

LEAGUE'S WORK FOR TWO YEARS SUMMARIZED

Second Anniversary Finds
Abandonment by U. S. of
Isolation Theory.

FIFTY-ONE IN ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—The League of Nations is two years old tomorrow. In view of the Washington conference and America's abandonment of the isolation theory, the League of Nations News Bureau has made public a brief resume of the League's work which it is felt is very important.

Two years ago when the league came into being it was composed of but thirteen former allied powers. Since then all the allied powers except America have joined; the thirteen former neutral powers invited to adhesions have done so; and the ex-enemy states and half a dozen new states born in the war have been admitted. Today, on its second anniversary, the league numbers fifty-one nations, the largest collection of states ever brought together.

In those two years there has been built up a large and increasing number of organizations able to focus attention on any international problem from purely humanitarian project to the most serious diplomatic issue. The outline of a general international structure has been drawn to be filled in as time and experience may justify. In certain major matters of common interest most of the world's nations, whether of Europe, the Americas, Asia, or Africa, have learned to confer about a common table.

MANY DEPARTMENTS
NOW FUNCTIONING:

There are now functioning an annual assembly of the fifty-one members; a permanent court of justice; a permanent secretariat; technical organizations on international health, finance, economics and freedom of communications and transit; an international labor office; permanent committees on armaments and mandates; special committees on the control of international opium and white slave traffic, repatriation of prisoners, the relief of typhus in Poland, the protection of minorities, and the administration of the Saar Basin and the Free City of Danzig.

The league's first task, of course, is to prevent war. Already five disputes threatening world peace have been brought before it. Three have been settled finally and two are in negotiation. Procedure wholly new in diplomacy has been used on several occasions, but force has never been resorted to.

The first conflict settled was that between Sweden and Finland over the strategic Åland Islands, when detailed negotiations gave the sovereignty of the islands to Finland, assured absolute protection to their predominant Swedish population, and effected their neutralization through a ten-power treaty.

Second was the Polish-Lithuanian dispute, when the League prevented the hostilities threatened by Zolotovitch's seizure of Vilna and offered a project of settlement which is still being negotiated.

TRouble ALLAYED IN UPPER SILESIA.

Third was the Upper Silesia dispute, because of the deadlock between Great Britain and France, threatened the break-up of the entente, and which was solved only when the League called in and drew up an entirely new form of solution safeguarding economic as well as nationality interests.

Fourth was the Yugo-Slav invasion of Albania, when Lloyd George's telegram to the league requesting the application of the economic blockade against Serbia for having begun hostilities without arbitration, was accepted and the permanent council sent Yugo-Slav ex-chancellor, rumbling, held up an important loan and forced the Yugo-Slav government to withdraw its troops behind the frontier.

Finally, the three-cornered Tacna-Arica dispute was argued at length in public session on demand of Bolivia and although the results were not conclusive it is interesting to note that Chile has since entered into negotiations with Peru on the question and has definitely proposed a plebiscite.

But the mere settlement of disputes already arisen is not sufficient guarantee of peace, for if disputes are allowed to develop until they become critical, the time is certain to come when one amongst them will get out of hand and the world's peace be again ruptured. Consequently, an international court will have been undertaken first in settling about removing as many general causes of difficulty as possible and second in providing a permanent machinery to be ready at all times.

ASSEMBLY CROWNS PEACE WORK.

The crown of that work is the assembly, where representatives of the fifty-one league members come together automatically every first week in September to discuss any question which any nation wishes to bring up as affecting the peace or well-being of the world. Through its two sessions at Geneva the assembly has become a well-oiled, smooth-running forum without power of compulsion but with great moral authority.

The council, consisting of representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan permanently and of Belgium, Brazil, Spain and China temporarily, is holding its sixteenth meeting at Geneva. It is a small, informal body charged with the general direction of the league and able in emergencies to meet on a week's notice. It was just some such body as this that Sir Edward Grey failed to find when the Aerial crisis of 1914 precipitated the World War and which the recent four-power treaty aims to set up for Pacific questions.

The third central body is the secretariat, an international civil service of about 250 people and over thirty nationalities, charged with carrying on all the daily work of the league, serving as an international center of experts named for their knowledge rather than their politics, and specifically entrusted with the publication of all treaties registered and registered, 200 of which have already been recorded. Its headquarters are in the former Hotel National, at Geneva, which the league assumed at a cost of about \$1,000,000.

COURT FOLLOWS LEGAL PRINCIPLE.

Next is the permanent court of international justice, a court of law basing its judgments on diplomatic adjustment, but on legal principles, which will, with the council, in making effective the covenant's fundamental principle that no nation shall go to war without arbitration or conciliation. Here the league has achieved its greatest single triumph, for as against the failure of the Hague and other conferences it has succeeded in creating a court of eleven judges in four departments which will hold its first meeting on Jan. 30. This court is of peculiar interest to America because Elihu Root helped draft its statute and John Bassett Moore sits as one of its judges.

Beyond these bodies are the technical organizations so-called, because dealing in technical questions as distinct from political and diplomatic. Most highly developed is that on freedom of communications and transit, which has already held an international meeting of forty nations at Barcelona and worked out draft treaties aiming to assure a freer flow of trade between nations by removing certain of the unnecessary war barriers. Next is that on finance and economics which directed the Brussels financial conference of some thirty-

five nations, including the United States and Great Britain, out the details of the so-called Ter Meulen scheme, and laid down a complete program for the reconstruction of Austria, which only awaits the release of bonds by the United States to be put into operation. Finally is the health organization for co-ordinating the activities of the various nations, as such in the field of health, in endeavoring to help relieve typhus in Poland by means of about a million dollars, contributed by the members of the league, and in the pestilence conference at London, which America is officially attending, for the international standardization of anti-toxic sera.

HUMANITARIAN TASKS ENTRUSTED.

Certain humanitarian tasks were also entrusted to the league in the peace treaties. First, is the oversight of the mandated territories containing about 13,000,000 backwater peoples. Though the United States several times delayed this work by protests on points of detail, the mandates for former German Southwest Africa and the former German Pacific Islands were confirmed a year ago; the Japanese and the Australian governments have already seen in the League's annual report the military matters by Europe's unstable political situation. Nevertheless, certain preparatory work has been effected; the question of budgetary limitation and statistical information studied; and two corollary projects, the suppression of the traffic in arms and contributions to backward countries and the control of the private manufacture of arms, initiated.

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Similarly, some dozen treaties have been signed with nearly all the nations of Eastern Europe and the Balkans promising certain minimum rights to the world's nations, whether of Europe, the Americas, Asia, or Africa, have learned to confer about a common table.

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