

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, January 7th, 1942, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Miss Pye, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Wood, Miss Dickinson, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Innes and Frau Hertzka (visitor).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs. Beesley, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Anderson.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON December 3rd were confirmed, having previously been circulated.

164. BUSINESS ARISING:

Minute 151. Miss Muriel Lester. Mrs. Harris reported that the proposed meeting in Miss Harrison's Flat had developed into a meeting at the Friends International Centre, Gordon Square on December 17th at 1 p.m., when Miss Lester spoke, among other things, of the many contacts she had made in America. She was hoping to speak at meetings in different parts of the country, and it was AGREED to ask her for a list of the towns in which she would be speaking in order that our Branches may have an opportunity of hearing her.

Minute 152. Future Conference of Women's Organisations. Mrs. Innes reported that those speakers who had been approached for February 7th had not been free to accept. It was now impossible to arrange the Conference for that day and she suggested March 7th or 14th, if the Committee approved, after consulting Mrs. Naftel. Only Ritchie Calder and Madame Ambrosova remained on the list and she proposed asking them for either of the above dates. The Committee AGREED to Mrs. Innes's proposals.

Lunch Meetings. Miss Harrison reported that Miss Anderson had agreed to arrange a series of meetings on "Other people's Colonies," but she would like a suggestion for the title. So far, she had not succeeded in getting any speakers for February, but she hoped to get Dr. Drummond Shields to chair one of the meetings. The Committee expressed their thanks to Miss Anderson and AGREED to ask her to choose a title which would convey the subject the Committee wanted to study. AGREED to ask her to write an article for the News Sheet, emerging out of the lunch meeting.

Minute 161. Annual Council Meetings. Mrs. Innes reported that none of the Women's Colleges in Oxford could take us in. AGREED to write to Cambridge Colleges, beginning with Homerton College, through Miss E.M. Smith, who is head and President of the local W.I.L. Mrs. Duncan Harris undertook to consult Horace Alexander provisionally about Woodbrooke Settlement, Birmingham. Leighton Park, Reading, was also suggested, or a Reading College. AGREED to ask the Branches for suggestions for subjects for the Council.

Minute 152. Conscientious Objectors. Reported that Mrs. Grindley had not drafted a letter to the Prime Minister because of the terms of the new Act which provided that a man who has refused to take a medical examination shall be entitled to an appeal after serving a sentence of at least three months' civil imprisonment.

Registration of Young People. Reported formal acknowledgments of letters to Women's Organisations, Youth Organisations, Women Members of Parliament, etc. Reported also a careful letter from the Board of Education which says that "There is no intention to bring these young people 'within the purview' of the military machine.... The registrations, when completed, will pass to the Local Education Authorities and their Youth Committees, the purpose being to establish contact between all these young people and the education service.... There is to be encouragement, not compulsion, to join some appropriate organisation... Registration will thus lead in fact to a further strengthening of the Youth Service estab-

lished by the Education Authorities in collaboration with the voluntary organisations working among young people, and that your Committee's apprehensions of some enforced pre-military training are therefore groundless." AGREED (1) to inform the Branches of this letter and to say that the Committee feel that in spite of what the Minister is saying about the absence of compulsion, the registration is clearly partly for the purpose of drawing the young people into the war effort. This is specially regrettable before they reach an age when they should be able to make decisions for themselves; (2) that a letter in this sense should be sent to the Minister of Education.

Minute 152. Joint Meeting with the League of Coloured Peoples.
Mrs. Innes reported that after consultation with Dr. Moody, the original idea of a meeting on the lines of our Lunch Meetings at Friends House, had developed into a proposal for the hire of the small Caxton Hall (holding 120 people) at a rent of £2.2.0 on 11th March at 6 p.m. to initiate social work on behalf of the coloured workers of Liverpool and Edinburgh. Mr. Arnold Watson had been asked to be the chief speaker as he is directly concerned with the coloured West Indian Technicians, Foresters and other West Indian and African workers in Liverpool and Edinburgh. Dr. Moody was willing to take the Chair. The Committee APPROVED of holding it in the small Caxton Hall and AGREED to pay the £2.2.0 rent.

Dr. Moody thought that Lord Simon might be asked to say a few words. The Committee, however, did not feel that Lord Simon would be a suitable speaker on this occasion. It was AGREED to suggest that only one other speaker be secured and the following be tried as alternatives: Mr. Creech Jones, Miss Ellen Wilkinson and Lord Noel Buxton.

Dr. Moody had drawn up a draft memo. to be submitted to different Societies explaining the need for support for these foreign workers for whom facilities should be given to enter into the homes of sympathetic people during their holidays so that they could take back an impression of life in this country, apart from the every day life of their work. In addition to the League of Coloured Peoples and the W.I.L. supporting this memo. and the object of the meeting, the Society of Friends Native Races Committee, the Aborigines and Native Protection Society and the Fabian Colonial Bureau were being asked to give their support.

AGREED to suggest to Dr. Moody (1) that the British Commonwealth League and the Y.M.C.A. be asked to give their support, (2) the following organisations be circularised:- The Seamen's Union, Church of England's Men's Society, Women's Co-operative Guild, Toc H. Rotaries, the Brotherhood Movement, (3) that Edinburgh House be consulted over Missionary Societies.

Mrs. Innes had sent Dr. Moody a draft leaflet for use in announcing the meeting, which he had accepted. The W.I.L. would buy enough copies to circularise their own members.

AGREED that our Liverpool and Edinburgh Branches should be asked to take an interest in the matter.

Minute 152. Calling up of Women for Registration. Reported that of/ the Council/ Christian Pacifist Groups had taken up the question of Conscription of Women.

Minute 162. Miss Dickinson wished us to call the attention of the Branches to the foreign speakers offered by the L.N.U. through the Women's Advisory Council of the L.N.U. AGREED.

Minute 161. the late H.W. Nevinson. Reported a printed acknowledgment from Mrs. Nevinson of letter of sympathy in the loss of her husband.

BUSINESS ARISING ON MINUTES OF COMMITTEE, November 5th, 1941.

Minute 144. Reported an acknowledgment from Miss Frances Perkins of W.I.L. cable of congratulations and assurance of full co-operation in world reconstruction, on the occasion of her Chairmanship of the I.L.O. Conference in New York.

165. FINANCE. The attached Statement showing accounts from January to December 1941 was accepted. Allowing for the money set aside for the Congress Fund and the Penny-a-Week Fund there was a balance in hand of £8. 12. 6. The Treasurer thought this was remarkable under present circumstances. She was glad to report that Miss Wolstonecroft of Westminster College, Cambridge, had consented to audit the accounts for the year and would be willing to receive an honorarium of two or two and a half guineas. The Committee asked Mrs. Innes to write a letter thanking Miss Wolstonecroft for her help.

Reported a letter from Miss Clugston, the auditor who had audited the accounts since the inception of the British Section of the W.I.L., regretting to learn that the altered conditions of the W.I.L. necessitated a change with regard to the annual audit. She expressed regret that after many years and having weathered one war, this second war was to sever the connection - but she hoped only temporarily.

166. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

India. Miss Harrison reported that Mrs. Corbett Ashby broadcast a greeting to the Indian Women's Conference on December 31st. A copy of this Message would appear in the Bulletin issued by the Liaison Group co-operating with the Indian Women's Conference. She urged W.I.L. members to subscribe to this as it was the only way of following this situation. The subscription of 2/6d should be sent to Miss Maitland, 536 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth.

The political situation presented yet another opportunity for a move on the part of the British Government. Recently all the political parties in India had met and issued statements. Though conflicting in many respects all reveal grave dissatisfaction with the present Central Government and demand recognition of India's status as a self-governing State. The statement sent to Mr. Churchill by thirteen moderates should be specially noted. Mr. Gandhi had resigned from his leadership of Congress holding to his belief in the power of non-violence. Miss Harrison urged W.I.L. members to follow this situation closely. The Congress Committee was meeting on 15th January when the position would be further clarified.

AGREED to send our Branches a copy of the Appeal to Mr. Churchill from a group of prominent Indian politicians.

The Committee AUTHORISED Miss Harrison to take action should a situation requiring it arise before the next Committee.

Ethiopia. Miss Dickinson pointed out what she understood to be an inaccuracy in the January News Sheet which stated that the Treaty was concluded between Great Britain and the Emperor of Abyssinia. She had been told by the Secretary of the Abyssinia Association that this was not so. Mrs. Innes reported that she had the information from a reliable source, but she would write to the Abyssinia Association asking for the exact position.

168. NEWS FROM ABROAD. (1) Mrs. Innes reported that Gertrude Baer had had a very pleasant and interesting supper with Lady Unwin in New York. (2) Arising out of the replies from the British Section to the U.S. Questionnaire on "How the U.S.A. can help the Democracies," Dorothy Detzer had written to say that they would like to arrange an exchange of magazines, and/or to send magazines to centres in Britain. Mrs. Innes had replied that a note about it would go into the News Sheet after which she would send a list of those who asked for an exchange of magazines. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that Mrs. Berwick Sayers of Croydon had agreed to prepare a list of Libraries which would like to receive U.S. magazines. This would also be sent to Dorothy Detzer. Dorothy Detzer considered that the suggestion in the replies that the U.S. Section should work for a common British-American citizenship would be a mistake. They have felt it necessary to work for some kind of world citizenship. Mrs. Innes had replied that the British Section is alive to the dangers of a British-American Citizenship and that it has not taken any decision to work for world citizenship.

The Committee thought that the pros and cons of Anglo-American Citizenship might be put on the Agenda of the Annual Council.

Dorothy Dezter also wrote that the U.S. Section would like to know the reactions of the British Section to the ruling by the British Government that no one who does not support the British war effort is permitted to go into the United States, and thought this might be raised on the exchange of preachers. AGREED to ask Percy Bartlett of the International F.O.R. for facts before taking the matter up with the Archbishop of York, Mr. Paton and Dr. Craig. It was AGREED to send Dorothy Detzer's comments on this to the National Peace Council and the British Council of the World Alliance for International Friendship through the Churches.

(3) Mrs. Innes reported that she had had a letter from Frau Ragaz in which she said that A.A. was rapidly failing in health. She also gave some news of one or two other members on the Continent. An article from Miss Moore of Australia had been received just in time for the January News Sheet.

Post-War Problems. Mrs. Innes reported that she had received from the Belgian Commission for the Study of Post-War Problems, their draft preliminary document. AGREED to ask if we could buy four copies for interested members of our Committee.

169. NEWS SHEET. Mrs. Innes reported she was getting for the February number:-

- (1) a paragraph on feeding in Europe now America has entered the war, by Miss Pye.
- (2) an article on India, by Miss Harrison.
- (3) Dr. Scott's Notes on the Social Changes under War Conditions would be completed in this issue.

With these and material already received Mrs. Innes thought she had sufficient "copy" for the February issue.

AGREED to try to secure for a later issue an article on "The Psychological Causes of War," by a Brighton supporter known to Mrs. Greenwood, who undertook to ask her for it.

Reported a letter of appreciation of the News Sheet and other literature which had been sent to the Washington Library of Congress at the request of Mr. G.D.H. Cole of the Social Reconstruction Survey, Nuffield College, Oxford. The hope was expressed that we would continue sending them literature. AGREED to do this.

170. CORRESPONDENCE. Mrs. Duncan Harris and Miss Amy Haughton AGREED to represent the W.I.L. at a Conference organised by the Married Women's Association on The Effect of the Economic Status of the Housewife on Sex Equality, to be held on the 17th January at the Caxton Hall.

Letters were reported from Branches as follows:

Acock's Green, asking if the Committee could bring before the B.B.C. the almost complete absence of women speakers in any important capacity, especially in the "Brain's Trust." The Branch had been told of Margery Fry's participation recently in the Brains Trust, and other women speakers.

Manchester had asked for a member of the London Executive to speak at their Annual Meeting in February. Suggestions had been made.

Warrington, giving an excellent report of their year's work which was put into the January News Sheet.

Reported an invitation to take part in a Co-operative Meeting on Housing and Town Planning, the convening of which is being considered by the Associated Country Women of the World. After discussion it was AGREED to reply that individual members are interested but as an organisation, housing and town planning do not come within the sphere of the W.I.L. We are, however, very glad that Miss Dickin-son as our representative keeps in touch with the Associated Country Women of the World.

It was AGREED that the Executive should meet at 11 a.m. on February 4th for general discussion on the international situation, the usual business to begin at noon. Lunch arrangements as before, i.e. members to bring sandwiches to eat in a short break.

Meeting Place: 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1.

B. T. ...
4. 11. 42

Statement of Accounts January to December, 1941.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on January 1st.....	113. 9. 2
Subscriptions.....	274. 1. 2
Donations.....	56.17.2
News Sheets.....	52. 2.9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Literature.....	7. 5.5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Income Tax.....	24.14.10
Affil. Fees.....	22.18. 9
Geneva Sub.....	1. 3. 0
Meetings.....	72. 1. 5
Grant for special work...	20. 0. 0
Penny-a-Week Fund.....	47. 9. 2
	<u>578.13. 9</u>

EXPENDITURE.

Salaries.....	229.10. 0
Postage.....	48. 2. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Office Expenses.....	58.14. 4
Meetings.....	70.12. 4
News Sheets.....	53.13. 0
Literature.....	22. 2. 8
Stationery.....	16.19. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Insurances:-	
Workmen's Compensation.....	2.12. 6
N.H. and Unemployment.....	3.10. 9
War Damage (Board of Trade)	2.15. 0
Income Tax.....	24.14.10
Travelling Expenses.....	26.19. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Audit Fee.....	7. 7. 0
Affiliation Fees.....	3. 8. -
Lighting and Heating of	
55 Gower Street.....	3. 0. 8
Telephone (mainly Gower St.)	2. 9. 5
Grant to delegate to Fabian	
Bureau Conference.....	1.15. 6
Press Cuttings.....	2. 2. 0
Rent (two weeks).....	1.15. -
	<u>582. 4. 6$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

Balances:-

Bank (including 47.9.2 Penny-a-Week Fund and Geneva Sub.£1.3.0.)	52.5.1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Petty Cash.....	4.13.3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Congress Fund.(in... C.P.B.Soc.)	<u>53. 0.0</u>

£692. 2. 11

109.18. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$
£692. 2. 11

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Meeting of Executive Committee, February 4th, 1942, at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Brayshaw, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Grindley, Mrs. Kinnish, Miss Harrison Mrs. Innes, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Castle.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Miss Pye, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Wood.

At 11 o'clock when all could not be present there was a general discussion on India and the Feeding of the Starving peoples of Europe.

171. Following a general discussion on the Food Blockade on a Report drawn up by Miss Pye it was AGREED:

(1) to recommend to the Branches a close study of the blockade question with a view to educating public opinion, and to being ready to take action at the appropriate moment;

(2) to ask Miss Pye if she would be willing to have copies of her report circulated to Branches;

(3) to warn Branches not to approach the Government until further information had been received from America through Miss Pye;

(4) To inform the Branches of the P.P.U. Campaign and to send them a copy of the P.P.U. paper "Famine." Suggest that, if the P.P.U. is getting up meetings in their districts, members of the W.I.L. be encouraged to support them. If, however, an ad hoc Committee is formed to organise the Campaign locally, our Branches should be advised to give their active co-operation. It was pointed out that peace and friendship after the war would be based on the humanitarian work done now;

(5) that Mrs. Kinnish, who was visiting the P.P.U. Office later in the afternoon, should suggest that two of the pictures in "Famine" from the last War be omitted if further issues are printed.

172. The INDIAN situation came under full review; in particular the debate in the House of Lords the day before. The answer of the Duke of Devonshire (Under Secretary of State for India) was felt to be deplorable as it indicated no forward move on the part of the Government towards breaking the deadlock, but reiterated the same old statements. Mr. Churchill's answer to the Moderates' Appeal was awaited with some anxiety in India and here. There was a desire in many quarters to see Sir Stafford Cripps sent to India with power to negotiate a settlement. The coming debate in the Delhi Assembly on February 12th was noted, when Mr. Joshi will move a resolution calling on the Viceroy to establish immediately a National Government and calling for a further release of political prisoners. It was felt the public here should have the opportunity of following the details of this debate fully, and that a broadcast summary should be called for. Miss Harrison reported that Dr. Crozier of the Manchester Guardian had been asked if he could secure a cabled summary of the All India Women's Conference; this he had done; it appeared in the M.G. of January 14th. The Committee decided to send a letter of protest to the Duke of Devonshire, and to approach the B.B.C. requesting a summary of the Indian debate, and to make this request known to the press through individuals. Mrs. Brayshaw said the Manchester Branch would try and get a letter into the M.G.

At 12 noon FORMAL BUSINESS BEGAN

172. MINUTES of Meeting on January 7th were confirmed, having been previously circulated.

173. BUSINESS ARISING.

(a) Reported that the joint meeting with the League of Coloured Peoples was to be held in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on 11th March at 6 p.m. when Arnold Watson and Sir John Simon would be the chief speakers. Dr. Harold Moody would be in the Chair.

(b) Reported that Mr. Ritchie Calder had promised to speak at the Conference of Women's Organisations on A Human Rights Declaration on March 14th (2 to 4.30 p.m.) provided he could speak on the Declaration drawn up by Lord Sankey's Drafting Committee and published in H.G. Wells's Penguin "The Commonsense of War and Peace." Mrs. Innes, on behalf of the Committee, had agreed to this.

Mrs. Liba Ambrosova will be the second speaker.

A letter had been sent to Women's Organisations inviting them to send up to four delegates to the Conference (2/- per delegate). The letter expressed the hope that delegates and others attending would make themselves acquainted with this Declaration. A copy was enclosed of a draft Declaration based on one drawn up by the W.I.L.P.F. and suggestions from the International Women's Co-operative Guild.

AGREED to ask Mrs. Corbett Ashby to take the Chair and if she cannot Mrs. Duncan Harris consented to do so.

AGREED to ask Mr. Calder if he would undertake to send a speaker if he found that his official duties would prevent his attendance. AGREED to ask Robert Pollard if he would come and take part in the discussion.

Mrs. Kinnish reported that the P.P.U. had issued H.G. Wells's Declaration as a leaflet. AGREED to get a copy and to make use of it if possible.

As Friends House, Euston Road, could not accommodate the Conference on March 14th it was AGREED to try to get a room at the Y.W.C.A. ^{in Piccadilly} or the Friends International Centre.

(c) Arrangements for a series of Lunch Meetings on February 11th, 18th and 25th at Friends House, Euston Road, had been made by Miss Mosa Anderson as follows:-

February 11th: French Colonial Policy: M. Gustav Moutet.
" 18th: Netherlands Colonial Policy: Mr. J.J. van der Laan, (Netherlands Govt. Information Bureau)
" 25th: Belgian Colonial Policy: M. Marcel de Baer (President of the Belgian Court of Appeal in Great Britain.)

Miss Anderson hoped ^{Sir Drummond} Dr. Shields would take the Chair at one of the meetings and she would ask Miss ^{Shepherd} if she would Chair one or both of the others. Miss Anderson was congratulated on the distinguished speakers she had secured. AGREED that at next Executive Committee there should be a discussion at 11 a.m. on Colonial problems, Miss Anderson being able to attend.

(d) Pacifist Speakers for U.S.A. Mrs. Innes reported that in reply to our letter Percy Bartlett had suggested she should write to Hugh Martin of the Religions Department of the Ministry of Information, which has the exchange of preachers very much in

its hands. She had, therefore, written to Hugh Martin informing him of the report from our American Section that a good deal of discussion is going on in America about the ruling by the British Government that no one who does not support the British War efforts should be permitted to go to the United States. The hope was expressed that Church Groups (among whom exchanges are being arranged) would take the position that 'unless both points of view could be represented in the United States no one would come.' The letter also expressed the hope that if exchanges are arranged in future something should be done to meet this reflection of opinion from U.S.A.

In his reply on 16th January, Hugh Martin said he was aware of the situation which prompted the letter from our American Section as he had recently returned from America. He was, however, not clear if we were endorsing the view of the American Section. If so, we were imperfectly informed of the facts. He wrote:-

"In reality the British pacifist point of view has been given much more widespread representation in the American Churches during the first two years of war than the one held by the immense majority of British Christians. The desire of your American Committee that both points of view should be represented ought to lead them to press for a much more adequate representation of the non-pacifist point of view than has yet been given, in order to redress the balance. If one were to proceed on a proportionate basis, one pacifist speaker among fifty would be an over-generous allowance.

In any case I find it hard to believe that your Committee holds that in the midst of a total war the British Government should allocate its very precious passenger accommodation and risk the lives of our sailors in conveying to America speakers who would then proceed to hamper the Allied war effort.

The danger has not been that those 'who do not support the British war efforts' should not be heard, but rather that the point of view of the overwhelming majority of British Christian women should go completely unheard. That would not, I am sure, be the wish of your Committee."

In reply to this letter Mrs. Innes wrote on 19th January. Referring to his comment re carrying passengers to America who would then proceed to hamper the Allied War effort, Mrs. Innes replied:

"I happen to think, to secure free expression of opinion, however much one dislikes the opinion, is to help the Allied war effort and to prevent totalitarian victory of the spirit, whoever wins in the field of battle.

While my Committee would always wish for the free expression of opinion, even of an unpopular minority, you are right in supposing that it would not wish that "the point of view of the overwhelming majority of British Christian women should go completely unheard."

As a matter of interest, I go about a good deal among ordinary working-class women and the attitude of the women to war is very different from what it was in 1914. For various reasons I am very careful not to give provocation, and to my surprise I am frequently overwhelmed by the outbursts as to the un-Christianity of war and the utter folly of men keeping the war system and settling quarrels by war; while a very common conclusion is "if they cannot do better than that it is time they let women have a hand." The speakers agree that there is nothing to do now, having become involved in a war with Nazism, but to continue till it is overthrown; nevertheless, the attitude to war among ordinary women is entirely different from some years ago, -- as will one day have to be reckoned with."

No reply was received to this letter.

In acknowledging our letter on the same subject, the Rev. A.C. Craig, of the Commission of the Churches for International Friendship and Social Responsibility, took the opportunity of asking for help over the securing the services of women speakers for their Religion and Life Week at St. Albans in the near future. Mrs. Innes had suggested Miss Edith Pye and Miss Agatha Harrison either as speakers or as able to give advice.

174. LUNCH MEETINGS. Suggested we should try to arrange a series of meetings on Liberties before the end of May.

175. FINANCE. Reported Miss Wolstonecroft had audited the Statements of the General Account and the House Account. AGREED to ask Mrs. Wood to write a letter of thanks to her and to send her a cheque for two and a half guineas as an honorarium. The Statements would appear in the Annual Report.

The attached Statement of Accounts for January was adopted.

176. ANNUAL REPORT. The Committee adopted the draft Annual Report, read by Mrs. Innes, for presentation to the Annual Council.

177. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS. Reported that efforts to get accommodation in Oxford, Cambridge and Reading had been unsuccessful, all Colleges having been booked months ago. Westhill Training College, Selly Oak, Birmingham, could offer us accommodation up to 60, some of whom would have to be in double rooms. AGREED (1) to accept the offer and to ask if double rooms could be used as single rooms if a slightly higher rate could be charged over and above the single room charge; (2) to ask Mrs. Adams if she could help us to get some hospitality amongst members.

Subjects. Acock's Green Branch had suggested "Politics and Morals," and the limitations of State Power. AGREED to ask the Branch to put what they would like discussed into a resolution for the Agenda. Miss Anderson AGREED to draft a resolution on "~~Empire.~~ *Colonies.*"

178. U.S.S.R. Mrs. Innes reported that on receipt from Moscow of a booklet "By Joint Efforts we shall end Hitlerism" from the U.S.S.R. Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (Voks), she had written to the Secretary thanking him for the copies he had sent and expressing "the hope that when the time comes, our two countries will continue co-operation in post-war reconstruction and in the organisation of the world for peace." Mrs. Innes had also (1) expressed special interest in the contribution by L.S. Stern in the course of which reference had been made to Dr. Harriette Chick, and (2) suggested if that opportunity arises for post-war co-operation in the political field as well as in the scientific, Miss Stern might like to get in touch with us through Dr. Chick, who is a well-known member of the W.I.L. Mrs. Innes had sent a copy of the booklet and of her letter to the Secretary, to Dr. Chick. Dr. Chick had replied that she would welcome any opportunity of showing friendship to the Soviet Scientists. She attended the International Physiological Congress in Moscow in 1935.

179. ABYSSINIA. Reported that the Treaty between the British Government and Abyssinia had now been signed.

180. THREE DAYS DEBATE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. Miss Harrison was asked to write to Cecil Wilson on behalf of the Committee to thank him for the moral and spiritual stand he made during the Debate on 28th January, 1942.

181. NEWS FROM ABROAD. Mrs. Iness reported (1) news via America of our Swedish members; (2) greetings from Miss Balch and the Canadian Section; (3) receipt of the International Circular Letter No. 4/1941.

182. NEWS SHEET FOR MARCH, would contain an article on the Psychological Causes of War by Mrs. Stuart; Disarmament and the Industrial Machine by Mrs. Duncan Harris, an article by Anilid on "being refugees."

This concluded the business.

Date of next Meeting. March 4th, 32 Fitzroy Square, W. 1.

B. Duncan Harris
4.11.42

STATEMENT OF W.I.L. ACCOUNTS, January, 1942.

RECEIPTS

EXPENDITURE

Bal. Jan.1st.....	109.18.	$4\frac{3}{4}$	Salaries.....	22.10.	0
" Co.Operative P.B.S.	333. 9.11		Postage.....	5. 0.	2
Subs.....	32.15.	6	Fares.....	1.11.	4
Dons.....	11.11.	-	Heating.....	1. 1.	7
News Sheets..	2. 9. 8		Rent.....	3.10.	e
Literature...	2. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$		Storage of furniture.....	19. 6	
Stationery re-			N.H.& U. Insurances.....	7. 6	
funded.....	6. -		War Damage Insurance.....	15. -	
Affil. Fees...	2. 6. -		Literature.....	7. 3	
Penny-a-Week..	2. 5. 1		Stationery.....	1. -	
Fund			Executive Meetings.....	10. -	
	<u>51.15.</u>	$9\frac{1}{2}$		<u>34.13.</u>	4
			Balances:-		
			Petty Cash.....	9. 6.	$2\frac{1}{2}$
			Bank (including		
			P.A.W £49.14.3)	64.14.	8
			Congress Fund.	53. -.	-
			C.P.B.Soc.....	<u>383. 3.11</u>	
				<u>510.10.</u>	$9\frac{1}{2}$
	<u>£545. 4. 1$\frac{1}{2}$</u>			<u>545. 4. 1$\frac{1}{2}$</u>	

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Meeting of Executive Committee, Wednesday, 14th March 1942, at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Ross, Miss Anderson, *Miss Wood, Miss Tyne, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Brayshaw*

From 11 a.m. to 12 noon The Committee examined some of the material which had arrived from U.S.A. and resolved to ask that Dorothy Detzer's letter be copied and circulated to members of Committee and Branches.

The Committee discussed Office arrangements. Agreed that if possible Miss Horscroft should be in the Office at 32 Fitzroy Square one day each week.

Mrs. Greenwood reported that on the way to the Committee, Mrs. Beesley had met with an accident which necessitated a visit to the hospital for first aid. The Committee asked Mrs. Greenwood to express their sympathy, with flowers, when she went back to the hospital to call for Mrs. Beesley.

From 12 noon.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Miss Haughton and Mrs. Garside.

MINUTES of meeting on February 4th were confirmed, having been previously circulated.

BUSINESS ARISING. Reported that a handbill announcing the joint meeting with the League of Coloured Peoples had been printed by that Society, a proof of which Mrs. Innes had seen and approved. In addition, a leaflet explaining the efforts to be made for the social welfare of the West Indian Technicians and other West Indian and African workers in this country had also been printed, with an announcement of the meeting. Mrs. Innes had not seen this second leaflet in proof, neither did she know it was to be printed until 500 of each of the leaflets arrived at the Office. They had been circulated to our London and near London members, Branches Affiliated Societies and supporters. She thought our share of the cost of the leaflets would be greater than we had anticipated.

Reported that Mr. Ritchie Calder had written to say he doubted if he could attend the Conference of Women's Organisations on 14th March on account of his work. He had, however, suggested several other possible speakers, the first of whom was Mr. H.G. Wells. Acting on his suggestion Mrs. Innes had written to Mr. Wells enclosing a stamped telegram form for reply, which he used to accept the invitation to speak. As applications for tickets were coming in slowly and it had been suggested that 2/- for an afternoon Conference was rather high and might keep people away, Mrs. Innes had reduced the price of the tickets to 1/- and a notice announcing the change of speaker and price had been sent to all the Women's Organisations, and individuals, to whom the first notice had been sent. Mrs. Corbett Ashby had not been able to accept the invitation to take the Chair. Mrs. Duncan Harris had consented to take it. A copy of the W.I.L. draft Declaration of Human Rights would be sent to all those applying for tickets, and H.G. Wells's recommended for purchase. AGREED to order copies of the P.P.U. leaflet of H.G. Wells's draft Declaration, for sale at the Conference.

After discussion it was AGREED not to prepare any resolution or statement to put before the meeting, but to express the hope that delegates would ask their Organisations to urge the Governments to include a Declaration of Human Rights as a basis of settlement after the war.

It was also agreed to ask Miss Ruth Harrison and Miss Gill to help on the day with routine matters.

Mrs. Duncan Harris reported a very successful series of Lunch Meetings on the Colonies. Sir Drummond Shiels, Miss Freda White and Miss Sheepshanks had each chaired a meeting. Two advertisements had been inserted in "The New Statesman" at a cost of £1. 16. 0 the two. M. Moutet had promised an article on his speech for the April News Sheet and Miss Anderson would send a general review of the lunch meeting for another issue.

It was AGREED that another series of Lunch Meetings should be arranged during May on Liberties and that they should be advertised in the New Statesman. As the catering facilities at Friends House might be difficult, if not impossible, shortly, the question of self-provided sandwich lunches with coffee on sale, was to be considered as a new feature of the meetings.

184. FINANCE. Mrs. McGregor Wood presented the appended statement of accounts, which was accepted. On her suggestion it was AGREED to have a "BRING AND BUY" Sale at the Council Meetings and to ask the Acock's Green and Birmingham Branches if they would make themselves responsible for it. On receiving their reply Mrs. Wood AGREED to draft a notice of it for Branches and other delegates.

185. RESIGNATION OF MISS SHEEPSHANKS. Mrs. Innes read a letter from Miss Sheepshanks giving her reasons for resigning, with much regret, from her membership of the W.I.L. She said she believed "the right object for the W.I.L. was and should be to work against causes of war, and do everything to build up a peaceful world, but when those efforts failed, and when the world is plunged into war by the violent aggressive and barbarous attacks of a robber state, she did not believe it right to try to hamper the Government of our country in its efforts to protect our people from the horrors which have overtaken the Continent." She strongly disapproved of the protests of the W.I.L. against the registration of young people who, she said "should be trained to protect themselves." She thought "this policy of pin-pricks wrong and futile, its only effect can be to annoy busy, over-worked officials and to discredit the W.I.L." She said she would have liked the W.I.L. "to concentrate on would-be plans for reconstruction, economic, educational and social." She believed "that the policy of seeing what the Government is doing and telling it not to, leads nowhere, and if we cannot help we should not try to hinder the victims of aggression from saving themselves." The letter continued: "Of course I condemn much in past policy that led to the war, and afterwards every effort should again be made to get the adoption of a better policy, but meanwhile we are fighting for our lives, and I can't be a party to trying to tie the victim's hands behind his back."

Mrs. Innes read her personal reply to Miss Sheepshanks in which she said, amongst other things, that she could not "agree that directly a Government gets us into war (1) Pacifists should cease to be Pacifist; (2) Protests as to anything the Government does should cease. I feel quite sure the Government would not wish it either...." "As regards the registration of young people, I think it is a thing most essential to watch. One of the ways in which Hitler and Mussolini have made their war and their peace activities totalitarian is by their most careful training of the young, and the idea that boys and girls must be taught "to protect themselves" is one which makes no doubt whether we deserve to win the war and fills me with dismay. I do not think our policy is one of pin-pricks. All the letters we have sent have arisen out of our principles held for many years...."

Mrs. Innes was asked to write to Miss Sheepshanks to say the Committee accepted her resignation with much regret, and to express much appreciation for all the help she has given in the past, even up to the last few weeks as Chairman at one of our lunch-hour meetings, and to hope that she will keep in touch with the W.I.L. and when the period of reconstruction comes, she will find she is able to work with it again.

186. INDIA. Miss Harrison reported that the letter sent to the B.B.C. asking for more Indian news has had some interesting results. Other Organisations are also pressing for this and it is understood the B.B.C. now has the matter under consideration.

Accounts of the All India Women's Conference were now coming through in the Indian papers. In her Presidential speech, Mrs. Pandit referred to being a member of the Women's International League. When the full text reaches this country extracts of what she said in this regard will be given in the News Sheet.

Present Situation. Miss Harrison said that in India and here, all were waiting for the coming statement that is to be made by the Prime Minister. Without pre-judging this, she said that few realised in this country how far upstream Indian affairs had moved. The recent visit of General and Mme. Chiang Kai Shek had forged a link be-

tween China and India that would have significant results. National India was far more interested in being part of an Asiatic framework - eyes were more turned towards the East than the West. The presence of Sir Stafford Cripps in the Cabinet was hopeful; his interest in India and concern about it, were well known and there was more likelihood of the Government response being more in harmony with Indian aspirations than would have been the case some months ago. Pressure from China and the U.S.A. were also a factor, to say nothing of the nearness of Japan to India. Until this statement is made, there is little to be done.

It was AGREED that if necessary, when the Prime Minister's Statement was out, London members of the Executive should meet to see if there were anything that our Branches could do.

187. COUNCIL MEETINGS, Westhill Training College, Selly Oak, Birmingham, April 15th to 17th.

Reported that the Brighton Branch urged that as few resolutions as possible be put on the Council Agenda.

Subjects that had been suggested were:-

"Politics and Morals." AGREED to ask the Bishop of Birmingham to open the subject. Failing him, it was AGREED to consult Miss Hirst for advice. Leyton Richards and H.C. Woods were suggested. AGREED to try to get on sale or return copies of G.P. Gooch's Morttens Lecture (1935) on "Politics and Morals."

"Anglo-American Relations," with special reference to Citizenship. Resolutions had been sent in on:-

"Disarmament and the Standard of Living." Proposed by the Executive Committee, Mrs. Brayshaw to be asked to move it.

"Monetary System." Proposed by Manchester Branch.

"Declaration on Co-operation with ex-enemy countries in post-war reconstruction." Proposed by Birmingham Branch.

"India." Proposed by Welwyn Garden City Branch. AGREED that, if necessary, permission should be asked to replace or supplement this with an urgency resolution.

Urgency would be asked for resolutions on:

"Colonies." Mover to be Miss Anderson.

"The Blockade," Mover: Miss Edith Pye.

"India", if necessary.

188. FOOD CONDITIONS IN EUROPE. Miss Pye reported on the present position. She had drafted a report for the Friends Service Council of what can be done immediately about Greece, and outlining possibilities of what can be done on the lines of the Hoover Report. At the moment she thought there should be concentration on making representations for regular and adequate supplies to Greece; local Committees should be formed of leading citizens who are willing to look at the question from its humanitarian point of view and not from a pacifist or political aspect. Individuals of standing should write letters to the press, and Committee should arrange deputations to their Members of Parliament.

It was AGREED to ask the F.S.C. if they could let us have

enough copies of Miss Pye's report to distribute to our Branches and members of Executive.

Miss Pye said she was drawing up a leaflet on Food Conditions in countries under German control but she did not know if the Friends Relief Committee, or other Committees interested, would decide to print it. AGREED that we should print such a leaflet if no one else did so.

AGREED to ask Mr. Lyas of the Ministry of Information for a copy of the Report on the Food Situation in Europe, issued by the Inter-Allied Information Committee, and to send it to Miss Pye.

189. COLONIES. Miss Anderson reported that press reports of compulsion of labour in Kenya were causing much disquiet. This compulsion was in contravention of the Forced Labour Convention, which had been ratified. The matter is being investigated by the Slavery Committee of the Society of Friends, which is asking the Colonial Office for information, and by T. Edmund Harvey.

After discussion Mrs. McGregor Ross AGREED to draft a letter to the Colonial Office saying (1) that we view with grave disquiet the reports in the press of the compulsion of labour in Kenya and asking for further information; (2) that compulsion of labour is contrary to the Forced Labour Convention drawn up by the I.L.O. and ratified by our Government.

190. NEWS FROM ABROAD. Reported greetings from our Section in New Zealand; a Statement printed in the U.S.A. News Sheet "Four Lights" of the attitude of the U.S.A. to the war. This would be printed in the April News Sheet.

191. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL. Miss Anderson and Mrs. Lord said they would endeavour to attend the Anglo-Soviet Conference in Friends House on April 10th and 11th. Mrs. Harris and Miss Harrison were attending as members of the N.P.C. Executive.

192. NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN TEACHERS. Reported the N.U.W.T. had taken action similar to that of the W.I.L. re the registration of youth.

193. THE FABIAN COLONIAL BUREAU were planning a Conference on "Empire Collapse?" on March 21st at 2.30 p.m. in London.

194. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES and W.I.L. Reading Branch. Reported a letter from the Secretary of our Reading Branch asking if they were allowed to affiliate to the N.C.C.L. Mrs. Innes had replied that Headquarters had considered the question of affiliation to the N.C.C.L. some time ago but had decided it would be better to co-operate wherever possible than to commit ourselves always to the policy of the N.C.C.L., as one does by affiliation, and that when other Branches have asked about affiliation to different Societies during the war, Headquarters have always given the advice that there should be co-operation for specific objects with which we agree, rather than affiliation. The Committee endorsed this reply.

195. NEWS SHEET. Items already arranged for the April issue were: Mrs. Stuart's article on "Psychological causes of war," a Colonial article by M. Moutet, a review of "The Miracle of Living," the U.S.A. Section's Statement about the war.

196. EQUAL COMPENSATION FOR WAR INJURY FOR MEN AND WOMEN. Reported that signatures for a Petition were being obtained to be presented on the floor of the House of Commons. Copies had been sent to our Branches, with leaflets. The last date for sending in forms was March 12th.

197. ESPERANTO PETITION to the Government. Reported that this Petition had been sent to us by Mrs. Neal of Wood Green.

Forms of each were available for signature and several members signed these.

198. WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL, League of Nations Union. Miss Dickinson reported on meetings (1) at which Lord Cecil had spoken on "Peaceful Change," and (2) Sergeant Florence on "Economic Reconstruction in the Post-War Settlement."

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday April 1st, 11.45 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

B. Bureau Harris

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Statement of W.I.L. Accounts for February, 1942.

RECEIPTS.

EXPENDITURE.

Bal. on Feb. 1st.....	510.10.	9½
Subscriptions...149.	0.	0
Donations.....	33.	1. 8
News Sheets.....	8.	18. 5
Literature.....	2.	4. 3
Affil. Fees.....	2.	4. 9
Meetings.....	1.	4.10
Penny-a-Week Fd..	3.	- . 5

199.14. 4

Postage.....	1.10.	4½
Office expenses.....	1.	8.10
State Insurances.....	2.	11
Rent.....	4.	7. 6
Salaries.....	18.	0. 0
Lighting and Heating.....	1.	3. 2½
News Sheets. (two months)..	8.	13.10
Travelling expenses.....	1.	18. 4
Meetings.....	3.	5. 6
Literature.....	3.	17. 4
Stationery.....	1.	9.10
Audit.....	2.	12. 6
		<u>48.10. 2</u>

Balances:

Bank.....	221.	1. 0
Petty Cash.....	2.	4. -½
Congress Fund..	55.	- . -
C.P.B. Soc....	383.	9.11

661.14.11½

£710. 5. 1½

including 252.14.8
Penny-a-Week Fund.

£710. 5. 1½

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, April 1st, 1942, at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1. from 11.45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Miss Harrison, Miss Dickinson, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Mrs. Grindley, Mrs. Beesley, Miss Anderson.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Miss Pye, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Ross.

MINUTES of meeting on March 4th were amended and signed, having previously been circulated.

199. BUSINESS ARISING. Joint Meeting of the W.I.L. and the League of Coloured Peoples re West Indian Technicians. A report from Mrs. Ross was read. The attendance had been very poor. Mr. Arthur Watson had been very interesting and worthy of a larger audience. He has obviously done a very valuable piece of work in welcoming 200 coloured men from Jamaica who have come to England to do skilled work in factories during the war, chiefly on Merseyside. Mr. Watson had noted that there was no colour bar felt by their fellow workmen, but he said that if there were unemployment among the white workers a colour bar would at once become evident. These men earn good wages, some of which they send to their families in Jamaica, and they all expect to return when the war is over.

Mrs. Innes reported on the expenses in connection with the meeting and it was agreed to pay £4. 10. 4d, being £2.2.0 for the Hall and £2. 8. 4 for the leaflets which we had sent out to members.

Mrs. Innes also reported a letter from Dr. Moody saying that things in Liverpool were not as they should be, particularly at West Indies House, and Mr. John Carter, the new Secretary of the League of Coloured Peoples, was being sent to investigate matters. Dr. Moody had asked if our Liverpool Branch could offer hospitality to Mr. Carter for two or three nights as it was advisable for him not to accept the hospitality of West Indies House. Mrs. Innes had written to the Liverpool Branch on the matter.

After discussion it was AGREED to wait for the report of Mr. Carter's investigations and then ask our Liverpool and North Wales Branches to see if they could help in any way, by entertaining, etc.

Reported that the Conference of Women's Organisations on the Declaration of the Rights of Man on March 14th at Gordon Square had been well attended and was very successful. The following resolution had been unanimously adopted:-

"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."

It had also agreed that the ad hoc Committee arranging these Conferences should be strengthened.

In answer to a query from Mrs. Innes, Mr. H.G. Wells had written to say full use could be made of the draft Declaration provided the final text was used, which was printed in "Science and the World Mind," and which could be obtained from the New Europe Publishing Company, price 1/6d. Since then, Mrs. Innes had found that the final text could also be obtained from the Engineers' Study Group on Economics, 13 Suffolk Street, S.W. 1. price 3d, each or 2/- per dozen. AGREED to order 100 copies.

It was also reported that the Married Women's Association had sent congratulations on the work being done by these Conferences of Women's Organisations.

After discussion it was AGREED (1) to ask our own Branches and other Women's Organisations, to send in comments or criticisms after their study of the Declaration in order that they may be taken as a

basis of discussion for the next Conference;

(2) to enlarge the existing ad hoc Committee by inviting the following to serve on it:- Miss Solomon of the British Commonwealth League, Mrs. Ambrosova, Mrs. Yoors-Pecters, Mrs. Marguerita Camps and Miss E.N. Smith (Assistant Mistresses' Association). The present members were Mrs. Naftel, Mrs. Duncan Harris, Mrs. Innes, Miss Sheepshanks, Miss Jean Henderson.

Mrs. Innes reported that the Research Co-ordination Committee on the Declaration of the Rights of Man had stencilled a circular "What you can do," which gave suggestions for assisting to bring about a New World Order, and asked for support for their effort to get acceptance of the Charter.

It was AGREED to arrange a series of Wednesday Lunch Meetings in May, except the first Wednesday, on the Declaration of the Rights of Man, with, if possible, the following speakers:- (1) Mr. Priestley or Mrs. Wootton, (2) someone from India (through Miss Harrison, (3) a working woman. Miss Sutherland to be asked by Mrs. Duncan Harris to suggest someone, and to take the chair at the meeting for her.

Mrs. Harris AGREED to make arrangements about the premises for the meetings.

200.

FINANCE. Mrs. Wood reported a balance in hand at the end of March of £221. 1. 0, which included £55 for the Congress Fund and £63 for the Penny-a-Week Fund. In addition there was £383 from the International House Account in the Co-operative Permanent Building Society.

It was AGREED that Miss Horscroft should collect the subscriptions of £1 per annum from the British International Members and forward them to Miss Edith Pye.

AGREED to pay the charge of £1. 5. 0 for re-addressing letters from 55 Gower Street for another 12 months, as some letters were still being forwarded from that address.

201.

OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that some time ago, knowing that the N.P.C. was looking out for fresh offices, she had asked Gerald Bailey to remember that the W.I.L. might be interested to hear of any possibilities they were considering. Recently he had heard of a house in Gordon Square and was exploring the possibility, at present quite tentatively, of the N.P.C. making arrangements for the lease of two floors. In that case, if the W.I.L. wished, it might be possible to consider the taking of the third floor. No information was yet available as regards rent. In view of this the Officers and Miss Horscroft had that morning seen the rooms. They are attractive and in an excellent position, and in case they become available she would like the Committee to consider the advisability of going further in the matter, and of the Office returning to London. Mrs. Innes had sent out a letter beforehand to members of the Committee asking them to consider this advisability, and giving some pros. and cons. as she saw them. Letters in reply were read from Mrs. Greenwood and Miss Pye, each of whom felt it was not advisable to make a move at the moment.

The matter was discussed at some length, Miss Harrison and Miss Anderson putting the need for the Chairman to keep in close touch with the work and the difficulties of no central meeting place in London, where many things were beginning "to move." The rest of the members of the Committee, however, speaking both as Committee members and as Branch representatives, felt that while present arrangements were working on the whole satisfactorily and had advantages in the close co-operation possible between the Hon. Secretary and the working of the Office, it would be a pity in present uncertainties to make a move. As the majority of the Committee felt this and felt that, as far as Branches were concerned, the present arrangement was working very satisfactorily, Mrs. Innes was asked to write to Gerald Bailey and say that we were not prepared to go forward now with negotiations for the rooms in Gordon Square but we shall be interested to be kept in touch with their movements in case of possible future developments.

AGREED the Officers should resume their meetings a fortnight before each Executive.

202. COUNCIL MEETINGS. Reported that efforts to get an Opener for the discussion on Politics and Morals had not been successful. Several had expressed regret as the subject was one that greatly interested them. AGREED that, although Mrs. Pethick Lawrence had already sent in her apology for absence from the Council, she should be urged by reply-paid wire to come and open the discussion on Thursday, April 16th. Failing her, Prof. Morgan Rees was to be asked and Mrs. Prichard agreed to use her influence in getting him, on receiving a wire to say that Mrs. Pethick Lawrence was unable to be present.

Mrs. Innes reported that Manchester Branch felt it could not open the discussion on Anglo-American Relations, with special reference to Citizenship. Miss Harrison agreed to ask Miss Vera Brittain, by telephone, if she could come and open it.

Miss Dickinson consented to report on the Penny-a-Week Fund.

Reported the two Birmingham Branches were very kindly entertaining the Council to tea on Thursday from 4 to 6.45 p.m. during which time the Bring and Buy Sale would be held.

With regard to the Press, it was AGREED to ask the advice of the Birmingham Branches about the local press and to invite the "Manchester Guardian" to send a reporter to receive reports at the end of each day.

203. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. Food Conditions in Europe. Reported that Miss Pye would be proposing an urgency resolution at the Council Meeting. It was hoped that the Friends Service Council would have printed in time for the meetings the pamphlet which she had written. The price, it was thought would be 3d each. The Committee felt that the Branches would not buy large quantities for distribution at this price. AGREED to order 100 copies for use at the Council.

Miss Harrison expressed her great concern over the delay in dealing with the question of starving populations. She found everywhere people asking what they could do and she would like to see the Council taking the lead in calling a halt to any further delay.

Palestine.

On the suggestion of the Brighton Branch it was AGREED to write to Lord Cranborne to express the Committee's great sorrow over the tragedy of the S.S. "Struma." The Committee urged that an adjustment should be made now to avoid the recurrence of any such tragedy through a similar refusal to admit such refugees.

Survey on Post-War Relief. Reported that an interesting survey on Post-War Relief was being made at Chatham House. AGREED to ask for a copy, when ready, and to send it to Mrs. Lloyd Prichard to write up for the News Sheet.

India. Miss Harrison said it was impossible to forecast what would be the outcome of the negotiations going on in Delhi; they were set in a friendly atmosphere and there was an expectancy in India and here that agreement would be reached. For the first time since the deadlock occurred it was possible to follow through the press and wireless news, the day to-day affairs; this was all to the good. She urged that the matter be followed with vigilance in the coming days and said that it would be necessary to wait until the last moment to draft anything to come before the Council.

204. CORRESPONDENCE. Tunbridge Wells Branch. Mrs. Innes reported that the Secretary, Miss Emily Jones had written to say that she was afraid the Branch would have to close down, it being impossible for them to carry on any work at present. Mrs. Innes had written expressing regret and hoping that they might be able just to keep together for revival when happier times came.

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205. REPORTS OF MEETINGS. Miss Dickinson reported on a meeting of the Women's Advisory Council of the L.N.U. at which Miss Freda White spoke on Colonial Problems.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. May 6th 11.45 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., at 32 Fitzroy Square, W. 1.

B. Duncan Harris

*Signed as read.
May 6/42*

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE,
55 GOWER STREET, LONDON, W.C.1.

INQUIRIES: 11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

Office Secretary: Miss E. HORSBROFT,

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: MUSEUM 3179.

Miss C. E. MARSHALL.
Miss Edith PYE.
Miss W. G. RINDER.
Mrs. RICHENDA SCOTT.
Mrs. THORNYCROFT.

Mrs. L. G. H. HUXLEY.
Miss LETTICE JOWITT.
Mrs. KINNISH.
Mrs. LANKESTER.
Mrs. LONGSON.

Mrs. GARSIDE.
Mrs. GREENWOOD.
Mrs. GRINDLEY.
Miss AGATHA HARRISON.
Miss AMY HAUGHTON.

Miss MOSA ANDERSON.
Miss KARLEEN BAKER.
Mrs. BRAYSHAW.
Dr. HILDA CLARK.
Miss MAUD DICKINSON.

Executive Committee:

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. K. E. INNES.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. MCGREGOR WOOD.

Chairman: Mrs. DUNCAN HARRIS, J.P.
Vice-Chairman: Miss MARY SHEEPSHANKS.

Vice-Presidents: Miss VERA BRITAIN, Mrs. DE BUNSEN, The Hon. Mrs. FRANKLIN, Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE, Dr. MAUDE ROYDEN, Miss MARY SHEEPSHANKS, Lady UNWIN.

National Sections or Correspondents in 39 countries. International Headquarters: 12 Rue du Vieux College, Geneva.

BRITISH SECTION OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM.

Women's International League

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, May 6th, 1942, at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1. from 11.45 a.m.

Will BRANCH SECRETARIES see the further query under proposed extended Executive as to whether mid-week or week-end is the better for meeting, and include this in their replies to the letter already received?

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris, Mrs. Innes, Miss Harrison, Miss Dickinson, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Beesley, Miss Anderson, Miss Pye, *Miss Leastle*.
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Grindley.
MRES INNES took the CHAIR at the beginning of the meeting.

206. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN. Mrs. Duncan Harris was unanimously APPOINTED Chairman and Miss Agatha Harrison APPOINTED Vice-Chairman.

Before accepting the Chairmanship, Mrs. Duncan Harris expressed the need she feels for a London group and some centre for the W.I.L. now so much is beginning to move in various directions in London. After discussion it was AGREED to put on the Agenda for the Officers' Meeting, the consideration of re-starting the London Branch. The Officers were also asked to keep in mind the possibility of an Hon. Assistant Secretary who might help specially in work in London.

207. MRS. DUNCAN HARRIS then took the CHAIR. On Mrs. Harris's proposal it was AGREED to co-opt Miss Vera Brittain and Mrs. Phillips of Manchester to the Executive, subject to their consent.

208. THE MINUTES OF MEETING ON APRIL 1st were signed as read.

209. BUSINESS ARISING from April 1st Committee. Reported that Miss M.S. Smith and Mrs. Yoors-Peeters were willing to serve on the ad hoc Committee to prepare the next Conference of Women's Organisations. Mrs. Marguerite Camps had written to say she would be pleased to serve on the Committee if it was compatible with teaching at a school in Totnes, which would mean she would be in London only during the holidays. The Committee decided, with regret, this made her unable to serve. Replies had not been received from Mrs. Ambrosova or Miss Daisy Solomon. AGREED to count Mrs. Ambrosova as a member as she had said at the last Conference she was ready to serve.

Mrs. Innes reported that a letter reporting on the Conference of a Declaration of Human Rights on March 14th had been sent to all interested women's organisations, together with a copy of the final, authoritative version of the Declaration of the Rights of Man. Since the last Conference Mrs. Innes had received a Proposed Bill of Rights for Mankind drawn up at a Seminar held by Friends in February 1941 at Pendle Hill, U.S.A. A number of ideas in the Bill were similar to those in the Charter. Mrs. Innes AGREED to try to draft a simple summary of points in the Sankey Committee's Declaration and to send it, when ready, with the U.S.A. proposal to Branches and to the ad hoc Conference Committee. Decided also to reprint the Declaration without the articles printed with it on copies now available and, if possible, in our reprint to pick out key sentences in heavy type.

Lunch Hour Meetings. Mrs. Innes reported that neither Mr. Priestley nor Mrs. Barbara Wootton could speak at our May Lunch Meetings and no other suggestions having been made by the Committee, Mrs. Duncan Harris had secured Mr. Kingsley Martin for May 20th on the Declaration of the Rights of Man. She had also got Mrs. Moore-Palateewa (A Russian doctor and an engineer - and the Motor Cycling Champion of Russia) to speak on "A Soviet Women's views on the Freedom of Women" on May 27th. Both meetings would be at Friends House, Euston Road. Mrs. Duncan Harris undertook to ask Mrs. Liba Ambrosova

to take the Chair at both meetings. Failing her, Miss Karleen Baker should be asked.

Mrs. Innes reported the reply from Lord Cranborne's Private Secretary, to her letter about the S.S. "Struma." After acknowledging our letter the Secretary added that Lord Cranborne too, "as he said in his speech in the House of Lords on March 10th, was deeply grieved to hear of the tragic loss of the "Struma." Mrs. Innes felt this was an unsatisfactory reply as she had hoped that notice would have been taken of our appeal that "an adjustment should be made now to avoid the recurrence of any such tragedy through a similar refusal to admit such Refugees" to Palestine. After discussion it was AGREED to consult Norman Bentwich and to send him the correspondence. Mrs. Duncan Harris asked for copies of the correspondence as she might be having an opportunity of seeing Norman Bentwich. AGREED also to write to the Zionist Organisation.

210. REPORT OF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS. Mrs. Innes reported an error in the stencilled copy of Resolution (2) Declaration on co-operation of the W.I.L. with ex-enemy countries in post-war reconstruction. It should read:-

"This Annual Council of the W.I.L. 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 re-construction as an imperative basis of a lasting peace."

The correct version will appear in the May News Sheet.

The Resolutions had been sent as follows:-

Disarmament and the Standing of Living:- Minister of Health, Colonial Office, Board of Trade, I.L.O. London and Montreal, League of Nations, London, Minister of Pensions, Education Offices, Minister of Labour, Post-War Reconstruction Bureau, Foreign Office, Miss Frances Perkins, Minister of Labour, Washington, Miss E. Rathbone, M.P. Prime Minister.

Declaration of Co-operation of the W.I.L. with ex-enemy countries in Post-War Reconstruction:- International Friends Centre, Foreign Office, Post-War Reconstruction Bureau, Prime Minister.

Food Relief in Europe:- Minister of Economic Warfare, Foreign Office, Prime Minister, Foreign Office, Save the Children Fund, Friends Service Council, National Association of Maternity and Child Welfare, Mr. Chase, Cambridge.

A Children's Charter. National Council of Women, National Union of Women Teachers, Save the Children Fund, New Education Fellowship, Ministries of Labour and of Health, Assoc. of Headmistresses, Assoc. of Assistant Headmistresses, Home Office, Lord Snell, Lord Wedgwood, Prime Minister.

Colonial Policy. Colonial Office, League of Coloured Peoples, Church Missionary Society, Anti-Slavery & Aborigines Protection Society, London Missionary Society, Fabian Colonial Bureau, Sir Drummond Shiels, Lord Lugard, Missionary Societies, Edinburgh House, Prime Minister,

Monetary System:- Robert Mennell, Maynard Keynes, Sir Reginald Rowe, Geoffrey Crowther, Barbara Wootton.

Declaration of the Rights of Man:- H.G. Wells and Barbara Wootton.

All resolutions also went to the Branches, Affiliated Societies, Executive Committee and Vice-Presidents; Peace Societies, Women Members of Parliament, Women's Organisations likely to be interested, and the Press.

Formal acknowledgments had been received from the Ministry of Health, the Board of Education, Ministry of Labour & National Service (Factory and Welfare Department, and the Juveniles Branch), Board of

Trade, Colonial Office, Association of Head Mistresses, National Union of Women Teachers, Ministry of Pensions, International Labour Office (Mr. Burge had written to say he was much interested in the resolution and was sending a copy to Montreal), Foreign Office, Association of Assistant Mistresses.

The question of family allowances was referred to the Officers' Meeting.

AGREED to write to Mrs. Barrs Davies about Child Labour, sending her a copy of resolution (4) A Children's Charter.

The Rev. H.M. Grace, one of the Secretaries of the Conference of Missionary Societies, had written expressing the hope that we would do all we could to see that land which is now held by Europeans and was formerly tribal land, and which is now undeveloped, should be handed back to the Africans. He thought it unfortunate that there had to be conscription of labour in order to provide food for the Armies in the Middle East, "but," he said "you cannot wipe out history with a stroke of the pen, and it seems to me this was the only way it could be done as things are at present. I understand that Archdeacon Ownn agreed to the proposals with very wide clauses which check any desire to oppress or make capital out of this situation."

Reported that the verbatim report of Vera Brittain's speech on Anglo-American Relations had been made at her request, and would be sent to the American W.I.L. AGREED to inform them that the views expressed were Vera Brittain's personal views and that they led a preliminary discussion on the subject at the Council, at which no decision had been taken, but it was hoped the Branches would give it serious thought during the year.

Miss Harrison's draft letter to Mr. Gandhi, as from the Council, was adopted as follows, and the Office was instructed to send it to him:-

8th May, 1942.

Dear Mr. Gandhi,

At the Annual Council Meeting of the British Section of the Women's International League, when the situation in India was under discussion, Miss Harrison read to us a letter she had in her possession that was written to you in 1931 by our founder, Miss Jane Addams. In this she asked if you could attend the Women's International League Congress, meeting in Geneva, on your way back to India.

This letter, written over 10 years ago brought to our Council members a renewed sense of the challenge you present to the world.

On behalf of our British Section I was asked to send a message of respect and sympathy to you at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

B. DUNCAN HARRIS, Chairman.

Mrs. Innes reported that, on reading a letter in the Times of 22nd April by Prof. Arthur Newell of the Associates for Anglo-American Understanding, living at Jordans, Bucks, on the subject of means of mutual contact between America and Britain and the proposal to call a Conference to study data collected, she had written to tell him of the W.I.L. interest in the subject and had sent him a copy of the U.S.A. Section's questionnaire "How can the U.S.A. help the democracies," together with the November 1941 News Sheet which contained a summary of the reply we sent. A cutting from the April News Sheet, indicating the attitude of our U.S.A. Section to post-war reconstruction was also sent. She asked that the British Section might be put on his list of Societies interested in Anglo-American understanding, to receive up-to-date information on America, books, magazines, pictures, etc. This action was APPROVED by the Committee. Prof. Newell's Secretary had written to say that Prof. Newell appreciated our offer to co-operate and would keep us informed of developments with regard to the proposed Conference.

Proposed extended Executive. Arising out of the Council Meetings the Committee AGREED that the Branches should be asked if they would be willing to send one or two delegates to local Conferences of Branches, with one or two members of the Executive present at each, or alternatively to an extended Executive Committee Meeting in the autumn. Branches to be consulted as to whether mid-week or weekend was the best time for meeting. Mrs. Prichard suggested that some Branches might be able to meet in North Wales and another suggestion was Jordans for the South and for the Committee. Subject to the Branches preferring to send delegates to an extended Committee, they should be asked if they would like a discussion on the monetary system, arising out of the Council resolution.

211. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. Child-feeding in Europe. Miss Pyc stated that a conference of Church leaders had been called by the Bishop of Chichester who was now in process of forming a Committee of people likely to impress the Government. This Committee will work in closest co-operation with organisations and groups who are interested in the cause of feeding in the occupied countries. As soon as the Committee is complete these will be notified. She also reported that there was very strong interest throughout the country in the most unexpected places and it is hoped to canalise this through the Committee shortly to come into being.

Post-War Requirements Bureau. Arising out of a suggestion from Mrs. Duncan Harris that the W.I.L. might now ask Mr. Anthony Eden what steps had been taken to implement the promise made last September to set up an Allied Committee for Post-War Requirements in Europe, several members of the Committee thought it would be better for Mrs. Harris to consult Mr. Gorvin before approach to Mr. Eden was considered. Miss Pyc thought it might be worth while to get the Allies' point of view and she undertook to collect the Belgian point of view. This suggestion was APPROVED and Mrs. Harris undertook to consult Mr. Gorvin.

India. Present position. Miss Harrison reported that the situation was again at deadlock; debates had taken place in both Houses. The White Paper (Cmd 6350 price 6d) was available and should be studied. She said there was a tendency towards complacency; it was said that the Proposals represented an advance and that we had now convinced America and the world of our sincerity. But the acid test was whether Indians, for whom these were framed, looked upon them in this light; they had been rejected - though for different reasons - by important sections of Indian opinion. Instead of saying that the next step must come from India, she urged that renewed efforts must be made to follow up the work done by Sir Stafford Cripps. The door of negotiation with Indian leaders must be re-opened until a solution be found.

AGREED to pay the affiliation fee of 5/- to the Women's Advisory Council on Indian Affairs.

Miss Harrison asked the W.I.L. to appoint a delegate on 10th May to the India League Conference, which is to demand a settlement with India now. AGREED to write to say we would have tried to send a delegate but ^{might} not be able as the notice is very short.

News from abroad was reported in Sweden in a letter from a Swedish member and also from Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who had been spending four weeks in Sweden. She reported that Swedish people are taking thousands of starving Finnish children into their homes and are sending to Finland and Norway the meagre supplies which are allowed to leave the country. Greetings to the British Section were sent from several Swedish members. Extracts from the Swedish letter would appear in the News Sheet.

AGREED to invite Mrs. Corbett Ashby to meet the Committee at a tea-meeting for members on June 3rd at 4.15 p.m. Failing that, to invite her to a lunch meeting the following Wednesday, June 10th.

U.S.S.R. Mrs. Innes reported the receipt of a sheaf of cables reporting a meeting in Moscow in defence of children from "Fascist barbarism," and her reply to Klavadia Nikolayeva, the Secretary of the Soviet Women's Anti-Fascist Committee, Moscow. She said that the W.I.L. was glad to know what Russian women were thinking and feeling, and expressed the hope that when this war is over, Russian women will join with us in helping to build up a world organised for peace and freedom. She also said that our Society, founded during the last war, with Sections in different countries, had worked for the abandonment by men everywhere of the war system, - the only thing which can prevent such tragedies.

Hate Propaganda. Miss Anderson asked if the W.I.L. could protest against the war of hate now being engendered in the Services, and the methods taken in the military schools to "toughen" the men. The question was asked "Do we want to protest against the revelation of such methods," or "against the barbarity of war itself, which involves such brutalisation?" It was thought that a paragraph in the News Sheet written by Miss Anderson on the latter point would be useful, and she AGREED to write one for the June issue.

Reported that the W.I.L.P.F. International News Letter contained news of different Sections, some of which would appear in the News Sheet.

212. FINANCE. Mrs. Wood presented the Statement of Accounts, which showed a balance of £237.11.9d in the Bank, of which £69.3.3 was earmarked for the Penny-a-Week Fund for W.I.L. international work after the war. It was AGREED that Mrs. Wood should write to the Branches to invite them to have a local effort this year for Headquarters. The question of fares of Executive Committee members was referred to the Officers' Meeting.

213. "NEW VISION." Miss Houghton AGREED to attend as the W.I.L. representative a Conference (on May 8th at Friends House, Euston Road) of a Society formed to try to combat the attempt to poison the minds of the public against the mass of the German people.

214. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL. Reported that neither Mrs. Kinnish nor Miss Hayler could serve on the Council of the N.P.C. this year. Miss Houghton AGREED to serve and Mrs. Lord was to be invited to do so. The nominations for the N.P.C. Executive, from a long list of Council members, were left to the Chairman and Hon. Secretary.

215. WEST INDIES HOUSE, Liverpool. The report of Mr. John Carter's visit which had been received, was not considered as most of the Committee had left. Mrs. Innes, on Miss Anderson's advice, said she would send it to the Liverpool W.I.L. to see if they thought there was anything they could do.

216. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. June 3rd, 11.45 a.m. at 32 Fitzroy Square,

217. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS to be put first on the Agenda of the June Executive.

This concluded the business.

B. Innes

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, June 3rd, 1942
at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1.

PRESENT. Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Castle, Miss Harrison, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Grindley, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Lloyd Pritchard, Mrs. McGregor Ross, Miss Anderson, Miss Dickinson, Miss Pye.

APPOLOGY ; FOR ABSENCE was received from Mrs. Beesley.

MINUTES of Meeting on May 6th were signed, having been previously circulated.

BUSINESS ARISING ON MINUTES.

218. Reported Mrs. Ross had received a telephone message from a friend of Miss Marshall's saying Miss Marshall would be pleased to be a Vice-President, and would the next week be sending her subscription to the Office.

219. Reported acknowledgments of Council resolutions from Lord Lugard and the National Council of Women. The N.C.W. was putting our resolutions before its International Affairs Committee. It had sent a copy of the 1922 and 1942 Children's Charter, for information.

220. Reported that Miss Vera Brittain and Mrs. Phillips were unable to accept co-option to the Executive owing to pressure of work. Mrs. Phillips was doing a great deal of work in the Manchester Office. AGREED to ask Manchester Branch if they could suggest any one else for the Headquarters Committee. Possibly, Mrs. Paine could serve?

221. Reported Mrs. Corbett Ashby was unable to accept the invitation to meet the Executive, or to speak at a lunch meeting, owing to pressure of work.

222. With regard to the tragedy of the SS. Struma and the administration of Jewish refugees into Palestine, Mr. Norman Bentwich had written to say he thought "the W.I.L. should try to get an interview with the Colonial Secretary. Much more can be done by personal discussion than by letter. If the League could combine with other bodies concerned, to ask the Secretary of State to receive a deputation, it should be difficult for him to refuse." He also suggested our getting in touch with Miss Eleanor Rathbone about the position in Palestine. AGREED to try to get facts about the Palestine administration and refugees, and if a case can be made out, try to get a deputation with other women's organisations, and to ask Lord Cranborne of the Colonial Office for an interview. Meanwhile, it was suggested that a letter be sent to Lord Cranborne asking for steps to be taken to prevent a recurrence. Miss Anderson agreed to ask Mrs. Roden Buxton if she would prepare a case for us - the matter to come before the July Executive.

Reported also a formal acknowledgment of copy of the correspondence between Lord Cranborne and the W.I.L. re the S.S. Struma from the Zionist Federation.

223. Reported that, owing to her official position Mrs. Barrs Davies was unable to give advice on the subject of child labour. AGREED to ask the Manchester Office for particulars re child wage EARNERS MENTIONED BY ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS AT THE Council.

224..Reported acknowledgment of affiliation fee, and appreciation of support, from the Women's Advisory Council on Indian Affairs.

225. Report of ad hoc Committee to prepare Conferences of Women's Organisations. Decided two Conferences should be arranged for study of the Declaration of the Rights of Man clause by clause, different individuals or groups to be asked to take different clauses. Dates, times and place proposed: October 3rd or 10th, and October 31st or November 7th, 10.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. if possible at the Friends International Centre. Miss Bondfield to be asked to chair the meetings. A number of speakers had been suggested, but before approaching them Organisations were to be asked to suggest speakers for any one of the clauses - a fortnight was given them in which to reply. The following speakers were suggested:-

For Point 1 ask the Co-operative Guilds; for point 2 ask Mrs. Adamson, M.P., for Point 3, Mrs. Brayshaw, point 4, a Teachers' representative, point 5, Miss Henderson, or ask her to make a suggestion, point 6, Miss Grace Colman or Miss Sutherland, or someone proposed by her.

The Executive suggested the following:-

Point 9. Beatrice Pollard, or Mrs. David Wills of the "Q" Camps, Point 10. ask Miss Craven of the Howard League; Point 11, ask Mrs. Aneurin Bevan; Point 6 ask Mrs. Pataleewa; point 9. Miss Billson or Federation of University Women.

226. Lunch Meetings on May 20th when Kingsley Martin spoke on "Human Rights" and on May 27th when Mrs. Pataleewa spoke on "Freedom" from the point of view of a Soviet Woman.

227. Reported our Liverpool Branch was getting in touch with the Warden of the West Indies House.

At the Officers' Meeting, Family Allowances, a London Branch and the loan of furniture to the National Peace Council were considered.

228. Reported that replies to letters about Family Allowances had been received from Miss Rathbone, M.P., and T. Edmund Harvey. In accordance with their suggestions, the Executive AGREED a letter should be sent to Branch Secretaries suggesting an approach to their local Members of Parliament asking them to support a general State System of Family Allowances, paid to the mother for all children below school-leaving age, or older, if in full time school attendance; and urging that an early decision should be taken by the Government and that, in the interests of the well-being of the children of the State, it should not postpone action until after the war. Failing a satisfactory reply, the Branch should ask their M.Ps to receive a deputation to discuss his objections. The Branches were to be advised to avoid suggesting any economies, such as income limits, or any proposal to give allowances in kind rather than in cash.

229. Reported London members had been invited to a meeting on Tuesday, June 23rd to decide whether they would like a London Branch or Group to be formed.

230. Reported that the N.P.C. were shortly moving to 144 Southampton Row and they had been promised the loan of some W.I.L. chairs and tables, the N.P.C. doing any necessary repairs of wear and tear before returning them. In return, the N.P.C. were prepared to allow the W.I.L. the use of a large room for Executive and Officers' Meetings respectively each month. Should additional meetings be wanted it was presumed the W.I.L. would pay "the small cost which will probably have to be levied from any organisation which uses the premises in this way."

231. FINANCE. Mrs. Wood presented the appended Statement of Accounts which was passed. The Welwyn Garden City Branch had sent a contribution of £2 from their Funds in lieu of a "Bring and Buy Sale,"

suggested to Branches by Mrs. Wood.

232. W.I.L. CZECH FUND. Mrs. Duncan Harris presented the W.I.L. Czech Fund Account which showed a balance of £168. 14. 11½. Practically all the refugees were now self-supporting.

233. INDIA. Miss Harrison drew attention to a pamphlet on India that has been prepared by the N.P.C. and can be obtained for 6d from 144 Southampton Row, S.W. 1. It is a summary that Gerald Bailey and she have prepared of the main events that have happened since 1939 up to, and covering the Cripps mission. She felt that all W.I.L. members should obtain a copy.

In regard to the present situation, it remains at deadlock; the same difficulty in regard to news, maintains, only scrappy information is reaching the country. Mr. Gandhi has hinted that he is contemplating a new move. Miss Harrison felt the W.I.L. had a responsibility in this connection; it will probably be a practical application of his non-violence to the war situation. Already it was being said here his move will be "anti-British." Of necessity whatever Mr. Gandhi does will involve the relationship between Britain and India, but in Miss Harrison's opinion the underlying motive was his feeling of compulsion to carry further at this juncture his life long belief in the power of non-violence. She said she hoped to receive direct word from Mr. Gandhi as she had cabled for fuller information. When this came she would communicate with Mrs. Innes so that W.I.L. members can be informed.

234. ABYSSINIA. Reported Miss Dickinson, on behalf of the W.I.L. attended the Service of Thanksgiving for the Restoration of Independence to the Ethiopian people and the Return of their Emperor.

235. WORK AMONGST CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS. Mrs. Grindley made a short report on the work which she is doing among conscientious objectors resisting military service in the army. She has acted as court-martial friend to men stationed at camps all over the country, has watched over their interests while in prison or detention barracks, and represented many of them before the Appellate Tribunals. She feels that there is a better understanding between those who resist and those who accept military service than was the case at the commencement of the war. Much greater hostility is shown by civilians outside than by the men serving in the forces. And although there are still isolated instances of ill-treatment, for which the C.O. is, sometimes, himself to blame, and also of harsh and vindictive sentences, there is, on the whole, a genuine attempt to be fair and just where conscientious objectors are concerned. She feels that pressure ought to be used by the various organisations in reversing the singularly harsh treatment which is meted out by the Tribunals to C.Os who are Jehovahs witnesses. Two of these are serving their fourth sentence. One of these has now appealed to Mrs. Grindley for help in proving his sincerity.

236. NEWS FROM ABROAD was reported from America and Canada, extracts from which will appear in the July News Sheet.

237. NEWS SHEET. AGREED the July issue should include articles or notes on India, the Colonies, U.S.A., Canada, the reversal of the Government's hate propaganda, Women in Parliament.

AGREED there should be no August number.

238. COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION. Mrs. Ross reported on the debate in the House of Lords on Colonial Administration on 6th May when Lord Faringdon advocated the employment of more women by the Colonial Office for social work in the Colonies. He suggested that the Fund for Colonial development should be spent on social welfare, town planning, education, etc. to raise the standard of living. Mrs. Ross AGREED to draft a letter to Lord Faringdon.

239. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL. (1) Peace Aims Conference, September 25/28, Oxford. Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Lloyd Pritchard and Miss Anderson expressed a wish to receive an invitation. AGREED to bring matter before July Committee. (2) Mrs. Lord and Miss Haughton AGREED to represent the W.I.L. on the N.P.C. Council.

240. LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY. AGREED to send Dr. Harold Moody a personal letter of congratulation on his appointment as Deputy Chairman of the General Board of the London Missionary Society. Mrs. Wood consented to send a note to the London Missionary Society.

241. OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS. AGREED that after June Miss Horscroft should not come to London every Wednesday, as members were not calling at 32 Fitzroy Square.

242. LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION. Reported that on July 8th, 6 p.m. at Swedenborg Hall, Bloomsbury Way, W.C.1. Lord Cecil was opening a Conference on "Our Part in To-morrow's Peace." Miss Dickinson hoped to attend.

243. FUTURE MEETINGS. For the present, the first Wednesday in the month. NEXT MEETING, July 1st, at 32 Fitzroy Square, W. 1.

B. Truman Harris

1. 11. 42

W.I.L. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, January to May, 1942.

RECEIPTS.

EXPENDITURE.

Bals. on 1st January:-	
Bank.....	52. 5. 1
Cash.....	4.13. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Congress Fund.....	53. -. -
Reserve Fund.....	383. 9.11
	<u>493. 8. 3$\frac{3}{4}$</u>
Subscriptions	227.10. 2
Donations....	60.13. 2
Donation for	
Food Relief.	5. -. -
News Sheets....	19.11.10
Literature.....	10. -.11 $\frac{1}{2}$
"Bring & Buy"..	15. -. -
War Damage Re-	
pairs.....	8.12. -
Office expenses	8
Insurances.....	4. 5
Income Tax.....	3.10. 3
Affil. Fees....	7.12. -
Geneva Subs....	3. 2. 6
Meetings.....	56. 2. 4
Penny-a-Week...	25.18. 4
	<u>442.13. 7$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
	<u>£936. 6.11$\frac{1}{4}$</u>

War Damage Insurance.....	1. 5. -
Postage.....	18.11. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Office Expenses.....	6.19. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Insurances.....	1.11. 6
Affiliation Fees.....	2. 7. -
Rent.....	19. 7. 6
Salaries.....	99. -. -
Lighting and Heating.....	4.13. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
News Sheets.....	22. -.10
Fares.....	15.19. 6
Meetings.....	60.13. 9
Telephone.....	5. 1
Literature.....	7.18. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Stationery.....	8. -. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Audit.....	2.12. 6
	<u>271. 5.11$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

Balances:-

Bank.....	222.11. 3
Cash.....	1.19. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$
Congress Fund.	53. -. -
Reserve Fund..	383. 9.11.
	<u>665. -.11$\frac{3}{4}$</u>

£936. 6.11 $\frac{1}{4}$

Including:-

Penny-a-Week.	73. 7. 6
Food Relief..	5. -. -
Geneva Subs..	3. 2. 6
Congress Fund.	1. -. -
Income Tax...	3.10. 3
	<u>£86. -. 3</u>

leaving in Current Account
£136. 11. -d

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Minutes of Meeting of Executive Committee, Wednesday, July 1st, 1942 at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Beesley, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Brayshaw, Miss Dickinson, Miss Pye, Miss Haughton, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Castle.

The Chairman welcomed the following visitors:- Frau Hertzka, Mrs. Bagnall from Birmingham Branch and Mrs. Bedford, Liaison Officer for newly formed London Group of the W.I.L.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Mrs. Mrs. Greenwood.

MINUTES of June 3rd were signed, having previously been circulated.

244 BUSINESS ARISING. Minute 222. SS. Struma. Reported that Miss Anderson had asked Mrs. Roden Buxton if she would be prepared to make out a case about the Palestine administration and refugees, with a view to asking Lord Cranborne of the Colonial Office to receive a deputation. Mrs. Roden Buxton thought it was not desirable to ask for a deputation to be received without some new point of view. Miss Anderson will keep the matter in mind and inform the Committee should anything new arise.

No reply had been received from Lord Cranborne asking if steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence.

Minute 223. Reported no information had yet been received from Mrs. Paine of Manchester re Child Wage-earners. AGREED to consult Miss Adler of the Child Wage-Earners' Committee. Officers authorised to send letter to the Minister of Education if found advisable after material has been received.

Minute 225. Conference on Declaration of the Rights of Man. Reported the following speakers had been secured for October 3rd:- For Clauses 1 & 2 "The Right to Live and "Protection of Minors" - a representative of the Women's Co-operative Guild, subject to reply.

Clause 3. "Duty to the Community" - Mrs. Brayshaw.

Clause 4. "Right to Knowledge" - Miss S.M. Smith of the Association of Assistant Mistresses.

Clause 5. "Freedom of Thought and Worship," - The Rev. Joyce Rutherford, M.A., B.Sc.

Clause 6. "Right to Work: Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, O.B.E.

Miss Margaret Bondfield had not replied about taking the Chair, but failing her Mrs. Duncan Harris was prepared to take it.

It was AGREED to invite Miss H.J. Hartle, M.A. of Brighton, to attend and take part in the discussion on "Right to Knowledge."

The Conference would be at Friends House, Euston Road, from 10.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. and from 2 to 4.30 p.m.

For the Conference on October 31st, Mrs. Beatrice Pollard had consented to speak on Clause 9, "Personal Liberty." Mrs. Gale Thomas was not able to speak but had suggested Miss D. Knight Dix for Clause 7, "Right in Personal Property."

AGREED to send out the preliminary Programme to women's organisations, W.I.L. Branches and individuals known to be specially interested in the subject.

Minute 229 Formation of informal group of London Members. Reported that ten members had attended the meeting on June 23rd, as well as six members of the Executive. Mrs. Bedford, of the New Malden Women's League of the London Congregational Union, which was affiliated to the W.I.L., had been appointed Liaison Officer and would attend meetings of the Executive in order to report back to the Group. The Group had decided to hold an evening meeting in mid-July at the Offices of the N.P.C., 144 Southampton Row, W.C. 1. and Vera Brittain had consented to address it on July 14th on "To-day's Challenge to Women: The answer of the W.I.L." Several members had offered to help at Lunch Meetings, and to represent the W.I.L. at meetings of other organisations if free, when asked.

Minute 230. Loan of furniture to N.P.C. Reported that only 28 cane chairs would be required. The Committee AGREED that, owing to the small amount of furniture loaned, the agreement for free accommodation might have to be reviewed.

Minute 240. Reported letter of thanks for congratulations on his appointment as Deputy Chairman of the London Missionary Society.

Minute 210 (May Committee). Extended Executive or local Conferences for Branches. After consideration of the replies and discussion it was DECIDED to hold an extended Executive in London on October 6th from 2 p.m. and on October 7th, concentrating on the policy, position and opportunities of the W.I.L. today. It was AGREED to suggest to the Branches that the subject of Monetary Reform is more suitable for local Conferences.

Minute 211 (May Committee). Mrs. Duncan Harris said that in "The Times" of July 1st it was reported that Sir Frederick Leith-Ross had conferred with Mr. Cordell Hull on post-war relief and economic reconstruction problems. The latter indicated that in due course, Russia, China and other countries who were concerned, would take part in conversations on food relief. Miss Harrison undertook to find out to whom a letter should be sent asking if these conversations indicated that the promise of an Allied Committee is being implemented.

Minute 228. Family Allowances. Reported the Branches had been written to, as instructed. Brighton Branch was leaving the matter until after September. Welwyn Garden City Branch had taken action but had received no reply to letters. Other Branches had not yet reported on action.

245. GAS-WARFARE. Reported a formal acknowledgment from the Prime Minister's Secretary of our letter of 4th June (1) suggesting that an appeal be made to the German Government to honour its pledge not to initiate the use of gas-warfare; (2) hoping that the United Nations would reinforce the British Government's announcement by a solemn joint affirmation of their pledges against the use of poison gas, under the Geneva Convention of 1925.

246. FUTURE LUNCH MEETINGS. AGREED to have a series of meetings in London on FAMINE RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION on September 16th, 23rd and 30th, with Miss Edith Pye in the Chair for each. Mrs. Bliss was to be asked to speak on the 16th on Immediate Relief, Mr. Kenneth Brooks on the 23rd on Emergency reconstruction, and Miss Harrison undertook to consult the I.L.O. about a speaker on the 30th on Permanent Reconstruction. Miss Pye AGREED to send suggestions for titles for the Programme.

247. FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts was adopted. AGREED that there should be no money-raising effort until after September, as it was thought the balance in hand would carry us through till then. AGREED that the question of fares of members to the Executive Committee should be raised at the extended Executive Committee in October.

248. INDIA. Miss Harrison reported that ^{the} situation remains at deadlock; the imminent reshuffle of the Viceroy's Council could provide an opportunity of re-opening negotiations with Indian leaders for the formation of a truly National Government. At the moment there are no signs that this opportunity will be taken and it looks as though the Viceroy will again appoint important Indian men to the vacancies that have arisen, and that the political parties will not take part. In regard to Mr. Gandhi, Miss Harrison said this situation was confusing the public mind and there was a tendency in the press to ascribe unworthy motives to his statements. She reiterated the urgent need for more Indian news; It was decided to approach again the B.B.C. asking for a regular commentary of news.

Mrs. Innes reported that her co-International Chairman,

Miss Gertrude Baer, in U.S.A. had asked her to ratify a cable she had sent to Mrs. Pandit in India asking if an American and an English woman could help to re-open negotiations between England and India. Before ratifying Mrs. Innes had consulted Miss Harrison, who had been in favour of doing so. The following cable was, therefore, being sent to Gertrude Baer: "Ratify cable to India." Anxious for Pandit's reply." Innes.

249. FOOD RELIEF IN EUROPE. Miss Pye reported that several W.I.L. Branches were in touch with the Famine Relief Committee. A Famine Relief Fund is to be started. Miss Pye AGREED to write a paragraph for the August/September News Sheet.

250. ABYSSINIA. Miss Dickinson was authorised to express to the Abyssinia Association the appreciation of the W.I.L. for the work of the Association and for the way in which it has kept the needs of Abyssinia before the people.

251. COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION. In reply to a letter to Lord Faringdon asking if there was anything the W.I.L. could do to follow up his suggestion in the House of Lords, of an increase in the employment of women in the Colonial Services, he had replied that he was not sure that very much could be done at present, as Lord Cranborne had not yet been long enough at the Colonial Office to be able to give us a very full statement. He thought that a little later he might put down a question, or it might be worth while our asking Lord Cranborne to receive a delegation.

Miss Anderson reported she would be attending "The Colonies in the Post-War World" Conference, organised by the Fabian Colonial Bureau at St. Peter's Hall, Oxford, on July 10-13th. She consented to represent the W.I.L. at it. While at the Conference, Miss Anderson was asked to discuss with several specialists the possibility of calling a Conference of a few experts late July or early August to consider the question of compulsory labour in various parts of Africa, and whether any other Organisation was prepared to call it, or if that should be undertaken by the W.I.L. On her return Miss Anderson said she would report to Mrs. Harris and Miss Harrison and meantime would ask Mrs. Ross for her views. The experts for the Conference mentioned were, Creech Jones, Mr. Greenidge, Dr. Rita Hinden, Miss Woodman, Mrs. Ross, Miss Freda White, Dr. Moody, Mr. Grace, late Principal of Achimota College, and the London Missionary Society is to be consulted. The Officers were empowered to act between Executive meetings.

AGREED to circulate to the Branches when ready, a letter from the Friends Committee on Slavery and Protection of Native Races re compulsory labour in various parts of Africa. It was thought that a leaflet giving facts, possibly in the form of extracts from Hansard, might be necessary.

Miss Anderson thought she would be able to write an article for the August/September News Sheet after the Oxford Conference.

252. NEWS SHEET. Suggestions for August/September number were:- Paragraph on Food Relief Committee; Women C.O's, if possible by Nancy Brown of the Central Board for Conscientious Objectors; India, Agatha Harrison, Colonies, Mosa Anderson.

253. MEETINGS OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS. Miss Harrison reported she had been able to meet and talk with some of the Jamaica Technicians while on their week-end visit to London from Liverpool, and she gathered that the men were feeling the colour bar and would appreciate invitations to private homes. AGREED to let our Liverpool Branch know of this, and at the same time to say the Committee is very interested to know that it is getting into touch with the Warden of the West Indies Hostel in Liverpool.

Miss Harrison said she hoped to attend the meeting at the Kingsway Hall on July 7th organised by the China Campaign Committee, when Dr. Liem will be amongst the speakers. She would take the opportunity of finding out whether Dr. Liem might be a useful contributor to the News Sheet.

AGREED to ask Miss Gill and Miss Baker if they could go to the Rally at Kenwood on July 12th, organised by the Council of Czechoslovak Women in Great Britain.

AGREED not to support Conference on Ethiopia on July 23rd, organised by Miss Pankhurst as we were already in close touch with the Abyssinia Association.

Miss Dickinson reported on the Annual Meeting of the Associated Country Women of the World.

Miss Anderson said she would be attending the Peace Aims Conference of the N.P.C. on September 25th-28th at Oxford. As it was to be on the "Economic aspect of Peace Aims," including monetary policy, AGREED to ask Mrs. Phillips if she would like to be put on the list of receive an invitation. If she attends AGREED to ask her to give a report of the Conference at the extended Executive in October.

254. CORRESPONDENCE. Reported a letter from Mr. Wishart about the illness of Mrs. Wishart, the Hon. Secretary of our Worthing Branch. AGREED to write expressing sympathy from the Committee, appreciation of her work for the W.I.L. and good wishes for a speedy recovery.

Reported a letter from Mrs. Tiller, the Secretary of the newly formed Childwall Group of the W.I.L. in Liverpool. AGREED to send a letter expressing (1) the Committee's pleasure at the news of this Group of seven young housewives and mothers; (2) the hope that one of their number would be able to attend the Executive Committee on October 6th and 7th. If the latter is impossible it was suggested that Mrs. Tiller's letter should be read at the October meeting.

255. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. September 2nd at the Offices of the N.P.C., 144 Southampton Row, W.C. 1. The Officers would meet in August.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS.

B. Duncan Harris

2. 18. 42

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR JUNE, 1942.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
Balance 1st June.....	665. -. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$		
Subscriptions...8. 0. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$		Salaries.....	18. 0. 0
Donations.....6.17. 6		Fares.....	8.16. 5
News Sheets.....7. 5. 3		News Sheets.....	4.10. 0
Literature.....1. 5. 9		Postage.....	4. 2. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Income Tax for		Stationery.....	3.12.10
June.....3.10. 3		Office expenses.	1. 2.11
Affil. Fees..... 5. -		Literature (including	
Penny-a-Week Fd.10.3.10		Annual Report).....	16. 5. 3
	37. 7.10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Income Tax for May & June	7. -. 6
		Insurances.....	6. -
		Rents.....	4. 7. 6
		Telephone.....	1. 1
		Lighting and Heating.....	3. 1
			68. 8. - $\frac{1}{8}$
		Balances	250.10.10 $\frac{3}{4}$
		Reserve Fund.....	383. 9.11
	£702. 8.10 $\frac{1}{4}$		£702. 8.10 $\frac{1}{4}$

Balances:-

In Current A/C. Penny-a-Week Fund.....	£10. 3. 10.
ditto Food Relief.....	5. -. -
ditto Geneva Subscriptions... 3. 2. 6	
ditto Congress Fund.....	1. -. -
In Co-operative Permanent Bld. Soc:-	
Congress Fund.....	57. -. -
Penny-a-Week..	£73. 7. 6d.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, September 2nd, 1942, at
144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Wood,
Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Miss Haughton,
Mrs. Innes, Miss Anderson (Mrs. Bedford, visitor).

APPOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Beesley,
Mrs. Grindley, Miss Pye.

Before the business of the meeting, Mrs. Innes said it was her sad task to report the tragic death of Miss Lotti Birch, the former Secretary of the W.I.L.P.F. in Geneva, who died as the result of a bicycle accident, from which she never regained consciousness. She was an enthusiastic and efficient Secretary, and though she no longer worked for us she was still a member of the W.I.L.P.F. She met with the accident on her way home from a meeting of a young people's organisation working for peace, democracy and a new social order, of which she had been the Secretary for the last two years. AGREED letters of sympathy be sent to Frau Bagaz, who sent us the news, and to the Swiss Section.

At the suggestion of Miss Dickinson it was AGREED to send a message of sympathy to the sister of the late Princess of Ethiopia, and to ask her to convey the expression of our sympathy to her mother, the Empress.

THE MINUTES of the meeting on July 2nd were signed, having previously been circulated, after the insertion "from Dr. Moody" on page 2, Minute 240.

256. BUSINESS ARISING. Extended Executive Committee. Reported that at the Officers' Meeting on August 19th, it had been decided to arrange a Conference on Forced Labour in the afternoon of October 6th, when Branch representatives would be attending the extended Executive Committee. Livingstone Hall, Westminster, had been booked from 2.15 to 4.15 p.m. Arrangements for tea had also been made so that the Executive could be held from 5 to 7 p.m. and continued the next morning, as arranged. The Officers had thought the Branches would be interested in the urgent and vital problem of forced labour and its utilisation for private enterprise.

Mrs. Brayshaw expressed a doubt as to the wisdom of having called the Conference at a time when the Branches had been told the extended Executive Committee would be held to discuss, in particular, the policy of the W.I.L.

After discussion it was AGREED to endorse the arrangements made by the Officers.

Miss Harrison AGREED to open the discussion with a short review of the origin of the W.I.L.P.F. and she would take the Objects on the membership form as a starting point. Branch representatives were to be asked to come prepared, in their reports of Branch activities, to indicate how these fulfilled the different Objects.

It was AGREED that the Executive should meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, purely routine matters being left until Wednesday afternoon.

Miss Anderson was thanked for all the work she had put into getting the speakers and making the arrangements for the Forced Labour Conference. It was AGREED to send notices of it to interested organisations and individuals, including the Women's Section of the Labour Party, the Trades Union Congress, I.L.P., and Philip Cox, C/o Indian Students Union. AGREED the Press should not be invited.

257. CONFERENCES ON "A DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN" Reported that all the speakers had now been secured for the Conferences on 3rd and 31st October, and arrangements were well in hand.

258. INFORMAL GROUP OF LONDON MEMBERS Reported that at the meeting on July 28th a Sub-Committee had been appointed with Miss G.D.L. Mann

as Secretary. A further meeting was being held on 10th September when Mr. J. Hoffmann of Czecho-Slovakia would speak on "Europe plans the Future."

It was AGREED that notices of future Group Meetings should only be sent to London members who had expressed a wish to join the Group.

259. FAMILY ALLOWANCES. Reported the Cambridge Branch had sent a resolution to their four Members of Parliament asking them to support a general State System of Family Allowances, on the lines recommended by the Executive Committee at its June Meeting. Leicester Branch was putting the matter before the Co-ordinating Committee of Leicester's Women's Organisations.

Reported the receipt of a circular letter and a leaflet on "Family Allowances To-day" from Mrs. Hubback, Vice-Chairman of The Family Endowment Society.

260. FINANCE. The appended statement of Accounts was adopted. Mrs. Wood AGREED to send out an Appeal to Headquarters Members. It was felt to be right that she should mention the Reserve Fund of £383, the bulk of which is being held for use after the war.

AGREED that a Grant should be made from the Reserve Fund to the organisation of the two October Conferences on "A Declaration of the Rights of Man," the amount to be decided when the expenses of the Conferences were known.

261. INDIA. Reported that, arising out of the arrest and detention of Mrs. V.L. Pandit, who is a member of the W.I.L., the Officers had instructed the following letter to be sent to Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for India: 26th August, 1942.

"Dear Mr. Amery,

The arrest and detention of Mrs. V.L. Pandit, who is a member of the Women's International League, has given the present situation in India a special significance for us. We are fully aware of the difficult and responsible position that now faces you as Secretary of State for India. But we would respectfully state our conviction that the present policy of the Government is no remedy and must be superseded by negotiation with Indian leaders for an agreed settlement. The recent statements in the press serve to show that there is a desire and expectancy in India for consultation to take the place of repression. We would appeal to you in this time of great stress to take the initiative in this without delay. Yours sincerely,

(Signed) K.E. INNES, Hon. Secretary.

A formal acknowledgment had been received from the Under-Secretary of State for India.

The Committee ENDORSED the action of the Officers.

Miss Harrison said that the situation was going round in a circle; the Government felt it must maintain law and order and there were no signs that further effort would be made to secure negotiation. This method must be reversed and could not be done unless there was an awakened public opinion on the lines of the National Peace Council's resolution. She referred to a useful Memorandum just issued by the Union of Democratic Control (price 6d from 34 Victoria Street,) that summarised recent events. This should be studied. Mrs. Lloyd Prichard reported what had been done in Wales to arouse public opinion. The Executive felt this work should be sent to the other Branches for their guidance and encouragement. AGREED also to suggest that action should be taken on the lines indicated in the resolution passed by the National Peace Council which was included in the article on India in the August/September News Sheet, or on lines similar to that taken by North Wales.

Reported that in reply to our letter of 2nd July, Sir Cecil Graves, Broadcasting House, had written on 10th July "There are difficulties about the inclusion of a regular Indian News Service, and I fear I can hold out no hope of it at present. We shall, however, most certainly continue to report outstanding events in India

and reinforce such reports with explanatory talks and discussions as opportunity offers." AGREED that a further letter should be sent to Sir Cecil Graves suggesting that the debate on the present situation in India at the Central Assembly on or about 14th September is an occasion that warrants special consideration, and asking if he would arrange for a full summary to be given from India of the main points in the speeches given during the debate - at a time when people are able to "listen in."

Miss Dickinson consented to attend the meeting of the India League on the 5th September, 3 o'clock at the Kingsway Hall, on behalf of the Executive.

Reported that, on the suggestion of Miss Dickinson, the following cable had been set on August 8th to Madame Chiang Kai-Shek: "British Section Women's International League would

welcome appeal by you to Indian women to work for conciliation. Innes, St. Mary Bourne, Andover, Hants.

Two donations of 10/- each had been promised towards the expenses of the cable. The Committee ENDORSED the sending of this cable and asked that copies should be sent to Miss Detzer and Gertrud Baer.

262. LETTERS FROM SECTIONS ABROAD were reported, contents of some of which had appeared in the News Sheet.

263. Reported that the N.P.C. is hoping to send a delegation to U.S.A. to consult with the National Peace Conference there on post-war plans. There are still considerable difficulties to be overcome, but travel facilities have been promised by the American Authorities. The Director of the N.P.C., Mr. Gerald Bailey, and Mrs. Duncan Harris have been nominated to form this delegation, and in the event of the journey being possible the Vice-Chairman, Miss Agatha Harrison, agreed to act as Chairman of the W.I.L.

Reported that we had received information from the N.P.C. that the U.S.A. Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 went into effect on June 28th, 1942. AGREED to take no action until we heard from our W.I.L. in America, but meanwhile continue to send individual members of the Section their copies of the News Sheet.

Reported that Lydia Kislova, Chief of the English Dept. of the U.S.S.R. Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, in Moscow, had written to ask for literature on Great Britain at War and particularly the part women played in the fight against Nazism, in return for literature on the life of Russia and the war in Russia. The International Women's News and the National Council of Women had agreed, at our request, to send their publications to Lydia Kislova.

Reported a further letter, dated 27th July, from the Private Secretary of Lord Cranborne re the S.S. Struma enclosing extracts from the official report of the Statement Lord Cranborne made in the House of Lords on 10th March.

Referring to the admission of Jewish children into Palestine, the letter continued:- "As regards your reference to a press report concerning the admission of Jewish children through Turkey, it is assumed that you are referring to the report which appeared in the "Times" on the 26th May. Lord Cranborne asks me to explain that the Palestine Government have agreed to admit to Palestine the children of certain Jews in Roumania and Hungary, to whom immigration certificates were allocated but not issued before the withdrawal of the British Missions. It is also hoped to arrange for an extension of this particular arrangement to cover Jewish children in other parts of enemy and enemy-occupied territory in Europe."

264. EQUAL COMPENSATION FOR WAR INJURY FOR MEN AND WOMEN. Mrs. Duncan Harris was appointed to represent the W.I.L. on a deputa-

tion to Mr. Attlee on September 9th at 5 p.m., which was being organised by Mrs. Mavis Tate, M.P.

265 Reports of other Meetings. Miss Dickinson reported on meetings she had attended on behalf of the W.I.L. of the ~~Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union.~~ ^{two}

OFFICERS' MEETING, September 23rd, 12 o'clock at Friends House.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: October 6th and 7th.

PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: October 6th from 2.15 to 7 p.m. at Livingstone Hall, Westminster, and on October 7th from 10 to 1 o'clock at the Offices of the N.P.C., 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1.

B. Duncan Harris
7.8.42

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR JULY, 1942.

<u>RECEIPTS.</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>
Balance on July 1st.....634. --. 9 ³ / ₄	Salaries (8 weeks).....36. --. --
Subscriptions. 6.10. 6	Travelling expenses..... 1.13. --
Donations..... 8. 5. 6	News Sheets..... 4. 7. 7
News Sheets... 4.17. 7	Postage..... 5.12.11
Literature.... 1. 2. 2	Stationery..... 3. 7. 9
Income Tax	Literature..... 5. 1 ¹ / ₂
(July & Aug.) 7. --. 6	Income Tax (July)..... 3.10. 3
Geneva Subs....1. --. --	Rents..... 7. 5. --
Penny-a-Week...2.10. 2	Insurances..... 9. --. --
Meetings.....3.13. 6	Telephone..... 5. 9
34.19.11	Heating..... 3. 3
	Office Expenses..... 1.19. --
	Miss Pye (Food Relief Campaign donation from W.I.L. member)..... 5. --. --
	Meetings..... 1. 6. 9
	71. 5. 4 ¹ / ₂
	Balances:-
	Bank 3377.10.2
	Petty Cash..... 3. 7.9 ¹ / ₄
	Congress Fund...60. --. --
	in C.P.B.S.
	Penny-a-Week Fd.
	in C.P.B.S.... 73. 7.6
	214. 5. 5 ¹ / ₄
	Reserve Fund in
	C.P.B.S.....
£669. --. 8 ³ / ₄	383. 9.11
	£669. --. 8 ³ / ₄

~~33~~ includes

Penny a Week Fund.....12. 14. --
Geneva Subscriptions..... 4. 2. 6
Congress Fund..... 1. --. --
London Group Meetings..... 2. 13. 4
Income Tax..... 3. 10. 3
£24. --. 1

Note: Balance in current account at end of July £53. 10. 1.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

C O N F E R E N C E

on the PROBLEM OF FORCED LABOUR

and its utilisation for Private Enterprise.

on TUESDAY OCTOBER 6th, 2.15 to 4.15 p. m.

at LIVINGSTONE HALL, BROADWAY, WESTMINSTER, S. W. 1.

SPEAKERS: MRS. MCGREGOR ROSS.
MR. CREECH JONES, M.P.

CHAIRMAN: Dr. HAROLD MOODY.

Admission by ticket (1/- each.) Tea 9d each.

Application for tickets should be sent, with remittance,
to the Secretary, Women's International League, "Portway,"
St. Mary Bourne, Nr. Andover, Hants, not later than
Thursday, 1st October.

Please send me ticket(s) for the Women's International League
Conference on the Problem of Forced Labour, Tuesday, October 6th,
1942, 2.15 to 4.15 p.m. at Livingstone Hall, Broadway, Westminster,
S.W. 1. Please reserve tea for me.

Admission 1/- Tea 9d.

I enclose ..s...d. for ticket(s) and tea(s)

NAME (Block letters and title)

ADDRESS (Block letters)

.....

To Secretary,
Women's International League, Portway, St. Mary Bourne, Nr. Andover,
Hants.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME.

C O N F E R E N C E S

of representatives of Women's Organisations, and invited individuals, called by the WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE, Portway, St. Mary Bourne, Nr. Andover, Hants,

will be held at FRIENDS HOUSE, EUSTON ROAD, LONDON N.W.1.

on SATURDAYS, October 3rd and 31st from 10.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.
and from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
to discuss in detail the clauses of

" A DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN"

PROGRAMME FOR OCTOBER 3rd.

Opening 10.30 a.m.

Clauses 1 & 2. "The Right to Live." "Protection of Minors."

Opener: a representative from the Women's Co-operative Guild.

Clause 3. "Duty to the Community."

Opener: Mrs. Brayshaw, Women's International League.

Clause 4. "Right to Knowledge."

Opener: Miss M.S. Smith, Association of Assistant Mistresses.

Clause 5. "Freedom of Thought and Worship."

Opener: The Rev. Joyce Rutherford, M.A., B.Sc.

Clause 6. "Right to Work."

Opener: Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, O.B.E.

CHAIRMAN: MRS. DUNCAN HARRIS.

A SECOND CONFERENCE will be held on Saturday, October 31st, at Friends House, Euston Road, London, from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. to discuss Clauses 7 to 11 of "A Declaration of the Rights of Man."

Clause 7. "Right to Personal Property."

Opener: Miss Constance Colwill (~~subject to consent~~)

Clause 8. "Freedom of Movement"

Opener: Mrs. Bentwich (~~subject to consent~~)

Clause 9. "Personal Liberty."

Opener: Mrs. Beatrice Pollard.

Clause 10. "Freedom from Violence."

Opener: (~~not settled~~) Mrs. Lord.

Clause 11 "Right of Law-making."

Opener: ~~Miss Megan Lloyd George, M.P. (subject to consent).~~

Mrs. Beatrice Pollard.

CHAIRMAN: MRS. DUNCAN HARRIS.

APPLICATION FOR TICKETS FROM WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS & INDIVIDUALS for Conference on Declaration of Rights of Man, October 3rd and 31st, 1942 at Friends House, Euston Road, London from 10.30 to 4.30 p.m. Please fill in particulars below and return to The Secretary, W.I.L. Portway, St. Mary Bourne, Nr. Andover, Hants, with fees for delegates.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SOCIETY.....

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF DELEGATES: (or name and address of individual)

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)

Signature of Secretary.

Fees enclosed (4/- per delegate for the two Conferences (2/- for one day)
(Fee for individuals 1/- per session, 2/- each Conference.)

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN AUGUST BY THE NORTH WALES BRANCH OF
THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE, on INDIA.

1. Sent letters to a large number of people in Wales and elsewhere, including North Wales Women's Peace Council members, asking them to write or wire Sir Stafford Cripps, Messrs. Attlee and Amery and local M.Ps, urging that Parliament be recalled to consider the position in India.
Good response to this.
2. Sent special letters to Archbishop of Canterbury and Mr. Lloyd George begging them to help to get negotiations re-opened with the Indian leaders, August 19th.
3. Sent circular letter to over 50 weekly papers in Wales urging that people press on the Government the desirability of re-opening negotiations, August 17th.
4. Joined in signing letter signed by members of local P.P.U. and local Ministers of religion to be read in Churches and Chapels of Bangor, August 23rd.
5. All members of North Wales Women's Peace Council urged to send to local M.Ps before re-opening of Parliament their approval of recent resolution of National Peace Council Executive. August 28th.
6. Welsh religious leaders approached and asked to publicise India. Welsh Congregational Union is to consider the Indian problem at its Council Meeting this week (September 2nd) at our request.

NOTE: North Wales Branch want all W.I.L. Branches to give them further ideas on this campaign. The Hon. Secretary is Mrs. M.F. Lloyd Prichard, 6, Menai View Terrace, Bangor, N. Wales.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Extended Executive Committee, Tuesday and Wednesday, October 6th and 7th from 5 to 7 p.m. at Livingstone House, Broadway, Westminster, and on the 7th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Offices of the National Peace Council, 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1.

PRESENT Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Miss Mosa Anderson, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. McGregor Ross, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Mrs. Grindley: *Miss Harrison, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Dickinson*

Branch Representatives:

Birmingham: Mrs. Bayes, Mrs. Ballinger, Miss Hicks.
Brighton: Miss Pickworth and Miss Briault.
Glasgow: Miss Low.
Manchester: Mrs. Bolt, Mrs. Coppock, Mrs. Paine, Mrs. Phillips.
North Wales: Mrs. James, Miss M.O. Smith.
Reading: Mrs. Barber, Mrs. D.G. Beer.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs. Beesley, Miss Haughton Miss Edith Pye.

Mrs. Duncan Harris gave a warm welcome to all those who had come from the Branches. She said that the Committee realised that in having arranged for the Forced Labour Conference on that afternoon it had not met the wishes of the Branches, but as the mistake had been made, it was not possible to cancel arrangements. She hoped that the Conference had proved helpful to the delegates.

Mrs. Harris asked delegates to give a short account of their Branch work and the way in which they are interpreting the policy of the W.I.L. as an introduction to discussion of the policy at this time.

As so often happens the representatives reporting, had found, when they came to put things together, that their record of work amounted to something quite encouraging, and this encouragement was conveyed to all those who heard the reports. Written reports by Branches not able to send came from Leicester, Liverpool and Worthing.

REPORTS.

Mrs. Lund of LEICESTER, wrote of Branch Meetings on India, China, Russia, Social Conditions in St. Helena; local Government and Money and the Post-War world. The Branch is co-operating with the local Famine Relief Committee.

Miss Jobbins, WORTHING, wrote of monthly Committee Meetings, a Bring and Buy Sale, a Study Circle studying "The Atlantic Charter" and the Sankey Report on "A Declaration of the Rights of Man," and that Collections for the W.I.L. Penny-a-Week Fund are being continued. "Common Life in U.S.A." and "Freedom under the Common Law" are subjects for future meetings.

Mrs. Phillips of MANCHESTER, reported that Manchester's membership remained, without much variation, about 450. The Branch had regular monthly meetings to consider current international questions, and also sandwich Lunch Meetings, designed particularly to attract the young business woman. A Study Circle, under the leadership of Mrs. Bolt is studying "The Romance of Money."

The Branch is co-operating whole-heartedly with the local Famine Relief Committee. It has supported Conferences organised by other bodies and co-operates with other organisations wherever possible. A member serves on the International Women's Service Groups Committee, which acts as a centre for all foreign women residents. From their Speakers' Panel members are drawn for meetings of other organisations. Several serve on the Panel Scheme of the W.F.A.

The Branch specialises in the Group System and in the suburbs of Manchester they have a number of Groups, and each Group has a repre-

sentative on the Manchester W.I.L. Council.

It has sent letters to the Press, M.P's and Government.

Mrs. James, NORTH WALES, welcomed the opportunity of exchanging news and views between Branches. She gave a brief survey of the North Wales Women's Peace Council which affiliated to the W.I.L. in 1928. She paid tribute to Mrs. Thoday who, she said, had been the heart and soul of the Branch until her serious illness which necessitated her giving up the work. But her house in Llanfairfechan, which she had lent to the Branch to be used as a Refugee Hostel, remains a Hostel for Refugees from Czecho-Slovakia, Germany and Austria. The excellent work for refugees in North Wales has resulted in its being the first area to receive an autonomous regional Committee for refugees working in co-operation with Bloomsbury House and the Home Office. This work for refugees has given the members a sense of usefulness, especially as it became more and more difficult to get outside speakers, and the Branch has suffered from a sense of isolation since the beginning of the war.

The Branch has established contacts with Liverpool and Manchester Branches and is co-operating with the former in the work it is doing for the West Indian workers in Liverpool.

Their autumn programme will include meetings on India and China, and in regional Conferences with other W.I.L. Branches, they will consider economic reform, money reform, social reform and colonial reform. They want to study the problems of peace-time reconstruction and to stimulate local thought in peace aims and peace work.

The Branch continues to collect for the W.I.L. Penny-a-Week Fund.

Mrs. Barber, READING, reported that subjects dealt with at monthly meetings included Co-operative movements, education for citizens, family allowances, our own health services, the Danish health services, the History of Austria, etc. Letters on India and on Family Allowances have been sent to the press and the Government. The Branch is co-operating with the local Famine Relief Committee. It helped to start the Reading Forum.

Mrs. Bayes, BIRMINGHAM, reported very successful public meetings on China, India and the Colonies, and well-attended Branch Meetings throughout the year, when talks centred round America, Spain, Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, Russia, and the Eastern European countries. Mrs. Bayes felt these meetings were influencing public opinion and the Branch believed that its chief function is to arouse more interest in international problems and to foster a spirit of reconciliation.

Miss Low, GLASGOW, reported monthly Branch meetings, and the holding of public meetings, though this year they have been faced with the difficulty of getting "big" speakers. They have sent resolutions to every Cabinet Minister and to their M.P's on India, Famine Relief, Hate propaganda, Forced Labour and on Vansittartism.

The Branch tries to educate members on women's movements in other countries. It has collaborated with Edinburgh Branch.

Mrs. Greenwood, BRIGHTON, said the Branch has a Study Circle studying the Declaration of the Rights of Man. It has had a Garden Meeting (held indoors because of the rain!) addressed by Miss Mosa Anderson; a meeting on India, and it was instrumental in organising a large public meeting, out of which grew the Famine Relief Committee. It has helped to start study groups on the Christian Social Order all over the town.

Mrs. Duncan Harris, CROYDON, said that the Branch for the last three years has had a series of lectures on Economics, the lecturer being supplied by the W.E.A. It is now starting a series of lec-

tures on the Economics of the Peace. It had co-operated in starting the Famine Relief Committee, and it is co-operating with the Famine Relief Shop in Croydon.

Finally, the last paragraphs of the Liverpool reports summarise the work going on in Liverpool:-

"By hearing well informed speakers on a variety of international subjects, including aspects of life and thought in India, China, Czecho-Slovakia and Africa, the Liverpool Branch has endeavoured to seek after that understanding of other peoples which leads towards international goodwill. They have a representative on the British Committee for Coloured Peoples and on the European Famine Relief Committee, and have sent a resolution to the responsible Minister on the latter subject. All these activities forward the first object of the League.

"The Branch has heard the view of active Pacifists and the Friends War Relief Service, both of whom are actively engaged in working for the acceptance of the belief that war is a crime. The Secretary of the Branch acts as a Watcher at the Conscientious Objectors' Tribunal. These are in pursuance of the second and third Objects of the League.

"The problem of maintaining law and order within our own country, so necessary for family life, has been discussed with relation to the future generation. Two of our members are Magistrates in the Juvenile Courts. These further the third Object.

"The Childwall Group is going to link up with a group in U.S.A. which will be a step towards the fifth Object of the W.I.L."

A little while ago Liverpool Committee felt the Branch would have to close down in the face of many difficulties. Now-

"This year has been a successful and interesting one for the Women's International League in Liverpool. New members have been added and a subsidiary group in the suburb of Childwall has been formed. Meetings have been held frequently."

MISS HARRISON was then called upon to open the discussion. She said she had found the history of the beginnings of the W.I.L. a fascinating study and everyone should read again "A Venture in Goodwill," which she thought contained one of the greatest romances of the world. Nothing could be more dramatic than the meeting at the Hague in 1915. She recalled the dramatic Congress in 1919 at Zurich when our women met together for the first time after the war.

Miss Harrison said that on looking back on her own personal experience she realised she was instinctively a pacifist and she experienced a sense of loneliness - of isolation. It was not until years after that she heard of the W.I.L., though she was moving in a fairly wide world. What a joy it would have been to have known of those earlier Conferences, what faith and hope it would have given her to have known what women could do. In America and in China she met Jane Addams and was struck by the great wisdom she had in dealing with people, by her quiet serenity and her great spiritual qualities, and especially her gift of being able to respect deeply an opposite point of view. Jane Addams saw that the world was not only America and Great Britain, but Asia.

Miss Harrison recalled those great women - Edith Pye and Camille Drevet - who went on a mission of Friendship to the women of China in 1926, and the other women who went to Ireland. How she wished it were possible for three members of the W.I.L. to visit the women of India now. We need the spiritual qualities and the great courage of these women. She felt the torch-light quality of the Founders of our Movement is a little blurred; we must not be afraid of emo-

tion - heart as well as brain is needed.

On the practical side, Miss Harrison said we must work for our Penny-a-Week Fund. We must be ready to spring to action at the right moment. Money must be available to bring people here, or send them somewhere else - people who will go to other women with peace in their hearts.

Two subjects specially engaged the attention of the Executive:

- (1) The exact position of the W.I.L. as a Pacifist Organisation, and
- (2) How to keep constantly in view in all our work both the short term policy under present circumstances and the long term policy.

A memorandum on these points is to be prepared by a small sub-Committee that was appointed, consisting of Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Brayshaw and Mrs James, and will be sent to Branches for consideration and comment.

Mrs. Duncan Harris reminded us that we must always also keep in view the fact that we are an international organisation and must not take decisions, or initiate action which would handicap our international work.

A welcome resolution from Birmingham crystallised some criticisms which the Branch wished to make about organisation and these were fully discussed and gave rise to some of the conclusions arrived at. It ran as follows:-

"The Committee of the Birmingham Branch wish to express their dissatisfaction with the present relationship between the Executive Committee and the Branches.

"In our opinion an organisation such as the W.I.L. can only give full expression to its aims and policy if it is sufficiently widespread throughout the country to be able to influence provincial as well as London public opinion. We appreciate the excellent work done by the very able members of the Executive, but the present policy of centralisation weakens rather than strengthens the organisation. We feel that a new approach is needed that will give greater encouragement to the Branches and enable them to feel that they are an integral part of a democratic organisation.

"We should like to make the following practical recommendations:

"(1) Greater prominence should be given, and more time devoted, to resolutions from the Provinces at the Annual Council Meetings.

"(2) A short report of activities, or an article from one or other of the Branches should be given each month in the News Sheet.

"(3) In view of the expense of sending representatives to the Executive Committee regularly, the idea of the extended Executive should be adopted, to meet once a year between the Council Meetings."

The outcome of the suggestions was that Mrs. Lord was appointed Liaison Officer between the Branches and each other, and the Branches and the Executive. She hopes that Branches will send her a digest of the most important parts of their Minutes and she will keep a watch to see what should be passed from one Branch to another, and what new thoughts and efforts should be embodied in notes for the News Sheet. It is hoped that Branch Secretaries will make use of this new office.

Two final decisions must be noted:-

Two final decisions must be noted:-

(1) That an extended Executive should be held between Annual Council Meetings each year, and

(2) That the next Annual Council Meeting should be held in the Easter Vacation, if possible at Westhill, or some Birmingham centre, and that the discussions should be confined to W.I.L. business without outside speakers, giving more time to resolutions from Branches.

As a result of Miss Harrison's talk and the discussions, and of a request made later for more literature, it was decided to issue a special propoganda leaflet, including facts of the history of the W.I.L. Mrs. Innes was asked to draft a leaflet for the consideration of the other members of the Committee appointed to prepare the memorandum. Another leaflet on Women in the Colonies was also decided upon and Mrs. McGregor Ross was asked to write it.

A pleasant little social gathering took place at a picnic supper, kindly arranged by our Chairman after the session on the first evening. The informal discussions and increased understanding which resulted were reflected in next morning's debate.

267. MINUTES OF MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 2nd were signed. With reference to Minute 265 Miss Dickinson reported on two meetings in July which she had attended on behalf of the W.I.L., one organised by the L.N.U., London Regional Federation at which Lord Cecil had spoken on "Our Part in tomorrow's Peace," and the other of the L.N.U. Women's Advisory Council when Dr. Gilbert Murray spoke on Minorities. Miss Dickinson stressed the point that both speakers had mentioned the possibility that a Declaration of Human Rights might be necessary in solving some of the post-war problems.

268. BUSINESS ARISING. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported on a deputation to Mr. Attlee on Equal Compensation for Injury in the Services, especially the Fire Services and Civil Defence. Mr. Attlee received the deputation with sympathy, but did not commit himself. The attention of the Committee was drawn to a leaflet issued by the Six Point Group on "No Registration without Equal Compensation."

Child-Wage-Earners. Reported a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Committee on Wage-Earning Children, enclosing a report of their last memorandum. The Hon. Secretary, Miss Adler, understands that conditions in the super-heated rooms of the mills are still bad. Mrs. Paine (manchester) is trying to get information but so far has not received replies to her letters. She will send information secured to Headquarters.

269. FINANCE. The Treasurer reported on the attached Statement for September, which was adopted. Her appeal will very shortly be going out and she hopes it will realise at least £100. She is very proud of our little nest-egg, put by for work after the war.

270. FORCED LABOUR CONFERENCE, October 6th. The resolution put to the Conference the previous day was referred back to the Committee for final drafting. After discussion the following was adopted and instructions given for it to be sent to Government Departments, Missionary Societies, Fabian Colonial Bureau, League of Coloured Peoples, Friends' Native Races Committee, Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, Miss Perham, Miss Freda White, the Trades Union Congress, the I.L.P., and all Members of Parliament to whom an invitation to the Conference had been sent.

RESOLUTION: "This Conference, called by the Women's International League, deplures H.M. Government's utilisation of the loophole in the Forced Labour Convention whereby its provisions could be

disregarded on the claim of war necessity.

"In particular, the Conference has been perturbed by the abandonment by H.M. Government of this country's veto on Forced Labour for private enterprise.

"The Conference would point to the fact that the Africans have no voice in the political and industrial enactments in their country. It fears that the economic, social and political consequences of the withdrawal of men from the Reserves may be serious, that native agriculture will suffer and native life be dislocated.

"In general the Conference believes that policy is being dictated by expediency, sometimes running counter to principle, and that long-term hopes of development are being unjustifiably sacrificed to the call of immediate and short-viewed interests."

271. INDIA. Miss Harrison reported that the present acute stage of the deadlock had gone on now for two months with no sign of breaking the circle. Daily outbreaks were occurring to combat which the Government of India was using its wide powers to repress. Mr. Amery had admitted that the mobs had been machine-gunned from the air on five occasions. In India, intense effort to find a way of ending the impasse were going on; the common denominator was the demand for the establishment of a National Government and for contact with imprisoned leaders to facilitate the formation. Similar efforts were going on at this end. There had been strong adverse reaction to the Premier's statement in the House on September 11th - in America in particular. All attention now was concentrated on the India Debate on October 8th. From reliable information Miss Harrison said it did not look as though this would result in anything more than a re-statement of the position. But miracles did sometimes happen. But if nothing eventuated, then a strong public opinion must assert itself in which the W.I.L. must co-operate. The latest resolution of the N.P.C. was one we could use, and she drew attention to the fact that the leaders of the Christian forces in this country were deeply concerned. She urged that members get into touch with such leaders in their localities. It was decided that after consultation with people in touch with the position, further word should be sent to the Branches.

The resolution of the N.P.C. adopted 17th September, 1942, was endorsed. Its text is as follows:-

"The National Peace Council desires to reinforce the appeals made by Indian leaders in the Legislative Assembly and elsewhere for a constructive initiative by the British Government to end the present deplorable situation in India. Disparagement of Congress as the largest political movement in India does not meet the fundamental need for a settlement involving the major political parties and giving India at this critical time the sense of freedom and the substance of representative Government.

"The Council therefore urges His Majesty's Government to make a positive contribution to the end of the deadlock by formally declaring its readiness to transfer effective power to a National Government as soon as the personnel of such a Government has been agreed upon by responsible Indian leaders, including those of the Congress Party."

Reported a postcard from Mahadev Desai - who has since died - saying that Mr. Gandhi was delighted to have the W.I.L. letter of 8th May and was grateful for our message of sympathy.

Reference was made to the Report of the All India Women's Conference which has recently reached this country. In it was the full text of Mrs. Pandit's Presidential speech. AGREED to ask the Liaison Committee of British Organisations interested in Indian Affairs whether they propose printing the speech in their Bulletin.

Reported that Miss Dickinson had represented the W.I.L. at the India League Conference on September 5th.

AGREED to let the N.F.C. know of the W.I.L. appreciation and endorsement of their resolution on India.

Reported a letter from the B.B.C. in response to ours of 5th September, saying that the suggestions we make "will be carefully considered," and we can be assured "that in any event we shall keep a strict watch for information about this Session of the Central Assembly and that it will receive as full treatment in our bulletins as is possible in the light of other news to be covered that day."

272. COLOUR BAR. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that hotels and restaurants in some localities have been asked not to admit coloured troops and that A.T.A. and Home Guards have in some instances been told not to associate with them. The spontaneous reaction seems to be generally that people have made them very welcome. We do not wish to see the U.S.A. standards with regard to the Colour Bar brought into our country, neither do we wish this question to make a rift between Britain and America. Suggested that our Branches be asked if they know of any well-authenticated cases amongst the Home Guard, the A.T.S., etc. or know of any restaurants closed to coloured troops to report to the National Council for Civil Liberties, which can take action, and to take opportunity for fostering understanding with those Americans who share our view.

273. FORMATION OF BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS, to counter-act anti-Semitism throughout the world. On the recommendation of Miss Dickinson it was AGREED to write to the leaders welcoming the formation of the Council and to ask to be kept informed of activities and to be sent their literature.

274. FOOD FOR THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES. Arising out of a letter from one of our members suggesting that the W.I.L. follow up the suggestion made in a letter in the News Chronicle of 28th September, and "besiege" the Minister of Economic Warfare till the Government sends food supplies and medicines to the starving countries, Miss Pye, who had been consulted, had written to urge "the practice of patience for a little longer." "The scheme for minimum help for children in the occupied countries is now ready and will shortly be presented to the Government. If the Government does not accept the scheme the next step will be to try to rouse the country by means of public meetings, etc." She was afraid that "to besiege the door of the Ministry of Economic Warfare would not have the slightest effect," as it is a question for Cabinet decision. Miss Pye said that if the scheme which has been prepared by experts is accepted, all it can do is to mitigate in some cases the effects of starvation, but what is most important will be its psychological effect in making the peoples in the occupied countries realise that they are not alone, forgotten or friendless, to which aspect Miss Pye attaches great importance. AGREED that no action should be taken until Miss Pye advises us what to do, and when, and to pass on to our member, Miss Pye's reply.

275. A MESSAGE TO THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD, drafted by Miss Kay Bourne as follows, was considered:-

After discussion it was AGREED that some of our members from other countries now in England should be consulted, and Mrs. Innes was asked then to redraft the message, and take it to the Officers' Meeting in preparation for the November Executive. Mrs. Ross suggested that should a Message be issued it should be sent to the Dependencies as well as to the Colonies.

276. DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN. Reported that the Conference on October 3rd had been very successful. A summary of the proceedings was going to be duplicated and sold at 1/- a copy. It was hoped to get it out before the Conference on 31st October.

277. PRINCESS TNAGNE WORK HAILE SELLIASSIE had sent the Committee a grateful acknowledgment of their letter of sympathy in her recent loss, through the death of her sister.

278. ALISON NEILANS. Miss Harrison reported that she had attended, on behalf of the W.I.L. the moving and simple Memorial Service at Martin's-in-the-Field Church on September 25th, which was attended by many leading and distinguished people who had appreciated the great work done by Miss Neilans on the question of moral and social hygiene.

276. WOMEN'S INFLUENCE IN PARLIAMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT. Reported that the Women's Freedom League were holding a Conference on 17th October at 2.15 p.m. at 22 Princes Gate, S.W. 1. when Mrs. Tate, M.P. would take the Chair and also speak on "The Problems Facing Women." Mrs. Cusden, J.P. would speak on "The Rights and Responsibilities of the Woman Ratepayer as a Citizen." AGREED to ask Miss Mann and Miss Stroud if they could attend on behalf of the W.I.L.

277. W.I.L. LUNCH MEETINGS. Mrs. Harris suggested that a series of Lunch Meetings might be held on Asiatic Problems. Miss Harrison promised to try to get Miss Hinder when she arrived in this country.

278. MRS. HUNTER. Mrs. Wood reported having met Mrs. Hunter, one of our old Golder's Green members, who asked that her greetings should be given to the Committee. AGREED to send her a letter of thanks.

279 WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT MOVEMENT. Reported an invitation for individuals to join the Movement.

280. NEWS SHEET. Mrs. Lord suggested that a new thought from the Branches might sometimes be worked into an article, and paragraphs could be written on how the Branches are dealing with such subjects as, e.g. the Colour Bar. AGREED Branch reports should still be sent to the Editor, as well as Mrs. Lord (as Liaison Officer between the Branches and the Executive) but that the Editor must be left free to use her discretion in printing anything. Reports for the News Sheet must be received in the Office by the 15th of each month.

281. MISS MCGEACHY. AGREED to cable congratulations on her appointment as the first woman to enter the diplomatic service of Great Britain. The cable to be followed by a letter expressing the hope that she may have opportunities in diplomatic channels, of emphasizing those trends in the conduct of international relations which make for the preservation of life in its fullest sense and not for its destruction.

282. MRS. BAGNALL The Birmingham members were asked to convey great sympathy to Mrs. Bagnall, whose house has recently been demolished by enemy action, and to say how sorry we were not to have had her with us.

283. BIRMINGHAM A resolution of appreciation for Birmingham's resolution was recorded.

284. At the close of the meeting Miss Harrison said that she thought the extended Executive had been an inspiration and a great help, and she thanked all those who had come at considerable expense and given time and thought in the spirit of the greatest frankness.

The Committee was united in feeling that at this time there was special need for such a meeting when our Branches and individuals are often deeply conscious of isolation in the world of total war. The initiative that had come from the Branches was particularly welcome, and the Committee ended with a deepened sense both of solidarity and of a common purpose.

B. Duncan Harris

4.XI.42

Statement of Accounts for September, 1942.

RECEIPTS.

EXPENDITURE.

Balances on Sept. 1st:	
Bank.....	71.11 .1
Petty Cash.....	5. - . 9 $\frac{1}{4}$
Congress Fund.....	60. - . -
Penny-a-Week Fund.....	73. 7. 6
Reserve Fund in C.P.Bldg. Society)...	383. 9.11
Subscriptions....	1.11.6
Donations.....	6.11.-
News Sheets.....	1. -.9
Literature.....	12.4
Income Tax.....	3.10.3
Lunch Meetings...	4.6
Rights of Man Conf. ference, Oct. 3 & 31st.....	5. 9.6
Forced Labour Con- ference.....	<u>1.17.9</u>
Penny-a-Week Fd.	20.17. 7
	<u>11. 7</u>
	£614.18. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$

Salaries.....	18. e. e
Fares.....	4. 3. 1
News Sheets.....	5.15. 6
Postage.....	8.18. 4
Insurances.....	1. 6. 2
N.H. & U. Insurances.....	6. -
Stationery.....	9. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Office Expenses.....	2. 1. 1
Income Tax.....	3.10. 3
Forced Labour Conference...	6. 4. 9
India League Conference (delegate's fee & poundage)	2. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Literature.....	1. -
Coal.....	6. 6
Rent.....	<u>3.10. -</u>
	54.14. 7

Balances:-	
Bank//.....	56. 2. 1
Cash in hand.....	$\frac{1}{2}$
" ".....	2. 4. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Penny-a-Week.....	73. 7. 6
Congress Fund.....	60. - . -
Reserve Fund.....	<u>368. 9.11</u>
	560. 3.10 $\frac{1}{4}$
	<u>£614.18.5$\frac{1}{4}$</u>

NOTE: Grant of £15 towards "Right of Man" Conference taken from Reserve Fund.

// ear-marked:-	
Geneva Subs.....	5. 3. 6
London Group.....	1.15.10
Congress Fund.....	1. - . -
Penny-a-Week Fd.....	<u>13.13.10</u>
	£21.13. 2 leaving in
Current Account	<u>£34. 8.11$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
	£56. 2. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, November 4th, 1942, at 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1. from 11.45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Castle, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, *Miss Harrison*

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs Beesley and Miss Pye.

MINUTES OF MEETING on October 6th and 7th were signed, the following names being added to the list of **those PRESENT:-**

Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Harrison, Miss Dickinson.

(Will Secretaries please add these names to the October Minutes?)

285. BUSINESS ARISING. British Council of Christians & Jews. In acknowledging our letter of October 14th, the Rev. W.W. Simpson, the Secretary of the British Council of Christians and Jews, had asked for information as to what the W.I.L. had been able to do to counteract the spread of anti-Semitism. Mrs. Innes had sent him the required information, and had also asked for, and been promised, an article on anti-Semitism for the News Sheet.

Conferences on "A Declaration of the Rights of Man." Mrs. Harris reported that the second Conference on October 31st had been successful. A summary of the report of the first Conference on October 3rd had been distributed and the International Co-operative Women's Guild had taken 11 copies to send to Guilds in other countries and had translated it into German. A Collection had been taken to help defray the expenses, a sub-Committee had been appointed to consider further Conferences, consisting of Mrs. Beatrice Pollard, Mrs. Ling, Miss M.V. King, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Innes and, subject to her consent, Mrs. Ridealgh.

The following resolution was adopted, and instructions given as to where it should be sent:-

"This Conference of Women, believing that the right ordering of the Community must rest on respect for human personality, irrespective of race, class, creed or sex,

And having examined the principles of the Charter of the Rights of Man drawn up by a Committee under the Chairmanship of Lord Sankey,

Urges women everywhere, whether within organisations or as individuals, to work for the progressive acceptance of these principles in the social and political institutions of their country.

And further, it declares its conviction that the principles embodied in the Charter should be incorporated in the agreements on which any international and supra-national organisation shall be based in the post-war era."

A covering note was to be sent to the Sankey Committee and to Mr. H.G. Wells saying that, in principle, the Conference accepted the Declaration, and explaining the points in it which the Conference considered should be modified.

Mrs. Innes was asked to send a note with the resolution to Organisations, etc. urging them to work on the lines suggested, and to ask them, wherever possible, to send it to their own Groups in other countries.

The Conference also agreed to study the Beveridge Report, and the sub-Committee appointed was asked to make arrangements for the next Conference.

The Executive agreed to recommend to the Sub-Committee the end of January or beginning of February for the Conference.

Mrs. Harris reported that a Lunch Meeting at Friends House had been held on October 28th, with Miss Eleanor Hinder speaking on "Livelihood in Shanghai in 1942," and Miss Harrison taking the Chair. About 60 people were present. A warm vote of thanks was given to Miss Harrison for all the work she had put into the meeting the success of which was largely due to her efforts.

It was hoped to arrange another Lunch Meeting at Friends House on November 18th with Dr. Gangulee as speaker, and Vera Brittain as Chairman.

Mrs. Innes reported that Mrs. Brayshaw was working on the Memorandum and the leaflet on the W.I.L. both of which arose from the extended Executive Committee.

Mrs. Innes reported that Mrs. Misar and Frau Freundlich had sent her draft Messages to the Women of the World, in response to her request on behalf of the Committee. She had been able to combine them into one Message which she read. After discussion one amendment was made and the following endorsed:-

TO THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD

from the Women's International League in Gt. Britain.

"Women and Mothers all over the world are suffering as never before. Bereaved and sorrowing they share in spirit not only the agonies of their loved-ones on the battlefields, but the sufferings of the countless victims of violence and hatred, of those millions who have lost freedom or are dying in defence of all their ideals.

Misery and starvation are everywhere, yet women still show dauntless courage and faith in their efforts to preserve life, to alleviate suffering and to keep alive the spirit of freedom and a belief in the future.

We all, who are living in a country still free, send our sympathy, gratitude and love to all those whose sufferings are greater than ours, who have lost liberty, loved ones and all security of life. We feel with you in all your pain and sorrow, whatever nation or race you may belong to, and we look forward to, and mean to work for, a world in which the well-being of each individual shall be the supreme and dominant motive for all the actions of State.

United by our common sorrows, we can take courage and inspiration from the bravery and devotion of other women. Yet we must not forget that humanity is going through this present agony because so many of us, though believing in ideals of peace, did not do enough to make them realities. In this dark hour we must show our strength, courage and reconstructive ability in every sphere of life, and hold to our conviction that the peoples of the world can live together in free co-operation, renouncing dominance and exploitation.

We, in the Women's International League, desire no advantage which is gained at the cost of the suffering and degradation of millions of innocent people, who could not choose their nation, or race, and we pledge ourselves to work as never before to ensure that humanity will never again have to suffer what millions are suffering now. We pledge ourselves to use our freedom to work for freedom for all, to liberate the world from the evils of war, exploitation and oppression, and to work for a new life for mankind.

Across land and sea, we send our greetings with this Message to the women of all countries."

It was agreed (1) to send the Message to our Sections in the Dominions, to Switzerland, Sweden and America; (2) to ask the help of Frau Freundlich in getting it abroad; (3) to send it to the British Section of International Women's Organisations and to ask them to send it to their Headquarters and to other Sections, wherever possible; (4) to print it in the News Sheet, from which "pull-offs" should be made, with an explanatory note about the origin of the Message; (5) to send it with a covering note to Miss Kay Bourne.

2861. FINANCE. In presenting the attached Statement of Accounts Mrs. Wood said she was disappointed at the result of her appeal for £100 (during October £64 had been received - one donation had been for £10 and two for £5 each) and she appealed to members of the Committee to share with her the responsibility for raising the money necessary for carrying on the work. She urged a big drive to get new members and told how the Cambridge Branch had decided to give the ~~retiring~~-Her. President, Miss Smith, a "Christmas Card" of 20 new members. Ten of the twenty had been enrolled at a Saturday night meeting of over 70, after Miss Smith had read the five Objects of the W.I.L. These Objects, she thought made a great appeal to women. Mrs. Wood would like to see the appointment of a Finance Committee to go into the question of finance. She was glad to see that the Penny-a-Week Fund was within reach of its first £100.

At the request of the Committee, Mrs. Lord, as Liaison Officer between the Branches and the Executive, agreed to send a memorandum on a Call for new Members to the Branches, and to ask them if they would send reports of progress for the Executive Committee.

As Liaison Officer Mrs. Lord reported that she had received a number of letters welcoming her appointment. She had reports of work from North Wales and Manchester; Birmingham had agreed to raise a fund to enable a representative to attend Executive Meetings in London; Brighton, Reading and Cambridge Branches had invited her to visit them. Mrs. Lord believed that this personal link would play an important part in our work and she would welcome help and suggestions at any time. She would like to see fire-side groups developing.

287. INDIA. Mrs. Lloyd Prichard reported the intensive efforts the North Wales Peace Council was making on the Indian deadlock. The Council was prepared to petition the Government en masse in the Wales area through churches, chapels, Peace Council groups, P.P.U., political parties, W.E.L. classes; L.N.U., Women's Institutes, National Council of Women, etc. The Council had approached the N.P.C. to see whether they would help with suitable petition forms.

After discussion the Executive decided to endorse the North Wales Peace Council, as if the N.P.C. felt it could undertake a wide appeal, the Branches and membership of the W.I.L. could offer aid. The following was drafted for submission to the N.P.C.:-

"We, the undersigned, urge the Government to press forward with the re-opening of negotiations with all the Indian leaders, accepting as first steps to this desirable end the offer of Mr. Rajagopalachari to come to this country."

It was agreed to express to the News Chronicle (1) appreciation of the articles on India by Mr. Vernon Bartlett which have appeared in that paper; (2) the hope that these and the many similar suggestions from India will form the basis for negotiating a settlement of the Indian deadlock.

Miss Dickinson undertook to represent the W.I.L. at the Lunch meeting on November 9th of the Women's Advisory Council on Indian Affairs. Mrs. Duncan Harris hoped to be present.

Agreed to send a letter to Mr. Amery, India Office, asking him if he would take advantage of Mr. Rajagopalachari's offer to come to this country in order to establish a contact which would create an atmosphere in which the issues at stake could be discussed.

Agreed to send to the Branches, when next circularising them, the letter to "Every Japanese" from Mr. Gandhi,

288. NEWS FROM ABROAD. Reported (1) Greetings from Sweden, (2) the formation of a group of Spanish Republican Women Refugees in this country, whose "aims are to take an active part with the Women's Organisations in their fight against the Nazi-Fascist oppressor of peoples, and to work for the triumph of the democracies that means the liberation of Spain": (3) a letter from Frau Ragaz giving plans that are being made in Switzerland and Sweden for post-war relief work. Mrs. Innes was asked to write to Frau Ragaz expressing appreciation of the plans that are being made and asking to be kept informed of developments, and telling her of the work of the Allied Post-War Requirements Bureau, which welcomes the co-operation of voluntary societies from which a Consultative Council has been formed, on which Mrs. Duncan Harris is representing Friends.

Mrs. Innes reported an invitation from the Adjustment Board (to re-absorb women into employment), to join with them and a number of other women's organisations in sending a letter of greetings and messages to Mrs. Roosevelt, who had been unable to accept an invitation to a United Women's Societies' Meeting while she was in this country from America. The Adjustment Board, therefore, agreed to write her a letter. Mrs. Duncan Harris telephoned to the Organisers of this joint effort and heard the read. She explained that the W.I.L. could not endorse a letter which was in part an exhortation to support the war effort, but expressed belief that there was very wide agreement on the fundamental ideals which we all wished to preserve. The letter was subsequently modified on lines more nearly in harmony with W.I.L. views, but the modified draft had not been shown to the Officers and the signature of the W.I.L. was not included.

The Committee agreed with the action taken and decided to send to Mrs. Roosevelt our welcome and our appreciation of her visit to this country, which we felt sure would cement the friendship and co-operation between Great Britain and America. Also to express our gratitude that in speaking to groups of women, she had emphasised to them the need to be ready for the work of reconstruction in building up a world for peace. Further, to tell her (1) of our constant endeavour to try to find a way out of the Indian deadlock towards which we feel America has a great contribution to make, and (2) of the series of Conferences we have been holding on "A Declaration of the Rights of Man."

289. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, 1943. Reported that Westhill, Birmingham, had been booked provisionally for April 14th to 16th, but as three other Conferences were being held there during the Easter vacation, and owing to difficulties over laundry, it had been suggested by the Secretary of the College that we might like to make inquiries elsewhere. It was agreed to try for Woodbrooke another suitable College in Birmingham, but to let the provisional booking stand for the time being.

290. PRISONERS OF WAR Mrs. Innes was asked to write to the Prime Minister regarding the Government's retaliatory measure of putting prisoners of war in chains.

291. CALLING UP OF BOYS OF 17¹ FOR THE NAVY. Agreed to put this on the Agenda of the December Executive Committee.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 2nd, at the Offices of the N.P.C., 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1. from 12 noon.

B. Duncan Harris

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Statement of W.I.L. Accounts for October, 1942.

<u>Receipts.</u>	<u>Expenditure.</u>
Balances on October 1st:	Salaries..... 22.10. -
Bank.....56. 2. 1.	News Sheets..... 4.17. 6
Cash.....2. 4. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Stationery..... 2. - . 8
Co-operative P.B.Soc.	Office Expenses..... 19. 6
Penny-a-Week Fund.....73. 7. 6	Literature..... 2. - . 2
Congress Fund.....60. 0. 0	Meetings..... 8. 2. 6
Reserve Fund.....368. 9.11	Postage..... 5. 4. -
560. 3.10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Insurances..... 10. 7
Subs.....7. 7. -	Fares..... 1. 3. 3
Dons.....64. 3. 2	Coal..... 6. 6
News Sheets... 5. 1. 8	Telephone..... 3. 3
Literature.... 2.15. -	Rent..... 4. 7. 3
Affil. Fees... 1. 8. -	52. 5. 8
Bonny-a-Week.. 9.17. 2	Balances:-
Meetings..... 3.17. 3	Bank ///79. 2. 4
94. 9. 3	Cash..... 4.13.10 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Congress Fund.....63. - . -
	Penny-a-Week Fd...87. 1. 4
	Reserve Fund.....368. 9.11
	602. 7. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
<u>£654.13. 1$\frac{1}{4}$</u>	<u>£654.13. 1$\frac{1}{4}$</u>
	/// car-marked:-
	Penny-a-Week....9. 17. 2
	Geneva Subs.....5. 3. 6
	London Group....1. 15.10
	16. 16. 6
	Current Account 62. 5.10 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<u>£79. 2. 4$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, 2nd December, 1942, at 114 Southampton Row, W.C. 1 from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

PRESENT. Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Castle, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Anderson, Miss Pye, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Bedford (Liaison Officer London W.I.L. Group), Mrs. Ballinger (representative from Birmingham Branch).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Mrs. Wood.

MINUTES OF MEETING on 4th November were confirmed and signed.

292. BUSINESS ARISING:-

- (a) Reported letters to Mrs Innes from
- (1) Mr. H.G. Wells saying he was "delighted with your letter of November 14th and particularly glad that my work upon this question has been of use to you..."
 - (2) Miss McGeachey saying "how very touched I was to receive your kind cable of congratulations...."

(b) Mrs. Duncan Harris reported as follows on the meeting of the ad hoc Committee of Women's Organisations which had met to consider arrangements for the proposed Beveridge Report:-

In reply to an invitation to address the Conference on his Report, Sir William Beveridge's Private Secretary had replied that Sir William Beveridge had asked him to say he regretted that it would not be possible for him to make any further plans to speak on his Social Insurance Report until after the New Year. If, however, we wished to extend our invitation again early next year Sir William may then be in a position to give a more favourable reply. The Committee agreed to wait and ask him for a Saturday in February or March, and to have a two-session Conference, one in the morning addressed by Sir William Beveridge, followed by questions and discussions, and one in the afternoon consisting of discussion by the members of the Conference. Inquiries were being made about Halls.

A preliminary notice of the Conference was to be sent to all the Organisations likely to take part asking them whether they would

- (a) appoint delegates to such a Conference,
- (b) send notices to their Branches within easy reach of London,
- (c) like to nominate someone to take part in the discussions, and suggesting to them that the Report should first be discussed within the Committees of the participating Organisations.

The Executive AGREED to devote the larger part of the Meeting on January 6th to a consideration of the Beveridge Report and to ask Dr. Richens Scott or Miss Joyce Wells to open the discussion. Failing either of them AGREED to consult the National Council for Social Service.

Miss Harrison AGREED to represent the W.I.L. at the Women's Freedom League Conference on the Beveridge Report on December 19th.

(c) LUNCHES. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported a very successful lunch meeting on November 18th with Dr. Gangulce speaking on The Changing Situation in the Far East, and Madame Freund-Marlich reading one of Tagore's poems.

The Committee considered Madame Freund Marlich's offer to give a Recital of Eastern Poems, but AGREED to leave the matter till the days were lighter.

AGREED (1) to invite Bishop Hoaslett, late of Tokyo, to speak at a lunch meeting, if possible, on January 27th. Miss Harrison agreed to forward the letter of invitation to him.

(2) to arrange a series of meetings on Germany and to invite Madame Liba Ambrosovs to speak on "Germany in the Reconstruction of Europe" on February 10th, 17th or 24th, and Mrs. Duncan Harris AGREED to consult David Hodgkin for suggestions of other speakers.

293. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, 1943. Reported that as no other College had been found available in Oxford, Cambridge or Birmingham, Westhill Training College, Birmingham, had been definitely booked from April 14th from 3 p.m. to the 16th to 5 p.m. Delegates would be asked to provide their own sheets and towels. Mrs. Ballinger kindly said she would inquire among Birmingham members whether they could provide sheets for delegates who might not be in a position to provide their own.

Mrs. Ballinger reported that the Birmingham Branch would like a Public Meeting during the Council.

Mrs. Innes reminded the Executive that it was the Birmingham Branch who asked that the next Council should be devoted to W.I.L. business and that no outside speakers should be invited.

The Executive decided that if Birmingham wished to have a Public Meeting it would do its best, with their help, to arrange one, preferably on the Thursday evening, April 15th. AGREED to write in this sense to Mrs. Bayes.

Mrs. Innes reported that the Officers had considered a letter from the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship regarding the possibility of the Women's International Organisations holding an international meeting as soon after the war as possible, and suggesting that they might now be considering two main headings under which discussion is likely to fall if the plan materialises:-

(1) Women's business:-

- (a) Women's special demands in regard to the principles of post-war settlement (political, social and economic equality);
- (b) The continuance and possible co-ordination of the international women's movement;

(2) International Organisation: The principles of international co-operation and the bases of permanent peace.

At the request of the Officers Mrs. Innes had sent the above proposal to the Branches and Executive members and had suggested that Branches might find (1) (a) and (2) suitable subjects for one-day Conferences, out of which might come resolutions for discussion at the Annual Council Meetings.

294. MEMORANDUM AND LEAFLET. Mrs. Innes reported that owing to unavoidable delays over correspondence between members of the specially appointed Committee, the memo. from the extended Executive had not been sent to Branches, but that a report drawn up by Mrs. James had been sent in its place.

A letter was reported from Mrs. Lloyd Prichard expressing the hope that Mrs. James's report would be made the basis of discussion in the Branches in preparation for the Annual Council Meetings.

295. LOWER AGE OF REGISTRATION FOR ARMY AND NAVY. As no protest had been made when boys of 18 had to register, and as it was suggested that it was better not to write frequently to the Government on relatively minor points, it was AGREED not to protest about the lowering of the age, but to ask Mrs. Duncan Harris to call attention to it in a paragraph in the January News Sheet.

296. INDIA. Miss Harrison reported that the National Peace Council discussed at its Executive and the Council the request of the W.I.L. for sponsoring a Petition on India. At both these meetings and a further one summoned by the N.P.C. of representatives of the various organisations concerned about India, it was felt that at the moment this could not be undertaken. The matter is not closed and will probably come up later.

A letter was reported from Mrs. Lloyd Prichard on behalf of North Wales Branch expressing regret that there is no Peace Society with sufficient driving force and faith to make India a test case of the intentions of the United Nations.

Miss Harrison reported on the present situation; again at deadlock, for the Viceroy had refused permission for consultation with Mr. Gandhi, the Government's attitude being that, while the threat to Civil Disobedience remains, no facilities for consultation can be granted. She said that the coming Conference called by Sir Tej Sapru in Allahabad in the middle of December should be watched carefully. It was decided to send another letter to the D.B.C. to ask their help in making the proceedings of this Conference known to the public.

Prior to the war we were actively engaged in December in sending a delegate to the All India Women's Conference. The Liaison Committee, that for years has been in vital touch with the A.I.W.C., regrets its inability to maintain this touch save through infrequent letters with its members. The reason being that many of its officers are either interned or in prison. At the moment we do not know whether the Conference will be held this year. A cable has been sent to India to ascertain this. It was decided, as soon as the reply comes, to send a cable of greetings from the W.I.L.

Reported a formal acknowledgment from The Under Secretary of State for India to our letter to Mr. Amery of 6th November expressing the hope that the Government would take Mr. Rajagopalachari's offer to come to this country as an opportunity for establishing human contact.

Attention was drawn to the latest report of the Women's Advisory Council on Indian Affairs.

297. COLONIAL PROBLEMS. Reported that Mrs. Ross and Miss Anderson were giving careful consideration to a confidential draft Colonial Convention by the Anti-Slavery & Aborigines Protection Society, and when their suggestions and comments had been received concrete suggestions would be sent by Mrs. Innes, with a covering note making the point that it is very dangerous to crystallise the status quo and that we should urge people to look forward to self-government at an early stage.

298. FAMINE RELIEF COMMITTEE. Miss Pye reported a scheme had been prepared by experts based on minimum requirements of the child population of Belgium in terms of milk, vitamins, etc. This had been presented to the Government by the Archbishop of Canterbury but so far no progress can be reported. Miss Pye promised to draft a letter to Branches suggesting possible action.

Miss Dickinson drew attention to the letter on Food Relief in Occupied Countries by Emil Carmaerts in the Manchester Guardian Weekly of November 27th, and to the work he was doing to get food sent to the occupied countries. AGREED a letter of appreciation of

his efforts should be sent to him.

298. OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS. Reported that owing to the steady increase of work the Officers had considered the possibility of the office returning to London and of renting two rooms in the N.P.C. Office. The Committee endorsed the Officers proposal and authorised them to secure suitable accommodation in the event of the N.P.C. not seeing its way to letting us have the rooms we require.

AGREED to keep in mind Miss Pye's kind offer of the loan of the basement at 44 Upper Park Road.

The Committee authorised the drawing upon the Reserve Fund for the expenses in connection with the move, and to the borrowing from the same Fund if necessary to carry on the work to the end of the year.

299. FINANCE. Reported that the balance in the current account at the end of the month was £67.15.4, of which £22.5.1 was ear-marked for the Penny-a-Week Fund, Geneva subscriptions and the London Group.

300. News from abroad. Miss Pye and Mrs. Innes reported letters from Sweden.

301. NEWS SHEET. Proposed contents for January number:-

A Message from Mrs. Duncan Harris; A Reply to the "Challenge from Australia" (from Manchester Branch if possible); All Indian Women's Conference, Miss Harrison; Registration of Young Boys of 17½ by Mrs. Duncan Harris.

302. Mrs. Lord reported on BRANCH ACTIVITIES. She had visited several Branches recently and would be visiting others. The Liverpool Branch had written to say that at present it was discussing the pacifist versus the non-pacifist members' problem. The Branch is arranging a party of the West Indian Technicians and members of the League of Coloured Peoples to see "The Merry Wives of Windsor" at the Liverpool Repertory Theatre. The Committee expressed much interest in this demonstration of friendliness and goodwill to the coloured people in Liverpool.

303. N.P.C. PEACE AIMS CONFERENCE, January 8-11. Miss Anderson and Mrs. Harris expected to attend this and consented to represent the W.I.L. AGREED to ask Gerald Bailey if he could send an invitation to our Birmingham Branch.

304. WORLD UNITY MOVEMENT. AGREED to ask Mrs. Barber if she could attend a meeting on December 18th at Friends House, London.

305. EQUAL COMPENSATION FOR WAR INJURY FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

Notice was taken of a Rally on December 19th at Caxton Hall, called by the Women's Publicity Planning Association, to determine militant action to gain equal compensation.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS.

Date of next meeting. January 6th from 12 to 3 p.m. at 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1.

B. Duncan Harris

6.1.43