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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE



Yearly Report

1934

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Women's International League

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

NINETEENTH YEARLY REPORT

MARCH 1934 - JANUARY 1935.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, 55 GOWER STREET LONDON, W.C.1. Telephone: MUSEUM 3179.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM.

Hon. President: JANE ADDAMS, U.S.A.

Head Office : Maison Internationale, 12 Rue du Vieux Collège, Geneva.

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

I.—The Settlement of Disputes by some means other than War. II.—The Emancipation of Women.

ANDS

National Sections or Corresponding Groups :--

ARGENTINE	FRANCE	NORWAY
AUSTRALIA:	Germany	PALESTINE
VICTORIA	GREAT BRITAIN	Peru
TASMANIA	GREECE	PHILIPPINE ISL
NEW SOUTH WALES	Haiti	Poland
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	Holland	ROUMANIA
Austria	Hungary	Russia
Belgium	India	SOUTH AFRICA
BULGARIA	IRELAND	Spain
Canada	ITALY	Sweden
CHINA	JAPAN	SWITZERLAND
Сива	JUGO-SLAVIA	Syria
CZECHO-SLOVAKIA	Latvia	TUNIS
Denmark	LITHUANIA	TURKEY
Egypt	LUXEMBURG	UKRAINE
ESTHONIA	Mexico	URUGUAY
FINLAND	NEW ZEALAND	U.S.A.

The BRITISH SECTION of the LEAGUE is known as

The Women's International League

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1935. Chairman : Mrs. Duncan Harris. Vice-Chairman : Mrs. Vipont Brown. Hon. Secretary : Mrs. K. E. Innes. Hon. Treasurer : Lady Unwin. Hon. Press Secretary : Miss Karleen Baker, B.Sc.Econ.

Miss Mosa Anderson.	Mrs. Elgie.	Miss Edith M. Pye.
Miss B. M. Baker.	Mrs. Corbett Fisher.	Miss Rinder.
Miss Karleen Baker.	Mrs. Greenwood.	Mrs. McGregor Ross
Mrs. Binyon.	Mrs. Grindley,	Mrs. Paul Sturge
Miss Mary Chick.	Miss Agatha Harrison.	Miss Sheepshanks.
Dr. Hilda Clark.	Mrs. Lankester.	Mrs. Thoday.
Dr. Hilda Clark. Miss Maud Dickinson.	Miss C. E. Marshall.	Miss Freda White.

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

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

March, 1934–January, 1935.

Disarmament.

1934 was a year of anxiety ending in deep disappointment with regard to the work of the Disarmament Conference which had been the object of our greatest hopes and efforts for several years.

The year opened with the British Government's memorandum which, while containing some valuable proposals, did not contain provision for the limitation and supervision of the manufacture of and trade in arms, nor for the limitation and supervision of expenditure. Our members were helped to understand the complex issues involved, by the careful studies made sometimes at Geneva, sometimes from home, by Miss Courtney and Dr. Hilda Clark, who both drew up valuable memoranda which were circulated to our members from time to time. Mr. Arnold Forster's analyses, sent out by the National Peace Council, were also of the greatest assistance to speakers and others. By the end of May, when the Disarmament Conference reassembled, the French memorandum of April 17th brought matters to a crisis and postponed any immediate hopes of disarmament. A new and important contribution, however, came from the United States and has given a lead to the Women's International League. Mr. Norman Davis made a noteworthy advance from the previous American attitude when he declared that America was ready to "work out by international agreement an effective system for the regulation of the manufacture of and trade in arms and munitions of war." The American Government followed up this declaration in two ways. It instituted a Senate Inquiry into the private traffic in arms, an inquiry for which the campaign initiated by the American Section of the W.I.L.P.F. was largely responsible, and which once again shows what important results can be achieved by a relatively small society of progressive-minded and forceful women.

At Geneva the American Government put forward draft articles providing for the national and international control of both private and State manufacture of and trade in arms. When the Bureau of the Conference met on November 20th and no progress towards a general Convention seemed possible, the Americans put forward their articles again, drafted to form, with proposals for a Permanent Disarmament Commission, a separate Convention, suitable for signature and ratification by Governments without waiting for a General Disarmament Convention.

These actions by the American Government have given a great stimulus to the popular movement in this country of opposition to the private manufacture of armaments. With regard to the Draft Convention, the W.I.L. has pressed upon the Government the importance of giving it prompt and active support and of doing its utmost to insure that none of the provisions are weakened.

The question of the advisability of urging our present Government to institute a similar inquiry has been much discussed in Peace Organisations. There is no provision in this country for the kind of inquiry which is being held in the U.S.A. and many have feared that a Royal Commission would delay other measures being taken, and might be so constituted as to be able to suppress the kind of evidence that is being obtained in the U.S.A. and result in a whitewashing report. A demand from a great many organisations, including the National Peace Council, in which the W.I.L. is represented, for an inquiry with adequate scope and powers resulted in the Government's announcing that a Royal Commission would be appointed.

Early in June the W.I.L. wrote to the Prime Minister and Secretary for Foreign Affairs, urging that attempts to define such agreement as has been reached at Geneva should not be abandoned, that in view of the imminent danger of a race in armaments there should be no delay. Deep regret was also expressed that the British delegate, in proposing at Geneva that certain matters should be followed up, did not mention Air disarmament.

TRAFFIC IN ARMS.

In view of the standstill at the Disarmament Conference and the widespread concern thereat, it was felt that it would be useful to concentrate effort on attacking one of the obstacles to disarmament, viz., the profits of the armaments trade. A petition was organised, to be signed by leading people, the names being collected locally. The petition met with influential support and was forwarded by local workers in their constituencies to Members of Parliament, and from Headquarters to the Government.

A good deal of controversy was aroused by the wording of the petition, which was based on statements made before the Temporary Mixed Commission set up by the League of Nations and reproduced in their report to the Second Assembly in 1921. The statement of the evils of the private traffic was quoted by the Commission, which made no recommendations. The allegations have never been met or refuted, and have always been admitted at subsequent League

meetings as constituting a case against private traffic that still had to be met. But Sir John Simon and the Prime Minister attempted to discredit the campaign against the traffic by a verbal quibble. It is true that it is not correct to state (as was done in the first edition of the petition, subsequently amended) that the League of Nations Committee had "declared" that certain great evils resulted from the trade; this wording was altered in a later draft of the petition to "these charges were made in evidence given to the Committee. The Committee embodied them in its report as the objections which are in general raised to untrammelled private manufacture." Nevertheless, the substance of the matter was unaffected and has been left unanswered by the Government. Moreover, the League of Nations Commission had asked to be authorised to continue its investigations and recommended an eventual international Conference on the private manufacture of and trade in arms. These recommendations have not been carried out.

In any case a very useful piece of work was done by our Branches and supporters in a very short space of time. A large number of letters were received asking for further information and showing intense interest in the subject. There was a large demand for literature.

Abolition of Naval and Military Air-craft and the Internationalisation of Civil Aviation.

It was decided to work for these as an important though limited part of the general armaments question and one for which there is support in public opinion, which it is possible for us to increase.

PRIVATE ARMIES.

In view of the evil results in certain continental countries of the organisation of private armies and the signs of the beginning of similar movements in this country, a letter was sent to the Government urging that all possible means should be taken to prevent the establishment of private armies in this country.

SANCTIONS AND AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE.

These questions have occupied the attention of many of our Branches, and a special Conference was held to consider them on the occasion of a special Council Meeting in London on June 1st. There was general agreement on the need to work for the abolition of national military and naval air forces, the internationalisation of civil aviation, and the abolition of aerial bombardment. If a Convention were offered, coupling these principles with the setting up of an international police force, our members would be free to use their individual judgment and the Executive would use its discretion as to whether to oppose or support a definite proposal.

With regard to Sanctions, the conclusion reached was, that it is incumbent upon the W.I.L. to support certain non-violent measures to stop the aggressive use of armed force, and to study their operation and how they can be made effective.

The following booklets were written on these subjects by Mrs. H. M. Swanwick :—" New Wars for Old," " Frankenstein and His Monster," " Pooled Security."

Minorities.

The W.I.L. has not seen its way to any special useful action this year on behalf of the many racial and religious minorities whose grievances are a potential threat to peace. A gesture of friendship and sympathy with one such minority was the acceptance of an invitation to the Ukrainian Women's Jubilee Congress in East Galicia, Poland. Miss Sheepshanks took greetings from the W.I.L., which were most warmly appreciated as forming a link for an isolated and distant people with Western European, and particularly with internationally organised, women.

Bombing from the Air and Gas Mask Drill for Children.

We have again opposed facilities being given to children to see the Military Air Display at Hendon, including, as it does, a display of bombing from the air. We have also protested against gas mask drill for children, believing that such protection is fallacious, harmful psychologically, and that the effect is to promote panic and a demand for more armaments, when what should be demanded is the absolute prohibition and renunciation of military aviation.

National Declaration.

In co-operation with many other societies we are supporting and working for the National Declaration in support of the League of Nations. The work involved, viz., a nation-wide house to house canvass is greater than that of a general election, involving very often repeated calls at one house in order to collect the voting papers. Strenuous as such work is, branches and members are responding nobly, and there is no doubt that such canvassing can have invaluable results in getting people to think over questions to which they have hitherto paid little attention, and also in bringing our members into contact with new and wider circles.

India.

The situation in India during the past year has been reflected in the nature of the work done, which has consisted more in making personal contacts with the country, spreading information and strengthening links, than by passing resolutions of active political propaganda. With the withdrawal of civil disobedience and the release of many of the political prisoners came the opportunity for more constructive work on both sides.

The W.I.L. has always been particularly interested in the Women's Movement in India, a movement which according to the Minority Report of the Joint Select Committee "has not been equalled by any other women's political movement in any other part of the world "-and it should be added that the organised women of India put social and educational reform above even political reform. It was therefore a matter of great interest that Mrs. Lankester, a member of the W.I.L. Executive and Hon. Secretary of the India Committee, was appointed in March to act as Liaison Officer between the All India Women's Conference and a group of British women's societies, including W.I.L. A memorandum was sent to the Joint Select Committee from this Liaison Group, which expressed its support of the demands regarding Franchise and the status of women in the new Constitution put forward by the three largest women's organisations in India, and resolutions on joint electorates passed by women's conferences and illustrative of the stand that Indian women make for communal unity were also given publicity.

It was with great satisfaction that the W.I.L. heard of the acceptance by Dr. Maude Royden (one of our Vice-Presidents) and Mrs. Corbett Ashby, of an invitation to attend as "honoured guests" the annual session of the All India Women's Conference at Karachi in December.

During last spring Miss Agatha Harrison, a member of W.I.L. Executive, paid a visit of three months to India. Through many

contacts made during her work as Secretary to the India Conciliation Group, also as having been attached to the Labour Commission on a previous visit to India, and in other ways, she had unique opportunities of meeting both British and Indian leaders and of getting to the heart of the situation. She spent part of her time travelling with Mr. Gandhi through the areas in Bihar devastated by the earthquake, and was later present at some critical conferences of the Congress party, while she also had interviews with some of the highest Government officials. Besides this she met many leaders in the women's movement. Since her return she has been making full use of her experience and knowledge, and has spoken at W.I.L. meetings among many others.

Following on the publication of the Report of the Joint Select Committee, the India Bill is presented to Parliament and one of the greatest issues which has ever concerned the British Empire comes before the British public. W.I.L. members have been urged to study the proposals for the new Constitution, the history that went to their making, and their reaction on those in India whose chief concern they must be, and it is hoped that every branch will have a body of well-informed opinion on this most important question.

The Executive Committee made a protest that in the series of Broadcast Talks on the India Report early in 1935 Indian speakers were not included, and urged that at least three speakers representing Indian opinion might still be included. A sympathetic understanding of the psychological, economic, and political reasons for India's dissatisfaction with the Report might do much to help the situation.

Unfortunately, the B.B.C. declined to reconsider its decision, and no arrangement has been made for the Indian point of view to be put forward by Indians, although full opportunities have been given for the varying views of British politicians to be broadcast. The W.I.L. is not alone in thinking that once again a grave blunder has been committed in our relationship with India by this policy of the B.B.C.

Subject Peoples in Africa.

The most important piece of work of the Native Races Committee was the Conference on "Our Responsibilities to Subject Peoples in Africa," held on November 20th, 1934. Our aim in the morning session was to consider one or two of the most fundamental problems in Africa, and in the afternoon to study "steps to self-government."

We were fortunate in having lecturers who were acknowledged experts : Mr. W. McGregor Ross on "African Land Rights," Major Orde Browne on "The African Labourer," Mr. W. C. Ballinger on "The Black Worker in South Africa and the Co-operative Movement," Rev. T. Cullen Young on "Education for Self-Government," Archdeacon Owen on "Redress of Grievances," Dr. Drummond Shiels on "Training for Self-Government," and Miss Una Marson on "Social and Political Equality." The attendance at both sessions was excellent, and several who came hoped that this attempt to look forward and plan for a happier Africa would be followed up in the future.

Other subjects dealt with during the year were: the Kenya Defence Force, gold mining in the Kavirondo native reserve, and the proposed Children's Ordinance of Ceylon. A letter was sent to the American W.I.L. expressing appreciation of them on their action supporting legislation against negro-lynching. We joined with other women's societies in asking for the appointment of two women (one doctor and one anthropologist) on the proposed Committee to investigate the causes of native backwardness in mental and physical development. A strong letter was sent to Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister asking for the abolition of the taxation of native women, especially widows, in Kenya. In May the following resolution was passed by the Executive on the subject of the Morris-Carter Report on Native Land in Kenya :---

"The Executive Committee of the Women's International League (British Section) appeals to H.M. Government to expedite the long overdue publication of the Report of the Morris-Carter Land Commission.

It protests against the proposed opening on May 17th of a further area of the Kavirondo Reserve to white gold prospectors. It believes that the pronouncement made by the Duke of Devonshire and recast by the Joint Select Committee in 1931, namely 'that the interests of the overwhelming majority of the indigenous population should not be subordinated to those of a minority belonging to another race, however important in itself,' would be better implemented if minerals in native reserves were developed primarily for the benefit of the native occupiers and for the relief of native taxation generally."

Incitement to Disaffection Bill.

Immediately the terms of the Government's new Sedition Bill were made known, the W.I.L. united with other representatives of anti-war opinion and all those concerned with the preservation of civil liberties, in opposition to the Bill. We expressed our view that there was no justification for further Governmental powers to interfere with free expression of opinion. A deputation was received by Sir Thomas Inskip and our reasons for opposition set forth.

In spite of amendments, which modified some of the worst features of the Bill, we realised that it could be used to limit work for peace, and Branches and members all over the country urged their M.P.'s to oppose it. Since it unfortunately became law, our fears have been confirmed by refusals of printers to take responsibility for printing pacifist views which might incriminate them.

Action taken by Branches and members led to a very great deal of correspondence and argument with M.P.'s and in the Press. We can only deeply regret that the forces of reaction were too strong for the champions of liberty. The matter must not be allowed to rest and should be raised at the next election.

International Headquarters.

Last year the spring meeting of the International Executive had before it the tragedy concerning peace work in Germany; this year the political situation in Austria overshadowed its meetings. One of the best known W.I.L. members there, Emmy Freundlich, was in prison, and various international representations had already been made to the Austrian Government on her behalf, and also urging clemency for prisoners with regard to death sentences. A member of the International Executive visited Vienna and was able to get into touch with members there, bringing back first-hand news.

At this same Executive, the situation in France, where the February riots had taken place, was vividly brought to the fore by the French Section, and international support for a declaration against the spread of Fascism to be sent to the French Government was asked for by the representatives.

In view of the complex and difficult situation, both of the world and of our League, it was decided to advance by one year the meeting of the International Congress. This was held in Zurich in September, and in spite of the difficulties of the times there was an excellent attendance. Certain changes in the Constitution have been made, and the aims of the W.I.L.P.F. have obtained restatement in such a way as to lay more emphasis on the need for change in social conditions. It is probable that the changes do not completely satisfy anybody, but they represent the largest measure of agreement that a two-thirds majority of representatives from sixteen countries could arrive at. Early in the year the results of an immense amount of work by our U.S. Section and its indefatigable Secretary, Dorothy Detzer, began to influence public opinion on the question of manufacture of arms. Senator Nye, now famous, was induced by them to bring the Bill demanding an inquiry into Congress, with results which may be quite incalculable. The light thrown into the dark and dirty corners of the arms traffic is changing the attitude with regard to it in many countries.

While much regretting the loss to our Headquarters of Camille Drevet and other workers, through financial stringency, we have since March had the valuable help of Miss Emily Balch of the U.S. Section, who has acted as Hon. Secretary since the Congress, and under her able guidance various important actions have been taken in which the Sections were asked to join, as, for instance, a protest to the Spanish Government on the bombing of the civil population. a letter to the Governing Commission of the Saar which received a very courteous and full reply, &c. In Geneva a deputation waited on Princess Stahremberg with regard to prisoners in Austria, and continual steps are taken with regard to events and individuals in Germany. In many other ways the International Office, thanks to Miss Balch's initiative, has kept the W.I.L.P.F. in touch with world affairs. It is only her presence that has made this activity possible. since the staff has had to suffer heavy reductions in order to bring the expenditure nearer to the income level.

Publicity.

The "News Sheet" has been issued throughout the year in its revised form, the back page being devoted entirely to Headquarter and Branch news. A special feature has been made of articles on the Indian situation and we have continued to have valuable first hand information from our Disarmament experts. We are grateful for outside contributions from Miss Margaret Lambert, Mrs. Rama Rau, Professor Chakravarty, and Mr. Leonard Barnes.

Miss Courtney and Dr. Clark have written weekly articles on current international events and these have been distributed to a number of provincial papers.

During the year we have published a third booklet by Mrs. H. M. Swanwick entitled "Pooled Security: What does it mean?" This follows on the two previous booklets, "New Wars for Old" and "Frankenstein and His Monster," and is an answer to critics of the first two. Two leaflets entitled "Stop the Profits from War Scares," by Miss Freda White, and "Should there be an International Armed Force?" by Dr. Hilda Clark, have both had a steady sale. A valuable pamphlet pointing out the significance of the Women's Movement in India, by Mrs. Lankester, entitled "Mother India's Daughters," has circulated widely.

We have frequently made use of literature published by the Friends' Peace Committee and the National Peace Council to supplement our own.

W.I.L. Affiliation to, Representation on, and Cooperation with other Societies.

We are affiliated to the National Peace Council, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, the Women's Advisory Council on Indian Questions. We are represented on the Women's Peace Crusade, the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union, and the Moral Welfare Committee of the National Council of Women. We have co-operated with the Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations, and we have sent representatives to the International Demonstration at Brussels of the Federation of League of Nations Societies. A representative attended the Paris International Congress against War and Fascism as an observer, and also the Armistice Day celebration in London by the British Section of the Women's World Committee against War and Fascism.

Friends of Peace and Disarmament.

Leaflets to "friends" have continued to be issued quarterly. This year they have dealt with the International Trade in Armaments, some arguments by people who still trust in weapons of war and despise the League of Nations, Children's education, and the Peace Ballot. The membership stands at 6,000. Mrs. Pye, Mrs. Unwin, Miss Hayes, and others have done much work in arranging for the publication of the leaflets and in stimulating the work.

Unfortunately, owing to ill-health in the latter part of the year, Mrs. Pye had to resign from the Hon. Secretaryship. Mrs. Unwin kindly agreed to take over her work for a time.

Executive Committee.

The meetings of the Executive Committee have been very well attended throughout the year, on the second Tuesday in the month. Miss Joan Creyke was obliged to resign owing to pressure of work, particularly in connection with the publication of "Essential News."

The Sub-Committees have again done invaluable work. The Publicity Committee had to carry on their work under the Chairmanship of Miss Mosa Anderson during the spring and summer without the help of Miss Karleen Baker, owing to her illness. The India Committee has done splendid work as will be seen from the India Report printed elsewhere. The Native Races Committee, and particularly Mrs. McGregor Ross, successfully organised the Conference on Subject Races.

The work of the Executive has at times been done under difficulties. Several members were prevented from regular attendance : Miss Courtney, because of her speaking engagements up and down the country largely on behalf of the National Peace Ballot, Dr. Clark on account of personal affairs which necessitated her being out of London a good deal, Mrs. Barrs Davies through ill-health, while Lady Unwin and Miss Agatha Harrison were abroad for some months. Those who were able to attend regularly saw to it that the work was carried on, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Innes.

Branches.

We are glad to report the formation of a new Branch at Godalming, with Miss Freda East as Secretary. The past year has in two ways brought the Branches into closer touch with each other and with Headquarters. There have been two Council Meetings during the year, both held in London, and in spite of the demand on members' time (and pockets !) involved in the extra meeting, it was welcomed by many as affording further opportunity for mutual counsel and encouragement; the elections to the Executive Committee resulted in putting many more representatives of branches on the Executive, thus bringing first hand experience of " work in the field " to the Committee, and, on the other hand, bringing back to the Branches the result of direct contact with representatives of other Branches and with London workers.

The Branch Committees and their members have carried out much work besides their public and group propaganda meetings. They collected signatures for the Petition for the Abolition of the Private Manufacture of Arms, undertook the arduous canvassing for

the Peace Ballot, agitated against the Sedition Bill, and wherever it was considered useful, approached their M.P.'s and made known to them the views and wishes of that portion of .their constituents who support the W.I.L. policy. Many meetings on India were arranged for and addressed by Miss Slade, Indian ladies, and Miss Agatha Harrison on her return from India.

Manchester and Glasgow both adopted the plan of holding a meeting at which representatives of the three political parties explained the policies of their parties on Peace and Disarmament. Birmingham made full use of the meeting of the National Peace Congress and organised a large W.I.L. gathering for the occasion. Bristol, Stockport, Newcastle, North Wales, Croydon, Cambridge, Brighton, Liverpool, the two London branches (Golders Green and S.E. London) have had frequent and successful meetings. Warrington organised the performance of a Peace Play by Manchester Peace Players, and during the season, pageants, processions, garden parties, and sales have been promoted by various Branches. often in co-operation with other bodies. Smaller Branches cannot always have such frequent meetings, but have done very useful work. Several Branches have urged on their local education authority the holding of Peace Days in the Schools.

Branches and individual members have also been the means of getting resolutions passed by other Societies. In a year in which there has been much in the outside world to cause us grave anxiety we have the encouragement of knowing that our members keep on with the good work and are enlisting fresh support.

Financial Report

Although we have been faced with anxiety in regard to finance during the year, the Executive Committee is pleased to be able to report a satisfactory position at the end of the year. We have had additional calls on our funds for the Special Council Meeting in June and for the W.I.L.P.F. Congress in Zurich in September. We have also a larger expenditure on printing as we have found this one of the best means of doing propaganda work at the present time. Consequently our Bank balance was at a low ebb in the late summer, at a time when an appeal for funds was not likely to meet with a good response.

We carried on temporarily by means of a loan from the House Account, which has since become a grant, and in October circulated an appeal to our Branches and members setting forth the scheme

of work planned for the autumn and winter. There was a splendid response and before the end of the year the special fund amounted to f_{353} . Is. 4d. This sum includes a donation of f_{100} from a friend who wishes to remain anonymous. Encouraging and appreciative letters accompanied many of these donations making the Treasurer's task light and pleasant. The Executive Committee thanks the Branches and members for their loval and generous support which has resulted in a balance of £240. IS. 9d. at the end of the year,

Grants have been made to the National Peace Council, the W.I.L.P.F. Congress and the Women's Peace Crusade. The Noel Buxton Trust and the Boeke Trust each made us a grant of fio.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE.

Members will have noticed that for the past seven years a separate statement has appeared for "International House Account." The premises at 55 Gower Street are held on lease from the Bedford Estate by trustees on behalf of the Women's International League. The present Trustees are Mrs. Laurence Binyon, Dr. Hilda Clark, and Miss Mary Chick.

The original Bedford Lease expired in September, 1934, and a new lease has been granted to the trustees for a further term of to $\frac{1}{2}$ vears at a rent increased from f_{200} to f_{225} a year. To obtain this renewal £511. 18s. 7d. was expended on the premises. Provision for this had been made by building up a reserve fund obtained by sub-letting part of the house. The greater part of the expenditure was on work that will not need to be done at the end of the present lease. Therefore, although it will be prudent for us to hold a sufficient sum in reserve for contingencies, we feel justified in reducing the rent of the W.I.L. from f100 to f50 a year. After meeting all charges and making a special grant of f_{100} to the general funds of the W.I.L. a balance of $f_{.532}$. 3s. 2d. is carried forward.

Office Staff and Voluntary Workers.

Miss Horscroft and Miss Stroud continue to carry on the work in the Office. Until the end of November they had the help of Miss Rita Gent and were very sorry when she left to take up work with the Friends' Peace Committee. Miss Florrie Chapman succeeds her. Miss Baker's help was badly missed during the summer months, but Miss Gill came even more frequently than before to help in all kinds of ways, continuing to make herself responsible for the distribution of the monthly "News Sheet."

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS.

February 6th, 7th, and 8th, 1935.

Held at Y.W.C.A., Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1.

The following resolutions were passed :-

Relations between W.I.L. and W.I.L.P.F.

"This Council of the British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, adhering to the original Constitution of the League with its definite ideal of settling differences, national and international, by negotiation rather than by violence, finds itself out of harmony with the present actions of the International Executive Committee.

It feels, nevertheless, that withdrawal in any form might be detrimental to work in Europe for the ending of war. It therefore reaffirms its determination to bring its utmost weight to the counsels of the W.I.L.P.F. to further this end, and to work there to advance the principles it feels essential in the policy of the W.I.L.P.F. as a whole.

At the same time, this Council urges the British Executive to summon a meeting of those Sections in sympathy with our position for consultation together as to the future Constitution of the League."

Disarmament and the Anglo-French Agreement.

"This Council of the British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom records its appreciation of the efforts made by French and British Statesmen to consolidate the peace of Europe on a basis of equality and security;

It welcomes the proposal by which Germany would become an equal partner in discussing an armaments agreement to replace the provisions of Part V of the Treaty of Versailles at present limiting the armaments and armed forces of Germany, and earnestly hopes that this may lead to an early resumption of the Disarmament Conference and to Germany's return to membership of the League of Nations;

It points out that the proposed Air Convention must be accompanied by a drastic all-round reduction and limitation of air armaments, together with international control as a step to their abolition, and, believing disarmament to be the acid test of international goodwill, urges that the achievement of a disarmament convention be regarded as an essential part of the organisation of peace in Europe."

Traffic in Arms.

"This Council of the Women's International League, having accepted the principle of the abolition of the private profit in this connection,

welcomes the proposals for the control of the manufacture of and trade in arms made by the American Government on November 20th, 1934, as a step towards this end,

trusts that H.M. Government will press for the acceptance of an international agreement, and expresses satisfaction that the Traffic in Arms Committee is to meet on February 14th,

welcomes the proposal of H.M. Government to include an embargo on the sale of arms to violators of international law in their policy for negotiation in this matter;

expresses the view that the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the private manufacture of arms will not satisfy public opinion unless it is conducted by impartial and disinterested persons; is held in public and is empowered to inquire into all subjects relevant to the manufacture of and trade in arms."

Internationalisation of Civil Aviation.

"This Council of the British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,

regretting that the Bureau of the Disarmament Conference has not yet found it possible to continue the attempt to secure a General Convention for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments, and in particular that it did not include at the meeting of November 20th, 1934, in the measures for immediate consideration the proposals for disarmament of the Air which have met with wide support,

expresses its indignation that H.M. Government, while not putting forward any scheme, nor indicating that it will accept any of those put forward, for the internationalisation or international control of civil aviation, on which it and other Governments have stated that Air disarmament depends, has begun to add to its own Air Force and so to precipitate an international race in armaments, thus increasing fear and suspicion in other countries, reiterates its resolution of March, 1934, in

urging His Majesty's Government to show that they definitely stand for the abolition of military and naval Air Forces and to put forward a proposal for the international control or the internationalisation of Civilian Air Services, and to this end should press for the calling of the Air Commission of the Disarmament Conference."

1. Democracy.

" This Council,

believing that progress towards the aims of the W.I.L. can be made effective and continuous only in proportion to the co-operation secured of all sections in the community,

and that the attainment alike of personal liberty and of social peace depends on the growth and spread throughout the country of a sense of responsibility for Government, of understanding of the problems involved in domestic and international politics and of mutual respect between individuals and between groups for each other's rights,

calls upon the members of the Women's International League to redouble their efforts to appeal to all, and particularly to the young, to realise the greatness of our birthright of political freedom and to use it, not for the special interests of privileges of any class, but for a constructive policy in which a moral enthusiasm for the good of all can be strong enough to win the consent of all to the sacrifice of any privileges that are harmful to others."

2. Democracy.

"In view of the growing encroachments on the 'Liberties of the People,' both at home and abroad, there is urgent need of united effort to safeguard freedom of speech and action, to secure equal opportunity for men and women in every branch of life, to oppose the tendency to place more authority in the hands of the police, and finally to abolish the power of the Government to secure by Orders in Council legislation of which the broad principles have not had the sanction of Parliament in public debate."

1. India.

"This Council of the Women's International League, while recognising that the India Bill now before Parliament provides for a Constitution intended to advance India a further stage towards the realisation of responsible Government, nevertheless deplores that it has not been framed in a way to commend itself to the mind of India, and that it has failed to enlist the goodwill of its people.

This Council, while welcoming the statement made on February 6th by Sir Samuel Hoare in the House of Commons, urges that it should be explicitly stated in the Bill that Dominion Status is the ultimate goal of Indian Constitutional Reform, and that the right of India to self-determination should be recognised therein in unmistakable terms.

It regrets that the recommendations put forward by the British Indian Delegates to the Round Table Conference in their Memorandum have not been accepted, while on the other hand the safeguards have been strengthened.

As regards the recommendations contained in the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee concerning women, this Council appreciates the fact that the importance of the part that women should play in the new Constitution was recognised, but it regrets that the methods proposed of bringing women in greater numbers on the electoral roll, and of giving them places in the legislatures, should go against the expressed wishes of organised women in India.

This Council desires to bring before the Government the Resolution and Statement passed unanimously by a meeting of representatives of the three leading women's organisations held in Delhi in January last, in which they give their reasons for their inability to accept the recommendations. In view of the serious consequences that would result from a failure to enlist the co-operation and goodwill of the progressive women of India for the working of the new Constitution, this Council earnestly hopes that such modifications may be made as will bring the proposals more in conformity with their wishes."

2. India.

"This Council of the British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom urges that, in view of recent news from India, the situation should immediately be reviewed in consultation with Indian opinion, and suggests that at least three members of the Joint Select Committee should go to India without delay, for discussion with leading Indians.

It is convinced that such a recognition of the importance of expression of Indian opinion would be welcomed in India and would help to create a better atmosphere."

Penal Reform.

"" This Council of the Women's International League urges H.M. Government to do all in its power to secure the adoption of an International Convention for Prisoners under the auspices of the League of Nations, and thereby to bring about an amelioration in the treatment of all prisoners (and particularly of prisoners who are the victims of political and racial persecution)."

South African Protectorates.

"This Annual Council of the Women's International League desires to record its conviction that the Native policy pursued by the Government of the Union of South Africa is not such as to justify the transference of the South African Protectorates to the Union.

At the same time, this Council urges H.M. Government to initiate a progressive economic and educational policy within the three Protectorates, in order that their future development may be ensured, and welcomes, as a step in this direction, the assurance given by the Secretary of State for the Dominions that means will be found to carry out recent recommendations for economic development in Bechuanaland."

Land in Kenya Colony.

"This Council of the Women's Internationa lLeague, having noted the declared intention of H.M. Secretary of State for the Colonies to make an Order in Council to render 17,000 square miles of land in the Highlands of Kenya Colony a region of exclusive European privilege, ownership and occupation, emphatically dissents from any step designed to prevent Africans for all time from negotiating for the recovery of land, much of which was formerly their own property, and some of which, as the Morris Carter Report amply proves, was improperly seized by former Kenya Governments for gift or sale to European settlers.

This Council considers that any such step, purporting to be irrevocable, would necessarily have the effect of accentuating and perpetuating racial bitterness in East Africa."

Australian Aborigines.

"This Council of the Women's International League congratulates the Association for the Protection of Native Races in New South Wales, and its co-operating Societies in Southern Australia, Western Australia, and Victoria, on their work on behalf of the Australian Aborigines, as seen in the growth of public opinion, leading to the successful and peaceful issue of the Caledon Bay difficulty, and in the holding of a Royal Commission in Western Australia for the investigation of native affairs in that State.

Further, this Council sends its best wishes to the various Associations in their efforts to win for the Aborigines and halfcastes good and adequate land, better educational facilities, and the separation of the Office of Protector from that of Police Officer."

Constitution and Rules.

22

I. TITLE.

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

II. OBJECT.

- (I) To work for that peace between nations, races, and classes which is based on justice and goodwill.
- (2) To work for the acceptance of the belief that war is a crime.
- (3) To substitute Conference and Law for Coercive Force.
- (4) To secure full rights of citizenship to women.
- (5) To co-operate with women in other countries who are working for the same ends.

III. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) Members.—Membership shall be open to all women who are British subjects, who accept the above object, whose purpose it is to work for its accomplishment, and who pay an annual subscription either to a local Branch or direct to the national headquarters.

(b) National Headquarters Members shall pay a minimum subscription of 2s. 6d. in January each year.

(c) Associate Members.—Women resident in Great Britain, other than British subjects, who accept the above object shall be accepted as Associate Members.

Men resident in Great Britain who desire to become associated with the work of the League shall be accepted as Associate Members.

Associate Members shall pay an annual subscription of not less than 2s. 6d. and shall be entitled to all privileges of members except the right of election to Council or Executive Committee and the right to nominate and vote.

IV. BRANCHES.

(a) Formation.—Branches shall be formed in consultation with the Executive Committee. They shall consist of not less than ten members who support the object of the League, and shall pay an affiliation fee of 3d. per member annually to Headquarters. Branches may make their own rules and by-laws, subject to the general rules and constitution of the League.

(b) Affiliation to other Organisations.—Branches of the League are free to co-operate with other societies in their neighbourhood, but before affiliating to any other organisation, they shall obtain the sanction of the Executive Committee.

(c) Affiliation of other Organisations.—Branches of the League shall have power to accept for affiliation any local organisation of women in their district which supports the object of the League and pays an annual subscription of the same amount as the annual subscription of two individual Branch members. Such an affiliated organisation shall be entitled to send two voting delegates to general meetings of the Branch, such delegates to have the same power as members of the Branch.

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A.—Constitution of Executive Committee.

(a) Committee.—The Executive Committee shall consist of the Hon. Officers and twenty-three members, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council. Each Branch shall be entitled to send one representative to the Executive Committee meetings with power to speak, but not to vote, the Executive not being responsible for such representatives' expenses.

(b) Offices.—The Officers shall be a President, Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries. The President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries shall be elected by the Council at its Annual Meeting. The Chairman shall be elected by the Executive Committee from among its members. An assistant Treasurer shall be appointed when necessary by the Executive Committee.

(c) Co-option to fill Vacancies.—The Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt members to fill vacancies that occur during the year.

(d) Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for one year, and at the end of that term shall be eligible for re-election without nomination.

Members of the Executive who have not attended 50 per cent. of the meetings during the year shall not be eligible for re-election unless some specific reason for absence can be offered, such as illness or absence from the country, and there is good reason to suppose that they will be able to attend in the future.

B.—Powers and Duties of Executive Committee.

(a) The Executive Committee shall meet, if possible, once a month.

(b) The railway fares of country members shall be paid so long as funds are available for this purpose.

(c) The Executive Committee shall carry on the business of the League between the meetings of the Council in accordance with the policy agreed to thereat.

(d) It shall administer the funds of the League and direct the organising work.

(e) It shall have power to appoint special Committees for carrying out the work of the League.

(f) It shall have power to appoint and dismiss all paid officials.

(g) In all things on which the rules are silent, the Executive Committee shall have power to decide, subject to appeal to the Council.

VI. AFFILIATION OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

(a) Central Executives.—The Executive of the League shall have power to accept for affiliation the Central Executive of any national women's organisation which supports the object of the League and pays an affiliation fee of 5s. a year. Affiliated Central Executives shall be entitled to send two voting delegates to the Council Meetings of the League, such delegates to have the same powers as Branch delegates.

(b) Branches.—Headquarters shall have power to accept for affiliation any branch of women's organisations or women's groups within mixed organisations in districts where no Branch of the Women's International League exists. Such Branches shall pay an affiliation fee of not less than 2s. 6d. per annum, and shall be entitled to send one delegate to Council Meetings. Such delegates shall have the right to vote on all resolutions other than those dealing with the Constitution, with the election of the Hon. Officers and the Executive Committee.

VII. GENERAL COUNCIL.

(a) The Council of the League shall consist of the Executive Committee, Delegates from Branches and Affiliated Bodies, and the Vice-Presidents. The Vice-Presidents shall be nominated by Branches or by the Executive Committee members, and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council. (b) Each Branch shall be entitled to one delegate and one card vote for every twenty-five or part of twenty-five members for whom the affiliation fee for the previous year has been paid. This must be paid not less than a month before the date of the Council in the case of new Branches or increased membership. If the appointed delegate be unable to attend all sessions of the Council she may transfer her card to a proxy delegate duly accredited by the Branch or Affiliated Society.

(c) The Council shall meet at least once a year to transact the usual business of an Annual Meeting. The travelling expenses of one delegate from each Branch to the Annual Council Meeting shall be pooled, but no Branch shall be obliged to contribute to the expenses or benefit by the pool for the first Council Meeting after its foundation.

(d) A meeting of the Council can be called at any time by the Executive Committee or on demand of one-tenth of the total number of Branches.

VIII. RULES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS.

A.—Ordinary Council Meetings.

(a) Ordinary meetings of the Council shall be held at a time and place to be fixed by the Executive Committee.

(b) The General Secretary shall notify the Executive, Vice-Presidents, Branches, Headquarter members, and Affiliated Bodies two months before the Council Meeting, and all resolutions to be printed on the Agenda must reach the Secretary not later than five weeks before the Meeting.

(c) The Preliminary Agenda shall be issued to Branches four weeks before the Meeting.

(d) All amendments to Resolutions must reach the office not later than twenty-one days before the Meeting.

(e) The Final Agenda will be issued to Branches one week before the Meeting.

(f) Resolutions shall be placed upon the Agenda in the name of a Branch or affiliated organisation, or of the Executive Committee, or of any member of the Executive Committee, or of any of the Vice-Presidents.

(g) No business which is not on the Agenda may be taken at a Council Meeting, unless urgency is voted on the recommendation of the Standing Orders Committee. (h) Delegates shall be admitted to Council Meetings on presentation of the official delegate's ticket signed by the Secretary of the Branch which she represents, or by the General Secretary.

B.—Annual Council Meetings.

(a) At the Annual Meeting of the Council, which shall be held in February or March, in addition to the ordinary business the Council shall :—

(1) Receive and adopt, if approved, the Report and Balance Sheet for the year;

(2) Elect by ballot the President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries, and twenty-three members of the Executive Committee;

(3) Elect Vice-Presidents;

(4) Consider any alterations of the rules that may be proposed.

(b) Nominations for the offices of President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries, and for the Executive Committee Members may be sent in by Branches, Vice-Presidents, and Members of the Executive Committee, and must reach the Secretary two weeks before the Council Meeting. Resolutions to be placed on the agenda and proposed alterations of the rules must reach the Secretary not later than one month before the Council Meeting.

(c) The consent of the nominees must be obtained in writing before nominations are sent in.

(d) The financial year shall end on 31st of December, and all affiliation fees must be paid before that date. Members' subscriptions shall be due in January each year.

(e) Branches which have not paid their affiliation fees before the end of the financial year will not be entitled to send delegates to Council Meetings.

(f) The Final Agenda and draft Annual Report shall be issued to the Branches one week before the Annual Meeting.

C.—Special Council Meetings.

(a) The Secretary shall give the Branches at least three weeks' notice of a Special Council Meeting, except in case of national emergency. Resolutions to be printed on the Agenda must reach the Secretary at least fourteen days before the Council Meeting.

(b) The Preliminary Agenda shall be issued to Branches at least one week before the Meeting, and a Final Agenda, including amendments, shall be issued before the Meeting if time allows. (c) At special meetings of the Council no other business shall be taken except that specified in the notice calling the Meeting.

(d) Rules may be altered at Special Council Meetings, provided that notice of such alterations be given in the summons to the Council.

D.—Agenda at Council Meetings.

(a) The first business to be taken at a Council Meeting shall be-

(I) Appointment of Tellers for the votes in Council;

(2) Appointment of Standing Orders Committee;

(3) Appointment of Members of the Council as Returning Officers and Tellers for the ballot

as Returning Officers and Tellers for the ballot voting;

At Annual Meeting only.

(4) Appointment of Auditor;
 (5) Adoption of Annual Report and audited
 (6) Statement of Accounts.

(b) Otherwise the order of business shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee, and shall include the following :—

(I) Report of the Executive Committee;

(2) Election of President, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretaries, Executive Committee, and Vice-Presidents (at Annual Meeting only);

(3) Correspondence;

(4) Amendment to Rules and Standing Orders (if any);

(5) Resolutions, of which due notice has been given to the Secretary and by her to each Branch, and Amendments relevant to the motions before the meeting;

(6) Other business.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

", Donations 5 ", Affiliation Fees ", Proceeds of Meetings ", Council Meetings ", Council Meetings ", Sale of Literature and News Sheets ", Histories (French and Greek) ", Grant from International House ", Geneva :	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	 Audit Fee Press Agency Stationery Stationery Printing (including News Sheets f47. os. 4d., and Annual Report f22.) Purchase of Literature Office Salaries Expenses of Meetings Council Meetings Council Meetings Grants Histories (French and Greek) Geneva: Grant Subscriptions Pax '' Subscriptions BALANCE, DECEMBER 31ST, 1934- Cash at Midland Bank Ltd. Cash in hand 	$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$
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STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1934.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE RENT ACCOUNT. RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1934.

RECEIPTS							EXPENDITURE.			
RECEIPTS. To BALANCE, JANUARY IST, 1934 ,, Rent ,, Interest—Co-operative Perma- nent Building Society	2	0	1,113		8	22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	£ 823 100		6
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		1	£1,455	3	8	455020	źı	455	3	8

I have examined the Books and Vouchers of the League for the year 1934, and certify that in my opinion the foregoing Statements 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.

9 REGENT STREET, S.W.I. 14th January, 1935.

(Signed) M. S. CLUGSTON, Certified Accountant, AUDITOR.

Branches

The names and addresses of our Branch Secretaries are as follows :---

The numes un	a addresses of our station occretances are as follows.					
Acock's Green	Mrs. McMurdo, 58 Douglas Road, Acock's Green.					
Birmingham	Secretary to be appointed.					
Brighton	Pro. tem. Mrs. Greenwood, 8 The Terrace, Roedean, Brighton.					
Bristol	Miss Baretti, 4 Henbury Hill, Westbury-on-Trym.					
Cambridge	Miss Smith, Homerton College, Cambridge.					
	Mrs. Stirland, The Red House, Bentley Road, Cambridge.					
Cheltenham	Mrs. Major, Melita, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.					
Croydon	Mrs. Savage, 27 Pollards Hill North, London, S.W.16.					
Edinburgh	Mrs. Matheson, 15 Dalrymple Crescent, Edinburgh.					
Glasgow	Mrs. A. Shanks, 84 Crofthill Road, Glasgow, S.4.					
Golders Green						
and Hampstead	M. D.t. of Crimberry Content NUL					
Garden Suburb	Mrs. Bates, 36 Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.11.					
Leeds	Mrs. Elgie, 135 Vesper Road, Leeds, 5.					
Liverpool	Mrs. Woods, Briarwood, Carnatic Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool.					
Manchester	Miss Ironside, W.I.L., 1 Princess Street, Albert Square, Manchester.					
Marazion	Mrs. Henson, 5 Mount View Terrace, Marazion, Cornwall.					
Newcastle	Dr. Ethel Williams, J.P., Bramble Patch, Low Bridges, Stocksfield-on-Tyne.					
North Wales (comp	rising Branches in Wrexham, Oswestry and District, Rhyl,					
	ludno Junction and Deganwy, Penmaenmawr, Llanfairsechan,					
	or, Anglesey County, Menai Bridge, Blaenau Ffestiniog,					
Colwy	yn Bay.) Mwy Thodau Haulfre Benger					
D .	Mrs. Thoday, Haulfre, Bangor.					
Preston	Miss Wilkinson, I Douglas Road, Lytham Road, Fulwood, Preston.					
St. Helens	Mrs. Barlow, I Beaconsfield Road, St. Helens.					
S.E. London	Mrs. Blanchard Field, 165 Grove Lane, London, S.E.5.					
Stockport	Miss Doris Smith, Highfield, Heaton Norris, Stockport.					
Tunbridge Wells	Miss Emily F. Jones, 17 Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells.					
Warrington	Mrs. Davies, Bleak House, Penketh, Warrington.					
Welwyn Garden	ins. Davies, Dicak House, I cincent, waitington.					
City	Miss Edalji, 9 Brockett Close, Welwyn Garden City.					

In addition to societies affiliated to the above branches we have at Headquarters Affiliated Societies, consisting of Branches of the Women's Co-operative Guild, Women Citizens' Association, National British Women's Total Abstinence Union, Women's Sections of the Labour Party, Women's Liberal Association, Women's Adult Schools, the William Morris Arts Guild, the Women's Meeting of the Anerley Congregational Church, Wood Green and Southgate Women's Arbitration Committee, and the Women's Indian Association.

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