

THE AGENDA.

This is Document A. 2 (1), and the items were apportioned as follows:

First Committee—Legal and constitutional questions: Items 8 (amendments to the Covenant), 19 (codification of international law), 20 (ratification of international conventions), together with the proposal of the Government of Finland to confer on the Permanent Court of International Justice the jurisdiction of a tribunal of appeal in respect of arbitral awards established by States.

Second Committee—Technical organizations of the League: Items 11 (Economic and Financial Organization), 12 (Organization for Communications and Transit), 13 (Health Organization), 17 (intellectual co-operation), 26 (international reciprocity in the care of the sick).

Third Committee—Reduction of armaments: Item 21 (work of the Committee on Arbitration and Security) and questions affecting disarmament.

Fourth Committee—Budget and financial questions: Items 6 (organization of the Secretariat, the International Labour Office, and the Registry of the Permanent Court of International Justice), 22 (Budget for 1931), 25 (proposed amendment of Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Financial Regulations).

Fifth Committee—Social and general questions: Items 14 (traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs), 15 (traffic in women and children), 16 (child welfare), 18 (penal administration).

Sixth Committee—Political questions and questions concerning refugees: Items 9 (slavery), 10 (refugees).

Items 4 (Assembly arrangements), 5 (proposed increase in the number of Vice-Presidents), 7 (election of members of the Supervisory Commission), and 23 and 24 (election of Judges of the Permanent Court of International Justice) were reserved for preliminary consideration by the General Committee of the Assembly.

During the course of the Assembly the following new items were proposed:—

- (1) Inviting the Governments of the European States members of the League of Nations, acting as a Commission of the League, to pursue the inquiry into the scheme for collaboration between European Governments (the Briand scheme). (See Documents A. 46 and A. 52.)

(Such a Commission has been set up, with the Secretary-General of the League as secretary, and it is intended that a report should be made to next year's Assembly. (See Document C. 565, M. 225.))

- (2) To refer to the Third Committee that part of the report on the last year's work dealing with the reduction of armaments.
- (3) To refer to the Sixth Committee the papers dealing with mandates.
- (4) To refer to the Sixth Committee that part of the report on the last year's work dealing with minorities.
- (5) Requesting the Council to devise means of accelerating the work first undertaken by the League a long time ago with a view to an international settlement of the problem of the most-favoured-nation clause.

REPRESENTATION OF NEW ZEALAND.

As three committees sit at the same time (Nos. 1, 2, and 6, and Nos. 3, 4, and 5 alternatively) it would have been impossible for me to take part in the work of all. I therefore resolved to devote myself to Committees Nos. 1 and 3, and to sit on Committee No. 6 whenever it dealt with the question of mandates; and I nominated my Private Secretary, Mr. C. Knowles, to act as substitute on Committees Nos. 2 and 4, and Mr. C. B. Burdekin, Librarian of my Department in London, to sit in the same capacity on Committees Nos. 5 and 6.

GENERAL DISCUSSION.

The debate on the report to the Eleventh Assembly on the work of the League since the last session of the Assembly began on the morning of the 11th September with a speech by Sir Robert Borden, who, although he had represented Canada at the Peace Conference in 1919, when the Covenant was drawn up, had not hitherto taken part in the work of the League. He compared the feeling of depression in 1919 with the present atmosphere of good will, understanding, and co-operation, but he asked why the renunciation of war had not been followed by a like renunciation of armaments. He was followed by M. Briand, who made one of his characteristic speeches. It was known that he had a communication to make in regard to his project for a European federation, and he was listened to with the closest attention. That communication was to the effect that at a meeting of representatives of European States assembled at Geneva on the 8th September it was decided to place on the agenda of the Assembly the question of the organization of a system of European federal union, it having been recognized that such a union could be established only within the framework