

1925.

NEW ZEALAND.

PROTOCOL FOR THE PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AND PROPOSALS FOR A PACT OF SECURITY.

WHITE PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DEALING WITH—(a) CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND THE DOMINIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE GENEVA PROTOCOL; (b) PROPOSALS FOR A PACT OF SECURITY.

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER (HON. J. G. COATES).

IN 1923 the League of Nations appointed a Committee to draft and propound a Treaty of Mutual Assistance, and by formal resolution recommended the nations members of the League to agree to that treaty. The object and effect of that treaty was to enlarge and define in many respects the obligations of the various nations signatories to the Covenant of the League, and to create what are technically called sanctions—namely, express penalties upon nations transgressing the peace provisions of the Covenant, and providing for the imposition of such penalties practically by armed force of the other nations. The majority of the principal nations rejected that treaty. Included among the Governments rejecting was His Majesty's Government of which Mr. Ramsay Macdonald was Prime Minister. The proposals, therefore, of 1923 produced no result.

In 1924 Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and Monsieur Heriot, Prime Minister of France, attended the Assembly at Geneva, and proposed an alternative scheme of sanctions and enforcement thereof under the direction of the Council of the League of Nations. Those speeches were made on the 4th and 5th September, 1924. The Assembly of the League on the 6th September passed resolutions directing consideration of those speeches by two Committees, which Committees met, and three weeks after, on the 1st October, presented the draft Protocol, which the Assembly adopted for the consideration of the nations.

The White Paper on the subject of the Protocol contains the comments on the Protocol by the several Dominions, including New Zealand. Each Dominion objected to the terms and effect of the proposals, and the Committee of Imperial Defence was equally emphatic in condemning it. The Dominions and His Majesty's Government agreed that some form of compulsory arbitration between nations should be ultimately adopted, but each objected to a scheme which extended widely the obligations of the signatories to the League of Nations and practically conferred upon the Council of the League powers to drag the nations into war. As the Protocol could not take effect without the consent of the principal nations this project also failed.

Then the German Government came upon the scene with a suggestion that the principal nations should agree to what is called a Pact of Security. Friendly negotiations have since taken place between France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, and England, and there is room for hope that such negotiations may lead to a definite result securing methods of peaceful determination of international questions. It seems undesirable to express an opinion upon these actually pending negotiations. The New Zealand Government is satisfied that such negotiations can best be conducted by His Majesty's Government without interference, subject to the opportunity, which is given constantly, to the Dominions of offering comment upon the several separate proposals.

1935
NEW ZEALAND

FOR A PACT OF SECURITY
INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AND PROPOSALS
FOR THE PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF

WHITE PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DEALING WITH (a) CORRECTION OF THE GENEVA PROTOCOL (b) PROPOSALS FOR A PACT OF SECURITY

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER (HON. J. G. COATES)

In 1925 the League of Nations constituted a Committee to draft and propose a Treaty of Mutual Assistance and to invite the various members of the League to agree to it. The object of the Treaty was to ensure and define in many respects the obligations of the various nations signatories to the League and to create what are technically called sanctions—namely, various penalties imposed upon nations transgressing the peace provisions of the Covenant and providing for the imposition of such penalties. The Treaty was signed by the principal nations of the League and the League of Nations. The Government of New Zealand was Prime Minister of the League of Nations in 1925.

In 1927 Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and Mr. Lloyd George, Prime Minister of Great Britain, proposed an alternative scheme of mutual assistance and mutual defence under the direction of the Council of the League of Nations. This scheme was adopted on the 24th and 25th September, 1927. The Assembly of the League on the 26th September passed resolutions directing consideration of those proposals by two Committees, which Committees met and three weeks after on the 1st October presented the draft Protocol, which the Assembly adopted for the consideration of the League.

The White Paper on the subject of the Protocol contains the comments on the Protocol by the various members of the League of Nations. Each Government objected to the terms and effect of the proposals and the Committee of Imperial Defence was equally emphatic in condemning it. The Government of New Zealand agreed that some form of compulsory arbitration between nations is desirable and that such a system is a step which should be taken. The Council of the League of Nations in the League of Nations and practically contained upon the Council of the League of Nations in the League of Nations. The League of Nations could not take any further action.

Then the Government of New Zealand came upon the scene with a suggestion that the principal nations should agree to what is called a Pact of Security. Friendly negotiations have since taken place between France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, and England, and there is room for hope that such negotiations may lead to a definite result. It is essential that the determination of international questions should be left to the arbitration of the League of Nations. The New Zealand Government is anxious to express its views upon these matters in a friendly and helpful manner. It is essential that such negotiations can best be conducted by His Majesty's Government without interference, subject to the suggestion which is given consistently to the Dominion by offering comment upon the several separate proposals.