

the Council knew the loan of ten million pounds sterling, which was barely adequate to provide for the complete settlement of the refugees, was guaranteed by revenues estimated at 750 million drachmæ — a sum covering the service of the loan three times over — and by the land transferred to the Refugees Settlement Commission, the value of which exceeded the capital of the loan, to say nothing of the income derived from this land and the taxes thereon.

Accordingly the Council would have every reason to approve the amendments to the Statute and Protocol relating to the settlement of Greek refugees, which would be submitted to it after careful consideration by the Financial Committee and the Greek Sub-Committee of the Council. The Greek nation would not forget the generous assistance lent by the Council. The results of this assistance, which constituted a practical demonstration and a proof of international solidarity would no doubt make themselves felt beyond the frontiers of the young Greek Republic.

M. POLITIS, first Greek delegate to the Assembly wished to add a few words and to thank the Council on behalf of Greece for its generosity to her. The value of the Council's assistance had been immeasurable. He could say from personal knowledge that, without the moral support of the League of Nations, Greece would have been unable even to attempt the solution of the overwhelming problem presented by the arrival of hundreds of thousands of refugees, much less solve it so rapidly and so effectively as it was now able to do.

Success was already in sight, and there was reason to hope that in two years at the most the settlement of the refugees would be complete. It was due in large part to the representatives of the League of Nations that Greece was on the high road to success and that she could entertain hopes that the work which had been begun would rapidly be brought to a conclusion.

M. Politis had great pleasure in personally acknowledging the great debt of gratitude owed by his country to Mr. Morgenthau. No one could have devoted to the work of which he was in charge, more intelligence, more experience of men and matters, more devotion and more sympathy. It was perhaps because of this latter quality that Mr. Morgenthau had won the hearts of all those with whom he came in contact in Greece, and that his name would remain for ever engraved in the memories of those whom he had benefited.

M. Politis also wished to express gratitude to Mr. Morgenthau's colleague, Mr. Campbell, who was present at the meeting. The practical knowledge that he had acquired in the course of his long colonial experience had been of the utmost value in the work being undertaken in Greece. He was very happy to have the opportunity of thanking Mr. Campbell and of expressing the hope that he would continue to assist in the difficult work which still remained to be brought to a conclusion.

The PRESIDENT said that the speeches which had been delivered and the reports which the Council had had before it regarding the work of the Greek Refugees Settlement Commission showed that a considerable improvement had been effected in the condition of large numbers of refugees during the past year. The most admirable work had been done.

M. Politis, on behalf of his Government, had thanked Mr. Morgenthau for the zeal, devotion, sympathy and organising ability which he had displayed in directing this enterprise. The President wished to associate the Council with these thanks. Mr. Morgenthau and his colleagues had done most admirable work in the cause of civilisation.

He proposed that the Greek Sub-Committee of the Council should prepare a draft resolution on this question, which would be considered by the Council at a later meeting.

The Council agreed to this procedure.

M. Tsouderos, M. Politis, Mr. Morgenthau and Mr. Campbell withdrew

1283. Free City of Danzig Expulsion of Danzig Nationals from Poland.

Dr. Sahn, President of the Senate of the Free City of Danzig, and M. Strasburger, representative of Poland, came to the Council table.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN read his report (Annex 675).

Dr. SAHM, President of the Senate of the Free City of Danzig, said that the question now before the Council was of capital importance for Danzig. Though only four specified cases of expulsion were concerned, yet, as far as the Free City was concerned, the general importance of the question exceeded that of the four cases before the Council. The question was of importance as regards the relations between Danzig and Poland, and, no less, as regards the relations of the Free City with the League of Nations. The Free City was under the protection of the League and expected, in the circumstances, to be afforded that protection.

He might be able to explain more effectively the situation upon which the whole matter was based by describing a specially characteristic case — a Protestant clergyman, who had been a citizen of Danzig for years, carried out his religious duties in a Protestant parish in Poland on a certain day the Polish Government ordered him to leave Polish territory within fourteen days on the ground that he was an undesirable foreigner. No special reason was given, and the clergyman was still ignorant of the complaint against him.

The Danzig Government entered into communication with the Polish diplomatic representative at Danzig and asked for an explanation, but after five weeks had elapsed it only received a laconic communication to the effect that the clergyman had been expelled as an undesirable foreigner.

Dr. Sahn wished to lay stress on the fact that an individual who, owing to his religious duties, should have been treated with a certain deference had been expelled without any plausible motive.

Any other State in similar circumstances would be able to protect its nationals by all the measures employed in international relations. Danzig, however, owing to the treaties which had been concluded, was in a different position in this respect.

In view of the fact that the Danzig Government did not maintain at the moment any diplomatic representative at Warsaw, it could take no direct steps to approach the Polish central authorities. Neither could the Danzig Government make reprisals, for, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Council of the League, no reprisals were allowed as between Danzig and Poland. For this reason, Danzig could not on its own behalf exercise effective protection over its nationals in Poland, it had no alternative but to look for the protection of the League of Nations, a responsibility which the latter had assumed in conformity with Article 102 of the Treaty of Versailles.

He would ask permission to mention the following as a further judicial argument. As far back as 1922, Danzig, at the request of Poland, had declared itself prepared to employ with regard to the expulsion of Polish citizens in Danzig, a method of procedure which would allow the Polish Government to make a full and proper examination of the motives for expulsion.

During the two years in which this agreement had been in existence, it had proved in a striking manner that in no single case had any difference of opinion arisen. It was therefore perfectly obvious that, in the relations between Danzig and Poland resulting from the existing treaties, Poland must guarantee complete reciprocity with the procedure employed by Danzig.

While asking that these explanations might be taken into consideration by the experts in formulating their advisory opinion and by the Council in taking its decision, Dr. Sahn expressed his agreement with the proposed resolution.

M. STRASBURGER, representative of Poland, asked to be allowed to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the question which under consideration had already been submitted to the Council six months previously, namely in the month of March last. Moreover, with one exception, the same cases of expulsion had again been brought forward.

If the Free City of Danzig desired to refer this question back to a Committee of Jurists in order that it might be submitted a third time to the Council, he had no objection to raise. He thought, however, that the High Commissioner of the League of Nations, who had considered the question for several months, had undoubtedly asked the advice and opinion of the legal experts most competent to deal with the question before giving his decision, which had been both definite and well founded. As the High Commissioner of the League of Nations pointed out, Poland had acted in conformity with international usage and existing laws. She had not failed in her agreements with the Free City of Danzig. Every State had the right and sometimes the obligation to expel foreigners who were a danger to public safety and to national defence. He deeply regretted that, in this case, four nationals of Danzig were involved, for Poland had always ardently desired to entertain the best and most friendly relations with the nationals of the Free City.

As regards the motives which had prompted the expulsion of M. Wiebe, he would quote the decision of the High Commissioner — a decision, moreover, in which he entirely concurred

“ It is a first essential of cordial international relations that good faith should not be questioned, and if the Polish Government, after a careful examination of the cases, has found the individuals in question to be undesirable aliens, the matter must end there. The standards of desirability need not be and perhaps cannot be, the same in both countries.”

He thought that Poland had given proof of her spirit of reconciliation. Although she had resorted to expulsion in rare cases — Dr. Sahn had quoted four cases — the Free City of Danzig had expelled 152 Polish nationals during the same period — a measure which had affected to a great extent the interests of the Polish workers in Danzig.

As he had just stated, however, if the desire were expressed to consider once again the decision taken by the High Commissioner in favour of Poland, he would associate himself with that proposal, for he was anxious that the question should be entirely settled.

Dr. SAHM, in reply to the statement just made by the representative of the Polish Government, said that, when considering the number of expulsions of Polish citizens from Danzig, as compared with the number of expulsions of Danzig nationals from Poland, the difference in the population of the two countries must not be forgotten.

The difference in the figures which M. Strasburger had mentioned, and which at first sight seemed enormous, was then almost obliterated, and there was a stronger current from Poland to Danzig than from Danzig to Poland.

The question was not so simple as the Polish representative had tried to show. Dr. Sahn would therefore prefer to follow the idea of the Rapporteur and have the question thoroughly examined. He thought that the draft resolution proved that the question was not such a simple one as the decision of the High Commissioner seemed to imply. He thanked the Council for reconsidering the question with such care.

M. STRASBURGER said that Poland had expelled 0.75 per cent of the Danzig population in Poland and that the City of Danzig had expelled 3.8 per cent of the Polish citizens in Danzig.

He wished to associate himself fully with the proposal of M. Quiñones de León.

The PRESIDENT observed that no objection to the draft resolution had been raised either by the President of the Senate of the Free City of Danzig or by the Polish representative, who were both prepared to accept the resolution. If the members of the Council had no objections to raise he would consider the resolution as adopted.

The Council adopted the following resolution

“ The Council requests the legal experts of the British, French and Italian representatives of the Council, in collaboration with the Director of the Legal Section of the Secretariat, to advise the rapporteur as to whether Paragraph 14 (a) of the decision of the High Commissioner of the League of Nations dated August 1st, 1924, concerning the expulsion of Danzig citizens from Poland, is in conformity with existing treaties and with international law and international practice.”

SIXTH MEETING (PUBLIC)

Held at Geneva on Tuesday, September 16th, 1924, at 6 p.m.

Present All the representatives of the Members of the Council, and the Deputy Secretary-General.

1284. Financial Reconstruction of Austria.

Monsignor Seipel, the Austrian Chancellor, M. Grunberger, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Zimmerman, Commissioner-General of the League of Nations at Vienna, and M. ter Meulen, Chairman of the Financial Committee, came to the Council table.

The PRESIDENT expressed to Monsignor Seipel the pleasure of the members of the Council at seeing him once again at the Council table. He told him of the anxiety and sympathy with which the Council had followed his return to health after the recent attempt on his life, which had been condemned by the conscience of all the peoples.

M. SALANDRA, Rapporteur of the Austrian Committee of the Council, recalled the fact that the Council, on June 16th, 1924, had requested the Financial Committee to undertake an enquiry on the budgetary situation of Austria. The Financial Committee had used its endeavours to carry out in the best way possible this difficult task. As a result of its work it had prepared a report in agreement with the Commissioner-General, M. Zimmerman. That report was now before the Council (Annex 676). Further, the Committee of Control of the Guarantor States for the Austrian loan had adopted the following resolution

“ The Committee of Control has taken note of the highly interesting report presented to the Austrian Committee by the Financial Committee and the Commissioner-General.

“ It desires to emphasise the importance which it attaches to the reforms specified in this report being carried into effect without delay

“ It also wishes to express its complete satisfaction at the way in which the Commissioner-General has accomplished his duties and to assure him once more of its entire confidence.”

The Austrian Committee of the Council, having taken note of the joint report of the Financial Committee and of the Commissioner-General and of the resolution of the Committee of Control, adopted the following resolution

“ The Council of the League of Nations

“ Approves the joint report of the Financial Committee and the Commissioner-General, to whom it desires to express its appreciation

“ It also approves the agreement concluded with the Austrian Government and takes note of the resolution of the Committee of Control.

“ The Council notes with satisfaction that a unanimous agreement has been reached as a result of the enquiry at Vienna, undertaken in accordance with the Council resolution of June 16th, 1924.

“ The Council is glad to note that, after the examination of the present financial position of Austria, it is the unanimous view of the Financial Committee and the Commissioner-General that the level at which the budget can be properly balanced is considerably higher than was anticipated in 1922, and that the sacrifices which have been and will be involved in Austria are less than was contemplated in the original scheme then framed by the League and accepted by Austria and that the Austrian Government has undertaken to take the necessary measures to secure budget equilibrium at the above level.

“ The Council approves the conditions which are recommended as those under which the system of budget control can properly be (a) modified at an early date, and (b) subsequently terminated.