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# LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

15, GROSVENOR CRESCENT, S. W.1.

## CHRISTIANITY AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

*A few suggestions on co-operation between the*

### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND ORGANISATIONS.

Extract from Resolution passed by National Council of Evangelical Free Churches:—

“ . . . the establishment of the League with unquestioned authority and ample powers is the only means by which the existing difficulties of the international situation can be settled, the rights of small peoples secured and a programme of disarmament be made possible. . . . ”

The Free Church Council is making a special appeal to all its ministers to urge their congregations to support the League through the League of Nations Union.

Extracts from the report of the Conference of Bishops of the Anglican Communion at Lambeth, July-August, 1920:—

“ . . . . We commend to all Christian people the principles which underlie the League of Nations. . . . ”

“ . . . . the aim of Missions is not only to make Christians, but to make Christian nations.”

“ . . . . The Conference urges upon all Church members the importance of supporting the League of Nations Union.”

“ . . . . Ready to hand is the League of Nations Union . . . . which should have in every place the Church's active co-operation and support.”

## I.—WHY CO-OPERATION IS NEEDED.

- A. BECAUSE Christian ideals find practical expression in the League of Nations, the objects of which "the High Contracting Parties" agree are the promotion of:—
1. International Co-operation.
  2. International Peace and Security.
- by (a) Their accepting "obligations not to resort to war."
- (b) Their prescribing "open, just and honourable" international relations.
- (c) Their firmly establishing "the understandings of International Law" as "the actual rule of conduct among Governments."
- (d) Their maintaining "justice and a scrupulous respect for all Treaty obligations."
- B. BECAUSE the sphere of influence of the League of Nations is international, world-wide, and co-extensive with the "Mission Field."
- C. BECAUSE the League of Nations voices the world's demand for World Peace, based upon the principles of Christianity.
- D. BECAUSE the League of Nations must become a powerful ally of Missionary enterprise.
- E. BECAUSE only through the League of Nations is there any hope of a reduction in armaments.
- F. BECAUSE where the doctrine of armed force has failed in abolishing war, the Christian doctrine of the universal brotherhood of man can succeed.
- G. BECAUSE the League of Nations Union offers all Christians an unique opportunity of personal service on behalf of the Christian ideals rendered practicable through the League of Nations.

## II.—HOW CO-OPERATION CAN BE SECURED

One of the chief aims of the League of Nations Union is to educate and render effective public opinion with regard to the League of Nations. For this purpose the Union is forming Branches in every town and village throughout Great Britain. Already there are nearly three hundred actively at work. It is hoped that every minister of religion and every leader of Brotherhoods, Y.M.C.A., etc., will urge the members of their congregations and meetings to join the Union. Application forms for membership will be forwarded in any quantities desired. If there are any who do not wish to join the Union, but would like to hear further about the League of Nations, and to render it personal service, they should be asked to put their names and addresses on a sheet containing this request, copies of which will be forwarded whenever applied for. If it is thought desirable, branches of the Union can be formed confined to the members of a church or any other organisation. Public opinion on behalf of the League to be effective must be well-informed as well as united. The Study Circle method seems to offer the best means to adults of acquiring knowledge. Full particulars of the Union's Study Circle scheme will be sent as desired.

Whenever possible speakers and preachers on the League of Nations and the work of the Union, will be provided, especially if the cost of travelling can be borne locally, and hospitality be provided. An opportunity of addressing Ruri-Decanal Conferences, Free Church Councils, and meetings of leaders in other organisations will be specially welcomed.

If the future of the League is to be secured, the education of the rising generation in the ideals of the League is essential. The time does not appear to have arrived for the formation of Junior Branches of the Union on a large scale. The first step, rather, is to get the teachers, and other workers amongst boys and girls, interested in the League. It is, therefore, suggested that conferences might be arranged at which addresses on the ideals and work of the League of Nations might be given. Study Circles of

teachers and others interested in the welfare of children might be formed. The knowledge thus acquired could be imparted to the children through lessons in history, geography, and scripture. Occasionally, special addresses on the League might be given by an outside speaker. The children might express their willingness to undertake personal service on behalf of the League by subscribing, say, 3d., in return for which they might receive a small badge, and be known as "Junior Associates." Speakers to address conferences of teachers and others, schools, and other mass meetings of children or juveniles will be sent by the Union whenever possible, especially if the cost of travelling can be borne locally, and hospitality, where necessary, can be provided. Full information about outlines of addresses and lessons on the League will be sent on application.

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The following are the terms of membership of the League of Nations Union:—

A minimum annual subscription of £1 entitles the member to HEADWAY, the journal of the Union, and to all pamphlets and similar literature published by the Union.

A minimum annual subscription of 2/6 entitles the member to receive HEADWAY regularly by post.

The minimum subscription is one shilling.

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