

Date of Meeting of Assembly.—An effort was made by the French and Italian Delegations to get the Assembly to agree that future meetings should not begin until the third Monday in September. The proposal was referred to the First Committee, which reported adversely. Its recommendation was accepted by the Assembly at its meeting on the 29th September, and consequently the Fourth Assembly will, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, meet on the first Monday in September, 1923 (Document No. A. 152).

Amendment to No. 14 of the Rules of Procedure.—The motion to give greater precision to this rule was, so far as concerns finance, very necessary, and the amendment adopted by the Assembly at its meeting on the 29th September (Document No. A. 150) will give the Fourth Committee a firm control over expenditure.

Allocation of Expenses.—The First Committee considered the report presented by M. Reveillaud on the question of allocation of the expenses of the League, which found that the scale of the Universal Postal Union adopted by the authors of the Covenant was hardly satisfactory. A preliminary scale arrived at on the basis of population and net revenue had been substituted, but this scale it was found necessary to modify so that there might be taken into account the fact that some States were less able to bear an increase in their contributions than others owing to devastation due to the war.

An interesting point raised by the Indian delegate that the subject could not come within the Agenda of the present Assembly owing to the requisite four month's notice not having been given was disposed of by a Committee of Jurists on the ground that the consideration of this matter was really held over from last year. It is satisfactory to note that a scale was accepted by all parties.

So far as the British Empire was concerned, Lord Balfour explained that it had accidentally happened that the total of the contributions asked for from the States composing the British Empire was fairly equal in the different schemes under discussion, and they had decided to settle among themselves arrangements regarding the allocation of the total sum which they were called upon to pay (Document No. A. 8).

It was urged on behalf of India that she was too highly assessed, and, after careful consideration, it was decided by the British Delegation that if India could not see her way to accept the allocation arrived at by the Reveillaud Committee seventeen of the sixty-five units payable by India according to the latest scale should be distributed amongst other parts of the Empire, in the proportions of 9·5 to the United Kingdom, 3·5 to Canada, 3·0 to Australia, and 1·0 to New Zealand. In the course of discussion it appeared to be inadvisable to press South Africa to take a share, owing to political and other reasons—*e.g.*, the large number of Natives in the Union, as contrasted with the small white population. A unit, according to the Budget as finally passed by the Assembly, amounts to about £1,157. If the principle of distribution is sound—and the advantages of sharing a small portion of India's burden appear to outweigh the disadvantages which would have been caused by disagreement in Committee and the Assembly—New Zealand is not asked to take more than a fair share. It was therefore agreed to adopt this temporary expedient if it should become necessary.

The First Committee's report (Document No. A. 154) was approved by the Assembly at its meeting on the 30th September.

COMMITTEE No. 2.

Health Organization.—The reason for the inability of the League to absorb the Office International d'Hygiene Publique, as contemplated in Article 24 of the Covenant, is given in the report on last year's Assembly, dated the 12th October, 1921, and numbered A. 648, and the Health Organization set up by that Assembly must be regarded as provisional in the meantime. For all ordinary purposes, however, it is a definitely constituted organ of the League, and the result of its labours during the preceding twelve months is summarized in Document No. A. 65, which was considered by the Assembly on the 15th September. The first and second of the three resolutions with which this report concludes were passed unanimously, but consideration of the third resolution, involving an addition to the Health Organization's budget, was deferred pending a report thereon by the Fourth Committee.

The third resolution, involving an expenditure of 50,000 francs, was passed by the Assembly on the 28th September.

Intellectual Co-operation.—The Second Assembly passed a resolution approving of the nomination by the Council of a committee to examine international questions regarding intellectual co-operation. This committee was formed, and met in August. Its report (Document A. 61) was submitted to the Second Committee for examination. A proposal was made in committee that the League should supply books, &c., to universities which had suffered by the war, and undertake other work additional to that recommended by the Council. It was pointed out that the finances not only of the League but of the contributing Governments did not admit of the League taking in hand more work than could be completely justified under the Covenant, and consequently the committee limited itself to the mild resolutions to be found in Document No. A. 137, which were passed by the Assembly at its meeting on the 28th September. (See also Documents Nos. A. 62, 63, and 66.)

Organization for Communications and Transit.—This is one of the organizations created in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 of the Covenant, but it differs from the other technical organizations of the League, since the members of the Technical and Advisory Committee were appointed by their Governments and not by the Council of the League, which, however, bears the expenses of the committee. The first report on the work of the committee is Document No. A. 139, and the commentary of the Second Committee of the Assembly on this is Document A. 93. The latter concludes with a series of resolutions, including one relating to the full Conference to be held next year, and these were passed by the Assembly at its meeting on the 28th September.

Economic and Finance Organization.—It cannot be denied that, although some of the work accomplished by the Economic and Financial Committee, which is one of the Technical Organizations