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**WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
LEAGUE**



**YEARLY REPORT
1941-42**

Temporary Address:
"Portway," St. Mary Bourne, Nr. Andover, Hants

PRICE 3d.

Women's International League

(British Section of the Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom)

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH, 1941 — MARCH, 1942

Temporary Address:

"PORTWAY," ST. MARY BOURNE,

Nr. ANDOVER, HANTS

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

Formed at the Hague Congress of Women in 1915 to bind together women in every country who desire to promote the following objects:—

I. The Settlement of Disputes by some means other than War.

II. The Emancipation of Women.

Before the war we had National Sections or Correspondents in

Argentine	Denmark	Hungary	Palestine
Australia:	Egypt	India	Panama
Victoria	El Salvador	Ireland	Poland
Tasmania	Esthonia	Italy	South Africa
New South Wales	Finland	Japan	Spain
Western Australia	France	Jugo-Slavia	Sweden
Belgium	Germany	Lithuania	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Great Britain	Mexico	Tunis
Canada	Greece	New Zealand	Ukraine
China	Holland	Nicaragua	U.S.A.
Costa Rica	Honduras	Norway	Venezuela
Czecho-Slovakia			

The BRITISH SECTION of the LEAGUE is known as
THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Temporary Address:

“Portway,” St. Mary Bourne, Near Andover, Hants.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1942

Chairman—Mrs. Duncan Harris

Hon. Secretary—Mrs. K. E. Innes

Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. McGregor Wood

Miss Mosa Anderson, Mrs. Beesley, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Mignon Castle, Miss Maud Dickinson, Mrs. Garside, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Agatha Harrison, Miss Amy Haughton, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Miss Edith Pye, Mrs. McGregor Ross.

Vice-Presidents—

Miss Vera Brittain, Mrs. de Bunsen, The Hon. Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Lady Unwin.

MEMBERSHIP is open to all women who are BRITISH SUBJECTS, who desire to work for the above two-fold object. Associate membership is open to women and men of any nationality. Minimum Subscription to Headquarters, 2s. 6d. per annum. Monthly News Sheet, 1d.; 2s. 0d. per annum, post free.

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

March, 1941—MARCH, 1942

Again this year under increasingly stringent war conditions our Report must be kept within the limits of a rather dry record of events. Since our last Report was issued the war has spread to the Far East and the Americas, so that now it is in truth a world war. In the midst of chaos and destruction hopeful signs continue to emerge in the spreading realisation that the world as a whole must be organised for peace and for the welfare and happiness of the individual everywhere.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive has met throughout the year at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, by kind arrangement with the London Regional Federation of the L.N.U. If need arises, in addition to our Executive meetings a meeting place is offered for other purposes than the Executive Committee. Difficulties of travel and other obstacles connected with the war have lowered the attendance at Committees. Dr. Richenda Scott has been working in Oxford as Secretary of a Group of Economists and Sociologists working on problems of post-war colonial reconstruction for the Government under the direction of Miss Margery Perham and the auspices of Nuffield College. Mrs. Garside has been doing canteen work in Liverpool. During the year Mrs. Beesley and Mrs. McGregor Ross have been co-opted on to the Committee. We have been glad to welcome as visitors on several occasions, Frau Hertzka, Mrs. Misar and Miss Sheepshanks. Twice Mrs. Freundlich of the International Co-operative Women's Guild has come as a visitor and kindly opened discussion on the Women's Co-operative Guild draft programme on post-war reconstruction. Lady Unwin, our Vice-President, is still in U.S.A. but keeps in constant touch with us by correspondence.

Affiliations, etc.

We are affiliated to the British Commonwealth League, the Liaison Committee of British Women's Organisations interested in Indian affairs, and the National Peace Council. Our representative, Miss Dickinson, has served on the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union and the Study Group Committee, and has attended on our behalf meetings of the Associated Country Women of the World.

Diverse Activities of the Committee

The following letters were sent at various times during the year:—

(1) To the Foreign Secretary following up a Conference of representatives of women's organisations arranged in July by the National Council of Women, to urge the admission of women to the Diplomatic and Consular Services. A reply was received saying it was not at present proposed to go beyond the lines of reform suggested in the reports submitted by Sir Malcolm Robertson, which did not advocate the inclusion of women. We urged the N.C.W. to continue to press the point and to add pressure for the abolition of the marriage bar over the whole field of women's work.

(2) To the Trades Union Congress expressing regret that no woman was being sent by the T.U.C. to the International Labour Office in New York at the end of October.

(3) To the Transport and General Workers' Union expressing appreciation of the lead given to the Trade Union Movement in the resolution calling for the application of the principle of the "rate for the job" and equal pay for men and women in the Civil Defence Services, and equal compensation for war injury.

(4) To the Colne Weavers' Association expressing appreciation of its action at the T.U.C. in urging the adoption by the Trades Union Movement of the principle of the "rate for the job."

(5) To Mrs. Maisky "expressing our deep sympathy with the women of Russia in their present sufferings," and the hope that "when opportunity arises, Russian women will see their way to co-operate with women in other countries in working for the abolition of war as a method in international disputes, and for a constructive peace, such as may make that abolition a reality." Mrs. Maisky sent sincere thanks to the Executive for their "kind expression of sympathy with the women of the Soviet Union."

(6) To Miss Frances Perkins (by night cable) on the occasion of her Chairmanship of the International Labour Office Conference in New York, expressing congratulations on its success and assurances of our full co-operation in world reconstruction. Her thanks and appreciation were received.

(7) To the Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, M.P., expressing appreciation of his speech at the Mansion House on May 29th in which he made suggestions for post-war reconstruction. In reply, Mr. Eden expressed appreciation of our comments.

(8) To Lord Reith, Minister of Works, expressing surprise and regret that only one woman had been appointed on the Consultative Panel for Reconstruction. The reply we received said "that the Minister has invited, in the first instance, people with special knowledge and experience of the immediate work before him. The list of members is by no means final and as the preparatory work develops the services of others will be sought. Mrs. Hichens, who was a member of the Royal Commission on The Distribution of the Industrial Population, is familiar with the course of that enquiry, and Professor Taylor has scientific knowledge which will greatly assist in our initial research work. The Minister will, as opportunity offers, seek further help from women's organisations. He is grateful to you for writing to him and will certainly bear your views in mind."

(9) To the Press (a) expressing deep concern over the disastrous effects of the war on the minds of men and women, and perhaps even more directly on the minds of the growing generation; (b) deploring the blunting of the sensibility, a lowering of the standard of right and wrong, an acceptance of evil, a readiness to believe that the end (in the sense of victory) justifies methods of warfare which would at one time have seemed unworthy of the sons of men; (c) welcoming letters in the press condemning certain aspects of this war-mentality, such as the condoning of night-bombing and the clamour for reprisals.

Cable Greetings for Christmas were sent to Miss Jowitt, Frau Ragaz, Lady Unwin, Miss Balch and Miss Gertrude Baer.

Messages of sympathy were sent to Lady Parmoor on the death of Lord Parmoor and to Mrs. Sharp-Nevinson on the death of Mr. W. H. Nevinson. Lady Parmoor kindly presented the Office with a copy of Lord Parmoor's interesting autobiography "A Retrospect."

Lunch Meetings

At Friends' House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1, were held during the year. Subjects and speakers were:—

The Feeding of Children in Europe: Mrs. Lothian Small.
Central Europe and Post-war Reconstruction: Dr. Friedrich Hertz.

Reconstruction for Peace: Madame Yoors-Peeters.

Problems of Population and Peace (a Series)

Races, Frontiers and Peoples: Mrs. Barbara Wootton.
Human Arithmetic: The Rev. Reginald Sorensen, M.P.
Migration: Miss Bertha Bracey.

A Charter for Colonial Peoples (a Series)

Chairman: Dr. Harold Moody.

Human Needs of Colonial Peoples: Miss Margaret Wrong, M.A.

The Economic Problem: Prof. W. M. Macmillan.

Which Way to Democracy: Mr. A. Creech Jones, M.P.

Challenge to the Colour Bar: Dr. Norman Leys.

Various Colonial Policies

French Colonial Policy: M. Gustav Moutet.

Netherlands Colonial Policy: Mr. J. J. van der Laan (Netherlands Government Information Bureau).

Belgian Colonial Policy: M. Marcel de Baer (President of the Belgian Court of Appeal in Great Britain).

Miss Muriel Lester met members at a Lunch Meeting in December when she gave an account of her contacts with W.I.L.P.F. Branches in U.S.A. and with women peace-makers in South America.

The Committee is greatly indebted to Miss Gill and the Miss Harrisons for all the help they gave in connection with the Lunch Meetings, and to Mrs. James and Miss Anderson for each kindly acting as Hon. Secretary for one series.

Food Blockade

Miss Pye has continued to watch the situation with regard to the feeding of the starving peoples of Europe and to advise the Committee if any opportunity occurred to take action. She has kept us in touch with developments by articles in the *News Sheet*.

Colonies

Action with regard to Colonies and the Problems of the Coloured Peoples. A Sub-Committee on Colonies was appointed by the Executive as follows: Miss Anderson, Miss B. M. Baker, Mrs. James and Mrs. Ross. Miss Anderson and Mrs. James attended a Fabian Bureau Colonial Conference at Oxford in July, Mrs. James going on behalf of the Executive.

Mrs. Ross has reported on the general situation at different Committees and after one report a letter was sent to the Colonial Office urging the co-operation of native peoples in the planning and spending of the new Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. A reply was received stating that "Colonial Governments will take into consideration the views, insofar as it is possible to ascertain them, of all sections of the communities in the territories under their administration." Dr. Rita Hinden wrote an article for the *News Sheet* on Colonial Constitutions.

On March 11th, 1942, the W.I.L. co-operated with other societies in a joint meeting with the League of Coloured Peoples at which Mr. Arnold Watson was the chief speaker.

Co-operation with other Societies. National Peace Council

Mrs. Harris and Miss Harrison attended the N.P.C. Conferences at Oxford in July and January. The Executive endorsed the N.P.C. Statement on the Roosevelt-Churchill Declaration. The following were appointed to attend the N.P.C. Anglo-American Relations Conference in November: Miss Dickinson, Miss Haughton, Miss Sheepshanks. Mrs. Duncan Harris and Miss Harrison attended both this Conference and the Conference on The British Commonwealth and Empire in the World Situation in January, 1942.

World Unity Movement

Mrs. Barber, on behalf of the Executive, attended a Conference at Oxford, organised by Mr. Caradog Jones.

National Council for Civil Liberties

Miss Harrison and Mrs. Kinnish attended a Conference in June on behalf of the Executive. A contribution of 10/- was granted towards the expenses of the Conference.

Federal Union

Mrs. Duncan Harris represented the W.I.L. at a Conference in September on The Problems of the Post-War World.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

On April 16th, 1941, International House was irreparably damaged by blast during an air-raid, and the lease was repudiated from that date. The Bedford Estate accepted the repudiation and our years of occupancy of the Centre came to an end. The closing of International House Accounts at the end of the year is recorded in the balance sheet and the remaining funds are now in the W.I.L. account. The Executive decided to use the money available for special pieces of work only.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S.A. Section

At the request of the U.S.A. Section, Dr. Richenda Scott wrote a detailed Survey of Social Changes taking place in Great Britain as a result of the war. Parts of this were published in successive *News Sheets*, and much appreciation was expressed from the U.S.A.

A Questionnaire was received from the U.S.A. Section asking for replies to detailed questions on "How can the U.S.A. help the Democracies." Various Branches, individuals and Societies helped over the collection of replies which we forwarded to the U.S.A.

Gertrude Baer has continued to work in the U.S.A. and has issued International Headquarters News Letters from time to time to such Sections as can be reached.

An interesting feature of our intercourse has been the addition of many American subscribers to our *News Sheet*. Several of these have been sent by Miss Emily Balch, our International President.

Our U.S.A. Section has been especially interested in possibilities of relieving distress in Europe without the risk of prolonging the war, and of helping in the world refugee question.

On December 7th, 1941, the U.S.A. became involved also in the war.

Other W.I.L. Sections

Through letters from Switzerland and the U.S.A. we have had some news from time to time of members of our Sections in occupied countries. Now that America is also drawn into the war this cannot be continued. We have kept in touch periodically with our Sections in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and an article giving a picture in Australia before Japan entered the war, was printed in the January *News Sheet*. Letters from Sweden telling of the continued loyalty of our Swedish members came for part of the year, but recently it has been impossible to exchange correspondence.

Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations

Mrs. Lord and Mrs. Misar have served for our International on this Committee, but Mrs. Misar resigned in January, on leaving London.

W.I.L. CZECH GROUP

During the year we have had very little opportunity of meeting with members of the group. By early in the year most of the group were scattered in jobs all over the country and were not able to come to London. In the summer we had a tea party for those in London, but few were able to come owing to lack of free time.

From many we have had news of their activities; of others we have heard indirectly; and with a few we have unfortunately lost touch. At Christmas time we wrote to all those of whom we had addresses and had numbers of letters and cards telling us of their news and experiences.

We gather that most of the boys have joined the Czech army. The families are nearly all united and have got small homes together; the women are engaged in all kinds of work and as far as we know only one or two are now in private domestic service. The young people at school and University continue to do well and bring credit to their families.

Although we are always happy to have news from our friends and to keep in close touch with them, we hope that the looser connection that we have with some of them means that they have settled down into the life of the community.

The *News Sheet* is sent every month to all those with whom we are in contact and we hope by this means to keep the group informed of the activities of the W.I.L. and to share with them our plans and hopes for a better future.

INDIA

India has occupied much of the thought and action of the Executive and the Branches during the past year. Realising that the deadlock provides an acid test of our repeated declarations in regard to democracy, and with a rapidly developing situation in the far East—a world issue, too—the subject has naturally been one of our major concerns. Much of the work done both by the Executive and Branches has been in co-operation with other groups (e.g., the India Conciliation Group and the N.P.C., etc.) who are endeavouring to create a public opinion in this country. Meetings have been held in the Provinces as well as in London; representations have been made to the India Office and to M.P.s; and continuous reference has been made to India in the *News Sheet*.

A great deal of work has been done with the All India Women's Conference through our representatives (Mrs. Lankester and Miss Harrison) on the Liaison Group that co-operates with the Indian Women's Conference. Strenuous efforts were made to secure travelling facilities for Miss Vera Brittain to attend the Annual Conference. When these failed we explored the possibilities of sending someone else. But the difficulties in the way are insurmountable. The Liaison Group, however, was able to arrange for its Chairman, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, to broadcast a message of greeting to the Indian women during the Conference sessions; this was supported by 19 women's organisations here. On behalf of the W.I.L. Mrs. Duncan Harris sent the following cable to Mrs. Pandit, the President of the Conference: "*British Section Women's International League sends you your colleagues warm greetings and thoughts as you meet in these critical days.*"

The W.I.L. cannot relax its effort until some solution of this problem be found.

BRANCHES

We have been cheered and encouraged throughout the year by reports of the continued activity of so many of our Branches, even in those areas which suffered severely from air-raids, and by the support they have given to any suggestions we have sent out. In spite of the difficulties of the situation nearly all our Branches have continued in being, have arranged meetings, and continued the distribution of the *News Sheet*. Our sympathy is with the Manchester Branch in the necessity of dispensing with the valued services of its paid worker, Miss Pickstone. Members have undertaken to carry on and still keep the Office open—we hope till better times come.

That the energies of the W.I.L. will find both need and scope for rapid extension when the time for reconstruction arrives is increasingly apparent to all who talk with women in the different parts of the country. We know that our Branches will carry on and be ready.

We have Branches in Acocks Green, Birmingham, Brighton, Cambridge, Cheltenham, Croydon, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Harpenden, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Loughborough, Manchester, Marazion, North Wales, Reading, Stockport, S.W. London, Warrington, Welwyn Garden City, Worthing.

THE OFFICE

Miss E. Horscroft has continued her loyal service single-handed in the evacuated office.

NEWS SHEET AND LITERATURE

Mrs. Innes has continued as Editor of the *News Sheet*. Printing difficulties have prevented its issue punctually by the 1st of the month but it has appeared monthly, except that there was one issue only for August and September.

A new membership form was printed in June and reprinted in September. It was decided in future to ask members and Branches to make a contribution to the cost of the Annual Report.

A reprint in leaflet form was taken from an article by Miss Pye in the October *News Sheet*, on "Child Feeding in Occupied Countries."

CONFERENCE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

A Conference of Women's Organisations and individuals at which discussion was based on points 4 and 5 of the Roosevelt-

Churchill Declaration, was held at Friends' House, Euston Road, London, on 18th October, the general subject being "The Problems of Economic Security and Social Justice." The Opening Speakers were: Miss Jean Henderson, Mrs. Naftel, Miss Monica Curtis. Chairmen: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the morning and Mrs. Corbett Ashby in the afternoon.

In the discussion emphasis was laid on the need for a Declaration of Human Rights for acceptance by Governments and the Sub-Committee appointed to arrange the next Conference, decided to submit a draft Declaration as its subject.

A stencilled Report of the Conference was issued at 6d. per copy.

At a second Conference on March 14th, Mr. H. G. Wells opened a discussion on the Draft Declaration of the Rights of Man. Mrs. Ambrosova was the second speaker. The following resolution was passed:—

"This Conference commends to Organisations here represented, and to individual members of the Conference, the study of a Charter of Human Rights, with a view to promoting its acceptance as an essential prerequisite of any peace settlement."

EXTENSION OF CONSCRIPTION AND REGISTRATION

When the National Registration of Women was decided upon the following letter was sent on March 7th to the Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P., the Minister of Labour:—

"At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the above Organisation, held at 55 Gower Street, London, W.C.1, on Wednesday, March 5th, 1941, I was asked to express in writing to you, the deep anxiety which is felt by all the members, at the proposed extension of the principle of compulsion to industry, and at the pressure which is now to be exerted upon women to participate in war work.

The Committee would be relieved to have an assurance from you that any legislation introduced for this purpose will include a real safeguard for the defence of conscientious objection, applying equally to men and women; and that due consideration will be given to the many special forms of hardship that must inevitably arise through the compulsory employment of women, and through the transference of women to war work from their peace-time occupations." (Signed) K. E. Innes.

In the reply received Mr. Bevin stated "that it is intended to give as full consideration as possible to the individual circumstances of persons registered under the scheme. . . ."

A copy of the letter to Mr. Bevin, was sent to the Women's Consultative Committee set up to advise him on questions affecting the recruiting and registration of women for war work.

The Manchester Branch sent a resolution to the Minister of Labour, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, and the Director of Education in Manchester, deploring "the drafting into industry of women with young children," and insisting that if such a step is necessary "proper play centres and day and night nurseries should be provided by the local authority."

In April, when compulsion was extended to women in industry a letter was sent to the Minister of Labour on 30th April expressing disappointment at the failure to meet points in our letter of 7th March. The letter stated that the Committee was of the opinion that due consideration had not been given to the social consequences or to the special forms of hardship that must result through the employment of women who accept compulsion. The letter also expressed the regret that no provision had been made for the recognition of Conscientious Objection.

Further correspondence took place on the subject of C.O's.

When conscription of women was announced in November, Mrs. Innes sent the following letter on 29th November to the Prime Minister and to the Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin:

"The Committee and members of the Women's International League are awaiting with anxiety the text of the proposed legislation to extend conscription to women and to men over 41.

I am writing to urge as strongly as possible that in the extension of conscription the right to conscientious objection shall be fully accorded.

Women hitherto have not been conscripted for military service, and if they are to be so it is clear that they should have the same rights of conscientious objection as that granted to men in the same case. Any other course would be manifestly unjust."

Branches and individual members took similar action.

On the **Extension of Registration to Young People** in December the following letter was sent on 5th December to the Prime Minister, the War Office, the Minister of Labour and National Service and the President of the Board of Education:

"I am asked, on behalf of the Committee of the Women's International League, to express their great anxiety at the fact that, for the first time in British history, young people under 18 are being brought as a whole within the purview of the military machine.

We object to the registration of young people for this purpose. One of the great evils of the Nazi and Fascist regimes has been their iniquitous influencing of the immature child, and forcible registration of young people with the military machine in view, savours too much of these harmful methods.

We urge strongly that there should be full recognition of the rights of parents, which obligatory registration of young people might very easily over-ride.

My Committee is glad that in the extension of conscription to women allowance is to be made for conscientious objection on the same basis as it is made to men." (Signed) K. E. Innes.

A carefully reasoned reply was received from The Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, M.P., through his Secretary, claiming that there is no intention to bring these young people "within the purview of the military machine." The Committee sent the following reply:

"I brought your letter of the 9th December before my Committee Meeting in London on the 3rd instant. They were grateful to you for the fulness of the reply but they ask me to say that, in spite of the absence of compulsion, and the fact that registration is to be made under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, they feel that the registration at this moment has clearly as one of its aims, the purpose of drawing young people into the war effort. They specially regret this before young people have reached an age when independent decisions can be made for themselves.

Many groups and individuals will be watching developments with anxiety." (Signed) K. E. Innes.

ABYSSINIA

On the suggestion of a Branch that was concerned about the position of Italian women in Abyssinia, Lady Barton was consulted. She replied that she thought that all possible precautions would be taken to prevent unfortunate incidents occurring with regard to Italian women, and children in Abyssinia, and sent a copy of a fine Proclamation by the Emperor urging tolerance and restraint on his people. We have kept in touch with the Abyssinia Association and in December a letter was sent to the Prime Minister in connection with the delay over the conclusion of a Treaty with the Emperor of Abyssinia. It was urged that we should give full official recognition as speedily as possible and that the recognition of the Italian conquest should be immediately withdrawn, and diplomatic representation on either side restored. Shortly after the letter had been sent the Government announced its intention of concluding a Treaty with the Emperor; and this was concluded in February, 1942.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As times are difficult and we had sent out no autumn appeal, it is a matter of great satisfaction that our general account showed a small balance at the end of the year.

Thanks to the great kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Innes, our Office expenses have been minimal, and as the bomb relieved us of our end-of-lease obligations at 55 Gower Street, International House Account has provided us with a comforting nest-egg, only, of course, to be used for special work and for after-the-war developments. We would again thank our members and branches

for their constant and generous support throughout this year. We know they will bear in mind that if we are worthily and wholeheartedly to take our small share in helping to make a good "New Order" we must gather the means for that fine end. At Headquarters we do miss the stimulus of a London Office; let this lack be turned into good account by every Branch. So shall we emerge with our strength more evenly spread and our responsibilities shared by all who enjoy the privileges of our association.

Will members note that subscriptions are payable in January each year?

Penny-a-Week Fund

for the Restoration and Extension of our International Work after the War reached the figure of £65 8s. 5d. at the end of March, 1942.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AT WESTHILL COLLEGE, SELLY OAK, BIRMINGHAM, APRIL 15th to 17th, 1942.

1. DISARMAMENT AND THE STANDARD OF LIVING

This Annual Council of the Women's International League records its conviction that for the establishment of a stable and peaceful world after the war the necessary drastic and progressive reduction of arms must be closely linked with the utilisation of the rapidly developed industrial machine throughout the world for the purpose of raising the standard of life everywhere. To this end it urges:—

(a) That appropriate national and international instruments for planning this co-operation, and for the development of agriculture, be initiated now, in association with any existing organisations appropriate to this purpose, such as the International Labour Office, the Committee of the League of Nations for International Co-operation in Economic and Social Affairs, and the Inter-allied Post-War Requirements Bureau.

(b) That such ownership and control of industry shall be established and maintained as shall ensure the distribution of the full capacity of the machines, not for the profit of any groups or individuals, but for the purpose of raising the standard of life of all men.

(c) That in all colonial matters paramount consideration be given to the need for levelling up the standards of life of colonial peoples, not only for their own sake but for the sake of world standards also.

(d) That in our own country social measures for maintaining and raising the standard of life, such as family allowances, adequate pensions, milk schemes and universal school meals, be initiated and/or extended.

2. DECLARATION ON CO-OPERATION OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE WITH EX-ENEMY COUNTRIES IN POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

This Annual Council of the Women's International League, observing that there is in this country an increasing tendency to identify the National Socialists (Nazis) with the entire German people believes that this attitude of mind will negative any possibility of a just and stable peace, and urges H.M. Government to put before our people the necessity of co-operation with the German people in post-war reconstruction as an imperative basis of a lasting peace.

3. FOOD RELIEF IN EUROPE.

This Annual Council of the Women's International League has heard with sorrow and dismay of the conditions of under-nourishment, amounting in some countries to famine, and the diseases which follow, that are now widespread in the countries of Europe under German control.

It is thankful that the sending of a small measure of relief to Greece, under the control of the International Red Cross has been arranged by His Majesty's Government, and urges that the supply may be increased so as to avert the worst consequences from falling on its courageous inhabitants.

On the shoulders of the children and young people of those countries will fall the burden of assisting in the creation of that future Europe of peace and freedom on which our hope is set. It is upon them now that the heaviest weight of the food blockade falls, taking from them, if not life itself, all creative energy and nervous strength and laying foundations of weakness and disease which may bring disastrous consequences to the whole world.

The Council therefore urges His Majesty's Government to extend to these countries, in spite of the many difficulties, the possibility of such controlled relief supplies of food and clothing as are essential for the maintenance and growth of child life.

4. A CHILDREN'S CHARTER.

This Annual Council of the Women's International League, deploring such retrograde war developments as the lengthening of the hours of work for children in the Potteries.*

* The forthcoming rescinding of the Order sanctioning the longer hours has been announced since this resolution was passed.

Welcomes the fact that at the Conference recently called by the New Education Fellowship, representatives of the Allied Nations in this country affirmed the rights of childhood on lines similar to those set forth in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, commonly known as the Declaration of Geneva which was adopted by the Assembly of the League of Nations in 1924, and reaffirmed in 1934; and trusts that the principles enunciated in both Charters will in due course be brought into action.

5. COLONIAL POLICY.

This Annual Council of the Women's International League is deeply perturbed by the failure of His Majesty's Government to give any sign of its appreciation of the rapidity with which, under the stress of war, new ideas are permeating the thought of the peoples of the Empire, and destroying the validity of machinery based on the outworn principles of a "stratified" society. Events are suggesting that loyalty does not spring from policies of repression or exploitation; that only when colonial peoples have a voice in the determination of their destinies, and a stake in their country's welfare, can one expect to find willing collaboration in the cause of the wider community.

In particular, the Women's International League would point to the manner in which Africans in Kenya, who are without a voice in the Councils governing their country, are liable to be conscripted to work on the estates of European settlers, to the detriment of agriculture on their Reserves and in contravention of the principles of justice and social advancement.

They regret that in Kenya land which in many cases originally belonged to Africans, is now in the hands of Europeans, and is often unused though capable of cultivation. They suggest that this unused land should be taken over and handed to Africans for their own use in growing crops.

6. MONETARY SYSTEM.

This Annual Council of the Women's International League views with apprehension the effect which the present monetary system is likely to have, and registers its belief that a reformed monetary system is vital to world peace.

7. A DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN.

This Annual Council of the Women's International League accepts the Declaration of the Rights of Man prepared by the Sankey Committee and asks that study be given to an interpretation of its clauses which will make it more generally understood.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ending 31st December, 1941

RECEIPTS				EXPENDITURE			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To BALANCE, JANUARY 1st, 1941 ...			113 9 2	By Meetings ...			70 12 4
„ Subscriptions ...	274	1	2	„ Salaries ...			229 10 0
„ Donations ...	56	17	2	„ Postage ...			48 2 1½
„ News Sheets ...	52	2	9½	„ Office Expenses ...			58 14 4
„ Literature ...	7	5	5½	„ News Sheets ...			53 13 8
„ Income Tax ...	24	14	10	„ Literature ...			22 2 8
„ Affiliation Fees ...	22	18	9	„ Stationery ...			16 19 2½
„ Geneva Subscription ...	1	3	0	„ Insurances:—			
„ Meetings ...	72	1	5	Workmen's Compensation ...			2 12 6
„ Grant for special work ...	20	0	0	State Insurances ...			3 10 9
„ Penny a Week Fund ...	47	9	2	„ War Damage (Board of Trade) ...			2 15 0
			578 13 9	„ Income Tax ...			24 14 10
„ Balance in Co-operative Per- manent Building Society ...			383 9 11	„ Travelling Expenses ...			26 19 6½
				„ Audit ...			7 7 0
				„ Affiliation Fees ...			3 8 0
				„ Lighting and Heating (of 55 Gower Street			3 0 8
				„ Telephone (Gower Street Rental, etc.) ...			2 9 5
				„ Grant to Delegate to Fabian Colonial Con- ference ...			1 15 6
				„ Press Cuttings ...			2 2 0
				„ Rent (two weeks) ...			1 15 0
							582 4 6½
				„ Balances, Dec. 31st, 1941:			
				Cash at Midland Bank Ltd.	52	5	1
				Cash in Hand ...	4	13	3¼
				Congress Fund ...	53	0	0
				Co-operative Permanent Building Society ...	383	9	11
							493 8 3¼
							£1,075 12 10
			<u>£1,075 12 10</u>				<u>£1,075 12 10</u>

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

International House Account, January to December, 1941

RECEIPTS				EXPENDITURE			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance on 1st January, 1941 ...			453 15 5	By Rent of 55 Gower Street ...			69 10 2
„ Rents ...	38	9	3	„ Rates on 55 Gower Street ...			18 0 0
„ Rebate on Sun Insurance Co. Premium ...	1	14	9	„ Land Tax on 55 Gower Street ...			2 16 3
„ Interest, Co-operative Perma- nent Building Society ...	9	12	4	„ Repairs of 55 Gower Street ...			7 3 5
			49 16 4	„ Audit Fee ...			2 2 0
				„ Cheque book ...			10 0
				„ Grant to W.I.L. Account for special work			20 0 0
							120 1 10
				„ Balance in Co-operative Permanent Building Society transferred to General Account ...	383	9	11
							383 9 11
			<u>£503 11 9</u>				<u>£503 11 9</u>

19

I have examined the books and papers sent to me and report that I have found them all in order.

Westminster College, Cambridge.

(Signed) E. A. WOLSTENCROFT.

Women's International League

Temporary Address:

"Portway," St. Mary Bourne, Nr. Andover, Hants

BANK ORDER

(Bankers)..... Date.....

(Branch).....

PLEASE PAY to the account of the Women's International League, at the Midland Bank, 237 Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1, my Subscription of and continue to pay the amount, without application, in the month of in each succeeding year, until further notice.

Signature

Address.....

£..... :..... :.....

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR INCORPORATION IN A WILL
DULY SIGNED AND ATTESTED BY TWO WITNESSES

I give and bequeath to the Treasurer for the time being of the British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom the sum of free of legacy duty.

Witness..... *Signature*.....

Address..... *Address*

Witness.....

Address.....

All these signatories being present at the same time.

Watford Printers Limited
58 Vicarage Road, Watford

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