

*Permanent Central Opium Board.*

As the United States of America takes part in the work of the Central Board, a representative of that country, Mr. Leland Harrison, was invited to take a seat at the Council table. The question to be decided was the composition of the Permanent Central Opium Board. Under Article 25 the Board is appointed for five years. The first appointment was made by the Council in December, 1928, and the Board was reconstituted by the Council in October, 1933. It was therefore the Council's duty again to reconstitute the Board; and to enable the Council to come to a decision the Secretary-General had invited all States parties to the Opium Convention to furnish him with their proposals regarding the composition of the Board. The names of the persons suggested and the countries making the suggestions are shown in the printed minutes of the Council meeting, pages 4 and 5. Of the persons suggested, however, some were in a position of direct dependence on their Governments and were therefore ineligible under the Convention. For this reason the list of fourteen names was reduced to ten. A selection of eight names had to be made. It should be noted that a guiding principle in the selection is that consideration should be given to the importance of including on the Board, in equitable proportion, persons possessing a knowledge of the drug situation, both in the producing and manufacturing countries on the one hand, and in the consuming countries on the other hand, and connected with such countries. The Rapporteur, the representative of Latvia, presented his report (Document C. 344, 1938, XI) and proposed the following seven names:—

Sir Atul Chatterjee.

M. Kusama.

Mr. Herbert L. May.

M. D. Milicevic.

Dr. Abelardo Saenz.

Professor M. T. Tiffeneau.

Sir Malcolm Delevingne.

The Council agreed to the proposal. The eighth member has yet to be appointed, and consideration will be given to this at a later session.

*Budgetary Economies Committee.*

In my report on the Assembly I have devoted a few sentences to the decision of the Fourth Committee, confirmed by the Assembly, to entrust to a Committee of Five the examination of the finances of the League with a view to the making of economies in the Budget.

Although the Council was asked to appoint the members of the special committee, the Fourth Committee made certain recommendations regarding its composition. It was only on the 30th September that the Assembly had resolved that the Committee be appointed, and the representative of China, who acted as Rapporteur to the Council, was unable to offer definite suggestions as a number of factors had to be taken into consideration. He asked the Council to empower its President to make the appointments himself, after consulting the Rapporteur on Budgetary and Administrative Questions. This was agreed to by the Council (Documents A. 72, 1938, X and C. 351, 1938, X).

*INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN COUNTRIES ON RURAL HYGIENE.*

At its May session the Council decided that this Conference should be convened, and subsequently arrangements were made for it to meet in Mexico City on the 10th November, 1938. The Government of Mexico, however, felt that the time allowed for the preparatory work was insufficient, and requested that the conference be postponed. The Council agreed to this, and at the same time authorized the Secretary-General to fix a new date in agreement with the Mexican Government, the Health Committee, and other interested parties (Documents C. 324, 1938, III and C. 345, 1938).

*REQUEST OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT FOR THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OF THE LEAGUE IN THE STUDY OF MEASURES FOR PROVIDING FOOD FOR REFUGEES.*

The Spanish question has frequently been before the Council, and reports on previous sessions have dealt with more than one aspect of it. This item was placed on the agenda of the one hundred and third session on the receipt by the Secretary-General of the League of a letter from the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs. This letter, which is reproduced in the minutes of the second meeting of the Council, requested the assistance of the competent organizations of the League in studying the means of ensuring food-supplies during the coming winter for 3,000,000 refugees from that part of Spain not under the control of the Government. The Spanish Government was strictly within its rights in asking for consideration of the question by the Council by virtue of a resolution of that body, and, indeed, the Council on a former occasion had taken action of a similar nature in connection with medical organization in Spain. The Secretary-General, who introduced the matter, suggested as the most practical step the sending of competent persons to Spain to take stock of the extent of the problem and the possibilities of solution, and he introduced a draft resolution providing for this. This resolution was accepted by the Council. It reads:—

“The Council—

“In response to the request made by the Spanish Government for the technical assistance of the League in providing food-supplies for refugees in Spain;

“Authorizes the Secretary-General to institute a preliminary inquiry on the spot and to charge the expenses thereof, to an amount not exceeding 45,000 Swiss francs, to item 2 (c) (i) of the Budget for 1938: ‘Council: Unforeseen Expenditure (subject to special vote of the Council); political expenditure.’”