

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

C.103.1928.VI.

PERMANENT MANDATES COMMISSION.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

Report by the Netherlands Representative.

As explained at the public meetings on March 5th, 1928, the Council is now called upon to appoint two new members of the Permanent Mandates Commission to take the places left vacant by the death of Mrs. Wicksell and the resignation of M. Yamanaka. The article in the Constitution of the Commission concerning its composition reads as follows:

"The Permanent Mandates Commission provided for in paragraph 9 of Article 22 of the Covenant, shall consist of ten Members. The majority of the Commission shall be nationals of non-mandatory Powers.

"All the Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Council and selected for their personal merits and competence. They shall not hold any office which puts them in a position of direct dependence on their Governments while members of the Commission".

As the Commission at present consists, so far as regular members are concerned, of five nationals of non-mandatory Powers and three nationals of mandatory Powers, one of the new members must be chosen from among the nationals of non-mandatory Powers and the other may be selected from among the nationals of mandatory Powers.

The members of the Council have received copies of the letter of February 9th, 1928, from M. Adatci in which he suggests the appointment of M. Nobumichi Sakenobe, who recently retired from the Japanese diplomatic service. M. Adatci informs us that M. Sakenobe, who was born in 1878, entered the diplomatic service after terminating his legal studies at the Imperial University in Tokyo, and that after having been

Secretary in Madrid, Berlin and London, and Consul General in Calcutta, he was appointed Minister to Chile in 1924. The Council will also be glad to know that M. Sakenobe is particularly interested in colonial questions, and that he proposes shortly to make a trip to the islands in the Pacific under Japanese mandate, before taking up his work on the Permanent Mandates Commission. I would beg to suggest that the Council accept M. Adatci's suggestion and appoint M. Sakenobe as a member of the Permanent Mandates Commission.

I am not prepared at the moment to make any specific suggestions as regards the appointment necessary to fill the other vacancy on the Commission, as the time at my disposal has been too short to give the matter proper attention. It seems to me, however, that this position should in principle be filled by another woman, and I beg to recall the fact that the Assembly at its first ordinary session recommended that the Commission should contain at least one woman.

In order that the new member of the Commission may be enabled to do such preparatory work as will be necessary if she is to take part effectively in the session of the Commission which begins in June of this year, I would suggest that the Acting President be authorised to make the appointment after with written consultation with the other members of the Council and without waiting for our next session. I beg to propose the following resolution:

"The Council appoints M. Sakenobe as member of the Permanent Mandates Commission and authorises the Acting President after written consultation with the other Members of the Council to appoint as a member of the Commission a woman chosen from among the nationals of non-mandatory Powers".