

In reply to the President, Sir Edgar WALTON said that the procedure proposed by the South African Government with regard to South-West Africa only applied to the white population and not to the native inhabitants, with regard to whom there was no difficulty.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the proposal of Sir Edgar Walton should also be submitted to the drafting committee, which should take into account the fact that the Council considered it to be a special case.

M. HANOTAUX said that the French experts had carefully followed the problems raised by these mandates, but that the problem of the German settlers in South-West Africa had never been put before them. The question was so urgent and important that the Council would have to examine it and take a decision. The drafting committee should be instructed to endeavour to find a formula which would cover this particular case, and the Council could then discuss the text which would be submitted to it.

Sir Edgar WALTON said that the principle that a government could accord naturalisation to these persons who asked for it was admitted. What difference was there, therefore, between granting naturalisation to individuals at their request and naturalising the inhabitants of a territory *en bloc* while, at the same time, allowing them individually to decline that naturalisation if they so desired?

M. GARBASSO thought that it would be impossible for the drafting committee to reconcile the two principles — individual naturalisation and naturalisation *en bloc*.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN agreed with M. Garbasso.

M. ADATCI said that he was not opposed to the President's proposal to send the question to a drafting committee on the condition that a definition in the text of the resolution such as "administered persons under mandates" or "protected persons under mandates" was accepted as a question of principle.

After a further exchange of views, *the Council decided, on the proposal of the President, to request the drafting committee to make the drafting alterations necessary for amalgamating the amendments proposed by the President and the recommendations of the Permanent Mandates Commission. The drafting committee would consider also the exceptional case of South Africa and the possibility of giving it satisfaction.*

*It was agreed that Sir Edgar Walton should be a member of the drafting committee.*

## SEVENTH MEETING (PUBLIC)

*held at Geneva on Friday, April 20th, 1923, at 4 p.m.*

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

### 921. Free City of Danzig Establishment of a Railway Direction for the Polish Railways outside the Free City

M. Askenazy representative of Poland, M. Sahm, representative of the Free City, and Mr. MacDonnell, High Commissioner of the League at Danzig, came to the Council table.

M. QUIÑONES DE LEÓN reported that the High Commissioner had given a decision on this question on December 12th, 1922. It had since been examined at discussions between the representatives of the two Governments at the Secretariat of the League.

He submitted the following resolution

"The Council decides to postpone to its next session the discussion on the question of a direction of the Polish railways at Danzig on which the High Commissioner of the League of Nations gave his decision on December 12th, 1922."

*The resolution was adopted.*

### 922. Free City of Danzig Procedure for the Settlement of Differences.

The PRESIDENT asked the High Commissioner whether he desired to make any observations to the Council.

Mr. MACDONNELL, High Commissioner of the League at Danzig, said he wished to draw the attention of the Council to two important points. A great number of cases had come up for decision by the High Commissioner. The interested parties did not seem to show quite as much care in trying to come to an agreement when negotiating at Danzig as when they were at Geneva before the Council. He would like the parties to make a more serious effort to come to a friendly agreement among themselves before coming to him for a decision, and possibly to the Council later on.