

The Permanent Court of International Justice

*its Constitution, Procedure
and Work*

BY

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PREFACE

THE Permanent Court of International Justice is now an established institution with a substantial record of judicial work to its credit. In fulfilment of its mission as the "World Court" it has already disposed successfully of no less than fourteen cases, some of which involved serious international issues, so that it can be fairly regarded as having passed out of the experimental stage. The time seems, therefore, to have come for a book devoted exclusively to the subject. In writing this book, I have had in view two classes of readers: first, the lawyers, diplomatists and others who, in one way or another, may be concerned in a professional capacity in cases before the Court; and secondly, that section of the public which is interested in international affairs generally, and the League of Nations in particular. My aim has been to write a practical text-book on the Court and its work, and for this reason I have avoided dealing with the history of international arbitration or other general topics, except in so far as they are directly relevant to the subject in hand.

The body of the book deals comprehensively with the Court's organization, jurisdiction and procedure, and contains, in addition, an outline of the steps leading up to its creation, an account of each of the cases heard by the Court from its establishment to the time of going to press, and a short chapter on sanctions and the relation

between the Court and the League of Nations. In the Appendix is printed in full the English text of all the operative documents constituting the Court or relating to it, as well as a certain number of drafts and reports drawn up in the course of the preparatory deliberations. In the account of the cases I have made a point of citing the more important passages from the Court's decisions, in view of their special authority as statements of international law.

I desire to express my appreciation and gratitude to M. Åke Hammarskjöld, the Registrar of the Court, for his unfailing courtesy and valuable assistance in supplying me with information on many matters, and also to thank my learned friend, Sir Cecil Hurst, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C., Legal Adviser to the Foreign Office, for his kind help in clearing up one or two points.

A. P. F.

1 KING'S BENCH WALK, TEMPLE, E.C.

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