WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM BRITISH SECTION



WILPF 2/23

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

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ADDRESS - 29 GREAT JAMES STREET - LONDON - W.C.1

The aim of the WILPF is to bring together women of different political and philosophical tendencies united in their determination to study, make known and abolish the political, social, economic and psychological causes of war, and to work for a constructive peace.

The primary objects of the WILPF remain: total and universal disarmament, the abolition of violent means of coercion for the settlement of conflicts, the substitution in every case of some form of peaceful settlement, and the development of a world organisation for the political, social and economic co-operation of peoples.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

International Headquarters: 12, Rue du Vieux College, Geneva, Switzerland.

> International President: Miss Emily Greene Balch.

The WILFP was founded at The Hague in 1915 by women from 13 countries. Sections are now active in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Israel, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.A.

The WILPF has Consultative Status B with ECOSOC; Consultative Status with UNESCO; and Specialised Consultative Status with FAO.

BRITISH SECTION

Headquarters Office: 29, Great James Street, London, W.C.1. CHAncery 4817.

> President: Professor Kathleen Lonsdale, F.R.S.

Vice-Presidents:

Miss B. M. Baker Miss Vera Brittain Lady Boyd Orr Rev. Constance Coltman, M.A., B.D. The Hon. Mrs. Franklin, C.B.E. Mrs. B. Duncan Harris, J.P. Miss Agatha Harrison Dr. Rita Hinden

> Hon. Secretary: Mrs. E. F. Ineson

Mrs. K. E. Innes Lady Mayer Lady Pethick-Lawrence (d. Mar., 1954) Miss Edith Pye Mrs. McGregor Ross Mrs. Mary Graham White Mrs. McGregor Wood

> Hon. Membership Secretary: Mrs. E. Peat

Hon. Treasurers: Mrs. A. Z. Stapledon and Mrs. O. Sutherst.

News Sheet Editor: Mrs. P. Cusden, J.P. Liaison Officer: Mrs. McGregor Wood

Chairman of Executive Committee: Mrs. Mary Nuttall.

Vice-Chairmen of Executive Committee: Mrs. Hartley, Mrs. de Swiet, Miss M. Dickinson.

FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT

It is essential, if peace and freedom are to be achieved, that women everywhere should take a definite position on matters of foreign and domestic policy and should make that position known to members of Parliament and of the Government. In order to do this intelligently they must study and understand the issues to be resolved and they must also have those fundamental principles and values that will enable them to form a proper judgment. It seems to me, therefore, that our task is a threefold one.

First of all we must see to it that we have a right system of reference, right standards; that we ourselves are right at heart and right in our relations with one another. Next we must see to it that we are well informed, that we have all the facts, or as many of them as are obtainable; and finally, we must learn to state our views in the right quarters clearly, concisely and persuasively.

The following is a record of one year's work of the British Section of the WILPF. If it is inadequate, then it is for us to determine to do better in future years. If we feel that it is something to be proud of, then we must continue to press on; for there is still much to do. What is quite certain is that we cannot live in the past, we can only use it as a basis on which to build for the future. KATHLEEN LONSPALE.

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COMMITTEES

1. EXECUTIVE.—During the year six meetings have been held and the attendance has been generally good. In the periods between meetings, the Officers have met to transact necessary business and make recommendations to the next Executive. The President has given advice and help and devoted much time to the work, in spite of her heavy commitments elsewhere. The preparation for the International Congress held in Paris on 4th to 8th August, and the reporting on it afterwards, were outstanding in extent and importance throughout the year.

In May the Executive elected Mrs. Mary Nuttall as their Chairman, and Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Hartley and Mrs. de Swiet as Vice-Chairmen. Mrs. Peat gave a stimulating account of her five months' visit to the USA, which included attendance at the General Assembly of the UN.

In July the new office at 29, Great James Street was formally opened by Mrs. Kathleen Innes and dedicated to the memory of Jane Addams. The furniture was obtained partly through gifts from the Branches and individuals and partly from the Jane Addams Memorial Fund.

An extended Executive was held in September at Friends House. Reports of the XIIth International Congress were given by the delegates who attended. Based on these reports, a Memorandum was drawn up at a later date expressing the views of the British Section, for circulation to members of the International Executive and to all National Sections; this was sent out in January, 1954.

In November Mr. John Carter, Chairman of the United Democratic Party and leader of the Opposition in the former Legislative Council in British Guiana, spoke to the Executive giving his views on the situation there.

Frau Hoppstock-Huth, President of the German Section, attended the December Executive and spoke on the political aspect of the mass flight of refugees from East to West Germany. At this meeting Mrs. Sutherst was nominated to act as International Treasurer until the next meeting of the International Executive in August, 1954, and her name was forwarded to Geneva.

At the February Executive it was reported that plans were made for a tour of all Branches before Annual Council in connection with a campaign for new members; Mrs. Ineson was to visit sixteen branches and Mrs. Nuttall six. The proof of a new leaflet showing the present activities of the British Section was accepted and approved for use in the campaign. It was decided that support for the work of the Food and Agriculture Organi-

It was decided that support for the work of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, as reported in a letter from Gertrude Baer, should be included in our programme of work in the coming year.

During the year Lady Mayer has twice invited the Executive and London members to her flat; both were delightful evenings, with music that was greatly enjoyed. Mrs. Nonomiya of Japan was a guest on one of these occasions.

Congratulations were sent to Dr. Albert Schweitzer, with a tribute to his wife, on the occasion of his being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

A cable expressing joy and satisfaction was sent to Mrs. Pandit, on her election as President of the Eighth General Assembly of the UN.

2. PARLIAMENTARY.--During the year this Committee has grown in numbers, necessitating a larger meeting room in the basement at 29, Great James Street in place of the office. During the sessions of Parliament the Committee has met each Wednesday at 2 p.m. Mrs. Myrtle Radley is now Chairman in place of Mrs. Duncan Harris, and Mrs. Dorothy Warner remains the Secretary. Mrs. Fernau has read "Hansard" and the House of Lords reports for the Committee and has given valuable weekly surveys of important matters raised in both Houses.

Action taken by the Committee on world affairs week by week is reported elsewhere under the appropriate headings. The Minutes of this Committee have been circulated to individuals, groups and branches desiring them.

Amongst visitors entertained were: Dr. Iliyna, member of a good-will delegation from the USSR; Mrs. Ogunlesi and Mrs. Bolarinwa from Nigeria; and Mme. Sayani, a distinguished Moslem guest from India.

3. RACE RELATIONS.—The scattered members of this Committee are unable to meet regularly and the work is done by correspondence and telephone. Close co-operation is maintained with the Africa Bureau. Through the Secretary. Miss Maud Dickinson, recommendations for possible action are made to the Executive and the Parliamentary Committee and letters are drafted for submission to various quarters.

4. EDUCATION.—This Committee has had very few meetings. At the September Executive Miss Hilda Walmesley was elected liaison officer for education to link the British Section with the reorganised International Education Committee. As a beginning, support is being given to the project "Art for World Friendship," whereby children of 38 countries are linked in an interchange of drawings showing home, school and community life. The Childwall Branch has been working for this project for the last few years. It is hoped also to assist in the sub-commission of the UN which is now making a study of discrimination in education throughout the world.

Miss Walmesley writes: ".... The work of formal education at all stages and in all lands must be a primary interest for our League: not the details of its administration or organisation but the aims and outlook, the scope and progress of different Educational Systems and the contribution they make to moral integrity, social happiness and international understanding through good human relationships the world over. We can learn where Nursery education lays the foundation for the mature feeling and thought which will fully interpret the Declaration of Human Rights. ... We can open doors in the basic educational systems of our Colonies, Dependencies and Trust territories; and follow the work of UNESCO in its task of extending fundamental education to under-developed countries. ..."

CONGRESS

The XIIth International Congress was held in Paris on 4th to 8th August. The Executive and delegates spent much time in preparing for the Congress and all our representatives were well briefed. The British Section sent twenty members, as delegates or alternates; as members of the International Executive; or as Consultants. Fifteen countries were represented at Congress; more than ever before. The interest and enjoyment of being in Paris and staying in the Cité Universitaire were not impaired by the occurrence of the French postal and transport strike during that week; most people had some kind of adventure in getting out of the country.

Mrs. Phoebe Cusden was appointed an International Vice-Chairman and Prof. Kathleen Lonsdale a member of the International Executive. The Congress accepted with the greatest regret the fact that Mrs. Barbara Duncan Harris could no longer serve on the Executive; she had been a member or consultant for 18 years, and she was warmly thanked for all her devoted service to the WILPF.

There was a feeling amongst delegates that more time was needed in the Congress for discussion on important matters and on policy. The reports given to our extended Executive meeting in September were varied and some were very critical. As a result, a Memorandum was drawn up which has been circulated to International Headquarters and to all National Sections, making suggestions for future administration.

The greatest benefit we received from the Congress was derived from meeting so many able and interesting women from all over the world and seeing world problems through the eyes of different nations.

MARY NUTTALL.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S WORK

I. At Headquarters

1. WORK WITH THE UNITED NATIONS.—During the past year increasingly close attention has been given in the Parliamentary Committee and the Executive to the problems before the United Nations. At the same time a closer co-operation between the Section and the International WILPF has developed. A copy of the letters, cables and resolutions which have been drafted and despatched by the British Section has been immediately sent to our Geneva office and to our UN Consultant, Mrs. Gladys Walser, when the Assembly is sitting in New York, and they have on several occasions reported that they were able to integrate our work very usefully with their own.

At the beginning of September, before the Eighth Session of the General Assembly opened, Professor Lonsdale wrote to Mr. Selwyn Lloyd on the urgent need for effective and practical discussions on Disarmament:

"... We are deeply concerned that the UN discussion on disarmament shall be a practical and constructive one.

"As women we fully appreciate the longing of peoples everywhere for security for themselves and their children; and we believe it to be right that statesmen should try to gain that security for the nations they serve. But we recognise, as we know you must do, that military security has now become a will o' the wisp; while social security has become an imperative for many millions of people who at present have almost nothing to live for. None of us, certainly none of us who are Christians, feel that it is right to spend money on the problematic safety of our own children while children elsewhere are dying from hunger or disease that we might have remedied. The real problem is how to renew and strengthen the confidence of nations in each other's good faith, and to make opportunities for the essential friendliness of peoples one to another to show itself plainly and practically.

"You do not need our advice as to how this shall be done. We only want to assure you that in this difficult task you have whatever support we can give you. We know that it will involve the taking of risks. We are convinced that it is right to take them, for the road to world peace, like that to life, never can be a broad and easy one, with every step guaranteed."

The letter was conveyed to him personally by Miss Agatha Harrison and the following reply received :----

" \ldots I value your words of encouragement. I agree that, now that the fighting in Korea has stopped, we ought to be able to carry the discussions on disarmament a good deal further. \ldots "

At the same time, we again sent to each member of the British delegation a note to which were appended the texts of our own and the 1953 Congress Resolutions which dealt with matters within the scope of the United Nations. This "excellent memorandum" was later circulated by Gladys Walser to *all* delegates to the United Nations. The attention of Mr. Selwyn Lloyd was particularly drawn, in another letter, to some of the Congress Resolutions and on 19th October he found time to let us know that he would "study these closely."

Direct approaches by the British Section to the United Nations and its various agencies have included: the sending of 1953 Annual Council resolutions to the appropriate UN organs and the London Information Centre; letters to Mr. Lester Pearson and Mrs. Pandit; and, during his December visit to England, a letter to Mr. Hammersköld. As reported under "Race Relations," a letter to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on S.W. Africa was circulated to the General Assembly in the Addendum to the Committee's report (A/2473/Add 1).

Among the "homework" of the British Section on United Nations affairs, our co-operation with SCESWUN (Standing Conference on the Economic and Social work of the UN) takes an important place. One at least of our two representatives on SCESWUN has attended each of its meetings and we have members taking part in the activities of several of its working groups. These deal with Refugees, Technical Assistance, Human Rights, Child Welfare and the Status of Women. The WILPF British Section has been a signatory of six letters or resolutions sent to HM Government by organisations co-operating in SCESWUN. The subjects dealt with in these were: Human Rights, the ratification by HMG of the Convention on Refugees, the renewal of UNICEF's mandate, Technical Assistance and the Status of Women.

The Parliamentary Committee devoted most of its time at three of its sessions to a careful study of a Questionnaire on the subject of the Revision of the Charter of the United Nations issued by the National Peace Council. The complexity of the whole problem, and the need for very great expert knowledge, decided the Committee not to attempt answers to the questions, but to send instead, for consideration by the NPC and any group appointed to study the problems of Charter Revision, the text of a letter from Gertrude Baer on this matter stating her view that: "... in view of the complexity of both the legal and political aspects of the problems involved the WILPF ought to maintain the position of great reserve recommended on earlier occasions. A conference for Review ... could take place and succeed only if the atmosphere were similar to the one which prevailed when the Charter was originally drafted. Without basic agreement among the Great Powers the conference would be ineffective and a blow to the very existence of the UN." It was felt that the approach suggested was the right one for nongovernmental organisations such as ours.

DOROTHY WARNER.

2. RACE RELATIONS.—As might be expected, attention to racial problems has been concentrated on Africa. By letters and resolutions we have signified our concerned views on the situation in the various territories. At the Congress in Paris our emergency resolution on Race Relations in South Africa was adopted, regretting the South African Government's decision to refuse admission to the UN Commission of Three appointed to study the racial situation in that country. Subsequently, on publication of the report of the Commission of Three, a letter was sent to the UK delegation at the General Assembly questioning the validity of South Africa's claim that this matter was a "domestic concern" and submitting that a vital question of human rights was involved; and begging HM Government to assent to the consideration of the report by the Assembly.

For the third year, we sent a letter to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on South-West Africa, as follows :—

"... We write for the third year in sucession to express our continuing grave concern on the question of South-West Africa. Since no conclusive agreement was reached at the seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly in spite of protracted negotiations of your Committee with the representative of the Union of South Africa, we cannot too strongly urge that such measures of action be decided on as may induce the Government of the Union to comply with its obligations as a Member of the United Nations.

"It is much to be hoped that one or more former members of the League of Nations will take the initiative and adopt the necessary procedure to bring the matter to the International Court of Justice to secure its compulsory jurisdiction and that a commission of enquiry be called for in accordance with Article 50 of the Statute of the Court.

"Believing that a fundamental question of human rights is involved, we particularly support the appointment of a commission of enquiry and are certain it would be very much welcomed by the indigenous peoples of the territory."

It is satisfactory to note that this letter was included in the Addendum to the report of the Committee.

In connection with events in Kenya, letters of protest were sent to HMG on "pattern bombing" and on the revelations brought out at the court-martial of Capt. Griffiths. In March this year a letter was sent to the Rt. Hon. Walter Elliot, Chairman of the Parliamentary Delegation to Kenya, expressing appreciation of the constructive report issued and hopes that many of the suggested reforms would be speedily adopted.

After the election in December for the Federal Assembly of the Central African Federation we wrote to Sir Godfrey Huggins expressing the hope that he would do everything possible to promote the policy of real "partnership" which he has constantly affirmed to be his aim. MAUD DICKINSON.

3. CONSCRIPTION.—On this question the Section worked as a whole. A letter was sent to all Members of Parliament shortly before they reassembled in October quoting the resolution passed at the Annual Council, 1953, and urging that careful thought be given to the effects of extending the National Service Act when considering the proposal. Letters to the Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee and Mr. Clement Davies urged that a free vote be taken on this issue. Branches at the same time had correspondence with their own M.P.s and in some cases personal interviews took place.

4. **REFUGEES.**—We have persistently urged HM Government to ratify the Convention on the Status of Refugees. This they did on 11th March, 1954. Shortly before this, we wrote to the Foreign Secretary on three points—ratification of the Convention; the need to give a further sum to the High Commissioners' Emergency Fund; and the satisfaction felt at the admittance granted into this country for 700 more elderly displaced persons. A detailed reply to all these points was received.

The pioneer work in the All Nations Groups bringing together the different nationalities of refugees living in London has had fulfilment in the recent formation of a Central and East European Women's Federation in Exile. There is already a friendly co-operation between us, which we hope will be extended.

5. KOREA.—A letter was sent in May to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs expressing satisfaction that our Government was pressing the USA to bring its policy in Korea more into line with that of the UN. We have continued to press for the inclusion of the Peking Government of China in the UN, as a necessary step towards peace.

In July a letter was sent to Lord Salisbury, then acting Foreign Minister, urging that our Government should have direct participation in the Truce Talks and protesting against their being unduly prolonged.

In February, 1954, appreciation was expressed to the UN Secretary-General of the way in which Gen. Thimmayya and the Indian Custodian Force had carried out their difficult and dangerous mission.

At the 1954 Annual Council a letter was drafted for submission to the Foreign Secretary before the forthcoming Geneva Conference on Far Eastern questions on 26th April, urging constructive leadership in the search for agreed solutions to the problems of Korea and Indo-China.

6. DISARMAMENT.—The letter addressed by the President to Mr. Selwyn Lloyd has already been referred to under "United Nations." At the June Executive the following Resolution was passed, and was sent by the President to the Foreign Office with a copy to the Minister for War :—

"We believe that the development of atomic weapons and of all other weapons of mass destruction is incompatible both with the Christian ethic that our country professes and with the very rudiments of civilised morality. We do not regard the manufacture of such weapons as a legitimate method of attempting to secure victory. We believe that their use by both contestants in a world war would lead to devastation, misery and hatred on a scale hitherto unknown, and we urge HMG to renew all efforts to attain to a comprehensive disarmament which will include the abolition of all such methods of mass warfare."

A detailed reply was received from the Foreign Office stating that HM Government were "fully committed to all efforts to attain comprehensive disarmament, which will include the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction, including atomic weapons" and further that HMG "were instrumental in the formation of the United Nations Disarmament Commission set up in 1952..." and "... will spare no effort to help to bring the work of the Disarmament Commission to a satisfactory conclusion." On the occasion of the Berlin Conference in January a Memorandum on the German situation was prepared by the President and sent to the Foreign Secretary, urging the necessity for "a serious attempt on the part of the Great Powers to reach agreement on progressive international disarmament." Subsequently copies were sent to Mr. Warbey and the group of Labour M.P.s who opposed German rearmament, and a favourable acknowledgment was received.

7. CORRESPONDENCE WITH PRIME MINISTER.—Outstanding amongst the letters sent to the Prime Minister was that written when the Constitution for the Central African Federation was being discussed. In it we asked for "specific provision for the establishment, maintenance and safeguarding of Human Rights." The letter was passed on to the Commonwealth Relations Office and a detailed reply received setting out the Government's view that sufficient safeguards had been made in the Constitution and adding: "... Nothing would have been added to it by including some further provisions on the lines of the Declaration of Human Rights, which as you know is not a legally binding document, but a statement of aims and ideals for the achievement of which Her Majesty's Government continues to strive in all Territories for which it is responsible."

Other subjects dealt with in letters to the Prime Minister were:—(1) The UK contribution to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance; (2) the continuance of the war in Korea; (3) the suggested meeting of heads of the three Great Powers; and (4) the conference in Bermuda.

8. LONDON MEETINGS.—A new feature this year has been the holding of monthly lunch-hour meetings in the Committee Room at 29, Great James Street, at which Vice-Presidents have been speakers. These have been well attended and the talks have been stimulating. The following subjects were dealt with :—

Miss Vera Brittain.—" The Change in Women's Values."

Dr. Rita Hinden.—" British Guiana."

Lady Mayer .--- "Save the Children Work in the Near East."

Miss Agatha Harrison.-" The Eighth Assembly of the UN."

Miss Catherine Marshall.-"" Early Days with the League of Nations."

Mrs. McGregor Wood.—" Nigerian Conversation-Piece."

II. In The Branches

The following reports on the year's work show the diversity of problems tackled in the branches within the unity of purpose of the League.

A particularly noteworthy event was the co-operation of the North-West branches in a Regional Conference held at Warrington on 31st October. At this, a report on the World Government Congress at Copenhagen was given by Mrs. M. C. Smith (Liverpool), followed by a discussion on branch affairs led by Mrs. Lowe (Warrington); in the evening a public meeting on "Economic Aid to Under-Developed Countries" was addressed by Prof. W. Arthur Lewis, of Manchester University. Miss Walmesley, of Birmingham, attended as representative from Headquarters. It is hoped that the success of this venture may encourage other branches to associate from time to time in similar regional conferences.

BIRMINGHAM.—In spite of difficulties owing to the lack of an official Secretary, the branch has held six Committee meetings and five members' meetings. A talk on Irak was given by Dr. Khalidi of Bagdad, now working with the World Health Organisation at the Birmingham General Hospital; and Miss Victoria Mahamba Sithole gave a talk about the situation of women in South Africa. Dr. Enid Charles, a former member of the Committee, has gone to Singapore with the W.H.O.; another member, Miss W. M. Bayes, has been appointed a City Magistrate. A visitor to the branch was Mrs. Brigden, a WILPF member from Winnipeg. A telegram of congratulation was sent to Mrs. Pandit on her election as President of the UN Assembly. The branch felt " an almost personal loss " at the death of Dr. Barnes, late Bishop of Birmingham, who with Mrs. Barnes (a WILPF member) had formerly given so much help in the work; Miss Walmesley attended the funeral as representative of the League.

BROMLEY.—Miss Dickinson has acted as Chairman through the year and has greatly helped to hold the Branch together during the crisis caused by loss of the President through death and the Secretary through removal from the district. An outstanding meeting of the year was held jointly with Orpington when Lady Hartog spoke on "Women in India and Pakistan To-day." Speakers at other meetings included Mrs. Lorraine Senaratne of Ceylon and Miss Mary Benson of the Africa Bureau. Membership stands at 16, including some new members making up for losses sustained, and all the offices are now filled.

CHEADLE HULME.—This new branch, which is an offshoot from Manchester, now has an independent membership of 33. It has so far concentrated on the educational side of the international work and has arranged authoritative talks on Germany and Austria; the USA: Pestalozzi international village; and China. Members have given hospitality to coloured students visiting the area through the British Council. Mrs. H. Hartley has carried on as Secretary in spite of ill-health which has necessitated a spell in hospital, and the good wishes of members everywhere go to her for a speedy recovery.

CHILDWALL.—Membership now stands at 73, and 12 new members joined during the year. The Parliamentary Sub-Committee has been active in political work, and letters were sent to M.P.s on Central African Federation and on Conscription—the latter urging a free vote before renewal of the National Service Act. Mr. Churchill and Mr. Attlee were congratulated on their speeches in May regarding high-level talks with Russia. M.P.s also received copies of a SCESWUN resolution urging increased contributions for Technical Assistance and UNICEF. The branch has continued attendance at a third-year WEA Study Group on World Affairs; and a series of six consecutive meetings was held on the changing status of women and their service in public life.

A joint meeting with Liverpool branch was held in July, when Prof. Kathleen Lonsdale spoke on "Removing the Causes of War." Other meetings have included a talk on WILPF Work at Headquarters by Mrs. Dorothy Warner; on the Far East (Miss Edith Adlam), the Lebanon, Jugoslavia, Uganda and Pestalozzi; and a report on the Paris Congress by Mrs. Greaves.

COVENTRY.—Although comparatively small in membership (15) the branch has been active and has held monthly meetings with speakers on subjects of topical interest, including South Africa, Kenva and the Gold Coast, and Arab Refugees. Members have corresponded with M.P.s and in the oress on the subjects of the colour bar, conscription and "weapons of war". Mrs. Ineson visited the branch from Headquarters in February.

CROYDON.—A comprehensive course of lectures on the Near and Middle East has been arranged during the year, with expert speakers from the countries concerned. At the branch annual meeting in May Miss Agatha Harrison spoke on the work of non-governmental organisations at the UN. Copies of the WILPF International Letter on Capital Punishment were sent to local M.P.s and the press; a letter on Conscription was sent to all Croydon and district M.P.s and was published, with some of the replies, in the local press.

EDINBURGH.—Discussions during the year have turned on the whole towards political trends in other countries. Talks on race discrimination in South Africa; on the new regime in Egypt; and on the significance of India, gave rise to some hard thinking on world affairs. A first-hand account was given by a member, Miss Beatrice Parker, of her experiences during an extensive tour of Arab and Jewish refugees communities in the Middle East.

GLASGOW.—Individual members wrote to their M.P.s urging repeal of the National Service Act, and "mostly unsympathetic" replies were received. The Treasurer wrote to all local and national papers on the subjects of race discrimination; human rights; equal pay; Unicef and Technical Assistance; and democracy. Outstanding in the year were a week-end school at which Miss Hilda Walmesley of Birmingham spoke, and a public meeting addressed by the writer and broadcaster, Minnie Pallister.

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB.—Although only just over a year old, the branch is now well established with a membership of 24. This group has been particularly active and successful in getting letters and reports of meetings into the local press: during the year five notices of branch activities appeared. Letters were sent to M.P.s on Central African Federation, following a meeting of some members with the African chiefs who visited this country. A Nigerian, Mrs. Manuwa, gave a talk about women in her country. Mrs. Stewart, the Treasurer, was appointed as a WILPF representative on the No-Conscription Council.

HASSOCKS AND DITCHLING.—Membership in this area has increased steadily, and in October the group decided to form itself into a branch. There are now 19 members and regular monthly meetings have been established. Mrs. de Swiet from Headquarters visited the branch, and Mrs. Peat gave talks on her American trip and the Paris Congress. The branch was fortunate in hearing a talk by Mrs. Gladys Walser, the League's representative at the UN in New York, who stayed with Mrs. Peat during her brief visit to this country after the Paris Congress; as a result of this meeting, three new members were obtained.

LEICESTER.—Membership remained steady during the year and attendances were good, but it has been difficult getting young people to join. Mrs. Binns has continued to act as President, and a garden meeting was held at her home in July to which young people from abroad were invited. Miss Edith Adlam spoke to the branch on Korea and Formosa, and Prof. Thompson of Nottingham University described a recent visit to China. Letters were sent to five M.P.s on Conscription and the National Service Act, and replies received from all of them.

LIVERPOOL.—Political work has been concentrated mainly on the issues of Korea, Conscription and Mau-Mau; arising out of continued correspondence, the M.P. for Birkenhead agreed to raise the matter of atrocities in Kenya in the House. An open meeting in July drew a large gathering to hear Prof. Kathleen Lonsdale. On several occasions other officers of the League have visited the branch. Members are doing good work in race relations by meeting boats from West Africa and welcoming coloured students on their first arrival in this country.

MANCHESTER.—The long illness of Mrs. Gladys Needham, formerly Organising Secretary for the branch, has been very much regretted, and other members have worked hard to fill the gap. Tea meetings held at the Friends Meeting House have been well attended, but there is a dearth of young recruits. A number of members were lost to Cheadle Hulme, on the formation of this thriving "daughter branch". Three members attended the Paris Congress in August. The branch has supported open-air meetings of the Manchester and Salford United Peace Fellowship and the "no-conscription" petition organised by the Society of Friends. In political work, the branch has followed closely the minutes of the London Parliamentary Committee, and has felt that where action was possible at a national level this was preferred to local efforts.

NORTH WALES.—Regular meetings have been held in members' homes and subjects discussed included the 1953 WILPF International Congress; Korea; nonviolent resistance; and the Far East. Two public meetings were arranged: Mrs. Agnes Stapledon reported on her visit to Russia, drawing an audience of over 100; Miss Edith Adlam spoke on Korea. On two occasions teas were held for overseas students, out of which have come continued invitations to members' homes. The branch sent a letter on Conscription to three M.P.s, and two favourable replies were received.

NOTTINGHAM.--An active Committee has arranged regular meetings which have been well attended. Letters were sent to the Government and to M.P.s on Central African Federation; Peace with China; Conscription; South Korea; Atomic energy; Kenya; Russia; and Disarmament. The branch has participated in several conferences, and shared a stall with other peace-minded organisations on Coronation Day. A donation of £5 was given to the Friends Korea Relief Committee.

ORPINGTON.—Having heard a report on the Paris Congress by Mrs. Duncan Harris the branch studied the papers read at the Congress in a series of meetings. A well attended Garden Party was addressed by Lady Mayer. In co-operation with Bromley branch, several talks were arranged on problems of race relations in the British Commonwealth. Mrs. Ineson was guest of honour at a Christmas party. Branch meetings were regularly reported in the local press.

OXFORD.—An increase of about 15 per cent. in membership is reported. A series of ten lectures at the Friends Meeting House was well attended, the main

theme being race relations, and speakers from Commonwealth countries gave their first-hand experiences. In conjunction with the WILPF Annual Council in March, 1953, a successful public meeting at St. Hugh's College was addressed by Prof. Kathleen Lonsdale and Miss Lynda Grier. In order to establish closer relations with coloured students, a tea-party was arranged with the local branch of Racial Unity and was attended by over 60 people from 13 countries. Co-operation with the press has greatly improved, and many lectures have been reported in local papers.

SOUTH DEVON.—In spite of scattered membership, monthly meetings have been well attended. Two new members joined during the year, but the branch regretted the removal from the district of its founder, Mrs. Holmes. Miss Edith Adlam visited the branch in November and gave a talk on Korea and its problems.

WARRINGTON.—Membership is increasing slowly and meetings have been held each month. In addition, the branch organised the very successful North-West Regional Conference referred to above. Members have written to their M.P.s on all matters arising which were of concern to the League.

WEST KIRBY.—This branch, which was an off-shoot from Liverpool, now has a membership of 19. It has acted, with Childwall and Liverpool, as one of the hostess branches for the 1954 Annual Council.

WORTHING.—Monthly meetings have been held during the year, and speakers have included a Kenya-born Indian from the Congress of Peoples against Imperialism; a missionary from Nigeria; and the wife of the local M.P., who described youth work in Germany. Two members, Miss Gundry and Miss Strange, gave an account of their visit to refugee camps in Germany. Mrs. Mary Nuttall reported on the Paris Congress, and Mrs. de Swiet and Mrs. Ineson have also visited the branch.

CAMBRIDGE (now closed down).—During the early part of the year several interesting meetings were arranged, including a talk on modern Japan by the University Reader in Japanese; on "The Jew in the World To-day" by Mr. Domnitz, Secretary of the Jewish Lecture Committee; and a lecture by Prof. Walker on Central African Federation.

The number of active branches in the British Section is now twenty-one. We regret that Cambridge found it necessary to close down as a branch this year, with a balance in hand of £60 which was passed over to Headquarters. New branches have been formed at Cheadle Hulme, and Hassocks and Ditchling.

A MESSAGE FROM THE LIAISON OFFICER

During this year Mrs. McGregor Wood has been unable to travel about as much as previously owing to the severe illness of her husband, who is happily now well on the way to recovery. She was, however, able to attend the Copenhagen Conference on World Government in August, and to address WILPF meetings in Denmark and Sweden. Mrs. McGregor Wood now writes :—

"... Returning to committee work and speaking at meetings I can look at groups and societies with clearer eyes, and I see one or two tendencies very plainly. The most popular gatherings are those arranged round a meal (we have found this with our own Wednesday lunches; so have the Commonwealth League with their lunches, and the Women's Freedom League with their suppers at the Minerva Club), or those held always in one place that feels like home...

"Societies like Federal Union and the Crusade for World Government work largely by means of stimulating letters, and the latter is also inaugurating a 'pilot poll' twice a week in Kilburn. . . The Commonwealth of World Citizens is growing steadily. It was heartening to find nearly 60 women from leading organisations meeting at the Treasury for an interview on 'Equal Pay' with the Chancellor.

"About work with overseas people I feel I cannot write as 'Liaison Officer.' It is so full of happiness and joyful surprise that it has ceased to be 'work.' Now that we have a WILPF Section in Nigeria I want us all to share in this adventure.

"Let us not forget that we live in a different 'set up' from that obtaining even 20 years ago: little or no domestic help . . . mothers taking on jobs . . . the educative and entertaining pull of radio and television . . . and the amazing crop of women's magazines which in the main devote no space to the causes to which we are giving most of our time. . . . We must make friends with and get the help of our modern rivals."

ANNUAL COUNCIL, 1953

This was held at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, 20th—23rd March, at the invitation of the Oxford Branch. Prof. Kathleen Lonsdale, F.R.S., was elected President following Lady Parmoor whose death occurred during the year.

An open meeting was held at which the Sheriff, deputy for the Mayor of Oxford, took the chair. Miss Lynda Grier, C.B.E., spoke on "Human Organisations and Human Rights" and Professor Lonsdale on "Problems of World Population."

During the sessions discussion took place on our policy and work and on world issues; at the close of the Council a letter was sent to the Prime Minister expressing our views. Resolutions passed were included in last year's report. Oxford Branch were warmly thanked for their splendid organising of the Council.

REPORT ON "PEACE AND FREEDOM"

Mrs. Phoebe Cusden has continued to edit the News Sheet, and six issues have appeared at bi-monthly intervals during the year. In November a special eightpage number gave reports of the 1953 International Congress in Paris. A slight loss is reported on the cost of printing, and a bigger circulation is urgently needed in order to cover expenses and make possible an increase in the size and number of issues.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This has been a good financial year. It opened with a small balance in hand, and ends with a somewhat larger balance and an appreciable addition to our invested funds. This all too uncommon state of affairs has been brought about by the unreserved co-operation of all members and branches and, happily, plans for the expansion of work can therefore be faced with confidence in the ability of the League not only to survive but to progress.

The expenditure in connection with Congress was met from a specially raised fund, which included generous donations from the delegates themselves, who were in Paris in an August heat-wave complicated by the big strike.

Two legacies gratefully received during the year, from Miss Hickling and Miss Pickworth, have added £370 to funds in reserve.

OLIVE SUTHERST.

LONDON OFFICE

In December, 1953, Mrs. Warner's resignation from her position as General Secretary of the League was accepted with great regret. Her two years of service have resulted in a methodically worked office and a considerable move forward in the general work of the League. The closer co-operation between Branches and Headquarters for which she worked will be carried forward and further steps taken. At the December Executive Mrs. Warner was warmly thanked and co-opted on to the Executive Committee. Satisfaction was expressed that she remains Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee.

Miss Margaret Tims was engaged as Secretary in December and welcomed into the League at the February Executive, 1954. Though not previously a member she comes with a knowledge of the aims of similar organisations and with skill in office work which she is already using to our advantage.

Mrs. Boaden has now undertaken all the financial side of the work, including sending receipts and keeping all account books; dealing with *News Sheet* accounts; filing membership cards and sending out reminders of subscriptions due. We are greatly indebted to her for the amount of work she gets through.

The voluntary workers are still helping in various ways, and thanks are due to Miss Ruth Harrison, Miss Gill and Miss Hinton.

BRANCH SECRETARIES

Birmingham: Miss E. Jesper, 455. City Road, Birmingham, 17. Bromley: Mrs. M. Elwood, 50, Palace View, Bromley, Kent. Cheadle Hulme: Mrs. H. M. Hartley, 32, Swann Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Ches. Childwall: Miss H. Dudley, 60, Garthdale Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, 18. Coventry: Miss A. Underhill, 28. Holyhead Road, Coventry. Croydon: Mrs. E. Ecroyd, 2, Benhurst Gardens, Selsdon, Surrey. Edinburgh: Mrs. Nelson, 53, Spottiswoode Street, Edinburgh, 9. Glasgow: Mrs. A. Shanks, 32, Crompton Avenue, Glasgow, S.4. Hampstead Garden Suburb: Mrs. L. Hayman, 66, Brim Hill, London, N.2. Hassocks and Ditchling: Mrs. E. Peat, Borrers Platt, Ditchling, Sussex. Leicester: Mrs. S. J. Pick, 80, Letchworth Road, Leicester. Liverpool: Mrs. Sunners, 39, Townfield Lane, Bebington, Wirral, Ches. Manchester: Mrs. E. Turkie, 25, Danesmoor Road, Manchester, 20. North Wales: Mrs. A. King, 3, Menai View Terrace, Bangor. Nottingham: Mrs. Morris, 12, Derby Road, Beeston, Notts. Orpington: Mrs. N. Weiss, 10, The Avenue, Orpington, Kent. Oxford: Mrs. I. von Engel. 86, Kingston Road, Oxford. S. Devon: Mrs. Bettinson, The Bungalow, Didworthy, S. Brent, Devon. Warrington: Mrs. Aspden, 130, Padgate Lane, Warrington, Lancs. West Kirby: Mrs. Mason, 2, Victoria Road, West Kirby, Wirral, Ches. Worthing: Mrs. Prosser, 6, Southview Drive, W. Worthing, Sussex.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

The League is affiliated to: British Commonwealth League; National Peace Council; No-Conscription Council; Status of Women Committee; SCESWUN; Women's Council for India, Pakistan and Ceylon.

Representatives are also sent to: Equal Pay Campaign Committee; UNA Women's Advisory Council.

OBITUARIES

Lady Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence: on 11th March, 1954, at Gomshall, Surrey, in her 87th year. A founder member of the WILPF under the Presidency of Jane Addams in 1915, and a Vice-President until the time of her death. As a worker in the Suffrage movement (with the devoted help of her husband) she was imprisoned five times in the campaign for women's votes. In 1926 she helped to promote the Women's Peace Pilgrimage organised by the WILPF British Section. Her biography, "My Part in a Changing World," was published in 1938. The League remembers with deep gratitude her life of service to the causes of peace and freedom, and extends sympathy to Lord Pethick-Lawrence in his great loss.

Headquarters Members: Miss M. Butts, at Geneva; Mrs. M. Cropper, Sidmouth; Mrs. H. Flower, London; Dr. R. Gillett, Banbury; Mrs. Ruth Jones, London; Mrs. A. Minden, London; the Lady Olivier, Ickenham; Miss E. L. Pickworth, Hove; Mrs. E. R. Taylor, Grange-over-Sands; Mrs. E. Wilson, London; Miss E. Woodall, Southbourne.

Branches: Mrs. Milne, Mrs. Wright-Birmingham. Mrs. Mainstone, for 25 years Treasurer of Bangor branch. Mrs. Jessie Davidson, President of Manchester branch for many years.

ANNUAL COUNCIL, 1954

This Council was held at Derby Hall, Liverpool, at the invitation of three branches—Childwall, Liverpool and West Kirby. There was a record attendance at the Council and at the packed public meeting held in the YMCA Hall, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, at which Lady Mayer, a Vice-President, took the chair and the Lord Mayor of Liverpool gave a civic welcome. Rev. Michael Scott spoke on the problems of Africa to-day and was given a great ovation in the light of his unique service to the African people. Representatives of the civic, social and Church life of the city were on the platform and Rev. A. E. Paton gave an account of the work done at Stanley House and in his parish for the coloured population in that area.

At the Council attention was given to the dangers to world peace in the situation in the Far East, to Europe and to the work of the British Section as part of a non-governmental organisation with consultative status with the United Nations. New work in the fields of FAO, Disarmament, Arbitration and Education was stressed. Resolutions passed will be found at the end of this report.

In domestic affairs the need was emphasised for working groups in constant contact with Headquarters and for a campaign to get new members. The responsibility of the British Section to the International Headquarters was also discussed. The President, Prof. Kathleen Lonsdale, presided over three of the sessions and gave a stimulating address.

The three hostess branches were warmly thanked for their excellent team work in making all the arrangements.

Stop Press: On the day following the Council, news was received of the formation of a WILPF Section in India under the Presidency of Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, President of the UN General Assembly. This news has brought encouragement and fresh impetus to the whole British Section, where close contact has always been maintained with the women of India under the guidance of Miss Agatha Harrison, a Vice-President, whose life-long service for and friendship with India is so well known.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT ANNUAL COUNCIL, 1954

1. RULES AND CONSTITUTION.

That in Rule V, *Executive Committee*, Subdivision (a) *Composition*, the number "twelve" shall replace both "eight" and "sixteen."

2. KOREA.

This Annual Council meeting of the WILPF British Section at Liverpool is appalled at the prospect of the armistice in Korea settling down to a permanent armed truce. It affirms its conviction that permanent peace cannot be established in S.E. Asia until the People's Republic of China is admitted into the United Nations and urges Her Majesty's Government to press for its inclusion.

3. EQUAL PAY.

This Annual Council Meeting of the WILPF British Section demands that the accepted policy of Equal Pay for women civil servants, teachers, and other women in the public services be put in operation without further delay.

4. UNITED NATIONS.

(a) This Annual Council meeting of the WILPF British Section, believing profoundly in the prime importance of the United Nations work against world poverty, urges Her Majesty's Government to give the fullest and most immediate support to the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED), without waiting for an armaments agreement before beginning the work.

(b) This Annual Council meeting of the WILPF British Section urges that Her Majesty's Government as a member of the United Nations and a signatory of its Charter, which

" reaffirms faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small "

shall adhere to this principle when voting in the United Nations and shall cease to support South Africa when she invokes Article 2, para. 7, of the Charter.

5. EMERGENCY FOOD RESERVE.

This Annual Council meeting of the WILPF British Section welcomes the steps already taken by the Food and Agriculture Organisation towards the establishment of an Emergency Food Reserve, but while appreciating the technical and financial problems involved,

regrets that the proposals made to the 1953 FAO Conference were not accepted and urges that a workable scheme be inaugurated with the least possible delay.

The Council would particularly suggest that special consideration be given to the utilisation of "surplus" stocks which may become available in times of abundant harvests in the more highly developed countries.

6. RACE DISCRIMINATION.

(a) This Annual Council meeting of the WILPF British Section, believing that racial discrimination is contrary to the principles laid down in the Charter of Human Rights and to the spirit of conciliation and democratic concept, urges Her Majesty's Government to inaugurate policies of equal co-operation in multiracial territories and to support every move for the elimination of racial discrimination.

(b) This Annual Council meeting of the WILPF British Section, believing that racial discrimination is contrary to the principles laid down in the Charter of Human Rights and to the spirit of conciliation and democratic concept, pledges itself again to do the utmost to educate public opinion towards race co-operation.

7. ARBITRATION.

This Annual Council meeting of the WILPF British Section, having noted the report of the International Law Commission of the United Nations on Arbitration Procedure, and believing that it points the way to more effective arbitration methods, urges Her Majesty's Government to make known its considered opinion on the suggested new developments.

8. STATEMENT ON INDIA.

This Annual Council meeting of the WILPF British Section wishes to put on record its appreciation of Prime Minister Nehru's action in refusing to accept military aid from President Eisenhower.

It applauds his consistent statement in the Indian Parliament that India cannot condemn the sending of arms to Pakistan, and accept them for India.

Emergency Resolutions

1. THE HYDROGEN BOMB.

This Annual Council meeting of the WILPF British Section desires to convey to HM Government its distress and horror at the continuance of experiments by members of civilised nations with fission or fusion bombs, with their ever-increasing areas of destruction, and

urges HM Government to initiate discussions forthwith at the highest level with a view to securing United Nations action to outlaw further development and use of fission or fusion bombs and other weapons of mass destruction; and pending such discussions,

begs HM Government to announce forthwith that under no circumstances will they permit the use of these bombs from bases in Great Britain.

2. INDO-CHINA.

This Annual Council meeting of the WILPF British Section views with grave concern the developments in the attitude of the United States of America in relation to the situation in Indo-China; and

believing that the continuation of conflict in that country is not only the cause of great suffering to the people of Vietnam and a frustration of their legitimate desire for national freedom, but also a great danger to world peace,

urges that HM Government will resist every move to extend the conflict and will support every effort to reach a settlement between France and Vietminh.

3. DISARMAMENT.

This Annual Council meeting of the WILPF British Section welcomes HM Government's initiative in calling for the convening of the sub-committee of the United Nations Disarmament Commission and, in view of the growing insecurity of all peoples due to increasing world rearmament,

urges HM Government to direct its efforts towards universal disarmament as proposed at the Berlin Conference.

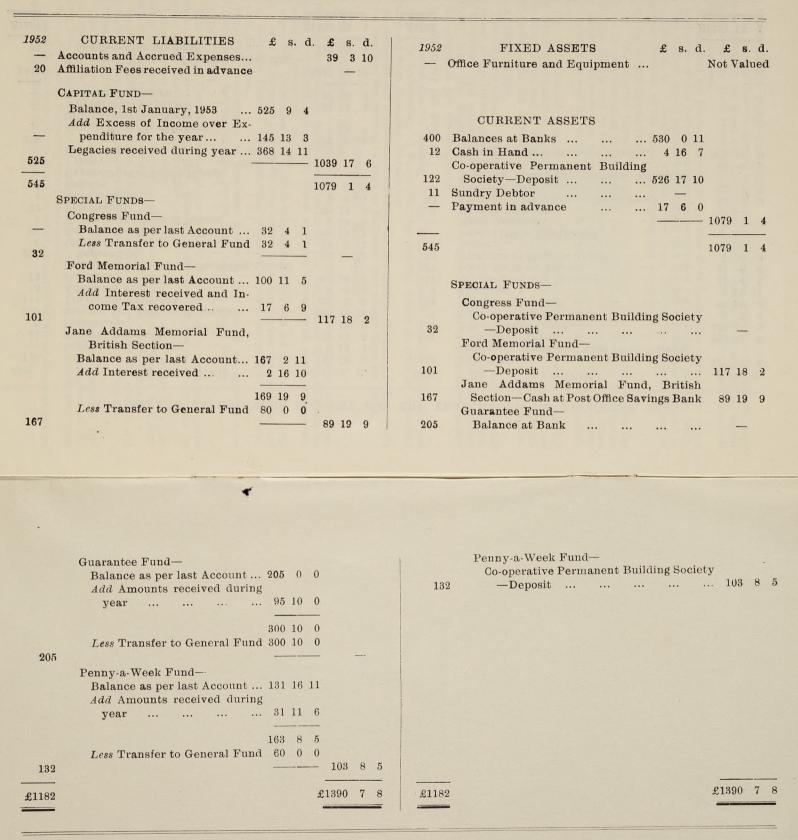
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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1953



I have audited the accounts of the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, British Section, for the year ended 31st December, 1953, and certify that, in my opinion, the foregoing accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit the position of affairs in accordance with the information given me and as shown by the books.

13, Womersley Road,

Crouch End, London, N.8

12th March, 1954

L. DAYAN, Incorporated Accountant, Hon. Auditor Printed by H. G. MATHER LTD. (T.U. throughout) Lower Green Mitcham, Surrey

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