

LEAGUE OF NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

Much of the work of the League of Nations and its Secretariat is embodied in the publications which it issues. These are available not only to Governments and Government Departments, but also, in nearly all cases, to the general public.

They are supplied direct to persons who transmit orders or subscriptions either to the Publications Department of the Secretariat or to the authorised Sales Agents in the different countries.

The technical work that has been carried on continuously throughout the war years has resulted in the issue of a large number of publications on a wide range of subjects: health, economic and financial, social, the traffic in narcotic drugs, assistance to refugees, etc.

The official publications of the League of Nations constitute a source of authoritative information the vast scope of which can be seen from the *General Catalogue* and the various *Supplements* by which it is kept continually up to date.

A *Special Catalogue of Selected Publications on Economic and Financial Subjects* of immediate interest in present-day discussions has been published separately.

All these catalogues, which can be consulted at the Secretariat, may be obtained, free of charge, on application to authorised Sales Agents (in Switzerland: Librairie Payot & Cie., Geneva, Lausanne, Vevey, Montreux, Neuchâtel, Berne, Bâle, and Hans Raunhardt, Buchhandlung, Kirchgasse 17, Zurich I) or to

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League may have been said, during this intervening period, to have been suspended. The technical work, however, has never ceased and has indeed been increasing in volume and in importance in the last two or three years. The official seat of the League remains in Geneva and the Secretariat's work has been carried on under the direction of the Acting Secretary-General, Mr. S. Lester (Irish), who was appointed during the 1940 crisis. Work continues at Geneva, but since 1940 important missions have been established in the United States and in the United Kingdom, where greater facilities were available for maintaining the contacts necessary for valuable results.

Some committees of the League of Nations have been able to meet since 1940. In 1942, the Economic Committee and the Financial Committee held a joint session, the first part of which took place in London, whilst later meetings were held at Princeton (New Jersey), U.S.A., the seat of the mission consisting of the Director of the Economic, Financial and Transit Department and the majority of the members of the staff of that Department. The same two Committees held a second joint session at Princeton in December 1943. The Treasurer of the League has, with a small staff, been carrying on vital work in London. He has represented the Acting Secretary-General at the periodical meetings of the Supervisory Commission (under the chairmanship of M. Carl Hambro, Norwegian), to which, in conjunction with the Secretary-General, the Assembly had delegated special emergency powers. The two organs set up under the international conventions concerning narcotic drugs—the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Supervisory Body—have held their sessions regularly throughout the war period. Valuable preparations have been made to meet the perils of addiction and illicit traffic after the cessation of hostilities. The secretariats of these organs are at present at Washington, D.C. Further, the office of the League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the seat of which was established in London before the war, is working in close contact with the organs created on the initiative of the Government of the United States of America for the purpose of assisting, as far as possible, victims of the war or of persecutions who have become refugees in foreign countries.

Apart from carrying on many activities including the preparation and publication of valuable studies and of information and statistics on economic, financial and health questions, the registration and publication of international treaties, etc., the Secretariat is making a substantial contribution to the work that has been undertaken with a view to post-war reconstruction. Its missions in America and in London have been invited by the authorities of U.N.R.R.A. to place at the disposal of the latter the results of the experience acquired by the League of Nations in the economic sphere and in regard to health questions, the control of the drug traffic and the organisation of a vast international administration. Studies have also been undertaken, particularly in the economic field, with the object of making clear the lessons that may be drawn from twenty years' practice of international co-operation through the League of Nations. Several of these studies have already been published.

These tasks are being carried out in Geneva, in Princeton (New Jersey), in Washington and in London by a staff working within the limits of a budget that is very much smaller than in pre-war years. In 1939, there were more than 700 officials of the Secretariat; to-day, they number less than 150.

The Acting Secretary-General has continued, during the war, to publish each year his report * on the work of the League of Nations. It is to these reports that reference should be made for the purpose of obtaining a general view of the work that has been performed or is at present in course of being carried out.

Geneva, 1944.

* Brief Statement on the Activities of the League of Nations and its Organs in 1940 and 1941, submitted by the Acting Secretary-General. (C.41.M.38.1941) (Ser. L.o.N. P. 1941.1)
1 Swiss franc

Report on the Work of the League of Nations, 1941-1942, submitted by the Acting Secretary-General. (C.35.M.35.1942) (Ser. L.o.N. P. 1942.1) 2 Swiss francs

Report on the Work of the League of Nations, 1942-1943, submitted by the Acting Secretary-General. (C.25.M.25.1943) (Ser. L.o.N. P. 1943.1). 2 Swiss francs

Report on the Work of the League of Nations, 1943-1944, submitted by the Acting Secretary-General. (C.14.M.14.1945) (Ser. L.o.N. P. 1945.1). 2 Swiss francs

The League of Nations in 1944

THE latest edition of *The League of Nations: Work and Buildings* (herewith) dates from early in 1939. In the section entitled "The League of Nations in the Past and in the Future", the following passage occurs (page 6): "When the nations desire to return to the ways of peace and to resume international co-operation—which will inevitably come about, whether the present crisis ends in peaceful settlement or in war—they will be bound to use the methods initiated and practised by the League of Nations".

In 1940 or 1941, the reading of this pre-war prophecy might have evoked regretful incredulity in some friendly quarters or scorn from the enemies of the first attempt—and a very great one which might well have been successful—to establish order and law between nations. To-day, in every continent, and between statesmen and peoples in all continents, the preparation of post-war international organisation is proceeding and, in these discussions, nobody is prepared to reject, in their entirety, "the methods initiated and practised by the League of Nations", although there may be many who think that those methods will need to be amended and perfected with due regard to the experience of the past.

The belief that the League of Nations would be revived—perhaps even under another name and in another form—prevented the dissolution of the international institution in the darkest days of the war and enabled it to be maintained with most of its vital technical activities, however circumscribed by war conditions.

There are still forty-four Members of the League. Neither the Council nor the Assembly has met since 1940 and the more political activities of the