

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.