

To be added to  
files

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, Monday, January 27th, 1941, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Institute, Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Reading.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Castle. Visitors: Miss Stansfield, Mrs. Barber (Reading Branch), Frau Hertzka, Frau Misar.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs. Longson, Miss Dickinson, Miss Pye, Mrs. Grindley, Dr. Scott, Mrs. Wood.

MINUTES of Meeting on December 10th were signed, having previously been circulated.

BUSINESS ARISING:

45. Internees. Reported letter from Home Office dated 30th December, 1940, saying that the Committee established to review all "B" category cases will advise Home Office as to whether any interned women classified as "B" may be re-classified as "C" in which event they will as a general rule be released.

46. Office Arrangements. Reported by Mrs. Harris that she had made arrangements for the cleaning of the Office, but the woman engaged to do the work had not done it, and she was making further inquiries.

47. Reports of N.P.C. Conference, January 10th/13th, Oxford, were given by Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Harris and Miss Harrison. Mrs. Innes said that the February News Sheet would contain only a report of the proceedings. Attempts were to be made to hold representative local Conferences on peace aims throughout the country during the coming months in order to prepare the public mind and to help the consideration of the Government's declaration of peace aims when it is made.

After discussion it was AGREED that our Branches should be urged to take the initiative in forming such groups, or to co-operate with others.

48. The Royal Institute of International Affairs. Reported a letter dated 21st December, 1940, stating that the Steering Committee on International Order has now under consideration a comprehensive scheme for research into and publication on problems of post-war settlement. Undoubtedly the subject of Great Britain's place in European or World Federation will be dealt within their World Order Series.

49. Brothels. Reported formal acknowledgment of our letter of 16th December from the War Office dated 1st January, 1941. The letter appeared in the News Sheet.

50. FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts was adopted. Reported the following Branches had sent donations to Headquarters in response to Mrs. Wood's Appeal: Birmingham, Cambridge, Cheltenham, Brighton, Edinburgh, Glasgow, North Wales, Welwyn Garden City, Worthing and Reading. The Committee expressed their warm appreciation of the generous support given by Branches. Reported also that the 1941 subscriptions were coming in steadily.

Miss Dickinson's written suggestion of a "Penny-a-Week" Scheme was considered and it was AGREED to bring this forward at the Annual Council Meetings, and to accept Miss Dickinson's offer to draft a leaflet concerning the scheme. This should go out with the Agenda for the consideration of the March Executive. Miss Dickinson was to be asked if she would work into the leaflet the idea that the money will be badly needed for the re-tieing of broken threads with our other national groups in a Conference as soon as possible after the war ends, and possibly to send a traveller round Europe to seek our members with whom we have lost touch.

51. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE. Reported a letter from the Steward of the Bedford Estate Office dated 16th December, 1940, saying he could not give any general consent to sub-letting of the premises, but did not anticipate the with-holding of consent to sub-letting to reliable people.

A formal reply had been received from the Town Hall, Holborn, dated 18th December, to our letter of 11th December, informing the Town Clerk of available accommodation for letting at 55 Gower Street.

No reply had been received to our letter of 4th January, asking if we could be granted a reduction of rates owing to evacuation of premises.

Reported a letter dated 24th January had been sent to the Town Hall re the Fire Prevention (Business Premises) Order, 1941, asking for advice as to what action we should take, seeing that the premises are empty. A copy of the Order had been sent for.

Reported that Miss Brownsmith had not paid the second instalment of her rent for the December 1940 rent, and had not acknowledged our registered letter.

Reported that the Japan Evangelistic Band had written to ask how much less the rent would be if they removed their furniture, as they believed we should be allowed a reduction of rates on the two empty rooms.

AGREED to reply that should we get a reduction, for which we had already applied, we would give them the appropriate proportion.

After discussion on the house it was AGREED

- (1) to try to let any part of the second and third floors and as an "act of grace" to allow the use of the basement for sleeping in at nights;
- (2) to try to let as office premises the ground floor and basement;
- (3) Failing the above, to try to let basement to reliable people free of rent in return for fire-watching.

52. LUNCHEON MEETINGS. Mrs. Harris reported that arrangements were being made to hold a series of lunch meetings at Friends House, Euston Road, as follows:-

February 12th, 12.45 for 1. Vera Brittain to speak on Women Peace-Lovers: What is their work to-day?

February 26th: Madame Edward Benes, Guest, and Madame Liba Ambrosova, speaker. Admission to this by ticket only, purchased in advance, price 2/-.

March 12th: Dr. Rita Hinden on some aspects of the dislocation of Colonial Trade. Mrs. Ross to be asked to take the Chair. Failing her Miss Anderson to be asked.

AGREED that notification to be present at the first or third meeting must be sent in by the Saturday preceding the meeting, and tickets could be obtained at the door, price 2/-. All letters regarding the meetings to be sent to Miss Harrison at 2 Cranbourne Court, Albert Bridge Road, London, S.W. 11.

// Later: Madame Benes did not feel able to fulfil this engagement.

53. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS. Reported that efforts had been made to get a meeting place in Oxford, St. Hilda's having failed us. Holywell Manor (where St. Hugh's College is now working) was the only likely one and it could take us from April 16th to 18th. The accommodation was only 38 beds. It was AGREED to accept Holywell Manor and to leave the Office to arrange details as to fees, etc.

The following programme was AGREED to:

Main Title of SUBJECT: "THE ORGANISATION OF THE WORLD AFTER THE WAR," including what women specially wish to ask from it:

Wednesday, April 16th.

- 5.30 to 6.30 p.m. W.I.L. business.  
8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Regional Post-War Planning, introduced by Dr. Richenda Scott, subject to her consent.

Thursday, April 17th.

- 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. W.I.L. business.  
11.15 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. National Post-War Planning, introduced by Miss Colman, M.A., J.P.  
2.45 p.m. to 4 p.m. International Post-War Planning, Suggested one of the following/speakers:  
Professor Toynbee, Sir William Beveridge,  
Professor Zimmern, Lord Balfour of Burleigh.  
4.15 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. Tea and Conversation, with Miss Harrison speaking on India.  
5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. W.I.L. business.

Friday, April 18th.

- 9.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. W.I.L. business.

It was AGREED to write to the Branches outlining the programme and to suggest that while resolutions are not ruled out, they should be few in number and bearing on the subject under discussion.

54. ANNUAL REPORT The draft Annual Report was read by Mrs. Innes and adopted by the Committee.

55. INDIA. Reported that the letter signed by representative women on the situation in India had been printed in "The Times" of December 30th, which paper had cabled it in full to India. Controversial letters arising out of it had been in "Great Britain and The East" and "The Spectator" on January 17th. Mrs. Harris had dealt with the former and Miss Harrison with the latter.

Miss Harrison reported on important documents which had come out of India to her in a round-about way.

In reporting on the general situation Miss Harrison referred to important documents she had received from India. Miss Harrison agreed to write a leaflet, if she thought wise, which could be sent out as a supplement to the News Sheet.

56. FOOD BLOCKADE. Miss Dickinson, in a letter, suggested that we should say how glad we are that food has been allowed to go to unoccupied France. Miss Pye, in a letter suggested the feeding of expectant mothers and children in unoccupied territories. The Birmingham Branch had asked advice about pressing the Government for a trial of the Hoover Plan re raising the blockade in the Channel Islands, with suitable safeguards.

After discussion it was agreed that the W.I.L. should support the feeding of expectant mothers and children in occupied territories under proper safeguards and to consult Miss Pye as to any action she might advise.

Miss Harrison reported that Prof. Henry Cadbury and another Friend were in this country from America with a scheme to send in food to expectant mothers and children in certain parts of occupied areas, to be administered under control of American Quakers. It was AGREED to suggest to Mr. Paul Sturge the possibility of a short Conference of representatives of different Societies.

Views held by Miss Balch and Gertrud Baer on the blockade were reported.

Reported also the receipt of a letter from unoccupied France, through a friend in Sweden, which spoke of the shortage and hardships there. It was AGREED to send a copy to Mr. Sturge.

AGREED to write to the Birmingham Branch saying that now food has been allowed into unoccupied France the Committee thought for the

moment, support and approval of this line was the best.

57. CORRESPONDENCE. Reported that Manchester Branch had consulted Mrs. Innes about a Statement to the Prime Minister and the Press on the export of war materials to Japan. Mrs. Innes had written approving the Statement.

International Peace Campaign. Reported the winding up of the British National Committee.

Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union. Reported a letter from Dr. Clark saying she could not continue to represent the W.I.L. on the Women's Advisory Council. The appointment of a representative in her place was deferred, but Mrs. Lord consented to attend the next meeting on January 29th.

Leicester W.I.L. Branch. Reported that Mrs. Peach had resigned the Presidency of the Branch as she had left Leicester.

War Resisters' International. Reported the W.R.I. were organising a George Lansbury Memorial Fund Appeal.

It was AGREED to send congratulations to Dr. Gilbert Murray on the recent award of the Order of Merit given him by the Government.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: London, March 5th, 12 noon to 4.30 p.m.

W.I.L. ACCOUNTS FOR DECEMBER, 1940.

Receipts.

EXPENDITURE.

Balance on Nov. 30th.....	105. 7. 7.
Subscriptions.....	2.10.0
Donations.....	19. 4. 6
News Sheets.....	6.17.8
Literature.....	1. 6. 3
Affil. Fees.....	10.11.6
	<u>40. 9. 11</u>

Salaries.....	22.10.0
Office Expenses.....	2. 6. 8
Postage.....	2.13.3½
Insurances.....	8.6
Travelling expenses.....	2.13.9½
News Sheets.....	4. -.-
Telephone.....	5.6
Literature.....	8.6
Stationery.....	2.12.2
N.P.C. Conference Fee.....	3.6
	<u>38. 1.11</u>

Balances:

Bank.....	64. 0. 6
P. Cash.....	3.15. 1
Congress Fund (C.P.B.S.)	

40. -.-

107.15. 7

£145. 17. 6

£145.17. 6

*B. Duncan Harris*

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Meeting of Executive Committee, March 5th, 1941, at 55 Gower Street, London, W.C. 1. from 12 noon to 4.15 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Lord, Miss Haughton, Miss Anderson, Miss Marshall, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Grindley, ~~Mrs. Wood.~~

*B. Scott.*  
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Miss Pye, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Kinnish.

MINUTES OF MEETING on January 27th were signed, having previously been circulated.

58. BUSINESS ARISING: Reported (1) a printed letter of thanks from Dr. Gilbert Murray for congratulations sent him on 29th January, on the award to him of the O.M.

(2) Two good Lunch Meetings were held at Friends House, Euston Road on February 12th when Miss Vera Brittain spoke and on February 26th when Madame Ambrosova was the speaker. About 40 attended each meeting. Arrangements were well in hand for meetings on March 12th and 26th.

59. FINANCE: The appended Statement of Accounts was adopted, together with the Treasurer's Report for the Annual Report.

The "Penny-a-Week" scheme proposed by Miss Dickinson, together with her draft leaflet were considered. It was AGREED to have the material prepared in readiness for launching at the Council. The suggestion that some tin boxes suitably labelled should be on show, was approved. It was AGREED that the idea should be passed on to those Sections still able to carry on their W.I.L. work.

60. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE: It was reported that the Rating Valuer had inspected 55 Gower Street and had informed us that a reduction of rates on empty rooms only could be considered. It was AGREED to offer to the Japan Evangelistic Band:

(1) to store their furniture in the basement so that they could have the advantage of any reduction of rates on their rooms;

(2) to try to let their rooms for the duration, returning them at the end of the war if it ends before the lease runs out in 1944. In the event of a let the rent received would be deducted from their rent accordingly.

On the recommendation of Mrs. Innes it was AGREED to transfer one hundred and sixty pounds from the Co-operative Permanent Building Society to the International House Account in the Midland Bank, to be used during the year to meet expenses in connection with International House, for which receipts would be very much down and expenses considerably increased.

It was AGREED that the Office should be open on Wednesdays each week during the summer and that Miss Horscroft should come to town on that day.

Instructions were given to inform the House Agent of the changes in rooms to be let.

On the suggestion of Miss Anderson it was AGREED to inform Miss Murray of the Church of England Committee for Refugees and Dr. Sanson, Housing Department of the Jewish Refugee Committee, Bloomsbury House, of the premises available for letting, and to say that we should be prepared to consider any offer they cared to make.

61. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS. Reported arrangements were well in hand for the meetings at Holywell Manor, Oxford, April 16th to 18th, but so far a speaker had not been obtained for the session on International Post-War Planning. It was AGREED to invite Mrs. Naftel of the International Co-operative Women's Guild to be the speaker. Failing her, the following were suggested: Prof. Fleure, Prof. Keynes (ask him if he cannot come himself to suggest someone else), G.D.H. Cole, Prof. Zimmern, Mr. T.H. Marshall (Miss Marshall would approach him if necessary, Mr. Balogh.

It was AGREED to have four instead of three reports of the meetings. IT WAS ALSO AGREED to urge delegates to stay the whole time.

Resolutions. AGREED to ask Mrs. McGregor Ross to draft a resolution on Colonies. Mrs. Grindley consented to draft one on the economic pressure being put on women to take part in war work and the necessity for real safeguards for conscientious objection. Miss Pye to be asked for one on the Feeding the Starving Children of Europe. Urgency would be asked for a resolution on India.

62. FOOD BLOCKADE. Reported acknowledgment from Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of our letter of 5th February expressing appreciation of the Government's action in allowing food from America to be sent to unoccupied France.

Reported that on receipt of a letter from Miss Balch re the feeding of the populations in Europe and the bad effect it will have on America if Great Britain refuses to co-operate, a letter was sent by Mrs. Innes to the Manchester Guardian. This was not inserted.

Miss Harrison reported on the visit to this country from America of Dr. Henry Cadbury and Mr. Robert Yarnell in connection with the same subject.

Miss Pye had written an article on the Feeding of Children in Occupied Areas for the March News Sheets. AGREED to have 500 "pull-off" for distribution to other Organisations.

63. NEWS FROM W.I.L.P.F. Letters and messages were reported from U.S.A., New Zealand, Gertrud Baer, Frau Ragaz, and Dr. Bussey, U.S.A., who enclosed a donation of £5 towards Headquarters Funds.

Mrs. Innes reported a suggestion from the Manchester Branch that the American Section might like to show their sympathy in a practical way by sending some sort of financial help for the upkeep of the organisation in London and Manchester. After consideration it was AGREED that, in view of the fact that our American Section is having difficulty to raise funds for its own work, and is thinking of cutting down its own expenses, the suggestion had better not be sent on.

64. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF RECONSTRUCTION. Reported a letter from the International Co-operative Women's Guild proposing the formation of an International Women's Council of Reconstruction to be organised by those International Women's Organisations which have their Headquarters in London at the present time and are able to work together. The I.C.W.G. would be prepared to call a preliminary meeting and to undertake the necessary preparatory work until the Council is actually in being.

The views of the W.I.L. on the proposal were asked for.

The scheme was approved in principle, and several members expressed their desire to attend the preliminary meeting.

65. COMPULSORY EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN INDUSTRY. This was considered and it was AGREED to write to the Ministry of Labour expressing anxiety at the proposed extension of the principle of compulsion to Industry and at the pressure now to be exerted upon women to

participate in war work; and to ask for an assurance that any legislation introduced for this purpose would include a real safeguard for the defence of conscientious objection, applying equally to men and women; and that consideration be given to the many forms of hardship that must arise through the compulsory employment of women, and through the transference of women to war work from peacetime occupations.

66. INDIA. Miss Harrison reported on the present situation in India. She undertook to keep the Branches informed of any action they might usefully take. AGREED that Mrs. Lankester and Miss Harrison be asked to write something for the April News Sheet. Miss Harrison undertook to see Mrs. Lankester about this.

Mrs. Duncan Harris AGREED to act as W.I.L. observer at the forthcoming meeting of the India League.

67. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL STATEMENT OF POLICY ON RECONSTRUCTION. The Committee considered and APPROVED the draft Document N.C. 3927, with the exception of two verbal criticisms, which it was AGREED should be passed on to Gerald Bailey.

68. NEWS SHEET. Mrs. Lord agreed to write a note on what she feels are possibilities of developments of peace work throughout the country, which she sees as an outcome of her experiences at meetings recently.

69. BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE. AGREED to pay the affiliation fee of £1.1.0 due last October, and to inform them that Miss Anderson would act as W.I.L. representative on their general Committee and on their Native Races Committee in place of Mrs. Lankester and Miss Sheepshanks respectively.

70. RESIGNATION OF DR. MAUDE ROYDEN. Reported a letter from Dr. Royden saying that she did "not feel sufficiently in sympathy with the general attitude of the Women's International League to remain a Vice-President or member." AGREED (1) to express regret that she did not feel able to be a little more explicit as to the points of disagreement with our present policy and work; (2) to convey to her great appreciation of her services to the cause of peace; (3) to express the hope that in happier times we may be able to work together again.

71. PROPOSAL TO FORM JUNIOR W.I.L. received from a W.I.L. member. AGREED to ask the advice of Miss B.M. Baker on this proposal.

72. PEACE PLEDGE UNION WOMEN'S SECTION. AGREED to send notices to near London Branches of the Women's Conference on Peace Possibilities at Friends House, Euston Road, N.W. 1. on 22nd March at 2.30 p.m.

73. INTERMENT OF BRITISH WOMAN IN FRANCE. Reported a letter from a woman in Leicester appealing for advice concerning her sister who has lived in France for some years and who found it impossible to get away from Paris when German troops occupied French territory, and who has since been interned. On grounds of ill-health it is urgent that steps should be taken immediately to get her repatriated. After consideration it was AGREED to suggest (1) that full details and any requests should be sent to the International Red Cross, St. James's Square; (2) that the writer's Member of Parliament should be written to, and that she should be told that Quakers in Paris are visiting interned people and that the reports as to treatment, etc. are reassuring.

74. A SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CLUB for men and women of different nationalities now living in London. Reported a letter from Mrs. Spiller asking us to make the proposal to start this club known. Miss Harrison undertook to make inquiries and if necessary to bring the matter before the Committee again.

75. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL. Reported (1) provisional booking of Saturday, May 10th in London for a National Convention on Peace Aims; (2) proposal to hold a Summer Conference at St. Hilda's, Oxford, from July 10th to 14th.

76. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE. Mrs. Brayshaw reported that an organisation of this name was giving considerable trouble to the W.I.L. in Manchester. Mrs. Innes said that London had had similar trouble in the past over this organisation and suggested that the W.I.L. should take every opportunity of making known the fact that it was in no way connected with the new organisation and that steps might be taken to draw attention to the fact that their leaflets were published without the printer's name and address - an illegal procedure.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: April 2nd, 55 Gower Street, 12 noon to 4 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ *B. Drucant Harris*

W.I.L. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, January to February, 1941.

*6. V. 41*

RECEIPTS.

EXPENDITURE.

Balance in hand on

January 1st.....	113. 9. 2
Subscriptions	207.19.0
Donations....	14. 9.0
News Sheets & Literature..	2.16.0
Affiliation Fees.....	4. 9.9
Council Fees...	1.17.6

231.11. 3

Salaries.....	31.10. 0
News Sheets & Literature...	8.11. 6
Postage.....	14.10. 4
Heating (Gower Street).....	7. 5
Meetings at Readings.....	1. 0. 0
Council Meetings, Oxford....	13.11. 1/2
Cleaning Gower Street house	1. 0. 0
Telephone(Gower Street) "	2. 3. 2
Stationery.....	15. 3. 1/2
Office Expenses.....	7.12. 4
Travelling Expenses.....	11. 0
Insurances.....	8. 5
Press Cuttings.....	2. 2. 0
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	71. 5. 4 1/2

Balances:-

Loan to Inter. House.	5.13.7
Bank.....	208.12.10
Congress Fund (C.P.B.Soc.)	42. 0.0
Petty Cash.....	17. 8.7 1/2

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273.15. 0 1/2

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£345. 0. 5

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£345. 0. 5



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, April 2nd, 1941, at 55 Gower Street, London, W.C. 1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Miss Harrison, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Lord, Dr. Scott, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Wood. Visitor: Mrs. Misar.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Longson, Miss Pye.

MINUTES of meeting on March 5th were confirmed, having previously been circulated.

77. BUSINESS ARISING: Reported successful Lunch Meetings on March 12th, when Dr. Rita Hinden spoke on "War Hits the Colonies": and on March 26th when Miss Kumarangelan spoke on "The Part played by Women in the National Movement."

Further Lunch Meetings were arranged for April 23rd when Mrs. Lothian Small would speak on "The Feeding of Children in Europe," and May 14th, when Dr. Friedrich Hertz would speak on "Central Europe and Post-War Reconstruction."

Travelling expenses of two speakers had to be paid.

Agreed to send notices of future meetings to New Statesman, etc.

Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that she had had a talk with Mrs. Naftel and Frau Freundlich on the proposed International Women's Council of Reconstruction. They had told her that most of the Women's International Organisations who had been approached had replied that they were attached to the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations and that they thought the proposal should be brought before that Committee. The proposal had, therefore, been put before the Liaison Committee and the International Co-operative Women's Guild had been invited to become members of it. Subject to the consent of the national sections membership would be accepted and it was hoped that the Women's Council of Reconstruction would be worked through the Liaison Committee.

Mrs. Misar, as a member of the Liaison Committee on behalf of the W.I.L.P.F. had also talked over the scheme with Mrs. Naftel and Frau Freundlich. She expressed the wish that a second W.I.L.P.F. representative should be appointed on to the Liaison Committee.

Miss Harrison, who was a member of the Liaison Committee on behalf of the World Y.W.C.A. commented on the fact that the tendency was for the Committee to be too British at the present time. War conditions and the fact that the meetings were held in London made this inevitable.

Mrs. Innes, as International Joint Chairman of the W.I.L.P.F. agreed to consult Gertrud Baer and Frau Ragaz on the matter. In the meantime she agreed to attend the next meeting of the Liaison Committee on April 28th, if she found it possible.

Miss B.M. Baker had replied to our letter asking for advice to the effect that she saw many snags in the formation of a Junior W.I.L. but she assumed it would be discussed at the Annual Council Meetings. Miss Baker would be attending the Council. It was agreed to defer the matter until she had been consulted at Oxford.

Miss Harrison reported nothing definite had yet been done about the proposed Social and Cultural Club in London. Mrs. Spiller expects to have a house given for the purpose and hopes to get 1,000 members subscribing £1.1.0 each. Miss Dickinson said she was going to the preliminary Lunch. She was asked to bring a report to the next Executive.

Reported that the letter drafted by Mrs. Grindley on the Compulsory Employment of Women in Industry, had been sent to the Minister of Labour, as follows:-

"I was asked to express in writing to you, the deep anxiety which is felt by all the members, at the proposed extension of the principle of compulsion to industry, and at the pressure which is now to be exerted upon women to participate in war work.

The Committee would be relieved to have an assurance from you that any legislation introduced for this purpose will include a real safeguard for the defence of conscientious objection, applying equally to men and women; and that due consideration will be given to the many special forms of hardship that must inevitably arise through the compulsory employment of women, and through the transference of women to war work from their peace-time occupations. Yours faithfully,

(Signed) K.E.Innes, Hon. Secretary."

Mr. Bevin, in reply said:"it is intended to give as full consideration as possible to the individual circumstances of persons registered under the scheme; but as the Registration for Employment Order has not yet been made, it is regretted that its details cannot be furnished at this stage. It is, however, expected that a public announcement will be made later on the subject."

Since his reply he had announced that he would not allow any conscientious objections to civilian work.

Mrs. Grindley agreed to draft a further letter to Mr. Bevin and his Women Advisors.

Reported from Miss Ball a letter of thanks for the information re Internment of British woman in France, sent by the Committee.

78. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS. The Agenda was considered. Reported Mrs. Naftel had consented to open the discussion on International Post-War Planning on Thursday, 17th April. Oxford members were being invited to the tea and social hour on Thursday, 17th April from 4 to 5.15 and Frau Hertzka had been asked to be hostess.

Resolution 8. Extension of Principle of Compulsion to Industry. Mrs. Grindley agreed to move this, probably in an amended form, on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Resolution 9. India. Miss Harrison would be prepared to move an urgency resolution.

Resolution 10. Colonies. Miss Anderson agreed to move this on behalf of the Executive. Agreed to accept paragraph 4 of Manchester's amendment.

Agreed to ask Miss Pye for resolution on the Food Blockade.

Agreed to ask the following to act as Reporters of Proceedings:

Miss E.Smith, (Cambridge Branch).

Miss Haughton (Welwyn Garden City Branch & Executive).

Mrs. Brayshaw (Manchester Branch and Executive).

Mrs. Greenwood (Brighton Branch and Executive).

Press. Agreed to ask Miss Isitt, Manchester Guardian and Miss Lovell (Christian Science Monitor) whether they knew of anyone in Oxford who would send them a summary of the proceedings, or if they could suggest how we might secure publicity.

Agreed that the May News Sheet should be compiled from the Report of Proceedings

Agreed to invite Miss Gill to attend the meetings.

Special Executive Committee to be held on April 16th at 4.30 p.m. at Holywell Manor.

79. FINANCE. The Statement of Accounts for March was adopted.

80. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE. Reported that no reply had been received from the Rating Valuer to our letter asking for a reduction of rates on five empty rooms. Agreed not to pay the rates when they fall due until a reply had been received.

Mrs. Wood agreed to draft a letter to the Duke of Bedford asking for a reduction of rent.

81. INDIA. The situation in India was reviewed at length. Miss Harrison reported the Conference of Moderate Leaders that had taken place in Bombay on March 14th - the object of which had been to intensify the war effort and to suggest ways of ending the deadlock. The resolutions from this were now before the Viceroy and Secretary of State and provided an opportunity for fresh discussion by all the parties concerned in India. Miss Harrison said that the Women's Advisory Council on Indian Questions (which in 1931 the India Committee of the W.I.L. had been largely responsible for bringing into being) had decided to meet in view of the urgency of the situation; the India League was forming Campaign Committees in different parts of the country; the Peace Committee of the Society of Friends was paying special attention to India; the India Conciliation Group was in constant session. She urged that Branches and members should keep in touch with these various efforts when possible. News was now coming through about the All India Women's Conference, particulars of this would be found in the Bulletin issued by the Liaison Committee.

It was decided to ask leave for an urgency resolution at the Council Meetings as the situation might change from day to day. Miss Harrison said that India would come before the House during the latter part of the month; she was asked to draft something that could be sent to the Branches for the guidance of members in approaching their M.Ps.

82. ITALIAN WOMEN IN ABYSSINIA. Miss Haughton reported that the Welwyn Garden City Branch were concerned about the position of Italian Women in Abyssinia and asked if any action could be usefully taken. Miss Anderson said that the Save the Children Fund had written to the Abyssinian Association. Agreed to ask Lady Barton if she felt she could give us any guidance about our taking action.

83. The following letters and enclosures were reported:-

Liaison Committee of Organisations in favour of World Government, which had been set up for the purpose of co-ordinating the efforts of voluntary societies and groups advocating and working for international union in order to advance their common aim of federalism.

Parliament Christian (The People's Common Law Parliament) has launched a World Referendum to unite the people of Great Britain and other countries behind a Crusade to establish fundamental principles of human rights (as Supreme over-riding Common Laws).

Miss Stanley Alder on "World Union."

All these contained proposals for reconstruction after the war. Agreed to watch development of these movements but take no action at present.

84. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL. Agreed to ask Mrs. Kinnish to make a point of attending the meeting of the Council on 17th April, if possible, as other W.I.L. representatives would be at Oxford.

85. NEWS SHEET. Agreed to ask Mrs. Rudinger for an article on the Freedom of Human Personality and the Development of the Machine.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING, April 16th, 4.30, Holywell Manor, Oxford.

B. to Susan Harris

6. V. 41

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Meeting on May 6th, 1941, at The Westway Hotel, 20 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C. 1. from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris, Mrs. Castle, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Lord, Dr. Scott, Visitor: Mrs. Tutschova.

MRS INNES, acting Chairman, asked for nominations for the Chairman for the year. Miss Harrison proposed and Miss Dickinson seconded that Mrs. Duncan Harris be Chairman. Unanimously agreed to.

MRS. DUNCAN HARRIS took the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Miss Haughton, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Garside, Miss Pye, Mrs. Prichard, Frau Misar. \* *Mrs. Miss Susan Wood*

A letter from Miss Rinder was reported saying how much she regretted severing a connection which has been so very pleasant and helpful to her, and assuring the Committee of her interest in the W.I.L. and her readiness to help whenever possible. Ill-health and pressure of work make it impossible for her to get to London. AGREED a letter of sympathy be sent to Miss Rinder.

AGREED to try to get a letter to Miss Jowitt in Syria.

MINUTES OF MEETING on April 2nd were signed.

86. BUSINESS ARISING: Lunch Meetings. Reported that owing to damage to Friends House on April 16th the Lunch Meeting on April 23rd was held at The Westway Hotel, with Mrs. Small of the Save the Children Fund as speaker. Dr. Friedrich Hertz was addressing another meeting on May 12th on Central Europe.

Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations. Reported that Mrs. Innes found it impossible to attend the meetings of this Committee and Mrs. Lord had agreed to go on behalf of the W.I.L.P.F. There had been much discussion over a draft Statement presented and Mrs. Lord had put forward the W.I.L. point of view, Mrs. Misar, the officially appointed representative of the W.I.L.P.F. not being present. Mrs. Lord undertook to represent the W.I.L.P.F. Madame Ragaz and Miss Baer had been informed of her willingness to serve, subject to their approval. There had not been time for a reply. AGREED to ask Miss Zimmern to send reports to Miss Baer.

Junior W.I.L. Mrs. Innes reported that there had not been time for the Council to discuss the formation of a Junior W.I.L. It was AGREED to leave the question for the time being.

Social and Cultural Club in London. Miss Dickinson reported on this. It was AGREED to take no action but Miss Dickinson undertook to keep the Committee informed of developments.

Compulsory Employment of Women in Industry. Reported that Mrs. Grindley had drafted and Mrs. Innes sent a second letter to The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P., Minister of Labour on 30th April, expressing disappointment at the nature of his reply, which failed to meet the points raised in our letter of 7th March. The letter also stated that the Committee was of the opinion that due consideration had not been given to the social consequences or to the special forms of hardship that must result through the employment of women who accept compulsion. It regretted that no provision had been made for the defence of Conscientious Objection.

Reported a letter from Miss Sutherland, Chief Woman Officer of the Labour Party, saying she understood that it was the intention of the Ministry of Labour to avoid compulsion in the case of women who may have conscientious objections to entering munitions work, and in

every case suitable alternative employment would be suggested to them when the interviews took place.

Glasgow W.I.L. had sent letters to Mrs. Hardie, M.P., Mr. Bevin and Mr. Morrison on similar lines to Mrs. Innes's letter. The Branch is watching the situation closely.

AGREED that a note should be put into the News Sheet informing Women C.Os that they should state their position in writing to the Manager of their Labour Exchange and that the Central Board of Conscientious Objectors, 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C. 1. would give advice about registration.

Annual Council Meetings. Formal acknowledgments of resolutions were reported. The Manchester Guardian and another Manchester paper had given good publicity, for which a letter of thanks had been sent to Mr. Loveridge, the Reporter. The Cheltenham News had also reported the meetings. Letters of thanks for the Message from the Council were reported from Mrs. Muter Wilson and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

A letter was reported from Miss Pye expressing great grief that the W.I.L. had amended her resolution so as to weaken it and regretting it could not stand for the principle of taking care of the children in all the occupied countries. She did not feel that the resolution, as passed, was of any value.

Mrs. Innes was asked to write to Miss Pye on the matter and express the hope that she would bring up the question at a future meeting of the Committee. In the meantime it was suggested that efforts should be made to find out if food has gone into occupied territory.

Italian Women in Abyssinia. Reported Lady Barton had written on 7th April saying she thought all possible precautions would be taken to prevent unfortunate incidents occurring with regard to Italian women and children in Abyssinia. The Emperor had issued a Proclamation on the subject which was shed in thousands all over Ethiopia by British planes. A copy of the Proclamation was enclosed. AGREED to ask Lady Barton if we could make use of her letter and the Proclamation in the News Sheet.

Reported a note of thanks from Mrs. Longson and her family for letter sent her on the death of her husband.

Reported letter of thanks and appreciation from Miss Clugston at being re-appointed Auditor, and expressing sympathy with the Committee in the loss of 55 Gower Street.

FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts was passed.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE. Mrs. Harris reported that on the 16th April 55 Gower Street was probably irreparably damaged by blast during an air-raid. Windows and frames were blown out, the front door blown right off, other doors were damaged, ceilings were down, roof badly damaged. The basement had received least damage, and with the permission of the Bedford Estate most of our office furniture had been put down there, with the help of Miss Gill and Miss Ruth Harrison. Our own builder had put up a light weather-protection to the basement windows and a heavy padlock to the inner front door. We had, on Mr. Barrs Davies's advice, repudiated our lease, but the Bedford Estate had refused to make any statement until their Surveyor had given them a report. We had also applied to the Holborn Borough Council for release from the payment of rates. We should get a reduction up to the 16th April for the empty rooms on the second and third floors. Dr. Clark, as co-Trustee of the House had been informed.

The Japan Evangelistic Band were removing their furniture on the 12th May and had paid their rent up to the 16th April.

AGREED that if repudiation of our lease was refused we should consult Mr. Barrs Davies.

AGREED to send letters of thanks to Miss Gill and Miss Harrison.

Mrs. Duncan Harris said that she had placed in her Bank at Croydon the ivory elephant which Mr. Boyce Coombes had given to Miss Horscroft for keeping in the safe last September. Two other pieces of furniture of his were left with the W.I.L. AGREED to ask him what he wished done with them.

Future Meeting place. Mrs. Harris said she felt the need of a place for the W.I.L. in London. Miss Dickinson reported that she had made tentative inquiries of the London Regional Federation, 32 Fitzroy Square, W. 1. to see if they could house our furniture and possibly lend a Committee room for meetings once a month and for other meetings, and occasional Office use as required. Mrs. Innes was asked to follow this up with further inquiries and to ask if it would be possible to hold our next Executive Committee there on Wednesday, June 4th. The Committee expressed its thanks to Miss Dickinson for the action she had taken.

89. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. Letters and postcard were reported from friends from abroad. Gertrud Baer was very anxious to get a statement on the social changes taking place in Great Britain. Dr. Scott undertook to write to G.B.

Mrs. Duncan Harris put before the Committee the 10 Clauses of the Exploratory Peace Terms published in the Japan Times and Advertiser of April 29th (quoted in "The Times" of April 30th). She expressed the wish to examine these points at the next Committee and hoped that the ten clauses would be duplicated<sup>and</sup> sent to members of the Executive with the suggestion that they should come to the meeting prepared to take part in the discussion. Mrs. Harris agreed to open the discussion. She thought alternative proposals might be put forward on this side which would meet real needs for world reconstruction as revealed in the Terms. AGREED this should come before the June Committee.

90 INDIA. Miss Harrison reported the debate on India in the House on April 22nd. This had disappointed those who were looking for some forward move on the part of the Government. The reaction in India to this had been grave. She urged that the W.I.L. should persist in their efforts to break the present deadlock.

Miss Harrison reported that two important pamphlets on India were being issued by the Peace Committee of the Society of Friends. She urged that these should be secured and given the widest publicity.

91. NEWS SHEET. Reported that Miss Pye's article in the March News Sheet on the Feeding of Children in Occupied Areas was being made known through the Medium of "The Woman Teacher."

AGREED to reprint the W.I.L. Council Statement as a leaflet.

Mrs. Rudiner had sent her article on "The Freedom of Human Personality and the Development of the Machine for the June N.S.

The article by Mrs. Lankester on the All India Women's Conference would appear in the next issue.

92. CZECH W.I.L. REFUGEES. AGREED to ask Miss Baker to try to arrange for members to meet the Executive at tea at the July Meeting.

93. CORRESPONDENCE. Reported further documents from Robert Urie on "World Government." Before taking any action it was AGREED to

consult Mr. Gerald Bailey, and Mrs. Castle said she would make inquiries in Reading.

Reported that the National Peace Council had issued a Report of a meeting of the Peace Aims Conference on March 13th. Price 5d. post free.

A further Conference is to be held at Oxford from July 11th to 14th. Mrs. Kinnish, Miss Harrison and Mrs. Duncan Harris hope to attend.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: June 4th, 12 noon to 4 p.m. London.

*B. Duncan Harris*  
4. VI. 41

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, January to April, 1941..

RECEIPTS.

EXPENDITURE.

Balance on 1st Jan.....	113.9.2	Salaries.....	67. 10.-
Subscriptions	270.15.8	Postage.....	28. 9.4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Donations....	31.10.8	Office Expenses.....	18. 3.2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
News Sheets...	7.11.7	News Sheets & Literature...	17. 19.-
Income Tax....	7.14.-	Telephone (55 Gower St.)....	2. 17.6
Affiliation		Stationery.....	5. 16.7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Fees.....	6.11.3	Travelling Expenses.....	12. 12.2
Council Meet-		Audit.....	7. 7.-
ings....	61.17.9	Income Tax.....	5. 15.6
Lunch Meetings	2.19.8	Affiliation Fees.....	3. 3.-
		Insurances.....	1. 1.2
	389.-.7	Meetings:-	
		Executive at Reading.....	1. -.-
		Council Meetings.....	51. 8.2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
		Luncheons.....	4. 2.8
		Press Cuttings.....	2. 2.-
		Lighting & Heating at	
		55 Gower Street.....	1. 6.9
			230. 14.1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
		Balances:-	
		Bank on April 4th	
		169.15.10	
		To be banked	6. 4.11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
		Cash in hand.	2.12. 3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
		C.P.B.Soc.....	42. -.-
		Loan to Inter-	
		national Hse..	51. 2. 6
			271. 15.7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
	<u>£502. 9.9</u>		<u>£502. 9.9</u>

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee held on 4th June, 1941, at the Office of the London Regional Federation, League of Nations Union, 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Miss Dickinson, Miss Pye, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Harrison, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Brayshaw, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Kinnish. Visitors: Mrs. McGregor Ross, Mrs. Misar.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Dr. Scott, Mrs. Prichard.

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

94. BUSINESS ARISING: Reported that the Minutes of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations would in future be sent to Gertrud Baer and to Mrs. Innes, as Joint-Chairmen of the W.I.L.P.F. Mrs. Innes had written to Mrs. Misar, the W.I.L.P.F. representative on the Liaison Committee, to say that while the advice of the British Section was welcomed, Mrs. Innes, as International Chairman in this country, must take the responsibility for decisions reached. Mrs. Lord, who had attended the last Liaison Committee on behalf of the W.I.L.P.F. reported she had voted against the Draft Statement protesting against disregard of International Law and of Dictates of Humanity as she did not believe the aggression was one-sided. Mrs. Innes had written to her in support of her action.

It was also reported that the Liaison Committee suggested that each Organisation should send in proposals for Reconstruction. Mrs. Misar suggested that group meetings of different nationalities in this country should be held to find out what women are thinking. Miss Pye suggested a group of French women should be asked to meet British women.

With regard to the Statement of the International Women's Co-operative Guild, it was AGREED to invite Mrs. Emmy Freundlich to meet the Executive Committee on July 2nd from 2 to 4 to discuss the I.W.C.G. plans for reconstruction.

Mrs. Innes reported that Gertrud Baer approved the appointment of Mrs. Lord as a second W.I.L.P.F. representative on the Liaison Committee. We had not yet received a reply from Frau Ragaz.

On the proposal of Mrs. Innes it was AGREED to pay the travelling expenses of the two W.I.L.P.F. delegates to the Liaison Committee from British Section's Funds, the International Funds not being readily available, - the W.I.L. reserving to itself the right to claim a refund at the close of hostilities.

The Committee expressed its pleasure at having Miss Pye with them again. Miss Pye, in thanking the Committee for their welcome to her, said she was afraid she could not give much time to W.I.L. work, but she was helping to support W.I.L. principles in other directions.

With regard to Robert Urie and his scheme for "World Government", Gerald Bailey had replied to our request for information that at the beginning the Liaison Committee had been intended simply for groups and organisations committed to the idea of "world government" in a rather specific sense - organisations which had accepted the federal principle but took rather different views as to the way in which the principle could best be worked out. The N.P.C. had not affiliated because it was itself a federation, which was only loosely committed to the federal idea. He considered that the term "world government" is being so widely interpreted as to lessen the justification for the Committee and to involve it in a serious overlapping with a more general federation.

Mrs. Castle had obtained information from Mr. Slater, who sent her a draft of the constitution of the Committee. He said there is no question of any movement being organised and at the present moment its activities are rightly confined to monthly meetings at which



representatives of the Associated bodies attend.

After discussion, it was AGREED to thank Mr. Urie for his invitation to send a representative to his Liaison Committee, but to say that under present circumstances we do not feel we can multiply our activities and that, being affiliated to the N.P.C. we feel we must devote our time and energies to helping it to be as effective as possible.

Reported a request from Mr. Caradog Jones of the Social Science Department of the University of Liverpool, for support of his proposal for a European Court of Equity. After discussion it was AGREED to reply that while we are glad to know of groups working in different ways for the same end, the W.I.L. being a women's body with definite objects, must devote its energies to furthering those objects, and that at the present time we do not feel able to extend support officially to other Movements except those with which we are already affiliated.

Reported that the Penny-a-Week Fund Promise Slips were daily being received and the scheme promised to be a successful one. It was AGREED to keep it to the forefront and to ask our Affiliated Societies to bring it before their members.

95. FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts was adopted. It was reported that the Cambridge Branch had sent a donation of £8 to Headquarters, plus £1.1.0 towards the Penny-a-Week Fund. a letter of appreciation had been sent to the Branch.

96. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE. Reported that a letter from the Steward of the Bedford Office, dated May 15th, had been received saying he was prepared to accept our letter of the 22nd April as a Notice of Disclaimer of our Lease of the premises at 55 Gower Street. He had asked for the receipt of the keys of the house. Since then permission had been granted to allow the Office furniture to remain in the basement for a reasonable time until other arrangements could be made for housing it. Should, however, the Holborn Borough Council charge Bedford Office rates on the basement because of the furniture being stored there, would the Executive Committee be prepared to refund them? It was AGREED to write to the Bedford Office saying we think they are under a misapprehension about the rates being charged on uninhabitable houses, even though the furniture remains. It was AGREED to try to get accommodation in a safer area for the furniture. Mrs. Innes thought it might be possible to get a shed near Andover for a small rent. Members of the Committee were asked to look around in case this proved unobtainable or unsuitable.

AGREED to make inquiries about insuring the Office furniture against enemy action.

Reported that the Holborn Borough Council had sent us a cheque for £14.14.2, being a refund of advanced rates for the empty portion of the house from 15th November, 1940. The rates amounting to £2.12.2d had been paid for the Basement, Ground Floor and first floor up to the 16th April, 1941.

Reported that no reply had been received from Mr. Boyce Coombes about his furniture and the ivory elephant. AGREED to send a copy of our letter by registered post.

Mrs. Harris reported that, with the Officers' approval, the coal left in the cellar had been given to the Indian Hostel, for which gift a letter of warm thanks had been received. The reason for giving the coal away was that the cellar door had been blasted open and the coal was exposed to any unauthorised person who chose to come and take it.

97. FOOD BLOCKADE. Miss Pye expressed her great regret that the Council had not seen its way to adopting the resolution she had put forward, and much regretted that she had been unable to be present to speak to it. She said we must realise that we are cutting across strong currents in America if we refuse to recognise the situation on the Continent. In Poland, where help is still being given as regards food, there is a deliberate attempt to reduce the whole population; nothing is known as to what is happening in Norway; in Belgium the

*a query was raised as to whether the results were as good as had been hoped.*

-3-

need is very great, the situation there being similar to Austria in 1918; not much is known about Denmark. As a principle it seemed to her dreadful to be acquiescing in the starvation of the whole civilian populations. It was clear from discussion that there had been misunderstanding of the purpose of the resolution in Miss Pye's absence. *She had meant by the resolution to establish a*

Miss Pye agreed to watch the situation and advise the Committee if an opportunity occurred to take action.

98. EXPLORATORY PEACE TERMS, published in the 'Japan Times and Advertiser' of April 29th and quoted in "The Times" of April 30th, were discussed at some length but no action was agreed upon.

99. RECONSTRUCTION AFTER THE WAR. Mrs. Duncan Harris drew attention to the speech made by Mr. Anthony Eden at the Mansion House on May 29th in which he made suggestions for rebuilding the world after the war. She would like a letter of appreciation sent to him from the Committee. It was AGREED to send a letter of appreciation and say that the Committee felt that a declaration of the aims of the British Government is in itself a contribution which may bring nearer the day of peace, and that before long we hoped he would find opportunity to elucidate and amplify some of the points he made.

AGREED to ask our U.S.A. Section if they would send us their ideas on world reconstruction.

On the recommendation of the Manchester Branch it was AGREED to send a letter to Lord Reith, Minister of Works, expressing surprise and regret that only one woman should have been appointed on to the Consultative Panel for Reconstruction in this country, and urging that in the rebuilding of homes women should have a much fuller share in any consultation than was provided for.

Attention was drawn to the Statement of Basic Principles for Post-War Europe agreed upon at a Conference in Manchester of Delegates from sixteen organisations on May 24th. AGREED that this Statement should be brought to the notice of Branches and members through the July News Sheet, with the suggestion that Branches might gather together representatives from other Societies likely to be interested, to try to draw up a similar programme.

100. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON COLONIES. On the proposal of Miss Moss Anderson, it was AGREED to appoint the following, subject to their consent, on to a W.I.L. Committee on Colonies:- Mrs. Ross, Mrs. James of Welwyn Garden City, Miss B.M. Baker and Miss Anderson. Mrs. Ross was asked to convene the Committee. Miss Anderson thought the time was ripe for an occasional Weekend School or Conference as well as Committee Meetings. The Fabian Colonial Bureau was organising a meeting at Peter's Hall, Oxford, July 19th/20th to which Mrs. Ross and Miss Anderson hoped to go. It was suggested that Mrs. James and a member from Manchester might be free to attend if the finances would allow part expenses being paid. AGREED to invite them.

Mrs. Ross reported that the new Colonial Development and Welfare Fund has been granted five million pounds, without restriction, for spending on educational work, housing, agricultural reform, prevention of soil erosion, etc. About one million of it would be spent on the West Indies this year, the remaining four million to be divided between the other Colonies. On the recommendation of Mrs. Ross it was AGREED to send a letter to the Colonial Office urging co-operation of the native peoples should be secured in the planning and spending of the money.

101. INDIA. In reporting on India Miss Harrison said the main thing to consider at the moment is the question of political prisoners in India. The Howard League for Penal Reform is already active on prison reform in India, and is in particular thinking of a deputation

*Principle: not to be*

to the Secretary of State for India. AGREED to send a letter to the Howard League supporting their efforts on this matter. MISS Harrison AGREED to write a summary of her report for the July News Sheet.

102. PROBLEMS OF RETALIATION. Birmingham and Brighton Branches had asked the Committee to consider making a protest against night bombing and any attempt to institute reprisals. They were much concerned at the effects these were having on the minds of the people. After discussion Miss Anderson was asked to draft a letter to the Press, expressing concern at the blunting of people's sensitiveness and the lowering of the standard of right and wrong. AGREED to inform our correspondents on the subject, which included Miss Ruth Fry, of the action we proposed taking.

103. ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD. Reported an invitation to send visitors to open sessions of their Annual Meeting on July 12th and 13th. Miss Dickinson AGREED to attend the afternoon meeting on the 13th when Mr. McDougall would be speaking on "Feeding the Post-War World," and to bring back a report to the next Executive.

104. PUBLICITY COMMITTEE AND JULY NEWS SHEET. Reported that the new membership form is now ready.

Mrs. Innes reported she thought she now had sufficient material for the July News Sheet. She agreed to read a pamphlet "Nazi Infiltration in Ibero-America" with a view to commenting on it in the News Sheet, if she found space.

105. CORRESPONDENCE. Reported:-

(1) A letter from our Australian Section saying there was an awakening consciousness in Australia of the importance of the U.S.A. as a factor in events on their side of the globe, the significant official sign being the appointment of an Australian Legation in Washington; the direct interchange of resident Ministers between Australia and Japan is also something new.

(2) A letter from an Australian member, Mrs. Bennett, enclosing the Annual Report of the United Aborigines' Mission and asking if we could demand education for every child within the British Empire. Mrs. Innes had sent a letter of thanks and an expression of interest in her activities among the Aborigines, but explained that, though we agreed with the need for general education, we in this country, could not make laws for the Dominions.

(3) letters from Gertrud Baer and Thora D. Mrs. Innes was putting news from the latter in the July News Sheet.

106. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL Conference, July 11/13th, Oxford. Mrs. Kinnish regretted that she would be unable to attend the meeting owing to financial circumstances. The Chairman thought it would be useful if Mrs. Kinnish could attend, and suggested that as the Treasurer had left, some agreement should be come to if the finances would allow it. AGREED Mrs. Harris and Miss Harrison were planning to go.

2/ 107. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES. Miss Harrison and Mrs. Kinnish would be attending the meeting on June 7th.

108. FUTURE MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE AND OTHER OCCASIONAL MEETINGS. AGREED to ask the London Regional Federation of the L.N.U. if it would allow us the use of their large room for future Committee Meetings and the small room for occasional meetings and for any office work that may need to be done from time to time, the W.I.L. being prepared to pay for the fixing of a gas fire in the latter room, - and what the charges would be.

108. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Wednesday, July 2nd, 12 noon to 4 p.m.  
at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS.

*B. Duncan Harris*

2.VII.41

Statement of Accounts for May, 1941 (Approximate)

RECEIPTS

EXPENDITURE

Balance on 30th April	271.15.7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Subscriptions	4. 0. 0
Donations....	9.17. 0
News Sheets..	10.10. 9
Literature...	1.11. 2
Affil. Fees..	18. 0
Penny-a-Week	4.17.11
	<hr/>
	31.14.10

Salaries.....	25.10.0
Income Tax on Salary.....	7.11
Lighting at Gower Street....	1. 3.4
Cleaning at ".....	14.4
Telephone at ".....	11.6
News Sheets.....	4.11.6
Stationery.....	17.10
Postage.....	4. 7.9
Office Expenses.....	2.15.6
Insurances.....	10.1
Fares.....	4. -.2
Literature.....	3.8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Meetings.....	5.6
Affiliation Fees.....	5.0
	<hr/>
	46. 4.1 $\frac{1}{2}$

Balances:-

Bank.....	195.5.4
Cash in hand..	10.12. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Petty Cash.....	5. 9. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
C.P.B.S.....	46. 0. 0
	<hr/>
	257. 6. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
	<hr/>
	£303.10. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$

	257. 6. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
	<hr/>
	£303.10.5 $\frac{1}{4}$

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, July 2nd, 1941, at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1. from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Castle, Miss Dickinson, Miss Anderson, Miss Baker, Miss Harrison, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. McGregor Wood. Visitors: Mrs. ~~Franklin~~ and Mrs. Phillips.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Pye, Dr. Scott.

A letter was received from Mrs. Ross, who had been invited to attend, and as she was unable this time, decided to co-opt her, subject to her consent.

Dr. Richenda Scott has accepted the Secretaryship of a Group of Economists and Sociologists working on problems of post-war colonial reconstruction for the Government under the direction of Miss Margery Perham and the auspices of Nuffield College. This will occupy her for 21 months and she, therefore, offered her resignation. Decided to ask her to let her name remain on the Committee unless a vacancy were required, and to congratulate her heartily on her appointment.

Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that Mrs. Misar has taken a joint post with her husband as an experiment for the time being and if it continued would probably not be able to come as a visitor to the Executive in future. Mrs. Innes was asked to write to her and express the hope that she would attend when possible.

MINUTES of meeting on June 4th were signed, having previously been circulated, after the addition in Minute 94 (page 3, first paragraph) after "absence" of the sentence "She had meant by the resolution to establish a principle, not to initiate immediate action."

*Minute on Perry's vote had revised and decided.*

109. BUSINESS ARISING: In reply to our letter of 6th June, acknowledgment and appreciation were received from Mr. Eden's Private Secretary, on his behalf.

In reply to our letter of June 6th, a detailed reply had been received from the Private Secretary of Lord Reith and is appearing in the July News Sheet.

Future meetings of Executive. Reported that arrangements had been made with the very kind co-operation of the London Regional Federation, L.N.U., to allow us to rent the big room for our Executive meetings and a small room for any smaller meetings as required for 5/- per room for the full day and 2/6d for part day for use of smaller room. Mrs. Innes was asked to express our gratitude to the L.R.F. and to record on the Minutes a vote of thanks to Miss Dickinson for her help in the matter.

Reported the letter decided on at last Executive on the Problems of Retaliation and the blinding of sensibility, had been sent to the press but had not appeared in any paper as far as is known. Decided to send a copy of the letter to Branches to see if they could get it into the local press. It had been sent to Ruth Fry, who expressed appreciation of our effort. Glasgow Branch had passed a resolution supporting the Bishop of Chichester's proposal on the Abolition of Night Bombing, and calling on the Government to be willing to consider any opening for peace or an early armistice. This had been sent to the Prime Minister and others.

Reported a letter had been sent to Lord Moyne on the Grant under the Colonial and Development Welfare Act (an acknowledgment has since been received).

Reported a letter from Miss Ellen Wilkinson enclosing a letter from the War Office giving the final details of the judgments in the Court Martial after the official inquiry about assaults on C.Os at Dingle Vale School.

110. FINANCE. Mrs. Wood reported that our balance in hand, after deducting ear-marked money, was about £150. Decided to leave the matter of any Autumn appeal over for the present, certain heavy expenses in connection with our evacuation having now been paid.

Reported subscribers to the Penny-a-Week Fund were still sending in the slips, though not in great numbers, and amounts received already amounted to over nine pounds.

Reading Branch had sent a contribution of £2 to the General Fund, for which gratitude was expressed.

111. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE. Reported that Pickfords were removing the Office furniture to a garage at 115 Handside Lane, Welwyn Garden City, on July 3rd, for six pounds. The garage was owned by one of our members, Miss Ward. 4/6d per week would be charged for its use.

All responsibility for 55 Gower Street was now at an end.

112. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that in the Report of Mr. Eden's speech in the Chatham House Bulletin his reference to Disarmament was omitted. Decided to ask the N.P.C. if they could supply the cutting (? in a Birmingham paper) in which this sentence was included, and give details of the occasion of the speech and then to write to Philip Noel Baker pointing out the frequent omission of this sentence and expressing the hope that the White Paper which is to be issued, will include it.

Lunch Hour Meetings. Mrs. Duncan Harris proposed that we should try to arrange a series of Lunch Hour Meetings on Population Problems beginning in September. AGREED, and suggested also an article might be put in the News Sheet, on the subject, and that Branches should be asked to send in the names of possible speakers and writers on this and other interesting subjects who might now be in their area. Mrs. Barbara Wootton would speak on "Peoples, Races And Frontiers" on September 17th.

Colonies. Miss Anderson reported she is hoping to go to the Fabian Conference at Oxford but that Mrs. McGregor Ross is not able. Mrs. Phillips was uncertain whether a Manchester member was going. Mrs. Innes was asked to write and ascertain whether one would attend and if expense was the difficulty, what assistance would make the attendance possible.

India. Miss Harrison reported that a cable had come from the All India Women's Conference to our Vice-President, Miss Vera Brittain, cordially inviting her to come to the December Conference. The Liaison Group that co-operates with this Conference had this matter in hand and it was hoped that Miss Brittain would be able to attend. In view of this probable visit, Miss Harrison felt Miss Brittain could discuss in detail the position of the W.I.L. in regard to the cable received from the Indian women. Meanwhile a letter should go to them in reply, that Miss Harrison was asked to draft.

The position in India remains the same; the second Conference of Moderate Leaders is to take place during July. Growing attention is being paid to the deadlock, particularly by Peace Organisations and Missionary Societies. Miss Harrison spoke of the large delegate conference on August 10th arranged by the India League; she said she hoped we might be able to send delegates to this.

U.S.A. Reported a Questionnaire had been received from our U.S.A. Section asking "How can the U.S.A. help the Democracies." Decided to send this to the Executive and to Branches asking them to pay attention to the very exacting questions raised and to send the replies worked out to Mrs. Innes. It is hoped to send a considered reply to the U.S.A. Decided also to send the Inquiry to Miss Freda White, Mrs. Hamilton and in any other directions which might appear useful.

113. REPORTS OF MEETINGS. Miss Dickinson gave an interesting report of the meeting of the Associated Country Women of the World on the Feeding of the Post-War World. Decided to take the paper "The Countrywoman," Miss Dickinson undertaking to read it and to bring anything of interest to the meeting.

Miss Harrison reported on the Conference called by the National

Council for Civil Liberties, which was well attended and good resolutions were passed on the Emergency Powers assumed by the Government; the B.B.C., News Reels, Censorship, India and the Colonies, etc. Decided to send 10/- towards the expenses of this Conference.

114. THE WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE L.N.U. Reported a Study Syllabus on the U.S.A. had been drawn up by the Study Groups Committee of the W.A.C. Decided that attention should be drawn to the Syllabus in the News Sheet. Miss Dickinson was appointed our representative to the W.A.C. in place of Dr. Clark, who resigned some time ago.

115. NEWS SHEET. Various ideas were put forward for the August/September News Sheet: (1) that Miss Freda White might write an article on the Economic Significance of Russia's Entry into the War; (2) that John Guy might write on the Population Problems - Mrs. Duncan Harris could approach him. It was further suggested that at some time Miss Barbara ~~Whit~~ Ward of the R.I.I.A. might be helpful and that we should write to Australia, Canada and New Zealand to get articles which they think might be of interest to us here.

At 3 p.m. Mrs. Freundlich of the International Co-operative Women's Guild came as a visitor and kindly opened a discussion on "Suggestions for a Programme of Post-War Reconstruction to be considered by the International Women's Organisations. Several points were raised and Mrs. Freundlich accepted an invitation to come again to complete the discussion at 3 p.m. on September 3rd.

116. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 3rd, unless any necessity arises for calling a meeting in August.

PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1.

At the close of the meeting tea was given to the W.I.L. Czech Refugees who were in London.

*B. Duncan Harris*

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, September 3rd, 1941, at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Miss Dickinson, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Wood, Miss Pye.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Miss Haughton, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Grindley, Dr. Scott, Mrs. Kinnish? Mrs. Castle.

MINUTES of meeting on July 2nd were confirmed, having been previously circulated. The Minute on the Penny-a-Week Fund had been revised, as decided.

117. BUSINESS ARISING. Reported that replies to the American Questionnaire on "How can the U.S.A. help the Democracies" had been grouped under subjects and forwarded to Miss Detzer. The replies showed that people were giving careful thought to problems that had to be faced now as well as in the future. It had been a worthwhile piece of work. It was expected that further replies would be received which would also be grouped and sent to America.

Mrs. Innes reported that the Questionnaire had been sent to the American Outpost in Great Britain and a reply was promised shortly. In acknowledging the Questionnaire the Secretary informed us of the establishment of a cultural liaison through their "Books Across the Sea" Section. These books will be about America and Britain respectively and will be able to be borrowed by supporters.

Miss Dickinson agreed to serve on the L.N.U. sub-Committee set up to study World Settlement after the War, as well as on the Women's Advisory Council of the L.N.U.

Reported a series of Lunch Meetings at Friends House, Euston Road, London, were arranged for on "Problems of Population" on September 17th, 24th and October 8th. Miss Edith Pye will chair them. The speakers are Mrs. Barbara Wootton, M.A. on "Races, Frontiers and Peoples," The Rev. Reginald Sorensen, M.P. on "Human Arithmetic;" Miss Bertha Bracey on "Migration." Admission 2/-, including lunch. Miss Harrison said she and her sister Ruth would be willing to act as "Waitresses" if needed owing to the shortage of staff in the Restaurant.

Reported (1) A letter of thanks from Lady Parmoor for our message of sympathy and a copy of her husband's book "A Retrospect" presented to the W.I.L. Mrs. Innes had sent grateful thanks.

(2) A Message of love from Lady Unwin from America.

(3) A letter from Dr. Scott thanking the Committee for their congratulations on her new appointment. She would like to remain on the Committee if it does not prevent someone else from serving.

(4) Copies of letters from the P.P.U. and the N.P.C. which they had each sent to the Prime Minister as a result of his speech at the London County Hall on July 14th referring to air-bombing.

(5) In Mr. Anthony Eden's speech at the Mansion House on May 29th (reported in the Chatham House Bulletin), White Paper CMD. 6289, his reference to disarmament was an indirect quotation from President Roosevelt's message to Congress last January. Mr. Eden said that this message was "the keynote of our own purposes,"



118. FINANCE. Mrs. Wood presented the appended Statement of Accounts for August. Reported that nearly £50 had already been given or promised to the Penny-a-Week Fund. This was far short of the £650 hoped for each year, but it was hoped that all members would join in the scheme and help to make it known.

119. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE. Reported that there was a balance in the Midland Bank of \$392.2.10d in the International House Account which was no longer needed for 55 Gower Street. Agreed that it should be transferred to the Co-operative Permanent Building Society and reserved for special pieces of W.I.L. work. Mrs. Wood paid a tribute to those who had given so much time, thought and money in the early day of International House and she thought the spending of the money wisely was a great responsibility.

It was agreed that a special money-raising effort or appeal should not be made this year, but the Treasurer proposed to write a letter to Branches and members thanking them for their continued support and suggesting that should there be a slight deficit at the end of the year members should have it suggested to them that they might add a shilling to their annual subscription. If absolutely necessary it might be possible to borrow. Mrs. Wood was very anxious that the nest-egg from International House should not be used for running expenses.

120. INDIA. Miss Harrison reported the situation in regard to Miss Vera Brittain. All effort on the part of the Liaison Group to help secure the necessary permission for this visit to India had failed. This regrettable information is now being sent to the Indian Women's Conference and there is still a hope that they may be able to do something at their end. The question was raised whether in the event of this visit not being possible, some one else (Miss Harrison herself) ought not to go. Miss Harrison was anxious for this to be left over till a reply came from the Indian women.

In regard to the political situation. The recent Government proposals, while ending the policy of drift, had not touched the political deadlock. This remains as acute as ever. Miss Harrison said that the recent Declaration provided a fresh opportunity as the question was being raised in India, here and in the rest of the world whether it applied to India. The National Peace Council in its Statement on the Declaration had raised this - other organisations were doing the same. She hoped that the Branches and individual members would take the matter up. It was decided to ask Miss Harrison to draft a letter that could go to the Branches.

121. REPORT OF FABIAN COLONIAL CONFERENCE. Miss Anderson reported on this and supplemented her report from a written report sent by Mrs. James of Welwyn Garden City who had attended the Conference on behalf of the W.I.L. Agreed to ask Mrs. James if she would be prepared to speak to the Branches on Colonial Problems.

Miss Anderson, in consultation with Mrs. Harris, agreed to try to arrange a Lunch Meeting on Colonial Problems. Speakers suggested were Una Marson and Margaret Wrong.

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Committee to Miss Anderson and Mrs. James for attending the Conference.

Reported a Draft Report on Colonial Settlement had been prepared by the Industrial Advisory Committee of the League of Nations Union.

## 122. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Arising out of a discussion on the Roosevelt-Churchill Declaration, the Committee was of opinion that the time is ripe for women's organisations to get together for discussion on the problems of reconstruction with a view to putting forward specially women's point of view. This possibility of a one-day Conference on a Saturday in London was considered. The basis of discussion to be "Problems of Economic Security and Social Justice," arising out of points 4 and 5 of the Declaration. It

It was suggested the morning session should be from 10.30 to 12.30 under the general title "Economic Security and Social Justice: National," and the afternoon session from 2 to 4 on "Economic Security and Social Justice: International," leaving a short session from 4.30 to 5.30 for summing up.

Before starting to organise the Conference it was agreed to consult a few individual women, such as Freda White, Dorothy Elliott, Margaret Bondfield, Jenny Lee, Mrs. Adamson, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Dr. Royden, etc. to see if they would feel sympathetic to the idea of such a Conference of delegates from organisations, and whether they would support it.

Suggested as possible speakers: Freda White, Dorothy Elliott, Jean Henderson, Jean Thompson, Mrs. Haag, if still in England: consult I.L.O. Failing her ask Mr. Burge of the I.L.O. if he can recommend a woman speaker.

It was agreed to aim at the Conference being held on October 11th.

The N.P.C. Statement on the Roosevelt-Churchill Declaration was unanimously endorsed by the Committee.

#### 123. LETTERS AND MESSAGES FROM ABROAD were reported from:-

(1) Miss Balch, appreciating the News Sheet and expressing the hope that "the next chapter" may be one of freedom and goodwill.

(2) New Zealand W.I.L.P.F. re conscription in that country. Mrs. Gibson expressed sincere sympathy with the British Section in its difficulties.

(3) Mrs. Mollie Hayler (Sister-in-law of Miss Edith L. Hayler of our Croydon Branch) of San Francisco W.I.L.P.F. expressing appreciation of the News Sheet and sending good wishes to all members in Europe, and sending a cutting from a San Francisco paper containing Miss Bourne's "Message to women."

(4) Clara Ragaz, who had been spending a brief holiday at Parpan, Grisons. She told of our two old friends at Zurich who, though far from well, are always full of hopes for a change in the near future. Her daughter has been spending a week with her after 12 month's separation.

(5) Gertrud Baer expressing many thanks for Dr. Scott's Report, and appreciation of the sympathy shown to her by the British Section.

(6) Greta Engkvist, whose letter of 4th April via Switzerland, arrived a week or so ago. She speaks of difficult conditions in Sweden. The January News Sheet had been received and read "with pride and confidence in the future." She tells that Thora D. has "sent out a very courageous paper this time - just as if nothing had happened to them." Greta Engkvist ends her letter with "We are with you trying to send you good thoughts, even if the good deeds are less visible in a world where the material frontiers are barred." But as long as the frontiers of hearts still are open, world is safe for democracy. With all good wishes to all of you."

(7) Norwegian friends send their love and say they are thinking of all friends. "Even at present hard times the firm belief in the final victory of the good powers binds all friends together."

(8) Mrs. Innes also reported good news of Frau Hertzka who had taken a post as Gardener-Director at a large Sanatorium in Shropshire. From her first week's salary she had sent the W.I.L. a very generous gift as a token of her love and affection for the W.I.L. of which she had been a member for twenty years or more.

124. WORLD UNITY MOVEMENT. Reported a letter from our Manchester Branch saying that its Council feels that this Movement is in line with W.I.L. aims and suggested (1) that should Dr. Caradog Jones get a preliminary Committee together in London or elsewhere, the W.I.L. should send a representative; (2) that the Executive should have a meeting to study this subject more closely.

Mrs. Innes reported that Dr. Caradog Jones had arranged for a meeting to be held in Oxford on September 20th at 2 p.m. and had

invited Mrs. Innes to attend personally and had asked for the support of the W.I.L. Mrs. Innes was asked if she could attend as the W.I.L. representative. She was doubtful about the journey but would do so, if possible.

125. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN. Mrs. Innes reported that at a Conference of representatives of women's organisations on 23rd July, the following resolution was adopted:-

"Any scheme of reorganisation of the Diplomatic and Consular Services which aims at 'increasing efficiency' and making 'our diplomacy more representative of the country as a whole) (as stated by the Foreign Secretary on June 11th, 1941) must obviously include the admission of women to these services. Their continued exclusion deprives the State of the wider vision essential to the better ordering of the lives of every man, woman and child in the Post-War World."

It was hoped that the W.I.L. would support this resolution and forward it with a covering letter to the Foreign Secretary as soon as possible. This was agreed to.

126. WOMEN'S PUBLICITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION. Reported request to make known a proposed Trafalgar Square Demonstration on Saturday, September 20th at 2 p.m. for Equal compensation for both sexes who are sharing equal risks. Agreed to make it known at our Lunch Meeting on September 17th.

127. MRS. NELLY BOHL HOLLITSCHER for the Editorial Board of "Women in Work". Reported the publication of the special English Edition of the Periodical of the Working Refugee Women and an invitation to contribute an article on any interesting women's question. Mrs. Innes agreed to send an article later on.

128. FEDERAL UNION Conference, September 27th, Aeolian Hall. Mrs. Duncan Harris agreed to attend as W.I.L. representative.

129. CONSCRIPTION OF WOMEN. Mrs. Greenwood raised the question of the position of women in war industries. Mrs. Duncan Harris and Mrs. Greenwood agreed to consult with Mrs. Grindley about the extension of conscription to women and the non-recognition of Conscientious Objection of women.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: October 1st 12 noon to 4 p.m. at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

*B. Duncan Harris*

Statement of Accounts for August, 1941.

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<u>Receipts.</u>	<u>Expenditure.</u>
Balance on July 31st..179.1.- <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	Salaries.....9. 0. 0
Subscriptions 1.16.0	Postage.....3. 1. 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Donations.... 1. -.-	Office Expenses..... 6.11
News Sheets.. 17.-	Insurances.....1. 2.10
Geneva Subs.. 1. 3.-	Fares..... 1. -
and Pax.	Heating (55 Gower Street)... 5. 6
Penny-A-Week. 5.-	<u>13.17. 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub></u>
5. 1.-	Balances:
	Bank (including Penny-A-Week Fund £12.3.9) 109.16.4
	Congress Fund..... 53. -.-
	Petty Cash..... 7. 8.3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
	<u>170. 4. 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub></u>
<u>£184.2.-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub></u>	<u>£184. 2. -<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub></u>

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, October 1st, 1941, 12 noon to 4 p.m. at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Castle, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Harrison, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Kinnish, Miss Pye. *Miss Ross*.  
Visitors: Miss Sheepshanks, Frau Hertzka and Mrs. Misar.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs. Garside, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Lord and Mrs. Wood.

written

CO-OPTED TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. On the recommendation of Mrs. Greenwood, and unanimously agreed to, Mrs. Beesley was co-opted to the Committee, subject to her consent, in order to continue our contact with Brighton Branch, now Mrs. Greenwood is coming to London. Unanimously agreed also to ask Mrs. Greenwood to continue on the Committee.

MINUTES of meeting on September 3rd were confirmed, having previously been circulated.

130. BUSINESS ARISING: Reported an acknowledgment from Miss Dorothy Detzer of the Replies to the American Questionnaire "How can the U.S.A. help the Democracies."

Reported that arrangements had been made to hold the Conference of Women's Organisations on "The Problems of Economic Security and Social Justice, National and International" at Friends House, Euston Road, London, on Saturday, October 18th. Miss Jean Henderson had promised to speak on the National aspect in the morning and Miss Barbara Ward and Miss Monica Curtis on the International in the afternoon. Miss Dorothy Elliott was unable to speak at either session.

It was agreed to send a night telegraph letter to Miss Joyce Wells asking her to speak at the morning session; failing her, to try Mrs. Cecily Cook of the Women's Co-operative Guild. If Miss Wells consented, Mrs. Cook was to be asked to ~~to~~ prepare to Chair the morning session. If necessary, Mrs. Duncan Harris would Chair the morning session, and do the summing up. Mrs. Corbett Ashby to be asked to Chair the afternoon session and sum up.

Women's Organisations had been invited to send four delegates. Agreed to inform them that any of their members would be welcome as visitors, tickets being the same prices as for delegates.

The question of a Stenographic Reporter was raised but left to the decision of the Secretary. Miss Haughton and Mrs. Innes agreed to make a summary of the Conference.

reply to

In a letter asking Miss Sheepshanks if she would Chair the meetings and sum up at the end, she had replied that she felt she could not do as we asked as she was so disturbed by the American Section of the W.I.L.P.F. opposing the Lease and Lend Bill that she felt unwilling to be publicly associated with the League unless and until the British Section dissociated itself from the American Section's action, and expressed its dissent from the American Section.

It was agreed to put on record Miss Sheepshanks protest against the opposition of the American Section to the Lease and Lend Bill, in case the matter was ever raised at an international gathering, but the Committee decided that it was not a question on which the British Section should express an opinion.

Lunch Meetings. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that the meeting on September 17th, when Mr. Francois Lafitte had spoken in place

Mrs. Wootton, had been well attended. The meeting on the 24th September had not been so well attended. Miss Bertha Bracey was speaking on October 8th and Mrs. Wootton on October 15th.

A series of meetings on "A Charter for the Colonial Peoples" was being arranged for November 12, 19th, 26th and December 10th. Mrs. James of Welwyn Garden City Branch, in co-operation with Mrs. Harris and Miss Anderson, was organising them. She had reported that Dr. Harold Moody had consented to take the Chair.

A discussion on the conscription of women took place but it was decided that at this stage there was no one point on which it would be useful to take action.

Reported an acknowledgment from the Foreign Office of the W.I.L. letter of 5th September supporting the resolution adopted at a Conference of Women's Organisations convened by the National Council of Women on Women in the Diplomatic and Consular Services. The letter said that it was not at present proposed to go beyond the lines of reform suggested in the Report submitted by Sir Malcolm Robertson.

It was agreed to send the reply to the National Council of Women and at the same time urge them to continue to press the point, and further, to urge the abolition of the marriage bar over the whole field of women's work.

On the recommendation of Mrs. Innes it was agreed:-

(1) that a letter should be sent to the Trade Union Congress expressing regret that no woman is being sent by the T.U.C. to the International Labour Office in New York at the end of October.

(2) that a letter should be sent to the Transport and General Workers' Union expressing appreciation of the lead given to the Trade Union Movement in the resolution calling for the application of the principle of the "rate for the job" and equal pay for men and women in the Civil Defence Services, and equal compensation for war injury.

(3) that the Colne Weavers' Association should be written to expressing appreciation of its action at the T.U.C. in urging the adoption by the Trades Union Movement of the principle of the "rate for the job."

131. FINANCE. The attached Statement of Accounts was adopted. Agreed that a Statement, with footnotes, should be circulated to the Committee with the next Agenda.

132. INDIA. Miss Harrison reported that some of the Branches had taken action on the letter circulated after the last Executive. In regard to Miss Brittain, letters had now gone to the Indian women from Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Miss Brittain explaining to them the situation.

Regarding the present position, this continues at dead-lock. The number of political prisoners was stated by Mr. Amery to be (on July 1st) 12,129. He was unable to give the number of those detained without trial. Continuous pressure on the Prime Minister and Mr. Amery for some fresh approach to be made was being exerted. Miss Harrison said that strong representation was being made by the Christian forces; the Society of Friends expected to meet the Secretary of State shortly on the matter. She felt she

the need for this pressure to be continued by the W.I.L. Miss Harrison read extracts from letters received on the last mail from India, from Mr. Gandhi and from Mrs. Pandit. Extracts from the statement of the latter will be inserted in the News Sheet.

133. ABYSSINIA. Reported a letter from Prof. H.S. Jevons of the Abyssinia Association enclosing a pamphlet giving the fine speech of The Emperor Haile Selassie to his people on the occasion of his entry into Addis Ababa on the 5th May, 1941. Prof. Jevons said that the Abyssinia Association is continuing to work, and hopes to take up questions of social reform and education in Abyssinia, beginning with a study of the problem of abolishing slavery about which they have appointed a sub-Committee. Prof. Jevons said he felt that politically the position needed watching lest the restoration of real independence to the Emperor's government is more or less indefinitely postponed.

134. THE COLONIES. Mrs. Ross reported on the situation in the Colonies. It was agreed to ask Dr. Rita Hinden if she would write an article for the News Sheet on Colonial Constitutions. Miss Sheepshanks thought it would be well to try to dis-abuse the minds of other Nationals in this country that Gt. Britain draws vast wealth from its Colonies. It spends large sums in their development.

135. RUSSIA. On the suggestion of Mrs. Innes it was agreed a letter should be sent to Madame Maisky expressing our deep sympathy with the women of Russia in their present sufferings, and the hope that when opportunity arises, Russian women will see their way to co-operate with women in other countries in working for the abolition of war as a method in international disputes, and for a constructive peace, such as may make that abolition a reality.

136. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL CONFERENCE ON ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. Delegates appointed to attend this on November 7th and 8th at the Aeolian Hall, London, were:- Miss Sheepshanks, Miss Dickinson, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Greenwood, subject to her consent. Failing Mrs. Greenwood Miss Harrison or Mrs. Harris agreed to be the fourth delegate from the W.I.L. though they were entitled to attend in their own right as members of the N.P.C. Executive.

137. NEWS FROM ABROAD. Mrs. Innes reported a further air-mail letter from Sweden. It appears that there is no mail to Sweden as letters are returned marked "No Service. Return to Sender." Mrs. Innes agreed that the last two letters to her from Sweden should be sent to Miss Dorothea Lankester for publicity purposes, if she so desires.

138. BLOCKADE OF JAPAN. Reported that our Birmingham Branch had written to ask the advice of the Executive as to the wisdom of sending to the Minister of Economic Warfare a resolution welcoming the action taken by the British, United States, Netherlands and the Dominion Governments to limit trade with Japan, and hoping that these agreements will be fully implemented and that every care be taken to close all loopholes to make the embargo complete.

After careful discussion the Committee came to the conclusion that it would be best not to send the resolution at the present time. The view was expressed that if the U.S.A. and Great Britain had started the blockade earlier we might have been more convinced of the sincerity of their objects in starting it now. In 1937 tons of metal were sent to Japan, and while the League of Nations was in existence, the Governments did nothing to implement those articles which might have brought pressure to bear to stop the Sino-Japanese War.

139. NEWS SHEET. Mrs. Innes explained the error which caused the August/September News Sheet to be so late in delivery. Contrary to

instructions the parcel had been despatched by carrier instead of parcel post, and it had taken over a fortnight to reach its destination. In spite of sending "copy" for the October number on the 18th September the proofs had only come that morning (Oct. 1st).

Agreed the November News Sheet should, if possible, contain:

- (1) extracts from Mrs. Pandit's statement in reply to an Appeal to Indian women by some British women;
- (2) An article on the answers to the U.S.A. Questionnaire."
- (3) Extracts from Dr. Scott's memorandum on "Social Changes during the War."
- (4) Dr. Rita Hinden on New Constitutions for the Colonies (subject to consent).

140. W.I.L. CZECH GROUP. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that almost all our Czech Group are now in permanent posts - a good many in industry, and many of them are cut off from W.I.L. thought. Some of the husbands have joined the Czech Army here. We have now no responsibility for their physical well-being but we must try to keep in touch with them. The young people in schools or colleges are doing well. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to those whose addresses we have, assuring them of our good wishes and giving them some account of our work. They should also be asked to supply, if they could, the addresses of any of the other members of the Group.

141. CORRESPONDENCE. Reported a letter from Mrs. Vipont Brown, the Chairman of the Manchester Branch informing the Committee that, with deep regret they were having to give up the services of Miss Pickstone, their Secretary, owing to financial reasons. Until times are better they intend to do their utmost to hold on to the Office and organise among themselves. Agreed letters should be sent (1) To Miss Pickstone expressing the Committee's appreciation of all she had done for the W.I.L. since she joined as Secretary to the Manchester Branch, and hoping that she would still be able to give some of her energies and interests to the W.I.L., wishing her much success in whatever work she takes up; (2) To Mrs. Vipont Brown expressing sympathy to the Branch in the sad decision they had been compelled to come to. Agreed to ask if the cause of the difficulties was a reduction in membership or a lowering of members' subscriptions.

The need for a closer link between Branches and Executive was expressed by Miss Harrison, and it was agreed to invite representatives from Branches to attend the Executive on November 5th to discuss Branch activities and what the Executive can do to help them in their work. Failing the sending of a representative it was agreed to ask that a report of Branch activities be sent for the consideration of the Committee.

142. WORLD EQUITY MOVEMENT CONFERENCE, Oxford, September 20th. A written Report from Mrs. Barber (Reading) was read. On her recommendation it was agreed to maintain friendly contact with the World Unity Movement, as opportunity occurs.

143. CONFERENCE OF FEDERAL UNION on "Problems of the Post-War World," September 27th, at the Aeolian Hall, was reported on by Mrs. Duncan Harris.

Date of next meeting. November 5th, 11.45 a.m. - taking formal reports during a half hour's lunch which members are asked to bring. 'out-of-London' bring, to enable members to get the "cheap day" earlier trains in the darker months.

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

B. Duncan Harris  
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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, November 5th, 1941,  
11.45 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Beesley, Mrs. Castle, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Lord, Miss Harrison, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. McGregor Wood.

Visitors: Mrs. Harrod (Godalming), Mrs. Malcomson (Liverpool) Mrs. Savage (S.W. London), Miss Sheepshanks.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Greenwood.

MRS. BEESLEY, who has accepted co-option to the Committee was welcomed (by the Chair).

MINUTES of meeting on October 1st were signed, having been previously circulated.

144. BUSINESS ARISING.

October 18th Conference on "Economic Security and Social Justice." Mrs. Innes reported a helpful and interesting Conference had been held, attended by about 40/50 people, at the close of which it was agreed that an ad hoc Committee should be appointed to arrange the calling of another Conference and to decide on the next subject for consideration. Suggested that the International Co-operative Women's Guild plans for World Reconstruction, the W.I.L.P.F. Declaration of Human Rights and the document prepared by an official Belgian Committee should be considered. A Summary of the Conference had been issued and was now available at 7d each copy, post free.

After discussion it was agreed to invite the following to serve on the Committee, which it was proposed should meet at 11.45 a.m. on Wednesday, November 26th at Friends House, Euston Road:-

Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Agatha Harrison, Miss Jean Henderson, Dr. Hindon, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Rischbieth, Miss Sheepshanks and Miss Joyce Wells.

Emphasis was laid on the fact that this ad hoc Committee was not to be a permanent organisation.

The question of whether another Conference would be better attended if held on a Sunday was considered, but was left to the ad hoc Committee to decide whether it should be on a Saturday or Sunday. The Federation of Women Zionists were unable to attend on Saturdays.

It was agreed to withdraw twenty pounds from the House Account, ten pounds of which were to be used for the expenses of the Conference on October 18th, and ten pounds to be ear-marked for future Conferences.

Manchester W.I.L. and Membership. Reported a letter from Mrs. Vipont Brown saying that the cause of the difficulties in Manchester was not a reduction of membership, but the loss of many large subscribers, by death or removal. The Branch had been living on its capital. The actual membership had increased.

Madame Maisky had sent sincere thanks to the Executive for their kind expression of sympathy with the women of the Soviet Union.

The Trades Union Congress had formally acknowledged our letter of 2nd October in which we expressed regret that no woman was sent by the T.U.C. to the International Labour Office Conference in New York.



Agreed to send a cable to Miss Frances Perkins on the occasion of her Chairmanship of the I.L.O. Conference in New York. The following cable was sent:-

"Express pleasure your presiding as first woman Chairman I.L.O. Conference. Congratulations on success. Assurances of full co-operation in world reconstruction. K.E. Innes, Hon. Secretary, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, British Section)."

Lunch Meetings. Agreed to send a letter of thanks to Mrs. James for all she had done to prepare the following meetings:-  
Nov. 12th. Human Needs of Colonial Peoples: Miss Margaret Wrong.  
" 19th The Economic Problem: Prof. W.M. Macmillan.  
" 26th Which way to Democracy? Mr. A.Creech Jones, M.P.  
Dec. 10th Challenge to the Colour Bar: Dr. Norman Leys.

Chairman for all meetings: Dr. Harold A. Moody, M.D., B.S. (Lond.)

Suggestions were made for making the meetings known, which would be carried out by the Office.

The Executive expressed their appreciation and thanks to the Misses Harrison for all the help they gave in connection with the Lunch Meetings.

145. FINANCE. The attached Statement of Accounts was passed. The Treasurer urged that an effort should be made to make literature pay for itself, particularly the News Sheet and the Annual Report. All subscribers of 4/6d and over received the News Sheet. It was agreed that 2/- from each of these subscriptions should be allocated to the News Sheet receipts. It was also agreed that members and Branches should be asked to make a contribution to the cost of the next Annual Report.

In view of the increasing difficulty of raising money it was agreed that Mrs. Wood should explore the possibilities of getting the Accounts audited free of charge, or for a small Honorarium.

146. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN BRANCHES AND HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE. Reports from representatives on Branch activities showed how very much alive many of them were, in spite of their difficulties, and particularly of those living in the air-raid zones.  
(See Reports of Acock's Green, Brighton and Cheltenham on next page).  
Brighton. Mrs. Beesley reported that the fortnightly study circles started at the beginning of the war are being carried on with great success. There is an average attendance of 12/20 at each meeting. The regular members' meetings each month are not so well attended since the outbreak of war. The members are concerned over the

Compulsory Service Scheme for Women. On the proposal of Mrs. Beesley it was agreed to ask the Home Office to send with the Calling-up notice, a leaflet outlining the procedure that is being followed. If this is not possible, could the information be posted up in the various Waiting Rooms, though it was felt the leaflet would be better and more helpful for those Called up.

With regard to the rejection of the Appeal of Mr. Ben Greene against detention without trial under Regulation 18B. it was agreed to consult Mr. Kidd of the National Council for Civil Liberties as to what action we could take most profitably in the matter, and to ask if any joint action by Societies is contemplated. The Committee felt that the Home Secretary had ignored the advice of his Advisory Committee and over-ruled it.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, November 5th, 1941,  
11.45 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Beesley, Mrs. Castle, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Lord, Miss Harrison, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. McGregor Wood.

Visitors: Mrs. Harrod (Godalming), Mrs. Malcomson (Liverpool) Mrs. Savage (S.W. London), Miss Sheepshanks.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Greenwood.

MRS. BEESLEY, who has accepted co-option to the Committee was welcomed (by the Chair).

MINUTES of meeting on October 1st were signed, having been previously circulated.

144. BUSINESS ARISING.

October 18th Conference on "Economic Security and Social Justice." Mrs. Innes reported a helpful and interesting Conference had been held, attended by about 40/50 people, at the close of which it was agreed that an ad hoc Committee should be appointed to arrange the calling of another Conference and to decide on the next subject for consideration. Suggested that the International Co-operative Women's Guild plans for World Reconstruction, the W.I.L.P.F. Declaration of Human Rights and the document prepared by an official Belgian Committee should be considered. A Summary of the Conference had been issued and was now available at 7d each copy, post free.

After discussion it was agreed to invite the following to serve on the Committee, which it was proposed should meet at 11.45 a.m. on Wednesday, November 26th at Friends House, Erston Road:-

Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Agatha Harrison, Miss Jean Henderson, Dr. Hindon, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Rischbieth, Miss Sheepshanks and Miss Joyce Wells.

Emphasis was laid on the fact that this ad hoc Committee was not to be a permanent organisation.

The question of whether another Conference would be better attended if held on a Sunday was considered, but was left to the ad hoc Committee to decide whether it should be on a Saturday or Sunday. The Federation of Women Zionists were unable to attend on Saturdays.

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Cambridge. Mrs. Wood reported that an excellent meeting had been held the previous day with Miss Harrison speaking on India; the week before a University Extension Lecturer had lectured on Anglo-American Relations. Definite countries have been the subject of meetings during the year and after Christmas it was hoped to have meetings on China and Russia. The Branch supports a girl at the Perse School and part of the money raised at the Sale next month will go towards that.

Croydon. Mrs. Kinnish reported that at their weekly meetings there was an average attendance of 23 members. The meetings commenced at 2 o'clock, preceded by Sandwich lunch. Miss Grace Colman, University Extension Lecturer, had conducted study circles on a New Social Order, and a second series of Tutorial Classes has just begun in co-operation with the Workers' Education Association on "A New Social International Order," the lecturer being Mr. O van der Sprenkel. The members, who are very keen, pay 6d at each meeting.

Recently Mrs. Benham had lent her house for an At Home at which a Piano and Violin Recital was given when a silver collection was taken. That, together with a Bring and Buy Sale realised over eight pounds.

Acock's Green. A letter from Mrs. Adams, the Chairman of This Branch was reported. First of all the doubt was expressed as to whether the Branch should continue to exist, as its membership had creased and they were faced with financial difficulties. It then proceeded to ask whether the W.I.L. as a whole could not be more influential if it adapted itself to some practical as well as educative work related directly to the need of the moment, such as sponsoring a movement to mobilise and co-ordinate, through all women's organisations, women's opinion in readiness to make itself felt as a body in influencing public opinion in national and international reconstruction. Mrs. Adams said the Branch was thinking of co-operating in organising a Youth Conference next Spring and asked what could Headquarters contribute either in speakers or otherwise? The Branch deplored that all Conferences, important meetings, etc. should always be in London and saw no reason why activities could not be sometimes regional, especially in cities like Birmingham and Manchester. It was also felt that the Annual Council Meetings did not give a personal contact to the main members of the Branch and that a speaker from Headquarters, if only once a year, would be valuable and stimulating. This suggestion was coupled with the proposal that expenses for such a venture might be pooled, or a special fund attempted.

The Branch felt if a closer unity in work could be achieved, the educative, progressive international work of Headquarters might have a wider recognition in the country.

Birmingham. Mrs. Lennard reported by letter that the Branch continues its monthly meetings and has just concluded a series of three on the U.S.S.R. all of which were well attended. Mrs. Brayshaw is to address a meeting of members during December; the Annual Meeting takes place in January, after which it is hoped to have three lectures on China. A recent visit from Mrs. Duncan Harris was very much appreciated.

Cheltenham. The Secretary's written report said that monthly meetings were held mostly at the invitation of one member or another, but they had difficulty in getting speakers. When unsuccessful in this they discussed items of interest gleaned from one source or another, and they also read Vera Brittain's letters.

Glasgow. Mrs. Duncan Harris had just paid a visit to the Branch here on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. She reported that the Branch was taking an active part in the C.O. work, and in spite of a sense of isolation, she found them a very keen and active body of peace workers in many fields. They would appreciate more help from Headquarters' speakers.

Leicester branch had recently experience two changes of Secretary, the last Secretary having to give up owing to a change of work necessitating removal from the town. A written report had, therefore, not been sent, but we have reason to believe that the Branch is steadily carrying on its work.

Liverpool. Mrs. Malcomson regretted having to report a considerable decrease in membership, caused, in part, by the evacuation of so many members. The frequent air-raids, the almost nightly Call of the Siren, the devastation of suitable buildings, made it very difficult to hold meetings or plan work. Mrs. Malcomson had had several at her house but they had not been well attended.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, expressed the greatest sympathy and understanding with Liverpool members and Mrs. Malcomson was asked if she would go back and say how much the Executive would like to help them in their difficulties if they could suggest ways in which help could be given. If a visit from a member outside Liverpool would be of assistance, that visit should be made. Mrs. Malcomson promised to let the Committee know the result of her meeting with members.

Manchester. Mrs. Lord said that when she lived in Manchester she was a member of the Manchester W.I.L. Executive. She deplored that the 'life' and energy of the Committee cannot reach the individual members of Branches. Delegates to Annual Council Meetings reporting to members can convey to them the work and spirit of the meetings, but the Branches must send keen people to such meetings.

Marazion. Mrs. Henson, Branch Secretary, reports that the Branch is not able to do very much now, but the W.I.L. is talked about and when the war is over they hope to have a very live Branch again.

Reading. Mrs. Castle said that her Branch had started with drawing room meetings once a month. Members had studied M. Spring Rice's "Working Class Wives," which led to a series of meetings. At one the Warden of the Local Community Centre told of the activities of the Centre and at another the Warden of the Nursery School told of her experiences and of the needs of the working class mothers. These led to a meeting on local Government. Another meeting was addressed by a Psychiatric Social Worker. As a result, some members are interesting themselves in the work of the local Community Centre. A Danish speaker told of the Social Services in Denmark at another meeting and it was hoped to have a Czech speaker on Social Services in Czecho-Slovakia. A Meeting on India is being held in three weeks' time, in co-operation with the men's Co-operative Guild. A bigger meeting is being planned, in co-operation with other Societies, on Post-War Plans and Reconstruction. Miss Haughton is speaking at a meeting on November 19th on the aims and work of the W.I.L.

S.W. London. Mrs. Savage said that of about 60 members at the beginning of the war only about 30 were left in the district. She felt that the group which preceded the formation of the W.I.L. Branch, and which studied the cause and cure of war, was more satisfactory. Women came to the meetings regularly and were interested in W.I.L. ideals but they were not ready to commit themselves to membership. Many of those who did join now have sons in one or other of the Services and this has altered their outlook to some extent. They believe that this war is different from any other.

She has only three members remaining on her Committee, most of the others having evacuated. Those members who are left are taking a great interest in the education of the children. The President of the National Union of Women Teachers addressed a crowded meeting in her (Mrs. Savage's) house a short time ago, on "Every child should be given the full opportunity for the education for which it is suited." At another meeting it is hoped to take "What sort of education do you want to give to these children." It is, however, not easy to get a good attendance, and she finds the work of the Branch as a whole, very difficult.

Welwyn Garden City. Miss Haughton reported about 90 paid up members. Being only 26 miles from London the Branch has been fortunate in getting a number of Executive Committee members to address meetings: Mrs. Innes on Reconstruction, Miss Harrison on India, Mrs. Wood on the W.I.L., Mrs. Grindley on the Registration of Women. The meetings are held in the afternoon and evenings alternately. Mrs. James runs special group meetings on Colonial matters. The Chairman and Secretary of the Branch attended a big meeting in connection with "Friendship with Russia Week," held in the Council Office. Political, Social and Religious Societies took part.

Worthing. Miss Pye had recently written to the Office expressing appreciation and pleasure at a meeting organised by the Branch which she addressed, and which had been very well attended. The Branch is very active.

On the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs. Harrod of Godalming told of her endeavours to get a W.I.L. Group in her district. She was very hopeful that before long she would have secured sufficient members to form a Branch.

The question was raised as to the best way of keeping in touch with members from Branches and Headquarters who had left their towns for "the duration." It was essential that their interest in the W.I.L. should be maintained. It was agreed that Branches should be asked to write to their members who had left, and a letter should go to Headquarters members who had moved urging them to make known the W.I.L. wherever they could, and offering a speaker from Headquarters Executive if five or six people could be gathered together for an informal talk.

The suggestion was made that a discussion on Branch activities should be held once a quarter.

Miss Sheepshanks suggested that in big centres Conferences similar to the one on October 18th might be arranged. A draft Agenda should be sent to them. Finally, one big Conference could be held to which recommendations of all the local ones could be sent. One speaker from Headquarters might attend each regional Conference.

The Committee asked Mrs. Innes to write to Mrs. Adams of Acock's Green to say that they felt the Conference on "Economic Security and Social Justice" recently held in London was aimed at doing what the Branch suggested the W.I.L. ought to do - educating public opinion in preparation for the peace. The suggestion was made that Birmingham be asked if it could organise a similar Conference, inviting representatives of all local women's groups likely to be interested, and outstanding individuals in the area, making it not merely Birmingham but regional, to include Liverpool and Manchester. The Committee felt, too, that the Branches in the bigger centres could and should organise Conferences in the Provinces. The suggestion that a speaker from Headquarters should visit Branches once a year was welcomed and the offer will be made to all Branches. The hope was expressed that Acock's Green Branch will not close down, but will keep together, however

few, in readiness for the day when activities can be revived.

147. NEWS SHEETS. Mrs. Innes reported that the December News Sheet would, it was hoped, contain articles from Miss Monica Curtis on the I.L.O.; a continuation of Dr. Scott's Notes on Social Changes under War Conditions; in addition to Headquarters and Branch News; a paragraph to "scattered" members, and some notes on the recent Conference.

Mrs. Castle reported that she thought the P.P.U. might be glad to have reprints of Miss Pye's article in the October News Sheet. Miss Horscroft reported the type had been broken up. Agreed to ask (1) The P.P.U. how many copies they would order, (2) the Branches if they could use copies, and how many, and if there was a demand for it, to ask Miss Pye if she would like to bring it up to date before reprinting.

148. INDIA. Miss Harrison reported that the Central Assembly was now in session; that the Viceroy's new Executive Council and Defence Council had met; that in all these activities neither the Congress nor Muslim League were co-operating. She thought it possible that the new members of the Viceroy's Council might demand the release of prisoners. All the members of the Working Committee of Congress save Mr. Nehru and Mr. Azad are now at liberty and have been in consultation with Mr. Gandhi. There is strong pressure being made for a revision of Congress policy, but at the moment Mr. Gandhi advocates "no change."

In regard to the All India Women's Conference. A further letter has now come to Mrs. Lankester, the Liaison Officer, co-operating here with this Conference, asking her, or failing her someone else from the Liaison Group to attend the December Conference. Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Miss Harrison are taking up the matter with Mr. Amery as to whether travel facilities would

Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that, having had some word with Mrs. Corbett Ashby about the renewed invitation from the All India Women's Conference, she said to her, what the W.I.L. has said before, but with even more emphasis at this time, that she was sure the W.I.L. would do all in its power to assist to get a sympathetic woman out to India in time for the Conference.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. December 3rd, 11.45 a.m. 32 Fitzroy Square, with half an hour for lunch, which members are asked to bring.

This concluded the business.

B. Duncan Harris

3. XII. 41

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It was decided to help the Liaison Group by duplicating the next issue of the Bulletin to save its finances, the Group supplying the paper. The question of some financial assistance to be considered at the beginning of the year.

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This concluded the business.

B. J. [redacted] [redacted]

3. XII. 41



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Statement of Accounts for October, 1941.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on 30th Sept.....	136.10.4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Subscriptions.....	4. 7. 0
News Sheets.....	2.10.1
Literature.....	1.11. 1
Insurance Rebate..	9.10
Meetings.....	7. 0. 0
Affiliation Fees..	1. 7. 6
Penny-a-Week Fund	8.14.11
	<hr/>
	26. 0. 5
	<hr/>
	£162.10. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>

EXPENDITURE.

Salaries.....	22.10. 0
News Sheets.....	4.13. 0
Office Expenses (including Storage of furniture).....	4. 1. 3
Travelling Expenses.....	3. 8. 6
Meetings.....	6.18. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Postage and Wires.....	4. 4. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Literature.....	3. 6
N.H. Insurances.....	7. 1.
War Damage Insurance.....	15. 0
	<hr/>
	47. 0. 7
Balances:-	
Bank (including P.A.W. £25. 11. 10d.....	48.15. 9
To be Banked.....	2. 7. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Congress Fund.....	53. 0. 0
Petty Cash.....	11. 7. 1
	<hr/>
	£162.10. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, December 3rd, 1941, from 11.45 a.m. to 2.45 p.m. at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W.C. 1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Beesley, Mrs. Brayshaw, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Castle, Miss Dickinson, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Ross. Visitor: Mrs. Misar.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: from Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Wood, Miss Pye, Mrs. Garside, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Kinnish.

149. MINUTES OF MEETING on November 5th were confirmed and signed, after the insertion of the following paragraph which had been omitted in the stencil, by accident:-

"148. INDIA. to precede paragraph commencing "It was decided to help the Liaison Group:"-

"Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that, having had some word with Mrs. Corbett Ashby about the renewed invitation from the All India Women's Conference, she said to her, what the W.I.L. has said before, but with even more emphasis at this time, that she was sure the W.I.L. would do all in its power to assist to get a sympathetic woman out to India in time for the Conference."

150. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS. AGREED to send greetings by cable to Miss Jowitt, Brummana, Syria, Frau Ragaz, Switzerland, Lady Unwin, Miss Balch and Gertrud Baer, U.S.A.

151. MISS MURIEL LESTER. The Chairman reported that Miss Lester was now in England. AGREED to send her a message of sympathy in all that she has recently suffered and to ask her if she would meet members of the Executive Committee one afternoon within the next fortnight at Miss Harrison's Flat. AGREED also to ask her if she would let us know of any speaking engagements she might have later, in the neighbourhood of any of our Branches, as we should like to inform Branch members through the Secretaries.

152. BUSINESS ARISING ON MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5th.

Report of ad-hoc Committee to arrange further Conferences. Mrs. Innes reported that Mrs. Rischbieth and Miss Joyce Wells agreed to serve on the Committee but previous engagements prevented them attending the meeting on November 26th at Friends House. Mrs. Duncan Harris took the Chair, others present were Mrs. Naftel, Miss Sheepshanks and herself. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that the Belgian document the Conference had asked should be studied, did not yet exist, but she was in touch with the Belgian Embassy and would report later.

At the request of the ad-hoc Committee Mrs. Naftel and Mrs. Innes had worked out a draft Declaration of Human Rights based on the section in the Co-operative Women's Guild Statement on the Rights of the Individual and on the W.I.L.P.F. International Declaration. This was to be the basis of discussion at the next Conference. Mrs. Innes explained two points on which they were not agreed and asked for the support of the Committee on (1) the conferring on all inhabitants of the guarantee of employment or of maintenance by the community, <sup>inhabitants</sup> meaning permanent residents and not visitors, (2) the inclusion of the words "apart from open censorship" in the section dealing with "the inviolability of postal, telegraph and telephone services," which Mrs. Naftel had suggested should be deleted. The Committee expressed its support of Mrs. Innes's action in adding these two points to the draft Declaration.

Mrs. Innes further reported that this draft Declaration was to be the basis of discussion at the next Conference, to be held either on January 31st or February 7th from 2 to 4.30 p.m. The following Speakers were to be asked, in rotation: Prof. Laski, Miss Margery Fry, Mr. G.D.H. Cole, Mr. Ritchie Calder and Mrs. Ambrosova. Chairman, if possible, Mrs. Corbett Ashby. The same women's organisations and individuals invited to the previous Conference were to be invited

to the second Conference, with any additions agreed upon.

Lunch Meetings. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported three successful meetings on Colonial Questions. For the meeting on December 10th she had put a paid advertisement into the New Statesman as they had given up their Diary of Events. The Committee approved her action.

Mrs. Innes reported a talk with Dr. Harold Moody of the League of Coloured Peoples in which he suggested the possibility of a joint meeting between his organisation and the W.I.L. to hear a Ministry of Labour speaker who is in control of coloured labour at Liverpool. It was AGREED to consult over time and date for such a meeting, suggesting the beginning of March at 5.30 to 6 p.m. as his people could not attend an afternoon meeting and W.I.L. members would not go into the centre of London for an evening meeting in the blackout.

Miss Dickinson made proposals for future lunch meetings. Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Lord and Miss Harrison agreed to act as a sub-Committee for the arrangement of another series on Colonial questions concerned with other people's Colonies. It was AGREED that no meetings should be held after May.

Mr. Ben Greene's detention under Regulation 18b. In response to our request for advice as to possible action re the above from the National Council for Civil Liberties, a letter had been received from their Legal Department saying that their Council was particularly interested in the wider subject of the unchecked powers of the Executive and welcomed the forthright reassertions of constitutional principles by Lord Atkin in the important case of *Liversedge v Anderson and Morrison*. If, however, Mr. Greene's case had any special feature differing from other detentions, it might be worth while enquiring whether any M.P. was likely to mention it in a forthcoming Debate.

Mrs. Innes consulted T.E. Harvey, M.P. sending him the above reply from the N.C.C.L. He said he appreciated the force of what the Council had written, the general principle involved in the decision of the House of Lords being the important thing to concentrate on. Until Parliament had discussed the regulation Mr. Harvey thought no further steps should be taken other than letters written by individual constituents to Members of Parliament to urge the importance of revising Regulation 18b in accordance with the principle enunciated in Lord Atkin's dissenting judgment.

Calling up of Women for registration. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported she had received intimation that there was to be no provision for conscientious objection for women, and on behalf of the Committee Mrs. Innes had sent letters to the Prime Minister and to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ernest Bevin) urging that in the extension of conscription to women the right to conscientious objections should be fully accorded. Copies of the letter had been sent to all Women Members of Parliament for their information, and to the Branches, Affiliated Societies and Executive Committee members, with a covering letter asking them to write or telegraph to the Minister of Labour & their M.P. Since then, the Government had made known that provision for conscientious objection for women was to be on the same basis as for men.

A letter was reported from Mrs. Grindley re the unsatisfactory state of affairs in connection with sentences on Conscientious Objectors. She asked the Committee to protest to the War Office at the flagrant instances of "cat-and-mouse", which the Minister says he deplures. AGREED to ask Mrs. Grindley to draft a letter to go to the Prime Minister and the Minister for War, and to Branches for them to try to get letters into the provincial papers.

Headquarters Members. Reported that the responses to the appeal to members to make the work of the W.I.L. known wherever possible had been very few. A few evacuated members only had asked

to be put in touch with members locally. This had been done.

153. REGISTRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 18 FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

The Committee voiced its strong objection to the registration of young people under 18, bringing them as it did for the first time in British history within the purview of the military machine.

AGREED that letters should be sent to the War Office, Minister of Labour and National Service, President of the Board of Education, and the Prime Minister, (1) expressing anxiety over the registration, believing that it savoured too much of the Nazi and Fascist regimes, (2) urging that there should be full recognition of the rights of parents which obligatory registration of young people might over-ride.

AGREED that a copy of the letter should be sent to women's organisations likely to be sympathetic, Youth Organisations, Women Members of Parliament, the Press, Dame Katharine Furse, Alfred Braithwaite, Clerk to the Friends Committee on Conscientious Objection, etc.

154. FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts for November was adopted. AGREED if impossible to get Hon. Auditor for this year, to send the 1941 accounts to Miss Clugston, the Auditor appointed for the year at the last Council Meeting.

155. OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS. Reported that two rooms in one house, quite close to Portway, had been secured in St. Mary Bourne for the Office and Miss Horscroft. There would be an increase in expenses each week of a few shillings, which it was hoped the Committee would sanction. Mrs. Harris on behalf of the Committee thanked Mr. & Mrs. Innes for their very kind hospitality of the Office and Miss Horscroft, for so many months. The Committee unanimously approved the new arrangements.

156. ABYSSINIA. Arising out of the Lunch Meeting on November 12th, and a request from Dr. Harold Moody, Hon. Secretary of the League of Coloured Peoples that the W.I.L. should take action on the lines of a letter he had sent to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Innes, on behalf of the Committee, had sent a letter to the Prime Minister (1) expressing appreciation of the passage in the King's speech to Parliament in which he welcomed the restoration to his throne of the Emperor of Ethiopia, (2) trusting that the Government will complete as speedily as possible the Treaty with the Emperor of Ethiopia which will give him official recognition as the Emperor of an Independent Ethiopia, (3) urging the Government to withdraw immediately recognition of the Italian Conquest of Ethiopia and to recognise it as allied territory. The letter continued that "As an immediate consequence of this, diplomatic representation on either side should be restored, and such advisers as H.M. Government may place at the Emperor's service should be responsible to him and should act in conformity with his wishes. Such steps would be of great importance at the present time in retaining the sympathy and support of the coloured peoples who are watching developments in Abyssinia keenly and anxiously."

A copy of the letter was also sent to the Secretary of State for War.

Shortly after action was taken by Dr. Moody and ourselves the Government announced its intention of concluding a Treaty with the Emperor of Abyssinia.

157. INDIA. Miss Harrison reported the talk Mrs. Corbett Ashby and she had with Mr. Amery on behalf of the Liaison Group co-operating with the All India Women's Conference; he said he would explore the possibilities of the proposals put before him, i.e. of facilitating passages for someone to attend the Conference in India in December, and for broadcasting mutual exchange of greetings at the time of the Conference. The reply had come to the effect that it would not be possible for anyone to go, but that the India Office

would try and arrange for the broadcast. It was decided to cable a message of greetings to the Conference.

In regard to the political situation, the important debates in the Assembly were reported. The Premier's statement on the Atlantic Charter had come in for severe condemnation and resolutions of protest passed in both the Assembly and Council of State, as well as by other bodies. These debates were unknown in this country, and ought to be known. The other debate of importance was Mr. Joshi's demand in the Assembly for the immediate and unconditional release of prisoners; on the Home Member assuring the House that this would receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government of India, Mr. Joshi withdrew his resolution. Now was the time for action. It was necessary to see that this response was an imaginative and generous one. Of even greater importance was the fact that on November 30th Mr. Gandhi announced a suspension of Civil Disobedience over the Christmas holidays. He made the same gesture last year and no one took any notice. This must not happen again. Miss Harrison urged swift action on the part of all members and Branches to bring this to the attention of the Press, M.P.'s, leaders of the Churches. She said she had cabled Mr. Gandhi for fuller information and when the answer came would send a short statement to Mrs. Innes for circulation.

158. THE FAR EAST. Reported the Union of Democratic Control were holding a Weekend School on China and the Pacific in London on 6th and 7th December. It was hoped that several members would be able to attend.

159. NEWS FROM ABROAD. Reported that Mrs. Scheu-Riesz had written to say that the Island Workshop Press, New York City, had published a little volume of Verse by Miss Emily Balch "The Miracle of Living," and "Stories of the Underground Railroad" by Anna Curtis. AGREED to send particulars of the Friends Book Centre and to the Librarian at Friends House, and to insert a note in the News Sheet about Miss Balch's Poems."

160. NEWS SHEET: Contents for January.

New Year Message by Mrs. Duncan Harris.  
Continuation of Dr. Scott's Survey of Social Changes under War Conditions in Great Britain.  
Conscription of Women - Mrs. Brayshaw.  
India - Miss Harrison.

161. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, 1942. AGREED to hold these in April at St. Hilda's College, Oxford, if possible.

162. CORRESPONDENCE. Reported an appeal from Miss Pye for regular help in the new clothing warehouse of the International Commission for War Refugees in Great Britain, at 42 Grosvenor Square, where old and new clothes from America are being received, packed, sorted and stored against the day of the return of the refugees to their own countries "which will have been swept bare of everything of the kind." Offers of any amount of time from a half-day upwards will be gratefully received. They should be made to Mrs. Wilson at 42 Grosvenor Square, mentioning Miss Pye's name.

The late H.W. Nevinson. Reported that Mrs. Innes had sent a letter of sympathy on behalf of the Executive to Mrs. Nevinson, and that the National Council for Civil Liberties were organising a Memorial Meeting to H.W. Nevinson on December 11th at the Caxton Hall, Westminster from 1.30 to 3 p.m. Miss Dickinson consented to attend as the W.I.L. representative and other members hoped to be able to be present.

162. REPORTS OF MEETINGS. Miss Dickinson reported on meetings she had attended on behalf of the W.I.L. (1) The Women's Advisory Council of the L.N.U., (2) The Associated Country Women of the World.

163. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: January 7th, 1942, at 32 Fitzroy Square, London, W. 1.

B. Duncan Harris  
7.1.42

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR NOVEMBER, 1941.

Balance 31st October.....	115.10.2 $\frac{1}{4}$	Salaries.....	18. 0. 0
Subscriptions 9.12. 6		Postage.....	13. 0. 9
Donations.....	8. 6	News Sheets. (two numbers)..	8.12. 6
News Sheets....	7. 8	Office Expenses.....	4. 8. 6
Literature.....	7. -	Stationery.....	1.12. 9
Affil. Fees....	2. 6	Travelling Expenses.....	1.14. 6
Penny-a-Week... Fund.....	17. 5. 9	N.H. INSURANCES. (& Unemploy- ment).....	11. 8
Grant for Conferences	20. 0. 0	Meetings (Executive).....	10. 0
		Literature.....	4. 0
	48. 3.11		48.14. 8
		Balances:-	
		Bank (including Penny-a- Week Fund) £44.17.7)....	55. 5. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
		Petty Cash.....	6.13.10 $\frac{3}{4}$
		Congress Fund.....	53. 0. 0
	<u>£163.14. 1<math>\frac{1}{4}</math></u>		<u>£163.14. 1<math>\frac{1}{4}</math></u>
		Total balances	<u>£114.19.5<math>\frac{1}{4}</math></u>