

On the motion of the principal delegate of the Netherlands, the Assembly appointed by resolution a small committee to examine and report upon the credentials of the delegates. The committee having reported, the Assembly proceeded to elect its Chairman. The general choice was well known, and there was no surprise when it was announced that M. Augustin Edwards, principal delegate of the Republic of Chile, had received forty-two of the forty-four votes cast. M. Edwards, who is Minister for Chile in London, is a man of charming personality and a fine linguist, speaking English and French without accent; and it was felt that as President of the Assembly he would confirm the high opinion of his ability formed last year, when he acted as Chairman of the No. 4 Committee.

*Method of Work.*—In accordance with the precedent established last year, the Assembly decided, on the proposal of the President, to appoint six general committees and a small committee to examine questions submitted for inclusion in the Agenda during the discussions of the Assembly, and the delegates were asked to select the committees on which they preferred to serve. The Assembly, having examined and adopted the Agenda (Document A. 1) and divided the items amongst the committees, adjourned.

As a member of the Committee of Control, Sir James Allen felt obliged to serve on Committee No. 4, and also on Committee No. 2. Sir Francis Bell elected to serve on Committees Nos. 1 and 6, and Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland on Committees Nos. 3 and 5.

On the morning of the 5th September the committees met in numerical order and elected their Chairmen as follows:—

- Committee No. 1 (Constitutional), M. Scialoja (Italy).
- Committee No. 2 (Technical), M. Shodzke (Poland).
- Committee No. 3 (Disarmament), M. Torrientes (Cuba).
- Committee No. 4 (Budget), M. Zahle (Denmark).
- Committee No. 5 (Humanitarian), Hon. W. S. Fielding (Canada).
- Committee No. 6 (Political), M. Loudon (Netherlands).

On the morning of the 6th September the discussion, commenced at the previous sitting, on the work of the Council and on the measures taken to execute the decisions of the Assembly (Document A. 6) was interrupted in order to allow the Assembly to elect the six Vice-Presidents who, with the President and Chairman of Committee, form the officers of the Assembly. The undermentioned were elected:—

- Lord Balfour, Great Britain.
- M. Hanotiaux, France.
- M. Teixeira Gomes, Portugal.
- M. Branting, Sweden.
- Le Comte de Gimeno, Spain.
- M. Nintchitch, Yugo-Slavia.

*Discussion on the Annual Report.*—The Assembly having been constituted according to the Rules of Procedure was now able to continue the discussion on the work of the Council. This was concluded on 9th September.

#### COMMITTEE No. 1.

*Procedure of Conciliation for International Disputes.*—The First Committee considered the report of the committee appointed by the Second Assembly to study the procedure of conciliation in international disputes, the general principle of which has been recognized as being in conformity with the spirit of the Covenant. Among other matters there were considered the position of those States which either had not signed Conventions of Conciliation or which were not members of the League, as also the possibility of more than two States being parties to a conflict.

A sub-committee was then appointed to consider rules of procedure. This sub-committee abandoned the idea of drawing up a general treaty and proposed instead a series of recommendations to the League. The results were embodied in a report to the Assembly by the First Committee (Document No. A. 86), and in accordance with the recommendation of this report a resolution was adopted by the Third Assembly on the 26th September wherein the Assembly of the League recommends its members to conclude agreements with the object of laying their disputes before Conciliation Commissions formed by themselves.

The organization of these Commissions, and the possible assistance of the Secretariat of the League, and suggestions for the adoption of the Resolutions of the Hague Convention, 1907, are matters covered by the resolution. To assure the maintenance of peace it is provided that the Council may, if necessary, have recourse to the services of the Conciliation Commission formed by the parties, and either invite them to bring their dispute before the Commission or refer to the Commission any dispute submitted to it by one of the parties.

*Amendment of Covenant Article 10.*—In the course of the deliberations in committee it appeared that the divergence of view with regard to the legal interpretation of Article 10 still continues.

The Canadian Delegation, realizing the impossibility of persuading the Assembly to cancel Article 10 of the Covenant, alternatively submitted an amendment to the effect that no member should be under the obligation to engage in any act of war without the consent of its Parliament, Legislature, or other representative body. The First Committee, however, did not think it advisable to discuss these amendments in the present Assembly, but thought it necessary that the Governments should be placed in a position to consider them, and that they should be carefully examined, before any decision was taken. Such an examination would make it possible to take account of the various aspects under which the question of Article 10 might be envisaged. In particular, attention was