LEAGUE OF NATIONS

ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSIT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY INTO THE REFORM OF THE CALENDAR

THIRD SESSION

Held at Geneva, June 23rd and 24th, 1926.

The Committee was composed of the following:

Jonkheer W. J. M. van Eysinga, Professor at the University of Leyden (appointed by the Advisory and Technical Committee), *Chairman*;

The Rev. Father Gianfranceschi, President of the Academy "Dei nuovi Lincei" (appointed by the Holy See);

Professor D. Eginitis, Director of the Observatory of Athens (appointed by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople);

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips, Secretary of the Royal Astronomical Society of London (appointed by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury);

M. C. Bigourdand, formerly Chairman of the International Astronomical Union’s Committee on the Calendar (appointed by the Advisory and Technical Committee);

Mr. Willis H. Boorn, late President of the International Chamber of Commerce (appointed by the Advisory and Technical Committee).

*Secretary*: M. Romein, Member of the Communications and Transit Section of the Secretariat of the League of Nations.
FIRST MEETING

Held at Geneva on Wednesday, June 23rd, 1926, at 11 a.m.

Chairman : M. van Eysinga.

Present : All the members of the Committee, with the exception of the Rev. Father Gianfranceschi who was unable to attend.

Also present : Mr. J. Kingsley Rooker, of the International Chamber of Commerce, assisting Mr. Booth.

Secretariat : M. Haas, Secretary-General of the Communications and Transit Committee; M. Romein, Secretary of the Special Committee.

Opening of the Session.

The Chairman regretted the absence of Father Gianfranceschi, who was unable to be present at the session, and welcomed Professor Eginitis, whose important duties had not prevented him from coming to Geneva.

Agenda.

The Chairman reminded them that at its last session the Committee had been able to indicate the main outlines of the work to be submitted to the Communications and Transit Committee. On that occasion, the Committee was convinced that the question of Easter, with a reservation as to the approval of the religious authorities, might be considered ripe for action after supplementary data had been collected. The Committee had also already made considerable progress with the other problems of calendar reform, and he had arranged the measures to be considered as follows:

1. Equalising of quarters within the scope of the present calendar;
2. Establishment of a perpetual calendar;
3. A year of twelve or thirteen months.

The enquiry carried out by the Secretariat at the request of the Committee had enabled it to obtain extremely interesting answers from the International Chamber of Commerce and from the educational authorities. The Committee would be able to note in its report to the Communications and Transit Committee the absence of any objections to the fixing of Easter and the very strong reasons which militated in favour of this reform.

He proposed to devote the present session to examining data concerning Easter, which would, no doubt, allow a final report to be established; the Committee would also be able to discuss the main outlines of that part of its report which would deal with the other reforms. The Secretariat could then draw up a report to be submitted to the Communications and Transit Committee at its next session.

This procedure was approved.

Fixing of the Date of Easter.

The Chairman desired to draw the attention of his colleagues to the brief but very interesting letter received from the Netherlands in favour of the fixing of the date of Easter on the second Sunday in April. He had been present in person at the meeting of the Educational Council of the Netherlands when the question was considered, and he noted that great enthusiasm had been displayed, especially on the part of the representatives of elementary education, with regard to the advantages of this reform undertaken on the initiative of the League of Nations, the result of which would be to divide the interval between Christmas and the summer holidays into two equal parts.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips said that the suggestion had been made—by the Rev. D. R. Fotheringham in the Church Times of March 20th, 1925—that Easter should be on the Sunday following the second Saturday in April. If it were fixed on the second Sunday in April, it might fall on April 8th, and in that case the Annunciation (March 25th) would synchronise with Passion Sunday, a disadvantage which would be avoided if Easter fell on the Sunday following the second Saturday in April. Although he could not speak for the Church of England, he thought that this solution might be approved by that body.

Mr. Booth asked whether the Church of England had any other objections to the fixing of the date of Easter or whether it proposed any other alterations.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips replied that the Canterbury Convocation had not pronounced in favour of any particular Sunday. According to the views which had been expressed, it appeared that the Church of England was of opinion that the date of Easter might be fixed approximately in the middle of the period in which it fell according to the present calendar.
Mr. Booth drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that the replies to the questionaire distributed by the International Chamber of Commerce had laid stress on the expediency and the need of fixing the date of Easter. It appeared to him that the slight modification mentioned by the Rev. T. E. R. Phillips would certainly be acceptable to the International Chamber of Commerce.

Professor Eginitis thought the solution suggested by the Rev. T. E. R. Phillips would have the further advantage, from the point of view of holidays, of bringing Easter nearer the middle of the month. He also thought the solution proposed might be accepted on the religious grounds put forward by the Rev. T. E. R. Phillips.

M. Bigourdan proposed to replace the expression "fixing" by that of "stabilisation", having regard to the fact that the date of Easter would of necessity remain somewhat variable as long as a perpetual calendar were not adopted.

*This modification was approved.*

The Chairman observed that the data collected confirmed the Committee in its belief that the question of the stabilisation of Easter was ripe for action. This fact might be noted in the report to the Communications and Transit Committee, where mention would naturally be made of the present difficulties, the absence of objections and, on the other hand, the strong reasons militating in favour of reform; it should also be stated that the religious authorities would first have to pronounce an opinion. Attention should be drawn to the favour with which the proposed reform had been greeted in educational circles, and this would no doubt facilitate the decision of the religious authorities.

Mr. Booth proposed that the Secretariat should prepare a concise and complete report which should help to make the reform acceptable within the limits proposed. This report would show that the principal religious bodies were not opposed to the reform, which, moreover, appeared extremely desirable for practical reasons.

The Chairman proposed that at its next meeting the Committee should draw up a plan of its report to the Communications and Transit Committee.

**List of Measures contemplated for the Future : General Discussion.**

The Chairman reminded them that, in the preliminary report to the Communications and Transit Committee, the Committee had classified the other questions raised by the proposed reform of the calendar, while eliminating the very great number of proposals which went too far. As far as he remembered, the Secretariat had received 185 reform schemes.

**Auxiliary Calendars.**

The Chairman suggested that, in addition to the three stages mentioned, reference should be made to the auxiliary calendars adopted in a certain number of administrations.

Mr. Booth feared that this proposal went beyond the Committee's competence. What they should aim at was a calendar capable of universal application; this was not the case with the present auxiliary calendars, which were to some extent of local interest and were extremely numerous. In the United States of America, three or four large firms used different calendars. If, however, the Committee was of opinion that the mention of auxiliary calendars would be useful from an educational point of view, a paragraph might be devoted to them at the end of the report.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips pointed out that, at its first session in 1923, the Committee had considered the resolutions adopted by the Calendar Reform Commission of the International Astronomical Union at the Rome Congress of 1922, which had dealt with the question of the auxiliary calendar.

Mr. Booth said he would not press his previous objection if the Committee was of a contrary opinion. He wondered, however, whether calendars presenting only a local interest were worth consideration.

M. Haas did not think it necessary to make a recommendation in favour of the adoption of a particular form of auxiliary calendar, but it would be well to mention such calendars; in the first place, to show that a need was felt in many circles for a calendar other than the existing universal calendar; secondly, with a view to the education of public opinion, which should be accustomed to the idea that the present calendar is an arbitrary system and that it is possible to modify it.

Professor Eginitis was also of opinion that auxiliary calendars should be mentioned as containing points which might be of service for the ultimate adoption of a universal calendar. However, there would be disadvantages in pressing the claims of any particular auxiliary calendar.

The Chairman noted that the Committee agreed to insert in the report a paragraph relating to auxiliary calendars, setting forth the reasons stated by Professor Eginitis and M. Haas.
Universal Calendar.

Mr. Booth asked whether the Committee was yet in a position to pronounce in favour of a complete reform of the calendar and to agree on a particular form of universal calendar.

The Chairman thought that his colleagues were unanimous in the view that the various draft reforms of the calendar had not reached the same degree of maturity as the proposal to fix the date of Easter. Certain schemes had been eliminated and the Committee had decided to retain others for consideration. He suggested that the Committee should discuss these measures and consider in the first place whether the initial step, namely, the equalising of the different parts of the year within the limits of the present calendar, was of sufficient importance to be recommended. As to the general question raised by Mr. Booth, it seemed to him that the present Committee, whose task was to study the different proposals, should submit to the Communications and Transit Committee only the positive results of its work. In the case of Easter, the Committee had unanimously arrived at an affirmative decision. As regards the other measures, although reform seemed necessary at a more or less distant date, the time had not yet come for the Committee to decide on a particular system. The Committee had eliminated a certain number of proposals, and even as regards the first three stages under consideration the Governments and public opinion in the various countries were not yet in a position to express any view. The Committee had already cleared the ground, but it would be useful if the data collected on the three measures contemplated were once more sifted by discussion in the various countries. When the first questionnaire of the Committee was sent out, the problem was quite new to the majority of administrations consulted, and they had no views on the subject. The Committee had tried to arrange the investigations according to a definite plan. If the Committee itself thought that the time was not yet ripe for submitting a definite scheme of calendar reform, as it was in a position to do in the matter of Easter, would it not be premature to agree on such a scheme? It would not be time to do this until the Committee’s new report had been discussed in the various countries. To sum up, when the question of Easter was settled, the other questions should be carefully investigated afresh in the various countries by the scientific, ecclesiastical, administrative, commercial and other authorities.

Report to the Communications and Transit Committee.

In answer to a question by Mr. Booth, M. Haas outlined the report of the Committee to the Communications and Transit Committee as conceived by the Secretariat. When the question of Easter was settled, it should attempt to draw up conclusions which showed that the Committee had done useful work allowing progress to be made with the proposals for a general reform of the calendar. The positive results arrived at were as follows:

- The Committee had collected very complete data which constituted an indispensable preliminary to any serious consideration of the question.
- Secondly, the Committee had carried out a work of classification and elimination which would allow it to focus the attention of public opinion on a definite number of problems.
- Furthermore, the report should emphasise the fact that, under present conditions, it was not possible to arrive at an immediate solution to which the Governments would be prepared to agree.
- Since the sending out of the questionnaires, what had been principally lacking was an effort in each country to co-ordinate the various religious, scientific, administrative and economic points of view and allow the Governments to form a mature opinion. It should be pointed out in the report that no result could be obtained until contact had been established between the various elements concerned in the different countries by means of a national committee or any other method.
- It might then state what were the problems to be studied with the aid of this organisation, and the difficulties arising with regard to each of the three series of measures mentioned should be pointed out to the authorities particularly interested in each question.
- In the case of the first and the most simple stage, namely, the equalisation of the length of the quarters within the scope of the present calendar, the bodies concerned were not so much the religious as the administrative and commercial bodies.
- In regard to the blank day, in view of the opposition which it had aroused, it was not for an international authority to express an opinion on the importance to be attached to any particular consideration. Opinions should be collected from the various religious elements in each country, and more especially from the Jewish and Protestant bodies, which should be brought into touch with each other.
- Assuming the question of the blank day to be settled, there would remain the question of the year of twelve or thirteen months, which was more or less a matter of indifference to religion, and which especially concerned the commercial world, the administrative authorities and the statisticians. It would be necessary to carry out an enquiry in each country in all these spheres as to the relative importance of the quarter, the month and the week.
- A report drawn up on these lines would show that the Committee had achieved positive results. Further, as the Chairman had suggested, it would be advisable to ask for fresh opinions, and the League of Nations would not only hold itself at the disposal of the national organisations, but would remain in regular contact with them.

Mr. Booth did not think that the time had come for submitting these questions to an international conference, for the various national representatives would naturally be inclined to support
any system which had already been tried in their respective countries, and it was hardly likely that an agreement would be reached in an atmosphere of partiality. On the other hand, he would be sorry to see these investigations removed from the sphere of action of the League of Nations, which was the organisation best qualified to throw light on the problem and to create a movement of public opinion in favour of a solution. Future success would be a question of propaganda.

M. Bigourdán reminded them of the experience of the International Astronomical Committee. The national committees had been asked to express their views, but it proved absolutely impossible to co-ordinate the work of the various committees, and the International Committee gave up the attempt, saying that astronomy had done its best.

The Chairman replied that there was no question of taking the matter out of the hands of the League of Nations; on the contrary, what M. Haas had said was that public opinion should be canvassed in every country. With this end in view the Committee had collected data, eliminated certain proposals, and drawn up a list of the questions to be studied. Would the experience mentioned by M. Bigourdán be repeated? Probably not. Further, difficulties would necessarily diminish in the course of time, and, if the League of Nations resumed the consideration of the question and later appointed a fresh committee, the latter would perhaps find the situation much simplified. Of course, it might continue its enquiries at once, but without much chance of reaching better results. It was preferable to allow all the bodies interested to continue their work, which would be greatly facilitated by that of the present Committee, it being understood that the question of the fixing of Easter would be treated on a different footing and would possibly be settled in the next few years.

Professor Eginitis pointed out that the present Committee, being a technical committee, had been set up to collect views and to express an opinion. Its report would be communicated not only to the League of Nations but also to the civil and ecclesiastical authorities in order that investigations should also be carried on outside the League. The Governments and the various authorities concerned should therefore be supplied with all the material necessary for forming a judgment. The report of the Committee should accordingly be as complete as possible and should include a table of the arguments for and against the various systems to be considered. The present Committee should not separate without having expressed an opinion on them.

SECOND MEETING

Held at Geneva on Wednesday, June 23rd, 1926, at 4 p.m.

Chairman: M. Van Eysinga.

Present: All the members who attended the preceding meeting.

Report to the Communications and Transit Committee (continued).

The Chairman noted that all his colleagues were substantially in agreement on the question of the date of Easter. As regards the exact form to be given to the passage of the report dealing with this question, it seemed to him that the present Committee of Enquiry should be content to point out to the Communications and Transit Committee the position of the question, emphasising the importance of stabilising the date of Easter, but not recommending a definite solution. Some members of the Committee were to some extent unofficial representatives of certain churches. It would be preferable to allow the Communications and Transit Committee to submit a practical formula to the Assembly. The presence of M. Haas and M. Romein on the Committee of Enquiry as well as on the Communications and Transit Committee was a sufficient guarantee that the final resolution submitted to the Assembly would be suitably drafted.

The Chairman's remarks were approved.

List of Measures contemplated for the Future: General Discussion (continued).

The Chairman consulted his colleagues as to the fundamental question: Was it worth while altering the present quarters merely for the sake of establishing more uniformity between the four quarters within the scope of the calendar now used?
Professor Eginitis considered that this reform would be useful chiefly in the case of banks, so that the general public would derive some practical advantage from it. While the scheme did not rouse great enthusiasm, it had met with no opposition and apparently would be accepted without difficulty. However, was not this problem connected with that of the 12 or 13 months?

The Chairman replied that the two questions were different. In the present case, they were dealing with a reform to be carried out within the limits of the present calendar.

M. Bigourdian also declared himself in favour of the proposed reform. One of the advantages of the republican calendar was that it ensured a constant correspondence between the days and the date of the month. The equalising of the quarters would have a similar advantage, for it would only be necessary to remember on which day January 1st fell in order to know the day of the week of the first of the following months. If, for example, January 1st fell on a Sunday, February 1st would be a Tuesday and March 1st a Thursday, and the order of days would be the same in the following quarters, the only alteration taking place in the fourth quarter, which would have an extra day. In addition to the advantage for banks mentioned by Professor Eginitis, there would also, for the general public, be an advantage similar to that of a perpetual calendar.

Mr Booth added that this reform would have the advantage of not being at variance with solutions which might be adopted as regards the year of 12 or 13 months.

The Chairman observed that this reform would, on the whole, constitute a certain progress. It was possible, however, that the objections to the blank day would eventually disappear. As every change always aroused opposition, was it opportune to recommend an initial reform of limited scope which might be followed fairly soon by another more extensive reform?

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips drew attention to the possible effect of this reform on the date of the Spring equinox.

M. Bigourdian, without placing the question of the equalising of the quarters on the same footing as that of the stabilisation of Easter, which might be considered immediately feasible, thought that the reform of the quarters should take place immediately after the reform of Easter, owing to the objection to the blank day raised not only in Jewish circles but even in lay circles.

Professor Eginitis was of opinion that if it was impossible to carry out a more complete reform in the near future, at least the reform of the quarters should be recommended, as it had already been suggested by several scholars and the Congress of Rome had proposed it.

He further pointed out the importance for meteorology of the regularisation of the months. The Geodesical and Geographical Union had met last year at Madrid, where there was a meteorological section. The Director of Meteorological Services in the United States of America, who had been unable to attend the meeting, had written to request the Union to pronounce an opinion in favour of the reform of the calendar. The President of the meeting and Professor Eginitis had pointed out the need for this reform in meteorology and had succeeded in obtaining a unanimous vote in its favour. The Conference, which had to pronounce finally on the resolutions voted by the sections, proposed in the name of the Union of Scientific Academies that the reform of the calendar should be carried out and, on the proposal of Professor Eginitis, decided to communicate the result of its vote to the League of Nations.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips reminded the Committee that Mr. Alexander Philip had proposed what was the simplest method of equalising the quarters and one likely to meet with less opposition, viz., that of merely transferring August 31st to the end of February.

The Chairman thought that this suggestion might be mentioned, without, however, indicating its source.

Mr. Booth thought that, on the conclusion of its work, the Committee of Enquiry could only submit a summary of its discussions to the Communications and Transit Committee. However, the Committee might point out that the most rational method of arriving at complete reform of the calendar would be to carry out a series of successive reforms:

1. The first reform would be the equalising of the quarters within the limits of the present calendar; the considerations already mentioned would be adduced in its support.
2. The second measure would consist in accustoming public opinion to the introduction of a blank day by showing the advantages of this reform.
3. When the ground was thus prepared, they would decide what use to make of the blank day with a view to a perpetual calendar with a year of 12 or 13 months.

M. Haas thought that the question might be expressed in the following way, without departing from the main principles he had outlined at the previous meeting for the drafting of the report. The Committee would recommend that enquiries should be made to discover whether it was possible to agree on the fundamental question of the blank day, and on the subordinate question of choosing between the year of 12 months and the year of 13 months, it being impossible to solve the latter question until the question of the blank day had been decided. The League of Nations would keep in touch with the organisations carrying out this enquiry. The Committee might
say here and now that, if after a reasonable time it saw no possibility of introducing a blank day, it would be in favour of introducing the moderate reform of equalising the quarters. Thus certain difficulties would be obviated which would inevitably arise if they recommended that the less extensive reform be adopted in the first place and the question of the blank day considered later.

M. Bigourdan, Professor Eginitis and Mr. Booth agreed with the remarks of M. Haas.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips wondered whether the reform of the quarters was not in itself sufficiently desirable to be considered apart from the question of blank days. Perhaps this reform was even more important from certain points of view, for example, as regards the payment of salaries.

Mr. Booth pointed out that it would already require a considerable effort merely to obtain the standardisation of quarters and the public might wonder whether this effort was not out of proportion to the result. On the other hand, if the blank day were introduced, the complete reform of the calendar would be much easier. After all, the Committee’s chief aim was the introduction of a perpetual calendar, and such a result justified the great efforts which would have to be made.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips replied that there was practically no opposition to the standardisation of quarters, while there were very strong objections to the blank day. It would be advisable to try to obtain the most accessible reform and not postpone it till after the solution of the other question, which was far more delicate.

Professor Eginitis pointed out that the reform of the quarters would not be a substitute for the other reform but would bring obvious advantages and obviate certain disadvantages in the present calendar. There was therefore nothing to be lost and much to be gained by carrying out the first reform even if the second proved impracticable.

The Chairman thought that there was only a slight distinction between the Rev. T. E. R. Phillips’ view and that of his colleagues. Mr. Booth was in principle a supporter of the most complete reform, but if it appeared impracticable he thought they might revert to a limited reform. The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips, on the other hand, considered that the limited reform presented enough advantages to be carried out in the first place, while they might afterwards attempt a more sweeping reform. Personally, the Chairman wondered whether it was worth while exposing themselves to the difficulties involved by any innovation to obtain what was on the whole a rather meagre result.

M. Haas thought that there had possibly been a misunderstanding. In any case, nothing could be effected immediately; they would need previously to influence public opinion by means of national organisations. If after a certain number of years they saw that it was impossible to obtain the most complete reform, they would come back to the limited reform, that is to say, the standardisation of quarters.

Mr. Booth asked by what means the change in the calendar would be carried out. Formerly, this was done by act of the religious authorities. To-day, it would need universal consent.

The Chairman answered that the reform would be carried out through the medium of a general convention.

M. Haas said that if only the standardisation of quarters was concerned a general convention would suffice. If blank days were involved, it would be necessary, first, to obtain the approval of religious authorities and, secondly, to establish an international convention.

Mr. Booth explained the implications of the question he had raised. While he fully appreciated the force of the Rev. T. E. R. Phillips’ remarks, he feared that, if the reform of the quarters required an international convention, they would be faced by two irreconcilable factions, one of them opposing the reform merely because it constituted a change and the other considering the reform not sufficiently sweeping. In these circumstances, they would perhaps arrive more quickly at the reform suggested by the Rev. T. E. R. Phillips if they followed the programme outlined by M. Haas.

The Chairman stated his approval of this remark.

M. Bigourdan, while he agreed in theory with M. Haas, wondered whether in practice the method suggested would produce any results. Answers might be obtained from a few educated persons, but the general public would not appreciate the importance of changing the order of the days of the week and of introducing blank days. In fact, the scheme had evoked surprise even in certain educated circles.

M. Haas explained that he was not referring to individual enquiries. The correspondence which had reached the Secretariat was already sufficiently extensive. It would be necessary to arrange for the formation of a more or less official organisation in certain countries which would include authorised representatives of the principal interests involved. The information supplied by the Chairman allowed them to hope that it would not be impossible to establish such an organisation.

The Chairman added that the situation with regard to the introduction of blank days was perhaps shown in a new light by the pamphlet which Mr. Cotsworth had recently circulated to
the members of the Committee. However, he desired to reserve his opinion on this subject entirely.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips also reserved, for the present, his opinion on Mr. Cotsworth's conclusions.

M. Bigourdan said that, even assuming that Mr. Cotsworth's memorandum had a solid foundation, the real question of public opinion was based on the account of the creation of the world in six days followed by a seventh day of rest.

Mr. Booth said that, even if they succeeded in accustoming public opinion to the introduction of a blank day, the problem would not be solved, for then only would the real problem arise of deciding what use should be made of that blank day and whether they should adopt a calendar of twelve or of thirteen months. It was then that their real difficulties would begin. Consequently, while he personally considered it desirable that the idea of the blank day should be universally adopted, he did not look for a speedy solution of this question, and he agreed that they should begin by carrying out the standardisation of quarters.

M. Haas, reverting to his suggestion of the previous meeting, proposed to draw up a plan of organisation and propaganda indicating the three chief problems at issue, but without dwelling in too great detail on the importance of any particular one. If special attention were given to the question of blank days, they would perhaps run the risk of arousing apprehension when the national committees were created. On the other hand, if undue stress were laid on the standardisation of quarters, not enough enthusiasm would be aroused to allow of the achievement of this minor reform. By presenting the three problems together, they would allow time for prejudice to cool, and the supporters of the most sweeping reforms might admit of their own accord that it was better to begin by the simplest.

Professor Eginitis agreed with M. Haas' proposals. With regard to the organising work necessary for finding a solution and making it popular and acceptable, this was not within the competence of the present Committee but within that of the Communications and Transit Committee. Possibly it would be necessary to appeal to Governments, to universities, to chambers of commerce and industrial organisations—in fact, to all the competent bodies. The general public would then agree to solutions which had been thus adopted.

The Chairman asked M. Haas to draw up a draft of a report for the following meeting. Further, he begged his colleagues to decide whether they wished to recommend any particular solution for the equalisation of quarters, either on the lines of Mr. Alexander Philip's system or any other system.

Mr. Booth thought that mention might be made of the various possible methods, but that it was preferable to refrain from any definite suggestion.

M. Bigourdan observed that the Philip system had not the advantages of the system of three quarters of 30, 30 and 31 days and one quarter of 30, 31 and 31 days, but that it would no doubt be easier to secure its acceptance.

Professor Eginitis pointed out that there would be an advantage in adopting quarters of 31, 30, 30 days, with a last quarter of 31, 31, 30 days, so as to be able to insert an extra day at the end of the last quarter in leap years.

M. Romein observed that it was important to consider the question as to which quarter should contain the extra day in leap years. If it were inserted in the last quarter, which would have ninety-two days in ordinary years, this would increase the difference between this quarter and the preceding quarter in leap years, and there would be an inequality between the two half-years. On the other hand, by adding this day to the last month of the second half-year, two equal half-years would be obtained.

M. Bigourdan reminded them that one of the reasons put forward in favour of equalising the months as far as possible was that it would benefit officials who were paid monthly. Various proposals had been made; they might consider their respective value.

On a question by the Chairman, Professor Eginitis stated that he agreed with Mr. Booth that the various alternatives should merely be mentioned, without recommending any one solution.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips asked whether any mention would be made in the report of the advantages of the blank day.

M. Haas replied in the affirmative.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips, after reminding the Committee that he had been appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, stated that the Canterbury Convocation had adopted a resolution, which he read, to the effect that this reform was not considered desirable. Consequently, whatever his personal opinion might be as to the advantages of a blank day, it would be difficult for him at present to vote in favour of this reform.
M. Haas said that the report might contain a passage to this effect: "Apart from religious considerations, the blank day presents the following advantages..."

Professor Eginitis reminded the Committee that the question of changing the name of the four last months had been raised frequently. Possibly this fact should be mentioned in the report.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips saw no necessity for this.

M. Haas proposed that this suggestion might figure among those which had been rejected.

**Stabilisation of the Date of Easter (continued).**

Professor Eginitis asked the Rev. T. E. R. Phillips if he could define the general attitude of the Church of England with regard to the stabilisation of the date of Easter.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips replied by reading the resolution passed by the Special Committee appointed by Convocation to consider the reform, to the effect that the Church of England was in favour of reform on condition that it was universally adopted.

Professor Eginitis thought a solution would be much facilitated if the report added that, to the best of the speaker's knowledge, the Orthodox Church would probably agree to the stabilisation of Easter if the other Churches accepted this reform. The question was discussed some years ago at the Congress of the Orthodox Churches, and they had agreed that the Orthodox Church might consent to this reform, which would be beneficial to commerce and to the general public, if it were accepted by the other Christian Churches. It appeared to him that a mention of the statements made as to the attitude of the Church of England and the Orthodox Church in the report to the Communications and Transit Committee would assist the Holy See to pronounce in favour of the reform.

In reply to M. Haas, Professor Eginitis stated that the text of the resolution adopted by the Congress of Orthodox Churches appeared in document C. 667.M.267/1923/VIII.

Mr. Booth, on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce, expressed the view that there was no objection to the stabilisation of the Festival of Easter and that the scheme for this reform had met with considerable enthusiasm in the United States.

**Hearing of Mr. Cotsworth.**

_The Committee decided to hear Mr. Cotsworth at the beginning of the following meeting._

**Departure of Mr. Booth.**

Mr. Booth apologised for being unable to prolong his stay in Geneva. He thanked his colleagues and the Secretariat for the welcome they had extended to him and said he was at the disposal of the Committee or the Secretariat with regard to any question concerning calendar reform.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Booth for the valuable assistance he had given to the work of the Committee and the useful data he had supplied on the views of the economic world.

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**THIRD MEETING**

_Held at Geneva on Thursday, June 24th, 1926, at 3 p.m._

_Chairman: M. van Eysinga._

Present: All those present at the preceding meeting, except M. Bigourdan, Mr. Booth and Mr. Kingsley Rooker.

**Hearing of Mr. Cotsworth.**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Cotsworth, who had always been ready and willing to assist the work of the Secretariat in regard to the reform of the calendar, and asked him to submit a statement dealing more especially with his pamphlet B.
Mr. Cotsworth thanked the Committee for the opportunity given him to furnish some explanations.

"The Gregorian Calendar is now used by nearly all nations, and its influence is such that more than 300 million people in about 20 countries using other calendars before the war have since adopted it. Buddhist Mongolia adopted it last year. Mohammedan Turkey has found such benefits from its use that its Government and Legislature on May 29th, 1926, decided that at midnight next December 31st the Mohammedan year 1342 will end and the year 1927 will begin on January 1st.

Now that you have agreed to adopt the solution of the Easter problem and recommend that the present length of years should continue to begin on January 1st, may I very respectfully suggest the advisability of so wording the clause that the date ‘second Sunday in April’ may apply whether a 12- or 13-months calendar results from the International Conference, and whether the proposed insertion of blank days are accepted or rejected?

Publicity on matters of universal interest always achieves more when well-emphasised. Forces required to achieve success are dependent upon leaving open for debate the respective merits of 12 and 13 months, and, recognising the controlling factor of mass psychology, that a quick decision can remove all reasonable cause for later quibbling, because it would reduce the range of Easter’s wanderings from 35 to six days and would keep its date of celebration as near as practicable to the historic event.

For similar but more powerful reasons, our league, after extensive enquires from the ablest authorities, could find in Europe and America on international publicity, request me to urge upon your esteemed Committee that it seems very desirable, during this formative stage, to refrain from selecting any individual plan of reform, or even recommending whether 12- or 13-months calendar should prevail; because the leaders of Government and public opinion in all countries very much prefer to have the respective advantages and disadvantages submitted to them concisely in advance, to enable them to impartially develop considered convictions and intelligently consult authorities concerning.

That is also the considered opinion of all the Foreign Office officials I have been able to consult in Europe and America. They frankly state that they are relying upon your honourable Committee to circulate such necessary information, which the League of Nations is the body best qualified to collect and publish.

Following that, I am requested to assure your Committee that we are prepared by the unique facilities now at our disposal to quickly develop national and international opinion favourably by promptly publishing in leading languages such needed information as is outlined in our pamphlets A, B, and C, with such amendments and improvements as we shall be glad if your Committee would indicate.

Those pamphlets will be followed up by effective organisations in all nations, helped by attractive articles in newspapers and magazines, not only of a popular nature, but greatly strengthened by convincing articles in such chambers of commerce and business journals as the three which have already been published in the Nations’ Business with its monthly circulation of more than 250,000 copies, as the organ of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

On the popular side, the leading article and later specially illustrated article which appeared in the Saturday Evening Post, with its weekly circulation of more than 2,500,000 copies, and the 14-page article in the Atlantic Monthly that circulates among the more educated communities, may be cited as examples of what we are able to do in other countries and languages.

Beyond the agencies indicated, we purpose to help through the mutual organisations of labour, women, educational institutions, such scientific societies as those of economists, statisticians, accountants and others.

For the education to win the cordial approval of the masses, we shall co-operate with moving-picture producers, proprietors of theatres and other places of entertainment to produce visual and topical means to impress quickly all classes of people in all countries, particularly as practically all such proprietors are by the calendar compelled to work on the weekly and four weekly basis. For example, the Famous Players-Lasky Co., with more than 200 of their subsidiary combinations in nearly all countries, cannot efficiently work on any other basis. Powerful capitalist associations are at your disposal, such as the Eastman Kodak Co., which produces 90 per cent of the films, and other associations representing railway companies, steel works, etc.

"Among social agencies we are preparing to use are weekly gatherings of Rotary, Kiwanis and similar clubs, university and other debating societies, lectures, lantern slides, etc.

"Among those most interested in the reform, I should mention the director of the Meteorological Services of the United States of America, who, nevertheless, would have to make considerable alterations in his services to conform to it, but who expects to derive great advantages from it from the point of view of the comparison of meteorological and astronomical observations. I should also mention the Department of Public Health, whose statistics are rendered inaccurate by the fact that information reaching it often covers periods of ten days, which may contain two Mondays, and that the registration of deaths occurring between midday Saturday and midnight on Sunday are carried over to Monday. Under the present system, considerable calendar-caused fluctuations have also been noticed in the statistics of imports when they cover periods of ten days.

All such experienced authorities consulted are very significantly agreed that the propelling forces required to achieve success are dependent upon leaving open for debate the respective merits of 12 and 13 months, and, recognising the controlling factor of mass psychology, that a quick publicity campaign on matters of universal interest always achieves more when well-emphasised during six months than when protracted during as many years at far greater cost and effort, because under present rapidly changing conditions public interest cannot be sustained beyond a few months.
"Another guiding factor emphasised by all leaders of great movements such as this is that it would be a great mistake to show any indication of advocating reform by two or three stages which would develop confusion when simple clearness in action is required. That is the prominent lesson evidenced by the recent calendar changes in Russia, Turkey and other countries. "This reform above all others will be of universal benefit in so many ways that the query would quickly and spontaneously arise in the minds and expressions of most people as to why it was being delayed when such benefits as those listed on page 9 of pamphlet B can at infinitesimal cost be freely given within two years to all humanity by well-directed efforts through the League of Nations assembling an International Conference of Government representatives, selected from officials, employers, workers, women and educational authorities."

Mr. Cotsworth, on behalf of his organisation, emphasised the fact that, in propaganda for calendar reform, no argument should be neglected, and that they should try to enlist the support of not only scientific circles but also of the general public by bringing out the practical advantages of the reform for business and family life, etc.

There was another point which should be discussed publicly. As a general rule, too much importance was attached to the equalisation of quarters, although the equalisation of months would be of much greater value. The stock exchange statistics of companies dealt with quarterly periods, but they would be far more accurate and far more useful if they dealt with monthly periods. It was, moreover, interesting to note that the four-weeks system was increasingly in vogue in the United States of America; last year seven to eight thousand grocery stores had adopted it in their book-keeping; the figure reached fifteen thousand this year. The four-weeks system was also in force in the large meat-canning factories and warehouses and in the flour mills of the United States of America, Canada and South America. It should be noted also that promissory notes were drawn not for one, two or three months but for thirty, sixty or ninety days in order to avoid the disadvantages resulting from the inequality of monthly periods.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips pointed out that it would be impossible to arrive at the equalisation of quarters with a year of thirteen months, but quarters of thirteen weeks might be arranged.

Mr. Cotsworth replied that the largest of the British railway companies based all their statistics and all their reports on periods of four weeks, never on periods of one month. This was also the system adopted by hotels in their book-keeping and the Associations of Accountants and Book-keepers recommended their clients to adopt periods of four weeks. The equalisation of quarters only procured five per cent of the advantages which would accrue from the use of the period of four weeks.

After a discussion between the Rev. T. E. R. Phillips and Mr. Cotsworth with regard to pamphlet C, in the course of which the Rev. T. E. R. Phillips questioned the conclusions it contained that the primitive Mosaic calendar—unlike the Jewish post-exilic calendar—was purely solar and perpetual, the Chairman observed that the explanations given showed that the Rev. T. E. R. Phillips was not sure whether, after the second rest-day of Pentecost, there followed a week of six or only of five working days, while Mr. Cotsworth was, on the other hand, convinced that the week following the second rest-day of Pentecost included six working days before the next fixed Sabbath on the twelfth day of the month Sivan.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Cotsworth for his valuable observations and in general for the assistance he had been good enough to give the League of Nations. The way in which Mr. Cotsworth had grappled with the problem could not fail to arouse increasing interest in calendar reform among Jewish circles. Moreover, the campaign undertaken by Mr. Cotsworth was far more ambitious than the work of the present Committee, since for the moment the only tangible result of the latter was a recommendation for the stabilisation of the Easter festival.

Mr. Cotsworth, in his own name and on behalf of his organisation, thanked the Chairman, the Committee and the Secretariat for the cordial welcome which had been extended to him. Both his organisation and he himself were convinced that, by giving their wholehearted support to the work of the Committee of Enquiry, they would assist the latter to achieve tangible results, although this would inevitably take a certain amount of time.

(Mr. Cotsworth then withdrew.)

Draft Report prepared by the Secretariat.

The draft report drawn up by M. Haas was read.

In response to a suggestion by Professor Egnitis, M. Haas proposed to insert at the end of the report a paragraph stating that the Committee of Enquiry only had to give an opinion, but that it was now for the Communications and Transit Committee to take any necessary action.
With regard to that part of the report which dealt with the stabilisation of the date of Easter, the Chairman requested that the arguments in favour of reform should be emphasised, and more especially its advantages from the point of view of education.

M. Haas explained that that was his intention; this part of the report should be relatively detailed and should create a strong impression.

With regard to the date to be suggested for the Easter festival, M. Haas, while of opinion that a decision on this point should be taken later, thought it expedient to mention that the Committee recommended the Sunday following the second Saturday in April and to enumerate the reasons for which this date was preferable to that of the second Sunday in April.

The draft report was approved.

The Chairman announced that the text of the report would be drafted by the Secretariat and submitted to the various members of the Committee before distribution. In the unlikely eventuality of certain questions remaining undecided, and if members of the Committee were unable to come to an agreement by correspondence, the Chairman would summon his colleagues again. He added that, in the report to the Communications and Transit Committee, the Committee of Enquiry would state that it considered its task at an end. In conclusion, the Chairman congratulated his colleagues on the work they had accomplished and thanked the Secretariat for its valuable assistance.

Professor Eginitis, speaking on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Chairman for the way in which he had presided over the work of the Committee and associated himself with the thanks addressed to the Secretariat. He hoped that the enquiries of the Committee would reach a satisfactory result with regard to the question of Easter as well as the general reform of the calendar.

The Rev. T. E. R. Phillips seconded the remarks of Professor Eginitis. It was a great honour for him to have taken part in the work of the Committee. He trusted it would bring about results of positive value.

M. Haas thought he was meeting the wishes of the Committee in assuming that, should the report not be ready in its final form for the next session of the Communications and Transit Committee, he might consider himself authorised to provide the latter with information regarding the work of the Committee of Enquiry on the basis of the draft report so that the Communications and Transit Committee might pass the necessary resolutions at its next meeting.

M. Haas' suggestion was approved.