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WOMEN'S PEACE CRUSADE

For the Mutual Renunciation of War as an Instrument of National Policy in favour of the Pacific Settlement of all International Disputes.

This Crusade is an association of 27 British organisations. It co-operates with a similiar group of women's organisations in the U.S.A., by means of the exchange of literature and information; but each of the organisations is an independent National body and has no concern in forming the policy of the other.

EXPLANATORY NOTES AND MEMORANDA

For the information of those who are arranging Deputations to put questions on international policy before Candidates at the forthcoming Election

(The Questions suggested are printed on separate sheet)

Question I.—THE PACT OF PARIS (Kellogg Pact).

Two principal objections may be raised to the suggestion that the Pact should be carried out without reservations :—

(A) The British Empire is widely flung and therefore our interests require special protection.

Comment.

For this very reason no country stands to gain so much as Great Britain by the general adoption of the principles of the Pact. With the advent of America to sea power and the development of the Air Forces of the world, our supremacy at sea has passed. Our true defence lies in a just cause openly discussed in the eyes of the world.

(B) We are bound by the League Covenant to apply sanctions if required.

Comment.

If sanctions were applied under the Covenant of the League they would be an instrument not of national but of international policy.

Refer to—

“Speakers’ Notes,” price 6d. Published by the Women’s Peace Crusade, 55 Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

“The Pact of Paris,” price 3d. Published by the League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1.

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Question II.—OPTIONAL CLAUSE.

This clause makes it obligatory, that in any dispute of a legal nature arising between two countries whose governments have both signed the clause, a proposal from either of them to settle the dispute by submitting it to the judgment of the International Court of Justice shall be accepted.

The most important objection likely to be raised is that International Law is not yet sufficiently developed to settle all the disputes that might be held to come under the competence of the Court.

To this it may be replied:—

International Law develops by the Court considering the legal situation and pronouncing on disputes that actually arise. This is how the British system of law has been built up. International legislation and International Conventions in special cases can fill in the gaps when the Court shows that there is at present no accepted rule of Law.

Full information about the Optional Clause and a discussion of possible objections to it will be found in a League of Nations Union pamphlet "The Optional Clause," to be obtained from the League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1, price 4d. This pamphlet is indispensable for those who want to be informed upon the Optional Clause.

Question III.—PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES.

The chief objections usually raised come under the following heads:—

(A) We cannot consent to submit our case to the judgment of other nations.

Comment.

We have already bound ourselves to do so by Articles 10-15 of the Covenant. It is only where unanimous vote by the Council of the League of Nations cannot be reached that the right to make private war exists at all under the Covenant.

(B) In any case matters affecting our honour or vital interest cannot be submitted to the judgment of any third party.

Comment.

These exceptions are so vague and so infinitely elastic that they stultify any Treaty for the peaceful settlement of disputes. In 1907 at the Hague Conference called by the Czar to consider a proposal to renounce war in favour of arbitration, the Kaiser's representatives wrecked the project by qualifying their acceptance with the proviso that it did not extend to questions affecting vital interests or national honour.

(C) It is better to leave disputes unsettled if the parties cannot agree between themselves on a compromise.

Comment.

It is easy for a Great Power to act thus and to use pressure to get its way, but there are some disputes which cannot be left unsettled without causing serious friction and injustice and these are always a danger to peace.

Pamphlets, etc., to be studied on the subject of the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes are:—

"The Victory of Reason," W. Arnold Forster, price 2s., published by Leonard & Virginia Woolf, 52 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

"The Next Step After the Kellogg Pact," price ½d. Published by the Women's Peace Crusade, 55 Gower Street, W.C.1.

"International Disarmament"; "International Disarmament, Security and Arbitration"; "The Alternative to War"; "Arbitration." All price 2d. Published by the League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

Question IV.—DISARMAMENT.

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The three main political arguments for disarmament are:—

- (1) Our pledges under the Peace Treaties and the Covenant.
- (2) The heavy financial burden of armaments.
- (3) The danger of failure to disarm.

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These subjects are fully discussed in the following pamphlets :—
“International Disarmament, Security and Arbitration,” price 2d.
“International Disarmament and the Unemployment Problem,”
price 2d. Published by the League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor
Crescent, S.W.1.

Question V.—EVACUATION OF THE RHINELAND.

Article 431 of the Treaty of Versailles reads as follows :—

“If before the expiration of the period of 15 years Germany
complies with all the undertakings resulting from the present
Treaty, the occupying forces will be withdrawn immediately.”

**Point out that Germany has fulfilled the conditions entitling her
to evacuation.**

- (A) The Dawes' Scheme ends the right of occupation on the
ground of **reparations**.
- (B) Prior to Germany becoming a member of the League of
Nations the Conference of Ambassadors on the recommenda-
tion of the International Commission of Control certified that
she had complied with all stipulations as to **disarmament**.
- (C) Germany's signature of the Locarno Treaties and the Kellogg
Pact makes untenable the claim to further occupation on the
ground of **security**.

Additional copies of these Notes and of the Questions to be put
to Parliamentary Candidates, can be obtained from the Women's
Peace Crusade, 55 Gower Street, W.C.1.

Price : ½d. each, or 50 for 1/6; 100 for 2/6; 500 for 7/6 (post free).

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