

economics, history, human geography, political science, sociology, and statistics. These advisory committees have been asked (1) to suggest the names of scholars who may be considered for the position of salaried editors and unsalaried consulting editors; (2) to draw up a scheme of classification adequate to the needs of the systematic grouping of materials from their respective fields of specialization within the social sciences.

Since the Council is made up of delegates from the national learned societies in the fields of anthropology, economics, history, political science, geography, sociology, and statistics, the purposes of the Council in its efforts to further coöperative scientific research in the social sciences is best served by devoting the new journal to the fields of cultural anthropology, history, economics, human geography, political science, sociology, and statistics, broadly construed.

Social Science Abstracts will be issued monthly throughout the year, and in each issue will appear systematic abstracts of new information published in the fields indicated for the preceding month or months. The journal will be printed in English in this country, but it will attempt to cover the social science literature of the world as originally published in all languages.

Negotiations are under way to establish a satisfactory basis of co-operation with the Committee on Intellectual Coöperation of the League of Nations in working out a modus operandi with the arrangements for economic abstracts undertaken by this international organization.

The test of published materials to be abstracted will, in general, be the criterion of *new information*, in the sense of important factual studies and contributions to theory and opinion, in the fields of the social sciences indicated. This will require the careful scrutiny of periodical literature, pamphlets, bulletins, monographs, and books. It is conservatively estimated that the number of abstracts will run to fifteen or twenty thousand titles the first year. The abstracts will be cross-referenced, and annual indexes will be published. It is expected that the first number of *Social Science Abstracts* will be published at the beginning of the next calendar year.

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Research in International Law. On the initiative of the faculty of the Harvard Law School, a group of Americans has launched a re-

search project in international law planned to deal with the three topics which have been selected by the Assembly of the League of Nations for the agenda of the Conference on Codification of International Law, to be held in 1929.

In 1924, the Fifth Assembly of the League, "recognizing the desirability of incorporating in international conventions or in other international instruments certain items or subjects of international law which lend themselves to this procedure," decided to set up a committee of experts "to prepare a provisional list of the subjects of international law the regulation of which by international agreement would seem to be the most desirable and realisable at the present moment." This Committee of Experts for the Progressive Codification of International Law, as it came to be called, is composed of seventeen jurists, of whom Mr. George W. Wickersham, president of the American Law Institute, is one. At its first meeting, in April, 1925, it chose eleven topics for investigation, and at its second meeting, in January, 1926, a sub-committee reported upon each of these topics. With reference to some of them, questionnaires were prepared and circulated to the governments of all states. The governments' replies were considered by the committee at its third session in March-April, 1927, and seven subjects were reported as "sufficiently ripe" for consideration by an international conference on codification. Of these seven, three were selected by the Eighth Assembly of the League in 1927 for consideration at the conference which is now envisaged for 1929, i.e., nationality, territorial waters, and responsibility of states for damage done in their territory to the person or property of foreigners.

The three subjects selected were among those approved by the government of the United States, in its reply to the questionnaires, as subjects concerning which "international arrangements . . . would serve a useful purpose and would therefore be desirable." The government of the United States also added that it saw "no insuperable obstacles to the concluding of agreements on these general subjects."

The prospect for a conference in 1929 naturally suggested the desirability of the most thorough scientific preparation. If it is not the first time in history that a diplomatic conference is to be held for the avowed codification of international law, the occasion nevertheless presents an opportunity for disinterested scholars to have their work considered in a way which cannot fail to give it influence. Inspired by the feeling that independent coöperative research by American

scholars and jurists might greatly contribute to the advancement of sound codification of international law, the faculty of the Harvard Law School invited the coöperation of the most active men working in the field to serve as an advisory committee for the organization of such research. Its invitation was accepted by some thirty-five persons, of whom about half are teachers of international law in our universities and colleges.

The necessary financial provision having been made by the Commonwealth Fund, a first meeting of the advisory committee was held in Cambridge on January 7 last. Mr. George W. Wickersham was elected chairman of the committee, and an executive committee was created composed of Messrs. Joseph H. Beale, Manley O. Hudson, Charles Cheney Hyde, Eldon R. James, Francis B. Sayre, James Brown Scott, and George W. Wickersham. It was decided that the research should be undertaken along the general lines followed by the *Institut de Droit International* and the American Law Institute, with a director of research, with a reporter for each of the subjects to be considered by the 1929 conference, and with advisers to assist each of the reporters. Professor Manley O. Hudson was chosen to be the director of research, and the reporters were named as follows: on nationality, Mr. Richard W. Flournoy, of Washington; on territorial waters, Professor George Grafton Wilson, of Harvard University; and on responsibility of states for damage done on their territory to the persons or property of foreigners, Professor Edwin M. Borchard, of Yale University. It is hoped that the reports can be largely completed in 1928, so that they may be available in advance of the assembling of the conference now in prospect.

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