

1369. Free City of Danzig Retirement of the President of the Harbour Board.

Colonel de Reynier came to the Council table.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN read his report (Annex 701).

M. SAHM thanked Colonel de Reynier for the work which he had done at Danzig.

M. STRASBURGER expressed thanks on behalf of Poland for the work which Colonel de Reynier had done, and regret at his departure.

The PRESIDENT added his thanks on behalf of the Council.

The conclusions of the report were adopted.

M. Strasburger, M. Sahn, Mr. MacDonnell and Colonel de Reynier withdrew.

1370. Refugee Questions Transfer to the International Labour Office of the Work for Russian and Armenian Refugees.

A report by Dr. Nansen, High Commissioner for Refugees, was read (Annex 702).

The Council adopted the following resolution

“ The Council,

“ Having noted the resolution of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation of October 10th, 1924, relating to the future work on behalf of the Armenian and Russian refugees

“ Recognising, however, that questions of a political or legal character may arise involving the intervention of the League

“ Bearing in mind the unanimous resolutions of the fifth Assembly inviting Dr. Nansen's continual co-operation in this connection

“ Approves the proposals contained in his report of November 24th, 1924, for the future execution of the work for the Russian and Armenian refugees, in so far as these proposals refer to the Council.”

1371. Request for Special Facilities for Red Cross Organisations.

Viscount ISHII read his report (Annex 703) and submitted the following resolution

“ The Council instructs the Secretary-General to circulate the letter of the President of the Joint Council of the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies (Annex 703 a) to the Members of the League of Nations.

“ Without making any pronouncement on the technical aspects of the questions raised concerning transport and customs, the Council invites the Governments to give sympathetic consideration to the general requests presented by the Joint Council and also to the particular demands which it may see fit to make on special occasions.”

The resolution was adopted.

1372. Financial Reconstruction of Austria.

M. Grünberger, representative of Austria, and Dr. Zimmerman, Commissioner-General, came to the Council table.

M. GRUNBERGER, representative of Austria, said that the resignation of Mgr. Seipel as Federal Chancellor and the election of Dr. Ramek in his place did not in any way imply a change in Austrian policy which, as before, would remain faithful to the engagements entered into at Geneva in 1922 and to the agreements with the League of Nations arising out of those engagements.

The Federal Government considered that it was its duty to enforce as a matter of principle the utmost economy in all branches of the public administration. It was persuaded that in this way a permanent budgetary equilibrium might be assured and the stability of the Austrian currency maintained.

The Austrian Government would certainly not tolerate anything which might endanger the foundations of the national economic system, and, if certain circles had hoped to see the principles of economy shaken by the change of Government, they would certainly be disappointed. These principles did not depend on the will of the persons in whose hands the power of government happened to lie, but were the logical results of the economic situation. Ex-Chancellor Mgr. Seipel's greatest achievement had been the introduction of the policy of economy and stability

The Federal Government of Austria felt it might hope to bring to a happy issue the last stage in the work of reconstruction, since the reassuring views of the Austrian situation, as shown in the report framed by common agreement between the Financial Committee and the Commissioner-General in September 1924 had been entirely justified by the development which the position had since followed.

The banking crisis from which Austria had suffered during the summer of the present year was now past. Speculation, which was the consequence of a period of inflation, had ceased. Progress had been made in the consolidation of economic life.

It was true that the number of unemployed had increased, and had this winter reached almost the same figure as during the winter of 1923. This proved in the clearest manner to