

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Information Section

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Genève.

den 23 September 1921.

H. Herr Erkko,

Jag får börja med att tacka för den hälsning Ni sände mig genom lektor Bök i den finska delegationen. Därefter måste jag bedja om ursäkt för att jag ej hittills haft tid påbörja den artikelserie om Folkförbundets utveckling och syfte, som jag lovade Eder att skriva när vi träffades i somras.

Under Assembléen utkommer här en stenografisk rapport av förhandlingarna i själva Assembléen och i kommissionerna och en s.k. "Journal Officiel". Jag har bedt att ett exemplar av dessa rapporter och av "Journal Officiel" skulle sändas till Eder regelbundet, för att Ni skulle kunna vara i tillfälle att följa med vad som försigår här i Genève. Ankomma dessa dokument regelbundet, och om icke, vill Ni vara god att underrätta mig om saken? Lade Herr Erkko märke till förteckningen i Septembernumret av "Monthly Summary" över Assembléens dokument? Är det något av dessa dokument som skulle särskilt intressera Eder, och i så fall vilket eller vilka?

Jag tog mig friheten att häromdagen översända de hittills utkomna numren av "Press Opinions", innehållande mycket tämligen intressant material och kommentarer

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Herr Eero Erkko,
Helsingin Sanomat,
Helsingfors.

från amerikanska och andra korrespondenter om Förenta Staternas och Sydamerikas ställning till Folkförbundet. Likaså om Tcheco-Slovakiens föreslagna ändring av artikel 21 i Pakten angående "Lokal gruppering", m.m. Den kanske kan bli till någon hjälp för den som vill följa med vad som försigår här i Genève.

Jag har avtalat med Herr Urho Toivola här att för mig översätta kommentarer över Folkförbundet ur Helsingin Sanomat, vilka kommentarer sedan insätts i "Press Opinions". (Dessutom kan jag nämna att Herr Toivola och jag efter Assembléen kunna giva varandra lektioner i resp. finska och engelska.)

Med största högaktning

Eder

K. Villius

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Jag mår 8/6 22

Genève den 1 Juni 1922.

H. Herr Erkko,

När jag hade äran och nöjet träffa Eder ifjol, lovade jag tillställa Eder en serie artiklar om Folkförbundet, dess organisation, arbete, syfte o.s.v. vilka Ni å Eder sida mycket välvilligt åtog Er att upptaga i Er tidning.

Jag tror, så vitt jag härifrån kan bedöma, att det nu just efter Genuakonferensen vore en lämplig tidpunkt att offentliggöra en sådan artikelserie, ty Genuakonferensen har på en och samma gång tryggt Folkförbundets framtid och klargjort, vilka de stora internationella problem äro, som måste lösas för att Folkförbundet skall kunna fylla sin uppgift: Genuakonferensen har nämligen (1) definitivt avlägsnat varje tanke på bildandet av någon slags europeisk konsert eller utvidgning av de Allierades Högsta Råd, som skulle träda i Folkförbundets ställe; utförandet av de beslut som fattades i Genua har anförtratts åt Folkförbundet, och denna organisation kvarstår som den enda fasta sammanslutning av stater i Europa för mellanfolkligt samarbete och fredlig lösning av tvister; (2) å andra sidan är det sedan Genua tydligt att förrän de Allierade löst skadestandsfrågan med Tyskland och träffat en överenskommelse med Ryssland, blir den viktigaste internationella frågan, d.v.s. Tysklands och Rysslands förhållande till de Allierade, behandlad utanför Folkförbundet. Först då denna fråga

Herr Eero Erkko,
Huvudredaktör för Helsingin Sanomat,
Helsinki

löstas blir det möjligt att få Tyskland och Ryssland in i Folkförbundet och därigenom möjligt för Folkförbundet att övertaga ledningen av Europas politiska utveckling.

Vid den nuvarande Pariskonferensen försöker Tyskland och de Allierade med Hr J. P. Morgans hjälp att lösa skadestandsfrågan, och den stundande Haagkonferensen kommer kanske att utmyнна antingen i en allmän överenskommelse med Ryssland, eller i en serie separatfördrag och de jure erkännande av Sovjetregeringen genom ett flertal europeiska stater. Man kan ju därför hoppas, om man är optimistiskt anlagd, att dessa två huvudfrågor skola lösas innan årets slut. Men det kan ju också hända att det nuvarande läget, d.v.s. Ryssland fågelfritt och Tyskland inbegripet i ständiga reparationskriser med de Allierade, fortsätter ännu i ett par års tid, under vilken Folkförbundet då måste försätta sin nuvarande stilla och undanskymda tillvaro.

Men just därför att det nu är säkert att Folkförbundet ändå får sista ordet, vore det av intresse, och kanske till och med av en viss vikt i samband med frågan om Finlands utrikespolitik att få en överblick över Folkförbundets organisation och arbete under de första två åren av dess tillvaro.

I hopp om att Ni delar denna åsikt, har jag därför skrivit en serie av fem artiklar om Folkförbundet, vilka jag i dagarna ämnar sända Eder.

Med detta brev tillåter jag mig dessutom översända en artikel om Genuakonferensen och Folkförbundet, i vilken det utförligt redogöres för vilka frågor som av Genuakonferensen överlämnats till behandling af Folkförbundet.

Med största högaktning

K. Zilliacus

21.8.23

Pensionat Fridhäll
Folissvägen

Bäste Redaktör Erikbo,

Härmed den artikel jag lovat Eder. Titeln
har jag fått från ledaren i Helsingin Sanomat för den 17^{de} dennes.
Artikeln är något lång. Jag har bankt mig den närmast ~~på~~ som ett
exempel på huru N.F. kunde utnyttjas av Finland. Exemplet jag
valde var garantitraktaterna. Andra möjliga exempel vore vidare
aktion i Ost-Karelska frågan, samt ett initiativ till neutralisering
av Östersjön.

Jag må tillägga, att jag inte pratat alldeles i öfverfört väder
då jag i artikeln föreslagit, ~~att~~ att vissa villkor skulle föreslås för garanti-
traktaternas antagande. Jag vet nämligen, dels att Spanien framlagt
ett förslag, i alla liknande n^o 3 av de föreslagna villkoren; dels att svenska
vänstermän, som varit missnöjda med svenska regeringens ^{negativa} ~~passiva~~
hållning, tyckt att ~~genom~~ dessa villkor riktlinjerna för ett positivt
svenskt vänsterprogram utskakats; dels att lord Robert själv upp-
tagit ^{många} ~~de~~ idéer som sammanfattats i de tre föreslagna villkoren.
Terrängen är därför till en viss grad förberedd och jag tror, att här
verkligen före något att göra.

Jag innesluter tillika en preliminär
artikel om fjärde Assembléen och ett par uppsatser om N.F.'s
budget, som jag nys erhållit från Genève och vilka kanske
kunde komma till användning, respektive litet förän Assem-
bléens början och vid den tid budgeten granskas.

Med vänlig hälsning

Eder tillgivne Konni Tilliäc

Adresse télégraphique: NATIONS GENÈVE.

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

29th August, 1923.

Information Section,
Secretariat
of the
LEAGUE OF NATIONS.
Geneva.

*Rappeler dans la correspondance —
In reply please quote —*

Dear Mr. Erkkö,

In accordance with my promise I send you herewith a copy of the Assembly agenda together with an article discussing some of the points in the agenda. You already have the preliminary article on the nature and methods of the Assembly. So soon as a list of delegates comes out I will send it to you.

I likewise enclose herewith a document entitled "What the League of Nations is and What any League of Existing Nations Must Be." I wrote it originally for consumption in England. As you will see it is quite unofficial in form. Nevertheless, you may possibly find it contains a useful idea or so. I should sum up the moral of it as being that to make an effective League of Nations it is necessary to have ~~the~~ enlightened foreign policies in the nations members of the League. Questions of constitution and membership are secondary, in the sense that they are themselves products of this primary reform. And the reform itself depends, of course, on the education of public opinion.

Yours sincerely,

K. Zilliacus

P. S. Terveisiä Toivola!

M. K. Päätoimittaja Eero Erkkö,
HELSINGIN SANOMAT,
Helsingfors,
Finland.

Adresse télégraphique: NATIONS GENÈVE.

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

12th Sept., 1923.

*Rappeler dans la correspondance —
In reply please quote —*

Information Section,
Secretariat
of the
LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Geneva.

Dear Mr. Erkkö,

This is a memorandum on the Italo-Greek conflict that I drew up largely to clear my own thoughts on the matter. It attempts to present as balanced and fair a view of the whole situation as possible, while making it quite clear that as yet it is too early to judge of the effects on the standing and future of the League. It is, of course, entirely private and unofficial, and while I send it to you in the hope that you may find it of use for reference, I must ask you please not to quote my name or the Secretariat in any way in connection with it.

Yours sincerely,

M. K. Paatoimittaja Eero Erkkö,
HELSINGIN SANOMAT,
Helsingfors.

K. Zilliacus

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

8th Oct., 1923.

Information Section,
Secretariat
of the
LEAGUE OF NATIONS.
Geneva.

Dear Mr. Erkko,

Thank you so much for sending me HELSINGIN SANOMAT regularly. From it I note that your Special correspondent here keeps you very well informed !

I am sending you, under separate cover, a copy of a general article on the just concluded meeting of the Assembly, as well as a copy of the final text of the draft Treaty of Guarantee, in the form and with the commentary that was communicated to all the governments members of the League by a decision of the Council on September 29. I see already from the newspapers that you have received all the information there is to give about the way the Carelian question was dealt with.

I hope the stuff I am sending you together with the Verbatim Records and Official Journals you received during the Assembly have given you all that you need for following the proceedings, forming a judgment on the significance of this Assembly and constituting a basis for reference in the future. The Assembly is essentially an occasion when the various activities of the League are passed under review, carried a step further and the lines of action for the future laid down. That is why a good idea of what happened at the Assembly is useful throughout the ensuing year. From the Finnish point of view the work done in putting the draft Treaty of Guarantee into final form and sending it on to the governments for their opinions, as well as the stressing of the fact that the Carelian question is still open and is still a matter of international concern were perhaps of most importance.

From the general point of view I think the strengthening of the Council is the most important feature : Sweden got back to the Council with a heavy vote in her favour, and although the Swedish delegation did absolutely no lobbying and although Sweden had taken a very prominent part through^{out} the Italian-Greek business, and, in fact, throughout her career, as a member of the Council. Judging by the applause given to Mr. Branting at the Assembly and various other indications, I think it safe to say that Sweden has informally been given a sort of mandate by the small Powers to stand up for League principles.

As for Czechoslovakia, the substitution of that country for China on the Council is a clear gain. The Czechs have shown themselves more statesmanlike and more "economic" in their outlook than most of the new states, and as leaders of the Little Entente represent a considerable political force. During the coming year it looks as though for better or for worse there must at last be some settlement of the question of reparations. It would be rash to set a term to a crisis which seems to have an almost infinite capacity for getting worse without touching bottom, but that some kind of a settlement should be obtained during the coming year may be regarded as probable.

M. K. Paatoimittaja Eero Erkko,
HELSINGIN SANOMAT,
Helsingfors,
Finland.

At any rate until a settlement is reached on this question the great Powers are not likely to take up the question of Russia in earnest. From the general European point of view, I think it is a good thing Czechoslovakia is on the Council rather than Poland during this period. At the next Assembly two of the oldest temporary members of the Council must retire to give place to freshly elected members and it would then seem not impossible to get Poland in. In the meantime if any Russian question does come up, I imagine there will always be the opportunity under Article IV of the Covenant for one or more states bordering Russia to sit on the Council for the purpose.

I have tried to set down on paper as objective and all-round a view as possible of the general European situation in so far as it relates to the present standing and future prospects of the League. I enclose this document for what it is worth and beg you will make any use of it you see fit, so long as it is understood that it is quite private and unofficial, representing my personal view only and not to be quoted as in any way connected with the Secretariat (or with myself, since I am a member of the Secretariat !). This letter too is of course unofficial in so far as it conveys opinions.

Yours sincerely,

K. Zilliacus

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

19th Oct., 1923.

Information Section,
Secretariat
of the
LEAGUE OF NATIONS.
Geneva.

Dear Mr. Erkko,

I enclose herewith a report of the speeches made at the Imperial Conference in London on October 12, as it appeared in the London papers of the 13th.

The reason I am doing so is that these speeches have made a considerable impression in London and, I believe, abroad as well, in that they reveal for the first time the extent to which the Home and Dominion Governments support the League and all the League stands for. The Dominions, of course, are small nations and support the League on the same ground as other small nations, with the addition that membership of the League serves to emphasise their position as independent states bound by ties of interest, blood, and friendship to the Mother-Country, with whom they form a sort of informal but perpetual alliance, a league of nations within the wider League. Practical point is lent to this attitude of the Dominions by the reparations scheme General Smuts is laying before the Conference. No doubt you will have seen a good deal of discussion in the press on this scheme by the time this letter reaches you, and I will therefore say here only that it appears to provide for (1) reconstruction of Germany's finances, the stabilisation of the mark, etc. on lines analogous to the Austrian scheme; (2) the placing of the neutralisation of the Rhineland (which is already provided for in the Treaty of Versailles) under some form of League supervision. General Smuts is apparently very insistent on both these aspects of the scheme being vested in the League, and from all that I know of General Smuts' record I have no doubt that he is equally insistent upon Germany being a member of the League Council as a condition of putting this scheme into execution.

I do not believe there will be any immediate results, for the Poincaré Government will certainly not agree to any such scheme except under very strong pressure, and the Die-hard element in the present Cabinet will probably prevent any such pressure being exerted by the British Government. It is my belief that there must be general elections in both France and England before we get to the point of action, and that in the meanwhile the French will increasingly try to control and exploit the Ruhr and the Rhineland, leaving the rest of Germany to "stew in its own juice." This policy will never come to an end, in the sense that it will mean a continuous financial and military drain on France and a state of increasing political anxiety and unrest. How long it will last I do not know, but I feel fairly confident that British policy will more and more harden on League lines, quite irrespective of what party is in power.

~~Mr. Erkko~~ K. Päätoimittaja Eero Erkko,
HELSINGIN SANOMAT,
Helsingfors.

The reason for this is that British opinion is to an increasing degree realising that the League is the modern substitute for or development of the old balance of power to which Great Britain has always been committed. The League of Nations is simply the balance of power taking account of the interdependence of modern nations and consequently of the paramount need of organising peace instead of preparing for war. The late war left such passions in England, as in the other belligerent countries, as to obscure this truth, which was why Great Britain, abandoning all her old traditions, agreed to peace, disarming and partially dismembering ~~of~~ the beaten powers (contrast this with the rôle of Great Britain at the Congress of Vienna !). But in proportion as the illusions and hatreds born of the war are dissipated, British opinion is more and more consciously and consistently striving to reinstall Germany in her proper place in the councils of Europe, with her membership of the League as an essential part of this process. That is, Great Britain wants a balance of power, or rather a balance of policy inside the League, realising that international cooperation can only be brought about by the failure of dictation, and that to bring it about is of vital interest for no country more than Great Britain.

The Greek-Italian business has stirred up a tremendous discussion on all the League stands for in England, and the net result seems to be that people are saying "the League is dangerously weak at present; we must put the whole weight of our policy into making the League what it ought to be in our own interest."

I repeat, no immediate results are to be expected and conditions on the Continent will probably get worse before they get better. But the present trend of things in England is very comforting, ^{and} because it corresponds to deep-seated necessities and will continue to gather volume and energy.

Yours sincerely,

K. Zilliacus

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

GENEVA.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

30th October, 1923.

Rappeler dans la correspondance —

In reply please quote —

Dear Mr Erkko,

I have sent you under separate cover two articles dealing with publications recently issued by the Economic Section of the League Secretariat and giving a review of the public finances of a number of countries and particularly of their defence budgets.

Some of this information is valuable for reference in case of discussion on armaments, etc. and some of it is relevant to the questions of reparations, inter-allied debts, etc. at present being discussed. Each of the two articles constitutes a summary of the publication to which it refers. If you want copies of the publications themselves please let me know and I will send them.

I enclose herewith newspaper reports of the two speeches recently made by General Smuts and giving his view of the international situation in general and the Franco-German crisis and the League in particular. I hope you will be able to do something with them or that at least they will be of some interest to you. I do not believe, unhappily, that anything definite will come out of the proposed inter-allied Conference with American participation. The French will block the matter and the present British Government and any conceivable American Government will not take a strong line against them. On the other hand I fancy the upshot would be to align the United States much more definitely with Great Britain than has hitherto been the case - hitherto the Americans have tried to look upon the Franco-German and Anglo-French differences as mere "European broils" in which they were not interested and could not take sides.

I think the French will wreck this forthcoming Conference, but that the result will be to make American public opinion realise that this "broil", so far from being meaningless, involves the future of civilization and that in this issue Great Britain and Germany are substantially right while the French are almost wholly wrong.

I told you in my last letter that a general election shortly was likely in England, fought on the issues of protection, unemployment and foreign policy. This is now quite clearly the case. I believe the election is more likely to come in March, that is before the budget, than in June or later, that is after the budget. The next budget is bound to be unpopular for there will be no reduction of taxation and no Government wants to go to the country with the voting of an unpopular budget just behind. But the time of the election depends very largely upon the developments in the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely,

K. Villiamus

K. Päätoimittaja Eero Erkko,
HELSINGIN SANOMAT,
Helsingfors.

P.S. The views set forth in the above are of course my personal opinions, to be regarded as private utterances!

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Information Section,
Secretariat
of the
LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

14th Feb., 1924.

Geneva.

Dear M. Erkko,

I enclose herewith an account of the state of opinion in Great Britain as regards the League of Nations, and the kind of attitude toward the League which can be expected from the present, or for that matter any future, Government. I have also attempted some analysis of the causes of British support for the League.

Lastly, I have sent you, under separate cover, a number of quotations from the press bearing upon the policy of the Government toward the League. I think all this is of considerable topical interest, since the British Government is evidently going to try to put itself at the head of the efforts for peace and reconstruction that are at last visible in Europe.

I think the present intention is to "go easy" with the French until the General Election has taken place in that country, when it is hoped the Left parties will come into power with whom it will be easier to deal. In the meantime the British Government proposes to strengthen its position in Europe and at home as much as possible, which is one of the reasons why it has now recognised the Russian Government, thereby becoming a factor of importance to all the new States in East Europe.

When the reports of the experts' committees are in, the Government is likely to produce a plan for the provisional settlement of reparations and debts issues, as well as the question of security and occupation of the Ruhr. A final settlement on the economic side must await the co-operation of the United States, which is not likely to be forthcoming until after the Presidential election of that country (i.e., until after March 1925, when the new Administration takes office). To put it in a sentence, the British programme is consolidation at home, a forward policy in East Europe immediately, a "defensive" policy in the West accompanied by the presentation of a concrete alternative to the Ruhr policy until after the French elections, when the British Government may be expected to begin to press for acceptance of its reparations policy, and to threaten various forms of active opposition in case the French prove obdurate. *The growing weakness of the French franc is a trump card for Great Britain - it means the French literally cannot afford to break with England.*

Please use this information in any way you see fit, but treat its origin as confidential.

K. Paatoimittaja Eero Erkko,
HELSINGIN SANOMAT,
Helsingfors.

Yours sincerely,

K. Villiacus

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Information Section,
Secretariat
of the
LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

18th Feb., 1924.

Geneva.

Dear Mr. Erkko,

I have sent you, under separate cover, a series of pamphlets just issued by the Information Section of the League in French and English. The pamphlets attempt to fill a long felt want, and that is to give in compact and readable form an authentic account of the organisation and activities of the League to date. The League has now been in existence over four years and has become, as it were, part of the political landscape. Its existence is going to be of great importance the moment such questions as the re-entry of Russia into European society and the reparations problem become ripe for solution. Meanwhile the activities of the League are so numerous and varied and cover such a wide field, that it is very difficult for public opinion to get a grasp of the situation.

For these reasons the Information Section has issued this series, which, while not official in the sense of e.g. Assembly records or minutes of the Council, is absolutely accurate in its contents and bears the full authority of the Information Section of the League Secretariat. The objective presentation of facts and the absence of all comment or interpretation are the distinguishing features of the series and its chief claim to notice. The series is intended to be, and, I hope is, eminently suited for those who want hard facts on the basis of which they can form their own ideas.

Several of the more important pamphlets are being published in Finnish by Werner Söderström, and in Swedish by a Stockholm firm. Both sets of translations will be on sale at the Akademiska Bokhandeln, which is the official agent in Finland for League publications.

In view of the semi-official nature of the series and of its intrinsic importance, I hope you will be able to review it or otherwise notice it in your columns.

Yours sincerely,

K. Zilliacus

K. P. Eero Erkko,
HELSINGIN SANOMAT,
Helsingfors.

Adresse télégraphique: NATIONS GENÈVE.

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS

*Rappeler dans la correspondance —
In reply please quote —*

16th Jan., 1925.

Information Section,
Secretariat
of the
LEAGUE OF NATIONS
Geneva.

Dear M. Erkko,

I shall be in Finland from about the 8th or 10th of February till the 22nd or 23rd. The Secretary-General of the League is arriving on or about February 19th with M. Paul Mantoux, the head of the Political Section. They will come over Stockholm from London and are going on to Reval and Riga. The Secretary-General's and M. Mantoux's visit is being made in response to invitations from the Finnish, Esthonian and Latvian Governments, and is undertaken for the purpose of bringing the Secretary-General into touch with the leading men and public opinion in the various countries members of the League. The Secretary-General and other high officials of the Secretariat spend a good deal of their time visiting different states members of the League in this way. The Secretariat is, of course, an international civil service at the disposal for League purposes of all the Governments members of the League, and these visits simply serve to emphasise the fact.

I shall bring with me biographical notes, ^(of the Secretary-General and M. Mantoux) photographs, etc., and also hope to discuss with you the general position as regards the League and public opinion in Finland and what could be done to improve contact with the Information Section at Geneva.

I am looking forward very much to my stay in Finland.

Yours sincerely,

M. P. Eero Erkko,
HELSINGIN SANOMAT,
Helsingfors.

K. Villiacus

Adresse télégraphique: NATIONS GENÈVE.

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

25th August, 1926.

Geneva.

Dear Mr. Erkko,

Thank you for yours of the 20th instant which reached me this morning. A press seat has been reserved for ^{M.} Niiniluoto and by a stroke of luck I have secured him a room with pension at a very cheap rate in a nice pension. I enclose a copy of the letter by which this arrangement has been made. This was indeed a stroke of luck for accommodation is almost impossible to find for the month of September. I need not say how glad I am that you are sending a special correspondent and that I will do everything I can to help M. Niiniluoto during his stay here. I hope he will come to me as soon as possible after his arrival.

Believe me,

Yours most sincerely,

K. Wallenius

K. Päätoimittaja Eero Erkko,
HELSINGIN SANOMAT,
Helsingfors.

Genève.

le 25 août 1926.

Madame,

J'ai l'honneur de vous confirmer par la présente notre conversation téléphonique de tout à l'heure par laquelle vous avez bien voulu me dire que vous pouviez disposer d'une chambre avec pension complète à partir du 2 septembre pour la durée de l'Assemblée (probablement trois ou quatre semaines) moyennant la somme de frs. 8, 50 par jour.

La personne dont il s'agit est le docteur Y.E. Niiniluoto, correspondant special du grand journal finnois HELSINGIN SANOMAT. Il quitte Helsingfors le 28 courant et doit arriver à Genève le 7 septembre.

Je vous prie, Madame, d'agréer l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

K. Z.

(K. Zilliacus)

Section d'Information.

Mme. Verly,
1 rue des Grands Philosophes,
En ville. L

SOCIETE DES NATIONS

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

1st March, 1927.

Geneva.

Dear Mr. Erkkö,

HELSEINGIN SANOMAT has ceased coming and I am much regretting it. As you know I keep you supplied with documents, articles, letters, etc. to the best of my ability, so that I hope you will find it possible to continue sending the paper. I assure you I appreciate getting it very much, read it regularly and use it for the Secretariat Press Review.

I have sent you, under separate cover, an article on the proceedings of the League in March and a note on the forthcoming Council meeting. I do not think there is any chance of the Chinese question coming up and so far as I can see the only matter of importance on the agenda will be the renewal of the membership of the Saar Governing Commission. There was a kind of tacit understanding at the beginning of the Commission's career that for the first five years a Frenchman should be President, for the next five years a "neutral" and for the last five years a Saar inhabitant. The first part of the programme was carried out, but with the resignation of Stephens ^{the} second stage has come to a premature end and it is quite on the cards that Germany may try to have a Saar inhabitant appointed as President now. There is also the question of complete evacuation of French troops from the Saar.

No⁴ doubt too the fact that the Foreign Ministers of France, Great Britain and Germany are meeting here will mean a good deal of private conversations between them on their mutual affairs. Possibly too the relations

K. Päätoimittaja Eero Erkkö,
HELSEINGIN SANOMAT,
Helsingfors.

.....

of Poland and Germany may be discussed behind the scenes, but I doubt whether either the German-Polish "economic war" or the question of evacuating the Rhineland will be brought before the Council. Nevertheless it is a good thing to have these matters discussed in a friendly and unofficial way by the Foreign Ministers concerned in the atmosphere and against the background of the League.

By the way, as I think I have mentioned before, there is a staff of 60 resident correspondents in Geneva of many nationalities and some of them first-class journalists. If you like I could recommend you the names of one or two whom you might use either for sending an occasional article by post or for 'covering' important League meetings, such as the Council and Disarmament Commission in March, the Economic Conference in May, etc., or for both purposes. UUSI SUOMI has a good correspondent here and HUFVUDSTADS-BLADET also employs an occasional correspondent whom I do not consider so good but who at any rate is better than nothing. It seems a pity that you should not have one. The importance of the League is going to increase steadily as is Finland's share and interest in its activities and it would therefore seem most desirable to secure a correspondent at Geneva.

Yours sincerely,

K. T. Eliacus