

The Council then met in public. The President, after declaring the session open, paid tribute to the memory of Emile Vandervelde, the eminent Belgian statesman, who had recently died. On behalf of the Council the President asked the representative of Belgium to accept the condolences of the Council of the League. M. Spaak, the Belgian Prime Minister, made a short reply of appreciation.

Consideration was then given to the following items:—

HEALTH COMMITTEE: REPORT ON THE WORK OF ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION.

My report to the Council is Document C. 511, 1938, III, and it refers briefly to the more important aspects of health to which the Health Committee gave consideration during the course of its twenty-ninth session. When introducing my report I felt that a few words stressing the work done in China would not be out of place, and I drew special attention to the quick response of an appeal by the Chinese authorities for six million doses of cholera vaccine, a response which provided in four weeks more than eight million doses, free of charge, from thirteen different countries. I expressed the hope that, in the interests of all, valuable help of this kind would continue (see also Document C. 380, M. 226, 1938, III).

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

The representative of Greece submitted to the Council his report (Document C. 31, 1939, XI) regarding the Conference for the adoption of a Protocol to extend to dihydrocodeine and its salts certain provisions of the Convention for limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs of 13th July, 1931. The report treats of the history of the question. A draft Protocol has already been drawn up and submitted to Governments, and the time is ripe for it to assume final form in the light of the criticisms to which it has been subjected. To accomplish this a modified procedure is recommended, and under resolution of the Council, based on the recommendation of the representative of Greece, a conference is to be convened for 2nd October, 1939, to which the parties to the 1931 convention will be invited to send representatives. New Zealand, being a party to the 1931 convention, will be invited to send a delegate.

NUTRITION.

This question concerns the next annual meeting of representatives of National Nutrition Committees, the first of which took place in October, 1938. The Rapporteur, the representative of Belgium, suggested that the autumn was the most suitable time, and he promised to submit at the May session of the Council a list of the National Nutrition Committees who should be invited to send representatives (see Document C. 7, 1939, II, A).

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE.

The Financial Committee, one of the permanent organs of the League, held a session between the 9th and 14th December, 1938, and produced a report (Document C. 502, M. 343, 1938, II, A). In accordance with procedure, this report is addressed to the Council, and it was presented to that body under cover of a communication from the Council's Rapporteur on Financial Questions, the representative of Sweden (Document C. 25, 1939, II, A). For an account of the work done by the Financial Committee I refer you to these documents. The Council passed the following resolution:—

“The Council—

“(1) Takes note of the report of the Financial Committee on the work of its sixty-seventh session;

“(2) Authorizes the Chairman of the Financial Committee, within the limits of the budgetary provision available, to invite qualified persons to discuss the question of monetary policy in agricultural States, which was raised by the Nineteenth Assembly, with members of that Committee.”

FISCAL COMMITTEE.

This Committee, which for some years past has been studying certain problems in connection with taxation, met in October last and produced a report (Document C. 384, M. 229, 1938, II, A). It was submitted to the Council under cover of a report by the representative of Sweden (Document C. 27, 1939, II, A). For details of the work done by the Fiscal Committee I refer you to its report. Of this the Council took note and at the same time requested the Secretary-General to communicate to Governments the replies received to a questionnaire concerning methods of assessments and measures to prevent fiscal evasion.

SITUATION IN SPAIN.—WITHDRAWAL OF NON-SPANISH COMBATANTS: REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE OF THREE.

The genesis of this question is dealt with in my report on the 1938 Assembly. Here I will merely remind you that at one of the meetings of the Assembly the representative of Spain informed that body that his Government had decided to withdraw from its forces all non-Spanish combatants, and he asked the assistance of the League in verifying on the spot the measures taken by his Government to that end. The Assembly accepted the responsibility, and the Council, to which the matter was then referred, appointed a Committee of Three of its members—the representatives of the United Kingdom,