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Suiet

Subject

Weekly Meeting of Secretary
General and Directors.
Minutes of 11th Meeting Nov. 19th

Subjects discussed:-

i) Date of the coming into force of the Treaty

2) Financial Situation of Washington Cuban Conference

3) Increase of International Associations etc.

(Suite donnée.)

Index A.

Index B.

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Summary

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Index C.

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LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

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Minutes of a Meeting held in the Secretary-General's Room, on
Wednesday, 19th November, 1919, at 3.30 p.m.

Present:

The Secretary-General;
Monsieur Monnet;
Dr. Nitobe;
Sir Herbert Ames;
Mr. Colban;
Monsieur Comert;
Dr. Van Hamel;
Captain Walters.

1. The Secretary-General said that it seemed likely that the coming into force of the Treaty would be still further delayed. Captain Gilchrist had written a few days ago saying that it would probably not take place before December 1st. Since then he had seen an authority at the British War Office, who thought it would probably be delayed until December 15. The reasons given were (1) the necessity of negotiating with the Germans the protocol drawn up to ensure fulfilment of the armistice conditions; and (2) the desire to know what the United States would do. The real reason probably was that the arrangements were not complete for the necessary despatch of troops.

The situation in the United States was far from clear. Mr. Fosdick had written that the feeling against the President was very strong.

2. He referred to the communiqué from the Labour Conference dated November 18th, which stated that "a resolution arising from spontaneous expression of opinion emanating from workers and employers alike called for the formation of a Health Section in the International Health Office". This to some extent clashed with the Health scheme which was now being prepared by the Secretariat, in which close cooperation with Labour was provided for. He proposed to cable to Mr. Butler suggesting that the resolution at the

Conference/

Conference should take a form which recognised the existence of our plan for an International Health body.

Sir Herbert Ames remarked that this communiqué seemed to indicate the achievement of a great success won by cooperation, and in view of the recent failure of the Conference between the United States employers and workers, this was a very striking fact.

The Secretary-General agreed, and said that he hoped it would be possible to get this achievement fully noticed in the Press, as also the very striking event of the reaching of an agreement between Eastern and Western countries as regards child labour.

3. Sir Herbert Ames said that the financial situation had been very much cleared today by a letter from Mr. Butler, in which he said that the sum of 50,000 dollars already advanced by the League, together with the appropriation of 63,000 dollars voted by Congress, would probably cover the whole expenditure of the Conference and no further demand would probably be made.

He referred to the question of asking the British Dominions for their contributions. He thought that the legal position as regards Canada was quite clear. So far as Canada was concerned, the King had signed the Treaty under advice from the Canadian Executive, which in its turn had been sustained by a majority in Parliament. It was decided that the financial position should be carefully watched but that for the moment further action was unnecessary.

4. Mr. Colban mentioned the position of the League with reference to Eupen and Malmedy. The President of the Peace Conference had sent a letter to the chief German delegate in which he seemed to consider that the League must take an interest in the expression of public opinion in those territories before the Belgian Government made a report to the Council. It was hardly possible to overlook this expression of opinion, and he thought that probably the right course would be to present the correspondence to the Council without making any suggestion upon it, but with a request for instructions.

5. Dr. Nitobe /

5. Dr. Nitobe said that there were indications of a large increase in the number of International Associations, particularly of financial ones. He had had an interview with Mr. Nugent Harris, who, in collaboration particularly with Mr. Butterfield (U.S.A) wanted to develop the Institute of Agriculture at Rome, more especially in the direction of democratising it. A number of the older Associations were, he thought, afraid to ask to come under the League before they knew just what doing so would mean. They feared it might lead to a removal of existing officials - for instance, the President of the Postal Union was, he thought, at present always a Swiss, and it might be thought that it would not be so in future under the League.

After a short discussion on the general relations between the League and International Bureaux, Monsieur Monnet stated that he had just heard from Paris that the impression there was that the coming into force of the Treaty was almost sure to be delayed beyond the formerly expected date-- viz: November 27, - but that no date had yet been fixed.

Sunderland House,
Curzon Street,
London, W. 1.

20th November, 1919.

854

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