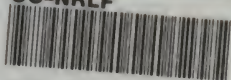


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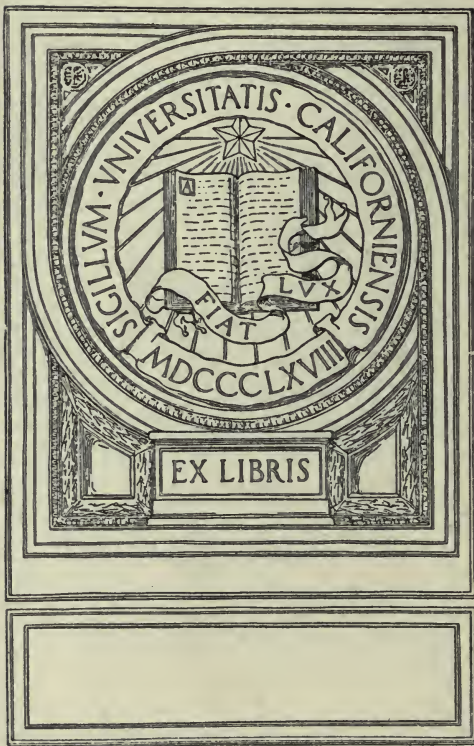
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LEAGUE OF NATIONS

CONFERENCE

ON

International Co-operation
in Statistics.

AUGUST 14th and 15th, 1919.

LONDON :
HARRISON & SONS,
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LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN STATISTICS.

HELD AT 117, PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.

August 14 and 15, 1919.

The Economic and Finance Section of the provisional organisation of the League of Nations invited members of the Institute of Agriculture at Rome, and of the International Statistical Institute at the Hague, and of the Bureau founded in connection with that Institute, together with other leading statisticians, to a Conference at 117, Piccadilly, on August 14 and 15, 1919.

The objects of the Conference were to discuss the relations of the League with the Institutions referred to above, and also in general the way in which the new League organisation could profitably assist the development of international co-operation in statistics.

The League of Nations and its organisation are not yet formally established, and the members of the Institutions referred to came without mandates from their respective governing bodies. The discussions were of necessity, therefore, of a preliminary character, and there was no intention of arriving at decisions of a binding character. At the same time, those attending the Conference, though not fully representative of the whole statistical profession, included a considerable number of its leading members. The discussion, therefore, proved of great value in indicating the direction in which further action could best be undertaken, and it was deemed expedient to record what proved after discussion to be the general sense of the meeting on a number of specific questions.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION.

Thursday, August 14th.

SIR ERIC DRUMMOND extended a welcome to the members of the Conference, and expressed a hope that their work would be of value in developing International co-operation in statistics.

Signor DRAGONI made a suitable reply on behalf of the visiting members.

Mr. SALTER (in the Chair) explained that the main objects of the Conference (which were set out more fully in the proposed agenda, Enclosure 2) were to discuss the relations of the League of Nations with existing International statistical organisations, particularly the Institute of Agriculture of Rome and the International Statistical Institute, with its permanent bureau at the Hague; and to consider the best way in which the League organisation could assist the development of international co-operation in statistical work. He emphasised the provisional character of the discussions at the present meeting, which could not well arrive at binding decisions.

M. METHORST then read a paper (Enclosure 4) on the work of the Permanent Office of the International Institute of Statistics at the Hague, copies of which were circulated to those present. While the chief work hitherto accomplished had been in the field of demographic statistics, preliminary work had also been done covering nearly the whole of international statistics with the exception of commercial statistics.

Mr. SALTER directed attention to the fact that the question of determining the relations of the League of Nations with the two bodies represented was totally different in the two cases, inasmuch as the International Institute of Agriculture is an official Governmental body, whereas the International Statistical Permanent Bureau is private and unofficial.

Signor DRAGONI noted that the Institute of Agriculture comes under Article 24 of the League Covenant. The constitutional question would be discussed later with the Secretary-General, but only for purposes of information, as every decision regarding the International Institute of Agriculture must be reserved to its Permanent Committee. In the meantime, he was pleased to discuss its relations in the sphere of statistics. He desired to draw attention to one important fact which had been brought out by the experience of the International Institute of Agriculture, viz., that the greatest difficulty in the organisation of international statistics was to persuade the National Governments to unify their system of collecting and preparing statistics. The most important task of the League of Nations in this sphere would be to persuade the statisticians to introduce greater uniformity, which should at any rate be sufficient to provide a more adequate basis of comparison.

Signor RICCI explained the statistical organisation of the Institute of Agriculture (see Enclosure 5), a living example of effective and useful permanent collaboration between Governments. The Institute was the centre of a network of agricultural statistics covering the whole world. For example, with regard to figures of areas sown and to production, the Institute sends out questionnaires to correspondents in each country, who are all Government officials. Their publications are well known, and cover the field of agricultural production. In addition, however, it was found necessary to deal with figures of imports and exports of agricultural products, with the movements of wholesale prices, and with many other matters of general economic interest. Attention had also been given to theoretical work, and monographs on various statistical questions were already published.

M. LUCIEN MARCH expressed the view that uniformity of statistical methods might be obtained more satisfactorily by private exchange of views between the officials concerned than by Governmental action or by exercise of authority by an official body.

He recalled that the International Institute of Statistics, founded in 1885 as a consequence of the International Congresses held periodically since 1855, is a private association composed of official heads of statistical bureaux and of unofficial statisticians, economists, etc. It thus includes persons concerned both with the preparation and with the use of statistics.

Its composition, its traditions, and the results which it has obtained, are a guarantee of its competence for the supervision of international statistics.

With a view to the co-ordination of these statistics, the Institute formed, in 1913, the permanent office, the work of which has been explained by M. Methorst. This office might be affiliated to the League of Nations for dealing with any statistics other than those with which the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, or the International Labour Office are concerned.

Signor DRAGONI expressed the hope that the League of Nations would exercise moral authority, though it could not impose uniformity by force. International Statisticians assembled in their private capacity would give the League of Nations this moral authority in the field of statistics.

Signor RICCI added a few words on the methods by which the Institute of Agriculture had succeeded in influencing Governments. The Assembly being representative of all Governments has political authority, and decisions taken by it are binding. The prestige and influence of the Institute were shown in the improvements effected in the organisation of official agricultural statistics in several countries. He suggested, therefore, that official organisation was essential for many purposes, but, at the same time, he emphasised the psychological importance of unofficial contact between chiefs of official statistical bureaux, as is obtained, for example, in the periodical meetings of the International Institute of Statistics.

LORD ROBERT CECIL opened the afternoon meeting with a welcome to the representatives of the several bodies present, and illustrated the importance of statistics in the sphere of international administration from his experiences during the War in connection with the Blockade work, the Allied Maritime Transport Council, and the Supreme Economic Council.

Mr. SALTER remarked that the work of the Institute of Agriculture, and the International Institute and its bureau, had been fully explained. It might be desirable that some reference should now be made to the other main institutions, existing or contemplated, which would be dealing with international statistics.

Mr. BUTLER referred to Article 396 of the Treaty, which definitely imposed upon the International Labour Office the duty of collecting information with regard to all matters affecting industrial life and labour. He pointed out that the Labour Office is similar to the Institute of Agriculture in being official. Unlike that body, however, it includes a non-official element, viz., representatives of employers and trade unionists, which facilitates its task in obtaining industrial statistics.

With regard to labour statistics, he mentioned specially that the figures of unemployment, which are now generally deficient, would be specially discussed at the forthcoming Conference at Washington. An improvement was also particularly desirable in the case of occupational statistics.

Mr. SALTER referred to the establishment of an office at Brussels under an International Convention concluded immediately before the War with regard to the preparation of an international classification of imports and exports. He stated that he understood it had been suggested that this Institute might cover the whole field of commercial statistics.

M. VARLEZ stated that, according to his information, the Institute had been suspended during the War, but proposed to continue its activity.

Signor RICCI thought that the aim of the Institute was more modest than had been suggested, and did not extend over commercial and economic statistics generally. The Bureau had, in fact, published a proposed classification of imports and exports. This was confirmed by Mr. FLUX, who explained the object of the Brussels Convention, and stated that all countries had agreed to send figures of trade regrouped according to uniform international classification.

Mr. FLUX described the object and character of a new monthly Bulletin prepared for the Supreme Economic Council and designed to summarise the economic position of certain principal countries. He stated that the Council had now appointed an International Statistical Committee to take over the responsibility for the publication of this Bulletin. This organisation, he thought, would enable the usefulness of the Bulletin to be greatly increased. (Copies of the first number were circulated.)

Mr. SALTER then summarised the discussion, and drew attention to the following points which had emerged :—

- (1) The whole field of international statistics is not covered, and there are important gaps in the existing organisation.
- (2) In general, each body tends to specialise upon one group of statistics, *e.g.*, Agricultural, Demographic, Imports and Exports classification, and Labour.
- (3) Each of these bodies, while specialising on one group, also tends inevitably to deal less thoroughly with other groups as well.

There were thus two main problems—to fill up the existing gaps, and, so far as possible, to avoid overlapping. He asked how the League Secretariat could best help—whether by conference such as the present, by undertaking definitely the work of co-ordination, or by promoting international conventions to be submitted to the Council and Assembly of the League.

Sir HENRY REW considered that the initial point was to delimit functions. He emphasised the difference between the International Institute of Statistics and the Permanent Bureau of Statistics at the Hague. The latter might specialise in a particular group of statistics as a body separate from the International Institute, which was itself concerned with the principles and methods of all statistics. He suggested that general statistics fell into four main groups :—

- (1) Agriculture.
- (2) Industry, trade and finance.
- (3) Labour.
- (4) Demography.

Sir THOMAS ELLIOTT pointed out that the Institute of Agriculture covered a very much wider field than statistics. It aimed at becoming an Agricultural Department concerned with all aspects of agriculture. He looked for similar developments in other fields, *e.g.*, the Labour Office and an Institute of Health. He was against excessive concentration in Geneva, and thought that the example set by the King of Italy might be followed by other heads of States in founding bodies similar to the Institute of Agriculture. He was, therefore, in favour of decentralisation as regards locality, but agreed that central co-ordination was necessary, and that this might take the form of a Central Advisory Council at Geneva.

Sir HENRY REW and Sir ALFRED BATEMAN made the point that it was overlapping in the compilation of statistics that was especially to be avoided. In their use and publication overlapping did not so much matter, and was, in fact, necessary.

Signor DRAGONI associated himself with the view that the League of Nations would gain by having outposts in various localities for different purposes.

Sir ATHELSTANE BAINES emphasised the necessity for co-ordination, not only as between the different International Bureaux and Institutes working under the auspices of the League, but the still more important

work of co-ordination and critical survey of the statistical work of the various Governments by some central statistical authority.

M. LUCIEN MARCH referred to the feature of the International Labour Office mentioned by Mr. Butler, viz., that it contains, in its governing body, non-official representatives of employers and labour. So, too, it should be with statistics. In any Central Governing Body, it would be necessary to include non-official representatives. It was of the utmost importance that statistics should escape any suspicion of being biassed by political considerations.

Further discussion took place with regard to the possibility of arriving at a satisfactory determination of the field covered by the proposed groups, which it was thought by Sir Thomas Elliott should not be regarded as exhaustive.

Mr. SALTER pointed out that, in view of interdependence of the several items on the Agenda, the Conference had found it desirable on the first day to have a general discussion covering practically the whole range. It would probably be desirable to confine discussion on the following day to certain definite questions and suggestions, and to attempt to ascertain the general sense of the meeting on each of them.

Sir THOMAS ELLIOTT proposed that, for this purpose, a list of suggestions made in the course of the first discussion should be prepared and circulated, and Mr. Salter undertook to do this.

A report of a conversation with Mr. Hoover, forwarded by Mr. Fosdick, was read to the Conference. Mr. Hoover emphasized the need for a uniform system of price index numbers and suggested that the organization of the League of Nations might also be utilised to secure the prompt collection and circulation (in some cases by cable) of economic statistics, particularly as to raw materials, which are not adequately dealt with by existing institutions.

Friday, August 15th.

The following "Suggestions for Discussion" were circulated in accordance with the decision of the previous day :—

Suggestion 1. That, in principle, there should be a separation of the main classes of statistics, and that these should be entrusted to several different bodies or institutions working in connection with the League.

Suggestion 2. That, in general, although this principle may not be capable of universal application, the bodies entrusted with the several classes of statistics should be those which are concerned with the other aspects of the subject to which the statistics are respectively appropriate, *e.g.*, Institute of Agriculture, International Labour Office.

Suggestion 3. That the main classes of statistics may be usefully specified as the following four :—

(a) Commercial, industrial and economic.

(b) Agricultural.

(c) Labour (including employment and wages).

(d) Demographic (including health, vital and criminology (?)).

Suggestion 4. That the institution of a Central Advisory Council to meet normally at the seat of the League is desirable, this Council being constituted partly of members of the separate statistical bodies referred to before, and also of outside persons who are concerned rather with the use of statistics than with their preparation.

After some discussion, it was agreed that paragraph 4 of the Suggestions for Discussion circulated, should be taken first, *i.e.*, the institution of a Central Advisory Council at Geneva.

Mr. SALTER said that it had been suggested that, if such a Council were formed, it should include four different types of persons, viz. :—

- (1) The theoretical statistician.
- (2) The administrative statistician.
- (3) The business man using statistics in a big business.
- (4) An economist.

Sir HENRY REW thought that the representatives should include say three to be nominated by the International Institute of Statistics, and six to be proposed by the League of Nations (these figures to be regarded as purely tentative) and representatives of the principal statistical organisations throughout the world.

This Council would be empowered to decide vexed questions, *e.g.*, which office should deal with the question of mining, and the Advisory Council would also have power, if they thought fit, to refer any question of general principle for the consideration of the International Institute of Statistics.

Sir THOMAS ELLIOTT considered that the International Statistical Institute should not be considered a final Court of Appeal. He agreed that the Council should consist partly of members of the separate statistical bodies and institutions referred to in Suggestion I, partly of representatives of the Institute of Statistics, and partly of persons directly nominated by the Council of the League. The representatives nominated by the Council of the League should, he thought, include persons concerned rather with the use of statistics than with their preparation. The Advisory Council would recognise the International Institute of Statistics as the scientific authority.

Signor RICCI thought that it was neither possible nor desirable to establish a scientific supremacy and control of the International Institute of Statistics over the International Bureaux which collect and publish statistics. Members of that Institute *could*, but the Directors of the International bureaux *should*, be appointed as members of the Advisory Council, with no less authority than the former. He was of opinion that in the Advisory Council

many questions must arise of such a technical character as to be comprehended only by the particular bureau which specialised in that class of work.

Mr. FLUX suggested that the appointment of special representatives of the International Institute of Statistics to the Advisory Council was unnecessary, as the Institute had no official standing, and was, in fact, in a state of suspended animation ; in addition to which these would be included amongst the representatives of the official statistical organisations in the usual course. He did not consider that any private institution should be empowered to appoint representatives to the Council.

Sir HENRY REW pointed out that, though the International Institute of Statistics only meets once in two years, and has not been actively in operation during the War, the bureau attached to the Institute is an active body, and should have power to nominate representatives.

Mr. FLUX considered it desirable that the International Institute of Statistics should deal with any technical problems which might be submitted to it from time to time, but did not think that, for this purpose, any formal reference of such matters to the Institute by the Council would be required or the presence of delegates of the Institute on the Central Council.

Sir THOMAS ELLIOTT thought that the Institute should appoint special representatives and be definitely mentioned in the proposal, although it should not be considered the final Court of Appeal.

Sir ATHELSTANE BAINES was of the opinion that the wording of the motion should be left general, and all reference to the International Institute of Statistics should be omitted.

After further discussion, the following wording was agreed to as representing the general sense of the meeting :—

- (1) " That the institution of a Central Advisory Council on Statistics, to meet normally at the seat of the League, is desirable ; this Council

being constituted partly of members of the separate statistical bodies referred to hereafter, and partly of statisticians and other persons nominated by the League. Such persons to include some who are concerned rather with the use of statistics than with their preparation."

A discussion was opened on *Suggestion* (1), that, in principle, there should be a separation of the main classes of statistics, and that these should be entrusted to several different bodies or institutions working in connection with the League.

Signor DRAGONI, replying to a suggestion made by M. Varlez, expressed the opinion that statistics furnished by unofficial or trade union organisations are of great importance, but are not to be placed on the same level with statistics compiled by official institutes. The Industrial and Employers' Organisations supply the raw material of statistics for the use of the official bodies, but these organisations are too often prejudiced and self-interested, and regard statistics more as a means than an end. Whether the official bodies are to be in constant touch with the unofficial organisations or not is quite a different question, and he emphasised the necessity of answering that question in the affirmative.

Signor RICCI identified himself with this last statement, and pointed out that there are private sources of information and statistical publications for practically every trade and production. The meeting, however, was concerned with official statistics, and it would obviously be impossible to include all small private associations. He considered that in the future four or five large International bureaux of statistics would be quite sufficient. These bureaux of course will gather and utilise, if necessary, the publications of the numberless existing smaller bodies.

M. VARLEZ laid stress on the fact that the organisations dealing with statistics were much more numerous than those which had been indicated during the discussion.

The international associations of workers and employers, the groups of societies for public service, the international official commissions, and many other bodies besides, furnish international publications, interesting in many respects, which we cannot neglect to include in the Statistical Organisation of the League of Nations.

Mr. BUTLER remarked that the officially recognised Bureaux could draw material from private organisations without the direct recognition of the latter. The Labour Office for example, would no doubt make a point of keeping in touch with private organisations, especially with those of employers and workers.

The following Motion was then agreed :—

- (2) “ That, in principle, there should be a separation of the main classes of statistics, and that these should be entrusted to several different bodies or institutions working in conjunction with the League.”

Suggestion (2), as to the principle that statistics should be compiled by an organisation dealing, like the Institute of Agriculture and the Labour Office, with other aspects of the subject to which the statistics related, was then discussed.

This principle had been proposed by Sir THOMAS ELLIOTT the previous day, and was now supported by him.

After some discussion, the sense of the meeting was that, while the principle applied in the case of the two bodies cited as examples, it was dangerous to lay it down as one of general application, and suggestion (2) was therefore not adopted.

A discussion then ensued on Suggestion (3) “ That the main classes of statistics may be specified as the following four :—

- “ (a) Commercial, industrial and economic.
- “ (b) Agricultural.
- “ (c) Labour (including employment and wages).
- “ (d) Demographic.”

Sir THOMAS ELLIOTT proposed that the Bureaux concerned with these should be, in the case of Agriculture, the

Institute of Agriculture at Rome, and, in the case of Labour, the International Labour Office.

Sir HENRY REW suggested that the International Institute of Statistics should be entrusted with all statistics relating to demography, that being the work upon which they had been more especially engaged in the past.

Sir THOMAS ELLIOTT urged that it was important that the meeting should not bind themselves for the future as to the exact demarcation of the other proposed Bureaux. He considered, for example, that a Health Institute was bound to come, and its activities might very properly include some of the statistics classed under the heading of demography. Again, Fisheries' statistics would be of great use, and might reasonably be included in the work of the Council for Exploration of the Sea.

M. VARLEZ then suggested the appointment of a committee to report on the best method of allotting the responsibility for different classes of statistics. He considered that, until such a committee had done careful preparatory work, no useful conclusions could be arrived at.

Signor DRAGONI agreed with Sir Thomas Elliott that we must consider the technical uses of statistics, *e.g.*, Transport and Finance. He considered that it was most important that the seats of these international bodies should not be Geneva, but should be decentralised according to the nature of the work undertaken. For example, London was the obvious centre of financial activity, and Transport and Industrial Production centres should also be situated in the most convenient positions for acquiring the necessary information.

M. LUCIEN MARCH considered that this principle should not be carried too far. He pointed out that if the theory of Signor Dragoni prevailed, the obvious seat for the Bureau of Agriculture would seem to be Washington or Canada, not Rome.

Sir HENRY REW again put forward the suggestion that, in the case of Demographic statistics, the Bureau at the Hague should be adopted as the official organisation.

Sir THOMAS ELLIOTT considered that this would only be desirable as a purely temporary measure, and, if a Bureau of Health was established, all vital statistics should be entrusted to it.

Sir HENRY REW and Sir THOMAS ELLIOTT then agreed that, in the case of Demographic statistics, the International Bureau at the Hague should be recognised as a temporary measure.

M. VARLEZ said that he was opposed to any delimitation at present beyond that of Agriculture and Labour, and M. LUCIEN MARCH stated that he did not consider it desirable for the moment to proceed with any fixed demarcation of duties.

Sir HENRY REW suggested that Demography should be allotted to the Hague as a purely tentative and provisional arrangement. To this Sir THOMAS ELLIOTT agreed, and, after further discussion, the following statement of the sense of the meeting was eventually agreed :—

- (3) “ That these bodies should be, in the case of Agricultural statistics, the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome ; in the case of Labour statistics, the International Labour Office ; and, for the time being, in the case of Demographic statistics, the Permanent Bureau of the International Institute at the Hague.”

M. LUCIEN MARCH then moved that a Committee be appointed to consider the definite distribution of statistical work between the various bodies connected with, or proposed to be connected with, the League of Nations, and to prepare a report for submission to an International Conference of Statisticians, and it was agreed, on the suggestion of Signor DRAGONI, seconded by M. VARLEZ, that the Secretary-General should be asked to appoint such a Committee.

The following resolutions were agreed to unanimously :—

- (4) That a Committee be appointed to consider the definite distribution of statistical work between

the various bodies connected with, or proposed to be connected with, the League of Nations, and to make suggestions, if thought desirable, for the establishment of other bodies than those already referred to.

- (5) That the appointment of such a Committee, if thought advisable, should be undertaken by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.
- (6) That the above Committee, if appointed, should prepare a Report for submission to the Secretary-General on the matters referred to.

It was understood that the Committee would be a small one, and Sir HENRY REW suggested that it should include representatives of the Institute of Agriculture, the International Statistical Institute, the Labour Office and the League Secretariat.

A discussion then followed as to the best method of ascertaining whether the recommendations of such a Committee would be such as to secure the general assent and support of the statistical profession throughout the world, which was obviously desirable in view of the importance to statistical work of any action taken by the League in recognising certain bodies for defined classes of statistics.

For this purpose, the summoning of a large and representative International Conference of Statisticians was suggested.

Sir THOMAS ELLIOTT, however, opposed the proposal for a large congress, and Sir ATHELSTANE BAINES suggested that existing societies might be circularised and asked to state their views on the Report.

Finally, the following resolution was agreed :—

- (7) That, when the Report is completed, the Secretary-General should endeavour to obtain the views of international statisticians upon the questions dealt with in as representative a manner as possible.

The Conference then terminated.

STATEMENT RELATING TO THE PERMANENT OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS.

The International Institute of Statistics is an Association, which aims at the promotion of scientific and administrative statistics. It was founded in London on June 24, 1885, and it has ever since endeavoured to develop the various branches of statistics.

The number of members is strictly limited, they are chosen among directors of the official statistical offices, members of central commissions for statistics, members of statistical societies and other persons, who have distinguished themselves in this branch of science.

There must not be more than 200 ordinary and 20 honorary members. Thanks to the restriction the International Institute has been able to work in such a way that the results have been generally appreciated by the various Governments. It has, however, been admitted that this work would grow in importance if a permanent office were founded, which would gather and study the statistical documents and information of the various countries, in order to arrive at publishing an international statistical year book, and other works, of which the need was daily more felt.

The International Institute was not established by general treaty, it is a private institution, in which 27 countries are represented. Official delegations represent their Governments at the Sessions, which under normal circumstances are held every other year, all expense being defrayed by the country, where such a session takes place.

It follows that the International Institute constitutes an independent body, as it has always been considered desirable that international statistics should be dealt with by competent authorities, under whose impartial direction the matter would be thoroughly and scientifically treated.

The same holds good for the permanent office, the establishment of which was proposed at the Paris Session in 1909. This proposal was put to the vote at the Hague in 1911, and a Commission was appointed to prepare the necessary detail of its organisation. There were lively discussions on this point, but the majority declared that the permanent office should be placed under the authority of the International Institute of Statistics. And this was indeed a happy solution, for among its members the Institute counts the very best of statisticians, whose clear insight and judgment are indispensable for the success of this new enterprise.

In the Easter Holidays, 1913, a Conference was held in Rome, where the presiding members and the members of the Commission for this subject met, and in September, 1913, the general assembly adopted the rules for the new office at the 20th Session. These rules run as follows :—

I. AIM.

ARTICLE 1.

1. The permanent office of the International Institute of Statistics shall gather, study and preserve in its library and archives the statistical documents of the various States and international offices. All information, which is useful for international comparison, will be selected ; in the first place such information as bears on *Demography*.

2. It shall, through permanent activity, facilitate the unification of methods, means of elaboration, ways of publishing, that the results may be as much as possible comparable.

3. As soon as possible it shall publish an international Statistical Year Book, a periodical, and if there be occasion, other works as well, in which side by side with statistical tables a bibliography will be found, and notices bearing on the progress and the new proceedings, which take place in certain countries, and which it would be expedient to make universally known.

4. It shall help the " Bureau de Présidence " to prepare the programme of each Session.

The use of languages is to be prescribed by the Statutes and in keeping with the custom of the International Institute of Statistics.

II. ORGANISATION.

ARTICLE 2.

The seat of the permanent office shall be that of the International Institute of Statistics.

ARTICLE 3.

The permanent office is placed under the authority of the Institute represented by its presiding members. It is directed by the Secretary-General.

ARTICLE 4.

With the approval of the presiding members, the Secretary-General may appoint one or more heads of department, and the staff needed for the activities of the permanent office.

III. WAYS AND MEANS.

ARTICLE 5.

The expenses of the permanent office are to be defrayed by :—

1. A subsidy of the International Institute of Statistics ; the amount of which is to be fixed by the General Assembly.
2. The subsidies, which the Institute undertakes to solicit of States and Associations :—
3. Gifts and legacies.
4. The proceeds of publications, &c.

ARTICLE 6.

The administration of the permanent office is to be distinctly apart from that of the International Institute. None of the sums at the disposal of the permanent office must be used for any purpose, except those mentioned by Article 1.

ARTICLE 7.

The annual statements of the administration of the permanent office, and the annual accounts shall be presented by the Secretary-General at each Session of the Institute.

ARTICLE 8.

In case of liquidation of the permanent office, the General Assembly shall decide what use is to be made of the balance in hand, and shall also appoint the liquidators.

In keeping with these rules the permanent office has been operating at the Hague since November 1, 1913.

Just at first the work consisted chiefly in a vast correspondence with the presiding members in order to arrive at a clear notion of the right way in which to start.

A circular was sent to the directors of the Statistical Bureaux all over the world, requesting them to send their publications to the library of the permanent office. This request has met with a most favourable reception; we receive all important publications, both of old and recent date. All these books and periodicals are immediately entered on cards, so as to make reference convenient.

The first task to be performed by the permanent office being the publication of an international Year Book, a scheme was drawn up, and approved of by the presiding members. In keeping with the rules laid down in Article 1, we have begun with *Demography*.

The series of seventeen tables relating to Demography reached their destination before this most terrible war upset the whole world. It need hardly be said that the postal communications being interrupted in many instances, we have had to face the greatest difficulties, especially with regard to the detailed correspondence on the subject of the information, which has been requested for the tables.

Many letters went astray, others reached their destination only after several months, sometimes after a year, the result being an enormous loss of time.

We are glad, however, to declare that thanks to the great courtesy, which we have invariably met with, wherever we applied for help, we have always been able to continue our work, and we have all the time felt that the International Institute was, in spite of the tumult of war, that which it was originally meant to be, *i.e.*, an international centre, *to* which, and *from* which flowed a continual stream of information, which formed the necessary links between the scientific, statistical bodies of the world.

The permanent office feels the need of expressing deep gratitude towards the members of the Institute, and all

other competent authorities, for thus having collaborated, in order to guarantee the success of the work undertaken.

This collaboration was all the more important, as it was first given in a period of preparatory work, from which depended so much for the future—preparatory work that was started under very unfavourable circumstances.

In October, 1916, we were able to publish the first volume of our *Annuaire International*, viz., I, *Etat de la Population (Europe)*; it was followed in March, 1918, by II, *Mouvement de la Population (Europe)*, and we hope to be able to publish at the end of this year a third volume: III, *Etat et Mouvement de la Population dans les Pays hors d'Europe*, of which the proofs have been printed.

It is fixed principle with the permanent office to send all tables and proofs for revision and completion to the individual countries. The result is that we very often receive more recent information or new sets of tables, as for instance in the case of the United States of America, where Mr. Rogers, Director of the Bureau of the Census, Washington, has a few weeks ago kindly provided us with a great number of minutely and carefully drawn-up tables, *the figures of which have not previously been published*. Consequently we dispose through this most valuable help of Mr. Rogers of entirely new matter, for which we are deeply indebted to him.

For volumes I and II of the *Annuaire* the names of the persons, who have thus helped us, are mentioned in the prefaces. Among these M. March, Chief of the "Statistique Générale de la France" takes a foremost place. In the third volume, too, our gratitude will be expressed to all those who have sent us valuable information.

Besides *Demography* the permanent office has, in conformity with article I of the rules for the permanent office, and with the express wish of the presiding members, undertaken the study of other international statistics, which are to provide material for the Year Book, as it has been thought that the permanent office may be called upon to produce statistics, which will be needed for the reforms, which the various Governments must certainly be disposed to undertake on the conclusion of the War.

With the exception of the Adjunct-Secretary, the permanent office has no regular staff, but some 40 people, officials of the Central Bureau of Statistics in the Netherlands, and others, have from the very beginning given their free time to the work of the *Annuaire*. They receive remuneration in proportion to the work done. Consequently the permanent office is able to study a great many subjects simultaneously.

Series of tables and "questionnaires" have been sent to our colleagues, with the request to return them with their valuable observations and the information desired.

For a few subjects, for which we have found excellent information available, we have had the great advantage of borrowing from the existing publications—Year Books, for instance—which enabled us to draw up concise schemes for the *Annuaire*.

The work is steadily increasing, and it is hoped that it may become more and more productive.

With regard to the subjects the permanent office is now studying, an attempt is going to be made to gather information *annually*, so as to arrive at the regular publication of a real *Year Book*, which would always put the most recent information at the disposal of all those interested in statistics.

I will now state some details with regard to the international statistics the permanent office is dealing with.

A. In the first place: *Primary Instruction*.—Information will be given relating to different categories of schools, as well as to pupils and staff. These statistics will include infant schools, primary schools, preparatory schools and training colleges. They also show particulars about schools for adults, evening classes, and Sunday schools, as long as the latter do not exclusively occupy themselves with religious instruction. Moreover these statistics include instruction to the blind, the deaf and dumb, and to other abnormal children.

A distinction is made between public and private schools, and the figures of staff and pupils will in each case be stated by sex. Information has been gathered as much as possible for the years 1880, 1885, 1890, 1895, 1900 and

following years, and the countries included are: Great Britain, France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Russia, Finland, Roumania, Serbia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Bulgaria, Germany, Netherlands, United States of America, Canada, British Indies, Japan, Australia, Algeria, Chili, Argentine, Guatamala. The permanent office is now making researches into secondary and higher instruction.

B. Strikes and Lock-Outs.—Information relating to strikes and lock-outs in 1899 and following years has been gathered by the permanent office for these countries:—Italy, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Austria, Germany, United States of America, Canada and Australia.

This information bears on the numbers of strikes and lock-outs, and on the numbers of strikers and other persons involved in these conflicts; also on loss of time in working-days, and the result of the disputes, and, finally, these researches include inquiries concerning the methods used, and the definition of the terms: *Strike and Lock-Out*.

To the following countries, for which we did not dispose of any information, we have now sent blank tables with "questionnaires," viz., to Argentine, Bolivia, British Indies, Bulgaria, Egypt, Hungary, Japan, Luxemburg, Mexico, Portugal, Roumania, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, Uruguay and Switzerland. Some answers have already been received. To the first group of countries the proofs have been sent with the request, kindly to correct and complete, and a *detailed* "questionnaire" was enclosed, relating to the method used for gathering the information, a specimen was added in the shape of a "questionnaire" with the information relating to the Netherlands. Very valuable answers have been received from a number of countries.

Want of Employment.—The permanent office has endeavoured to arrive at a summary, showing the rate of want of employment among organised labourers in the years 1910 and onward. A uniform table has been used. Information has been gathered for the following countries: France, Belgium, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Den-

mark, Austria, Germany, Massachusetts, State of New York, Australia.

When the proof sheets are going to be sent to the various countries we mean to include other countries as well in these researches.

Labour Registries.—The permanent office has endeavoured to arrive at a summary showing the activity of public and private labour registries in the years of 1900, 1910, 1912, 1913, &c.

A uniform table has been sent to nearly all the countries of the world with the request kindly to fill it up with the necessary information. Tables furnished with information, explanatory notes or publications from which figures could be borrowed, have been received from Great Britain, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Hungary, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands. Answers are still expected from France, Australia, Luxemburg, Portugal, Argentine, Canada and Massachusetts.

Wages and Hours of Labour.—These statistics will show tables, which are meant to give as complete as possible a summary of *wages and hours of labour* in a great number of countries in and outside Europe.

We try as much as possible to get the most recent information, as well as that of former years, as long as the data are comparable. We have received information from various States; some of these have returned the proof sheets, which we sent; others have just received these, whereas some tables are ready to go to press. These countries are:—Great Britain, France, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Finland, Spain, Roumania, Bulgaria, Austria, Germany, Netherlands, British Indies, United States of America, Columbia, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, San Salvador, Mexico, Peru, Guatamala. A correspondence is still being carried on with some twenty other countries, of which some have informed us that they cannot give any data relating to these statistics. For each country there will be a list showing the principal publications, in which information relating to wages and hours of labour is to be found.

Collective Labour Contracts.—We intend to publish a summary of the figures of collective labour contracts, as well as of enterprises and the labourers concerned in various countries. The manuscript is ready to go to press. In these tables we give a summary, showing the extent and the development of labour contracts of these countries, for which we dispose of information. The various countries have been good enough to furnish information relating to the nature of these contracts and to the importance of certain figures. This additional information is to be found in explanatory notes, which have been added to the tables. The following countries are included:—Great Britain, France, Sweden, Denmark, Massachusetts, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands.

Cost of Living.—The statistics relating to cost of living form, so to say, a continuation to the publication in Vol. XIX, third part of the “Bulletin de l’Institut International de Statistique.” It contains information about the same countries and tables relating to other countries have been added. All figures have been gleaned from official publications, and the figures, which we have found, have served as a basis for the calculation of the index-numbers:

Just at first we intended to take the year 1900 as a basis, but as it is not advisable to take as a basis the prices of one single year whose rise or fall might affect the prices of all the following years, we have decided to replace this mode of calculation as much as possible by a calculation which is based on the average prices of ten years, *i.e.*, the years 1896–1905. Only in those cases where this calculation was impossible, have we used the prices of 1900 or some later year as a basis. The figures, which we meant to insert have been sent to the various countries for inspection, and our colleagues have kindly added very valuable corrections and fresh information. The actual price, which has served as a basis, has as much as possible been indicated over the index-numbers. Answers have been received from the following countries:—France, Great Britain, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Hungary, Germany, Japan, United States of America,

New Zealand, Canada and the Netherlands. The tables are ready to go to press.

Trade Unions and Associations.—The permanent office has gathered information relating to trade unions and associations, and tables are ready to be sent to our colleagues with the request kindly to correct and complete as much as possible.

We have not yet succeeded in gathering uniform information. The following countries are included in these researches: Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, Serbia, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany and the Netherlands.

Limited Liability Companies.—When we undertook the study of statistics of limited liability companies we soon found that it was impossible to glean uniform information from the Year Books of the various countries, and for that reason, and with the agreement of M. Neymarck of Paris, a scheme was drawn up and sent to the Statistical Offices, to the effect that over 40 copies of this circular, accompanied by explanatory letters, were sent off. Questions have been put as to the number of the existing limited liability companies, the number of the companies whose shares may be negotiated at the Exchange, the capital paid in (*capital versé*), the nominal value (*valeur nominale*), and the real value (*valeur vénale*) on December 31.

A certain number of Bureaux sent us at once useful information; some did not dispose of the information desired, whereas a few others could not for the moment comply with our request owing to lack of time, and decreased staff.

Co-operation.—A preparatory examination proved that for statistics of co-operation we should dispose of other sources besides those available in statistical Year Books and publications on co-operation. The greatest difficulty is usually caused by the fact that the different classifications prevent our arriving at the essential uniformity.

With the agreement of the Secretary of the International Co-operative Alliance in London, the International In-

stitute of Agriculture in Rome, and the President of the Co-operative League in the Netherlands, we have drawn up a circular letter, which was sent to the statistical offices, and which will, if necessary, also be sent to the Co-operative Leagues.

Emigration and Immigration.—As the result of a correspondence carried on with M. Bodio, President of the International Institute of Statistics, and with the agreement of the Director of the Netherlands Bureau for Emigration and Immigration, two sets of tables were sent to over 40 Bureaux; they were accompanied by *questionnaires*, a summary relating to each individual country, and an explanatory letter.

For those tables we have asked information relating to emigration and immigration by age, sex, marital condition and profession. Very useful information has been received in many instances, the greatest difficulty being caused by the definition given in different countries of the terms "emigrant" and "immigrant." Special attention will, however, be paid to the very divergent acceptations of these terms.

Post, Telegraphy and Telephones.—For the statistics of post and telegraphy, and telephone, we have requested the "Bureau International de Berne" kindly to advise us on the choice of certain figures, which are borrowed from the "Statistique générale du Service postal," and the Swiss "Jahrbuch für Verkehrswissenschaften." We have profited by the excellent advice of this Bureau, which enables us to publish information relating to postal, telegraphic, radio-telegraphic and telephonic services.

Agriculture.—For statistics of agriculture the permanent office has drawn up tables, for which the figures were borrowed from the publications of the "Institut International d'Agriculture" in Rome, viz., the "Annuaire international de Statistique agricole," "Répartition agricole du Territoire des différents Pays," "Statistique des Superficies, de la Production végétale, et du Bétail dans les Pays adhérents." After having consulted Prof. Ricci, "Chef du Service de la Statistique générale de l'institut

International d'Agriculture," we have selected the most suitable information. M. Ricci presented a report on this subject at the 13th session of the International Institute of Statistics.

Railroads.—For the statistics of railroads schemes of tables, accompanied by explanatory letters were sent to the authorities concerned in various countries, and we are glad to say that we have received very valuable advice, and replies to the questions put. Those tables have been drawn up with the purpose of gathering figures showing the length of principal railroads, of secondary railroads and tramways, and of other railroads, in the years 1850, 1860, 1875, 1880, 1890, 1900 and 1910.

For each of the years 1910–1915 we mean to insert information relating to the length of principal railroads and the length of secondary railroads and tramways, both divided into 14 categories, to the length of other railroads, and to the proceeds as regards both passengers and goods.

Finance.—For the statistics of finance we applied to the members of the special commission appointed by the International Institute of Statistics, and although the letters did not all pass the Censor, a preliminary table, for the year 1913, was drawn up, and sent to those members, whose answers had reached the permanent office. It is thought that this table may serve as a basis for international financial statistics, and now that circumstances are getting more normal again, we are going to send it off to the directors of the statistical offices with the request to insert the figures desired. Their replies will prove whether this table is sufficient, and the observations they may be good enough to add will be very precious for future work.

Criminal Statistics.—As to criminal statistics, a correspondence has been carried on with several countries; tables and "questionnaires" were drawn up, but we found that it was altogether impossible to establish any statistics in war time, England being the only country from which we received information. It is now proposed that new efforts be made as regards this subject.

Insurance.—The statistics of insurance include old age, and health and accidents. Preliminary studies are being made.

Housing (Dwellings).—As regards housing, letters were sent off to a great many countries with the request to fill up a table, and to furnish additional information. Inquiries have been made as to the number of rooms in houses, the number of families occupying one house, and the number of occupants belonging to one household, for countries and the larger towns.

Professions and Trades.—After a correspondence carried on with M. Bertillon, of Paris, who has compiled an international nomenclature for professions and trades, we have come to the conclusion that it was impossible to establish these statistics yet. We hope to take the subject up again as soon as possible.

Navigation.—As regards these statistics, preparatory investigations are being made.

As I said before, all these subjects have been undertaken simultaneously, and it is hoped that at the beginning of 1920 we may be able to publish a new volume of the annuaire, which will contain as many as possible of the various statistics mentioned above.

Commerical Statistics.—You will be aware of the fact that no mention has been made yet of International Commercial Statistics. This is no omission, but for the time being the permanent office has not undertaken these researches, because it was suggested before the war that they should be reserved for a special bureau at Brussels. If these researches are going to be undertaken, we shall at any time be glad to give all the help we can.

If the Economic and Finance Section of the League of Nations should wish to suggest other subjects of research, I should be obliged if you would kindly let me know.

It has been proposed by M. Lucien March, Director of the "Statistique Générale de la France," that the permanent office should undertake the publication of a *monthly periodical*, showing the wholesale prices of principal articles, and their most important markets. This

proposal has been warmly endorsed by M. Delatour, Vice-President of the International Institute of Statistics and also by M. Julin, Secretary-General at the "Ministère de l'Industrie, du Travail et du Ravitaillement" at Brussels.

We have succeeded in finding a number of correspondents who are willing to provide us regularly with the necessary information, and we have also collected numerous commercial papers and periodicals, from which the figures may be gleaned.

In the second place we endeavour to give a summary of such index-numbers as are published for instance in :—The *Economist* and the *Statist* (England); the "*Bulletin de la Statistique Générale de la France et du Service d'observation des Prix* (France); the *Wholesale Prices Bulletins, Dun's Review, Annalist* [Bread Street Company, Weekly Market Letter, by Thomas Gibson (U.S.A.)]; *Italia Economica* (Prof. Pacchi); Labour and Industrial Reports (Australia); Annual Reports on Wholesale Prices (Canada); Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the Netherlands.

The articles will be divided into groups, and information will as much as possible be given for the earliest years for which it is available.

This new publication will be in keeping with Article 1 of the rules for the permanent office.

In future the permanent office hopes to be able to realise the other tasks as shown by Article 1, Paragraph 3; it was altogether impossible to undertake them in war time, but now that a brighter future seems to be dawning, the permanent office will certainly be able to develop greater activities, fully convinced that it may rely on the help and courtesy of all those who, in these first five very difficult years of its existence, have done all they could to lighten its task.

STATEMENT RELATING TO THE BUREAU OF STATISTICS OF THE INTER- NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRI- CULTURE.

I.—AIMS AND CONSTITUTION.

The Bureau of Statistics is supplied with data, which comes *directly* from the various Governments *only*; in exceptional cases, however, material from private sources may also be utilised, but only after the sanction of the Government of the country has been obtained.

In every adhering country the Institute's Bureau of Statistics has one or more official correspondents from whom data are asked, and who supplies periodically the material needed. One correspondent is in most cases the head of the general or of the agricultural statistics department in that country, another is the head of statistics of imports and exports. In this way there has been arranged through the Institute an international network of statistics, at the centre of which is the statistical section of the International Institute of Agriculture.

All the countries adhering to the Institute are, so to speak, so many *provinces of the world*, and the Bureau of Statistics carries out from their national statistical data the same work of co-ordination and synthesis as the departments of the various countries do from each administrative or political division of their State. Hence the Institute's Bureau of Statistics acts as a superior organ of synthesis for the agricultural statistics of the whole world.

Being at the centre of a veritable *international statistical organisation* of its own, the Bureau in question is able not only to collect and co-ordinate the data from the various countries, ask for and receive information in doubtful cases, but also to *suggest* in suitable ways to the various national departments whatever *reforms* would ensure greater homo-

geneity and comparability among the data. This constitutes another characteristic aim of the International Bureau of Statistics.

A millionaire might, in a generous moment, present to agriculturists an office which, like the Bureau of Agricultural Intelligence of the International Institute of Agriculture, would review the technical agricultural literature of the whole world and publish a monthly bulletin on the progress of agriculture; but no private person or society of private people, however rich and influential, would be in a position to create an office which, like the Bureau of Statistics of the International Institute of Agriculture, could have for correspondents the heads of the agricultural statistical departments of the various countries.

The Bureau is divided into two sections, of which one is occupied mostly with agricultural *production* and the other with the *commerce* in agricultural products.

As it has not to compile new data, but only co-ordinate the results of compilations already made by national offices, the International Bureau of Statistics does not require manual workers to make extracts from schedules or other statistical material, but requires a select staff, accustomed to research and scientific elaboration.

II.—THE MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Every month the Bureau publishes a *Bulletin of Agricultural and Commercial Statistics* dealing with the areas cultivated, crop conditions and yield for various products; live stock statistics; trade statistics and stocks; prices, exchange and rates of ocean freight, of certain agricultural products.

A. For this purpose the activity of the Institute was first of all directed towards organising an international service of *statistics of production*. This service must not be confined to ascertaining the results of harvests. The so-called *final estimates* of crops—which, even if final, are then also approximate, as are all the results of any statistics, and especially those relating to agriculture—cannot be known until some months after harvest, when a great

part of the product has been contracted for and sold. These data therefore are of little or no use to the contracting parties, who want to have data beforehand, and especially forecasts.

Hence a complete service of agricultural production statistics should include various objects, which may be grouped under three heads :—

- (a) Statistics of the *areas* sown or planted, and of the areas that have been actually harvested.
- (b) Determining the *crop conditions* by means of index figures. The best indices are those whose term of reference (the number 100) corresponds to a predetermined *yield*; for example, an average yield.
- (c) Statistics of production proper, which should include a *forecast* when harvest is near, followed by a *final estimate*.

In the first two years of the Bulletin, *i.e.*, in 1910 and 1911, the statistical service was limited to the *cereals* (wheat, rye, barley, oats, maize and rice) and *cotton*, as those were considered by the General Assembly to be the most important for the world's trade. In 1912 the service gradually extended to the following other products : sugar beet and cane, linseed, vines, tobacco and silk-cocoons. Other products are being added by degrees, and at present the Bulletin gives data also on the potato, olive, hemp, hop and rape crops.

B. In the Bulletin data are also published for *live stock*. Whenever the results of a census or periodical yearly estimate become known are published.

C. Besides the agricultural and live stock data, the Bulletin contains a section devoted to commercial statistics. These comprise :—

- (1) Trade statistics (*monthly imports and exports* of nine products : wheat, wheat flour, rye, barley, oats, maize, rice, cotton and linseed ; and monthly imports and exports of wheat and cotton for the principal importing and exporting countries from the commencement of the commercial season).

(2) Stocks (wheat, rye, barley, oats and maize).

These form a most necessary part of the calculation for ascertaining the consumption of the cereals in the different countries.

D. The financial section of the Bulletin is devoted to *prices, rates of exchange and rates of ocean freight.*

The tables on prices comprise statements of the prices on spot and for forward delivery of wheat, rye, oats, barley, maize, rice and cotton.

III.—INTERNATIONAL YEAR BOOK OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

Besides its Bulletins, the Bureau of Statistics published a *Year Book of Agricultural Statistics*. The Bulletins contain the most recent reports and figures which the Institute has available, and which may enlighten the public on agricultural production, whether preliminary or final data, numerical data or information on the state of the season. Each Bulletin supersedes the previous one as the data change from month to month, according as sowing is carried out, growth proceeds or crops ripen. On the other hand the Year Book contains only final data, and may become a manual for consultation by whoever is concerned with questions on agriculture and the trade in agricultural products.

The first Year Book published contained data up to 1910, the second to 1911 and 1912, the third to 1913 and 1914, and the fourth to 1915 and 1916.

The Year Book has an index in English, French, Italian, Spanish and German, so that it may be consulted by anyone. The data include the following : Area and population of all countries ; division of the total area into productive and unproductive areas with subdivisions ; area and yield of various crops (wheat, rye, barley, oats, maize, rice, potatoes, sugar beet and cane, vines, olives, coffee, hops, tobacco, cotton flax and linseed, hemp, rape, sericulture) and live stock statistics. There are also given tables showing the number of live stock and extent of productive

area compared. The commercial part shows the trade in agricultural products, consumption, prices, rates of ocean freight and rates of exchange.

At the end the Year Book deals with fertilisers and chemical products useful to agriculture, showing production, international trade and prices.

IV.—STATISTICAL CARD CASE.

In order to keep the Year Book up to date the Bureau keeps a statistical card case of agricultural production, which serves also for other purposes. The method of keeping the data is that every statistical datum should be inscribed on the proper card.

Every day as the clerks make extracts from official publications or schedules returned by Governments, and find preliminary or final figures on crops with which the Institute deals, they fill up the cards and put them in place in the cases, *without destroying the other cards*. Anyone who wishes to know for any country adhering to the Institute, the latest figure of area or yield for some particular crop, instead of consulting the original publications, which are not always accessible and easily handled, and in which the data are expressed in very diverse units of measure, has only to open the drawer in the case, which refers to the required country, and in a few seconds he finds the datum reduced to decimal measure, with the source indicated.

V.—STATISTICAL NOTES ON CEREALS.

In a very short sketch like the present it is impossible to notice the other publications of the Bureau; whether periodical (statistics of chemical manures and of cattle food) or not (monographs on the organisation of official statistics and upon different theoretical questions concerning agricultural and commercial statistics).

However, it seems advisable to mention a periodical publication begun during the war, which will probably acquire an evergrowing importance in the future; it is

Statistical Notes on Cereals, issued every six months, in April or May and October. Its fundamental aim is to trace a comparison between world supplies and world requirements of the principal cereals in order to show whether during the coming agricultural season there will be a surplus or a deficiency of food. Tables are given of areas harvested, yields, stocks, imports and exports, estimates of consumption for every country so far as they are available, and for each hemisphere; also tables of prices and freights.

VI.—PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENTS.

Besides publishing the Bulletin and Year Books, the Institute has an equally important scope for activity, none the less important in that it is invisible and unknown to the public, and certainly more characteristic. This is to exercise a general pressure on the Governments to induce them:—

- (1) To organise a service of agricultural statistics, if they have not one at present.
- (2) To include in their service the products which the Institute deals with, if they are not already included.
- (3) To reorganise or perfect their statistics so that the results may be more homogeneous with those of other countries, both as regards the object of the statement and as regards the modes of expression and the dates of publication of the same results.
- (4) To induce the Governments to publish results sooner. Up to the present, good results have been secured in obtaining the inclusion of required material in reports, in obtaining more uniform classifications and in having results published earlier or by certain dates.

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS APPROVED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATISTICIANS.

While not having the character of binding decisions, the following suggestions met with general support:—

1. That the institution of a Central Advisory Council on Statistics, to meet normally at the seat of the League, is desirable ; this Council being constituted partly of members of the separate statistical bodies referred to hereafter, and partly of statisticians and other persons nominated by the League. Such persons to include some who are concerned rather with the use of statistics than with their preparation.

2. That, in principle, there should be a separation of the main classes of statistics, and that these should be entrusted to several different bodies or institutions working in conjunction with the League.

3. That these bodies should be, in the case of Agricultural Statistics, the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome ; in the case of Labour Statistics, the International Labour Office ; and, for the time being, in the case of Demographic Statistics, the Permanent Bureau of the International Institute, at the Hague.

4. That a committee be appointed to consider the definite distribution of statistical work between the various bodies connected with, or proposed to be connected with, the League of Nations, and to make suggestions, if thought desirable, for the establishment of other bodies than those already referred to.

5. That the appointment of such a committee, if thought advisable, should be undertaken by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

6. That the above committee, if appointed, should prepare a report for submission to the Secretary-General on the matters referred to.

7. That, when the report is completed, the Secretary-General should endeavour to obtain the views of International Statisticians upon the questions dealt with in as representative a manner as possible.

APPENDIX I.

Present.

Sir Athelstane Baines, C.S.I.	Member, International Institute of Statistics.
Mr. A. E. Balleine	Board of Agriculture.
Sir Alfred Bateman, K.C.M.G.	Late Treasurer, International Institute of Statistics.
Mr. H. Butler, C.B.	Secretary, Organisation Committee, International Labour Conference, League of Nations.
Signor Dragoni	Secretary-General, International Institute of Agriculture at Rome.
Sir Thomas H. Elliott, Bart., K.C.B.	Late British Delegate, International Institute of Agriculture.
Mr. G. S. W. Epps	— Government Actuaries Department.
Mr. A. W. Flux	Assistant Secretary, Statistical Department, Board of Trade.
Dr. F. Giannini	— Italian Section, S.E.C.
Mr. A. Henry	Government Actuaries Department.
Mr. T. T. S. de Jastrzebski.	General Register Office, Somerset House.
Mr. E. M. H. Lloyd	Economic and Finance Section, International Secretariat.
Mr. A. Loveday	Economic and Finance Section, International Secretariat.
M. Lucien March	Director de la Statistique Générale de la France.
Miss M. W. Maxwell, M.B.E.	Secretary.
M. H. W. Methorst	Secretary-General of the International Institute of Statistics.
M. Milliot	With M. March.
Dr. I. Nitobe	Under Secretary-General, League of Nations.
Mdlle. Quanjer	With M. Methorst.
Sir Henry Rew, K.C.B.	Treasurer, International Institute of Statistics.
Signor Umberto Ricci	Chief of Statistical Section of International Institute of Agriculture at Rome.
Mr. J. A. Salter, C.B. (Chairman).	Director of Economic and Finance Section, International Secretariat.
Dr. T. H. C. Stevenson, M.D., C.B.E.	General Register Office, Somerset House.
M. Varlez	Director of Labour Section of International Secretariat.

APPENDIX II.

PROPOSED AGENDA.

1. Introductory remarks.

2. The relation between the Secretariat of the League of Nations and existing international organisations dealing with statistics.

3. Present organisation for collection and co-ordination of international statistics including the following classes :—

(i) Production	...	...	} Commercial, Economic and Financial :—	
(ii) Imports and exports	...	...
(iii) Prices	...	...		(a) Agricultural.
(iv) Transport	...	...		(b) Industrial, &c.
(v) Population (including vital)	...	...		Demographic.
(vi) Employment and wages.	...	...		Labour.

Desirability of any further organisations for above purposes.

4. Desirability of preparation and publication by League of Nations of a statistical summary.

Cf. draft bulletin prepared by British Department of Supreme Economic Council.

5. Appointment of an International Advisory Council on statistics ; and international conferences of representative statisticians.

6. Any other business.

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