

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.Geneva,
December 11th.1925TRAFFIC IN OPIUM.APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY TO
STUDY THE OPIUM SITUATION IN PERSIA.Note by the Secretary-General.

The Members of the Council will recall that at its meeting on September 28th, 1925, the Council decided to ask the Secretary-General to prepare a list containing the names of persons suitable to serve on the Commission of Enquiry to study the opium situation in Persia. The Council requested the Secretary-General to draw up the list on the lines indicated in the Assembly resolution of September 26th, namely, that the Commission should consist of not more than three persons - a person having the necessary qualifications to act as President, an expert on the agricultural side of the problem to be nominated after consultation with the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, and a person having experience of business conditions in the East and a knowledge of transport problems.

The names of various candidates have been suggested. Those, whose qualifications seem most nearly to meet the requirements outlined by the resolution of the Assembly, are the following:-

1) To act as a President:

Mr. Frederic Adrian Delano (U.S.A.)
(see the attached note).

2) Candidates for the Commissionership connected with agriculture -

M. Fridiano Cavara - Professor of the University at Naples.

3) M. Dassher - Agricultural Engineer; Belgian State Official (see attached letter from the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome.

4) Candidate for the third Commissionership:
(See attached note). M. Victor Cayla,

Agricultural Engineer.

It will be seen that M. Cayla possesses special knowledge of irrigation questions, which is important for the solution of agricultural problems in Persia. As regards transport questions, expert knowledge of these will be supplied, - if he is appointed President of the Commission - by M. Delano who has an extensive experience of these matters.

Mr. DELANO.

Mr. DELANO, who was born in China, is a wellknown American railroad engineer and financier. For many years he was an official of various railroads, becoming General Manager of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad from 1901-1905. He then became Consulting Engineer to the War Department in relation to railroads in the Philippine Islands and later President of the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad. In 1914 he was appointed member of the Federal Reserve Board for a six-year term. In June 1918 he resigned to enter the Army as Major in the Engineer Corps and was assigned to the staff of General Atterbury, Director General of Transportation at Tours, France, later becoming Colonel and Deputy Director of Transportation in Paris, receiving the D.S.M. in 1921.

LETTER FROM THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

M. Fridiano Cavara and M. Dascher.

ROME, December 3rd 1925.

Sir,

I have the honour to confirm the telegram sent to you on December 2nd and worded as follows: "Committee Permanent Institute proposes as expert Opium Commission Cavara Professor Naples University and Dascher Belgian Agricultural Engineer. Letter follows. 'Seres de Michelis.'

M. Fridiano Cavara, of Italian nationality, Professor of Botany and Director of the Botanical Institute and Garden of the Royal University of Naples, Professor of Botany at the Royal School of Pharmacy at Naples, Corresponding Member of the Royal Academy dei Lincei, President of the National Committee for Medicinal Plants providing aromatic extracts in Italy and the Colonies.

He has latterly been engaged in studying the extraction of opium from papaver somniferum.

He is one of the most distinguished living botanists and his scientific work has earned for him a considerable reputation abroad.

As President of the National Council for Medicinal Plants providing aromatic extracts in Italy and the Colonies he has devoted much attention to the cultivation of these plants, including, in addition to plants from which vegetal narcotics are obtained, others which can be used as substitutes and which provide extracts that can be employed for other purposes.

Moreover, as Adviser to the Italian Ministry of Colonies he has successfully conducted a number of expeditions in Lybia for the study of questions mainly concerned with colonial agriculture.

M. Dascher, Agricultural Engineer, of Belgian nationality, was attached to our Institute as technical agent and left us, after carrying out his duties for two years to the complete satisfaction of his superiors, in order to return to Belgium where he is at present directing the Institution Royale de Messines at Ledo-les-Alost (Belgium) as secretary-treasurer. In this capacity he is a Belgian State official. M. Dascher has spent some years in Persia where he was attached to the Persian Government as Director of the Agricultural Service. He resigned from this post when war was declared. His stay in Persia and the nature of his work there have enabled him to become acquainted with agricultural conditions in that country and with the Persian language.

I am sure that in selecting one of these experts the League of Nations will be appointing an official of high merit who will be able to carry out successfully the work entrusted to him.

M. Victor Cayla.

M. VICTOR CAYLA,

born in 1880, licencié es -sciences, agricultural engineer.

Brazilian Government expedition for the study of india-rubber production in Brazil.

1917. Moroccan enquiry into the cultivation of cotton, and the cotton market. Enquiry conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs into the cultivation of cotton and the cotton market in Egypt, Algeria, Tunis and Morocco.

1918. Expert in the enquiry conducted by the Commissioner-General for Agricultural Production in North Africa and the French colonies.

1922. French Government delegate at the International Cotton Conference, Rio de Janeiro.

1924. Head of the expedition sent by the Ministry of Colonies to study cotton production in Madagascar.

1922/1923. Founded, after the war, a chair of agriculture and a laboratory of eugenetics in Brazil at the request of the Brazilian Government.

Has devoted particular attention to the question of irrigation in connection with the cultivation of cotton and indiarubber. Is experienced in transport questions, speaks fluent Portuguese and understands English, Italian and Spanish.

The expeditions conducted by H. Cayla were of an economic and commercial rather than a technical nature and qualify him to become a member of an International Commission of Enquiry.