felt that a friendly agreement might still be reached and therefore invited the parties to enter upon further negotiations with a view to a settlement. (Document C.C.T./C.J.28.1934; Council Minutes, May 30th, 1933, January 17th, 1934.)

IV. LEAGUE WIRELESS STATION.

The special political services rendered by the League wireless station in 1932 to the bodies of the League and the delegations accredited to them were described in the Report on the Work of the League submitted to the Assembly in October last.

The Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit, during its session held at Geneva from November 29th to December 1st, 1933, recommended that a general report should be prepared for submission to the Assembly in 1934 on the work of the station during the first two years of its operation. It further expressed the view that a report on the operation of the station should, in future, be submitted annually to the Assembly.

A report for communication to the Members of the League has therefore been prepared, covering the working of the station from February 2nd, 1932, to December 31st, 1933.

The report concludes with a general review of the statistics of the traffic of the station and a statement of financial results. The statistics show considerable increases in the number of official and Press telegrams exchanged during the period of the Sino-Japanese dispute from November 1932 to March 1933. It is noted, however, that, whereas a large number of Press telegrams were sent from Geneva, the number of telegrams received was comparatively insignificant. Press correspondents use Geneva as a centre for disseminating news, but Geneva is not regarded as a centre for the reception of news. Private traffic, which is almost independent of events at Geneva, shows a slow but regular increase, and at present covers from 50 to 60 per cent of the total working costs.

The traffic with the Far East is mainly for State account during periods of international activity, though commercial traffic is progressively developing. This is equally true of the traffic with Buenos Aires, whereas the traffic with Rio de Janeiro is mainly private—a situation explained by the fact that Brazil is not a Member of the League.

The private traffic for all countries consists almost wholly in exchanges of telegrams despatched at half rates, after the urgent telegrams despatched at normal rates, together with letter telegrams sent at a specially reduced rate. This circumstance is due to the present economic situation, which induces firms to make an extensive use of the less costly means of transmission.

The accounts for the financial period 1932 and 1933 show that, in normal times, when there are no special activities at Geneva, from 60 to 70 per cent of the working costs can be covered by receipts. In 1932 the total receipts amounted to 348,513.81 Swiss francs, as compared with a total expenditure of 321,819.01 Swiss francs. In 1933 the total receipts amounted to 376,525.65 Swiss francs, as compared with a total expenditure of 388,469.74 Swiss francs. (Documents A.6(a).1933 and A.8.1934.VIII.)

V. AIR TRANSPORT CO-OPERATION.

A special Sub-Committee set up by the Air Transport Co-operation Committee of the Communications and Transit Organisation to study the "main network of permanent air routes" agreed, in November 1931, upon a programme of work for a preliminary investigation of the problem. It was understood that its members would collect documents and opinions concerning the main network and its ground organisation and operation, and M. Henri Bouche, Rapporteur to the Sub-Committee, was requested to undertake an investigation, to be based on this information, into present methods of operating air communications in the international network and into the programme and cost of the installation and working of the ground organisation. A minimum operation programme was also to be considered.

The Air Transport Co-operation Committee, meeting in May 1932, in connection with the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments, was invited to give its opinion on the plan, ground organisation and operation of the "main network". The examination of the question, both by the special Sub-Committee and the main Committee, on that occasion, was necessarily brief, and the need for further investigation and supplementary information was generally recognised.

At the request of the Rapporteur, it was decided to collect, for European commercial aviation, statistical and technical information showing the economic and financial results of the traffic. For this purpose, questionnaires were addressed to the International Air Traffic Association and to the Governments of European countries represented and not represented by nationals on the Air Transport Co-operation Committee.
Replies to the questionnaire sent to the States were received at intervals from February to November 1933. Different interpretations, however, were placed on the questionnaire, and the scope of the replies given by the various administrations varied considerably. M. Henri Bouché finally drafted a preliminary report on the basis of information supplied from official data, supplemented in certain cases from other reliable but unofficial sources of his own selection.

The Secretary-General of the League, in forwarding this report, on March 29th, 1934, to the Governments, drew attention to the fact that it had not been possible to secure information from any source beyond the end of the year 1932, and that the report should, therefore, be regarded as provisional. The Governments were requested to supply information covering the year 1933 such as would enable a final edition of the report to be established and to submit any observations which they might wish to make. The Governments were asked to transmit their observations to the Secretariat by July 1st, 1934. (Economics of Air Transport in Europe: Circular Letter No. 28.1934.VIII.)

VI. NEGOTIABLE DOCUMENT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF GOODS BY RAIL.

The fourth General Conference on Communications and Transit, meeting at Geneva in October 1931, recommended the Council of the League of Nations to draw the attention of Governments to the importance, from the economic and commercial point of view, of establishing a negotiable transport document for the international transport of certain goods by rail over certain routes. It further invited the Advisory Committee for Communications and Transit to continue its work in connection with this question and to communicate the results to the governments and to the Central Office for International Railway Transport at Berne.

Following these measures, the delegations of several Governments to the Conference, which met in October and November 1933 at Rome for the revision of the Berne Conventions, submitted proposals which clearly showed the influence of suggestions framed by the Advisory Committee for Communications and Transit. The Conference itself accepted the optional introduction of negotiable railway documents, and the delegations of several States, at a special meeting held for the purpose, framed a Convention under which the contracting parties agreed that, among themselves, negotiable railway documents should be used for the international transport of goods by rail.

The Convention will come into force at the same time as the revised Convention for the transport of goods by rail.

VII. ADDITIONAL SIGNALS AT LEVEL-CROSSINGS.

The Permanent Committee on Road Traffic, during its session held in May 1933, recommended that the problem of additional signals for level-crossings should be examined by a Special Mixed Committee consisting of three experts to be nominated by itself and three experts to be nominated by the Permanent Committee for Transport by Rail.

The Special Mixed Committee, meeting at Geneva from January 10th to January 12th, 1934, decided to limit its enquiry for the moment to the question of the international unification of the systems of signalling adopted for the protection and regulation of road traffic at level-crossings, without going into the question whether it was possible or desirable in each case to use any particular system.

The Committee, for the purpose of its enquiry, divided level-crossings into three categories: (a) level-crossings with gates; (b) level-crossings without gates but with automatic light or sound signals, and (c) level-crossings without gates and without automatic signals. The Committee, for each of these three categories of level-crossings, made a series of recommendations.

Before, however, establishing final and complete conclusions, the Committee felt it necessary to obtain further information as to the systems and regulations in force in the different countries. It accordingly framed a questionnaire for submission to the Governments of the European States and of the United States of America and Canada. The questionnaire was forwarded to the Governments in March 1934 with a request that they would send the necessary information, if possible, by May 1st, 1934.

The Governments are requested to give statistics of level-crossings of the various categories at present in existence, together with statistics of the accidents at level-crossings which have taken place in recent years. They are at the same time asked to furnish details of the systems adopted for light and sound signals at level-crossings not provided with gates; the means used to warn users of the road that they are approaching a level-crossing not provided with gates or automatic signals; the provisions, if any, adopted or under consideration, for better securing the safety and regularity of road traffic at level-crossings; the systems, if any, in use to give notice of the impending arrival of a train to persons in charge of level-crossings provided with gates; the provisions adopted for the purpose of increasing the visibility of gates and signals protecting level-crossings by night; the provisions, if any, in force or contemplated by the

1 Document C.785.M.380.1931.VIII.
railway administrations, to cope with the special dangers resulting from unfavourable atmospheric conditions; the legal provisions and regulations in force with regard to road traffic of any kind passing over level-crossings. (Circular Letter No. 21, 1934.)

VIII. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CHINA AND THE TRANSIT ORGANISATION.

The co-operation of the technical organisations of the League of Nations with the National Government of China is covered by a special chapter in the report.

9.

HEALTH QUESTIONS.

I. WORK OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Since the last session of the Assembly, the Health Committee has met twice in Geneva. The last session of the outgoing Committee was held from October 27th, 1933, to November 1st, 1933. During that session, the Committee examined the results of its work during its three-year period of office and presented a report to the Council.

The new Health Committee was appointed by the Council in January 1934, and met from May 11th to 16th, 1934. Dr. Th. Madsen, who was elected President, presented a three-year programme of work, which was adopted by the Committee.

The Committee expressed its appreciation of the continuation in 1935 of the grant of the Rockefeller Foundation (a hundred thousand dollars), for the work previously supported by the Foundation. Note was also taken of a grant of five thousand dollars from the Milbank Memorial Fund for the work of the Health Organisation on nutrition and biological standardisation.

The Council of the League, on May 14th, 1934, accepted both these offers.

II. CO-OPERATION IN HEALTH MATTERS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

1. CHINA.

The co-operation of the Technical Organisations of the League with the National Government of China is reviewed in Chapter 10 of this report.

2. GREECE.

The Hellenic Government, in October 1928, asked the League of Nations for assistance in the re-organisation of its public health service, and, in April 1929, adopted a plan prepared jointly by the Health Committee of the League of Nations and the Greek Health Administration.

The plan provided for the organisation of a permanent health service, whose work would extend progressively in the period 1931 to 1935 to all the prefectures of Greece and which would work under the technical direction of a health centre to be established in Athens. The Health Centre was to include five divisions dealing with preventive medicine (including a school of hygiene), malariology, sanitary engineering, pharmacology and scientific research.

The administration of public health in the prefectures was, in conformity with the scheme, to be assured by prefectoral and local health centres under the direction of doctors trained in the School of Hygiene. Health nurses were to be trained and attached to the health centres, and the health services hitherto distributed among the various ministries were to be attached to the Athens Centre. Provision was also made for the re-organisation of the hospitals, social insurance and the maritime quarantine service.

The progress made deserves special mention both within the limits of the re-organisation scheme and in respect of work which has been done outside it. These results are the more remarkable as having been achieved in a period of serious economic depression and in the face of special difficulties arising from the settlement of refugees in Greece. The medical faculty of the University of Athens is now housed in modern buildings, whose site and construction fulfil all the requirements of modern technique. The new Red Cross Hospital is a model of modern hospital accommodation. Its school of nurses is well equipped and the pupils undergoing training in the school have been carefully selected. This is equally true of the School of Nurses attached to the Evangelismos Hospital. The new maternity hospital would be a credit to any country and its school for midwives is training a staff able to cope with the future needs of the country.
The Athens School of Hygiene is housed in small but adequate buildings. Forty Greek doctors have already received special training. The model health centre established on the school premises will shortly be completed and will enable students to acquire training in the actual practice of preventive medicine. Moreover, the new law dealing with the health service known as the "peripheral" service provides for the establishment in Attica and Boeotia of an important health centre with a model district for the practical training of students of the School of Hygiene and other health officials.

The school has hitherto been a temporary institution, but the necessity of giving it a permanent recognised legal status is generally admitted and certain steps have already been taken to this end.

The present economic situation has inevitably somewhat delayed the application of the re-organisation scheme adopted in 1929. This applies particularly to the health services of the prefectures, which were to have been taken over by the Health Centre in Athens in 1936, but the law relating to the "peripheral" health services will meet this difficulty. It provides for the creation of seven health centres belonging to category A for the big cities and thirty-two health centres belonging to category B for the smaller urban centres, the difference between the two categories lying in the importance of their staff.

Appointments to posts established under the new law are made by the Minister of Health on the recommendation of a temporary committee of four members, including the Director of the School of Hygiene, a professor of the Faculty of Medicine and two higher officials of the Ministry of Health.

Health centres, such as those established under the new law, obviously cannot fulfil their duties satisfactorily without having at their disposal a body of health nurses adequately trained. The Red Cross school for the training of nurses and the Evangelismos Hospital should furnish excellent candidates for instruction in the work of health visitors as soon as a special school has been established.

The Under-Secretary of State for Health has prepared a bill for the organisation and regulation of the campaign against tuberculosis. The bill provides for the creation of a semi-autonomous organisation, which will include a national committee to which all the anti-tuberculosis institutions will be affiliated, a central financial committee and, in each prefecture, a committee for the prefecture assisted by a financial committee. The higher direction of the campaign against tuberculosis will remain in the hands of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. The Government will devote annually a sum of 40 million drachmae to the campaign, while the National Committee and the committees in the prefectures will endeavour to increase their resources by the sale of an anti-tuberculosis stamp.

3. ROUMANIA.

The Health Committee in 1932 decided to undertake a study of pellagra as an index of malnutrition in certain groups of the population. A member of the Health Section visited Roumania in June 1933 upon the invitation of the authorities concerned to study the problems to which this disease has given rise.

The Health Administration of Roumania agreed that the establishment of an experimental centre for the study of methods of combating pellagra would be desirable. Moreover, it recommended that a public bakery should be opened for the distribution to the inhabitants of whole-wheat bread at a very low price.

These proposals were submitted to the Roumanian Health Ministry, which, in October 1933, endorsed them and requested the assistance of the Health Organisation in carrying them into effect.

The proposed research centre has since been established in the village of Osoi, near Jassy, and the doctors attached to the Health Institute at Jassy are carrying out the necessary investigations in close touch with the Health Organisation of the League. They have, in particular, studied the diet of twenty families selected from among those which suffered from cases of pellagra in 1933. An exact record is kept of all the foodstuffs consumed by these families. The Health Ministry is furnishing the necessary funds for the support of the doctor and four nurses entrusted with this enquiry.

The bakery was opened in March 1934 at Osoi. Recent researches have shown that there is every prospect of preventing pellagra among a population which is fed on maize, provided a portion of the maize is replaced by whole wheat. A kitchen has also been established with the assistance of the Government, and the Prefect of the Department has placed 70,000 kilogrammes of whole-wheat flour at the disposal of the research centre. If this experiment is conclusive, it would seem to be easy to introduce a policy of prevention in dealing with pellagra, based on the partial substitution of wheat for maize. The experiment has a considerable scientific and practical interest and may throw light on the difficult problem of the real causes of pellagra.

4. CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The Ministry for Health and Physical Education of the Czechoslovak Republic has, in recent years, endeavoured to provide the country with an adequate health organisation. It first endeavoured to improve the medical assistance available to the country population, a point on which the Rural Health Conference of 1931 laid special stress. From the point of view of health organisation, Slovakia and Sub-Carpathian Russia were definitely backward as compared with Bohemia and Moravia, and the principal efforts were directed to improving the situation in the two former provinces.
The existence side by side of a variety of public health bodies led the Ministry of Health to co-ordinate the work of these institutions and to establish a general scheme based on a systematic study of the situation. This study was undertaken in 1931 by officials of the Ministry assisted by members of the Health Section.

The Ministry of Health, on the basis of data furnished by the enquiry, drew up a programme whose application was entrusted to the State Health Institute of Prague, and, in September 1932, the Ministry asked the Health Organisation to place at its disposal the experience of the latter’s technical commissions and the services of a member of the Health Section.

The execution of the scheme was begun in 1933. The most urgent and serious problems were first attacked:

1. Continuation courses for health officers, courses in hygiene for medical practitioners and propaganda with a view to instructing the population in the rudiments of hygiene;
2. Local sanitation;
3. Co-ordination of the health work of public and private institutions.

Continuation courses for doctors were opened at Košice and Bratislava for the district doctors, communal doctors and doctors dealing with sickness insurance. Propaganda was entrusted to a travelling staff placed at the disposal of the authorities by the Czechoslovak Red Cross.

Considerable progress has been made in sanitation within recent years, but the question of the contamination of the soil has not yet received sufficient attention. The Health Institute at Prague has therefore prepared plans for manure pits, wells and latrines for the communes, and the Department of Agriculture has undertaken that these plans shall be executed.

The Health Institute of Prague is attempting to improve sanitary conditions in the region of Zlin, Moravia, in accordance with a programme based on the resolutions of the European Rural Health Conference. This experiment has excited a very keen interest and its extension to the adjacent regions of Slovakia is contemplated.

Finally, the efforts of the voluntary organisations which are combating tuberculosis, alcoholism and maternal and infantile mortality are in process of co-ordination with a view to avoiding overlapping. Agreements have already been reached for a geographical distribution of the activities of some of these institutions.

III. WORK OF THE TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS.

1. BIOLOGICAL STANDARDISATION.

The first International Conference for the Standardisation of vitamins, held in London in June 1931, recommended that a new conference should be convened at the end of two years to review progress and to reconsider in the light of the experience acquired the standards provisionally adopted. Since, however, it was not possible to distribute and use these standards prior to 1932, it was deemed preferable not to convene a further Conference before 1934. This Conference was held in London from June 12th to June 14th, 1934.

The provisional decisions of the Conference of 1931 have withstood the test of practical application. The standards adopted have been found satisfactory and a considerable use has been made of them in a certain number of countries. In regard to some of them, however, recent developments have suggested that modifications are necessary, as it is now possible to use substances more closely allied to the vitamin in its pure state than was the case three years ago. Such modifications may be made in the provisional standards without it being necessary to abandon the units selected by the Conference of 1931, since any standard can be adapted to these units.

The work of the Permanent Commission on Biological Standardisation, which is being continued with the co-operation of the Institutes in Copenhagen, Frankfort, London, Paris and Washington and others, has reached a stage which opens up a prospect of agreement on the choice of a standard for anti-gangrene serum and of the solution of various problems such as those relating to the standards for anti-tetanus and anti-dysentery sera. A meeting of this Commission is contemplated for August 30th, 1934.

2. OPIUM.

The Egyptian Government has proposed that certain preparations containing extract of Indian hemp should be brought under the International Opium Convention of 1925 by the application of the procedure laid down in Article 10 of that Convention. This proposal will be forwarded to the Permanent Committee of the Office international d’Hygiène publique for opinion and report as soon as the Egyptian Government has forwarded the information required by the article in question.

The Egyptian Government has also asked the Health Committee to reconsider the decision to release from the scope of the Convention certain sterilised ampoules of morphine-atropine and of enodal-atropine. The reason for this request is that the Egyptian Government noted last year an increase in the importation of these ampoules and in their consumption by addicts. The request has also been forwarded to the Permanent Committee of the Office international d’Hygiène publique for opinion and report.
Steps have been taken through the Eastern Bureau at Singapore to obtain detailed information upon existing methods of treatment of addicts in the Far East. A Joint Sub-Committee of the Advisory Committee on Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs and of the Health Committee met in May 1934 and drew up a programme of work.

3. Malaria.

The Malaria Commission, in its endeavour to find a therapeutic agent as effective but less costly than quinine, finally selected “totaquina”, a product of the total alkaloids of the two kinds of quinine which may be cultivated in most tropical regions. Comparative experiments as to the curative efficacy of totaquina as compared with quinine were subsequently rendered possible by the co-operation of a certain number of hospitals in Algeria, Bulgaria, China, Spain, the Federated Malay States, France, Italy, Morocco and Roumania. The results have shown that totaquina fulfils the required conditions.

The third report of the Malaria Commission, which appeared in 1933 (Quarterly Bulletin, June 1933), directed the attention of malariologists to various problems whose solution would appreciably affect the therapeutics of malaria and which could only be adequately dealt with by international action. Special attention was drawn to the question whether there was a difference in respect of virulence as between parasites of the same species but of a different geographical origin and whether the immunity acquired by a given population in respect of local strains of parasites sufficed to protect that population from imported strains. It was further suggested that an attempt should be made to determine by means of experiments, conducted upon identical lines and having regard to local factors, the curative value, as compared with quinine, of the anti-malaria drugs recently produced by synthetic means, such as plasmoquine and atebrin. Researches into malaria therapy have been made in England and Roumania under the auspices of the Malaria Commission, covering both cases of malaria artificially produced and cases naturally contracted.

Certain observations made in recent years have led to a sub-division into several varieties of the species of mosquito (*A. maculipennis*) which is the most frequent carrier of malaria in Europe. Work of this kind may throw light upon various obscure problems which still remain to be solved in the epidemiology of malaria. The Malaria Commission therefore decided to study this problem and arranged for enquiries to be undertaken in 1933 in Roumania. A meeting of entomologists is contemplated for the summer of 1934 in Rome with a view to studying the different varieties of *A. maculipennis*, their geographical distribution and the part played by them in the transmission of malaria.

The courses of malariology which have been organised under the auspices of the Health Organisation will this year take place in Rome and Singapore. The courses in Europe are to be confined to a single country subject to malaria, in order to avoid the disadvantage of giving theoretical teaching in cities far distant from the regions where the practical work is undertaken. This arrangement will enable the duration of the course to be reduced from three to two months, its international character being assured by the participation of professors from various countries.

The first international course on malariology for doctors of the Far East was opened at Singapore on April 30th, 1934, with the assistance of Professors Allen (Singapore), Morin (Hanoi) and Walch (Batavia). The practical work is being done in the Straits Settlements, the Netherlands Indies and Indo-China, the health administrations of these countries having done their utmost to ensure the success of the experiment. The administrative organisation of the course was entrusted to the Eastern Bureau of the League at Singapore.

IV. TECHNICAL ENQUIRIES.

1. Medical Education.

The Health Committee decided in 1930 to undertake an enquiry into the subject of medical education as the result of a request addressed to it by the Government of China. The universities of Germany, Austria, France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands were asked to furnish reports on existing methods of medical education and on any reforms which might be contemplated. The report prepared by Professor Etienne Burnet and published in the December number of the *Quarterly Bulletin* for 1933 was based on the information collected as a result of this enquiry.

The Health Committee, during its session in October 1933, noted this report as an objective study of the tendencies at present characteristic of the progress of medical education in certain countries and recommended that it should be communicated to the national groups which were dealing with the reform of medical education.

2. Rural Hygiene.

In accordance with a recommendation adopted by the European Conference on Rural Hygiene of 1931, a series of studies has been undertaken by Institutes and Schools of Hygiene in various countries on the following subjects:

Cost and efficiency of the various types of rural health services (Spain, Hungary, Czechoslovakia);
Epidemiology of typhoid fever in rural districts (Spain, France, Hungary, Poland, Roumania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia);
Improvement in methods of storing manure and, in particular, methods of protection against flies (Denmark, Spain, France, Poland);
Milk supply (Spain, France, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia);
Methods of analysing water and sewage (Poland).

These studies were actively continued during 1933 and 1934. The Health Section has now at its disposal a considerable amount of information and the work is sufficiently advanced to justify calling together a conference of the directors of the participating institutes in the autumn of the present year. The conference will be invited to draw conclusions from the information brought to light by the enquiries and to establish a programme of future work.

The Assembly in 1932 asked the Health Committee to study the possibility of organising in the Far East a conference on rural hygiene similar to that which had been held for the European countries in 1931. The Advisory Council of the Eastern Bureau, undertaking preliminary enquiries on behalf of the Health Committee, has recommended that the question should be informally discussed at the forthcoming Congress of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine to be held in Nanking in October 1934 and has decided that the question of rural hygiene shall be one of the principal items on the agenda of its 1935 session.

3. CANCER.

The Health Committee in 1929 concluded that, although in the treatment of cancer of the uterus radio-therapy appeared to give as satisfactory, if not better, results than surgical methods, the great variety of the methods of treatment by X-rays and radium, the cost of the equipment required, the publicity given to successful cases and the dangers involved by such treatment in the hands of inexperienced practitioners raised a whole series of questions for which it seemed that a solution might with advantage be sought by the organisation of an international enquiry.

The Health Committee desired to direct the enquiry in such a way as to obtain data which might be comparable. It accordingly proposed, on the advice of its experts, to classify the various stages of uterine cancer and it established a model case record for the data relative to each case undergoing treatment. Further, it fixed at five years the minimum period during which the patient must be observed in order to enable a true appreciation of the results of the treatment to be made. The case records were distributed in English, French and German to institutions in twenty-two countries and a certain number of these institutions began to make a systematic use of them from 1930 onwards.

This year, more than 5,000 cards, filled in at institutes and clinics of France, the United Kingdom, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Czechoslovakia, were available, and the first stage of the enquiry will be completed in 1936.

The Health Committee proposes to take advantage of the Congress on Radiology, to be held at Zurich in July 1934, to convene a further Conference of Experts to examine the progress of the enquiry and to obtain advice on its subsequent course.

4. DEAFNESS.

The Government of the Union of South Africa in June 1932 asked the Secretary-General whether the League of Nations was prepared to undertake an international study of deafness similar to the enquiry into blindness previously undertaken by the League. It was urged in support of this suggestion that it was desirable to obtain statistics established on a uniform basis and to have information as to the measures taken in the various countries for the prevention of deafness and the educational facilities offered to persons either deaf or hard of hearing.

A preliminary study of the problem showed that it was desirable to deal separately with the deaf and dumb, the deaf and the hard of hearing, and to distinguish these three groups by means of precise definitions. Statistically there is most data available in respect of deaf mutes. In Western Europe, the United States of America and Japan, the proportion of deaf mutes to the total population varies in the neighbourhood of 60 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Information in regard to deaf persons is less complete. In very few countries has it been considered possible to give a precise definition of deafness or to record the number of persons afflicted by it in the periodical censuses.

The third group, which covers persons hard of hearing, is the most difficult of all to deal with from the statistical point of view. It would, however, be possible approximately, to estimate its importance on the basis of information obtained in regard to certain groups of the population subject to periodical medical examination, such as schoolchildren, army recruits and insured persons.

The Health Committee is of opinion that only questions relating to statistics and prevention fall within its province. It has collected, by means of a questionnaire addressed to its members, information with regard to these two aspects of the problem. In view of the complexity of the problems raised, however, the Government of the Union of South Africa has been asked to define the points to which it desired the enquiry to be directed.

V. INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF LEPROSY.

The Council of the League of Nations in September 1931 accepted the Brazilian Government's offer to establish at Rio de Janeiro an International Centre for Research on
Leprosy to be placed under the auspices of the League of Nations. The administrative provisions under which the centre is established are similar to those relating to other international institutes placed at the disposal of the League of Nations by particular Governments.

The centre consists of:

1. A Governing Body consisting of the members of the Health Committee of the League of Nations acting in their personal capacity and of the Chairman of the Committee of Management, appointed by the Brazilian Government;
2. A Committee of Management consisting of seven representatives;
3. A Director.

The Governing Body, at its first meeting on November 1st, 1933, appointed Professor Carlos Chagas as Director of the Centre.

The Committee of Management, under the Chairmanship of M. G. Guinle, made active preparations, during the winter of 1933-34, with a view to inaugurating the work of the Centre. The official inauguration took place on April 20th, 1934, in the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Education and Public Health of the United States of Brazil.

The Centre is established at the Oswaldo Cruz Institute, and the Committee of Management has taken in hand the installation of new laboratories. There will also be clinical and therapeutic Sub-Centres at the federal Leprosarium of Curupaiti, where the National Department of Health has built a modern hospital block with forty beds and the Santa Isabel Leprosarium of Minas Gerais. Operation has already been arranged between the Centre, the Leprosy Prevention Service, the Institute of Hygiene and the Medical Faculty of São Paulo. Epidemiological investigations will be carried out in the leprosy foci in the interior of the country.

VI. ECONOMIC DEPRESSION AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Health Committee in October 1932 took up the question of the possible effects of the economic depression on public health and established a programme of work. The Council, in January 1933, invited the International Labour Office to co-operate with the Health Organisation in this enquiry.

One of the items on the programme of the Health Committee related to methods of securing general agreement on the way in which nutrition should be studied in individual cases. The problem was discussed by a Conference of Experts which met in Berlin in December 1932 and the report of the Conference was published in the Quarterly Bulletin of the Health Section in March 1933. The Conference recommended that, parallel with social investigations, clinical investigations should be undertaken, based on a selection of methods, defined and described in the report, which might be simply and rapidly applied.

Studies were made in accordance with these recommendations in various countries, their object being to compare the state of nutrition in families suffering from total or partial unemployment with the state of nutrition in groups of the population working full time.

In Austria, 2,729 individuals belonging to 558 families registered at the relief centres of the city of Vienna were examined by the Social Welfare Department.

In Poland, the enquiry was entrusted to the Department of Nutrition of the State Health School. Seven hundred and fifty families living in the suburbs of Warsaw were covered by the enquiry, together with 1,000 schoolchildren belonging to an equal number of families of unemployed and employed persons.

The examination of fifty families among the unemployed and nineteen families of employed persons at The Hague showed that there was no clear difference in the state of nutrition of these two groups.

In Belgium, an enquiry undertaken by the Solvay Institute covered seventeen families at Hamme, twenty-five at Brussels and fifty-five at Charleroi. The general impression derived from these enquiries was that, though there was considerable hardship in a number of families suffering from unemployment, the malnutrition was not sufficiently serious to denote really grave physical impairment.

In the United States of America, the results of an enquiry made by the United Public Health Service were communicated to the Health Committee. The enquiry covered ten cities and 12,000 families. It was completed by a thorough examination of the state of nutrition of 406 schoolchildren in Pittsburgh and 508 schoolchildren in New York. These enquiries seemed to indicate that the percentage of cases of malnutrition among children was higher in the group belonging to families whose annual income per head appreciably decreased between 1929 and 1932 than in the families whose income had not changed during these four years.

In Hungary, the Minister of the Interior plans to study the state of nutrition and health of the members of 1,000 families inhabiting rural districts. The question of the most suitable methods whereby, in a period of economic crisis, public health might be safeguarded was discussed by a conference of experts in 1933, whose recommendations were published in the Quarterly Bulletin of the Health Section for June 1933.

The Health Committee, considering this report in October 1933, decided to forward it for information to the national health administrations. The Governing Body of the International

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Labour Office had previously taken a similar decision in respect of the national labour and social welfare administrations.

The Minister for Health and Physical Education of Czechoslovakia, following the communication of this report to the national health administrations, stated that he had been deeply impressed by the principles laid down and that he intended to act upon them. Although they had been communicated to him only for information, he had nevertheless forwarded them to all the departments of his Ministry and to the State Health Institute. Further, the Minister for Pensions and Health of Canada announced his intention of having the report discussed at the next meeting of the Dominion Health Council.

VII. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE.

I. GENEVA.

The work of the Service is described in its publications.

The *Weekly Epidemiological Record* contains the *communiqué* of the Office international d'Hygiène publique relating to epidemic diseases from the point of view of the application of the International Sanitary Convention of 1926. There follows a statement of the epidemiological information received by the Health Section relating, not only to "international" diseases, such as plague, cholera, smallpox, typhus and yellow fever, but diseases such as influenza, scarlet fever, diphtheria, poliomyelitis and cerebro-spinal meningitis, less important for quarantine services but of even more concern to the health administrations of the continental countries. The *Weekly Record* is distributed from Geneva every Thursday evening and provides the health authorities of Europe on the next or following day with data on the movements of cholera, plague and smallpox during the previous week. It thus enables them to apply quarantine measures in good time. The health authorities of Africa and Asia are supplied with this information by a system of relaying the weekly wireless bulletin issued by the Eastern Bureau at Singapore.

In order further to accelerate the distribution of the information received, two or three "Latest Epidemiological Intelligence" sheets are published every week.

The progressive development of the network of information of this Service is shown by the *Epidemiological Report* published bi-monthly and by the annual report published under the title of *Statistics of Notifiable Diseases*. These reports in 1921 covered only eleven countries, all of them European. They covered seventy countries in 1923 and 148 countries in 1933. The last annual report includes demographic and sanitary data covering 640 towns. Practically all countries with an organised system of demographic and health statistics now send information to Geneva.

2. SINGAPORE.

The Eastern Bureau, making every effort to complete its network of communication, is now in telegraphic connection with 163 ports, which communicate their reports at the end of each week. These reports are summarised in the epidemiological bulletin issued daily in clear to vessels at sea from the station at Malabar (Java) and on Friday or Saturday in code to the health administrations from the wireless stations at Shanghai, Hong-Kong, Karachi, Madras, Sandakan, Saigon, Antananarivo and Tokio. These broadcasts are issued gratuitously.

The change made in the system of broadcasting the epidemiological bulletins introduced in July 1933—namely, the adoption of a short wave-length by the station at Saigon—has not given rise to any difficulties. Those experienced by Japan and New Zealand in picking up the short wave-length were rapidly overcome and the countries on the east coast of Africa receive the message on a long wave-length retransmitted by the powerful station at Antananarivo. The Eastern Bureau will therefore not have to increase the number of cables which it is still obliged to send every week to the ports of Aden, Basrah, Bushire, Canton, Victoria (Seychelles), and Vladivostok, which are not able to receive its wireless message.

An interesting innovation is the broadcasting from Saigon, directly following the code message, of a translation in clear. Hitherto the Malabar station has alone been responsible for the long-distance bulletin in clear issued to vessels at sea. Ships' doctors will doubtless appreciate this new source of information.

In 1933, 107 ships were notified to the Eastern Bureau as having on board cases of infectious disease, thirty-seven had cases of smallpox and four had cases of cholera.

In twenty-six vessels conveying more than 14,000 pilgrims to Mecca there was no case of smallpox or cholera in 1933, the health administrations of the Eastern countries tending increasingly to insist upon vaccination against smallpox and cholera of all pilgrims before they leave.

The Advisory Council of the Eastern Bureau met at Singapore on February 8th and 9th, 1934, under the chairmanship of Dr. P. Hermant, Inspector-General of the Medical and Sanitary Services of Indo-China. The Council recommended that the Eastern Bureau should undertake a study of the methods in force in the countries of the Far East for combating social diseases and particularly tuberculosis and venereal diseases.
It is encouraging to note that, in spite of the economic depression, the countries of the Far East which voluntarily contributed to the budget of the Eastern Bureau in the past, have continued in 1933 to afford it their financial support.


Since the beginning of 1932, all the reports of the Technical Commissions of the Health Committee have been published in the Quarterly Bulletin of the Health Organisation.

10.

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND CHINA.

I. APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF THE TECHNICAL AGENT.

The Council, on July 3rd, 1933, appointed a Committee, consisting of the President and eight of its Members, to consider a request submitted by the Chinese Government on June 28th, 1933, that a technical agent should be appointed in order to secure a more continuous cooperation between the League of Nations and the National Economic Council of China.

On July 18th, 1933, the Committee, whose meetings are attended by a representative of the United States Government acting as an unofficial observer, adopted the following resolution:

"The appointment of the technical agent requested by the Chinese Government is of a purely technical and entirely non-political character. In view of this fundamental principle, it is understood that the technical agent shall act as a technical liaison officer with the National Economic Council of China for the purpose of technical co-operation with the competent organs of the League of Nations.

"He shall hold office for one year. His salary and his travelling and subsistence expenses shall be defrayed by the Chinese Government.

"The duties of the technical agent shall be:

"(1) To supply information on the working of the technical organisations of the League and on the manner in which these organisations may be utilised for the purpose of co-operation in the reconstruction of China;

"(2) To transmit to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, for submission to the competent organisation or organisations, any request for technical co-operation which he may receive from the Chinese Government;

"(3) To afford the Chinese Government such assistance as it may desire with a view to securing the co-operation of such experts as that Government might wish to engage for a technical service connected with the work of reconstruction, and

"(4) To assist the National Economic Council in co-ordinating on the spot the activities of the experts of the League's technical organisations.

"The technical agent shall forward to the Council frequent statements regarding his work and a detailed report at least once every three months. This report shall also be communicated by the Secretary-General to such technical organisations of the League as have been called upon to co-operate at the Chinese Government's request.

"The technical agent shall apply to the Secretary-General of the League with a view to securing the assistance of the technical sections and organisations in any enquiries he may have to carry out in the discharge of his duties as defined above.

"It is understood that, whenever the technical agent forwards statements and reports on his work to the League, copies thereof shall be sent at the same time to the National Economic Council of China.

"The Committee of the Council appoints Dr. Rajchman, Director of the Health Section of the Secretariat, to act as technical delegate with the duties defined above.

"In notifying the Council of its decisions, the Committee of the Council desires to state that it will in future remain at the Council's disposal for the purpose of:

"(1) Considering any questions relating to the League's technical co-operation in the reconstruction of China that may be laid before the Council by the Chinese Government;

"(2) Examining the statements and reports received from the technical agent and discussing all questions relating to the discharge of his duties which the Committee may deem it desirable to consider."
Dr. Rajchman arrived in China on October 3rd, 1933, and on the following day the Chinese National Government set up and defined the duties of a Standing Committee of the National Economic Council, which entered upon a detailed study of the activities to be undertaken and financed during the year 1934.

II. REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE TECHNICAL AGENT ON HIS MISSION IN CHINA FROM THE DATE OF HIS APPOINTMENT UNTIL APRIL 1ST, 1934.

Dr. Rajchman submitted his first general report to the Committee of the Council on May 17th, 1934:

I. PURPOSES AND POWERS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

The National Economic Council was set up by the National Government of China in May 1931, and entered upon its duties in November of that year.

The powers of the Council are:

(a) To plan, examine and approve projects for economic reconstruction or development;
(b) To examine and approve the necessary expenditure required for the execution of projects for economic reconstruction or development;
(c) To supervise and direct projects for economic reconstruction or development;
(d) To execute directly special projects for economic reconstruction and development.

The National Economic Council was, at the beginning, advised by committees created ad hoc in devising the policy in regard to public roads, water conservancy, public health and education.

It is the policy of the Council to establish a secretarial bureau only when it is needed for the purpose of a specific activity. At present there exists: (1) a bureau of the Chief Secretary, to which, besides an administrative and technical staff, there are attached eight expert advisers on matters connected with agriculture, hydraulics, industrial chemistry, commerce, fishery and mining, and a foreign staff of six advisers; (2) a bureau for public roads; (3) a central field health station; (4) bureaux for activities in the field (including agriculture and water conservancy).

The continuous work of the Council must clearly be based on economic intelligence; but, being anxious to avoid overlapping and to use existing institutions, the Council refrained from creating a special service for the purpose. It therefore appointed a Standing Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General of the Academia Sinica, composed of its own Chief Secretary, the Director-General of the National Geological Survey and the Director of the comprehensive studies and investigations conducted systematically under the authority of the National Government as a whole. To this Committee, all the technical work and plans of the Council are referred for advice, while the studies decided upon are distributed among the component institutions or entrusted to specialists selected by the Committee.

The National Economic Council has made the following allocation of funds for the programme of work to be undertaken in 1934:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>6,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silk</td>
<td>750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiangsi</td>
<td>1,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-west</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant to the Geological Survey for studies of fuel</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic research</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To this must be added:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For a subsidy to tea experimental stations</td>
<td>64,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For general administration and technical experts</td>
<td>750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For reserve</td>
<td>436,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 15,000,000

2. PROGRAMME OF RECONSTRUCTION.

(a) Agricultural Reconstruction.

The low output of Chinese agriculture is due partly to technical and partly to social and economic conditions. Seeds best adapted to soil and climate are not widely used; artificial fertilisers are not adequately employed; the rotation of crops follows ancient practice and habits and there is an insufficient control of animal disease and insect pests. Animal
The export of silk from China between 1928 and 1933 fell from $282,000,000 to $93,000,000. This decline has occurred in spite of the fact that China has greater natural facilities for sericulture than any other country.

The Chinese cotton industry is more heavily capitalised and employs more labour than any other industry in the country. China, moreover, is not only able to support a cotton industry, but can produce the raw material, conditions being suitable for cotton-growing in eleven of the Chinese provinces. The domestic supply of cotton, however, is at present inadequate, and, in 1932, China was obliged to import raw cotton to the value of $233,000,000. This circumstance is due to the low productivity per acre of the Chinese cotton-growing districts and to the inferior quality of the cotton produced owing to the use of poor or degenerated seeds. The improvement in the quality and output of cotton in China is of special importance and to the inferior quality of the cotton produced owing to the use of poor or degenerated seeds. The improvement in the quality and output of cotton in China is of special importance.

The National Government of China appointed, in October 1933, a Rural Rehabilitation Commission, consisting of the Ministers of Finance, Railways and Industries, and a number of experts in agriculture and economics. The work of the Commission hitherto has been exclusively one of enquiry and investigation. A special Committee of the Executive Yuan was subsequently appointed to frame a comprehensive land policy. This Committee heard in evidence Sir Arthur Salter, Dr. Stampar and M. Briand-Clausen. It was unable to go beyond the enunciation of principles.

The National Government has since requested the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Finance to co-operate with the National Economic Council in forming a Commission of three members, to make a comprehensive study of the agrarian situation and to make definite recommendations for reform. A technical secretariat will be responsible for the evidence submitted to this Commission, and in the collection of the necessary information the experts of the League of Nations will participate.

(b) Cotton.

The National Economic Council proposes to assist the provincial government of Kiangsi by means of subsidies and by lending it the necessary staff. The activities suggested as a result of the survey include improvements in land tenure and taxation, the organisation of co-operative societies and general measures of social welfare, including the establishment of provincial and local welfare centres, emergency help for refugees and unemployed, the organisation of health services and the education of rural workers.

The special problems of Kiangsi are only a part of the agrarian question in China. Similar conditions exist in most of the provinces south of the Yangtze, and there is a general demand for radical changes in the social system. The National Government of China appointed, in May 1933, a Rural Rehabilitation Commission, consisting of the Ministers of Finance, Railways and Industries, and a number of experts in agriculture and economics. The work of the Commission has begun, but can proceed only slowly.

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A Commission for the Rationalisation of the Cotton Industry was appointed by the National Government of China in October 1933, consisting of representatives of the cotton growers, merchants and manufacturers. The Commission intends to effect improvements in the marketing of cotton and in the quality of the seeds distributed for sowing, chiefly by promoting an extension of the co-operative movement among the cotton-growers. It believes that the co-operative societies may be used both for ensuring the cotton-growers a better price and for improving the quality of their crops. The Cotton Commission proposes to attach to each co-operative society an officer who will grade and standardise the produce.

(c) Silk.

The Commission further intends to establish at Nanking a Central Bureau for the improvement of cotton and to set up similar institutions in five of the provinces. These establishments will experiment with seeds with a view to propagating improved varieties, collect statistics concerning the cotton crop, study fertilisers and spread among cotton-growers the technical knowledge in which they are at present deficient.

(c) Silk.

The export of silk from China between 1928 and 1933 fell from $282,000,000 to $93,000,000. This decline has occurred in spite of the fact that China has greater natural facilities for sericulture than any other country.
Towards the end of 1932, M. Benito Mari, former Chairman of the Italian Association of Sericulture, was, at the request of the Chinese Government, nominated by the Economic Committee of the League of Nations to conduct an investigation into the state of the silk industry. M. Mari, in January 1934, reported on the results of enquiries which extended over the provinces of Chekiang, Kiangsu, Kwangtung, Shantung and Szechuan. He attributes the decline in the Chinese silk trade to a deterioration in the quality of the silk produced.

M. Mari recommends the establishment of a State monopoly which should control the cultivation of mulberry-trees, the preparation of silkworm eggs, the rearing of silkworms and cocoons and the price and sale of cocoons. The silk filatures, moreover, should, he urges, be assisted with technical advice and be subject to instructions which should, in some cases, be compulsorily enforced. The filatures should be provided with a commercial information service and their working conditions and output should be subject to Government control.

Towards the end of 1933, the Central Government decided to include the improvement of sericulture in its general programme of reconstruction, and, on January 1st, 1934, the National Economic Council established an autonomous commission for the control of the silk industry. This Commission has received an allotment of $750,000 from the budget of the National Economic Council. It proposes to set up two stations, at a cost of $200,000, in Chekiang and in Kiangsu respectively, for the propagation of improved varieties of silkworm eggs.

Bureaux, moreover, are being established at the ports for the testing and grading of silk for export, their object being to restore the confidence of foreign purchasers in Chinese silk and to induce producers to pay closer attention to its quality.

(d) Water Conservancy.

The Chinese Government informed the Communications and Transit Section of the League as early as the spring of 1931 that it intended to include certain hydraulic problems in a first programme of national development. The most important of these projects was a scheme for the improvement of the Hwai River. The Chinese Government desired for this purpose to have the advice of technical experts appointed by the Transit Organisation of the League. The Chinese Government stated that, in the event of such experts being appointed, it would seek their advice on certain problems connected with the ports of Shanghai and with the rivers of Northern China. It also hoped to establish a station for the technical training of civil engineers.

The Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit of the League, in June 1931, accepted the invitation of the Chinese Government to co-operate, and a commission of three engineers was despatched to China, which reported in due course to the Communications and Transit Organisation of the League. The report of the Commission of Engineers was submitted to the National Economic Council in February 1933.

The Commission decided in favour of a plan whereby an outlet for the waters of the Hwai River should be found in the Yangtze. Preliminary work in execution of this plan has been undertaken, financed by means of a loan from the British Boxer Indemnity Fund.

Prior to the arrival of the Commission of Engineers in China in 1932, there had occurred, in August and September of 1931, the catastrophe of the Yangtze flood. Approximately 140,000 people were drowned and crops to the value of $900 million were lost. The floods affected some 25 million people inhabiting an area of 70,000 square miles. A National Flood Relief Commission was appointed which, in addition to the immediate work of relief, undertook to repair and rebuild certain dykes on the Yangtze and its tributaries. At one time over one million persons were engaged in this work, which was mainly remunerated in kind from a loan of 450,000 tons of wheat from the United States.

When the National Flood Relief Commission ceased to exist in the summer of 1932, the National Economic Council was directed by the Government to take over its duties and the funds and material which the Commission still had in hand. In November 1932, the National Economic Council was also instructed to take over the control of conservancy work in the Province of Hupeh. To fulfil these duties, the National Economic Council formed a special Hydraulics Bureau, which had at its disposal the services of M. F. J. M. Bourdrez, one of the representatives in China of the Transit Organisation of the League. Funds to the amount of $1,407,000 were expended on this work.

This emergency task was completed by the end of 1933, and, at the beginning of 1934, the Standing Committee of the National Economic Council decided that the time had come to organise conservancy undertakings on a permanent basis. Before making any final arrangements, however, it desired to obtain, through the League, technical advice, more particularly on the projects to be selected for execution in the immediate future, and it was arranged that a technical adviser, commissioned by the National Economic Council and accompanied by M. Bourdrez, should go to Europe with detailed descriptions of the various projects under consideration.

Meanwhile, the National Economic Council is undertaking irrigation work in the provinces of North-West China which are liable to suffer from drought. Two of three important irrigation projects have already been partially carried out. The National Economic Council proposed to make subsidies amounting to more than $1,000,000 to these schemes. A survey party, accompanied by M. Bourdrez, is at present studying the work to be undertaken in the course of the year.
(e) Roads.

The National Economic Council, on first taking up its duties, established a Roads Bureau to co-operate in road construction with the provincial governments and with private interests. A general plan was drawn up in 1932 for a system of highways for the three provinces of Kiangsu, Chekiang and Anhwei, to which were added later in the year schemes covering the adjacent provinces of Hupeh, Honan, Hunan and Kiangsi.

The Roads Bureau prescribes the locality, quality and kinds of roads to be built and, in selected cases, grants loans at low rates of interest to cover about 32 per cent of the building costs. It also places expert engineers at the disposal of the provincial authorities. Some 4,000 kilometres of roads have been built during the last two years, with the result that a connected system of more than 12,000 kilometres has been brought into existence in seven provinces. The provincial governments have, moreover, undertaken road-building on their own account. There are now open to traffic in the thirty provinces of China over 70,000 kilometres of roads.

The programme of road construction approved by the National Economic Council for 1934 includes a continuation of the work undertaken in the seven provinces and its extension to other provinces. In particular, roads are to be built in Shensi and Kansu with a view to an improvement of conditions in North-West China.

The National Economic Council proposes to co-operate with the provincial governments in the appointment of an officer in each of the provinces to be responsible for road maintenance and will pay part of the salaries of these officers. The Roads Bureau has, from January 1932, had at its disposal the services of a representative of the Communications and Transit Organisation of the League, M. Okecki, and the League organisation, with a view to the work to be undertaken in 1934, has been requested to co-operate in the study of a number of problems to which the Bureau has directed its attention. These problems include:

(a) The best types of roads adapted to selected areas;
(b) Methods of operating the roads;
(c) The question of fuel supplies; and,
(d) Types of vehicles and engines.

The relevant information will be brought to Geneva by the Chinese delegation to the International Road Congress, which will examine, with the members of technical committees or individual specialists acting under the instructions of the Transit Organisation, the several questions under investigation. The Transit Organisation, moreover, will be asked to arrange facilities at various technical institutes and establishments for experimental study by Chinese engineers of the problems under consideration.

(f) Health.

In April 1931, a programme for the development of the public health services of China over a period of three years was drawn up by the National Health Administration and communicated to the Health Committee of the League.

The essential features of the plan were the following:

(i) The establishment of a Central Field Health Station and the development of a Central Hospital as a nucleus of the national medical and health services;
(ii) The establishment of an Experimental Medical School and a reinforcement of the few existing national medical colleges of the higher type with a view to the training of suitables officers for later work;
(iii) A gradual extension of the National Quarantine Service;
(iv) A co-ordination of the various modern public health bodies in the country.

The three-year period assigned to the application of the programme of health re-organisation is now concluded.

The success of the scheme has fulfilled, and in some respects exceeded, expectations, in spite of the fact that it was impeded by serious events, such as the floods on the Yangtze River in 1931, the cholera epidemic of 1932, which spread to three hundred cities in twenty provinces, and the necessity of organising Red Cross work during a period of hostilities.

(1) The Central Field Health Station began its work in temporary quarters in May 1931. Training was given in practical public health work, in the control of epidemics and sanitary engineering, midwifery and nursing, to thirty-four medical officers, sixty-four sanitary inspectors, one hundred midwives and fifty nurses. The Health Organisation of the League afforded facilities for study abroad to twenty-five members of the station with a view to qualifying them for teaching and directing responsible posts after their return to China.

The production of vaccines and sera was developed in Peiping and Nanking, while essential drugs were produced at the headquarters in Nanking for public hospitals and dispensaries to the value of $100,000.

Plague, malaria and parasitic diseases were studied at specially equipped departments and field stations, not only at headquarters, but in eight provinces and thirty-five localities.
Health centres were established at twenty localities in six provinces. Midwifery schools and maternity centres were opened at ten localities in seven provinces.

The Central Field Health Station took possession of its new buildings in August 1933, and, by October 1933, all its divisions were in effective operation. The total cost of the building and equipment was about $600,000.

(2) The Central Hospital started in temporary buildings in January 1930, the new hospital being completed in June 1933. It has a capacity of 340 beds, a large out-patient department and a centralised operating section. During 1933, 71,527 out-patients and 5,347 in-patients were attended and 3,220 surgical operations performed. A school of nursing and central midwifery school are attached to the hospital; 108 young doctors have been trained for service in public hospitals and clinics. The total cost of the hospital, including equipment, was $1,200,000.

(3) The quarantine services were inaugurated in July 1930, following consultations arranged by the Health Organisation of the League with a special international committee representing the public health services of the chief maritime countries and delegates of the international chambers of shipping. In 1931, these services were operating in six ports with a technical staff of nineteen officers. The volume of work at Shanghai, Wuhau, Amoy, Takutungku, Tientsin and Chingwangtao has greatly increased and the service now includes twenty-four trained officers, of whom seven have benefited from facilities offered by the League at various ports in adjacent regions and in Europe and the United States.

The National Quarantine Service now has authority over all the maritime and river ports of China, with the exception of Canton and Kiachiao, and the Chinese Republic has at its disposal a service which inspires confidence in the vessels of all nations.

(4) The co-ordination of public health activities has been chiefly directed towards the campaign against epidemics.

The Chinese Government in 1930 requested the assistance of the Health Organisation in a campaign against cholera and smallpox, and the establishment of a Central Cholera Bureau at Shanghai has enabled the health administrations of the three municipalities at Shanghai to keep in touch with one another and to co-ordinate their activities. This Bureau, recently re-organised, will henceforth include propaganda and epidemiological services. The results are encouraging. Whereas, in 1933, isolated cases of cholera were found in a certain number of towns, Shanghai remained exempt. There were more than 900,000 vaccinations against cholera.

The organisation of public health work in the provinces ensures medical and epidemiological supervision in connection with road-building and relief measures. Maternity work, measures for the welfare of the child and for the control of contagious diseases and the affording of medical relief are of special importance in the rural districts where the public health service, particularly in the work of the National Economic Council, plays an important part in the general task of reconstruction.

(g) Education.

The Ministry of Education of the National Government of China, in a proposal forwarded to the Secretary-General on December 30th, 1933, requested the League to send an authority on education to discuss the practical application of proposals made by the mission which went to China in 1931 under the auspices of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation and by the Chinese group of educationists which paid a return visit to Europe in 1932. The Ministry hoped that the League would select a person prepared to act as a permanent liaison officer in Europe between China and the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation.

The Secretary-General communicated this request to the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, which appointed M. Fernand Maurette, Assistant Director of the International Labour Office. M. Maurette visited Nanking in March 1934.

The Ministry of Education of the Chinese National Government, as a result of the visit of M. Maurette, submitted to the National Economic Council a proposal for establishing an employment bureau for intellectual and technical workers. This proposal was adopted on March 26th, 1934, and the necessary credit was appropriated.

The Bureau, which will be established at the Ministry of Education, will undertake in several selected provinces an enquiry into the requirements of the local administrations for intellectual workers to act as civil servants or members of the liberal professions. It is hoped that the enquiry will enable the Bureau to compile a complete and exact list of the different posts in each province to be filled either immediately or in the near future. The Bureau will also endeavour to discover disengaged intellectual workers competent to fill the posts indicated in the list. The Bureau will act, in fact, as a labour exchange for Chinese intellectual workers living in China.

The Bureau will also direct the education of Chinese abroad, so that they may obtain from their university and post-graduate studies practical training with a view to the execution of the programme of reconstruction in China. The Bureau will for this purpose establish a branch at Geneva, and arrangements are being made to extend its work to the United States of America.
3. METHODS OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND CHINA.

Dr. Rajchman concludes his survey of the technical co-operation between the League of Nations and China with an indication of the methods whereby such co-operation can best be secured:

(1) Systematic and planned utilisation of the archives of the Secretariat of the League and the International Labour Office under the guidance and with the experience of the members of the staff of the two institutions.

(2) Similar facilities might be arranged with the Secretariat of the Bank for International Settlements, of various national economic and planning councils, and kindred leading institutions in Europe and the United States.

(3) Technical commissions and sub-committees of the League and of the International Labour Office should invite the active participation, not only in their sessions, but particularly in their concrete studies, of Chinese specialists from among the group of men whose competence and interests have just been described.

(4) Experimental and other investigation of certain technical problems affecting Chinese reconstruction may be entrusted to leading institutions of economic and industrial study abroad, with the understanding that Chinese specialists should participate in the pursuit of these studies; the precise method would clearly depend on the nature of the question to be investigated.

(5) The practice established by the Health Organisation of giving facilities to senior technical officers of the Government for acquiring special experience with foreign services of a kindred character, if extended to other fields, would prove of distinct advantage.

(6) Arrangements recently proposed by the Ministry of Education to the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation for the guidance of the studies of young Chinese students abroad, if properly developed, may prove of great importance.

III. FIRST EXAMINATION OF THE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL AGENT BY THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND CHINA.

The Council Committee, on May 17th, 1934, began the examination of the report of its technical agent, who made a short statement on the development of technical co-operation between the League of Nations and China.

During the exchange of views that ensued, the representative of China conveyed to the Committee his Government's high appreciation of the services rendered by the technical agent and the various experts; he further pointed out the value attached by his Government to effecting technical co-operation with all States through the intermediary of the League of Nations.

The Committee, noting that the co-operation between the League of Nations and China was being carried out under conditions conforming to the resolutions adopted by the Council on May 19th, 1931, and July 3rd, 1933, and to the resolution of the Council Committee of July 18th, 1933, was glad to find that the methods of co-operation provided for under these resolutions are calculated to render useful service in the task of Chinese reconstruction.

The Secretary-General was requested to forward the report of the technical agent to the technical organisations of the League and the technical agent was invited to give to the technical organisations and sections concerned all requisite complementary information.

The Secretary-General will transmit in due course to the Council Committee the observations of the technical organisations. (Documents C.157.M.66.1934 ; C.206.1934.)
11. SOCIAL QUESTIONS.

I. PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

A. ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

1. GENERAL WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

The Advisory Commission for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People held its annual session at Geneva in April 1934. The Advisory Commission divided into its two constituent committees dealing respectively with Child Welfare and the Traffic in Women and Children. The Traffic in Women and Children Committee met from April 4th to April 7th, 1934; from April 7th to April 11th, 1934, there was a meeting of the Advisory Commission—in effect a joint meeting of the Traffic in Women and Children and Child Welfare Committees—which gave consideration to the report of the Commission of Enquiry into Traffic in Women and Children in the East; finally, the Child Welfare Committee met from April 11th to April 17th, 1934.

The Council, on May 14th, 1934, noted and approved the reports and conclusions of the Traffic in Women and Children Committee, of the Child Welfare Committee and of the Joint Session.

2. RE-ORGANISATION OF THE COMMISSION.

The Council, in October, approved a proposal made by the Advisory Commission to the effect that its membership should be increased from twelve to fifteen. It was understood that the members of the Commission would remain in office for five years. The Council invited Chile, India and Turkey each to appoint one of the new members of the Commission.

3. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE EAST.

The Advisory Commission for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People, during its session in April 1933, decided that the report of the Commission of Enquiry into Traffic in Women and Children in the East should be sent to missions and private organisations interested in the campaign against the traffic in the East for their observations and suggestions. Seventy-two national and international institutions were invited to give their views, and the following institutions complied with the invitation: the International Missionary Council; the Union internationale des Ligue féminines catholiques; the World’s Young Women’s Christian Association; the International Alliance for Women’s Suffrage and Equal Citizenship; the Women’s International Associations; the Liaison Committee of the Women’s International Organisations; the Fédération internationale des amies de la jeune fille; the Association catholique internationale des œuvres de protection de la jeune fille; the Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls and Women; the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene (the representative in India); the Kakusei Kai (Purity Society) of Japan; the Indo-European Association of Women, Batavia; the Canadian Council on Child and Family Welfare; the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith.

The Commission, in addition to the Government delegates and assessors on the Traffic in Women and Children and Child Welfare Committees, was attended by delegates from China, the Netherlands and Persia and by representatives of the following private organisations: the World’s Young Women’s Christian Association, the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, and the International Missionary Council. Mr. Pindor, member of the Travelling Commission of Enquiry into Traffic in Women and Children in the East, was also present.

The private organisations had been invited to give their views on the following seven points:

1. The appointment of central authorities in China and Persia, with closer collaboration and more regular exchange of information between these authorities in the East;
2. The appointment of a larger number of women officials to the staff of authorities responsible for the welfare of women and children in the East;
3. The adoption of a more effective policy in respect of minor immigrants victims of the traffic;
4. Closer co-operation between Chinese officials and the authorities of the foreign concessions in China;
5. The adoption of welfare measures for Russian women in China;