

to be under the control of the Epidemic Commission, and that the accounts be finally audited by Messrs. Ralph W Sutton & Co., Chartered Accountants, of London, England.

“(2) That the Council approves of the continuation of the present arrangement whereby the administration of the funds for the work of Repatriation of Prisoners of War is in the hands of Dr. Nansen, with the able assistance of Mr. T. Lodge and Mr. John Hamilton, and requests that, when the final audit of the accounts is carried out for the benefit of the Governments which have lent these funds, the Council may receive a copy of said audited statement for consideration and, if deemed desirable, for circulation to Members of the League.

“(3) That unless and until the sums involved are larger than at present seems likely, the funds received from private contributors for the Russian Refugees Mission shall be controlled by the Financial Director of the League of Nations and by Dr. Nansen or his representative, and that the accounts thereof shall be audited by the same officials as may audit the League accounts for 1921.”

ANNEX 306.

FREE CITY OF DANZIG.

APPOINTMENT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Report by Viscount Ishii, and Resolution adopted by the Council on January 13th, 1922.

General Sir Richard Haking was appointed High Commissioner of the League of Nations in Danzig on December 17th, 1920, to hold office for one year from the date of his departure for Danzig, which took place on January 20th, 1921. General Haking's present appointment therefore expires on January 20th, 1922.

General Haking was the first permanent High Commissioner of the League of Nations in Danzig after the establishment of the Free City. The burden of the work outlined by the Treaty of Versailles for this office therefore fell largely upon him.

I will not undertake to sketch the progress of events in Danzig during the past year as this has already been done in the Secretary-General's report to the second Assembly and in his general report on Danzig questions prepared for each session of the Council. I would merely like to call the attention of my colleagues to the method by which the Danzig railways question was settled last autumn. The very general terms of the Treaty of Versailles and the Polish-Danzig Treaty of November 9th, 1920, made it most difficult to define in a concrete manner the respective rights of the Polish and Danzig Governments and the Danzig Port and Waterways Board concerning the ownership, control, administration and exploitation of the railways on the territory of the Free City. The two Governments could not agree, and the question came before the High Commissioner. He gave the situation an exhaustive examination in his decisions of August 15th and September 5th, but the Danzig Government felt obliged to appeal to the Council against the first decision. The two parties came together in Geneva in September and, after a series of conferences in the Secretariat under the auspices of the High Commissioner, an agreement was reached on the points of difference and the Danzig appeal was withdrawn. Three supplementary agreements on the railways question have since been concluded in Danzig. Thus, through the goodwill of the parties and the good offices of the High Commissioner, one of the most difficult problems between Poland and the Free City was worked out.

As General Haking is, I understand, prepared to stay on in Danzig for another year, I am sure my colleagues will approve an extension of his appointment for that period on the same conditions as hitherto. I might add that the Council originally intended to appoint the High Commissioner for three years, but, at General Haking's request, the appointment in his case was made for one year only.

I therefore propose the following Resolution

RESOLUTION.

“General Sir Richard Haking's appointment as High Commissioner of the League of Nations in Danzig is renewed for a further period of one year from January 20th, 1922, under the same conditions as hitherto.”

ANNEX 307

STATEMENT BY M. ENCKELL CONCERNING EASTERN CARELIA.

[Translation.]

The territory known as Eastern Carelia extends from the present eastern frontier of Finland eastwards as far as the White Sea and Lake Aänisjärvi, and on the south nearly to the river Syväri (Svir). The northern part of this territory, the extent of which is about 136,000 square kilometres, belongs to the Government of Archangel or Viena (Carelia-in-Viena). The southern part belongs to the Government of Olonetz or Aunus, (Carelia-in-Aunus). According to Russian statistics, the Finnish population consisted in 1907 of 105,873, of whom 28,092 inhabit Carelia-in-Viena and 77,751 Carelia-in-Aunus. In reality, the number of Finns is very much greater, as it is well known that the Russians counted as part of the Russian population numerous Finnish-speaking inhabitants who also spoke Russian. According to the calculations of experts, the Finnish population already numbered about 130,000 more than ten years ago.

The Finnish population of Eastern Carelia belongs to the Carelian race, formerly so well known, who, when still independent, inhabited the country bordering on the great lakes of Ladoga and Aänisjärvi (Onega), and whose lands extended to the Gulf of Finland, the Gulf of Bothnia and the White Sea, and even included vast territories stretching to the Arctic Ocean. This enormous territory was divided up within historic times, and whilst the regions to the south-west of Carelia were firmly united, either in consequence of wars or by peaceful means, to the part of Finland joined to Sweden, Eastern Carelia fell to the share of Russia. For centuries these distant regions were kept by the Czars in a state of semi-barbarism. Thanks to their isolation, the Eastern Carelians preserved, and even increased, the intellectual wealth of the Finnish nation. At the same time, the people developed a strong physique, thanks to a continuous struggle against a harsh climate, until they became a vigorous and well-educated race, healthy both from a social and intellectual point of view.

When Finland again became part of Russia as an autonomous country in 1809, the descendants of the same Finnish race who had been separated for so long were able to regain touch with each other. Every year large numbers of Eastern Carelians went to Finland to dispose of their merchandise, while Finnish savants also travelled across the districts of Eastern Carelia, rich in ancient Finnish national poetry, and brought back to Finland and the civilised world, among other treasures of poetry, the "Kalevala."

The desire for national independence constantly displayed by the various peoples inhabiting the territory of former Russia—a desire which, in consequence of the Russian revolution, spread rapidly to the extreme limits of that vast empire—naturally had a considerable effect in Eastern Carelia. The modest desire of the Eastern Carelians for popular education and for other national advantages was most warmly supported, from the outset, by Finland, whose own national culture owes so much to Eastern Carelia. But the ancient burden of oppression to which they had been subjected in Russia weighed upon the Eastern Carelians and repressed their most elementary national aspirations. The high hopes awakened in Russia in 1905 at the time of the great democratic movement, which were also aroused in Eastern Carelia, were extinguished rapidly and in the most pitiless manner by the Czarist reaction. But the desire for liberty continued to grow among the Carelians under the influence of the liberal movement and was strengthened by a new national force, the desire for political liberty, which was directed against the Russian oppression.

As early as the spring of 1917 the Carelians of Aunus and Viena sent to the Provisional Government, which was elected at that time in Russia, a petition, in which they asked that the national existence of Eastern Carelia should be respected. Requests were also made for certain economic measures and reforms, such as the appointment of public officials speaking the language of the people and the foundation of a higher school (training college for teachers). At an important assembly of the population of the rural communes, which met in July of that year at Uhtua, the people demanded self-government for the Carelian territories of Viena and Aunus, and proposed as frontiers for this autonomous territory on the south the Syväri river, on the east the lake of Aänisjärvi, the river Uiku and the White Sea, and on the north a line running from the head of the Bay of Kantahlati to the frontier of Finland. Russia was asked at the same time to hand over to autonomous Eastern Carelia, as national property, the lands, forests and natural wealth of the territory which the Russian Government had seized. These claims were justified by Russia's unpardonable neglect of the interests (especially the economic interests) of the country, and by the failure of the Russians to do anything to promote its prosperity. The natural wealth of these regions had, on the contrary, been exploited for the benefit of Russia. It was for this purpose only, and not in