

[Distributed to the Members
of the Council.]

Official No.: **C. 352.** 1930. VI.
[C.P.M. 1075.]

Geneva, August 26th. 1930.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

MANDATES

ORGANIC LAW FOR SYRIA AND THE LEBANON

Note by the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General has the honour to circulate to the Council a letter from the French Government, dated June 11th, 1930, forwarding the text of the Organic Law for Syria and the Lebanon, drawn up in accordance with Article 1 of the Mandate for that territory.

SUMMARY.

	Page
1. Letter from the French Government to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations	1
2. Letter from M. Henri Ponsot, High Commissioner of the French Republic, to M. Aristide Briand, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Paris.	2
3. Constitution of the Lebanese Republic , promulgated on May 23rd, 1926, amended by the Constitutional Laws of October 17th, 1927, and May 8th, 1929. .	3
4. Decree of the High Commissioner of the French Republic, No. 3111, of May 14th, 1930, promulgating the Constitution of the State of Syria.	14
5. Constitution of the State of Syria , promulgated by a Decree of the High Commissioner of the French Republic, No. 3111, of May 14th, 1930. . .	14
6. Decree of the High Commissioner of the French Republic, No. 3112, of May 14th, 1930, promulgating the Organic Regulation of the Sanjak of Alexandretta	24
7. Organic Regulation of the Sanjak of Alexandretta , promulgated by Decree of the High Commissioner of the French Republic, No. 3112, of May 14th, 1930	24
8. Decree of the High Commissioner of the French Republic, No. 3113, of May 14th, 1930, promulgating the Organic Statute of the Government of Latakia. . .	26
9. Organic Statute of the Government of Latakia , promulgated by Decree of the High Commissioner of the French Republic, No. 3113, of May 14th, 1930.	26
10. Decree of the High Commissioner of the French Republic, No. 3114, of May 14th, 1930, promulgating the Organic Statute of the Government of the Jebel Druse	29
11. Organic Statute of the Government of the Jebel Druse , promulgated by Decree of the High Commissioner of the French Republic, No. 3114, of May 14th, 1930. .	29
12. Decree of the High Commissioner of the French Republic, No. 3115, of May 14th, 1930, promulgating the Organic Regulation of the Conference of Common Interests	31
13. Organic Regulation of the Conference of Common Interests , promulgated by Decree of the High Commissioner of the French Republic, No. 3115, of May 14th, 1930	32

Series of League of Nations Publications

VI. A. MANDATES

1930. VI. A. 3.

LETTER FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

[*Translation.*]

Paris, June 11th, 1930.

I have the honour to send herewith the Organic Law which the mandatory Power is required to draw up in accordance with Article 1 of the Mandate for Syria and the Lebanon, and would request you to communicate it to the Council and to Members of the Mandates Commission.

This Organic Law consists of the following texts :

1. The Constitution of the Lebanese Republic adopted on May 22nd, 1926, by the Representative Council of the Lebanon and at once promulgated by the High Commissioner.

2. Five new texts promulgated on May 22nd, 1930, by the High Commissioner, namely :

The Constitution of Syria ;
The Organic Regulations of the Sanjak of Alexandretta ;
The Organic Statute of the Government of Latakia ;
The Organic Statute of the Government of the Jebel Druse ;
The Organic Regulations of the Conference of Common Interests.

These acts define the legal basis on which the organisation of the Levant countries under French mandate has been established and the lines on which it may develop. This Organic Law does not contain many innovations, but rather embodies regulations which have stood the test of experience and have met with the approval of the people, or which have even been framed by their chosen representatives.

The Constitution of the Lebanese Republic was modified on two occasions, on October 17th, 1927, and May 8th, 1929, according to the procedure for revision stipulated therein. It has ensured to the Lebanese Republic a stable constitutional regime which has lasted for four years.

The Syrian Constitution is based on the text prepared by the Drafting Committee of the Constitutive Assembly and which came before that Assembly on August 7th, 1928.

The only basic modifications of this text were made for the purpose of bringing it into harmony with the duties and rights of the mandatory Power under the existing international law. The mandate's reservations are formulated in a transitory provision (Article 116), their extent being defined in the decree promulgating the Constitution. This article will remain in force until the obligations which it is designed to safeguard have been fulfilled by a treaty concluded with a properly constituted Government, in which the conditions of application of the mandate will — taking into account the progress made and with the consent of the League of Nations — be re-defined in accordance with the principles laid down in Article 22 of the Covenant.

The Organic Regulations of the Sanjak of Alexandretta, promulgated at the same time as the Constitution of the State to which it belongs, define and describe the regime peculiar to that province, which was established as soon as the mandate came into operation, in view of local circumstances and in accordance with the spirit of the third paragraph of Article 1 of the Charter of July 24th, 1922.

The new Organic Regulations unite in a single document the provisions of the various texts by which the sanjak has hitherto been governed. The system of administrative decentralisation and budgetary autonomy enjoyed by the latter under the Syrian State has been sanctioned by ten years' experience and is in accordance with the oft-repeated wishes of its population.

The same applies to the autonomous regimes which were set up at the beginning of the mandate in the Governments of Latakia (Alaouites) and of the Jebel Druse. Not only do these regimes conform to the desires of the population, but they are also in accordance with their interests, since the closer co-operation of the mandatory Power in their economic and social development is of the greatest advantage to them. Experience has made it possible to improve these statutes in the attached texts, while provision has also been made for future development.

The texts relating to the individual States and Governments are completed by the Organic Regulations drawn up by the Conference of Common Interests, inviting the representatives of those States and Governments to assist the representative of the mandatory Power in the administration of interests common to countries under French mandate. The Conference of Common Interests will also assist the Governments of those countries, called upon to co-operate with each other under the auspices of the mandatory Power, to acquire the spirit of solidarity necessary to safeguard their common interests.

The texts constituting the Organic Law which has just been promulgated may, with the consent of the mandatory Power, be amended to bring them into line with the development of the country, either by the constitutional means for which they provide or by treaties concluded with the Governments concerned or between them and the Mandatory.

(Signed) A. BRIAND.

LETTER FROM M. HENRI PONSOT, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, TO
M. ARISTIDE BRIAND, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PARIS.

Beirut, May 14th, 1930.

I have the honour to send Your Excellency herewith, for communication to the members of the Council of the League of Nations, the official texts which together constitute, according to the provisions of Article 1 of the Mandate, the Organic Law of the States under French mandate.

These texts define the legal bases of the organisation of the territories whose development France has undertaken to assist, promote and encourage.

With the consent of the mandatory Power, they may be amended to bring them into line with this development, either by the constitutional means for which the texts provide, or by treaties concluded with the mandatory Power, or by agreements between the Governments concerned concluded under the auspices of the mandatory Power.

1. The earliest in date of these texts is the Constitution of the Lebanese Republic. This Constitution, which was adopted on May 22nd, 1926, by the Representative Council, was promulgated by my predecessor, M. Henry de Jouvenel, and amended on two occasions with the consent of the mandatory Power, on October 17th, 1927, and May 8th, 1929. It gave the Lebanese Republic a regular constitutional regime, which has now been in operation for four years.

The new texts, promulgated by decree of the High Commissioner, concern the State of Syria and the Sanjak of Alexandretta, the Government of Latakia and the Government of the Jebel Druse. They are supplemented by the Organic Regulations drawn up by the Conference of Common Interests.

2. The Constitution of the State of Syria, which was promulgated to-day, reproduces practically the whole of the text prepared by the Drafting Committee of the Constitutive Assembly in June and July 1928, which came before the Assembly on August 7th of that year.

The only modifications of real importance made in this text were introduced for the purpose of ensuring that, on the application of the Constitution, the mandatory Power would not be prevented from exercising its rights and obligations under existing international agreements. The reservations contained in the mandate are thus met by a provisional article which has been added to the Constitution, the scope of this article being defined in the High Commissioner's decree. The article will remain in force until the conclusion with a properly constituted Government, of the treaty which will re-define, with the consent of the League of Nations, the conditions governing the application of the mandate, in accordance with Article 22 of the Covenant, so as to take into account the progress made.

The minor alterations in the original text were discussed at the time with the Bureau of the Assembly, by which, as had been expected, they were approved.

3. The Organic Regulations of the Sanjak of Alexandretta define and describe from an administrative and financial point of view the situation peculiar to that Syrian province and unite in a single document the various texts by which the sanjak has hitherto been governed. The special regime of the sanjak is in accordance with the oft-repeated wishes of its population, due regard being had, of course, for existing international obligations.

4 and 5. The Organic Statute of the Government of Latakia and that of the Government of the Jebel Druse re-affirm the bases of the political organisation of those territories, in which an autonomous regime was set up at the beginning of the mandate in conformity both with the desires of the population and with their interests, since the closer co-operation of the mandatory Power in their economic and social development is of the greatest advantage to them.

In the light of the experience gained and with the help of the persons consulted, it has been possible to improve these Statutes, while provision has also been made for future development.

6. The foregoing texts are supplemented by the Organic Regulations drawn up by the Conference of Common Interests. These Regulations and the Decree by which they were promulgated define the conditions under which the States and Governments concerned and the local authorities and interests will be invited to assist the representative of the mandatory Power in the administration of matters of common concern to the territories under French mandate.

These Governments are called upon to co-operate directly with each other under the auspices of the mandatory Power, and the spirit of solidarity necessary to safeguard and develop their common interests will thus grow stronger every day.

(Signed) Henri PONSOT.

CONSTITUTION OF THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC, PROMULGATED ON
MAY 23RD, 1926, AMENDED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAWS OF
OCTOBER 17TH, 1927, AND MAY 8TH, 1929.

Part I. — Fundamental Provisions.

CHAPTER 1. — THE STATE AND THE TERRITORY.

Article 1.

The Grand Lebanon is a single and independent State. Its frontiers are those which have been officially recognised by the Government of the French Republic, the Mandatory, and by the League of Nations, and which constitute its present boundaries.

Article 2.

No part of Lebanese territory may be alienated or ceded.

Article 3.

The boundaries of the administrative areas may not be altered except by law.

Article 4.

The Grand Lebanon is a Republic ; Beirut is its capital.

Article 5.

The Lebanese flag is blue, white and red in vertical bands of equal width, with a cedar on the white part.

CHAPTER 2. — THE LEBANESE AND THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE LEBANESE.

Article 6.

Lebanese nationality and the manner in which it is acquired, retained and lost shall be determined in accordance with the law.

Article 7.

All Lebanese shall be equal in the eyes of the law. They shall enjoy civil and political rights and shall also be liable to public charges and obligations without any distinction whatsoever being made.

Article 8.

Personal freedom shall be guaranteed and protected. No person may be arrested or kept in custody except in accordance with the law. No offence may be established and no penalty imposed except by law.

Article 9.

There shall be complete freedom of conscience. While acknowledging the Most High, the Government shall respect all creeds and safeguard and protect the free exercise of all forms of worship on condition that public order is not interfered with. It also guarantees that the personal status and religious interests of the populations, to whatever creed they belong, shall be respected.

Article 10.

There shall be no interference with public instruction as long as it is not contrary to public order and morals and does not affect the dignity of the various creeds. The communities shall be entitled to maintain their own schools, provided that they conform to the general requirements relating to public instruction laid down by the State.

Article 11.

Arabic shall be the official national language in all Government departments. French shall also be an official language ; the cases in which it is to be used shall be determined by a special law.

Article 12.

All forms of public employment shall also be open to all Lebanese citizens in accordance with the conditions laid down by law, preference being given solely to merit and capacity. The conditions applicable to State officials shall be embodied in a special Statute, according to the department to which they belong.

Article 13.

Freedom of speech and of writing, the freedom of the Press, freedom to assemble together and freedom of association shall be guaranteed within the limits laid down by the law.

Article 14.

Dwellings shall be inviolable. No one may enter therein except in the circumstances and in the manner prescribed by law.

Article 15.

Rights of ownership shall be protected by law. No person may be expropriated except on grounds of public utility in the circumstances defined by law and on condition that fair compensation is paid beforehand.

Part II. — Public Powers.

CHAPTER 1. — GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Article 16.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The legislative power shall be exercised by a single Assembly : the Chamber of Deputies.

Article 17.

The executive power shall be entrusted to the President of the Republic, by whom it shall be exercised with the assistance of the Ministers, under the conditions laid down in the present Constitution.

Article 18.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The right to introduce laws shall be vested in the President of the Republic and the Chamber of Deputies.

Article 19.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

Before a law can be promulgated, it must be adopted by the Chamber.

Article 20.

The judicial power, functioning within the limits of a Statute established by law and affording the necessary guarantees to the judges and the persons amenable to their jurisdiction, shall be exercised by the courts of various classes and degrees. The limits of the judges' powers, the conditions governing the exercise of those powers and the irremovability of judges shall be fixed by law. Judges shall be independent in the exercise of their functions. The decisions and judgments of all courts shall be rendered and executed in the name of the Lebanese people.

Article 21.

Every Lebanese citizen who has completed his twenty-first year and fulfils the conditions laid down by the electoral law shall be an elector.

CHAPTER 2. — THE LEGISLATIVE POWER.

Article 22.

(Abrogated by the Constitutional Law of October 17th, 1927.)

Article 23.

(Abrogated by the Constitutional Law of October 17th, 1927.)

Article 24.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The Chamber of Deputies shall consist of :

1. Elected deputies, the number and manner of election of whom shall be determined by the provisions of Decree No. 1307, which shall remain in force until a new electoral law has been drawn up by the Assembly ;

2. Deputies appointed by a decree of the President of the Republic adopted at a meeting of the Cabinet, according to the terms of the electoral law in force regarding the representation of communities and constituencies.

The number of appointed deputies shall be equal to one half the number of elected deputies.

Article 25.

Should the Chamber of Deputies be dissolved, the instrument ordering dissolution must call upon the electors to take part in new elections, which must be held within a period not exceeding three months.

CHAPTER 3. — PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE CHAMBER.

Article 26.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The Chamber and the Executive Power shall sit at Beirut.

Article 27.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

A member of the Chamber shall be deemed to represent the whole nation. No binding mandate may be imposed upon him by his electors or the power by which he is appointed.

Article 28.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927, and May 8th, 1929.)

A Deputy may also at the same time discharge the functions of Minister. Ministers may be selected either from among the members of the Chamber or from persons outside the Chamber.

Article 29.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The cases in which persons are disqualified from becoming Deputies shall be determined by law.

Article 30.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

Appointed Deputies shall have the same rights, guarantees, immunities and obligations as elected Deputies, and must fulfil the same conditions as the said elected Deputies.

Nevertheless, elected Deputies shall alone be competent to decide on the validity of the mandate of elected members. No mandate may be invalidated except by a majority of two-thirds of the votes of the elected Deputies.

Article 31.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

Meetings of the Chamber outside the period of session fixed by law shall be unlawful and *ipso facto* null and void.

Article 32.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The Chamber shall hold two ordinary sessions each year. The first shall open on the first Tuesday following March 15th and shall terminate at the end of the month of May. The second shall open on the first Tuesday following October 15th. It shall be primarily devoted to the discussion and adoption of the budget. It shall last until the end of the year.

Article 33.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The ordinary sessions shall begin and end automatically on the dates fixed in Article 32.

The President of the Republic may convene the Chamber in extraordinary session. The date of the opening and termination of extraordinary sessions shall be fixed by Decree.

The agenda shall be fixed in the Decree summoning the Chamber to assemble.

The President of the Republic shall be required to summon the Chamber of Deputies to assemble at the request of an absolute majority of its lawful members.

Article 34.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The Chamber shall not be validly constituted unless the majority of its lawful members are present.

Decisions shall be taken by a majority vote. Should the votes be equal, the question under discussion shall be rejected.

Article 35.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The discussions of the Chamber shall be public. Nevertheless, at the request of the Government or of five of its members, the Chamber shall meet in private. It shall decide later whether the discussion on the same question is to be continued in public.

Article 36.

Votes shall be given verbally or by the members rising or remaining in their seats, except in the case of elections, when a secret vote shall be taken. In the case of all draft laws and when the question of confidence is raised, the vote shall always be taken by roll-call and verbally.

Article 37.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927, and May 8th, 1929.)

Every Deputy is fully entitled during ordinary and extraordinary sessions to call upon Ministers to justify their action.

A proposal of this kind may not be discussed and voted upon until at least five days after it is submitted to the Assembly and communicated to the Minister or Ministers concerned.

Article 38.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

No bill which has been rejected by the Chamber may be re-introduced during that same session.

Article 39.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

No member of the Chamber may be prosecuted or steps taken for his arrest in respect of opinions expressed or votes given by him during the term of his mandate.

Article 40.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

During the session, no member of the Chamber may be prosecuted or arrested for a criminal offence without the authorisation of the Chamber, unless he is taken in the act.

Article 41.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

In the event of a vacancy occurring in the Chamber, the seat shall be filled within two months by election or appointment, as the case may be. The new member's term of office shall terminate with the expiry of his predecessor's term of office. The vacancy shall not be filled if the mandate of the Chamber has less than six months to run.

Article 42.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

General elections for the renewal of the Assembly and the designation of appointed Deputies shall take place within the sixty days preceding the expiry of their mandate.

Article 43.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The Chamber shall draw up its own rules of procedure.

Article 44.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

At the opening of the October session, the Chamber, under the presidency of its oldest member, the two youngest members acting as secretaries, shall elect separately, by secret ballot and by an absolute majority of the votes cast, a President, Vice-President and two Secretaries. At the third ballot, a relative majority shall be sufficient. Should the votes be equal, the oldest candidate shall be elected.

Article 45.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

Members of the Chamber shall only vote if they are present at the meeting ; voting by proxy shall not be allowed.

Article 46.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The Chamber alone has the right to maintain order at its meetings through its President.

Article 47.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

All petitions to the Chamber must be made and submitted in writing. They may not be presented in person or at the bar of the Chamber.

Article 48.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The remuneration of members of the Chamber shall be determined by law.

CHAPTER 4. — THE EXECUTIVE POWER.

Article 49.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927, and May 8th, 1929.)

The Chamber of Deputies shall elect the President of the Republic by secret ballot and by a two-thirds majority of the votes. After the first ballot, an absolute majority shall be sufficient. The President shall be elected for a term of six years. He may be re-elected only after an interval of six years. No person shall be eligible for the office of President of the Republic unless he fulfils the conditions of eligibility for the Chamber of Deputies.

Paragraph applying temporarily. — This article shall not apply to the present President of the Republic in so far as it extends the presidential term of office from three to six years. The term of office of the present President shall accordingly expire on May 26th, 1932.

Article 50.

Before assuming office, the President of the Republic shall take an oath of fidelity before Parliament to the Lebanese Nation and the Constitution, in the following terms :

“ I swear by Almighty God to observe the Constitution and laws of the Lebanese People and to maintain the independence of the Lebanon and its territorial integrity. ”

Article 51.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The President of the Republic shall promulgate laws after they have been adopted by the Chamber. He shall supervise their execution and for that purpose he shall have the power to issue regulations, but not to modify the actual laws or set aside their provisions.

He shall have the right to pardon. Amnesties may not be granted except by law.

Article 52.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

Subject to the provisions of Article 3 of the Mandate, the President of the Republic shall negotiate and ratify treaties. He shall bring them to the knowledge of the Chamber as soon as the interest and safety of the State permit.

Treaties involving a charge upon the finances of the State, commercial treaties and, in general, treaties which cannot be denounced at the expiry of each year shall not be definitive until they have been adopted by the Chamber.

Article 53.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The President of the Republic shall appoint and dismiss Ministers, from among whom he shall select a Prime Minister ; he shall appoint a certain number of the Deputies in accordance with Article 24 ; he shall make all appointments in regard to which the method of appointment is not otherwise determined by law ; he shall preside over national ceremonies.

Article 54.

Every instrument issued by the President of the Republic, with the exception of those relating to the appointment and dismissal of Ministers, must be countersigned by the Minister or Ministers concerned.

Article 55.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927, and May 8th, 1929.)

With the approval of the Cabinet, the President may by Decree, the reasons being specified, dissolve the Chamber of Deputies before the legal expiry of its mandate.

In that case, the electoral bodies shall meet as provided for in Article 25, and the new Chamber shall be convened within fifteen days after the results of the elections have been proclaimed.

Article 56.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The President of the Republic shall promulgate laws within one month after the date on which the law, definitively adopted, is transmitted to the Government. When the promulgation of a law has been declared urgent by a special vote of the Chamber, he must promulgate it within five days.

Article 57.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

Within the time allowed for promulgating laws, the President of the Republic may request, not more than once, a further discussion of a law ; this request may not be refused.

When the President of the Republic makes use of this right, he shall not be required to promulgate a law unless it has been adopted by the Chamber, after a second discussion, by an absolute majority of the lawful members of that Assembly.

Article 58.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

By means of a decree issued with the approval of the Cabinet, the President of the Republic may put into force any bill which has previously been declared to be urgent by the Government in the order for its transmission issued with the Cabinet's approval, and on which the Chamber has not given a decision within forty days of its communication to the Assembly.

Article 59.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The President of the Republic may adjourn the Chamber for a period not exceeding one month. He may not do so more than once during the same session.

Article 60.

The President of the Republic may not be called to account for acts performed by him in the discharge of his duties except in the case of violation of the Constitution or high treason ; his responsibility in respect of offences under the ordinary law shall be subject to the ordinary law. He may not be charged with these offences or with violating the Constitution or high treason, except by the Chamber of Deputies, its decision being adopted by a majority of three-fourths of the members of the whole Assembly ; he may not be tried except by the High Court provided for in Article 80. The functions of Public Prosecutors at the High Court shall be exercised by two judges appointed each year by the Court of Cassation at a general meeting.

Article 61.

Should the President of the Republic be arraigned, he shall be suspended from his functions and the Presidency shall be vacant until the High Court has rendered its decision.

Article 62.

Should the Presidency of the Republic be vacant for any reason whatsoever, the executive power shall be temporarily exercised by the Cabinet.

Article 63.

The salary of the President of the Republic shall be fixed by law. During the President's term of office, it may not be increased or reduced.

Article 64.

The Ministers shall have the supreme direction of all the services of the State which come under their respective Departments. They shall be responsible, each in so far as he is concerned, for the application of the laws and regulations.

Article 65.

No person may be a Minister who is not a Lebanese.

Article 66.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

Ministers shall be jointly and severally responsible to the Chamber for the general policy of the Government, and individually responsible for their personal actions. The Government's general programme shall be drawn up and put before the Chamber by the Prime Minister or by a Minister acting on his behalf.

Article 67.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

Ministers shall have free access to the Chamber and shall have the right to address it whenever they so request. They may be accompanied by one or more officials from their Department.

Article 68.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

When, in accordance with Article 37, the Chamber declares that a Minister no longer possesses its confidence, that Minister shall be required to resign.

Article 69.

(Abrogated on May 8th, 1929.)

Article 70.

The Chamber of Deputies shall have the right to arraign Ministers for high treason or for grave dereliction of their duty. The decision to arraign a Minister may only be taken by a majority of two-thirds of the members of the whole Assembly. The civil responsibility of Ministers shall be determined by a special law.

Article 71.

A Minister who is arraigned shall be tried by the High Court.

Article 72.

A Minister shall leave office as soon as he is arraigned. The Minister's resignation shall not prevent proceedings being taken or continued against him.

Part III.

(a) ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

Article 73.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

One month at least and two months at most before the expiry of the term of office of the President of the Republic, the Chamber shall be summoned by its President to assemble for the purpose of electing the new President of the Republic.

Should it not be thus summoned, the Chamber shall meet of its own accord on the tenth day preceding the expiry of the President's term of office.

Article 74.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

Should the Presidency become vacant through the death or resignation of the President, or for any other cause, the Assembly shall meet immediately and of its own accord to elect a new President. If the Chamber is dissolved at the time the vacancy occurs, the electoral bodies shall be convened without delay and, as soon as the elections have taken place, the Chamber shall meet as of full right.

Article 75.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

When the Chamber meets to elect the President of the Republic, it shall constitute a purely electoral body and not a deliberative Assembly. It shall proceed solely, without delay or discussion, to elect the Head of the State.

(b) REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Article 76.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The Constitution may be revised on the initiative of the President of the Republic. In such a case, the Government shall submit to the Assembly a draft constitutional law.

Article 77.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The Constitution may likewise be revised on the initiative of the Chamber of Deputies. This right shall be exercised as follows :

During an ordinary session and on the proposal of at least ten of its members, the Chamber may recommend, by a two-thirds majority of its lawful members, the revision of the Constitution. The articles and questions referred to in the recommendation must be specifically enumerated and defined.

The President of the Chamber shall transmit the recommendation to the Government, requesting it to prepare a draft constitutional law.

Should the Government approve the Assembly's recommendation, it shall prepare the respective draft law and submit it to the Assembly within four months ; if the Government does not agree with the Assembly, it shall return the recommendation to the latter for further discussion. Should the Assembly maintain its recommendation by a majority of three-fourths of its lawful members, the President of the Republic may either accede to the Assembly's request, or issue an order for its dissolution, and proceed to new elections within three months.

Should the new Assembly decide that revision is necessary, the Government shall be obliged to carry out the Assembly's recommendation and submit the draft law within a period of four months.

(c) PROCEDURE OF THE ASSEMBLY.

Article 78.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

When a draft constitutional law is submitted to the Chamber, it shall, until a final vote is taken, confine itself to revision.

It may only discuss and vote on articles and questions specifically enumerated and defined in the draft submitted to it.

Article 79.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

When a draft constitutional law is submitted to the Chamber of Deputies, it may only be validly discussed and voted upon when a majority of two-thirds of the lawful members of the Chamber are present. Decisions shall be taken by a majority of two-thirds of the lawful members of the Assembly.

The President of the Republic shall be required to promulgate the constitutional law under the same conditions and in the same form as ordinary laws. He may request a further discussion of the law within the time fixed for promulgation. In that case also, the decision shall be taken by a two-thirds majority.

Part IV. — Various Provisions.

(a) HIGH COURT.

Article 80.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The High Court shall consist of seven deputies elected by the Chamber of Deputies and of the eight highest Lebanese magistrates in order of rank or, should their rank be equal, in order of seniority, under the presidency of the magistrate of highest rank.

The sentences of the High Court shall be rendered by a majority of ten votes. The procedure to be followed by this Court shall be determined by a law.

(b) FINANCES.

Article 81.

Taxes shall be established for purposes of common utility. Taxes may only be levied in the Grand Lebanon in accordance with a uniform law which shall apply to the whole territory without exception.

Article 82.

No tax may be modified or removed except by virtue of a law.

Article 83.

Each year at the beginning of the October session the Government shall submit to the Chamber of Deputies, for examination and approval, the general budget estimates of State revenue and expenditure for the following year. The budget shall be voted upon article by article.

Article 84.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

During the discussion of the budget and draft laws involving the opening of supplementary or extraordinary credits, the Chamber may not increase the credits proposed in the budget estimates or above-mentioned draft laws, either by amendment or by means of an independent proposal. The Assembly may, however, adopt laws involving further expenditure after the close of this discussion.

Article 85.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

No extraordinary credit may be opened except by a special law.

Nevertheless, should unforeseen circumstances arise making urgent expenditure necessary, the President of the Republic may, by Decree adopted with the approval of the Cabinet, open extraordinary or supplementary credits or effect any transfers of credits. These credits may not exceed 1,500 pounds per item. The measures thus decreed shall be submitted to the Chamber for ratification at the first ensuing session.

Article 86.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

If the Chamber of Deputies has not given a final decision on the budget estimates before the expiry of the session devoted to the examination of the budget, the President of the Republic shall convene an extraordinary session to terminate at the end of January for the purpose of continuing the discussion on the budget ; if at the end of this extraordinary session the budget has not been finally voted, the President of the Republic may, by a Decree adopted with the approval of the Cabinet, give effect to the budget estimates in the form in which they were submitted to the Chamber.

The President may not exercise this right unless the budget estimates were submitted to the Chamber at least fifteen days before the commencement of the session.

During this extraordinary session, imposts, contributions, taxes, duties and other revenue shall continue to be collected as hitherto.

The expenditure for the month of January shall be based on the " provisional twelfth " of the expenditure for the previous financial year, plus the permanent additional and supplementary credits and minus the permanent reductions.

Article 87.

(Amended as below on October 17th, 1927.)

The final accounts of the financial administration for the closed financial year shall be submitted to the Chamber and approved before the promulgation of the budget for the second financial year after that to which the accounts refer.

Article 88.

No public loan or obligation involving a charge upon public funds may be contracted except by virtue of a law.

Article 89.

No concession for the exploitation of the natural resources of the country or a service of public utility and no monopoly may be granted except by virtue of a law and for a limited period.

Part V. — Provisions relating to the Mandatory Power and the League of Nations.

Article 90.

The powers established by the present Constitution shall be exercised subject to the rights and obligations of the mandatory Power as they result from Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations and from the mandate.

Article 91.

As soon as circumstances permit, the State of the Grand Lebanon shall apply for admission to the League of Nations, and shall have recourse for the purpose to the good offices of the mandatory Power.

Article 92.

The present Constitution affirms the desire of the Grand Lebanon for peace and good understanding with all countries, and in particular with the neighbouring countries under French mandate, with which the Grand Lebanon intends to maintain, in the most conciliatory and pacific spirit and, subject to reciprocity, the most cordial relations.

Article 93.

The present Constitution involves for the Grand Lebanon a solemn undertaking to submit to the mandatory Power for settlement by arbitration any disputes which might endanger peace. For this purpose, the Grand Lebanon is prepared to conclude with its neighbours and any other States concerned the necessary conventions containing a clause providing for the compulsory settlement of all disputes by arbitration.

Article 94.

The Lebanese Government shall agree with the representative of the mandatory Power to create a Lebanese delegation in Paris and posts of Lebanese attachés with the diplomatic and consular representatives of the French Republic in foreign towns where the number of Lebanese residents justifies this measure.

The Lebanese Government shall do its utmost to maintain close contact between Lebanese emigrants and the mother-country.

Part VI. — Final and Transitory Provisions.

Article 95.

As a transitory measure and in accordance with the provisions of Article 1 of the Mandate, and for the sake of justice and concord, the communities shall be equitably represented in public employment and in the Ministry, without, however, the welfare of the State being prejudicially affected thereby.

Article 96.

The distribution of senatorial seats among the communities shall be effected in accordance with the provisions of Articles 22 and 95, in the following proportion : 5 Maronites, 3 Sunnites, 3 Shiites, 2 Greek Orthodox, 1 Greek Catholic, 1 Druse, 1 member of a Minority.

Article 97.

After voting the present Constitution, the present Representative Council shall continue to function until the expiry of its mandate, under the name of “ Chamber of Deputies ”.

Article 98.

In order to enable full and immediate effect to be given to the present Constitution, the first Lebanese Senate, composed as provided for in Articles 22 and 96, shall be appointed by the High Commissioner of the French Republic for a period terminating at the end of the year 1928.

Article 99.

At the first meeting following its convocation by the High Commissioner, the newly constituted Senate shall proceed to appoint a President, a Vice-President and two Secretaries under the conditions laid down in Article 44 of the present Constitution. The same procedure shall be followed whenever the Senate is reconstituted.

At the first meeting following each reconstitution of the Chamber of Deputies, the latter shall proceed to form its Bureau under the conditions laid down in Article 44 mentioned above.

The Bureaux of the two Chambers appointed under these conditions shall continue in office until the following October session.

Article 100.

Within one month of the constitution of the Senate, Congress shall be summoned to assemble by the President of the Senate for the purpose of electing the President of the Republic.

Article 101.

As from September 1st, 1926, the State of “ the Grand Lebanon ” shall be known as “ the Lebanese Republic ”, without any change or modification of any kind.

Article 102.

The present Constitution shall be placed under the safeguard of the French Republic as Mandatory of the League of Nations. All legislative provisions contrary to the present Constitution are abrogated.

* * *

Article 51 of the Constitutional Law of October 17th, 1927.

Transitory Provision. — The members of the present Senate and Chamber of Deputies shall meet for the purpose of constituting, until the end of the present legislature, the Chamber of Deputies provided for in Article 1 of the present Constitutional Law.

Should the seat of a member of the present Senate become vacant owing to his death or resignation or for any other cause, the seat shall be filled under the conditions laid down in Article 24.

DECREE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,
No. 3111 OF MAY 14TH, 1930, PROMULGATING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
STATE OF SYRIA.

The High Commissioner of the French Republic :

In view of the Mandate of July 24th, 1922 ;

In view of the Decree of November 23rd, 1920, determining the powers of the High Commissioner ;

In view of the Decree of September 3rd, 1926, appointing the High Commissioner ;

In view of the work of the Constitutive Assembly of the State of Syria, which met at Damascus from June 9th to August 11th, 1928 ;

And the subsequent exchanges of views with the Bureau of the Assembly :

HEREBY DECREES :

Article 1.

The State of Syria shall be governed by the Constitution annexed to the present Decree.

Article 2.

This Constitution, the text of which is published and promulgated as an annex to the present Decree, shall come into force after the election of the members of the Chamber of Deputies, the date of this election to be fixed later by decree of the High Commissioner.

Article 3.

During the term of the mandate, the powers established by the Constitution shall be exercised subject to the rights and obligations of the mandatory Power as they result from Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations and from the mandate.

The reservation inserted in Article 116 of the Constitution to ensure the conformity of this text with the principles governing the present situation of Syria *vis-à-vis* the mandatory Power and the League of Nations shall remain in force until the conclusion, with a properly constituted Government, of the treaty which will redefine, with the consent of the League of Nations, the conditions governing the application of the mandate, in accordance with the principles laid down in Article 22 of the Covenant, so as to take into account the progress made.

Beirut, May 14th, 1930.

(Signed) HENRI PONSOT,
High Commissioner.

(Signed) D. TETREAU,
Secretary-General.

Published at Damascus, May 22nd, 1930.

CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF SYRIA, PROMULGATED BY A DECREE
OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,
No. 3111 OF MAY 14TH, 1930.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

PART I. — FUNDAMENTAL PROVISIONS :

<i>Chapter 1.</i> — The State and the Territory.	Articles	1 to 4
<i>Chapter 2.</i> — Rights of Individuals	Articles	5 to 28

PART II. — PUBLIC POWERS :

<i>Chapter 1.</i> — General Provisions	Articles	29 to 34
<i>Chapter 2.</i> — The Legislative Power	Articles	35 to 67
<i>Chapter 3.</i> — The Executive Power :		
I. The President of the Republic	Articles	68 to 87
II. The Ministers	Articles	88 to 96
<i>Chapter 4.</i> — The High Court	Article	97

PART III. — FINANCES.	Articles	98 to 107
PART IV. — REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION	Article	108
PART V. — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS	Articles	109 to 115
PART VI. — TRANSITORY PROVISION	Article	116

Part I. — Fundamental Provisions.

CHAPTER 1. — THE STATE AND THE TERRITORY.

Article 1.

Syria is an independent and sovereign State.
No part of the territory may be alienated or ceded.

Article 2.

Syria constitutes an indivisible political unit.

Article 3.

Syria is a Parliamentary Republic. The religion of the President is Mohammedanism.
The capital of Syria is the city of Damascus.

Article 4.

The Syrian flag shall be composed as follows : the length shall be double the height. It shall contain three bands of equal dimensions, the upper band being green, the middle band white, and the lower band black. The white portion of the flag shall bear three red stars in line, having five points each.

CHAPTER 2. — RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS.

Article 5.

The conditions under which Syrian nationality may be acquired or forfeited shall be laid down by the law.

Article 6.

All Syrians shall be equal in the eyes of the law. They shall enjoy equal civil and political rights ; they shall be bound by the same obligations and subjected to the same charges. No distinction shall be made between them in respect of religion, faith, race or language.

Article 7.

Personal freedom shall be guaranteed. No person may be arrested or kept in custody, except in cases determined by the law and in observance of the forms prescribed by it.

Article 8.

Every person who is arrested or detained in custody shall be informed within twenty-four hours of the grounds for such detention or arrest, and of the authority at whose instance it has been carried out ; and such persons shall, within the same period, be accorded all possible facilities for preparing their defence.

Article 9.

No offence shall be punished and no conviction may be pronounced, except in conformity with the law.

Article 10.

No person shall be tried except before the courts prescribed by law.

Article 11.

Corporal punishment is forbidden ; it is likewise forbidden to deport Syrians from their national territory or to compel them, or forbid them, to reside in any place, except as provided by the law.

Article 12.

Dwellings shall be inviolable ; no one may enter therein, except in the circumstances and in the manner prescribed by law.

Article 13.

Rights of ownership shall be protected by law ; no person may be expropriated, except on grounds of public utility and in the circumstances defined by law, and on condition that fair compensation is paid beforehand.

Article 14.

The general confiscation of property is forbidden.

Article 15.

There shall be absolute liberty of conscience ; the State shall respect all creeds and religions established in the country ; it shall guarantee and protect the free exercise of all forms of worship consistent with public order and good morals ; it shall also guarantee for all peoples, of whatever creed they belong, the respect of their religious interests and their personal rights.

Article 16.

Freedom of thought shall be guaranteed ; all persons shall be entitled to express their views verbally, in writing, in speeches, or graphically, subject to the limitations provided by the law.

Article 17.

Freedom of the Press and of printing shall be guaranteed, subject to the conditions laid down in the law.

Article 18.

Postal, telegraphic and telephonic communications shall be inviolable and may not be delayed or censored, except as provided by law.

Article 19.

Education shall be free, in so far as it is not contrary to public order and good morals and is not detrimental to the dignity of the country or of religion.

Article 20.

Education shall be directed to raising the moral and intellectual standard of the people on lines best suited to the national characteristics, and to promoting concord and a fraternal spirit among all citizens.

Article 21.

Primary education shall be compulsory for all Syrians of both sexes, and shall be given free of charge in the public schools.

Article 22.

The curriculum for public education shall be laid down by a law and shall ensure educational uniformity.

Article 23.

All schools shall be placed under Government supervision.

Article 24.

Arabic shall be the official language in all the public services, except in so far as other languages may be used in addition, in virtue of a law or an international agreement.

Article 25.

Freedom of assembly and association shall be guaranteed in the manner prescribed by the law.

Article 26.

All Syrians shall have access to public employment, without any other distinction than that due to their qualifications or capacity, subject to the conditions laid down by the law.

Article 27.

All Syrians shall be entitled to submit requests or petitions, in conformity with the law, to the authorities or to Parliament, whether collectively or individually, and in regard to business, personal or general matters.

Article 28.

The rights of the different religious communities shall be guaranteed, and such bodies may found schools for the education of children in their own language, provided always that they conform to the principles laid down by the law.

Part II. — Public Powers.

CHAPTER 1. — GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Article 29.

The nation is the source of all public power.

Article 30.

The legislative power shall be exercised by the Chamber of Deputies.

Article 31.

The executive power shall be entrusted to the President of the Republic, by whom it shall be exercised, with the assistance of the Ministers, under the conditions laid down in the present Constitution.

Article 32.

The right to introduce bills shall be vested in the representatives of the Republic and the Chamber of Deputies.

Article 33.

Before a law can be promulgated, it must have been adopted by the Chamber.

Article 34.

The judicial power shall be exercised in accordance with a statute established by law and affording the necessary guarantees to the judges and persons amenable to their jurisdiction. The judges shall be independent and irremovable, within the limits of the law ; judgments shall be rendered and executed in the name of the Syrian people.

CHAPTER 2. — THE LEGISLATIVE POWER.

Article 35.

The Chamber of Deputies shall consist of members elected in conformity with the electoral law, which shall be framed in accordance with the principles laid down in the following articles :

Article 36.

Every citizen of twenty years of age or upwards shall be entitled to the suffrage, provided that he has not been deprived of his civil rights and that he fulfils the conditions laid down in the electoral law.

Article 37.

The electoral law shall institute the system of the secret ballot and shall provide for the representation of religious minorities.

Article 38.

Deputies must be thirty years of age and must fulfil the conditions prescribed by the law.

Article 39.

The duration of Parliaments shall be for a period of four years.

Article 40.

The elections for the renewal of the Chamber shall be carried out within a period of sixty days preceding the expiry of its mandate.

Article 41.

The method of balloting shall be prescribed by the law. Every candidate shall be entitled to take part in the supervision of the electoral procedure, under the conditions prescribed by the law.

Article 42.

Every deputy shall represent the whole of the nation and may not accept any restriction of his mandate.

Article 43.

A deputy may also at the same time discharge the functions of a Minister.

Article 44.

The Chamber shall hold two ordinary sessions each year : the first session shall open on the first Tuesday following March 15th, and shall terminate at the end of May ; the second shall open on the first Tuesday following October 15th, and shall continue till the end of the year. The second session shall be primarily devoted to the discussion and the adoption of the budget.

Article 45.

The ordinary sessions shall begin and end automatically on the dates fixed in the preceding article.

The President of the Republic may convene the Chamber in extraordinary session. The dates of the opening and termination of extraordinary sessions shall be fixed by a decree. The agenda shall be announced in the decree convening the Chamber. The President of the Republic shall be bound to issue a decree convening the Chamber of Deputies in extraordinary session at the request of an absolute majority of the deputies.

Article 46.

Before assuming their duties, the deputies shall swear fidelity to the nation and the Constitution. This oath shall be taken with all due solemnity in the presence of the Assembly.

Article 47.

The Assembly shall decide by an absolute majority as to the validity of elections.

Article 48.

The meetings of the Assembly shall be public; nevertheless, the Assembly may sit in private at the request of the Government or ten of its members. In such cases, the Assembly shall decide at a private meeting whether the proceedings shall continue in private or not.

Article 49.

The Assembly cannot adopt any decision unless an absolute majority of the members composing it are present.

Article 50.

Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority, except where otherwise provided by law. Should the votes be equal, the proposal under discussion shall be rejected.

Article 51.

The Chamber shall vote on questions submitted for its consideration by a show of hands, or by members rising or remaining in their seats, or by open ballot. A vote by open ballot shall be the rule for the adoption of a Bill as a whole, and in regard to a question of confidence. Elections and appointments shall be decided by secret ballot.

Article 52.

Any member of the Chamber is entitled to interpellate or interrogate Ministers, in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

Article 53.

All motions of want of confidence must be submitted in writing and signed by at least ten deputies. Ministers are entitled to adjourn the discussion thereof for one week. A vote of want of confidence shall not be deemed to be adopted unless it is passed by a majority of votes in the Assembly. No motion of this character may be submitted during the voting of the budget.

Article 54.

Every Bill must be examined by a parliamentary committee before being discussed in the Chamber.

Article 55.

No Bill which has been rejected by the Chamber may be reintroduced during the same session.

Article 56.

The Chamber may not adopt a Bill until it has been discussed article by article. A vote by nominal roll-call is requisite for the adoption of the Bill as a whole.

Article 57.

The Chamber has a right of enquiry in certain special cases in which it is given powers by the Rules of Procedure.

Article 58.

No deputy may be prosecuted in respect of opinions expressed by him in the Chamber.

Article 59.

During the sessions, deputies shall enjoy parliamentary immunity, and no measure of constraint may be taken against them without the assent of the Assembly, except in the case of detection in the act of committing an offence.

Article 60.

In the event of a vacancy occurring, the seat shall be filled within two months. The new member's term of office shall terminate with the mandate of the legislature.

Article 61.

A seat falling vacant shall not be filled if the mandate of the Chamber has less than six months to run.

Article 62.

The Chamber shall draw up its own rules of procedure.

Article 63.

At the opening of the October session, the Chamber, under the presidency of its oldest member, the two youngest members acting as Secretaries, shall proceed immediately to elect, by secret ballot and by an absolute majority of the votes cast, a President, two Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries and three Comptrollers. At the second ballot, a relative majority shall be sufficient.

Should the votes be equal, the oldest candidate shall be elected.

Article 64.

Deputies may only vote if they are present at a meeting. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.

Article 65.

The Chamber, represented by its President, is alone entitled to maintain order among its members. No armed forces may enter the Assembly Hall, nor be posted in its neighbourhood, except at the demand of the President.

Article 66.

No petition may be submitted to the Chamber otherwise than in writing.

Article 67.

The remuneration of members of the Chamber shall be determined by a law.

CHAPTER 3. — CONCERNING THE EXECUTIVE POWER.

I. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

Article 68.

The President of the Republic shall be elected by secret ballot by an absolute majority of the members of the Chamber. At the third ballot, a relative majority shall be sufficient. The President shall hold office for a term of five years. He may be re-elected only after an interval of like duration.

No person shall be eligible for the office of President of the Republic who does not fulfil the conditions of eligibility for the Chamber of Deputies and who has not reached the age of 35.

Article 69.

The offices of President of the Republic and of deputy may not be held simultaneously.

Article 70.

When assuming office, the President shall take an oath of fidelity to the nation and Constitution in the presence of the Assembly in the following terms :

“ I swear by Almighty God to observe the Constitution and laws of the country, and to maintain the independence of the country and its territorial integrity.”

Article 71.

When the Chamber meets to elect the President of the Republic, it shall proceed with his election before discussing any other matter.

Article 72.

The President shall promulgate laws adopted by the Chamber and shall have no power to modify their provisions. He may not exempt any person from the observation of the said laws. The method of promulgating and publishing the laws shall be prescribed by a special law.

Article 73.

The President shall exercise the prerogative of pardon. Amnesties may not be accorded except in virtue of a law.

Article 74.

The President shall conclude and sign treaties ; those concerning the safety of the State or the public finances, as also commercial treaties and, in general, all treaties which cannot be denounced at the expiry of any year, shall not, however, come finally into force until they have been adopted by the Chamber.

Article 75.

The President of the Republic shall select the Prime Minister and shall appoint the Ministers on the nomination of the latter. He shall accept their resignations. He shall appoint representatives of the Republic abroad and receive the representatives of foreign countries ; he shall appoint civil officials and magistrates. He shall preside at public ceremonies under the conditions prescribed by the law.

Article 76.

Every instrument issued by the President, with the exception of those relating to the appointment or resignation of the Prime Minister, must be countersigned by the Minister concerned.

Article 77.

With the approval of the Cabinet, and on the responsibility of that body, the President may issue a decree dissolving the Chamber before the legal expiry of its mandate. The grounds on which the President dissolves the Chamber shall be stated in the decree, which shall also provide for the convening of the electoral bodies ; the latter shall proceed to carry out new elections within a period not exceeding two months.

The new Assembly shall be convened within a fortnight after the promulgation of the results of the elections. If no fresh elections have been carried out, or if the new Assembly has not been convened within four months, the former Chamber shall meet as of right and shall exercise its mandate until the new elections have taken place.

Article 78.

The President may not dissolve the Chamber more than once on the same grounds.

Article 79.

The President shall promulgate laws within one month from the date of their transmission to the Government, after having been definitively adopted. If a law has not been promulgated within that period, it shall come automatically into force. Laws which are declared urgent by the Chamber shall be promulgated within eight days.

Article 80.

Within the time allowed for promulgation, the President may request that a law should be further discussed. If the Chamber confirms its former vote by a two-thirds majority, the law shall come into force and must be promulgated.

Article 81.

The President may, with the assent of the Cabinet, adjourn the Chamber for a period not exceeding one month. He may not do so more than once during the same session.

Article 82.

The President may not be called to account for actions performed by him in the discharge of his duties, except in the case of violation of the Constitution or high treason. His responsibility in respect of offences against the ordinary law shall be subject to the ordinary law. He may not be indicted for these offences or for violating the Constitution or for high treason, except by the Chamber of Deputies, acting in virtue of a decision adopted by a majority of two-thirds of the members composing the Assembly. He may not be tried except by the High Court, as constituted under Article 97 of the present Constitution. The function of Public Prosecutor at the High Court shall be exercised by two judicial officials appointed each year by the Court of Cassation at a general meeting.

Article 83.

Should the President be indicted, he shall be suspended from his functions, and the Presidency shall remain vacant until the High Court has rendered its decision.

Article 84.

Should the Presidency become vacant, the executive power shall be temporarily exercised by the Cabinet.

Article 85.

One month at least and two months at most before the expiry of the term of office of the President of the Republic, the Chamber shall be summoned by its President for the purpose of electing the new President. Should it not be thus summoned, the Chamber shall meet of its own accord on the tenth day preceding the expiry of the President's term of office.

Article 86.

Should the Presidency become vacant through the death or resignation of the President, or for any other cause, the Assembly shall meet within eight days, of its own accord, to elect a new President. If the Chamber is dissolved at the time the vacancy occurs, the electoral bodies shall be convened without delay, and as soon as the elections have taken place the Chamber shall meet as of full right.

Article 87.

The emoluments of the President shall be fixed by a law ; they may neither be increased nor diminished during his term of office.

II. CONCERNING THE MINISTERS.

Article 88.

The Cabinet exercises its authority over all the services of the State ; it meets under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to decide on important questions.

Article 89.

The number of Ministers shall not exceed seven ; they need not necessarily be members of Parliament.

Article 90.

The Ministers shall be jointly responsible to Parliament for the general policy of the Government. They shall be individually responsible in respect of matters arising in their respective departments. The Cabinet shall submit its general programme to the Chamber through the Prime Minister or another Minister.

Article 91.

Ministers may attend meetings of the Chamber, may address the Chamber and may obtain assistance from the officials of the Government in the Chambers.

Article 92.

No Minister may buy or rent anything which is the property of the State domains, even at a public auction. He may not participate in contracts for supplies entered into by the public administrations, nor may he during his term of office be on the board of any business.

Article 93.

No motion of want of confidence in respect of the Cabinet or of a Minister may be put to the vote unless at least two-thirds of the members of the Chamber are present.

In case, however, the question of confidence is raised by the Cabinet or by one of the Ministers, it may be discussed if a majority of the members are present.

A Cabinet or a Minister in respect of whom a vote of want of confidence has been adopted shall be required to resign.

Article 94.

The Chamber of Deputies may indict Ministers for high treason or abuse of powers, in virtue of a decision which may only be taken by a majority of two-thirds of the total number of deputies. The civil responsibility of Ministers shall be determined by a special law, in which regard shall be paid to the principle of pecuniary responsibility towards the State.

Article 95.

A Minister who is indicted shall be tried by the High Court.

Article 96.

A Minister shall leave office as soon as he is indicted. The Minister's resignation shall not prevent proceedings being taken or continued against him.



CHAPTER 4. — CONCERNING THE HIGH COURT.

Article 97.

The High Court shall consist of fifteen members ; namely, eight deputies elected by the Chamber of Deputies at the beginning of each year and seven Syrian magistrates occupying the highest posts in the judicature, in order of rank or, should their rank be equal, in order of seniority. These magistrates shall be nominated each year by the Court of Cassation at a general meeting.

The High Court shall meet under the presidency of the senior magistrate in order of rank. Its judgments shall be rendered by a majority of ten votes. The duties of Public Prosecutor shall be carried out by the Attorney-General of the Court of Cassation, except in the case of the indictment of the President of the Republic, where this duty shall be undertaken by a majority nominated by the Court of Cassation under the conditions provided in Article 82 of the present Constitution.

The procedure to be followed before the High Court shall be determined by a law.

Part III. — Finances.

Article 98.

Taxes shall be established for purposes of common utility. They may only be levied, modified or abolished in virtue of a law. No person may be exempted from a tax except in virtue of a law.

Article 99.

Each year, at the beginning of the October session, the Government shall submit to the Chamber of Deputies the general budgetary estimates of State revenue and expenditure for the coming year. The budget shall be voted upon article by article.

Article 100.

During the discussion of the budget or of draft laws involving the opening of supplementary or extraordinary credits, the Chamber may not increase the credits proposed either by way of amendment or of independent proposals. The Chamber may, however, adopt laws involving further expenditure after the close of this discussion. The Parliamentary Committee appointed to examine the budgetary estimates shall be entitled to modify them.

Article 101.

No extraordinary credit may be opened except in virtue of a special law. Nevertheless, should unforeseen circumstances arise making urgent expenditure necessary, the President of the Republic may, in virtue of a decree adopted with the approval of the Cabinet, open extraordinary or supplementary credits or effect any transfer of credits. Such credits may not exceed two thousand pounds per item. The measures thus decreed shall be submitted to the Chamber for ratification at the first ensuing session.

Article 102.

If the Chamber of Deputies has not given a final decision on the budgetary estimates before the expiry of the session devoted to their examination, the President of the Republic shall convene an extraordinary session to terminate at the end of January for the purpose of continuing the discussion of the budget. In that case, provisional credits, calculated on the basis of one-twelfth of the preceding financial year, shall be opened in virtue of a decree. During this period, taxes and dues shall be levied, and disbursements effected, in conformity with the laws in force.

If at the end of the aforesaid extraordinary session the budget has not been finally voted, the President of the Republic may, by a decree adopted with the approval of the Cabinet, give effect to the budgetary estimates in the form in which they were submitted to the Chamber.

The President of the Republic may not exercise this right unless the budgetary estimates were submitted to the Chamber at least fifteen days before the beginning of the session.

Article 103.

The final accounts for the closed financial year shall be submitted to the Chamber within a time-limit not exceeding two years reckoned from the end of the budgetary year in question. A Board of Auditors shall be created by a special law to audit all receipts and expenditure. This Board shall be an independent body and its members shall be irremovable, except as otherwise provided by the law and with the approval of the Parliament.

Article 104.

No public loan or obligation involving a charge upon public funds may be contracted except by virtue of a law.

Article 105.

No concession for the exploitation of the natural resources of the country or for a service of public utility nor any monopoly of such a nature as to involve financial liability to the State may be granted except by virtue of a law. Such concessions or monopolies may only be granted for a limited period.

Article 106.

The monetary system shall be regulated by law.

Article 107.

The economic laws shall aim at promoting the development of local industries.

Part IV. — Revision of the Constitution.

Article 108.

The Chamber may, at an ordinary session and on the motion of one-third of its members or of the President of the Republic acting in this matter with the assent of the Cabinet, adopt a recommendation by a majority of two-thirds of its members in favour of a revision of the Constitution. The recommendation must specify the articles which it is desired to modify. The Chamber shall decide as to the revision of the articles in question at its next ordinary session. A decision in favour of a revision of the Constitution shall require a majority of two-thirds of the members of the Chamber.

Part V. — Miscellaneous Provisions.

Article 109.

The boundaries, organisation and attributions of the administrative districts shall be the subject of a special law, which shall take into consideration the special position of some of these districts.

Article 110.

The organisation of the future army shall be the subject of a special law.

Article 111.

The present laws shall continue in force until they are modified by fresh legislation.

Article 112.

The President of the Republic may, on the proposal of the Cabinet, proclaim a state of siege in districts where disorder is prevalent, provided that he immediately informs the Chamber thereof. If the Chamber is not in session, the President of the Republic shall convene it forthwith.

Article 113.

The affairs of the Bedouin tribes shall be under the direction of a special Administration ; its powers shall be the subject of a law, in which consideration will be given to the special situation of these tribes.

Article 114.

The Mohammedan Wakfs belong, speaking generally, exclusively to the Mohammedan community, and shall be administered by Boards elected by Mohammedans. The method of electing these Boards and their powers shall be dealt with in a special law.

Article 115.

The first President of the Republic shall be elected by the Chamber of Deputies in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution.

Part VI. — Transitory Provision.

Article 116.

No provision of the present Constitution is or can be in conflict with the obligations contracted by France in respect of Syria, more particularly in regard to the League of Nations. This reservation applies more especially to those articles affecting the maintenance of order, security and the defences of the country, and to those which concern foreign relations.

So long as France shall continue to be under international obligations in respect of Syria, any provisions of the present Constitution which may affect those obligations shall only be applied in conformity with an agreement to be concluded between the French and Syrian Governments.

Accordingly, whenever the application of the laws contemplated by any articles of the present Constitution might affect the said responsibilities, the discussion and promulgation of such laws in conformity with the present Constitution shall only be proceeded with in execution of the terms of the aforesaid agreement.

Decisions, in the nature of laws or regulations, rendered by the representatives of the French Government may not be modified except in virtue of an agreement between the two countries.

Published at Damascus, May 22nd, 1930.

DECREE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, No. 3112
OF MAY 14TH, 1930, PROMULGATING THE ORGANIC REGULATION OF THE
SANJAK OF ALEXANDRETTA.

The High Commissioner of the French Republic :

In view of the Mandate of July 24th, 1922 ;

In view of the Decree of November 23rd, 1929, fixing the powers of the High Commissioner ;

In view of the Decree of September 3rd, 1926, appointing the High Commissioner :

HEREBY DECREES :

Article 1.

The Sanjak of Alexandretta, which was constituted on November 27th, 1918, and the boundaries of which were fixed on September 12th, 1921, shall be governed under the regime set forth in the Organic Regulation annexed to the present Decree.

Article 2.

The Organic Regulation, the text of which is published and promulgated as an annex to the present Decree, modifies or replaces the former texts concerning the same subject, and, in particular, all provisions contrary to its terms in the following decrees of the High Commissioners of the French Republic :

No. 330 of September 1st, 1920 ;
No. 403 of October 9th, 1920 ;
No. 987 of August 8th, 1921 ;
No. 1135 of December 5th, 1921 ;
No. 1881 of March 4th, 1923 ;
No. 2980 of December 5th, 1924 ;
No. 3017 of December 31st, 1924 ;
No. 44/S of February 14th, 1925.

Article 3.

During the term of the mandate and until otherwise decreed, Articles 3 and 9 of Decree No. 3017 of December 31st, 1924, concerning the method of appointment of the Mutessarif and the powers of the deputy delegate of the High Commissioner, shall remain in force.

Beirut, May 14th, 1930.

(Signed) HENRI PONSOT,
High Commissioner.

(Signed) D. TETREAU,
Secretary-General.

Published May 22nd, 1930.

ORGANIC REGULATION OF THE SANJAK OF ALEXANDRETTA, PROMULGATED
BY DECREE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,
No. 3112 OF MAY 14TH, 1930.

Article 1.

The special regime in regard to administrative and financial matters conferred on the Sanjak of Alexandretta, within the State of Syria, shall be determined by the following articles :

In order to provide for the application of this regime, the Mutessarif and the Administrative Council of the sanjak shall be invested with the special powers hereinafter described.

Article 2.

The Chief of the State shall appoint the magistrates. He shall also appoint the Caimakams and the Chiefs of the Central Services of the sanjak, on the proposal of the Mutessarif.

The Mutessarif, acting in virtue of the special powers delegated to him by the Chief of the State, shall appoint the other officials. He shall also appoint the Mudirs.

The Mutessarif shall have power to regulate questions falling within his sphere of competence in virtue of the present Regulation.

Article 3.

The Administrative Council shall consist of nine members, elected according to the method of voting in force in the State, and of three other nominated members. The latter shall be selected by the Chief of the State from a list of candidates proposed by the Mutessarif and including the Chairmen of the Chambers of Commerce and Agriculture, and other notables of the sanjak.

The members of the Council shall be elected, or appointed, for four years. The Council shall be renewable, one-half at a time.

Article 4.

The budget of the sanjak shall include, on the receipts side :

1. The proceeds of all State taxes, charges and revenues of every description collected in the sanjak territory and duly authorised ;

2. The sums assigned to the sanjak, after deduction of expenses, as its share in the apportionment of the receipts of the "Common Interests Management Account"; these sums are derived, among other sources, from the receipts from Customs, Régies, concessionary companies, and from miscellaneous dues ;

3. The proceeds of quotas or contributions which are paid to the sanjak by States and public bodies, or by private individuals.

The budget of the sanjak shall include, on the expenditure side :

1. All the expenditure of the Public Services in its territory ;

2. A contribution to the expenses of the general administration of the State, equivalent to 5 per cent of the total ordinary receipts of the sanjak ;

3. The service of loans contracted by or on behalf of the sanjak ;

4. The service of pensions.

Article 5.

The budgetary estimates shall be prepared by the Mutessarif, assisted by the Chiefs of Service, and submitted for examination to the Minister of Finance before October 1st.

Within a time-limit of one month, the latter shall furnish his observations on the effects of the general laws and regulations of the State and their reaction on the receipts and expenditure, as also in regard to any measures calculated to ensure the stability of the sanjak finances.

Article 6.

The Mutessarif shall convene the Administrative Council not later than November 15th to examine the budgetary estimates ; the duration of this session shall not exceed fifteen days.

The budget adopted by the Administrative Council shall be promulgated by the Chief of the State before the beginning of the financial year.

Article 7.

Propositions for loans and concessions affecting, and involving financial commitments for, the sanjak shall be drawn up, submitted, discussed and contracted or granted under the same conditions as the budget.

Article 8.

The sanjak will be given a special heading in the "Common Interests Management Account", both on the receipt and expenditure side. It shall assume its proportional share of all common charges appearing in this account, and shall be entitled, for this purpose, to urge its rights and defend its interests.

Published May 22nd, 1930.

DECREE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, No. 3113
OF MAY 14TH, 1930, PROMULGATING THE ORGANIC STATUTE OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF LATAKIA.

The High Commissioner of the French Republic :

In view of the Mandate of July 24th, 1922 ;

In view of the Decree of November 23rd, 1920, determining the powers of the High Commissioner ;

In view of the Decree of September 3rd, 1926, appointing the High Commissioner :

HEREBY DECREES :

Article 1.

The Government of Latakia, which was constituted as an independent Government on August 31st, 1920, in conformity with the principles laid down in Article 1 of the Mandate, shall be subject to the Organic Statute annexed to the present Decree.

Public liberties shall be guaranteed, and the public authorities shall be constituted in conformity with the present Statute.

Article 2.

The Organic Statute, of which the text is published and promulgated as an annex to the present Decree, shall modify or replace the former texts relating to the same subject, and, in particular, the provisions contrary thereto in the following decrees of the High Commissioners of the French Republic :

No. 1470 of July 12th, 1922 ;

No. 2147 of August 31st, 1923 ;

No. 2198 of September 24th, 1923 ;

No. 2979 of December 5th, 1924.

Article 3.

For the duration of the mandate and until otherwise ordered :

The Governor shall be appointed by the High Commissioner of the French Republic, to whom he shall be responsible.

Decrees having the character of laws or regulations, the budget, and decrees on questions of principle committing the finances of the territory in regard to loans, concessions or monopolies, and decrees dissolving the Representative Council or designating its nominated members, shall only be promulgated after they have been approved by the High Commissioner.

Any expenditure arising from the execution of the High Commissioner's decrees shall be compulsory, for the purposes of Article 23 of the Statute.

The High Commissioner shall exercise the sovereign powers which are not reserved for the autonomous Government.

Beirut, May 14th, 1930.

(Signed) Henri PONSOT,
High Commissioner.

(Signed) D. TETREAU,
Secretary-General.

Published May 22nd, 1930.

ORGANIC STATUTE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LATAKIA, PROMULGATED
BY DECREE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,
No. 3113 OF MAY 14TH, 1930.

The following Statute is hereby conferred upon the autonomous Government of Latakia, which was constituted on August 31st, 1920:

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

Article 1.

All citizens shall be equal in the eyes of the law. They shall enjoy civil and political rights, and shall be liable to public charges and obligations without any distinction in regard to race, religion or language.

Article 2.

Personal freedom shall be guaranteed and protected. No person may be arrested or kept in custody except as provided by law, and subject to observance of the forms prescribed by the law.

Article 3.

Dwellings shall be inviolable. No one may enter therein or remain therein against the will of the occupier, except in the circumstances and subject to observance of the formalities prescribed by law.

Article 4.

Freedom of conscience shall be guaranteed to all persons, as also the free exercise of all forms of worship which are consistent with public order and good morals.

Article 5.

Education shall be free, in so far as it is not contrary to public order and good morals and is not detrimental to the dignity of the religions. No step shall be taken to prejudice the rights of the communities to have schools of their own, subject to the general rules for public education laid down by the law.

Article 6.

Freedom to communicate ideas and opinions, both verbally and in writing, and freedom of meeting and of association, shall be guaranteed within the limits prescribed by the law.

Article 7.

The Press shall be free within the limits prescribed by the laws and regulations designed to maintain public order and respect for the rights of individuals and communities.

Article 8.

Property shall be protected by law. No person may be deprived thereof, except on grounds of public utility and on condition that fair compensation is paid beforehand.

Article 9.

Relations between individuals, in regard to matters not covered by the text of a law, shall be governed by custom, so far as it is not inconsistent with the principles laid down in the present Statute.

Article 10.

Arabic and French shall be the official languages.

ORGANISATION OF THE PUBLIC POWERS.

Article 11.

The public authority shall be exercised by the Governor, assisted by a Representative Council.

Article 12.

Justice shall be administered by courts, which shall be subject only to the laws.

CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR.

Article 13.

The Governor shall be responsible for the maintenance of public order and security. He shall provide for the execution of the laws. He shall have power to make regulations. He shall make appointments to all posts for which no other method of appointment is provided.

He shall administer the territory with the assistance of the Public Services, which shall be conducted by Directors.

Article 14.

The powers of the Governor in legislative and financial questions are delimited in Articles 19 to 26 of the present Statute.

Article 15.

The Governor shall convene the electoral bodies at the dates and under the conditions prescribed in the legislative provisions in force.

Article 16.

The Governor shall convene the Representative Council for ordinary and for extraordinary sessions, and shall announce the closure of sessions.

He shall have power to adjourn the Council.

He shall have power to dissolve it by a decree which shall state the reasons for such action.

In case of the Representative Council being dissolved, the Governor shall convene the electoral bodies within a time-limit of six months.

CONCERNING THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL.

Article 17.

The Representative Council shall consist of elected and of appointed members. The number of appointed members shall not exceed one-third of the elected members.

The election and the appointment of members of the Council shall be effected in conformity with the electoral law.

Article 18.

Legislative enactments, the budget, the final accounts of closed financial periods, as also proposals for loans, concessions or monopolies, if they may involve financial commitments for the State, shall be submitted to the Representative Council by the Governor.

The powers of the Council in these questions are defined in Articles 19 to 26 of the present Statute.

The Representative Council shall meet every year in ordinary session in November. The duration of this session shall not exceed one month.

The Council may, in addition, be convened in extraordinary session.

CONCERNING THE LAWS.

Article 19.

The Governor shall prepare the laws and submit them to the Representative Council for examination. He shall cause them to be promulgated in the form of legislative decrees.

Article 20.

Nevertheless, in cases of urgency and in the intervals between sessions, the Governor may, on his own authority, enact measures of a legislative character, provided that he submits them to the Council at its next session.

CONCERNING THE BUDGET.

Article 21.

Budgetary estimates shall be prepared and submitted by the Governor, who shall communicate them to the members of the Representative Council at least eight days before the opening of the November session, together with the final accounts of the past financial period.

Article 22.

No tax may be levied and no credit may be opened without the assent of the Representative Council.

Article 23.

The following steps shall nevertheless be compulsory and shall not require a vote by the Council :

1. The discharge of liabilities which have been regularly contracted ;
2. Disbursements in respect of closed financial periods ;
3. Disbursements in respect of gendarmerie and matters relating to security.

The total of the compulsory disbursements to be entered in the budget shall be shown in a table issued each year in the form of a decree by the Governor.

Article 24.

The fundamental organisation of the services may not be modified by budgetary methods.

Article 25.

Nevertheless, as an exception to the principle laid down in Article 22, should unforeseen circumstances arise making urgent expenditure necessary in the intervals between sessions, the Governor may open extraordinary or supplementary credits in virtue of a decree, which shall state the reasons for such action, on condition of submitting such measures to the Council at its first ensuing session.

Article 26.

The ordinary session of the Council shall be specially devoted to passing the budget ; this shall be done before any other matter is discussed.

If the Representative Council has not given a final decision on the budgetary estimates before the expiry of the session, the Governor may convene the Council in extraordinary session to continue its discussion. The duration of the said session shall not exceed fifteen days. If at the end of that period the budget has not been finally voted, the Governor may, in virtue of a decree stating the reasons for such action, give effect to the budget, regard being paid so far as possible to votes already adopted.

FINAL PROVISION.

Article 27.

During the term of the mandate, the powers established by the present Statute shall be exercised, subject to the rights of the mandatory Power as they result from Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations and from the mandate.

Published at Latakia, May 22nd, 1930. The Governor.

DECREE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, No. 3114
OF MAY 14TH, 1930, PROMULGATING THE ORGANIC STATUTE OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE JEBEL DRUSE.

The High Commissioner of the French Republic :

In view of the Mandate of July 24th, 1922 ;

In view of the Decree of November 23rd, 1920, determining the powers of the High Commissioner ;

In view of the Decree of September 3rd, 1926, appointing the High Commissioner :

HEREBY DECREES :

Article 1.

The Jebel Druse, which was constituted on October 24th, 1922, as an autonomous Government in pursuance of Article 1 of the Mandate, shall be subject to the Organic Statute annexed to the present Decree.

Public liberties shall be guaranteed and the public powers shall be constituted in conformity with the present Statute.

Article 2.

The Organic Statute, the text of which is published and promulgated as an annex to the present Decree, modifies or replaces the former texts concerning the same subject, and, in particular, the High Commissioner's Decree No. 1641 of October 24th, 1922.

Article 3.

For the duration of the mandate and until otherwise ordered :

The Governor of the Jebel Druse shall be appointed by the High Commissioner of the French Republic, to whom he shall be responsible.

Decrees having the character of laws or regulations, the budget, and decrees establishing principles which commit the finances of the Government in regard to loans, concessions or monopolies, as also decrees designating the members of the Government Council, shall only be promulgated after approval by the High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner shall exercise the sovereign powers which are not reserved for the autonomous Government.

Beirut, May 14th, 1930.

(Signed) Henri PONSOT,
High Commissioner.

(Signed) D. TETREAU,
Secretary-General.

Published at Soueida, May 22nd, 1930, by the Governor.

ORGANIC STATUTE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE JEBEL DRUSE,
PROMULGATED BY DECREE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE
FRENCH REPUBLIC, No. 3114 OF MAY 14TH, 1930.

The following Statute is hereby conferred on the autonomous Government of the Jebel Druse, which was constituted on October 24th, 1922 :

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

Article 1.

All citizens shall be equal before the law. They shall enjoy civil and political rights, and shall be liable to public charges and obligations without any distinction in regard to race, religion or language.

Article 2.

Personal freedom shall be guaranteed and protected. No person may be arrested or kept in custody except as provided by law and subject to observance of the forms prescribed by the law.

Article 3.

Dwellings shall be inviolable. No one may enter therein or remain therein against the will of the occupier, except in the circumstances and subject to the observance of the formalities prescribed by the law.

Article 4.

Freedom of conscience shall be guaranteed to all persons, as also the free exercise of all forms of worship which are consistent with public order and good morals.

Article 5.

Education shall be free, in so far as it is not contrary to public order and good morals and is not detrimental to the dignity of the religions. No step shall be taken to prejudice the rights of the communities to have schools of their own, subject to the general rules for public education laid down by the law.

Article 6.

Freedom to communicate ideas and opinions, both verbally and in writing, and freedom of meeting and of association, shall be guaranteed within the limits prescribed by the law.

Article 7.

The Press shall be free within the limits prescribed by the laws and regulations designed to maintain public order and respect for the rights of individuals and communities.

Article 8.

Property shall be protected by law. No person may be deprived thereof except on grounds of public utility and on condition that fair compensation is paid beforehand.

Article 9.

Relations between individuals, in regard to matters not covered by the text of a law, shall be governed by custom, so far as it is not inconsistent with the principles laid down in the present Statute.

All communities shall retain their individual status, and their rights shall be recognised and protected.

Article 10.

Arabic and French shall be the official languages.

ORGANISATION OF THE PUBLIC POWERS.

Article 11.

The public authority shall be exercised by the Governor, assisted by a Representative Council.

Article 12.

Justice shall be administered by courts, which shall be subject only to the laws.

Article 13.

The Governor shall be responsible for the maintenance of public order and security. He shall provide for the execution of the laws. He shall have power to make regulations. He shall make appointments to all posts for which no other method of appointment is provided.

Article 14.

The Governor shall administer the territory with the assistance of the Public Services, which shall be conducted by Directors.

The Public Services shall be divided into the following branches : Interior, Finance, Justice, Public Education, Public Health and Relief, Economic Services and Public Works.

Article 15.

The Governor shall prepare the legislative decrees and submit them to the Government Council, and shall promulgate them and provide for their execution.

The Governor shall draw up the budget and submit it to the Government Council.

The Governor shall convene the Council for ordinary and extraordinary sessions. He shall declare the sessions closed.

Article 16.

The Government Council shall consist of ten members, selected from among the Notables and the Directors of the Public Services ; these shall be members as of right.
The Governor or his representative shall be Chairman of the Government Council.

Article 17.

The members appointed to the Government Council shall hold office for two years. The Council shall be renewable, one-half at a time, on April 1st of every year.
Retiring members may be reappointed after the lapse of one year.

Article 18.

Legislative enactments, the budget, final accounts, and proposals for taxation and for loans, concessions or monopolies, if they involve financial commitments for the State, shall be submitted to the Government Council.

Article 19.

The Government Council shall meet every year in ordinary session at the beginning of the autumn to examine the budget.
The Council may also be convened in extraordinary session.

Article 20.

For administrative purposes, the territory of the Jebel Druse shall be divided into three districts (Cazas), having as their chief towns Soueida, Salkhad and Chaaba.
These districts shall be subdivided into sub-districts (Mudirieh) and the sub-districts into villages.
The above areas shall be administered respectively by Kaimakams, Mudirs and Mukhtars. These officials shall meet periodically at the chief town of the district for the discharge of current business.
The Governor shall be represented at these meetings, which shall also be attended by Notables who are heads of villages.

Article 21.

The chief centres of the territory shall be constituted as municipalities. They shall be administered by a Council, whose members shall be proposed by the people and appointed each year in virtue of a decree by the Governor.

FINAL PROVISION.

Article 22.

For the duration of the mandate, the powers established by the present Statute shall be exercised subject to the rights and obligations of the mandatory Power resulting from Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations and from the mandate.

Published at Soueida on May 22nd, 1930, by the Governor.

DECREE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, No. 3115
OF MAY 14TH, 1930, PROMULGATING THE ORGANIC REGULATION OF THE
“ CONFERENCE OF COMMON INTERESTS ”.

The High Commissioner of the French Republic :

In view of the Mandate of July 24th, 1922 ;

In view of the Decree of November 23rd, 1920, determining the powers of the High Commissioner ;

In view of the Decree of September 3rd, 1926, appointing the High Commissioner ;

In view of the Decree of the High Commissioner, No. 1945 of May 12th, 1928, concerning the constitution and working of the management account for receipts and expenditure of the services of common interest to the States under mandate :

HEREBY DECREES :

Article 1.

A “ Conference of Common Interests ” is hereby created to assist the Representative of the mandatory Power in examining and regulating financial and economic questions which are common to the States under mandate.

The competence, powers, composition and working of the Conference are as laid down in the present Decree and in the Organic Regulation annexed thereto.

Article 2.

The management account for receipts and expenditure of the services of common interest to the States under mandate, which was instituted by a Decree of the High Commissioner of the French Republic, No. 1945 of March 12th, 1928, shall be submitted annually to the Conference created by the present Decree for its advisory views. The same action will be taken in regard to the final accounts of the closed financial period.

No change shall be made for the present in the rules which govern the expenditure and working of this account.

Contributions to the civil and military expenses of the mandate shall not be submitted for examination by the Conference.

Article 3.

For the duration of the mandate and until otherwise ordered :

The " Conference of Common Interests " shall be presided over by the High Commissioner or his delegate.

The Conference shall meet when convened by the High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner shall fix the agenda of each meeting before the Conference is convened, in consultation with the Governments concerned. He may also submit urgent questions to the Conference during a session.

The High Commissioner shall appoint a permanent secretary to assist the Conference and shall place the necessary personnel and documents at his disposal.

Beirut, May 14th, 1930.

(Signed) Henri PONSOT,
High Commissioner.

(Signed) D. TETREAU,
Secretary-General.

Published May 22nd, 1930.

ORGANIC REGULATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF COMMON INTERESTS,
PROMULGATED BY DECREE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FRENCH
REPUBLIC, No. 3115 OF MAY 14TH, 1930.

Article 1.

The Conference, known as the " Conference of Common Interests ", has to prepare the settlement of financial and economic questions which are common to the States.

Article 2.

The ordinary powers of the Conference shall include questions dealt with in the management account of receipts and expenditure of the services of common interests, which account was created by Decree No. 1945 of May 12th, 1928.

Article 3.

The Conference shall also deal with financial and economic questions which are common to two or more Governments and which the latter decide to submit to it in pursuance of special agreements.

When the Conference meets to examine these questions, it shall consist only of the representatives of the Government concerned.

Article 4.

The Conference shall meet every year, in ordinary session, to examine the draft of the management account of receipts and expenditure of the services of common interests and the account for the closed financial period.

It shall be convened in extraordinary session for the examination of questions submitted to it in pursuance of the preceding article.

Article 5.

The Conference shall consist of the delegations appointed by the Governments concerned. These delegations shall consist of persons appointed *ad hoc* for each meeting.

The number of Government representatives at a meeting shall not exceed five per delegation.

Article 6.

The Conference may form committees for the examination of questions submitted for its consideration.

The Governments may increase the number of their representatives for this purpose by the addition of technical counsellors and qualified experts.

Article 7.

A permanent secretary shall be appointed to assist the Conference.

The permanent secretary shall collect and keep up to date the documents required for the business of the Conference, shall assist the committees and shall be responsible for the drafting of the Minutes.

Published on May 22nd, 1930.
