

M. LAND said that he had abstained from voting for the decree of March 7th because he had only entered upon his duties two or three days previously, and he had not had time to form an opinion sufficiently well considered. Moreover, as at that time he was only a substitute on the Governing Commission, he did not think himself entitled to take the responsibility of voting on so important a matter.

M. BRANTING thanked M. Land, and asked him whether he thought that the Governing Commission had been right in promulgating two other decrees in May and in June, after having issued the first decree.

M. LAND replied that, as regards the decree on picketing, he was himself a friend of the workers and recognised their right to strike, but it was also necessary that those who desired to work might be able to do so in full freedom. He had, therefore, voted for the decree concerning picketing. As regarded the last decree, which was a modification of the decree of March 7th, with a view to conciliation and pacification, he could have had no hesitation in voting for it.

The PRESIDENT said that if no one had any further questions to ask he would like to thank the Chairman and the members of the Governing Commission.

(The Chairman and the members of the Governing Commission withdrew.)

On the proposal of Lord ROBERT CECIL, the Council *postponed discussion of the results of the examination of the members of the Governing Commission.*

ELEVENTH MEETING (PUBLIC)

held on Saturday, July 7th, 1923, at 10.30 a.m.

Present: all the representatives of the Members of the Council, and the Secretary-General.

995. Free City of Danzig General situation.

M. PLUCINSKI, representative of Poland, M. SAHM, representative of the Free City and Mr MACDONNELL High Commissioner of the League came to the Council table.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN read a report (Annex 531*b*) on the relations between Poland, Danzig and the High Commissioner, and informed the Council that negotiations between the parties on outstanding questions were being opened at Geneva. He proposed that a copy of his report should be sent to the Governments of Poland and Danzig as well as to the High Commissioner of the League of Nations.

M. PLUCINSKI, representative of Poland, made the following declaration: "I desire to thank the members of the Council and, in particular, the Rapporteur for the good-will and care with which they have conducted their thorough examination of the whole problem of the relations between Poland and Danzig, submitted to the Council by my Government in its note dated June 20th, 1923, and which I had the honour of explaining verbally before the Council at its meeting of July 4th, 1923. I am happy to note that the Council has been good enough to examine this important problem with its full authority and to appreciate the gravity of the situation.

"I accept the report and the resolution and am convinced that my Government will make every effort to settle the whole problem of the relations between Poland and Danzig by following the general trend of the suggestions indicated by the Spanish representative in his report."

Mr. MACDONNELL, High Commissioner of the League, said that the suggestions of the Rapporteur would doubtless enable the representatives of the two parties rapidly to settle, with his assistance and that of the Secretariat of the League, the principal questions which remained outstanding.

M. SAHM, representative of the Free City, said that the Government of the Free City of Danzig entirely approved of the proposals of the Rapporteur, which safeguarded the rights and interests of the two parties in conformity with the Treaty. He hoped that a period of friendship was opening for the Republic of Poland and the Free City of Danzig.

The PRESIDENT said he was happy to note the declarations which had just been made, and *the Council decided to approve the report and to send a copy to the Governments of Poland and the Free City of Danzig as well as to the High Commissioner.*

996. Free City of Danzig Various Questions.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN submitted a report and thought that the Council would accept the suggestions of the Polish Government (note of June 26th, 1923) and postpone the examination of the questions outstanding until its next session, as negotiations between the parties were at that moment in progress. Among the questions on the agenda of the present session of the Council, the question of the finances of the Harbour Board, however, seemed to be of some urgency. The activities of the Harbour Board were naturally exposed to serious inconvenience so long as its financial position was not finally settled. It was indispensable that the normal activities of the Harbour Board should be maintained until a final solution was found, and that until then the two Governments of Poland and of Danzig should continue to contribute on account and in equal parts the sums necessary for this purpose.

Mr. MACDONNELL said he thought that it was essential that this temporary arrangement should be maintained until the final settlement of the question.

M. SAHM asked the Council to take a decision on the matter as soon as possible.

M. PLUCINSKI said that Poland was ready to contribute, on account, one half of the expenditure of the Harbour Board until the conclusion of a final agreement.

The Council decided to adopt the conclusion of the report of M. Quiñones de León and to communicate the report (Annex 535) to the Governments of Poland and Danzig and to the High Commissioner

The representatives of Poland and of Danzig and the High Commissioner withdrew.

997 Traffic in Opium Work of the Advisory Committee.

M. HYMANS read his report (Annex 536). He submitted the following resolution

“The Council, having considered and approved the report of the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs, and recognising the importance of the recommendations contained therein, invites the Assembly's concurrence in the realisation of its aims. At the same time, the Council instructs the Secretary-General immediately to communicate the report to all States Members of the League, expressing the hope that they give such consideration thereto as will enable their representatives at the forthcoming Assembly to take the action necessary to make these recommendations effective.”

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN made the following statement

“The report of the Advisory Committee has been distributed so recently that I have scarcely had the time to read it and still less to get into touch with my Government regarding it.

“In view of the short time before the Assembly, it is evident that I cannot ask for this question to be adjourned until the next session of the Council. I cannot therefore raise any objection to the transmission of the report to the Governments immediately, it being understood that the document is merely transmitted to the Governments and not that the Council necessarily accepts the proposals made therein.

“I am obliged to make this reservation now regarding the plan on which the action of the Committee at its last meeting seems to have been based and which does not appear to take into consideration sufficiently those countries which need to defend themselves against the importation of the drugs as compared with the countries from whence the drugs are derived.”

The PRESIDENT, in the name of his Government, associated himself with the reservation made by M. Quiñones de León.

M. TANG TSAI-FOU made the following declaration

“I desire on this occasion to express the satisfaction of my Government at the valuable assistance afforded to the League of Nations by the Government of the United States in the campaign against opium and other dangerous drugs. As you are aware, the great Republic of North America has for the first time consented to collaborate. It sent for this purpose to the last session of the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Opium a very important delegation composed of men of distinction and of the highest competence. The delegation brought with it a programme which was well considered and which contemplated the prosecution of the campaign on a larger scale. The great interest taken by the United States in this humanitarian work has met with a wide response, not only in China, but in the whole world.

“You have seen from the report of the Advisory Committee that a warm welcome was extended to the United States delegation. I do not doubt that the Council, from similar motives of respect, will pay a similar tribute to the work which has been done, thanks to the assistance and to the effort of the American representatives, who came to Geneva officially for the first time. I venture to hope that the resolutions proposed in the report of the Committee will be maintained as far as possible in their entirety.”

Viscount ISHII proposed to replace the words “the Council, having considered and approved the report of the Advisory Committee”, by a formula which did not involve the responsibility of the Members of the Council. Even in the Committee there had been differences of opinion and some abstentions.

This proposal, supported by M. Hanotaux and by the Rapporteur, was approved by the Council.

M. HANOTAUX observed that the second resolution of the Committee overlapped paragraph (a) of the first resolution. He accordingly proposed to suppress the second resolution and to retain only the first, which had the advantage of having been drafted with the approval of the representative of the United States. The second resolution referred to opium for smoking. It was open to question whether there should not be a reference to opium for eating, in the resolution. It might be preferable to use the general term “prepared opium” which was employed in all the other resolutions as well as in the Convention.

Lord ROBERT CECIL remarked that, when the final vote on the resolutions was taken by the Committee, the representatives of the United States had been present, though they had not voted. It could not, in his opinion, be maintained that the second resolution was a mere repetition of the first. Chapter II of the Opium Convention admitted the consumption of opium for smoking, and by the resolution in question the Governments were asked to reduce this consumption. Even, therefore, if the second resolution were a repetition of the first, which did not appear to him to be the case, it would not be useless.

Further, the report of the Committee was drafted by technical experts, who had carefully weighed the terms of the resolutions, and there might be a danger in introducing a reference