

The Council is supported by a Government Grant, public subscription and sales of service, and is a non-profit organization. Its work is carried on by a small paid staff controlled by committees and governed by an executive. The following committees, whose work is of an entirely honorary nature, are in operation, namely, Traffic, Industrial Safety, Home, Air Safety and Propaganda.

### § 16. League of Nations.

Australia was one of the original signatories of the Treaty of Versailles of 28th June, 1919, under which the League of Nations was established, and thus became a Member of the League and its kindred organizations—the International Labour Organization and later the Permanent Court of International Justice. On 22nd October, 1933, Australia was elected a non-permanent member of the Council of the League of Nations for a period of three years, and was succeeded by New Zealand in September, 1936. South Africa was elected in the place of New Zealand in December, 1939.

The last elections to the Council were held in December, 1939. At that date only two permanent members of the Council remained, namely Great Britain and France.

The course of the war, especially the events of May and June, 1940, brought the political activities of the League practically to a standstill and made the maintenance of the technical sections increasingly difficult. After a period of negotiation, in the course of which the Secretary-General, M. Avenol, resigned, it was decided to transfer some of the technical branches of the League to the Western Hemisphere. Thus, while the Head-quarters of the League nominally remained at Geneva, the International Labour Organization accepted the offer of the Canadian Government to provide accommodation at the McGill University, Montreal, the Economic, Financial and Transit Department of the League moved the greater part of its staff to Princeton, United States of America, and the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Control Service established branches at Washington. The Health and Social Sections of the League, however, have carried on their work from Geneva. As a result of the occupation of Holland by the Germans, the Permanent Court of International Justice was unable to function. The president and registrar of the Court took up their residence in Switzerland.

In a report on the work of the League in 1941–42, the Acting Secretary-General, Mr. Sean Lester, pointed out that the League itself and all its dependent organizations have been kept in existence and are ready at the appropriate moment to take their respective parts in the reconstruction of the world or to serve as the foundations on which the new order can be built.

The Assembly and the Council have met only once since the war began. A special Conference of the International Labour Organization was, however, held in October and November, 1941, and the 26th Session of the International Labour Organization Conference met at Philadelphia on 20th April, 1944. The Honorable J. A. Beasley, M.H.R., and Messrs. H. C. Barnard, M.H.R., P. J. Clarey, M.L.C. and H. C. Condi, attended the Conference as Australian Delegates.

Notices of withdrawal and the occupation of certain countries adversely affected contributions to the League's budget. Budgetary retrenchments have been considerable, reducing the budget by almost two thirds. The Australian Government has continued to support the League financially.

### § 17. War Service Homes.

The operations of the War Service Homes Commission at 30th June, 1943, may be set out briefly as follows:—Applications approved, 44,942; expenditure on provision of homes, purchase of land for future use, etc., £29,969,994; 21,371 houses had been completed; and 34 homes had been enlarged.