

HEADWAY

A MONTHLY REVIEW OF WORLD AFFAIRS

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MATTERS OF MOMENT

THIS is July. In August most people—a great many people, at any rate, go on holiday. In September comes the League of Nations Assembly. The importance of the Assembly varies from year to year, but there is no other gathering which unites all members of the League on a common footing. Elsewhere in HEADWAY, an outline of the agenda for next September is given. It will be observed that it contains no item of outstanding importance. That may be a good thing or a bad thing. It is distinctly a bad thing if it means that a flat Assembly is in prospect. We have just had a flat, or flattish, Council, which has certainly not increased the League's prestige, if, indeed, it has not actually diminished it, and a demonstration of vitality and an assertion of purpose by the Assembly is badly needed. Though in some ways the League's vigour may seem for the moment to be slackening, in reality movements are in progress which promise, given reasonable goodwill and good fortune, to bear fruit that will, in time, make the world a different place. Progress is slowly being effected along several parallel lines. The new doctrines laid down by the Economic Conference have to be worked out, and indeed they are already being set in motion. Success in that sphere would do much to remove the causes of war, and to promote international co-operation. Disarmament is not standing still. By the time the Preparatory Commission meets again in Novem-

ber some obstacles may have disappeared. And, meanwhile, plans for swift action by the Council in the event of a sudden breach of the peace are being developed by one committee, and a scheme for giving immediate financial assistance to a State attacked without provocation has been framed by another. Neither of these separately, nor both together, will act as certain deterrents, but they will serve at least to make aggression an increasingly risky venture.

The Court at Work

THE Permanent Court of International Justice began its regular annual session last month. It has a number of interesting cases before it, illustrating, incidentally, the wide scope of its work. One case is between France and Turkey, and hinges on the responsibility of the commander of a French vessel, the "Lotus," for the deaths of Turkish subjects caused by a collision in which his vessel figured. Another case concerns the compensation claimed by Germany from Poland in respect of German property seized by the Polish Government, and another, between China and Belgium, raises the question of the right of the former country to end, by its own decision, the right of extra-territoriality hitherto enjoyed, under treaty, by Belgian nationals in China. It will however be some time before this case comes up for hearing, for the last papers have not to be deposited till May, 1928.

Progress in the Saar

THE appointment of Sir Ernest Wilton to succeed Major G. W. Stephens as member and president of the Saar Valley Governing Commission is to be welcomed. Sir Ernest has had a long official and administrative career, mainly in China, and he should bring to his work in the Saar just those qualities most needed there. Fortunately, also, he speaks German. One alleged grievance was aired in the corridors of the League Secretariat during the recent council meeting by a Saar trade union leader. He pointed out that while 90 per cent. of the population of the Saar consisted of workers, the Governing Commission was almost completely devoid of any practical experience of social and industrial conditions. The French member, he suggested, was bound to defend primarily the interests of the French Government, as proprietor of the mines; the Czech member was a jurist pure and simple; the Belgian, as responsible for the posts and railways, was in the position of an employer. The answer to this, of course, is that the Saar member of the Commission, Herr Kossmann, was himself a trade union leader and was appointed largely for that reason. It appears to be felt by his former confrères that his new position counts more with him than his old associations. The demand, therefore, is for some worker from a "neutral" country to be appointed to the Governing Commission when M. Lambert, the Belgian member, retires next year. Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to note that no troops except a railway defence force of 800 men remain in the Saar. These are at present all French, but they will shortly be replaced in part by British and Belgian contingents.

"Employers" at Geneva

THE recent International Labour Conference has shown once again all too convincingly how hopelessly unsatisfactory is the representation of employers both at the Conference itself and on the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation. The constitution of the Labour Organisation, with its triple representation of Governments, of masters and of men, was rightly hailed as a new and highly promising experiment in the combination of different interests. But it is an experiment that can only work if the representatives are of the right calibre and quality, which the employers' representatives unfortunately are not. With few exceptions, they are not even employers, but officials of federations of employers, which is a very different thing. What is wanted before all things is men who themselves actually employ a number of workers, and have practical, personal experience of the problems raised in the relationship of employer and employed. A secretary of an employers' organisation (whose training is in many cases legal) has no such experience. Yet five of the six employers' representatives on the Governing Body of the Labour Organisation are men of this type. For Great Britain, it is true, there sits a genuine employer, but he is too often represented by an official, and at the recent International Labour Conference, apart from a very brief visit by Sir David Milne Watson, who fulfils all the requirements, the British "employer" was an assistant secretary of the

Employers' Federation. This is all wrong. Whatever other countries do, British employers at any rate might be expected to see to it that their representation is open to no criticism at all.

Mandates and Missionaries

IT is a striking evidence of the vigilance of the Permanent Mandates Commission that the Commission should find itself involved in a slight difference of opinion with the Government of the Union of South Africa on the comparatively secondary question of whether and how far complete freedom of missionary activity is permitted in the mandate territory of South-west Africa. It appears that the Union Government requires missionaries in the district of Ovamboland to undertake in writing "to encourage all natives under their influence to seek employment in South-west proper," the purpose of this stipulation being, apparently, to obtain an adequate supply of native labour for mines and railways. However desirable it may be that natives should give their labour to these undertakings, it can hardly be claimed that it is part of the normal function of a religious missionary to stimulate the population in this direction, and the Mandates Commission has, accordingly, raised the question of whether the imposition of such conditions is really compatible with that clause in the mandate which gives all missionaries complete freedom to travel and reside in the territory for the ordinary purposes of their calling. No serious controversy is likely to arise over this small matter, but it is significant that the Mandates Commission should have seen fit to raise it.

A Business Man's League

THE International Rotary Convention, held at Ostend last month, was notable for the remarkable attendance of American Rotarians, who crossed the Atlantic in an imposing fleet of Cunard liners specially chartered for the occasion. The Rotary movement the world over has become an important organ of international thought and action, and one development which signalled the Ostend meeting may have results of much value in the future. "Area Administrations" have been created, rather on the lines of those regional agreements of which a good deal is heard in connection with the League of Nations, and out of that the idea of what has been termed "a European business men's League of Nations" has arisen. That is at present no more than an idea, but it is from new ideas that concrete acts spring; and this suggestion, coming immediately on the heels of the International Economic Conference, which did so much to emphasise the need of European commercial ententes, may have in it the seeds of a practical and fruitful rapprochement.

A Pacific Entente

A LEAGUE interest attaches to the forthcoming Conference of the Institute of Pacific Relations which is to open at Honolulu on July 15. A heavy programme has been drawn up which includes both general sessions and round-table discussions on almost every subject of international import in the countries which border on the Pacific. Strong delegations from Great Britain and all the Pacific countries will meet at Honolulu, one of the most central spots possible for

such a gathering, to take part in these important discussions. These delegations will be representative of trade, political and economic interests. The Conference is entirely non-Governmental and the individuals in reality represent no one but themselves. Nevertheless, as was proved by the Honolulu Conference of 1925, opinions expressed at these meetings have considerable influence on the subsequent course of events. The Agenda for the 1927 Conference includes discussions on finance, education, population trends, international law, relations with China, industrialism in the Orient and the economic aspects resulting therefrom, the working of the present migration laws and the assimilation of alien races. This Conference should result in a better understanding between Occident and Orient. If it does that it will be effectively promoting the ideals of the League of Nations. The British members of the conference include Sir Frederick Whyte, Mr. Lionel Curtis, and Prof. Webster.

The League Outside Europe

THE League of Nations can never make itself such a definite reality to States in Asia or America as it is to States in Europe. This is inevitable, partly because the seat of the League is in Europe, and partly because its chief business for the present lies in the settlement of European problems raised by the Great War. That being so, any evidence of League activity in another continent is welcome, and the Council was well advised at its recent meeting to take special notice of the conference on infant mortality held under the ægis of the League's Health Organisation, at Montevideo in June. Montevideo, as perhaps not quite everyone remembers, is the capital of Uruguay, a State which has always been conspicuously loyal to the League. But the conference was attended by representatives of the Argentine, Brazil, Chile and other Latin American States, and seems to have aroused interest throughout South America. Dr. Madsen, the chairman of the League Health Organisation, and Dr. Rajchman, its Director, went from Europe, and the cordiality of the telegrams exchanged between Geneva and Montevideo is a hopeful omen for the relationship of Latin American countries with the League as a whole.

Freeing Slaves

LARGELY as a result of the attention drawn by the Convention of 1926 to the necessity of suppressing slavery in all its forms in different parts of the world, reports are coming in from different parts of the British Empire indicating that so far as this country at any rate is concerned, the campaign against slavery is being prosecuted with persistent energy. Messages from Burma show that the difficult task of stamping out slavery in remote regions, some of them hitherto practically unexplored, is being diligently carried out, though it is unfortunate that a punitive expedition has been found necessary, to inflict penalties for the death of one of the officers engaged in the anti-slavery campaign. At the same time the Governor-General of the Sudan, reporting to the League on the measures taken in that country, is able to state that the progress made in abolishing slavery in that

Protectorate has been remarkable. Owing to the contiguity of the Sudan to Abyssinia, special difficulties have had to be faced.

Less Work for the League?

SIR AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN created a good deal of perplexity by his remark at one of the sittings of the League Council last month that, now that most of the greater difficulties in Europe were settled, the League might expect to have less work to do. To begin with, it happens, rather unfortunately, perhaps, that most of the greater difficulties in Europe have not been settled through the League at all. They have arisen under one or other of the Peace Treaties and have been settled between the signatories of those treaties. In the second place, it betrays a strange and rather disquieting idea of the League's prospects to contemplate a diminution of its activity in the future. No one wants to see the League grasping at functions that can better be discharged by some other instrument, but its service to the world and to Europe in particular depends on a growing concentration of all international effort at Geneva. As it is, every year brings promise of some expansion of League work. There is the Central Board to be set up under the Opium Convention. There is the enlargement of the Economic Section's functions called for by the recent Economic Conference. There may be more work for the Disarmament Section after the Disarmament Conference has been held. Expansion, not contraction, seems inevitable. It is not to be supposed that the British Foreign Minister desires to circumscribe the League, but it is unfortunately incontestable that his words have conveyed to many foreign readers the impression that he does.

New Quarters

A LITTLE more is known by this time of the circumstances under which the Jury of Architects, which sat at Geneva in May, reached the disappointing conclusion that none of the plans submitted for the new Assembly Hall and Secretariat buildings could be recommended for adoption. The jury numbered nine, and it appeared that about four of the nine were apostles of the approved classical style, while about four preferred a much more modern note. That made unanimity on any given plan difficult to attain, and an award given by, say, five votes against four, would have been unsatisfactory in the extreme. In the second place, some of the most attractive plans could not be executed for the sum so far voted by the Assembly, and the jury, naturally enough, could hardly bring itself to recommend a second-rate design when it saw that the expenditure of a little more money would enable a building worthy of the League and its future to be erected. It is still possible that a committee of the Assembly may be able to choose one out of the best twenty or twenty-five plans, and so avoid the vexatious delay of a further competition. There may be some trouble if a further financial allocation is found necessary, but this is capital, not annual, expenditure, and it will be lamentable if a cheeseparing policy is allowed to prevail.

BREAKING DOWN TARIFF WALLS THE LEAGUE AND WORLD ECONOMICS

By O. R. HOBSON

IN the last number of HEADWAY Monsieur William Martin described some of the general ideas which had emerged in the early sessions of the World Economic Conference at Geneva, which was sitting when he wrote, and some of the problems upon which it was concentrating. It falls to me now to sum up and to



M. Theunis
(Chairman Economic Committee).

assess the results it achieved. First, let me say emphatically that the Conference was successful; it did its work thoroughly and well, it stated its conclusions boldly and straightforwardly; it avoided the temptation, very strong in an assembly representing so many different races and such multiplicity of conflicting interests, towards undue qualification and compromise, and on the main issue before it, it indicated in clear and forcible language a definite course of action. That was all that this Conference could do; it had no executive powers, and it is for the Governments concerned to take action along the lines unanimously agreed upon by the representatives appointed by them.

Artificial Trade Barriers

Very early in the proceedings it became clear that there was complete agreement among the members of the Conference upon the paramount necessity, from the point of view of the commercial prosperity of Europe, if not of the world, of dealing drastically with the innumerable artificial barriers to trade which have been set up since the war. These barriers consist in the first place of the walls of high and sometimes prohibitive customs duties which obstruct the passage of goods from one country to another. The forbidding nature of these tariff walls has been graphically illustrated by an ingenious map (which was exhibited during the Conference), constructed by Sir A. C. Morrison-Bell, in which all the countries of Europe are surrounded by actual miniature walls of a height in each case corresponding to the height of the customs tariff of that country. In nearly every case these walls have risen in height, and consequently in obstructive capacity since the war, and not only that, they have increased enormously in length because each of the numerous new political units which have arisen in Europe, through the breaking-up of the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Empires, has surrounded itself with its own private wall. There are, in fact, as Mr. W. T. Layton pointed out at Geneva, 11,000 kilometres of new tariff walls in Europe—and inside the walls, new and old, a population of ten millions whose workers are unemployed. But that is not all. The walls have been rendered still more unscalable because the practice has arisen of strengthening the mere bricks and mortar of import duties by all kinds of other obstructive devices. Thus, in some countries there are direct prohibitions against the import or export of particular kinds of goods, in others there are duties on the export of important raw materials; others, again, have adopted the rather disreputable practice of restricting imports, nominally admitted free, by establishing insincere and uncalled-for health regulations. Then, again, there is the serious obstruction caused by burdensome and expensive customs formalities, by the complexity (which has, of course, greatly increased with the increase of the number of dutiable

articles) of customs classification and of customs nomenclature. These are, as it were, the barbed-wire and broken glass which surmount the actual tariff walls, and which constitute almost as formidable an obstacle to international trade as the walls themselves.

Removing Bricks and Broken Glass

It is to proposing remedies for the state of affairs thus described that the Conference devoted the most important sections of its report. It roundly condemns the policy of higher and ever higher tariffs which many countries have pursued since the war; it declares that "the time has come to put an end to the increase in tariffs and to move in the opposite direction," and it recommends that "nations should take steps forthwith to remove or diminish those tariff barriers that gravely hamper trade, starting with those which have been imposed to counteract the effects of disturbances arising out of the war." If the walls cannot be razed to the ground, at least the layers of bricks which have been added since the war must be removed, and with them also the supplementary obstacles of broken glass and barbed wire. Import and export prohibitions and restrictions should be abolished by adhesion of the various countries to the draft international convention, which has already been prepared by the Economic Committee of the League; the exportation both of raw materials and finished goods "should not be unduly burdened" by export duties or other taxes; there should be no restriction on the free circulation of capital; states should refrain from the practice, so disturbing to traders, of making frequent and sudden changes in their customs duties—these and many other recommendations for restoring the free flow of international trade are made by the Conference.

Apathetic Governments

The Conference, as I have said, could do no more than recommend. What are the chances of its recommendations being put into effect by the governments to which they are addressed? At present the signs are not altogether encouraging. A few governments, as those of Germany, Belgium and Austria, have definitely declared their readiness to enter into discussion for carrying out the programme, which, it is important to note, can only be done effectively on the principle of parallel or concerted action by the different nations, so that each may "know that the concessions it is called upon to make will be balanced by corresponding sacrifices on the part of the other countries." But the attitude of other governments is so far apathetic, if not worse. Great Britain, which has, perhaps, more to gain from the adoption of the policy recommended by the Conference than any other country, has made no sign; France, with her proposals for a heavily increased tariff and for the imposition of restrictions on the import of coal, seems to be expressing something like contempt for the Conference. It will require a steady pressure of public opinion if the work done by the Conference is to be brought to fruition—and particularly a steady pressure of commercial public opinion, from which point of view the action of such important organisations as the Chamber of Shipping and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce in passing specific resolutions approving the report of the Conference is especially to be commended. Meanwhile one notes with pleasure that the Council of the League has summoned for October 17 a diplomatic conference to discuss the proposed convention on import and export prohibitions and restrictions which I have already referred to.

GETTING TOGETHER AMERICA MIXES THE RACES

By MEYRICK CARRÉ

THE successful action of political machinery depends on common sentiments among competing sections of the governed; and such sympathies are encouraged by normal intercourse and the tacit adaptations of daily social life. Important parties of students from many of the countries of Europe are gathering annually at Geneva and elsewhere. But a more continuous type of society with effects more profound is being established at the great University centres. Cosmopolitan clubs and hostels for foreign students have been for some time in existence in London, Paris and other capitals. But the most remarkable of these communities is International House, New York. It establishes a model for the growth of similar organisations throughout the principal cities of the world; and it is to be hoped that London, with its two thousand foreign students, may not be long in attempting what New York has accomplished.

The great House, now in its third year, was built and endowed by the generosity of that modern William of Wyckham, Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, Jr. It stands on the banks of the Hudson, grandly overlooking New York's finest avenue, Riverside Drive. The House is excellently furnished in the Colonial tradition; and its many comfortable halls, drawing-rooms and reading-rooms are so many invitations to social life. These common rooms connect the bedrooms for men and for women, which rise for ten floors at either wing. There is a splendid assembly hall, a gymnasium and a swimming pool.

Fifty Nations

In this immense building are living at the time of writing five hundred and twenty-five young men and women, drawn together from fifty-four countries of the world. Nearly all are pursuing advanced study in the universities, medical schools and technical colleges of New York; a few are apprentices in business. In addition to the residents there are over one thousand foreign students, who, living in New York, share in the club life of the House.

Look down from the gallery of the assembly hall upon a Sunday evening supper, when the House holds a weekly muster of members. The great room is filled to overflowing. The national groups do not sit together in exclusive sections; for it is the tradition of the House that at these meetings members should seek the company of those of alien countries. Men and women of many races, creeds and countries mix and converse freely at the long candle-lit tables. Could you distinguish the nationalities, which is difficult, you would find that about a quarter of the diners were Americans, selected graduate students representing nearly every state in the Union. There is a notable sprinkling of Chinese—sixty-eight are at present living in the House; and a fair leavening of Germans and Canadians.

A Lingua Franca

Closer study would discover, scattered about the Hall, persons from ten of the Republics of Central and South America, from the West Indies, from the islands of the Pacific, from Australia and New Zealand, from every national unit in Europe, from Russia, Arabia, Turkey, India, Korea, Japan and South Africa. Few converse in any but the English tongue, and the talk is exceedingly animated. Mr. Harry Edmonds, the Director of the House, and the man whose persistent efforts for foreign students in the past has guided and inspired it from its birth, sits in a central place, and there is with him some leader in politics, education or art, who has been invited to address the House.

After the exercises, as the Americans say, of the supper and address, many members meet in small groups, known to the House as interest groups; and going from one room to another you may come on a collection of Scandinavians, Germans and Americans discussing economic principles; natives of Italy, Hungary and Canada playing and listening to chamber music; and a Far Eastern group listening to a speaker on Chinese events. In the lounges you pass Englishmen conversing with Indians; Spaniards, Bulgarians, Swedish and French in amiable exchange of opinions; while in the Cafeteria below, Brazilians, Rumanians, Scotch and Japanese discuss waffles and America with equal relish.

Open Debates

At intervals after these Sunday suppers open debates take place in the hall; nor are they always restricted to topics of great import. Yet international discussions, in this by far the most representative international assembly in the world, have a revealing significance. The expression of opinions is often scorchingly frank; and inhabitants of Great Britain, in particular, have to listen to scathing comments on the policy of their country in India, China or South Africa. Nowhere can one hear more frank, more poignant accounts of the sufferings and divisions of Europe. But it is something that these discussions should take place at all. Nowhere east of Vienna could such a meeting have been possible without recourse to firearms, declared the chairman after a debate on the problem of the Hungarian minorities, in which a Czechoslovakian, a Serbian, a Rumanian and a Hungarian were the principal speakers.

Yet perhaps it is the more casual daily relationships of the place that make International House the greatest avenue of international political education in the world. In conversations with the people of one's passage, or with groups in the smoking room; in walks over the New Jersey hills or river excursions up the Hudson; in the tea parties given by the national sections; in games, dances, and co-operative entertainments; one learns of life and hopes in Moscow, Constantinople, and Calcutta; the challenge of the time in Berlin, Budapest and Shanghai.

Strange Ideas

Such disclosures are often of deep interest, unveiling the real contending forces in disturbed centres of the world. And if to an English member they are frequently the cause of pain, he is able in his turn to dispel suspicion and distorted ideas concerning the beliefs of Britons and the policies of Whitehall. He may be surprised to learn from an ardent Indian that poor persons are habitually insulted by policemen in the streets of London. But he must also be prepared to revise his faith in the universal validity of the Western creed of government.

It may perhaps be admitted and even emphasized that national sentiments are intensified by the contacts of the House. The interest and possibly the fundamental value of the place is that accompanying these local differences there is a growth of something else which gives them a fresh setting. There comes, between antagonists, tolerance based on respect. For many citizens of the House the mask of appearances, speech, and manners, which at first estranges, falls away; and very genuine friendships between members of different nationalities emerge. Lastly, there is an item which must not be omitted. International House provides the cheapest accommodation in New York,

THE HUMAN SIDE LEAGUE HELP FOR REFUGEES AND SLAVES

THE League of Nations Council always has many subjects before it—economic, political, and humanitarian. The latter are not always the most important, but they are often the most interesting, and they have the valuable effect of attracting to belief in the League a good many people who would otherwise not trouble to begin studying it.

At the Council meeting last month the humanitarian questions were, as usual, of much interest. There was the Greek Refugee Settlement scheme. There was the similar Bulgarian scheme. There was slavery. There were the varied activities of the Women and Children's Committee. And there was a valuable exchange of telegrams with Latin America, where the holding of a League Conference to initiate an enquiry into the causes of infant mortality (similar to that in progress in England) has created a new interest in the League.

Refugees and Malaria

The Bulgarian refugee discussion was typical. The settlement of refugees is going well, though in some cases the Settlement Commission cannot take over estates allotted to it by the Government, because of uncertainty as to where the boundaries of the estates really are. But what the Council discussed was not estate boundaries, but malaria. The rapporteur, M. Vandervelde, who is Foreign Minister of Belgium, in studying the facts laid before him, had noticed that malaria prevailed in one region where refugees were being settled. That, unfortunately, can hardly be avoided. There is malaria everywhere in the Balkans. But M. Vandervelde wanted assurances about it. Happily he got them, the Bulgarian representative present explaining that everything possible was being done to persuade the people to take precautions against malaria, but that that would be much easier when they were once settled in fixed homes than it was when they were scattered haphazard over the country.

Mountain or Swamp?

The Greek settlement, of course, is a much larger affair. It is so large, in fact, that the original loan raised for the purpose proved insufficient, and a new one is soon to be issued. Meanwhile, members of the Refugee Commission who come to Geneva have stories full of interest to tell of the incidents arising from day to day as the work is carried forward. In one region a set of immigrants (the new settlers, it will be remembered, have all come to Greece from Asia Minor) wanted their new village to be built on the top of a mountain. The Director of the scheme in amazement asked them why, and got the answer that their ancestors had lived there a couple of thousand years before, when mountain-tops were no doubt the safest spots to live in, because they were the most defensible. Another set of settlers had brought with them neither clothes nor tools, but had clung to their treasured books, and asked to have a library built first and houses afterwards. In another region a village had by some oversight been planted down close to a malarial swamp. Without any outside help, a determined villager led a crusade against the swamp. He and his friends dug it and drained it. The stagnant water was run off, and the place is to-day a productive market garden. Fortunately there is to be no question of stopping work so successful for lack of money. The League's Financial Committee first, and now, subsequently, the Council, have approved in principle the issue of a new loan under the League's

auspices. The details will be worked out by September and the loan issued in the early autumn.

Holding up Part II

The report of the Women and Children's Committee was of importance because it involved a decision on the publication of Part II of the White Slave Traffic report. Sir Austen Chamberlain thought all Governments should be able to send in their views on it by the end of July, and he accordingly proposed publication on August 1. M. Vandervelde, however, thought that was much too soon in the case of distant governments, and proposed December. The Council agreed, and there will therefore be considerable delay before the report sees the light. This means, unfortunately, that the Committee will largely mark time for the moment, as the publication of the report is necessary in order to arouse public opinion in different countries to the need for reform.

As rapporteur on the whole work of the Women and Children's Committee, Sir Austen Chamberlain drew a sharp distinction between activities which were properly international and others which were strictly the domestic concern of each nation. He begged the Committee to confine itself to the former. The question of the effect of the cinema on children fell the right side of the line, and Governments are to be asked to furnish information on this subject. The protection of illegitimate children, on the other hand, is not, in the Foreign Secretary's view, an international concern, though it is argued in rejoinder, that the Continent of Europe's illegitimate children may often be the offspring of a father the other side of a frontier, and it is very hard, as things are, to bring responsibility home to him. In this case Governments are to be given the opportunity of proffering information, but not to be officially asked for it.

More Schemes for Armenians

Dr. Nansen made a welcome appearance at the Council table to plead once more the case of the unhappy Armenian refugees. There are two schemes for their settlement, one on a small scale in the Soviet Armenian Republic of Erivan, in the Caucasus, the other on a larger scale in Syria. Dr. Nansen is primarily concerned with the first of these. A fairly ambitious scheme, to raise a loan for draining and irrigating land in preparation for the refugees, has gone by the board owing to the impossibility of getting the money; but Dr. Nansen thinks the Erivan Republic will do the draining if he can only find funds for transporting some 30,000 refugees from Greece and elsewhere. The amount needed is £300,000, of which a third, it is believed, can be raised from private sources. Dr. Nansen appealed earnestly to the different Governments, who are up to their eyes in promises to the Armenians, to supply the remaining £200,000. He got some encouragement from Dr. Stresemann, but not much from anyone else. The door, however, is to be kept open till September. If the money is not forthcoming then the scheme must be finally dropped.

On slavery not a great deal was said. Last year's convention has been largely signed, but there are not nearly enough ratifications. Neither have States concerned shown themselves very eager to send in information on the measures taken against slavery in their territories. India and the Sudan are honourable exceptions. There is still time, however, for more information to arrive before the next Assembly.

LEAGUE TEACHING THE SCHOOLS OF BRITAIN AND THE PEACE OF THE WORLD

By J. C. MAXWELL GARNETT, Sc.D., C.B.E.

LAST month there occurred three events which, taken together, must have momentous consequences for the schools of Britain, and eventually for the peace of the world.

First of all, on June 8, 600 representatives of Local Education Authorities in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, met the President of the Board of Education, the Secretary for Scotland and the Minister of Education for Northern Ireland in a *National Conference* to consider the question of providing instruction for children and young people in the aims and objects of the League of Nations. After the opening address by Lord Eustace Percy, a resolution was passed, moved by Sir Percy Jackson, Chairman of the West Riding Education Committee, and seconded by Mr. George Duncan, Chairman of the Aberdeen Education Authority and of the Association of Scottish Education Authorities:—

That this Conference welcomes the steps which are being taken to give the children and the youth of this country a knowledge of the development of international relations and of the work and aims of the League of Nations, and requests the Board of Education, the Scottish Education Department, and the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland to circulate to local education authorities a report of the proceedings of the Conference in order that they may consider the matter further in consultation with the teaching profession.

Two days later, at a meeting of the Association of Education Committees, Sir George Lunn moved a resolution empowering its executive to set up a committee representing education authorities and teachers "to confer as to the best means of teaching the methods and aims of the League of Nations to scholars attending all types of schools and all students in training colleges. Sir George Lunn's address ended in a scene of great enthusiasm, and his resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Declaration

The third event is the publication of a remarkable declaration by the teaching profession and the League of Nations Union. The DECLARATION* is issued with the authority of the Headmasters' Conference, the National Union of Teachers, and, indeed, of all the leading associations of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses in Great Britain: an unusual, if not unprecedented, agreement on a matter of educational theory which directly affects practice.

The declaration begins by agreeing with the experts appointed by the League of Nations on the main issue†: "All children and young people should, before completing their formal education, learn something of the aims and work of the League of Nations, the terms of its Covenant, and the recent growth of international co-operation."

A New World

The principal thesis of the declaration follows: "Instruction in the aims and work of the League of Nations may be so given as to serve some of the chief purposes of education. Thus it may increase the architectural consistency of the curriculum, and help to build up a coherent body of knowledge—the 'single wide interest'—on which strength of character largely depends. . . . This knowledge is also *practically useful*

* Copies may be obtained from the League of Nations Union, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1. Price 2d. each, or in quantities of not less than 50, or multiples of 50, 13s. 4d. per 100, plus carriage.

† See page 47 of March HEADWAY.

because the future of international relations so closely concerns every boy and girl in the modern world. . . . To think and act as if things were not what they are generally leads to trouble; and the young people of to-day may lose civilisation itself if they grow up to think of the modern world as if it were the world of their grandfathers. . . . Moreover, this new knowledge, properly taught, provides a *strenuous intellectual discipline*, just because it links up so many other studies."

Thus the study of the modern world in its political aspect—international relations, the League and the Covenant—may add to the educational value of the curriculum as a whole. The teachers' associations "do not, however, recommend a separate place in the timetable for it. We prefer to see it taught in connection with existing studies in schools of all types."

The history of England, for example, should "be presented in its proper relation to the history of the world." How that may be done is indicated by Mr. F. S. Marvin, in some "Notes on the International Aspect of History," printed as an appendix to the declaration. Again, in the teaching of geography, "proper emphasis should be laid upon the economic interdependence of the 'Great Society,' now almost world-wide, of which we form part." But the body of knowledge with which the declaration is concerned extends "beyond history and geography to all the school subjects."

Patriotism and Citizenship

The declaration is not concerned only with the intellectual aspect of education. There must be a change of feeling. Patriotism is, indeed, essential, but it is not enough, even when the object of it has been widened from England to Britain and from Britain to the British Empire. Out of present patriotisms must be developed a sense of world citizenship. And, along with this change of feeling towards a wider loyalty, there must be a change of purpose—the will to seek, first, the welfare of the world-wide society of mankind, like the patriotic statesman, who sees that the best policy for his own land must be in the interests, and not against the interests of the rest of the world.

These recommendations go beyond the classroom, and touch the whole life of the school. There follow some suggestions on how school societies may help to bring about the desired results.

After noting how the League of Nations Union may help the teaching profession and the local education authorities to give effect to these recommendations, the declaration ends with a proposal that a copy of it should be placed in the hands of every teacher.

International Education

This declaration by the teaching profession, and the unanimity of the administrative authorities, both in the National Conference and in the Association of Education Committees, entitle us to hope that the schools of Britain will lead the next generation of Britons to regard international co-operation, through the League of Nations, as the normal method of conducting world affairs. We are much encouraged by reports that reach us of similar steps taken by other countries to ensure a similar result. The nineteenth century made its great contribution to civilisation in the field of science and technology. The twentieth century, with the help of the great national systems of education, can make an even greater contribution by developing the League of Nations as the constant guardian of world peace and progress.

THE LEAGUE COUNCIL VARIED TASKS AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING

THE League Council meeting held at Geneva last month was the 45th in the League's history, which means that an average of about six meetings a year has been the rule so far. That fact, incidentally, has a certain bearing on Sir Austen Chamberlain's proposal to reduce the regular number of Council meetings from four a year to three. There has been a good deal of opposition to this—described by Sir Austen himself as "foolish suspicion in ill-informed quarters"—and the proposal has, on its author's own motion, been held over till September, when the views of the Assembly regarding it will no doubt be ascertained formally or informally, as well as the views of the Council itself, as constituted after the September elections.

At the June session it fell to Sir Austen Chamberlain to preside, and six other Foreign Ministers—of France,

tribunal set up under the Peace Treaty to give rulings in certain classes of cases in which Hungarian landowners in Transylvania had had their estates seized and broken up by the Rumanian Government. This was simply adjourned till September, in the rather vain hope that the two Governments may come to some agreement before then. Another dispute was similarly treated—that between Poland and Danzig, over the right of the authorities of the Free City to supervise the unloading of munitions at the Westerplatte, a piece of land allotted to Poland for that purpose within the confines of the Port of Danzig. A third dispute—between Lithuania and Memel Territory, hinging primarily on the freedom of elections in the latter area—was settled, the Lithuanian Premier, M. Voldemaras, after several conversations with the German Foreign Minister, reading to the Council a



THE JUNE COUNCIL

Sir Austen Chamberlain presiding. To the left: M. Briand, M. Scialoja, Dr. Stresemann and the representatives of Chile, Columbia, Poland and Salvador. To the right: Sir Eric Drummond (Secretary-General), Viscount Ishii, M. Vandervelde and the representatives of China, Holland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia

Germany, Holland, Poland, Belgium and Czechoslovakia—were also present. The Council took leave with deep and sincere regret of Viscount Ishii, who has represented Japan from the first, and who now returns to his country to a well-earned retirement, a good deal of which, however, he intends, as he assured the Council, to devote in advocating the cause of the League of Nations. In that he will be a powerful reinforcement to Dr. Nitobe, who since his return to Japan has been addressing meetings almost daily about the League.

The June meeting was by general consent less important and interesting than most. One or two difficult questions were on the agenda, notably a complicated but far-reaching dispute about the right of an arbitral

statement containing pledges which Dr. Stresemann, who was concerned for the interests of Memel, thought sufficient.

Only three times did the Council become really animated. Once was over this very matter of the Westerplatte. The question as to whether it should be adjourned or not was under discussion, and Sir Austen Chamberlain, as chairman, pulled up the President of the Danzig Senate, Dr. Sahn, on the ground that he was going beyond the adjournment question into the essence of the dispute. Dr. Stresemann politely challenged the chairman's ruling on the point of order and a spirited and entertaining interchange on this subsidiary point considerably enlivened a dull discussion.

The two other questions which led to valuable discussions were, properly enough, disarmament and the Economic Conference. The June Council had before it the report of the last sittings of the Preparatory Commission in March and April, and the discussion of this revealed a clear division in the Council between members who thought disarmament progress was satisfactory, and those who thought it was not. Among the latter were Dr. Stresemann (Germany), supported on the whole by M. Vandervelde (Belgium), and among the former, Sir Austen Chamberlain and M. Paul Boncour (France), supported on the whole by Dr. Benes. In addition to the work of the Preparatory Commission the Council also had before it one or two interesting schemes designed to assist the League in handling the issues of peace and war, notably one regarding the action the Council might take (under Article XI of the Covenant) in face of a menace of war, and another, worked out by the Financial Committee, for placing credits immediately at the disposal of a State made the victim of aggression. Both of these are likely to be discussed by the Assembly.

The discussion of the report of the recent Economic Conference showed the Council at its best. The presentation of the report was in the hands of the German Foreign Minister. Dr. Stresemann left no room for doubt or uncertainty about the attitude the Council, in his view, ought to take. He quoted the main conclusion of the Conference, adopted, as he pointed out, by nearly 200 delegates from over 50 different countries, to the effect that protective tariffs had been continually increased, and ought now to be progressively reduced, and having done that reminded Council members that it was they who had convened the Conference, and that therefore, they were under a special moral

engagement to press their own Governments to give effect to its findings.

One after another, Council members followed in the same strain, the Foreign Ministers of Holland and Belgium being particularly wholehearted in their support of the Conference's recommendations, though Dr. Benes, of Czechoslovakia, went practically as far. The representatives of Rumania, Japan, Poland and Chile spoke in more general terms, and M. Loucheur, for France, assured the Council he would use all his influence to press the conclusions of the Conference on his Government. Sir Austen Chamberlain was more cautious. What he said was that the British Government was "favourably impressed on a first and rather hasty study of the conclusions of the Conference" and would probably accept most of them, and he asked Dr. Stresemann to tone down considerably one of his resolutions which in its original form committed Council members to working actively for the "adoption and application" of the recommendations.

Various other lesser matters received due attention. The request of the German Government that a German should be given a seat on the Mandates Commission was not directly acceded to, but it was agreed that the Commission itself should be consulted on the matter. If, as was expected, the answer is favourable, the actual appointment will be made by the Council in September. In the field of finance, loans, supported by the League, for Danzig and Esthonia, as well as Greece, were approved of, and in that of economics a conference to draft a convention designed to prevent prohibitions of imports and exports was fixed for November.

The next regular meeting of the Council opens on September 1, when the Chilean member will preside.

THE COOLIDGE CONFERENCE THREE POWERS TRY TO REDUCE NAVIES

WHAT is officially termed the Conference on the Limitation of Naval Armaments opened at Geneva on June 20, and will probably last into the latter part of July. It is, as everyone knows, a successor to the Washington Conference of 1921 and 1922, which succeeded in the course of three months' deliberations in drafting a treaty which is now in operation, limiting the total tonnage of certain classes of war vessels—namely, capital ships (battleships and cruisers) and aircraft carriers, so far as the United States, Great Britain, Japan, France and Italy were concerned. It also set certain limits of size—namely, 35,000 tons for capital ships, 27,000 tons for aircraft carriers and 10,000 tons for cruisers.

The Conference now in progress at Geneva was called, once more, on the initiative of the President of the United States, though it has been disclosed that the British Government was prepared to take a similar step if Mr. Coolidge had not done so. The only full members of it are the United States, Great Britain, and Japan, France and Italy having decided to be represented only by observers who intended merely to listen, and not take part in the discussions or in any way commit their Governments. The British representatives are Mr. W. C. Bridgeman, First Lord of the Admiralty; Lord Cecil and Admiral Sir Frederick Field, Deputy Director of Naval Operations. The principal American delegate is Mr. Hugh Gibson, United States Ambassador at Brussels, and the principal Japanese, Admiral Viscount Saito, Governor of Korea and a former Minister of Marine.

It is only possible here (for reasons of date) to indicate the proposals which the representatives of the several Powers made at the opening meeting of the Conference

held in the Council Chamber of the League of Nations on June 20. The Americans, who spoke first, proposed that no change should be made in the provisions of the Washington Treaty, but that the ratio established there between the capital ship fleets of the United States, Great Britain and Japan—namely 5-5-3—should be extended to cover other vessels—namely, cruisers, destroyers and submarines. They suggested limits of total tonnage in each of these three classes, but made no proposals regarding the size of individual vessels or the number of vessels which may be constructed by each Power within the limits of the total tonnage allotted to it.

The British proposals differed sharply from the American. The British delegation thought that what should be aimed at was primarily a reduction in size rather than a reduction in numbers. They, therefore, proposed that the maximum size of a capital ship should be reduced from the 35,000 tons fixed by the Washington Treaty to something under 30,000 tons, and that the life of such a ship should be extended from twenty to twenty-six years, which means, of course, that replacement would begin six years later. Both these proposals would effect considerable financial economies. Though Great Britain agreed to the allocation to each Power of a certain limited number of 10,000-ton cruisers with eight-inch guns, it proposed that, apart from this fixed number, no Power should build a cruiser of more than 7,500 tons with six-inch guns.

Similar limitations of size were proposed for destroyers (1,400 tons) and submarines (1,600 or 600 tons), the latter being divided into two categories, one of smaller vessels purely for coast defence and the other of larger boats for more distant operations. The life

of vessels in each of these categories was fixed at a substantially longer period than was proposed by the Americans. The British at this stage of the Conference made no suggestion as to the limitation of the numbers of vessels in each class, but indicated that they had clear ideas on the subject and were prepared to expound them at a suitable moment. Such numbers, once fixed, would, of course, not be exceeded.

The Japanese proposals were different again. Japan, like Great Britain, declined to accept the American proposal of 5-5-3 ratio for auxiliary vessels. Her view was that the proportions to be observed were those existing at that moment between the auxiliary vessel fleets (i.e., vessels other than capital ships) of the three countries. She, therefore, proposed that that relationship should be stereotyped, with the provision that the naval strength of none of the three countries should at any time be increased above the present level. Full provisions were made for replacement of obsolete vessels, etc.

These initial proposals having been launched, the members of the Conference proceeded to discuss them with one another outside any formal meeting. If and when a final conclusion is reached, it will be necessary to fit it into the general framework of the League of Nations Preparatory Commission's discussions, which are to be continued in November. The present Conference has no official connection with the League, and at the opening meeting the Secretary-General, Sir Eric Drummond, merely had a seat in the space allotted to the general public.

IN THE HOUSE

May 30.—Sir A. CHAMBERLAIN (to Mr. Crawford): I am aware of the proposal that the League of Nations Council should meet only three times a year in regular session instead of four. It was, in fact, at my instance that the Council at its last session requested the Secretary-General to examine and report upon the subject, and my proposal was unanimously accepted by the Council. There was not in my mind, nor in the mind of any of my colleagues, any thought of restricting the activities of the League. Our motive was the desire to make it possible for those countries which have habitually been represented by their Foreign Ministers to continue this practice, to which all members of the Council attach importance.

May 31.—Mr. GODFREY LOCKER-LAMPSON (to Mr. Wellock): The figures quoted in the reply returned to the Hon. Member for Lincoln on March 9 last show that arms to the value of taels 3,813,644 were imported into China in 1925 from German ports. There is, however, nothing to show that the arms in question were not only exported from but also manufactured in Germany, contrary to the terms of Article 170 of the Treaty of Versailles. There has, therefore, been no occasion to refer the matter to the Council of the League of Nations. Shipments of arms from the port of Hamburg to China are, I understand, still taking place, but their real origin remains uncertain.

June 20.—Mr. AMERY (to Sir Robert Thomas): Information which I have received from the Tanganyika Territory indicates that the reports as to the large German immigration are much exaggerated. The number of German traders, settlers, and visitors, including women and children who landed in Tanganyika Territory between January 1st, 1926, and March 31st, 1927, was 453. It is the policy of the British Government to afford British enterprise in the Territory every possible assistance and encouragement consistent with the terms of the Mandate.

[These answers are summarised, and do not necessarily represent the Ministers' actual words.]

GENEVA PERSONALITIES

VI.—M. ARISTIDE BRIAND

M. ARISTIDE BRIAND is a good deal more than a Geneva personality. The ex-Socialist editor has been Prime Minister of France more often than any living colleague, and has become an almost perpetual Foreign Minister. But he has grown to appreciate and use the League increasingly, and by his astonishing eloquence he holds and charms the Assembly as no other speaker can or could—though two other Frenchmen, Viviani in the past and Paul-Boncour in the present, come very near it.

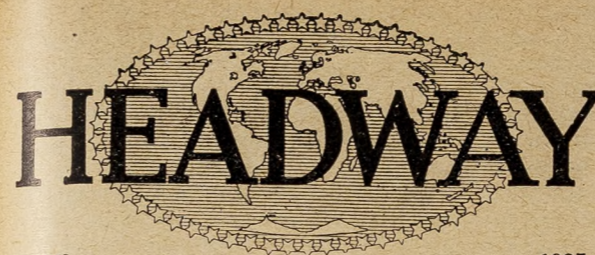
M. Briand believes in the League. He believes in it as a safeguard of European peace. He regularly attends the Council meetings, and heads his delegation



M. Aristide Briand

for part, at any rate, of every Assembly. He is, indeed, a connoisseur in conferences. He was at Washington in 1921, and greatly offended the Americans by his explanation of why France could not reduce her land forces. He was at Cannes in 1922, and fell from office because, so it was said, France could not tolerate such levity as indulgence in a round of golf (with Mr. Lloyd George, then Prime Minister) in the midst of international discussions. He was at Locarno, and to him, Sir Austen Chamberlain, and Dr. Stresemann the success achieved there was mainly due.

Exactly how much M. Briand believes in the League is hard to say, but no one could fail to regard him as essentially a League man. He goes to Geneva, as Sir Austen does, to meet other Prime Ministers—and a very good reason too. He goes because he thinks he can serve French interests thereby. A very good reason again. It should be to every State's interest to be well represented at Geneva. He pays long visits to Sir Austen Chamberlain and M. Benes, of Czechoslovakia. He makes off in a car with Dr. Stresemann for Thoiry. He compares notes with M. Zaleski, of Poland. But all these individual contacts serve to strengthen League solidity, as well as to serve special ends. And if M. Briand sometimes seems to push the French case a little hard at Geneva he can always be relied on to press the League case just as hard at Paris.



JULY

1927

THE SPEED-LIMIT

THE forty-fifth session of the League of Nations Council took place at Geneva last month. It came at a moment when Europe was anxious and uneasy. France and Germany had failed conspicuously to carry the Thoiry conversations of last September, between M. Briand and Dr. Stresemann, to fruition, and were still discussing the French occupation of the Rhineland and Germany's demolition of certain fortifications she had raised on her eastern frontier. There was a rupture of diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Russia. There was a rupture of diplomatic relations between Yugoslavia and Albania. There were on the Council agenda three other definite disputes, one between Hungary and Rumania, one between Poland and Danzig, and one between Lithuania and Memel. And there was always China.

It might have been regarded as fortunate that a meeting of the Council should have fallen due at such a juncture, for nothing disturbing the mind of Europe, or any other continent, is alien to the Council of the League. The Covenant goes out of its way to make that clear by laying down explicitly (in Article IV) that—

"The Council may deal at its meetings with any matter within the sphere of action of the League or affecting the peace of the world."

It is therefore of some interest to see how the various disputes in question were handled.

How were they handled? The Russian question was discussed, not at the League Council table, but at a private meeting of six (out of the 14) Council members in an hotel. The Franco-German question was discussed, not at the League Council table, but at a private meeting of six Council members in an hotel. The Yugoslav-Albanian question was discussed, not at the League Council table, but at a private meeting of six Council members in an hotel. The Hungarian-Rumanian dispute was adjourned till September without a settlement. The Poland-Danzig dispute was treated in the same way. The Lithuanian-Memel dispute was settled outside the Council-room by conversations between the German Foreign Minister and the Lithuanian Premier.

This, at first sight, at any rate, is not a very impressive record from the League Council's point of view. Three important questions never came before it at all, and, of the three that did, two were left unsettled and the third was settled outside. Closer study of the facts, indeed, shows the situation to be a little better than it looks. The Memel settlement was, in reality, quite satisfactory, for the pledges the Lithuanian Prime Minister was persuaded by Dr. Stresemann to give were read by him before the Council and duly entered on its minutes. The postponement of the other two was unfortunate and, with a little resolution, could well have been avoided.

As for the questions that never came to the Council at all, the German affair was not the League's concern and an hotel conversation served well enough for that. Russia was everyone's concern and the situation regarding it was one of those which the framers of the

Covenant must clearly have had in mind when they gave the Council licence to discuss anything affecting the peace of the world. The Albanian trouble fell still more indisputably in that category, and the main reason why the Council passed it by was reluctance to risk a difference of opinion with Italy.

In any event, the fact that for good reasons or bad questions of this order were kept away from the League Council and dealt with elsewhere could not fail to detract from the League's prestige. And, unfortunately, one or two other cases in which action outside the League instead of through it was chosen turned up at the same time. The first was, of course, the Coolidge Naval Conference, which broke a little abruptly, but, it may be hoped and believed, beneficially, into the midst of the League's own disarmament discussions. Secondly, when a question arose last month of an international conference to frame conventions on the basis of the work the League's Commission on the Codification of International Law has been doing for some years, it was recommended by the Council, rather surprisingly, that the conference should be convened not by the League at all, nor at Geneva, but by the Dutch Government and at The Hague.

Some of these various actions and decisions may have been justified and inevitable. But, to put it at the lowest, they are unfortunate, for they give the impression that in several important fields the League is being sidetracked. And these are not the only things that are creating that impression. There will always be two schools in every movement, consisting of those who see a danger of going too fast and those who see a danger of going too slowly. At the present moment the British Government, quite definitely and undisguisedly, believes the League is in danger of going too fast. Sir Austen Chamberlain has lost no opportunity of proclaiming that doctrine openly during the recent Council meeting. When disarmament was under discussion he dwelt on the magnitude of the problem and the need of moving slowly and cautiously. When he presented the report of the Committee on Women and Children he firmly pruned down certain of its activities which he thought superfluous. When the Economic Conference report was before the Council and two or three States, notably Germany, Belgium and Czechoslovakia, had declared their full adhesion to the Conference's conclusions, Sir Austen expressed the view that the conclusions were too vast for any Government to have digested them so soon, and he could only say that the British Government had received a favourable impression on a first and rather hasty reading. And, at a public dinner given during the Council meeting by the International Council of Women, the Foreign Minister devoted his speech to warning his enthusiastic audience against expecting too much from the League or asking too much of it in the days of its youth.

Now, there is obviously a case for caution. Every well-conducted motor-car carries a brake as well as an accelerator. It carries, in fact, two brakes. And enthusiasts, no doubt, can be a nuisance. But the League, of all institutions, needs the driving force of public opinion behind it. The Belgian Foreign Minister emphasised that most valuably in the Council discussion on armaments. It would be most deplorable if the impression got abroad that Great Britain was more interested in the brake than in the accelerator. It is not true of the country as a whole. It is not true, we believe, in reality of the Foreign Secretary. But the impression has, in fact, got abroad—the British proposal to reduce the number of Council meetings fostered it—and it is already doing harm. It is much to be desired that the Prime Minister or Sir Austen should do something to correct it.

LABOUR PROBLEMS AT GENEVA

IN some respects, quite apart from the importance of the subjects under discussion, the session of the International Labour Conference which closed on June 16 was one of the most interesting since the first held seven years ago in Washington. In the early stages, during the discussion of the Director's Report (a debate which year by year grows in value), Sir Louis Kershaw, delegate of the Indian Government, drew attention to the dangerous position created by the rigid "group system." The following weeks justified his criticisms, and at the same time gave hope for the future. The British Employers, for instance, voted in favour of the insertion of a clause in a Sickness Insurance Convention to permit of voluntary insurance, in the option of individual Governments.

Splitting Up "Groups"

Seeing that on many occasions British Employers have urged the necessity to level up "social changes" in competing countries, this vote was obviously the result of some "group" arrangement, to which national interest had been sacrificed. Similarly it was freely renounced in Geneva that the Workers' Group were by no means so unanimous as appeared on the surface as regards, for instance, the question of freedom of association. It was therefore satisfactory to find that in the final vote on the Convention regarding Sickness Insurance in Industry, the employers voted individually, and not in accordance with a Group decision; and it was similarly satisfactory to find both the British and the Canadian employers voting, against the majority of employers, in favour of the definite inscription of "Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery" on the Agenda of the 1928 Session.

As regards definite results, the Conference adopted two Draft Conventions dealing with Sickness Insurance in Industry and in Agriculture, respectively; since these do not appear to represent any advance on British practice, except perhaps as regards Northern Ireland, there should be no difficulty in British ratification at an early date. One Recommendation was adopted, and in that case the vote was unanimous.

Employers Versus Employed

A definite but unsatisfactory result was reached as regards Freedom of Association. In this case, as in that of Minimum Wage Machinery, the new "Double Discussion" procedure was being applied for the first time. The Conference, that is to say, had only to decide what questions should be put to the Governments, to form the basis of next year's discussions, and whether the subjects should definitely be discussed next year. The Workers' Group met with a definite reverse, for in the Committee (on which, it is true, some of the more liberal countries were not represented) they were unable to repel the insertion in the questionnaire of several amendments, such, for example, as a phrase which, in their view, would put "freedom not to associate" on a level with "freedom to associate," and divert discussion from the freedom to combine to the freedom of the individual. In these circumstances, and since the employers and majority, at any rate, of the Governments would not yield, the workers as a group voted against the questionnaire and against the insertion of the question on the 1928 agenda. As the insertion had originally been proposed by the workers, the employers, not illogically, also voted against discussion in 1928, and their joint view, based on many different grounds, won the day. This result had a noticeable effect upon the Conference, which seemed to realise that something of a blunder had been made, and the "Minimum Wage Machinery" had a comparatively smooth passage through the Conference. Some

proposals by Continental employers to alter it were firmly opposed, especially by the British Government, and were successively rejected. There is some doubt whether this new "Double Discussion Procedure" does not need some perfecting, and the Governing Body of the I.L.O. is to examine this question.

A Brief Survey

An article on the Conference would not be complete without a reference to the admirable way in which Sir Atul Chatterjee, the Indian High Commissioner in London, presided. It was regrettable that on so many occasions he had to draw attention to the buzz of conversation which too commonly in Geneva robs the process of interpretation of most of its value. As many of the speeches are delivered in French, this is especially tiresome for British speaking delegates.

The British Government was ably represented by Mr. Wolfe, of the Ministry of Labour, and Sir Walter Kinnear, of the Ministry of Health. The Governmental Advisers included a number of officials, as well as the Hon. Mary Pickford. The British Workers' Delegate was Mr. Poulton, to whom the Director of the International Labour Office paid a special tribute; his advisers included two other members of the Industrial Advisory Committee of the League of Nations Union—Mr. Elvin and Mr. Hayday, M.P. The British Employers were nominally represented by the Governor of the Gas Light and Coke Company, Sir David Milne Watson, but he was only able to spend a few days in Geneva; others of his advisers were similarly or worse placed; and the effective representation of British industrialists was left to Mr. Sneddon, one of the Staff of the National Confederation of Employers' Organisation.

In the debate on Hours of Work, arising from the Director's Report, Mr. Wolfe largely confined himself to repeating recent statements by Lord Balfour and Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland. The workers again insisted that the British attitude is the cause of other countries' failure to ratify the Hours Convention.

COMING EVENTS

July 4.—Conference for the Constitution of an International Relief Union (Ciraolo Scheme).

July 17.—Special meeting of Economic Committee on Tariffs.

July 20.—Plenary meeting of the International Committee for Intellectual Co-operation.

August 23.—Transit Conference.

August 24.—Press Conference.

September 5.—Eighth Assembly.

September 19.—Interchange of Public Health Officers (at Berlin.)

SIR AUSTEN'S FAITH

The following letter, addressed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Major J. W. Hills, M.P., was read amid applause at the recent meeting of the Council of the League of Nations Union at Harrogate:

"The foreign policy of his Majesty's Government is based upon a close co-operation with the League and a steady participation in its work. No one, I think, will deny that with the passage of years the League of Nations, though still young, is waxing in strength and influence. It has already played an important part in clearing away international misunderstandings and in promoting international co-operation in political, economic, sanitary and social questions. Your Union exists to make its work known and to promote its influence in this country, and I am glad to think that, recognising that the policy of his Majesty's Government is directed to the same objects, there is a growing understanding and co-operation between us."

THE EIGHTH ASSEMBLY

THE first edition of the agenda for every League Assembly is always circulated several months in advance, in order that it may reach distant countries in time for consideration to be given to its contents before delegates to the Assembly leave their respective countries. In accordance with this practice, the agenda for the Eighth Assembly to be held next September is already available. It consists of 25 items, of which a number are purely formal. The first of real importance is the sixth, referring to the Secretary-General's Report, on which the habitual general discussion on the whole work of the League in the preceding 12 months is based.

Next comes the election of the three non-permanent members of the Council. That is noteworthy because in the past the elections have been postponed till the last week and often till the last day of the Assembly, a procedure which leaves rather too great an opportunity for lobbying and angling for support on the part of candidates. The rotatory system, established last year, is now fully at work, and three vacancies among the non-permanent members will arise each year. The States which drop off this time are Belgium, Salvador and Czechoslovakia, none of whom are in the least degree likely to be re-elected. A good deal of speculation is already rife as to their successors. On the whole, the most favoured candidates are Canada, Finland and some Latin-American State to replace Salvador.

Canada and the Council

The question of Canada's candidature is not yet decided, and it will, no doubt, receive the earnest attention of the British Empire delegations as a whole, but the possibility of the election of a British Dominion to the Council is, in itself, a matter of considerable interest. Non-permanent members who retain their seats are Holland, Columbia and China (till 1928), and Poland, Roumania and Chile (till 1929). It is possible, by the way, that the election of Council members will take place under a system of proportional representation, for a resolution to that effect was moved last year and will be reported on to the Eighth Assembly after consideration by the Council, which has, however, shown small sympathy with the project.

Another item of interest is the first Report by the League Council to the Assembly on the result so far achieved by last year's Slavery Convention. This appears to be the first case in which the Assembly has called on the Council to keep it informed about the operation of a League Convention, and it is hoped that the publicity thus provided for will go far to supply the absence from the Convention itself of any pledge on the part of signatory States to furnish annual reports on the measures they have taken in pursuance of it.

Unpaid Dues

Next on the agenda we find a delicate, but very necessary, piece of business, namely, a report on the legal position of States who do not pay their contributions. The names of 10 members in this position appeared on last year's black list, all being South American States, with the exception of China. The latter country had an Assembly Resolution all to itself which "requested China to propose effective and concrete methods with a view to payment of her contributions in arrears."

To this the representative of the Peking Government replied, last December, that China intended to earmark sums obtained from an increase of tariff, but, being deprived of tariff autonomy, she must obtain the consent of the diplomatic body in Peking. It remains to be seen whether the matter has further advanced.

The next item is the winding up of one of the most human and touching of the League's "Side-shows,"

namely, Miss Jeppe's work at Aleppo for rescuing Armenian women and children—war captives originally—from Moslem harems. During the five years in which she received a grant from the League Miss Jeppe helped over 1,400 women to escape.

A proposal for international action to combat alcoholism, put forward last year by the delegations of Finland, Poland and Sweden, will certainly provoke lively discussion at Geneva next September. So also will the report of the League's Standing Committees on Opium and Drugs and on the Traffic in Women and Children. The latter will this year have a larger collection of ascertained facts to go upon than has ever been got together since the conscience of the world was awakened about the existence of this trade.

Finally, though the agenda so far makes no reference to it (a supplementary agenda will be issued later), it is certain that disarmament will occupy a prominent place on the Assembly's platform. There will be formal reports which will enable the matter to be brought up, and numbers of delegates will certainly make it their business to stimulate the disarmament movement by any means in their power.

"STAMPEDE: 1000-1"

By A RACING CORRESPONDENT

TO "Stampede," says the Concise Oxford Dictionary, is to cause to take part in a stampede: and a stampede is a sudden flight and scattering of a number of horses or cattle, or a sudden flight or hurried movement of soldiers due to panic, or an unconcerted movement of many persons by common impulse.

Sir Arthur Steel Maitland, the Minister of Labour, told the House of Commons on the 2nd June that he did not propose to allow the Government to be "stampeded" into premature ratification of the Washington Hours Convention.

The Convention was adopted in 1919; it expires in 1931; we are now in the year of Grace, 1927. For nearly eight years the question of British ratification has been under discussion. Once there was a recognised set of "difficulties"—the Railway Agreement, the "Nine hour day and Five Day week," etc. Last year the British Government called a conference of the chief European powers in London to discuss these difficulties. Unanimous agreement was reached. It now appears that the agreement was not a real one—that the British Minister ought not to have agreed at all. And, further, fresh difficulties have been found—preparatory work in the cotton industry, Road Transport, and the like.

What has the Ministry of Labour been doing? Has it taken them seven years to discover the existence of the cotton industry and road transport? What is the Minister going to do? Convene a fresh London Conference, so that once more he may agree to solutions which later he may find unacceptable, and so that, a year after the dispersal of the Conference, the Ministry of Labour may discover new difficulties, or new industries?

The National Confederation of Employers' Organisations seems also to be afraid of a "stampede." Withdrawing most of their delegates from the International Labour Conference at Geneva, without there telling the world why they oppose British ratification of the Convention, they have issued a pamphlet which purports to "state the facts." Sir Arthur Steel Maitland paid a tribute (of a kind) to its impartiality when he found it mainly an argument in favour of ratification, inasmuch as it stated that practically all the workers of this country have already the 48-hour week.

The Minister of Labour is aggrieved because some people, in all parties, are trying to hustle him. He is surprised that there is a faint suspicion that the British

Government has put the brake on a little too hard and too long; that the Ministry of Labour must be singularly incompetent if after seven years it is still discovering "new" difficulties which must have been there all the time; in fact that the whole of the policy of the Government, though doubtless the product in reality of the most particular honesty and incompetence, may to the rest of the world seem to be a policy of machiavellian evasion.

"Stampede" ran in the Derby this year—finished a quarter-of-a-mile after every horse. Is that what Sir Arthur really had in mind?

THE UNION AND DISARMAMENT

THOSE statesmen who have been conducting the preliminary negotiations connected with the World Conference on the Limitation and Reduction of Armaments are all agreed that the technical side of the problem can be settled, and that the one thing needed to make the Conference effective will be the active and honest support of the public opinion of the world. In this country the task of concentrating and displaying that support naturally falls to the League of Nations Union, and in the next six months there will consequently be an important piece of work to be done. A beginning has already been made. Within the last few days manifestos, widely signed by leading citizens of all parties and of many different occupations, have been sent to the Prime Minister from many of the large towns in the country.

The text of the Manifesto which has been signed is as follows:—

We, the undersigned, beg to address you on the subject of the reduction of armaments. We believe that there is no safety in competition in armaments, and no safety in reductions carried out by one country alone; the only path of safety lies in a general and agreed reduction. We therefore welcome the Conference on general and on naval reduction to which the Government is sending representatives. We assure you that the steps you have already taken have met with our whole-hearted support, and that we recognise with satisfaction that Great Britain has already given proof of a truly pacific policy. But the limit of the reductions in our own fighting strength which can be made without corresponding reductions in other countries has been reached, and we therefore welcome the proof given by the recent meetings of the Preparatory Commission in Geneva that an International Agreement is perfectly feasible. Indeed, there is no longer any question whether reduction is possible; the only uncertainty is when it will come, and in what form. We realise that this country is not greatly concerned with the reduction of land armies, since our own is so small. For us naval questions are the most important, and that is why we address you now, on the eve of the Naval Conference called by President Coolidge. The Washington Conference of 1921 settled the strength of great navies in battleships, and limited the size of cruisers. The Agreement has worked without a hitch, it has saved this country millions of pounds, and it has kept the peace in the Pacific. It is time it were carried further.

We submit to you that, if agreement with the United States and Japan can be arrived at, it should be possible without risk to limit both the tonnage and the size of guns carried by cruisers of all Naval Powers. Possibly also we can come to an agreement about submarines, not only with the United States and Japan, but also with France and Italy. Many people here would like to see submarines abolished entirely. So much for the sea and the great sea Powers. Land and Air Armaments and those navies not covered by the Coolidge Conference, can be adjusted by the League of Nations Preparatory Commission, which will reassemble next November in Geneva. Its preliminary sessions have shown that few differences of principle remain to be overcome. These, though important, are not insuperable, and their adjustment will be much simplified if an agreement on naval matters has already

been reached. The Conference which is now about to take place, has, therefore, a very special importance. Great Britain has always led the world upon the seas. We pray that it may now lead in this new direction.

The following towns have taken part in this expression of public opinion:—

Bradford, Bristol, Birmingham, Derby, Dudley, Dundee, Exeter, Edinburgh, Fraserburgh, Grimsby, Halifax, Huddersfield, Hull, Inverness, Ipswich, Lincoln, Liverpool, Leamington, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Northampton, Nottingham, Plymouth, Southampton, York.

In addition to these signatures from London, Oxford, Leeds, Sheffield, Leicester, Aberdeen, Portsmouth and Bournemouth have been forwarded

If the Government does not now realise that there is a strong and widespread support for an active forward policy it is not for lack of telling.

As the Coolidge Conference goes on, however, and still more when it is over, and its results have to be incorporated with the larger League schemes, the pressure of public opinion must continue. There will be need therefore for much activity in every constituency in the autumn, and all the machinery for such action should now be prepared.

MITIGATING BABEL

ONE of the most interesting experiments yet made to solve the great language problem has been tried at the recent session of the International Labour Conference, held at the Bâtiment Electoral in Geneva.

The new device provides for the simultaneous translation of a speech, while it is actually being delivered, into another language by an interpreter who speaks into a microphone so that it may be listened to by the delegates who want to hear it in that language. The interpreter sits within hearing distance and in full sight of the orator and speaks into a specially constructed microphone, which is so arranged that it does not record any sounds from a distance. He speaks in a whisper, but his voice is magnified and carried through the earpieces, which look rather like doctors' stethoscopes. These fit right into the ears, and therefore "cut out" any outside noises, and the delegate sitting at his desk in the Conference Hall can put them on—they are quite light—and listen with the greatest comfort.

The experiment was first tried with the German delegation, and was stated by them to be extremely successful. They heard the speech actually as it was being made, and the translation was stated to be very satisfactory. The next trial was made with the direct translation of a French speech into English, thus reducing the need for an official interpretation directly a speech has been made. This was also stated to be successful, but there were complaints that as only delegates were able to listen, their technical advisers had to be content with the French version. The same criticism would, of course, be made by English visitors sitting in the public gallery. Such a difficulty, however, is obviously not insuperable.

The technical success of the experiment is due to Capt. Gordon Finlay, who is attached to the International Labour Office, while the whole idea has been made possible largely by financial support received from Mr. E. A. Filene, the well-known American, who will be recalled for his generosity in presenting an essay prize to the Union some time ago.

Time will show how far the scheme can be extended. Very skilled translators are needed for such work, and it will undoubtedly be exhausting work. The staff of the I.L.O. certainly is not large enough to carry it out to any great extent at present, but the economy in time which may result and the greater satisfaction which delegates may receive in hearing all the speeches in their own tongue is likely to be considered ample justification for the necessary increase.

AT BERLIN

LEAGUE SOCIETIES FROM MANY LANDS

THE meetings of the International Federation of League of Nations Associations in Berlin at the end of May are an old story now, but they are a story well worth telling, all the same. Never has this annual gathering been more successful, never have the visiting delegates enjoyed hospitality so generous and so general, never has the actual mechanism of the meetings run more smoothly, and never has satisfaction with the tenor of the discussions been more universal or more profound.

The Berlin meetings, indeed, would be marked as unique by one feature of them alone. To understand what it meant for the delegates to hold their opening gathering in the actual Chamber of the Reichstag, and to be greeted by the Chancellor of the German Reich under the presidency of a French chairman, it is only necessary to draw a simple parallel and imagine a like

These were, of course, of the nature of spectacular events and must not distract attention from the routine work of the Conference, which took the usual form of general opening discussions followed by hard, detailed work by three or four large Commissions, culminating in the presentation by these Commissions of reports or resolutions to the Plenary Conference for adoption. Among the most important were those dealing with minorities, under which head the position of the German-speaking minorities in the now Italian Southern Tyrol gave rise to an animated discussion, the Italian delegates pledging themselves as result to do their utmost to obtain certain specific ameliorations of conditions there. It was reported, incidentally, that, as a direct result of the activities of the Federation's Minorities Committee, the Yugoslav Government had released from prison a number of members of the sect



THE FEDERATION MEETING AT BERLIN

Part of the British Delegation appears in the third row from the front. Names, from right to left: Mr. F. Whelen, Mr. L. M. Wynch, Mr. H. D. Watson, Captain R. S. Hudson, M.P., Admiral Drury-Lowe, Mr. Wilson Harris. In front of Admiral Drury-Lowe is Dr. Dumba, formerly Austrian Ambassador at Washington.

gathering taking place in the House of Commons with an address of welcome delivered by Mr. Baldwin and, let us say, the President of the German Society in the Speaker's chair.

As this opening gathering was graced by the presence of the German Chancellor, so the closing function a week later brought to his feet as the chief speaker the Foreign Minister, Dr. Stresemann. Both German statesmen delivered speeches marked by a manifestly sincere belief in the future of the League of Nations and in the part Germany may play as one of its chief members. In addition the City Council of Berlin gave an impressive lunch at the Rathhaus, the Burgomaster making the chief speech.

of the Nazarenes who, on conscientious grounds, had refused to undertake active military service.

Another resolution, on the settlement of international disputes, called for the standardisation, in a general conciliation treaty, of the rapidly increasing series of conciliation treaties lately concluded between different pairs of States, and urged that all disputes of a judicial character should be settled either by the Court or by arbitration, and that all others, through the conclusion of a new treaty to that effect, should be assured of some final settlement at the hands of the League, so as to close even the narrow loophole for war still left open under Article XV of the Covenant.

The resolution on disarmament represented an

agreement amicably reached between the British delegation and the German, which was naturally dissatisfied with the progress so far achieved at Geneva, and the British delegation came to the fore again in connection with, what is, after all, the chief task of such an international gathering of League of Nations Societies, the work of education and publicity. Notes were compared on methods followed and results achieved, and a resolution based broadly on the British campaign for League teaching in schools was adopted. In the I.L.O. section societies were once more urged to press their Governments to ratify conventions. A valuable innovation was a short address by Mr. W. T. Layton on the Economic Conference at Geneva, where he had been one of the British delegates.

As a whole, the quality of the delegates was probably higher than at any previous Federation meeting, and the discussions themselves were distinctly more business-like and practical. Next year's annual Conference is to be held at The Hague, and in the meantime the Federation will make an interesting excursion into new territory by convening its October Council meeting at Sofia.

A large British delegation, which included four M.P.s, two Conservative and two Labour, was further strengthened by the presence of Col. Crosfield, Vice-President of the British Legion, whose resolution urging the co-operation of ex-service men with the League of Nations movement was warmly received by the Conference.

'MIGHTY WORKINGS'

"YOU will never get the masses for the League until you use music and pageantry in your appeal," said a friend to me some time ago. On June 18, I caught for a moment in the throng at the Crystal Palace a smiling face that said triumphantly, "I told you so." Certainly they were there in their thousands—children, for it was the festival of youth and grown-ups, to enter with them into the spirit of joy which marked the proceedings. Twenty-six thousand was the number estimated at the turnstiles.

At the opening ceremony in the morning, Professor Gilbert Murray's address, delivered from a platform over which hung Keats' words:—

"Hear ye not the hum of mighty workings?"

fired the imagination and set the tone for the day. The service of celebration which followed it kept up the same high level.

In the afternoon, singing by the Tonic Sol-fa Choir, and an address by Mr. Whelen, dancing, and sports; after tea, a talk in the sports field by Professor Baker, and two entertainments which had to go on at the same time, unfortunately—because all who saw one wished they could also see the other. Groups from thirteen different nations danced and sang and made music, from the best their nations have produced. It would be invidious to select one rather than another for praise. All were beautiful and inspiring.

A notable mark of international friendship was the presentation, by the Japanese group, to Professor Gilbert Murray, of a Japanese banner embodying symbols of the League of Nations.

The climax of the Festival was the Great Massed Gathering, which opened with the reception by the Duchess of Atholl of the representatives of 25 countries. They filed with national flags and in picturesque costume up the centre of the Hall, and the applause almost drowned the fine rendering of the different national anthems by the band of the Scots Guards.

K. E. I.

CONFERENCE TIME AT GENEVA

CONFERENCE time at Geneva is almost any time from January to December, and although the types of Conference are many and varied, any one of them might form the setting for a brief sketch of this description providing always that it is one to which the L.N.U. conducts a party of inquisitive people, who are invariably bent upon improving the shining hour by absorbing a happy blend of serious knowledge and the less serious but innocent frivolity which Geneva never fails to provide. The particular Conference inspiring these present notes was the International Labour Conference just ended, and only in the sense that the present writer was one of the crowd, shepherded, housed, fed and entertained by the paternal and completely adequate L.N.U., is he entitled to describe himself as a "party" man. Space forbids amplification of how this spirit of comradeship subtly undermines the defences of natural reserve, promotes sympathetic understanding, and lays the foundation of lasting friendship.

The "Party" goes to Geneva, graciously accepting the cheap rates, the well-thought-out plans, the social amenities and manifold privileges thrown in by the Union, and every member, whether he or she be appointed by a trade union, an employers' organisation, an educational society or other official body, or whether he goes in an individual capacity, devoting easy leisure or a hard-earned holiday to the trip, goes to find something—and succeeds. What does he want to know? If it is how 43 States manage to coherently grapple in Conference with industrial matters which are problems the world over, the doors of the Conference itself and all of its subsidiary Commissions are open for him to enter and watch for himself. Does he want an introductory explanation? He gets that as soon as he sets foot in the city through the medium of the first lecture by an encyclopædic officer of the I.L.O., who deals with the origin and constitution of that truly wonderful and efficient organisation. Does the dignity of his position—in the world's affairs warrant some official notice being taken of his advent at this hub of international politics? Even the present writer was satisfied upon that point when the Director himself, accompanied by the Deputy Director, made time to express a friendly welcome to the party. Does he want to study any specific problem? The office, modelled on the British Civil Service, is open to receive him, and can invariably give more food for thought than could possibly be digested in the time available. Special lectures covering such subjects as "The I.L.O. and the Coal Enquiry," "Native Labour," "British Industry and the I.L.O.," "Freedom of Association," and "Industrial Relations," were given during this last trip by experts upon their particular themes, and the general discussions which followed furnished opportunities for party members to air their own views.

Mix up with all this the exhibition of a film of the Seventh Assembly at the Palais des Nations, a garden party, a conducted tour of Geneva, excursions to Chamonix, a lake trip to Territet and Montreux, and, whenever one liked a day or an evening free from engagements, and you get a faint idea of what is meant by Conference time in Geneva if you allow yourself to be "organised" by the L.N.U. This "party" man has just returned from his third trip, and each subsequent year sees the party grow—being cautious he has tentatively booked a place for next year, for it is too good to be missed.

HOW TO BECOME AN EXPERT LINGUIST BOOKS WORTH READING

WAR OR—?

Remarkable Success of New Pelman Method of Learning French, Italian, Spanish and German.

THE Pelman Institute has achieved a remarkable success with its new system of teaching languages without using English.

People who have failed to learn languages by any other method are writing to say that the new Pelman plan has enabled them to overcome all those difficulties which formerly prevented them from "getting on" with French, Italian, German or Spanish.

Here are a few examples of the letters now being received daily by the Languages Department of the Institute:—

"I have learnt more French during the last three months than I learnt during some four or five years' teaching on old-fashioned lines at a school."—(S. 382.)

"I have only been learning German for five months; now I can not only read it, but also speak it well."—(G. M. 148.)

"I may say that I learnt Spanish by your method, and am convinced that it is the best in the world."—(S. M. 188.)

"I am extremely pleased with the (Italian) Course. I found it of the greatest possible service to me during a recent visit to Italy. I have never before found any other method so helpful for learning a Foreign language."—(I. T. 127.)

"I look forward with increasing interest to each new booklet. The Course is an absolute Godsend to me, for the present forced to live in a very quiet country village."—(F. 126.)

"I desire to express my appreciation of this most interesting and instructive Course. I have learnt more about real French in the first five lessons than in all other courses put together."—(M. 143.)

"I am very satisfied with my progress and am really grateful to you for your interest in my work. I have enjoyed doing the lessons, and, invalid as I am, they have beguiled many a weary hour."—(L. 180.)

"I am delighted with the (Spanish) Course and fully satisfied with progress. It is a most ingenious and efficient way of teaching languages."—(S.W. 350.)

Amongst the advantages of the new method are the following:—

First.—It is a "direct" method, and the direct method is now generally recognised as the only scientific way of learning languages. It enables you to learn French in French, Spanish in Spanish, Italian in Italian and German in German. No English is employed, and consequently there is no translation.

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Third.—Grammatical difficulties are avoided. The Pelman method enables you to read, write, speak, and understand a Foreign Language without spending months studying dreary grammatical rules. You absorb the grammar almost unconsciously as you go along.

Fourth.—This method enables you to learn a Foreign Language in your own time and in your own home. There are no classes to attend. The whole of the tuition is given through the post.

The new Pelman method of learning French, German, Italian and Spanish is explained in four little books (one for each language). You can have a free copy of any one of these books by writing to the Pelman Institute (Languages Dept.), 114, Pelman House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1. State which one of the four books you want, and it will be sent you by return, gratis and post free. Call or write to-day.

Branches: PARIS, 35, Rue Boissy d'Anglas. NEW YORK, 71, West 45th Street. MELBOURNE, 396, Flinders Lane. DURBAN, Natal Bank Chambers. DELHI, 10, Alipore Road.

General Disarmament or War, by Rennie Smith, M.P. (Allen & Unwin, 3s. 6d. net). With only 85 pages (apart from appendices) at his disposal Mr. Rennie Smith was not entirely wise in devoting exactly half that space to generalities calculated to take the edge off his brief but useful discussion of practical disarmament proposals. At this time of day it is flogging a dead horse to set in array the arguments for war as an institution and then briskly knock them down one by one. Treitschki and Bernhardt are not worth resurrecting in 1927. A generation that has lived through the Great War needs no convincing of the necessity of peace.

Mr. Rennie Smith's purpose is clear enough. His opening sentence indeed is the paean of a David setting out against Goliath.

"This little book, wherever it goes, is the enemy of war. It attacks, as it would cancer, tuberculosis or slums, that scourge of mankind. To make war impossible, to kill it, to annihilate it, is its purpose."

It unfortunately takes more than 85 pages, and may take more than 85 years, to do that. Meanwhile, however, every contribution of any value helps, and there is undoubted value in Mr. Smith's exposé of a definite disarmament programme in the latter part of his book.

In brief, what the writer proposes is a naval disarmament scheme, in which Great Britain should take the lead, providing for a reduction in the maximum size of capital ships from 35,000 to 10,000 tons, and of cruisers from 10,000 to 6,000, with provision for the abolition of submarines balanced by the abolition of destroyers—all this combined with an extension of the Washington naval holiday, both in time and in area of application. On land Mr. Smith wants the abolition of conscription and the adoption of the Swiss militia system. He calls for the scrapping of all tanks and most heavy artillery, for the abolition of military aviation and the organisation of all civil aviation under the League of Nations.

That parts of this programme go beyond anything that seems immediately practicable is no defect. "A man's reach should exceed his grasp" here—as in other matters. Only one small point of criticism arises. It is perhaps not well to emphasise overmuch the danger that Germany and other disarmed States, if they do not see other countries levelling down, will themselves claim the right to level up. They may claim it, but they cannot exact it, and though the attempt to do so would make trouble for everyone, it would make trouble for themselves most of all.

This book would discharge its mission more effectively if the writer had disciplined himself to keep steadily in mind the people he evidently desires to convert. As he justly says, he has "endeavoured to deal in a practical way with practical problems." But those who are impressed by that sober mode of treatment are usually repelled by relapses into rhetoric, such as marks a paragraph ten lines lower down.

"Only the British people can help. It is for them to make Lord Cecil's words as challenging and inescapable as ever fell from the lips of a statesman. They can confer on him the majesty of a Luther, who shall cry to this international tyranny of armaments: 'Here I stand! I can do no other!' In other lands other Cecils will not fail."

Finally, as a pleasant little literary problem, a small prize might be offered for the most intelligent paraphrase of Mr. Rennie Smith's assertion that

"We still, for reasons that lie at the heart of things, weave a politics and an economics in that half-way house which is

a jungle, and where the animals who were our mothers still cling to our feet in love."

The half-way house seems a good pull-up for carmen—or at any rate, for reviewers.—H. W. H.

EUROPE AND THE LEAGUE

Europe in the Nineteenth Century, by A. J. Grant and H. V. W. Temperley (Longmans. 12s. 6d. net). A book that deals only with Europe in the nineteenth century could not be expected to say much about the League of Nations. But what this valuable volume does say, in the course of a venture into the future on its closing page, is interesting and important. The League, say the two writers, "carries the movement for arbitration on international disputes to a point that would have been quite impossible but for the pressure of the memories of the Great War . . . It has established a true Parliament of the World, where questions may be discussed and decisions taken that will have the support of an extraordinarily wide public opinion. Thirdly, it has arranged for international co-operation on the many questions which clearly transcend the limits of any individual nation. Fourthly, a very efficient judicial court is gradually working out standards and principles of international justice, and is already authorised to settle all disputes between a specified number of States. Lastly, although it has set up no super-state and has left the independence of the different States almost undiminished, it has established a permanent council to watch over the general interests of the civilised world, and especially to guard the peace of the world." An admirable and most useful summary of what the League has done and is trying to do.

A SEARCHLIGHT ON AFRICA

The Golden Stool, by Edwin W. Smith (Edinburgh House Press. 2s. 6d.). This book now appears in a new and cheap edition, and those to whom it now becomes available for the first time will endorse Sir F. Lugard's commendation when he says that he knows none which he has found more instructive. Mr. Smith, with half a lifetime's experience of Africa, throws a flood of light into every corner of his subject. He deals in a spirit of remarkable fairness with its many problems, and he goes to the heart of such fundamental questions as those of the land and population, the disintegration of native social life, and the conflicting systems of government and official policies adopted by the nations who now control the future of Africa. As might be expected, he sees in the mandate system the Black Man's Charter and a model for the government of territories other than mandated areas. But, he adds, "the trouble is that resolutions adopted in Geneva depend for their efficacy upon people in Africa, some of whom regard the idea of trusteeship as mere sentimental bosh." Mr. Smith has amply documented his statements, and has produced a volume which is not only most readable, but most worthy of reading.

AN INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY STAFF

Twenty Years of Missionary Co-operation, by Kenneth MacLennan (Edinburgh House Press. 1s.). This short record of the International Missionary Council is concerned with co-operation in Europe rather than overseas. The Council is now recognised as filling a necessary place in the relations between governments and missionary societies, and besides promoting an international comity in its own sphere of action, it has

Don't destroy "Headway," give it to someone else

done useful work in connection with German missions during and after the war, and with the framing and administration of mandates in Africa.

A year-book which should be of great value is to be published between now and the Assembly by Messrs. Payot, of Geneva and Lausanne. It is edited by Mr. George Ottlik, and will cover in the most exhaustive way the whole of the work of the League of Nations. Letters of good wishes have been received from Sir Austen Chamberlain, M. Briand and Dr. Stresemann, and Sir Eric Drummond contributes a preface.

NEW UNION PUBLICATIONS

The League of Nations and the Churches. (No. 90, second edition, May, 1927. 1d.)

WELSH LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION

The Alternative to War, Judgment of Reason or Ordeal by Battle, by W. Arnold-Forster. (Obtainable from 10, Richmond Terrace, Park Place, Cardiff. 10s. per hundred.)

BOOKS RECEIVED

"Gladstone and Britain's Imperial Policy." By Paul Knaplund, Ph.D. (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. 10s. 6d.)

"Towards Industrial Peace." (P. S. King & Son, Ltd. 6s.)

"Private Law Sources: Analogies of International Law." By H. Lauterfacht. (Longmans. 25s. net.)

"Education in Life." By Julie Eve Vajki. ("Save the Children" Fund. 1s.)

GENEVA FOR £3 : 16 : 6

PROFESSOR ZIMMERN has again secured a galaxy of talent for the Geneva School of International Studies, and a staff which includes names of world-wide reputation will lecture throughout the summer on the problems of national diversity and international co-operation. There will be monthly courses for advanced students and fortnightly "contact" courses for others. Students will live in private pensions at terms as low as 6s. 3d. a day for full board and lodging, or for 9s. in the C.I.E. residential centre, a well-equipped modern hostel in its own grounds with fine views of Mont Salève.

This year the British Universities League of Nations Society has secured special return fares to Geneva at the rate of £3 16s. 6d., for students attending these lecture courses or its own Group Conference of British and Dominion students, which will meet during the first week of the League Assembly to discuss the problems of inter-Imperial Relations and Foreign Policy and the League.

Fortunately the School believes "once a student, always a student," and as undergraduates are not the only poor, they will claim no monopoly of these special facilities.

For students unable to get as far as Geneva there is another choice. At Edinburgh from July 8 to 11 they may have a University Reception, a special service in St. Giles Cathedral, a half-day charabanc tour through the Scott country and Professor Toynbee to chair the international discussions—at an inclusive charge of 25s. for the three days. In London from July 22 to 26 and in Oxford as the guests of Queen's College from July 26 to 29 they may meet the International University Federation for the League of Nations and take part in its Annual Congress.

Private hosts and hostesses are wanted to welcome the foreign delegates in London and should apply to the Union office, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

READERS' VIEWS

"LEAGUE MAD"

SIR,—It is no doubt impossible always to prevent some of your writers becoming what can best be described as "League Mad." In your June issue, page 114, there is an article headed "A Scheme to Turn Down." One cannot fairly quarrel with the article itself, but the effect of the heading is truly horrible. The first three paragraphs describe the scheme, and the last paragraph comes to a conclusion on the scheme as described. But if you state your conclusion in your heading, you interfere with the reader's reasoning processes. Everyone knows that you will get different replies from a man according to whether he is asked: "What do you think of this Government?" or "What do you think of this disgusting Government?" You are too much in the hands of Geneva officials, who are obsessed with the necessity of consolidating their own organisation, and month after month I have noticed it and passed it by. A man who writes like this is not a fair-minded person trying to convince other fair-minded persons; he is playing the game of intrigue.—Yours, etc.,

Lavington, Sussex.

JAMES ASPIN.

June 7.

WHAT THE LEAGUE IS AND IS NOT

SIR,—I have read with great interest Mr. W. Stanley Anderton's letter in the June issue of HEADWAY, because the subject matter of the letter has been upon my mind for some time past.

At the inaugural meeting of the Chipstead (Kent) Branch, I asked the League's lecturer to explain in what way individual membership of the L.N.U. affected its activities for good or ill. To the best of my belief, the reply was that individual membership gave a sort of backing to those at the helm, and beyond that there was little to be said.

I think with Mr. Anderton, too much is made of the League being a League of Governments. In fact, I think it is a pity that such is the case, as to make the League really effective, members should have some voice in the framing of its programme of activity and a share in the choice of representatives.

Rightly or wrongly, the present Government is disliked by thousands of the electorate, and in the ordinary course of events will probably be asked to stand aside before very long. That is the rightful heritage of nationals, or should be, that they are free to choose representatives who will carry out the wishes of the people. Why then, should that privilege not apply to every member of the League of Nations Union? Are we to blindly accept the views and support the actions

League of Nations Assembly Tour

A party will leave London for Geneva, September 2nd to 9th. VISITS to Assembly and International Labour Office, Lectures, etc. Inclusive Fee, London—London, £11 11s.

Book at once—Apply Secretary, League of Nations Union, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1, or direct to ORGANISER OF TOUR, Mrs. INNES, 29, High Oaks Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

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of any and every representative who may be appointed by the particular Party in power?

I want to live to see the day when the League is really and truly a League of the Peoples of the Earth. At such a time, woe to the man who raises the mailed fist!—Yours, etc.

LEONARD F. SMITH.

Whinfield, Bessels Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.
June 7.

POPULARISING HISTORY

SIR,—I was very interested in Dr. Norwood's suggestion in the June issue of HEADWAY that "the Union might do more in the way of popularising history not as a compendium of the reign of kings, but as showing how each nation has struggled for security, expansion and just self-respect." A series of articles on such a subject would be very welcome. They would serve to dispel so much of that misunderstanding of "foreigners," which creates suspicion, the greatest obstacle to international friendship.—Yours, etc.,

Maldon, Essex.

E. J. REDHOUSE.

June 19.

LOOKING AHEAD

SIR,—It seems to me that, if the various European nations who are members of the League of Nations really mean anything by it—if they really mean to be anything like a United States of Europe—the idea of each nation having a separate army and navy, to be limited by agreement, is a futile one and won't wash. If they are a League co-operating for the preservation of peace, surely what they want is a co-operative army and navy, each State to supply a quota in accordance with its revenue and other circumstances; a certain amount of military or naval service to be compulsory, and training to take place in some other than the trainee's native land. In this way a good proportion of our young people would necessarily learn the languages and customs of their neighbours, and we should be by so much farther on the way to genuine co-operation and good understanding.—Yours, etc.,

ALICE FARMER.

79, Rue Michel Ange, Paris XVI.

June 11.

The International Commonwealth

(BY R. GORDON MILBURN.—Williams & Norgate, 3/6.)

A first-rate piece of work . . . should be invaluable to those who wish to speak on behalf of the League.—*Guardian*.

Good and cheap.—*Bookseller*.

Covers a good deal of new ground . . . Branch Secretaries might do much worse than use this book as the background of their next campaign.—*Headway*.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

All communications concerning Advertisement space in HEADWAY should be addressed to—

THE ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER,

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HOTELS, BOARDING HOUSES, &c.

HUMANITARIAN SUMMER HOLIDAY CENTRE from July 30th to September 3rd, 1927, Southbourne-on-Sea, Hants. Large mansion, several acres beautiful grounds, *meatless diet* on New Health lines. Tennis, Croquet, Dancing, League of Nations Lectures. 10% reduction to League of Nations Union members. Illustrated prospectus from Mr. F. de V. SUMMERS, 32, Sackville Street, London, W.1. Tel. Regent 2276.

FACTS ABOUT THE LEAGUE WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT WORKS

FIFTY-FIVE States belong to the League of Nations, 42 having joined as original members, and 14 at different dates between 1920 and 1926, while Costa Rica has withdrawn. The League now comprises all the independent States in the world except The United States, Turkey, Egypt, Arabia (Nejd), Russia, Afghanistan, Ecuador, Mexico and Costa Rica. Two members, Spain and Brazil, have given the statutory two years' notice of withdrawal.

* * * *

The main organs of the League are—

(1) **The Assembly**, meeting annually in September, and consisting of not more than three delegates from each of the States members of the League.

(2) **The Council**, meeting four or more times a year, and consisting of one delegate each from fourteen different States, five States (Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan) being permanently represented, while the other nine States are elected from time to time by the Assembly.

(3) **The Secretariat**, the international civil service by which the League is served.

The fundamental purpose of the League is "to promote international co-operation and to achieve international peace and security."

The seat of the League is at Geneva.

* * * *

Side by side with the League itself, and as integral parts of it, there exist—

The Permanent Court of International Justice, with its seat at The Hague; and

The International Labour Organisation, with its seat at Geneva.

The Permanent Court had, down to June, 1927, decided 7 cases and given 13 advisory opinions to the League Council.

* * * *

HUMANITARIAN WORK

The League seeks to co-ordinate the social and humanitarian activity of individual states, particularly in fields where joint international action is of special importance.

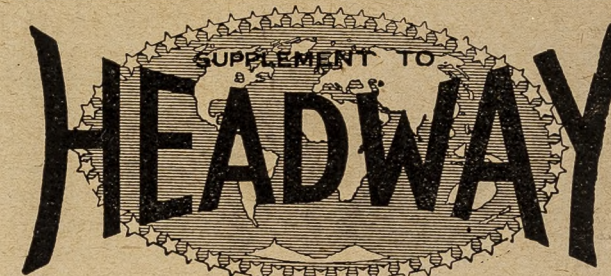
(1) **Opium Traffic**.—The aim of the League is to limit the total world production of opium and other narcotics to the amount required throughout the world for purely medical and scientific purposes, and so to check the distribution of the manufactured drugs as to prevent any country getting more than it genuinely needs. Conventions designed to secure this were framed and extensively signed at Geneva in 1925, but they have received few ratifications and are not yet in force.

(2) **Traffic in Women and Children**.—A standing committee of the League has constantly under consideration measures for promoting the welfare of women and children. A convention aiming at protecting girls from the dangers of the White Slave Traffic was adopted at the Second Assembly in 1921, and further and more affective action was foreshadowed by the publication of an exhaustive investigation into the White Slave Traffic in 1927.

(3) Various tasks carried out for the League largely through the instrumentality of Dr. Nansen, such as the **Repatriation of 430,000 prisoners of war** of many lands in 1921-2, and the **relief of Russian and Armenian refugees**, a little later, have proved the League's capacity for handling other than purely political tasks.

(4) A Convention designed to bring about the **suppression both of the slave trade and of the holding of slaves** was adopted at the Seventh Assembly in 1926.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION NEWS



JULY, 1927

A JUST PRIDE

A NOVEL with a purpose is a novel spoilt: and we are all less inclined to maintain our interest in a romance if we find it is used to point a moral. Perhaps it is for this reason that both speakers and organisers of meetings, who have been entranced with the vivid interest of a speech on one of the many aspects of the League of Nations, often feel disinclined to appeal for membership of the Union when the speech is finished.

True, the Union does not exist simply for the purpose of existing: it exists to *work*, by teaching and learning the truth about international life—a process which includes every form of meeting, lecture and conference, as well as the publishing and reading of literature. But let it be remembered that even such popular interest and enthusiasm for international peace as is to be found in Great Britain to-day, would be far less than it is, if it had not been for the League of Nations Union. Let us have no "inferiority complex." It is a privilege to belong to the League of Nations Union, and we may justly be proud of its accomplishments. If we value our membership at its true worth, we will be all the more ready to press forward with our honourable, but ever difficult, task of making the British people solid behind the League.

It is an honourable task, for we are, in a peculiar sense, the custodians of the nation's honour. Our country is pledged to support the League; pledged to the principle of settling international disputes without resort to war; pledged—there can be no doubt of it—to join in realising a world-wide reduction of armaments; pledged to the principle that the administration of backward races is a sacred trust for civilisation. It is humanly impossible that any Government, after a period of years, should certainly be able to fulfil these fundamental obligations and all that they imply, without the constant, determined support of a well-informed public opinion. That public opinion can only be judged by numbers: and if a Government were to see not 500,000, but three million people determined to see a League policy put into practice, it would never hesitate. To form and sustain that public opinion will never be easy: man's memory is terribly short; his selfish instincts are ever ready to re-assert themselves and the temptation to abandon attempts at international progress—such as armaments' reduction—in view of formidable obstacles is bound to recur. The Union then is indispensable, more indispensable than ever, if the whole weight of Britain is to be thrown into the sacred work of maintaining world peace through the League.

What have we done to give us any confidence of future success? In the early months of 1919 the

Union was formed in order to get the League of Nations itself established. It was established. Our next object was that the League of Nations should be accepted as the corner-stone of British foreign policy. It has been so accepted by successive Governments and every political Party in the State. In more concrete issues our unflagging efforts have also met with success, the most important case being the admission of Germany to the League. Our immediate duty now is to build up so numerous, so well-informed, and so enthusiastic a membership that no British Government will have any excuse for failing to live up to the League of Nations policy to which it is committed. That is why we must never allow slackness, or the hesitation which springs from personal modesty or æsthetic taste, to deter us from recruiting more and more members. It is for this reason that the success of every speech made at a meeting of the Union must be judged by the number of new recruits enrolled. Without the Union the League might not survive for long: it certainly could never develop or progress.

League of Nations Facts

The chief facts about the League of Nations have been set out in a series of twelve posters. Each poster is headed "League of Nations Facts," and in the middle of the poster are printed clearly interesting and concisely worded facts about the League. The posters deal among other subjects with Disarmament, Health, Labour, Drug Traffic, Objects of the League, Slavery, War, etc. The posters are suitable for exhibition on hoardings, notice boards and also for display round halls at indoor meetings. The price of a sample set is 4s. (postage 5d.), or six sets for 18s. (postage 1s.). Application should be made to Mr. G. A. Innes, London Regional Federation, League of Nations Union, Room B.5, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

The Teachers' Conference

Two educational authorities, Southampton and Macclesfield, have decided to grant leave of absence to teachers who desire to attend the Union's special Conference of Teachers which takes place July 27 to 29. The Abingdon Branch has offered to pay the expenses of one of the teachers from each of the schools in Abingdon to enable them to attend the Conference. This Conference, which will discuss the teaching of history and of geography, and the methods by which League teaching may be given in the schools, assumes special importance in view of the recent steps taken by the Board of Education, education authorities and teachers' associations. The Conference is open to all who are interested in education.

AT HEADQUARTERS

PREPARATIONS for the annual meeting of the General Council have largely occupied the Executive Committee during the past month. The Agenda of the Council differs from that considered on previous occasions, chiefly by the provision of more time for discussion of many subjects affecting the International Labour Organisation.

It was also decided to give the Union, as a whole, an opportunity for the first time of expressing its policy upon China and of reaffirming its convictions about the reduction of armaments at the very moment when the Coolidge Conference started its labours.

The Union during the last few weeks has been much concerned with a number of Government Departments. Its relations with the Board of Education are, of course, most important. The Conference convened by Lord Eustace Percy on June 8 is recorded elsewhere. It is a landmark of great significance in the progress of the whole international movement. The Union's preparation for it has been amply justified by the decision of the Board to send the Declaration, made by the whole teaching profession in agreement with the Union, upon the best way of giving League instruction, to all Education Authorities in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Our relations with the Treasury have been of a different character. The Union was represented by Mr. McKenna and Major Hills in the powerful deputation representative of British Charities to protest against the Government's intention of depriving those bodies of the right to recover income tax upon future gifts made to them under deed. The removal or diminution of a source of income which produces £10,000 a year for the Union would be a serious thing for the Union and for the League.

The Colonial Office has given the Union valuable help in its efforts to bring about, in alliance with the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, an International Convention restricting within the narrowest possible limits the use of Forced Native Labour in colonial territories. The Conference held on May 30, between the Joint Committee of these two Societies and nearly all the Colonial Governors who were in London, was a great success. Lord Buxton presided, and Mr. Ormsby-Gore, Under-Secretary for the Colonies, took an active part in the discussion.

On June 20, at the suggestion of the Prime Minister, a strong deputation, led by Major Hills, met the Minister of Labour to press once more for the ratification of the Washington Hours Convention, and to express the Union's dissatisfaction with our failure to ratify the Convention against white lead poisoning, and with the Government's inadequate regulations introduced in its place. Mr. George Barnes, who had voted for the Washington Hours Convention on the direct instruction of the British Government, pleaded vigorously for its ratification, Sir Arthur Steel Maitland replying that, on the major issue, he was as eager as Mr. Barnes and Major Hills, but that he did not yet see his way through.

The very encouraging results of the Berlin Congress of the Federation of League of Nations Societies are reviewed on another page. The Executive has sent its cordial thanks to the German League of Nations Society and to the Burgomaster of Hamburg for the generous hospitality which its delegation received. The Congress has undoubtedly established the Federation as a real power for good in international politics.

The Union was represented in the last days of the month at the International Congress for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children, which met in London, and of which we hope to give some account in our next issue.

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

(BY A BRANCH HONORARY SECRETARY.)

PETERSFIELD, a small market town with approximately three thousand nine hundred inhabitants, and some dozen villages surrounding it at distances varying from two to ten miles, runs a very enterprising branch of the Union. Early last autumn it was decided to rope in these surrounding villages by means of an intensive campaign during the winter. The programme was drawn up and completed early in October, and meetings were definitely arranged for in ten different villages. Speakers were obtained mostly from amongst the members of the Petersfield branch, chairmen were secured (generally the vicar, schoolmaster or some other suitable person), and friends gave their services for vocal and instrumental music, and also lent motor-cars to get speakers and performers to and from meetings, thus saving expense.

As a rule these meetings were held in parish rooms or village institutes, and in some cases the village chapel was lent free of expense. The success of this venture far exceeded the hopes of its organisers. All the gatherings were well attended and generally very enthusiastic, and, notwithstanding the expenses of the halls and a considerable amount of advertising, the collections at the meetings more than covered the outlay, so that at the end of the season the Branch Treasurer was able to show quite a considerable surplus which could be devoted to future work.

What did all this lead to? It broke the monotony of life in many of the villages, and in all it created interest, not to say excitement. For the first time in their lives some of the inhabitants got definite information and instruction about the League, its aims, successes and difficulties, and became eager recruits to the ranks of the Union. Good care was taken to appeal to audiences to become members of the Union; there was always a good supply of the cards from Headquarters, and friends were specially told off to collect names and addresses in different parts of the hall at each meeting. The time after the addresses was not devoted wholly to questions and answers, although this work was not neglected. The organisers of the meetings got down to business and enrolled many new members.

The net result of this campaign is that the Petersfield branch has obtained about two hundred new members who have paid their subscriptions. Many of these members have been enrolled from places where in previous years there was scarcely a member. In addition to this, the branch has arranged with some suitable person in each village to be responsible for the distribution of the monthly News Sheets and the collection of subscriptions. These representatives have been asked to co-ordinate their work and that of the village with the centre, and they have been made Associate Members of the Committee of the branch at Petersfield.

In this way the membership has been just about doubled, and no expense has been incurred. What has been done in this small Hampshire town can well be done in any large rural district; it only needs capable organisation and persevering work, and the case in point is illustrative of what can be done by one or two enthusiasts who have the interest of the League and the Union really at heart.

Berkswell Barks Well

At the recent Disarmament Demonstration, held by the Berkswell Branch in the Balsall Common Cinema, community singing was used as an effective preliminary to community thought. Mr. J. E. Jones and Lieut.-Colonel Humphreys gave excellent addresses on the all-important subject of Disarmament, and the energy of the Branch Secretary made the Demonstration a success from all points of view.

Slackness in Slogans

It is much regretted that it has not been possible to award any prizes for slogans sent to Headquarters in accordance with the competition announced in the Supplement to the April number of HEADWAY. The Committee do not think that any of sufficient merit have been received.

Read, Mark, Learn . . .

Many Branches provide public libraries with League of Nations Union literature. The Waterloo and Crosby Branch has gone farther. By the courtesy of the Public Library Committee and with the co-operation of the librarian, a section of the Waterloo Library has been specially set aside for books dealing with the League. These books are available free of charge to all members of the Branch, and also to the general public.

Sunshine and Speeches

It has been stressed recently in these columns that open air Union activities yield excellent results in the summer months. The truth of this is amply proved by the success of the garden fête organised by the Horsham and Crawley Branch, at Holmbush, on June 2. Favoured with fine weather and illuminating speeches, particularly those of Lord Cecil and Sir Cecil Hurst, an attendance of over 2,000 was attracted. Both the Labour and the Liberal candidates for the local Parliamentary Division spoke enthusiastically in support of the League, and the committee are glad to report that all classes of political opinion gave the fullest support to this successful venture.

A League Drama

A novel and entertaining form of meeting was recently held by the Long Melford Branch. A play, entitled "The Daughter of Peace," was written by the honorary secretary, and its capable performance by young people proved a delightful and interesting prelude to the address and discussion which followed. Such enterprise deserves praise, and it is good to hear that young folk in this district are taking a keen interest in the League.

Library Facilities

A typed supplement to the printed catalogue of books in the Library at Headquarters, containing a complete list of all books added to the Library since the issue of the printed catalogue in October, 1926, is now available, and will be sent free on request to any Union members.

A Loss to the Union

Lancashire readers will learn with deep regret of the tragic death, while mountaineering, of Mr. J. T. Holden, Chairman of the Great Harwood Branch of the Union. Mr. Holden was a constant and enthusiastic supporter of the Union, and his activities in League matters will be profoundly missed.

The Union in Paris

On May 25, at the Overseas League, Mr. Nicolas de Berg, on behalf of the Paris Branch of the Union, gave an interesting lecture on "National Minorities—A European Problem." He ably described the difficulties of the national minorities in Europe since the Peace Treaty, and emphasised the fact that the matter should receive more serious attention from the League of Nations than hitherto. The lecture was well attended by an international audience, and the chair was taken

by Colonel C. B. Stokes, lately British Chief Commissioner in Transcaucasia.

More and More Members

The Leicester Branch is justly proud of the fact that its membership is growing at a considerable rate. The Secretary is able to report that during the past year the membership of the Branch increased by 25 per cent. on the previous year. This achievement is due to the steady stream of useful and attractive events organised by the honorary secretary. The organisation of novel and interesting forms of meetings is not difficult if a little forethought is exercised, and there is no doubt that such attractions make good opportunities for increasing Branch membership.

Union Tours to America

A party of Union members will be leaving for a tour to America on August 24 next. Any members desirous of obtaining full particulars are requested to write to the Secretary, League of Nations Union, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1, as soon as possible.

The Hotel Scheme

The Hotel Rebate Scheme, which offered substantial reductions on hotel bills in many places in Great Britain and abroad to members of the League of Nations Union, has been withdrawn, owing to the small amount of support received.

The Film in the Schools

In the last week of May the League of Nations film, "The World War and After," was shown to 9,000 children in the Sheffield Elementary Schools.

The Zeal of Youth

Beaconsfield Branch has formed a Junior Section at Oakdene. Its leaders have formed themselves into groups to study the customs and character of different League States, and already French, Italian, Spanish, Greek, Japanese and German groups have been formed. Three meetings on the model of the Assembly have been held.

Read This

Do you wish to attend the L.N.U. Summer School at Oxford this year? Have you sent in your application to headquarters? If not, you are recommended to hurry, as accommodation is limited and time is short.

The Summer Schools at Oxford

The Oxford Summer School promises to be even more interesting than any held in past years. It is, however, surprising that more branches do not take advantage of the exceptional opportunities which it offers. In past years the attendance has been in the neighbourhood of 150, but this year we hope that it will be exceeded. It is certainly one of the best training centres for League workers.

The popularity of the Geneva Institute of International Relations is very marked. Already more than 100 applicants have been enrolled for the second session, and they include a group of journalists, university teachers of international relations and many active League workers. The accommodation is limited and so we advise all those who wish to attend and have not sent in their applications to do so as soon as possible.

From Hull to the Hague

The recent visit of members of the Hull Branch of the Union to the Hague Branch, which is the largest in Holland, forms an interesting prelude to the October Council meeting of the International Federation of League of Nations Associations at Sofia, and more especially next year's Annual Federation Conference to be held at the Hague. The immense value of such international Union visits cannot be too highly emphasised. Hull, as a city, has ever been considered a progressive pioneer, and its Branch of the Union certainly lives up to this definition. It is to be hoped

that other Branches of the Union in all countries will take up the idea. The visiting party from Hull were received everywhere with open arms and were greatly impressed and delighted with the warmth of the welcome accorded them in Holland.

Corporate Membership News

During the past few weeks there has been a very encouraging influx of new Corporate Members amounting to well over one hundred. Among them are many Church of England congregations and organisations, and even more belonging to the Wesleyan Church; the Congregational Church is well represented as also is the Baptist Church, and indeed most of the leading Free Churches. From Guernsey comes news of their fifteenth Church Corporate Member, the Torteval Wesleyan Church.

The Burnley Women's Liberal Association has worked hard to become a Corporate Member, having gone so far as to allocate the proceeds of the sale of their periodical "Women's News" towards the payment of the subscription. Such concrete evidence of sympathy with our movement is most stimulating, as also is the fact that the secular bodies that have recently been admitted include such widely diverse organisations as the Staffs of Telephone Exchanges, Trade Union Branches, Conservative, Liberal and Labour organisations, Branches of the British Legion, etc.

NOTES FROM WALES

The sixth Annual Conference of the Welsh National Council was held at Colwyn Bay in delightful weather in Whit Week. Amongst the speakers were Dame Edith Lytton, Baron Von Rhinebaben (who made the journey specially from Berlin), Sir William Vincent, K.C.S.I., Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., Mr. Ellis Davies, M.P., Mr. E. H. Jones, M.A., Mr. Robert Richards (late Under-Secretary of State for India), Mr. W. Arnold-Forster and the Rev. J. H. Howard. The Conferences were held in the magnificent hall of Penrhos College, kindly placed at the disposal of the Welsh Council by the Misses Hovey. There was a very large audience at the demonstration at the Pier Pavilion over which Lord Colwyn presided. A happy function during the Conference was the reception given by the Urban District Council and its Chairman, Mr. Oswald Jones, J.P. At the reception and at other meetings warm gratitude was expressed to Mr. T. E. Purdy, J.P., C.C., of Colwyn Bay, for all his help to the Conference and to the movement.

Mr. David Davies, M.P., was prevented by illness from being at Colwyn Bay, but he was represented by Mrs. Davies. Councillor Dudley T. Howe presided at the Annual Meeting of the Council, when the Annual Report was presented by the Rev. Gwilym Davies, who paid a high tribute to the work in Wales done by Dr. Norwood and by Mr. Tom Gillinder, and to the loyalty and enthusiasm of the secretaries of the District Committees, and to Branches, and to Mr. David Samways, B.A., the Secretary of the Council, and to members of the staff.

The following were appointed as officers of the Welsh National Council for 1927-1928:—

President: The Rev. Elvet Lewis, M.A. (the Archdruid of Wales); *Vice-President*: The Rev. Gwilym Davies, M.A.; *Chairman of the Central Committee*: Mr. David Davies, M.P.; *Hon. Treasurers*: Sir Herbert Cory, Bart., and Mr. John Hinds (Lord Lieutenant of Carmarthenshire).

OVERSEAS NOTES

Canada

With the aim of interesting the young people in the League of Nations, the Executive Committee of the Grimsby Branch of the Canadian League of Nations Society recently invited Mr. M. J. McGarvin, of the Central Collegiate Institute, Hamilton, Ont., to address

the pupils of Grimsby High School, and the entrance classes of the three Public Schools, on the subject of the League of Nations, the pupils to write an essay on the address given, the Lincoln Loyalist Chapter, I.O.D.E., having offered prizes for the best essays, and the principals of the schools cordially co-operating in the endeavour.

At the annual meeting of the Winnipeg Branch, Mr. J. W. Dafoe, editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, gave an address on the League of Nations. One thousand copies of his speech were afterwards distributed.

For the purpose of attracting the attention of the "Man in the Street," the Ottawa Branch gave a display in a shop window for a week, depicting the desolation and destruction wrought by war. Set on either side were placards bearing the words, "War Wastes," "Peace Pays," "Unless We End War, War Will End Us," "Had there been a League of Nations in '14, There Would Have Been No War," and "What do you know about the League of Nations?"

U.S.A.

An event which appears to have been unique in America took place at Syracuse University, April 29-30. Eleven universities and colleges of New York State co-operated in a Model Assembly of the League of Nations, held under the auspices of the School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, of Syracuse University. Students from these universities represented the various States which are members of the League of Nations and discussed matters of outstanding importance to the American people at the present juncture, including the Chinese crisis, the Economic Conference, etc.

Students from the eleven universities were engaged for nearly two months in making special preparation for these discussions. An important feature of the gathering was the presence of large numbers of foreign students representing their native countries.

The Council's Vote

The following is a list of branches which have completed the Council's vote. Quota for 1926, completed: Appleby, Sutton, Ongar.

For 1927:—

Abingdon, Bloxham, Brackley, Charlbury, Longworth, Lyme Regis, Macclesfield, Moretonhampstead, Middleham, Radley, Shirehampton, Sibford, Staveley, Swaledale, Wardington.

L.N.U. MEMBERS

Total number of enrolments as recorded at Headquarters (less deaths and resignations):—

Jan. 1, 1919	...	...	...	...	3,841
Jan. 1, 1920	...	...	...	...	10,000
Jan. 1, 1921	...	...	...	...	60,000
Jan. 1, 1922	...	...	...	...	150,031
Jan. 1, 1923	...	...	...	...	230,456
Jan. 1, 1924	...	...	...	...	333,455
Jan. 1, 1925	...	...	...	...	432,478
Jan. 1, 1926	...	...	...	...	512,310
Jan. 1, 1927	...	...	...	...	587,224
June 20, 1927	...	...	...	...	627,576

On June 20, there were 2,501 Branches, 463 Junior Branches, 124 Districts, 2,291 Corporate Members and 353 Corporate Associates.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION SUBSCRIPTION RATES

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP (per annum).

Foundation membership, HEADWAY, and pamphlets as issued, *minimum*, £1. Ordinary membership and monthly copy of HEADWAY, *minimum*, 3s. 6d. (in Wales and Monmouthshire, 5s.). Membership, 1s.

Applications to Local Secretary, or to Head Office, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1.

Telegrams: Freenat, Knights, London.

Telephone: Sloane 6161.

Particulars of the work in Wales and Monmouthshire may be obtained from the Secretary, Welsh Council of L.N.U., 10, Rickmonā Terrace, Park Place, Cardiff.