

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

THE NEED FOR LOCAL BRANCHES.

The Need for a National Movement.

No movement on behalf of the League of Nations can be either adequate or effective which is anything short of National—*i.e.*, a movement covering the whole of the British Isles and embracing every class of citizenship. The policy affects the whole future outlook of the nation—political, social, economic. It can only be realised by an organisation which is supported by an overwhelming mass of the people.

The League of Nations stands, above all, as the soundest proposal yet made to ensure Peace, and to bring to the cause of Peace those high and powerful influences which in past days were set against each other and which inevitably led to War.

If the League should fail through want of National support in each country an unparalleled opportunity for ensuring the peace of the world will have been lost.

We cannot expect so great an enterprise to gain perfection from the moment of its inception. It must be moulded towards perfection by the pressure of public opinion, and this pressure can only be exercised through a National organisation.

The League of Nations Union offers the country the organisation through which the people can speak. It must in breadth and power include the whole National life to be equal to the task of achieving the purposes of the Covenant of the League of Nations.

The Democratic Spirit.

The Democratic Spirit may be relied upon if the democratic mind is efficiently informed. The tendency to-day is to act as a democracy. The true interest of the people is to use the League as an organ for expressing the voice of the democracy of all countries.

The League of Nations Union is a democratic, non-party, non-sectarian body, whose chief aim is to promote and popularise the principles of the League, and by a vigorous

propaganda, and international study of problems affecting Labour, Industry, Commerce, Public Health and other matters, to arouse and maintain widespread interest in the work of the League.

Necessity for Branches.

As the unit forms part of the whole, individual effort can carry little weight without cohesion. For this purpose the people in all districts must band themselves together into groups to give strength locally, as an integral part, to the National Movement the Union is undertaking in support of the League of Nations. Only by numerous Branches of our Union in every City, Town and Village can this all-important result be achieved. Where no Branch of the Union exists, no effort should be spared to form one immediately. The membership of the Union can be most effectively increased through the activities of its Branches.

Again, a Branch permits a constant propaganda to be sustained, forms a rallying point for all who are interested in the Movement, completes the machinery for organising public opinion. We shall not be content until every man and woman in the British Isles has the opportunity to join a Branch as a member, whilst special efforts will be made to educate the children in the principles of the League, and Children's Branches will be formed.

Necessity for a Large Membership.

We shall speak with power and effect only when we can speak on behalf of the Nation as a whole. Experience teaches that a movement that has a powerful membership is both financially and politically strong. If the League of Nations Union is to be effective it must be a tower of strength in both.

Our aim is to include in our Union as many individuals as we can convince of the wisdom and practicability of our proposals, to enlist their full sympathy, to secure their financial and personal support.

ROBERT CECIL,

*Chairman of the Executive Committee
of the League of Nations Union.*