

Section.

GENERAL.

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Sept 10

Sujet

Subject

Weekly Conferences in S. G's room.

Minutes of 5th Meeting. Sept 10

Subjects discussed :- Date of Meeting of Council - Situation in Switzerland - National Health

REGISTRY.

Section No.

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Document No.

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Document précédent, No. 1005 ..

Document suivant, No. 1252.

(Suite donnée.)

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Distribution

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A classer

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(54) MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S
ROOM, on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th at 3.30 p.m.

Present:

Secretary-General
M. Monnet
Dr. Nitobe
Mr. Colban
Dr. van Hamel
Mr. Mair
Mr. Salter
M. Varlez
Captain Walters.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that President Wilson's reply to the question as to when he would call the first meeting of the Council, had come, but unfortunately it was not very definite. There seemed to be two possible courses:-

(1) That he would call the Council to meet as soon as there had been what he considered a sufficient number of adhesions.

(2) That he would wait until the Senate had ratified the Treaty.

The latest information was, that the Senate was likely to ratify the Treaty, with or without reservations, by mid October.

There would be certain meetings in Paris in the next few days, and he might find it necessary to go over to Paris to explain the situation from the League's point of view; possibly, therefore, in ten days we might have more definite ideas. For the present, we must go on as heretofore:- Viz: work to be ready for a meeting of the Council by the first of October.

SWISS

SWISS SITUATION.

He had informed Rappard that no steps could be taken with regard to Geneva, until the result of the referendum was known. Rappard had now replied saying that the referendum might be delayed, but its result was hardly in doubt. Those in favour of joining were in favour of some delay, in order to educate the public. He thought it might be necessary to put in a statement for the first meeting of the Council to the effect that the Secretariat assumed it should take no steps about Geneva until the referendum result was known.

President Wilson had declared that the Labour Conference would be held as arranged in any case; from this position he could hardly now withdraw.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH.

He had appointed Miss Crowley to draw up a draft plan on the analogy of the International Labour Office, to be submitted to a further International Conference, which would be held, if all went well, on the motion of the Council. He thought it would be an advantage to the Secretariat to keep the plans in its own hands; and it was also desirable to have a woman in a responsible position in the Secretariat.

MR. MAIR asked whether a British Official^s who was going to Germany, and had offered to send us a summary of the state of feeling there, might be paid for this, as a special job done for the Secretariat. This was agreed to.

The question of preparing matter for publication on the subject of the printed memoranda for the Council, was postponed for a fortnight.

Mr. Sweetser in America had said that it might help if the "Times" were to publish an articles showing that Europe desired the League as much for idealistic as for material

reasons

reasons, and he would arrange for this.

MR. SALTER said that his memoranda for the Council could not be ready for October 1st.

He had had an interesting conversation with Mr. Keynes, the Treasury Expert, who thought that nothing could now avert a financial crisis, which would force a change of policy on many Governments, and that it would therefore be best for the League to wait and step in to straighten out the difficulties, rather than, by present action, to share the responsibility for them. As, however, supposing the view as to the inevitability of a crisis to be right, its date was still quite uncertain, it was agreed that the plans of the Economic Section ought not to be interrupted.

M. VARLEZ said that a London meeting of the International Trade Unions Bureau had presented the Amsterdam resolutions to the British Government, whose reply had not altogether satisfied them. Later M. Jouhaux saw M. Clemenceau, who said that the Germans should be invited to Washington. The Bureau was writing to Washington to ask if this view was shared there, and had determined, if this were ^{not} so, to stick to its decision.

M. MONNET said he understood M. Clemenceau's view to be that the Germans could only be invited by the Labour Conference itself, and that they would have to come to Washington, and that the Conference would then, at its first meeting, invite them to attend the rest of the meetings ^{or} as members. Jouhaux had accepted this, and had gone to Amsterdam to try and fix it up with the rest of his colleagues.

M. VARLEZ raised the question whether the Health Commission would concern itself with Insurance, which was an important field of international action. He thought the subject belonged more closely to Labour than to Health.

Mr. Salter.....

MR. SALTER said he thought that Insurance against sickness ought to be outside the sphere of the Labour Office.

The Secretary General said the point would no doubt be discussed at the International Conference in Holland.

M. VARLEZ asked whether the relations of the League to the Papacy had been considered. A Swiss Catholic body had expressed its hostility to the League because the Pope had not been asked to be a member. The Secretary General said the problem might, he thought, be left to solve itself.

DR. VAN HAMEL said that during his recent visit to Holland he found the Government favourable to the League, but the Man in the Street inclined to criticise it, because of situations for which it was not responsible, such as that in Roumania.

He had two points to mention :-

(1) How would members of the Assembly be appointed ? Many persons in Holland thought that Parliament should choose them, and not the Government.

The Secretary General said this must be left to the various countries, but it seemed necessary that at least one of the Delegates should represent his Government, because national interests would often be seriously involved. There was fear lest the Assembly might re-semble bodies such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and lose in authority. As regarded Great Britain he hoped Lloyd George would go.

M. MONNET said the same was true of France. He thought in every case the Government must select, though it was free to settle for itself how it should select, the Delegates.

(2) He had seen a statement by M. Klotz about a Financial Section of the League. MR. SALTER said he was trying to get the documents on the subject.

Dr. Nitobe...

DR. NILOBE said the Union of International Associations had sent him their books, including "La Vie Internationale", of which only three copies existed in England. It gave the names of three hundred international bureaux, of these from 30 to 40 were official, but many of the private ones were influential bodies. He was trying to get complete information.

MR. COLBAN said the Scandinavian Inter-Parliamentary groups had had a meeting at Stockholm. His impression was, that, as a result, the three countries felt that they must join the League. The criticism in this meeting (it should be distinguished from a more "pacifistic" meeting which the "Times" had reported), had been directed principally to the point that membership involved loss of neutrality. Others present, including Mr. Branting, had said that to gain the advantages of Membership some price must be paid necessarily. The general agreement was that the Covenant would be the foundation of great work. America's joining was regarded as an important, but not a cardinal, point.

N.B. The date of the next meeting will depend on the Secretary General's return from Paris.

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