

Pacific and Far Eastern Questions, consisting of all the Plenipotentiary Delegates of the nine powers—the five already mentioned, together with Belgium, China, the Netherlands and Portugal. These Committees appointed sub-committees to examine and report upon particular questions when this was considered desirable.

Before the Conference met the United States Government had prepared and submitted to the other Powers a list of headings intended to serve as tentative suggestions as to agenda. Practically this came to be regarded as the informal agenda. It was as follows: *Limitation of Armament*: (1) Limitation of Naval Armament, (a) basis of limitation; (b) extent; (c) fulfilment: (2) Rules for control of new agencies of warfare: (3) Limitation of Land Armament. *Pacific and Far Eastern Questions*: (1) Questions relating to China, (a) Principles to be applied; (b) applications with regard to territorial integrity; administrative integrity; open-door equality of commercial and industrial opportunity; concessions, monopolies or preferential economic privileges; development of railways; preferential railroad rates; status of existing commitments: (2) Siberia, under headings similar to the preceding: (3) Mandated islands and electrical communications in the Pacific.

In the opening session on November 12, 1921, the Hon. C. E. Hughes, Chairman of the Conference, laid down definite proposals that the great powers should abandon their programmes for the building of battle ships and battle cruisers; that certain new capital ships and certain older vessels should be scrapped; that no new replacement tonnage should be laid down for 10 years and that when constructed the maximum tonnage should be limited to 500,000 for the United States, 500,000 for Great Britain and 300,000 for Japan. This proposal was accepted "in principle" by the delegates, but it took several weeks of discussion before the details were arranged.

These provide for a discontinuance of all building of capital ships during 10 years, France and Italy being allowed certain replacements after 1927. Capital ships include "every vessel of war, not an aircraft carrier, whose displacement exceeds 10,000 tons standard displacement, or which carries a gun with a calibre exceeding 8 inches." Existing capital ships are to be scrapped so as to leave the United States 18 (525,850 tons), the British Empire 20 (558,980 tons), Japan 10 (301,320 tons), France 10 (221,170 tons), Italy 10 (182,800 tons). After 1931 ships over 20 years old may be replaced so as to maintain ratios of 525, 525, 315, 175, 175 among the five powers, no vessel being over 35,000 tons. The treaty is to be effective for 15 years and to continue after that unless denounced with 2 years' notice. It may be suspended in time of war, with the exception of the articles relating to scrapped vessels.

Aircraft carriers are limited with respect to total and individual tonnage, but aircraft themselves are not limited; submarines and fighting surface auxiliaries may not exceed 10,000 tons displacement or carry guns over 8 inches, but there is no limitation in their total tonnage. Merchant vessels may not be prepared for military use in time of peace except to stiffen decks for guns of not over 6 inches.