The importance of this list and of the corresponding catalogue is due to two facts. In the first place, the most recent information can be found therein. In the second place, being established on the basis of a very considerable number of periodicals, the list and the catalogues formed from it have a wide international foundation.

As the catalogue of selected articles has already been in existence for some ten years, it gives access to a very complete world documentation on questions such as coal, oil, minorities, road or railway traffic, etc.

*Government Documents.*

During the year, the Secretariat received some 5,000 volumes of Government documents. These publications appear either occasionally or at annual, quarterly, monthly, weekly or daily intervals.

The current files of the Library contain about 2,500 annual publications, 1,300 monthly or weekly publications and about 125 official journals of States or colonies, territories, etc., forming administrative units.

This category of publications tends to increase regularly from year to year, as Governments are led to intervene in fresh spheres of national life. The gradual hold which State control is gaining over the most liberal economies has now become a universal phenomenon quite independent of the form of government in each State.

In order to intervene, Governments must possess data, facts, statistical material, etc., which they are showing a growing tendency to collect for themselves.

One or two typical facts may be quoted to give an idea of the growing importance of this category of publications.

In 1921, the number of pages of United States Government publications issued at Washington \(^1\) was 1,625,000. In 1937, it had increased to 2,385,000, or by nearly 50%.

The various State administrations now prepare and publish so many documents that certain Governments issue at the end of the year detailed annual catalogues of all their publications.

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\(^1\) Excluding the *Congressional Record* and the specifications of patents, trademarks, etc.
The annual catalogue prepared by the Netherlands Government has over one hundred pages of titles for 1936.

Every week, the Library compiles and classifies, by subjects, in a *List of Additions to the Government Document Collection* the titles of some eighty or more new acquisitions.

Some of these documents are sent direct, free of charge, by the Government services, who know how useful they are to the League of Nations. The Governments themselves need the publications on an international basis which the Secretariat compiles from these national documents. Sometimes the Secretariat has to ask for them by letter; sometimes, too, an exchange is arranged. These documents include publications of national statistical offices, Customs services or Ministries of Commerce, in which the country’s foreign trade is classified under imports, exports and re-exports, and under countries of origin or destination; statistics relating to immigration and emigration, taxes, etc.; annual reports on prisons, irrigation, national education, railways, etc.; estimates of Government expenditure and receipts, audited State accounts, etc.

The Library sends its *Weekly List* to those of the members of the Secretariat who need it. The latter are thus enabled to ask that the Government publications which bear on their work should be sent to them immediately.

This is naturally the category of documents of which the Secretariat makes the largest use, as is shown by the following figures:

**Loans to the Secretariat in 1937/38.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Books and periodicals</th>
<th>Government documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>13,138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The greatest user is the Economic Intelligence Service of the Financial Section of the Secretariat, whose international *Statistical Year-book* and *World Economic Survey*, for example, are based on data extracted from several thousands of these Government documents.

Having early been obliged to devote special care to this category of printed matter, which constitutes the very foundation

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1 Exclusive of the automatic circulation of official journals to officials who have to peruse them regularly.
of the League's technical work, the Library now possesses by far the largest collection of Government documents in Europe.\(^1\)

The Library has also made special efforts to provide easy access to the large collection of texts of recent laws and treaties from all continents which has been formed as and when they have appeared.

While it is comparatively easy to find in printed collections texts which are already fairly old, it is often much more difficult to find the most recent texts, which are often the most in demand, even outside Geneva. They have to be sought either in national official journals or in the documentary annexes to certain periodicals, or again in the bulletins of laws which appear during the year. This mass of documents has to be analysed with a view to extracting the Treaties and Conventions and the legislative acts (laws, decrees, ordinances, etc.) which are of international interest.

The treaties and legislative texts regarded by the Library staff as of sufficient interest and importance are dealt with in the publication *Chronology of International Treaties and Legislative Measures*.\(^2\) This chronology has also been cut up by titles and placed in catalogues. The data covered by this catalogue are classified, first, by countries, and secondly, by subjects, so that it is easy to obtain the most recent treaties or essential legislation on the most varied subjects.

The *Chronology of International Treaties* is chiefly aimed at facilitating the work done at Geneva; but experience has shown that the *Chronology* and the *Monthly List of Selected Articles* are of interest, not only to Governments, but also to a large number of research institutions, universities, banks, libraries, etc. Some 800 copies of these publications are sent to addresses outside Geneva (including 200 to Governments).

*Newspapers.*

Apart from official gazettes, the League of Nations keeps for three, six, nine or twelve months, according to requirements,

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\(^1\) Its principal rivals are, in Europe, the London School of Economics and, overseas, the Congress Library at Washington, which early realised the growing importance of this type of publication.

\(^2\) Monthly; ninth year, 1938.
a certain number of daily newspapers of over twenty-five countries, naturally selecting those which are most representative and give the largest place to national politics, economic and financial events, etc.

Permanent collections of a dozen particularly important daily papers are kept in bound volumes, so that the Library is able to meet requests for information from the Secretariat and to supply the actual number of the newspaper which contains the desired information, together with comments or other supplementary particulars.

One difficulty which arises, however, is to find the exact date of the event, speech, official declaration or exchange of notes which may be asked for. While two leading dailies — The Times and the New York Times — publish indexes, other newspapers do not. There are, of course, publications which record the dates of recent important events of a political, economic or other nature, or which summarise them. But as the questions which the Library of the League of Nations has to answer are often of a special character, it has been necessary to create an instrument of work capable of facilitating research.

This instrument is the Fortnightly Survey of Political Events which gives a survey of events of foreign or commercial politics and of certain events of home politics (elections, changes of Government, etc.). By recording the dates, this publication enables the reader to find in the newspapers details concerning those events. This list thus constitutes a sort of index referring to the sources which may be consulted in the Library. All the events recorded in this survey are classified by countries and by chronological order in a catalogue, which also indicates the newspaper from which the item was taken. This system has proved extremely useful in the past year.

Attendance at Reading-rooms.

Instead of having a large reading-room and an adjacent room for periodicals, like so many libraries, the League Library has been led by circumstances to specialise the facilities which

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1 Including the Frankfurter Zeitung, The Times, the New York Times, Le Temps and the Corriere della Sera.
2 Fourth year, 1938.
it offers to readers. The lending room, which contains the general catalogue in alphabetical order of authors’ names or subjects, enables a certain number of readers to make their own researches. But most of them find it more convenient to work either in the special room for political and legal questions, or in the room set aside for economic and financial questions and questions of communications and transit, or again in the reading-room for social questions.

These different rooms contain on their shelves the books most useful to the public, who can consult them direct, together with current periodicals on the special branch concerned.

The number of readers’ cards issued to the outside public from June 1st, 1937, to June 1st, 1938, was 774. To those readers must be added a considerable number of delegates, etc., who are admitted on producing their cards.

The room which is most largely attended is that on political and legal questions, where, on an average, about twenty-five persons work daily.

Attendance is much the greatest during the summer. A considerable number of foreign teachers and professors come to Geneva during their holidays to collect material for books or articles on the same subjects as those which are dealt with by the League of Nations.

The members of the Secretariat are, however, much the largest users of the Library, but, owing to the distance and to the exigencies of their work, it is usually either by written message or by telephone that they borrow the very numerous materials which they require.

Requests for Information.

Most libraries are content with the easy and almost mechanical task of fetching from their shelves and lending books which the student himself looks up in the catalogue and of which he writes down the title, the author’s name and the shelf number on an application form. The League Library has a heavier task: what its customers most often ask for is not a book or a particular number of a review, but the most recent information on a particular point. Very often these
requests are of such a technical character that they can only be answered by the librarians of the specialised rooms.

It has not yet been possible to open to the public the special rooms originally designed for health questions and geographical questions.

Photostatic Reproductions.

A certain number of foreign professors or Governments require recent but rare printed matter which the Library cannot part with as it must be kept for the Secretariat's use. It is able to meet the wishes of these outside customers thanks to the system of photostatic reproductions.

In 1937/38, the Library supplied over 1,000 pages of photostatic reproductions. Requests were received, for example, from the Congress Library at Washington, from the Institute of Comparative Law of Paris University, from the International Labour Office, etc.

Among the material of which photostatic reproductions have recently been made may be mentioned certain legislative texts regarding the Saar Territory, Liberia, etc.\(^1\)

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In conclusion, it will be seen what an increasingly important part the Library is playing in collecting and placing at the disposal of the Secretariat and the public the more and more complex documentation required to conduct the technical studies jointly undertaken by the Members of the League (and also by several non-member States).

\(^1\) As in the past, the Librarian has acted as Secretary of the very active International Federation of Library Associations. This has supplied the permanent link which has hitherto been missing between forty-three library associations representing the librarians of twenty-nine countries.

Among the achievements of this Federation in the past few years, mention may be made of the organisation of international loans between libraries, reductions in the price of periodicals, the unification of cataloguing rules, attempts to ensure greater comparability between library statistics, etc.
21.

WIRELESS STATION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The statistics of the station for 1937 show that private traffic has, as a whole, increased regularly. Only at the end of the year was there a material decline, which must be attributed to the fact that after November 26th, 1937, communications with Shanghai became impossible owing to the hostilities in China. It is to be feared that these communications will not be restored in the near future, and there is even doubt as to whether it will again be possible to send messages to China on the old basis.

To sum up, private traffic increased by 26.7%. The devaluation of the Swiss franc and the improvement in the general situation played an important part in this increase.

The official traffic in Government telegrams decreased in 1937 by about 17%. This decline is very probably due, not only to the more restricted political activity of the League of Nations in 1937, but also to the regular issue of the wireless bulletin of the Information Section.

Lastly, Press traffic remained trifling, although there was a slight increase, particularly during the Assembly.

In fact, the greater part of Switzerland’s Press traffic still goes via certain neighbouring countries, as the system of telegraphic charges applied in these countries to the type of traffic in question offers considerable advantages to users.

The total receipts in 1937 were 464,893.07 Swiss francs (as compared with 410,007.32 Swiss francs in 1936), and the expenditure was 443,510.70 Swiss francs (in 1936, 403,362.04 Swiss francs). As a result of the increase in private traffic, there was a surplus of 21,382.37 Swiss francs in 1937 (as compared with a surplus of 6,645.28 Swiss francs in 1936). The net receipts
from the wireless telephone service were 61,722.20 Swiss francs in 1937 (as compared with 50,091.72 Swiss francs in 1936).

The improvement work mentioned last year\(^1\) was completed, and the new installations were put into operation on June 15th, 1937, at the Prangins transmitting station; they have given full satisfaction from the technical point of view.

As in 1936, the Information Section continued the transmission of a weekly wireless bulletin on the current work of the League of Nations. It is given in French, English and Spanish for North America, South America, South Africa, Far Eastern countries, Australia and New Zealand. A serious effort has been made to improve the contents of these bulletins and their technical preparation. The latter was facilitated by the installation of the new studio in the League building. This studio was completed in August 1937 and inaugurated on September 13th of the same year. The new installations have given full satisfaction from the technical point of view. They have proved of great value, particularly during the sessions of the Assembly, the Council and the Conferences.\(^2\)

During the sessions of the Assembly of the League of Nations and of the International Labour Conference and on other occasions, several special broadcasts were organised by the Secretariat and by the International Labour Office. These broadcasts were successfully received. Mention should also be made of the wireless telephone bulletin of the Information Section transmitted daily during the Assembly, in French, English and Spanish, and of messages such as those sent out on January 1st, 1938, in English by General Smuts, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice of the Union of South Africa, and in French by M. Joseph Avenol, Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

The Information Section also issued a weekly bulletin in French, English and Spanish giving information on the League’s current work, for the use of all Governments and for communication to the Press at their option.

During the 1937 Assembly, the Information Section also issued daily a special radio-telegraphic bulletin in French,

English and Spanish. An official *communiqué* by the Secretary-General on the Sino-Japanese conflict was issued on October 9th, 1937, in English and French.

In its report to the 1937 Assembly, the Second Committee drew attention to the fact that, as regards the necessary contact between the League organ responsible for the efficiency and working of the station and the various international technical bodies dealing with questions of wireless communications, the position still seemed to need adjustment.

The question of relations with the International Telecommunications Union had already been placed on the agenda of the administrative conferences of that body which were to meet at Cairo in February 1938. Drawing the Assembly's attention to the importance which it attached to the efficient operation of the Radio-Nations station, the Second Committee expressed the hope that this would be facilitated by the friendly collaboration of the Governments and organisations referred to, particularly at the above-mentioned Cairo conferences.

As a result of the opinion expressed by the Assembly, the Secretariat undertook an examination of the question of this collaboration. Having been requested by the Secretary-General to represent the League at the Cairo conferences, the competent expert of the Secretariat received the necessary instructions for the submission of the Secretariat's desiderata regarding this collaboration.

The Cairo conferences decided that the service of the League of Nations responsible for the supervision of the station might be represented in an advisory capacity at international telecommunication conferences and at meetings of the international advisory committees created by these conferences. Invitations to this service will be addressed to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations by the Bureau of the International Telecommunications Union. In the event of participation, the League of Nations would undertake to contribute to the common expenses of the meetings of the international advisory committees on the same terms as private undertakings and international bodies. Under this formula, which recognises the special legal position of the League of Nations, the Secretary-General will be authorised to send a delegation representing the service in
question to future international conferences and committees, on the understanding that this delegation will be able to participate in the proceedings in an advisory capacity.

Moreover, different questions directly concerning the operation of the Radio-Nations station were settled at the Cairo Conference in a manner favourable to the League of Nations. There is therefore reason to believe that in future the Radio-Nations station will operate with the desired regularity.

The eighteenth Assembly adopted a report by the Sixth Committee in which the question of the broadcasting of information concerning the League of Nations was raised. Recognising the increasingly important part played by broadcasting in the spreading of news, it recommended that the present broadcasting service should be developed and that a corresponding increase in the appropriations should be made for that purpose. The Supervisory Commission endorsed the Sixth Committee’s proposals on this point.

In the Sixth Committee’s report, special attention was drawn to the quality of the regular broadcasts made by the Information Section. It was considered that these broadcasts should be of the highest possible quality, particularly from the point of view of form and presentation. A specialist in broadcasting work was accordingly engaged for this purpose.

Considering that the question of the extension of official radio-telegraphic broadcasts needed to be gone into more closely, the 1937 Assembly postponed it to the next session. The Secretary-General was invited in the meantime to institute an enquiry among the circles concerned — viz., Governments, Press agencies represented at Geneva, the international associations of journalists, newspaper managers and publishers, and the Press of the various countries — which might appreciate the proposed transmissions. The 1938 Assembly will consider the report furnished as an outcome of this enquiry.
PARTICIPATION OF THE LEAGUE IN THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR (1939).

Following an invitation in September 1937 from the New York World's Fair authorities, transmitted by the American Minister in Berne, asking the League to participate in the Fair, the Assembly, on October 5th, 1937, adopted a report of the Supervisory Commission 1 providing an initial credit of 300,000 francs for this purpose, it being understood that no commitment would be entered into without the concurrence of the League Council and the Supervisory Commission's approval of the total credit which would be required.

In December 1937, after a detailed study of the probable cost of participation, the Supervisory Commission agreed that the only possible solution was to propose a maximum lump sum for all the expenditure anticipated. It fixed this figure at one million francs, representing an increase of 700,000 francs on the initial credit inserted in the 1938 budget. A provisional option for a site at the Fair was taken in December 1937 with the Supervisory Commission's authorisation.

The Council, on January 28th, 1938, acting on the report of the Supervisory Commission, decided in favour of League participation in the Fair.

Accordingly, after a consultation with several experts acquainted with the preparation and management of exhibits, including M. Lienert, Commissioner of the Swiss Pavilion at the 1937 Paris Exhibition, M. R. Dubrawsky, Deputy Commissioner of the Hungarian Pavilion, Captain P. E. Moore,

Deputy Commissioner of the British Pavilion, and Father de Reviers de Mauny, of Paris, Commissioner of the Vatican Pavilion, the Secretary-General, in March 1938, appointed the latter as his technical adviser, to draw up general and detailed plans for an appropriate League Exhibit and Pavilion. At the same time, a representative of the Secretary-General conferred in New York with the Fair authorities, and, in April 1938, signed an Exhibitor's Agreement, subject to final action by the Assembly. The opportunity was also taken to establish contact with official personalities in both New York and Washington, all of whom manifested a keen and sympathetic interest in the plans for League participation in the Fair.

A sketch of the League Pavilion, together with architectural drawings, have been submitted to the Fair authorities for approval. The detailed plans for the exhibit itself are progressing rapidly.

All necessary information is in hand regarding the actual construction of the League Pavilion, and as soon as these provisional steps are approved by the Assembly, actual work can begin at once in order to be ready on the opening date of the Fair — April 30th, 1939.
23.

THE NEW LEAGUE BUILDING.

In September 1938, the Assembly will, for the first time, hold all its meetings in the new building, which by then will be virtually completed. This will mark the conclusion of a work of international co-operation for which there is no precedent in history.

It will be remembered that, in 1926, the Assembly of the League decided to hold an international competition for the construction of a new building. Plans were received from 377 architects belonging to thirty-four different countries. In January 1927, these plans were submitted to an international jury.

As if to signify that a League of Nations could not be housed in a building which was the work of a single nationality, the Committee responsible for the decision expressed the desire that the final plans should be prepared by M. Nénot (Paris) and M. Flegenheimer (Geneva), in collaboration with M. Broggi (Rome), M. Lefèvre (Paris) and M. Vágó (Budapest). Meanwhile, two million dollars had been generously offered by a national of a State not a member of the League, Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, Jun., for the addition to the proposed building of a spacious Library capable of containing the vast collection of books and documentary material necessary for the study of international questions.

The first stone was laid on September 7th, 1929, in a lawn of the Ariana Park. Four years later (on November 6th, 1933), the symbolical crowning of the roof tree marked the end of the constructional work due to the labours of an average of five hundred workmen belonging to different nationalities.
Similarly, contractors and supply firms of a dozen different countries shared in the construction and equipment of the building.

When the time came for fitting out, decorating and furnishing the rooms, individual gifts from Member nations poured in from every continent.

The Government of the Union of South Africa provided the stinkwood (veined South African wood) for the decoration of Room IX.

The Government of Australia provided the wood (dark Australian walnut) for the furniture of the presidential platform in the Assembly Hall. Queensland presented the furniture for an Under-Secretary-General's office.

Belgium gave two modern tapestries in the vestibule of Room III (designed by M. P. de Vaucleroy and executed by M. G. de Wit).

The United Kingdom gave the bas-reliefs of the Council ante-room (by Eric Gill).

China gave embroidered panels, two *cloisonné* vases, a carpet and silk hangings.

Spain gave the paintings by José-Maria Sert which adorn the walls and ceiling of the room in which the Council meets.

Finland gave the curtains of the private Council room.

The French Government gave the paintings which will decorate the four rounded angles of the large Assembly Hall (artists, M. Vuillard, M. Roussel, M. Maurice Denis, M. Roger Chastel), as well as the bronze doors (architect, M. Moreux; sculptors, M. Auricoste and M. Couturier), and the balustrade of the presidential platform (by Yencesse).

The Hungarian Government arranged and furnished the ante-room of the Secretary-General's office (plans and designs by Szablya-Frischauf; tapestries by Basilidès).

The Indian Government gave the Indian Greenwood furniture of the private room of the President of the Assembly.

The Government of Iran gave three Persian carpets, including one for the private Council room.
Latvia arranged Room X and gave the woodwork of the same room (by M. Birzenieks).

Lithuania arranged and furnished the large room on the ground floor of the Assembly building.

Luxemburg gave the bronze gates of the main entrance to the Assembly building.

The Netherlands Government arranged and furnished the Secretary-General's office (plans and designs by Luthmann).

The Norwegian Government offered a fresco for a large room in the library (artist, M. Henrik Sørensen).

New Zealand gave an armchair of Samoan wood and also provided the rimu woodwork for the private room of the President of the Assembly.

Siam gave a gilt-lacquered bookcase.

The Swedish Government gave the furniture of the private room of the President of the Council.

The Swiss Government gave the woodwork and frescoes of Room VI (artist, Carl Hügin, Zurich) and the wall paintings behind the President's chair in Room III (by Maurice Barraud, Geneva).

The Czechoslovak Government arranged, decorated and furnished the room for the permanent delegates at Geneva (Room II).

Apart from these gifts, the League of Nations, obtained material for the building from various parts of the world (Finnish granite, Swedish marble, African pear-wood, etc.), and commissioned work from artists in many different countries (Denmark, Netherlands, etc.).

The new building will have cost in all some twenty-nine and a-half million Swiss francs, but this sum does not include the cost of the Library given by Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, Jun., which amounted to five and a-half million Swiss francs.

The ambition of the architects was that the League building should not bear the mark of any one period, but that it should possess a permanent value as an example of both classic balance and modern simplicity.
It may be hoped that this aim has been achieved. As the expression of a collective faith and as a symbol of eternal aspirations, the new building constitutes, in the opinion of many competent judges, one of the most successful monumental edifices of the twentieth century. If we may judge by the number\(^1\) and enthusiasm of the visitors attracted from every part of the world, the building appeals to their imagination. The crowds that visit it feel that there is no vain display here, but that the building is an instrument designed to serve the cause of peace and to spread a desire for peace throughout the world.\(^2\)

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\(^1\) 125,000 in 1937.

\(^2\) Full particulars of the new League building will be found in the illustrated volume which has just appeared under the title "The League of Nations Building", Geneva, 72 pages.