

"With the greatest example of the futility of organized violence that has ever been given, ought we not to bestir ourselves to make certain that war does not occur again?"



"If we do not, we shall go down in history as a generation that witnessed the greatest stupidity and outrage ever known, and after it was over sat twiddling our thumbs waiting for the next one."
Arthur Ponsonby.

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DANGER SPOTS TO WATCH

The U. S. Grows Richer.

«In the three years from 1922 to 1925 wealth in the U. S. A. leaped upward by a tenth. But to estimate an increase in average income is of no use unless the average man gets his share. There is unimpeachable statistical evidence to show that the average man has not got anything like his share...

The increase has gone to those already well off. In 1924 only 75 tax payers reported an annual income of more than a million dollars. In 1927 the number had increased to 207. Further in 1927 there was an increase over 1924 of all net incomes of over \$ 5,000, the percentage of increase rising in accordance with the size of the income. It is estimated that the securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange have increased in value by a round 7 billion. In other words, the rich are getting richer. The U. S. is building up a new and undreamed of inequality of wealth.»

Nation, April 27th.

The Flag Follows the Investor

In President Coolidge's speech on April 25th he said: «The person and property of a citizen are a part of the general domain of a nation, even when abroad. ... It would seem to be perfectly

obvious that if it is wrong to murder and pillage within the confines of the U. S. it is equally wrong outside our borders. The fundamental laws of justice are universal in their application. These rights go with the citizens. Wherever he goes these duties of our Government must follow him.»

If this interpretation of America's rights and duties towards its citizens and their property abroad is accepted, it means that wherever the U. S. investor goes he will be followed by the U. S. Army and Navy. This means in case of disputes, war. It means that America will become an imperial world power.

Royal Indian Navy.

«England is building a navy for India — and the Empire — at India's expense. England herself is taxed to the limit. One day out of every five we are told the average Englishman gives all his earnings to the Government. England cannot afford to build ships as in the old days at the 2-1 ratio but she has decreed that India shall build and maintain a Royal Navy for the Empire.

India must contribute annually a hundred thousand pounds sterling to the Imperial Navy.

India of course has not been consulted in this matter.»

Unity, May 2nd.

GLAD TIDINGS FOR PACIFISTS

France Wants to Outlaw War with U. S.

The Foreign Minister of France, Monsieur Briand, on April 6th proposed to the American people that the U. S. and France should sign a treaty mutually renouncing «war» and thus «furnish a solemn example to other peoples».

Monsieur Briand's action was necessarily with the support of the French Cabinet and therefore, though informal, really official. Will the U. S. consider this proposal? A few weeks ago the U. S. State Department refused a similar proposal from Switzerland. President Coolidge made no reference to the suggestion that France and the U. S. «outlaw war» as between each other in a recent speech on foreign policy though emphatic on the national will to peace.

U. S. Law Faculty Appeal for Sacco and Vanzetti.

Fifteen members of the law faculty of Columbia University and nine members of the law faculty of Yale, to say nothing

of the law faculties of eleven other leading American Universities, have signed a petition asking Governor Fuller of Massachusetts to postpone execution of Sacco and Vanzetti and to appoint a commission of inquiry «to determine whether the judicial institutions have done justice in this case».

A Deed of Spiritual Beauty.

Alone in an aeroplane so that if he failed in his endeavour, no one else might be hurt, that courageous young spirit, Charles Lindbergh, set forth for his flight across the Atlantic. The deed has a significance much greater than the mere act. It is expressed in the journal of the French aviator, Major Weiss who in writing to Lindbergh says:

«We thought ourselves... incapable of enthusiasm, rather blasé about everything, indifferent or worried... That crowd which on May 21st covered the plain of Le Bourget desired your success but without conviction and without fervor. When your air eddies passed everything changed. At the sound of the unusual motor... people stopped thinking and held their breath... the throng for a lightning moment was an immense prayer.

«We bless you, Lindbergh, for having thus brought us together, for having shown us the pride of living, for making us shed tears at a beautiful action.

«And the following days you were even greater if possible. You showed the error of the familiar notion that opposes muscle to brain, action to spirit.

«Having terminated your task, you mounted the tribune in the assemblies and as simple, modest, free, as at your pilot's post you spoke... very quietly, real lessons in tact and judgment in the middle of the delirium.

«You had power, Lindbergh, but you also had soul...

«And it is your soul which conquered the French soul, which is dispersed in all of us... For know it well, you have set us in a state of grace.

«Farewell Lindbergh! The void frightens us as your fine profile is disappearing, but the spell is not broken. You remain for us a small ray of hope which makes the work lighter, the effort more voluntary and life more like the dawn.»

«The three headed monster of fable,
Mutual hatred and fear and distrust,
Because of this youth, with a noble soul,
Is lying slain in the dust.»

MAY-TIME AT THE MAISON.

Madeleine Z. Doty.

This month has held much of interest for us at Geneva. First Louie Bennett of our Executive Committee came to attend the Economic Conference. She fitted into the household as though she had always lived with us. Then we had the good fortune to have two of the four women delegates to the Economic Conference, Barbara Wootton of England and Dr. E. C. van Dorp of Holland, stay with us. These three kept us in close touch with everything that went on. We heard all the gossip; how the Russians had arrived and been barricaded in their hotel to keep them safe from stray bullets; how they had protested and were giving public interviews; how they had stirred up the Conference by their radical utterances; how in the end they were found to be good fellows and had made friends in spite of their views.

The other delegation about whom there was much talk were the Americans. They were made altogether too much of by the Conference. They strutted around like good little boys, and said «See how rich and prosperous we are. If Europe would only follow America's methods all would be well.» But these men, too, on closer acquaintance proved to be human. That, after all, is the great thing about International Conferences. You discover how akin the whole world is.

The Maison was the scene of many talks by folks of many lands. Louie Bennett gathered the Irish delegation about her, a Mrs. Kerr from Australia, a member of the W. I. L., the Australians, and we had many talks with the Chinese about our proposed peace delegation to China. Then Mr. Levinson, of the U. S. famous for his plan to out law war, came with his wife to talk outlawry of war.

And at the end of the month Madame Duchêne and Madame Ramondt-Hirschmann arrived for an officers' meeting.

One afternoon early in the Conference we had a specially interesting tea. We had asked people to meet Louie Bennett and the women delegates staying with us. Representatives of the leading women's international organizations came, besides some of the prominent visitors in Geneva. There was Julia Lathrop, former head of the U. S. Children's Bureau and now serving on the Committee for the Protection of Women and Children of the League of Nations, Dr. Alice Hamilton of the U. S., on the Health commission of the League, Gertrud Bäumer, German delegate to the 7th Assembly of the League and member of the Reichstag.

Then one evening Eleanor Rathbone of England, who represents International Women's Organizations on the League Commission for the Protection of Women and Children, dined with us and also Margaret Sanger, U. S. of Birth control fame.

Toward the end of the Conference we had an evening «at home» for our guests and Louie Bennett and the women delegates gave their impressions of the Conference. Between forty and fifty people crowded into our library for the discussion. Louie Bennett introduced the women delegates saying:

«The Conference lacks the proper number of women representatives. There are only four officially appointed amid almost 400 men but these women have conducted themselves so well that perhaps eight will be appointed next time.

They have been models of modesty and meekness and kept in the background.»

To which introduction Barbara Wootton to quote very briefly, replied: «I'm going to stop being modest in the Maison and tell some of the things that struck me at the Conference. They are that first of all it is important that the Conference has been held, important that there are four countries represented who are not members of the League, Russia, Turkey, Egypt and the U. S. A.; important that the Conference has done something to break down the isolation of Russia. I feel the Conference was singularly free from Nationalism but regret that there was such a small proportion of workers' representatives and such a large proportion of industrialists.»

Dr. van Dorp, when her turn came, said: «I feel the Conference has needed people with a broad point of view. I don't want to flatter the women but I feel they belong in this category. I feel the «pièce de résistance» of the Conference was free trade. This explains the spirit of internationalism which is beginning to dominate the world for there was no narrow nationalism at the Conference.»

Many questions were asked the women delegates. More and more it becomes apparent that the Maison is needed as an International Centre for women from all over the world where they can assemble and talk out world problems.

We are feeling particularly proud of the Maison, for during April when our guests were few, we used the money given us especially for the purpose, to make additional improvements.

The dining room was transformed by paint from its dingy brownness to lovely greys and whites, which makes a fitting background for our red cup boards filled with our gay crockery. We found a red, grey and black linoleum for the dining room floor which looks a little bit like mosaic. When we were through we discovered that our library, which had not been touched since the W. I. L. moved in, was looking very dingy by comparison, so we ended by giving that room a coat of paint and a new paper, keeping the same colors buff and cream. Our first floor now shines with cleanliness and good cheer. Even a rainy day cannot make it dreary. But this month of May has been a wonder for warmth and sunshine. Our little garden is a mass of fresh greens and blossoms. Not a visitor who has climbed our steps and walked through the garden and the first floor of our house but has expressed themselves as delighted with the charm and quaintness of the place.

OUT OF A RAG BAG

Louie Bennett.

It is a terrible thing to live in the house with an Editor!

Here am I packing to go home from Geneva after the close of the Economic Conference, surrounded by piles of League documents which cannot possibly be fitted into any baggage I own, with my brain still whirling giddily in the circle of speeches, speeches, to which I have listened for three weeks, and my heart going out with longing to the blue lake and the distant mountains, and the flowered meadows which I must now leave behind me. Here too is Madeleine Doty preparing the next issue of «Pax», and insistent that I must contribute some impressions of the Conference to our paper.

I beg her to give me time to let my mind calm down and clear itself; to wait till next month when my considered report of the Conference will be ready for the Committee of the W. I. L. I explain to her that at the moment my brain is only a rag bag, and she says: «Well, throw me out some of the rags!»

Those on top at the moment are not all concerned with industry and commerce. The beauty of Geneva in May is very distracting. What a marvel of radiance and colour! It was surely a happy fate that made this charming town, set in such a wealth of natural beauty, the centre of the world's hopes for a new and better order of society. Utopia seems attainable when one walks along the tree-shaded avenues bordering the lake, and reflects that this small town in a sense holds the world within its compass and may in the future send forth the influences that will shape and direct the evolution of civilisation.

Geneva inevitably recalls Mont Blanc and the ghostly peaks beside it. It was more than an impression, — it was a spiritual experience to come out one evening from a session of an Economic Commission to the spring glory of the trees and the sun-lit lake, and suddenly become aware of Mont Blanc, tremendous yet ethereal, and of the mystical summons to the soul of man these snow mountains carry.

But the Conference held its victims through two long weeks, without one touch of drama or sensation. And on the last day one reflected dully: — Such a great mountain, and such a very little mouse!

That however is a flimsy rag of an impression not worthy to be retained. I prefer the thought that the Conference has set a great stage, upon which every social and political group may, if they wish, play a part.

Nothing very tangible has yet been achieved. But representatives of 47 nations and of many social groups, holding divergent principles, have been able to discuss certain economic problems of interest to them all, and have admitted their economic inter-dependence and the necessity for friendly cooperation. They have cleared a way for common action in certain directions: they have granted the right of every interested group to share in the control of such action. They have failed to set up the administrative machinery to carry out their resolutions, but we are at least assured that when this is done, workers and consumers will have a part in it.

Even these brief comments may make it clear that we of the W. I. L. P. F. must do more than we have yet attempted to help in developing a more rational economic system.

And I find the word *cooperation* hanging in my mind like a flag.

Here in this quaint and beautiful old house, the Maison Internationale with its unexpected little garden, I have gained many new hopes for the future of the W. I. L. This house of ours (it must become ours in actual fact!) will be, I believe, more and more a starting point of many adventures and many pioneer enterprises, as well as a place of refreshment for body and spirit.

Those who now rule it have made it a place to love and to remember with pleasant thoughts. — But it is and must be much more even than that, because it holds up to the world the beacon of justice and peace.

Women Delegates To The Economic Conference

The conference.

The meeting of economic experts from all over the world at Geneva in May was a most important occasion.

There were representatives from 47 nations. The crowd that came was so large that for the plenary sessions the Salle de la Réformation was used, where the League of Nations Assembly holds its meetings. The three groups that attracted most attention by reason of their novelty were the women, the Americans and the Russians.

The International Women's Organizations had made an appeal to the League for women representatives. They sent in the names of several candidates. As a result the Council of the League of Nations appointed: Mrs. Barbara Wootton, M. A. J. P., principal of Morley College for Working Men and Women and member of the British Labor Party; Dr. E. C. van Dorp, secretary of the Dutch National Committee on Intellectual Cooperation; Dr. Marie E. Lueders, member of the German Reichstag.

These women sat in a little group by themselves, and made a very attractive spot of color amid the mass of men. Barbara Wootton's youthful figure, for she is only thirty, with her short bobbed light hair was a striking contrast to the general bald-headedness and greyness of the men delegates. Besides these three special women delegates, there was one other: Austria, the one and only country to do so, had appointed a woman among its official representatives: Frau Emmi Freundlich, a National councillor and President of the International Cooperative Association.

Among the many resolutions passed was one mild one on Disarmament. This was the one resolution for which the Russian delegation voted.

The conference was divided into three Commissions: Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. We give below extracts from the speeches of the women delegates.

Consumers and Trade Barriers.

Dr. Emmi Freundlich.

«Barbed-wire entanglements have given place to new frontiers in the form of high customs tariffs, which imprison goods and men as if in a trap and prevent national economic life from developing on normal lines.... There are, of course, two ways of reorganizing economic life: by a despotic method and by a democratic method. If we are to reconstruct the destroyed and dislocated market, which is what the consumer regards as the main object of this Conference, we must establish some form of international co-operation....

«The old methods of competition and strife must give way to co-operative organisation. It will then be possible for natural forces to develop freely and for production to go ahead without hindrance.»

Free Trade.

Dr. E. C. van Dorp.

«Everybody agrees today that free trade is admirable. Nobody is any longer for protection. And yet we have more prohibitions on importation, more restrictions.... than ever before.

«What is the mysterious difficulty that prevents our putting into practice the theory that we all hold?!

«We see that this or that industry suffers when protection is removed from it.... We do not see that at the same time other industries are helped and encouraged by cheaper equipment. Especially we do not see that the whole cost of living and purchasing power of the population is improved....

«There are of course grave difficulties for even the most fiery free trader in lowering the walls of a tariff once they have been raised.

«Reduction then must be carried out slowly and prudently.

«I am very happy that it is to you, Mr. President, that we owe a program which I support heartily. This program resolutely attacks existing tariffs and declares that existing tariffs must be maximum tariffs and that from now on present tariffs must be lowered....

«The world expects one thing from this conference, and that is deliverance from the nightmare of customs duties....

«Up till now we have said: tariffs must be lowered and have done nothing. Let us now say: tariffs must be lowered and lower them.»

Rationalisation in Industry.

Dr. Marie-Elisabeth Lüders, M. d. R.

«We women want to call attention to the fact that the home is a part of the larger economic situation and not the smallest part of it.... In Germany there are about 12 million households and about 19 million of women working in them.... The greatest part of capital and income goes through the hands of women. But neither commerce nor production are working with us women; only Germany lately is doing so.... We are not consulted in the building of houses, though housing is one of our main activities. We are not consulted about the manufacture and the distribution of the tools we need in daily life. The consequence is that numerous tools are made and distributed at great cost which we cannot use at all or only ineffectively.... For example there are on the market pots to boil eggs or potatoes in which the water boils away before the food is cooked; kitchen pans with handles much too heavy and wooden lamps of such a light construction, that they lose their balance. Without plan or system the market is flooded with huge supplies of undesirable objects.... The consequence is a horrible waste. Of the many designs offered for sale let us cite some examples: America produced till lately about 1400 different kinds of wash-basins. Germany, not less clean produced about 10 dozen different soap-dishes, one single German factory turned out about 238 kinds of grill-bars for kitchen-stoves, another one 285 different kinds of hearth-plates.

«Now we suggest that the number and kind of objects manufactured for one and the same purpose, shall be reduced after consultation between producers, dealers and housewives.... Furthermore it seems to us to be sensible and possible, to standardize objects, manufacturing in sizes. Collars, gloves, shoes, needles, etc., have for a long time been sold in sizes. There is no reason why we should not extend this method.

«Some women and also some men are afraid that progressive rationalisation in households may endanger individuality.

We have not observed that the uniform clothing of men, or the submission of both sexes to rules of convention or fashion has ruined their individuality. We are not therefore afraid that this may be the result of a standardization in tubs or dusters....

«We are convinced that in the matter of production and distribution as in every thing else man needs woman.»

No Rationalisation Without Compensation.

Barbara Wootton, M. A., J. P.

«Prosperity involves two things — full employment and a high level of wages. The Conference has often referred, somewhat paradoxically, to wage increase or decrease as the means of prosperity. It must not forget that high wages are an end in themselves.

It is obvious that Europe as a whole has not achieved prosperity in this double sense, and is much further from its achievement than is the United States. Such a failure of prosperity can be explained only by one or the other of two causes. It is due either to lack of the physical means of well-being, or to a break-down of organisation. The documents laid before the Conference prove that it is not the first of these causes. Europe has sufficient materials, she has skilled and capable workers and there is no adequate evidence that the Continent as a whole suffers from shortage of capital....

«Part at least of the explanation of this break-down must be sought in the lack of mobility which prevails throughout the old world — mobility of capital and mobility of workers also. European resources are largely invested in the means of producing the wrong things; and in consequence there are a great number of partially utilised plants, and armies of unemployed workers.

«Much has been said about the rationalisation of industry, whatever that imposing word may mean. But the chief obstacle to all «rational» improvements in industry is the existence of a vested interest in the old and wasteful methods.... It is no use shirking the fact that there exists a vested interest in waste and that great numbers of persons (doubtless not unrepresented at the Conference itself) depend for their livelihood upon doing things which it would be more economical to leave undone. This is no personal reproach, but merely a fact incidental to the economic system under which we live.

«The only way to overcome the obstacle to progress which this vested interest constitutes is frankly to admit its existence and to recognise its right to compensation. Cartels and other associations of owners of capital have already to some extent done this. It is customary for payment to be made by a cartel to those of its members whose output is deemed to be superfluous by the association. So far as the wage earners are concerned, however, this principle is by no means equally sure of recognition.... If, therefore, the Conference proposes to confer any blessing upon the process of rationalisation, that blessing should be accompanied by a perfectly definite statement that it is contingent upon the right of the displaced worker to compensation.»

Woman M. P. Demands Justice for China

The account of Agnes Mac Phail's fight for China makes us realize more than ever the importance of the W.I.L. peace mission to China. At the time of greatest difficulties between Ireland and England, the British Section of the W.I.L. sent a peace mission to Ireland. They stretched out hands of friendship to the Irish women. It made a lasting bond between them. In the same way we can reach across to China now. Send a contribution, little or big, to Headquarters towards the travelling expenses of our delegates to China.

A Canadian Woman M.P.

Miss Agnes Mac Phail, the only woman member of the Canadian Parliament and a member of the W.I.L. has always fought valiantly in the House of Commons against cadet training and military appropriations. One of her activities as an M.P. has been to write to the school children in her constituency. She wrote about Government matters and the form of government in Canada. The normal schools ordered these letters by the hundred. Teachers asked her to put them into book form.

Then not knowing what further to write about she asked the children to suggest topics. Ten or twelve letters came suggesting the war in China.

So Agnes Mac Phail wrote about China little realizing the attack she would bring upon herself. One of the parents got hold of her letter and made it public, and immediately there was a storm of protest.

The reactionary section of the press attacked her bitterly, accusing her of being unpatriotic. Several women's organisations cancelled invitations to Miss Mac Phail to speak. The House of Commons made the letter the subject of attack.

The Letter.

«Dear Teachers and Pupils:

«In this letter we will talk about the Chinese war. The Chinese use a great deal of a drug called opium. It is a very bad drug, much worse than liquor on the person who takes it. It gives them pleasant dreams; they live in a sort of a dream world, and are very happy, but when the influence has worn off they are nervous wrecks, and are sick. Then they want more opium to give them nice dreams again, and if they do this thing for some time, it spoils their health, and they are not good for anything. There was a war in China between 1839 and 1842, which is called the Opium war. The Chinese wanted to make the use of opium in China illegal, to keep it out of China, but Great Britain insisted that the Chinese government make the use of opium legal, because Great Britain owns India and India sells opium to China. This made the Chinese angry. Then, too, nearly all the great ports where the big ships come in are controlled by Great Britain, or some great power like Japan, and in these Chinese cities the Chinese have no vote. The police are foreigners, the «whole show» is run by people who are not Chinese, and the Chinese have no rights....

Many countries, Japan, Great Britain, and before the war Germany, had factories in the big cities of China. The living conditions in these factories are horrible; the children work as young as six years, and are often hurt and killed. The Chinese government can do nothing because these are European factories and the owners of the factories will do nothing. A group of Chinese students walked the streets of one of their big cities about a year ago as a protest against the awful conditions of the children in factories, and the British police shot

them down. You can quite easily see how all these things made the Chinese determined to put the British out of their country, to bind their many provinces together in one federal government, to control their own customs tariff and their own post offices, their own railways, etcetera. Russia, seeing that a rebellion was coming in China, wisely gave up all her rights in that country, and the Chinese are very grateful. There is little doubt that Russia is urging the Chinese to rebellion, but the conditions in China are so bad that one cannot wonder that these people rise in rebellion. Germany used to have much control in China, but according to the peace treaty of the Great War, she was forced to give up her privileges. I wish very much that Canada, who is a member of the League of Nations, would protest against what has been done in China. We have a right to try to stop anything that is breaking the peace of the world. We must remember that it is only a few very rich people in England who want to do these dreadful things in China, that most of the British people are very sad and grieved over what is being done and that meetings are being held there in protest and some of the leading papers are saying that the action of the government and the big interests is all wrong and so we are in good company if we say that we think the Chinese are being unfairly treated.

Many of the patriotic Canadians say over and over again. «We want Canada for Canadians». Then, if that is true, why do we not want China for Chinese? We send missionaries to teach them of Jesus, and his love, but unless we love them and act toward them as brothers, how can they know that we believe in Jesus and his love to all....»

Attack in the House.

This letter was used against Agnes Mac Phail in the House of Commons.

One of the members read it and said: «The whole letter is an endeavour to prevent children from joining cadet organizations. In this letter history is distorted. Those who wish to strike Great Britain call the war in China an opium war, but in the treaty settling that war there is not one mention of opium and there is not one reason for calling it an opium war.... In this letter it is pointed out as a reason for preventing children from joining or having sympathy with cadet corps, that there are in China factories in which children under six years of age were employed and that these factories were all run by Great Britain; that as a result of that certain students in protest marched through the streets and Great Britain shot them down. This is an absolute distortion of historical facts made apparently with the deliberate attempt to mislead the judgment of the children, to wean them away from a spirit of loyalty and patriotism, which is a spirit that should be encouraged in this country and not destroyed.»

In reply Miss Mac Phail said in part: «The hon. member for Kingston does not want to call the war in 1839 and 1842, the opium war. In the Encyclopedia Britannica, volume 6, page 199, it is indexed under the «Opium War».

«Mr. Gladstone denounced it in these words:

«A war more unjust in its origin, a war more calculated to cover this country with permanent disgrace, I do not know and I have not read of. The British flag is hoisted to protect an infamous contraband traffic; and if it was never hoisted except as it is now hoisted on the coast of China, we should recoil from its sight with horror....»

«I stated that living conditions in the factories were horrible. On this point I wish to quote at some length from the Globe of March 5, 1923.

«At Chefoo, where 17,000 women are engaged in the hair-net industry, the wage is six cents for a ten-hour day. In the forty pongees silk factories in the same city 26,000 men and boys work a 13 hour day for the same amount. Only Christian employers close their mills on Sunday. At Tientsin 15,000 boys in the weaving factories work an eighteen-hour day, from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., the majority receiving no pay but their food. In the match-making industry in the city, eighty little workers must go to the hospital each day to be treated for the effects of cheap phosphorous on the lungs and eyes....

«In one small hospital there were three children under ten years old. The arm of one had been caught in an unfenced machine and was all but torn off. The leg of another was smashed from hip to ankle by the teeth of a machine. The third, a little girl, had been caught by the hair in her machine and her scalp torn off. Not one of these accidents would have happened had the machines been fitted with safety devices.»

«Now I come to the incident referred to in my letter of the shooting of the Chinese students; this was just a year ago, and I think we can all recall it. The Chinese students were protesting by a peaceful parade against conditions to be found in Japanese factories, and they were shot down by Indian Police on the orders of British officers.... An inquiry was made into this shooting incident, because the Chinese made a charge that they had been shot down, which charge was found to be substantiated in a very long account which is to be found in the London Times of June 16, 1925....

I want to say, regardless of what the hon. members may think, that I consider myself a patriot. I have no desire in the world to mislead the school children of Southeast Grey or the school children of Canada, or the people of Canada on any question whatever. To the extent that any details of the letter were inaccurate I regret it, but the spirit of the letter was true and I stand by it, be the consequences what they may.»

WORK OF THE W. I. L. NATIONAL SECTIONS.

The French Section The French Conscription Law.

This section the past month has been putting up a valiant fight against the recent conscription law which was passed by the Chamber of Deputies. It called together different groups, pacifist, feminist, religious and professional, to consider the best attitude to adopt toward the conscription bill.

It was decided to form a Comité d'action. About 15 organizations joined to start with, and others have come in each week. Posters protesting against the bill were put up all over Paris and a leaflet was sent to all the deputies and senators and widely distributed which read in part as follows:

Wake Up French People.

«A law was passed on May 5th with surprising rapidity. The press was silent about this law. The majority of people do not know the danger that threatens through this law and so seem to acquiesce in it. This law is anti-democratic. It is the law of a dictator. It is militaristic. It puts all the power in the hands of the President of the Council. The President can mobilize all or part of the people at will. He can do this not only in case of aggression by an enemy, but in case of «preparations deemed aggressive.»

He can by decree modify the whole legislation of the country. He can «mobilize consciences». This means complete suppression of freedom of thought and action. It strikes at the unquestionable rights of man.

This law is a blow to the working classes:

(1) Because it is possible to mobilize trade unions (art. 11) and leaves no choice between submission and revolt.

(2) Because it is possible to mobilize in peace time (art. 15) and so can be used to suppress all strikes.

This law disposes of the lives and consciences of women without their consent since they haven't the vote. It permits the Government to dispose at will of the children.

The defenders of this measure stress the fact that this law conscripts wealth and will prevent war profiteering. But if the law were really effective in doing this the Senate would not let it stand.

Wake Up French People!

Ignorance and indifference at this moment are a crime!

Instruct yourself by reading the Parliamentary Debates in the Official Journal of March 4, 5, 6, 8, 1927.»

The French Section beside distributing this leaflet widely have held protest meetings in Paris. One was held Friday, May 20th at the Hotel des Sociétés Savantes. Madame Duchêne read a declaration from Romain Rolland, an extract of which is as follows:

Letter from Romain Rolland.

«The monstrous military bill, passed by the French Chamber, attempted to realize what no imperial or Fascist dictatorship has dared to put into effect in Europe: the subjection of a whole people, from the cradle to the grave.... It has flung a net over the whole nation, taking into account neither the rights and duties of motherhood nor those of education, and has blindly sacrificed the whole future of the race to I do not

know what hallucination of panic and tyranny....

«If the French nation accepts this Fascist law it will be signing its own warrant of decadence and ruin. In killing freedom it will be committing suicide.»

At this meeting Mr. Ernest Lafont, deputy, gave a penetrating criticism of the law stressing its Fascist character. Mr. Félicien Challaye, Professor of Philosophy, spoke for the «League against Colonial Oppression» showing that this law would make much worse the position of the people in the colonies. Mr. Albert Crémieux, editor of «Europe», spoke for the intellectuals. Madame Noëlie Drous, as a teacher, spoke for the women's groups. Mr. Hercelet and Mr. Marchal, secretaries in Trade Union organizations, spoke for these organizations. Mlle Suzanne Levy, a lawyer, spoke for conscientious objectors. Several others criticized the law showing it would be a provocation to other nations and deprive France of the benefit of the Conventions of the Hague.

At the end of the meeting a resolution was carried unanimously against this law which was declared to be a blow at peace and freedom, and amnesty for political prisoners was demanded.

It is a great satisfaction to report that as a result of the fight made by the French Section and other groups the Senate has hesitated to confirm this law. It has cut out the article in the bill calling for the mobilization of all French people without distinction of sex or age. It has also however cut out the portion dealing with the mobilization of wealth.

A Letter of Thanks

The French Section wishes to thank most heartily all those people who helped them on the occasion of the exposition and sale organised by the French Section on the 14th and 15th of May. The sale took place in the large hall of the Carnegie Foundation.

The sale was a real success thanks to numerous gifts received from sections and friends of the W.I.L. and the financial returns were very satisfactory. Many well known authors had sent in autographed copies of their works which were bought at very high prices. An autographed page of Wells, brought more than 500 francs!

The counter of cakes and candy from all countries, which was under Countess Karoli's direction, attracted many buyers.

Czecho-Slovakian Section

Martha Neustadtl, a member of the Czecho-Slovakian Section and a Consultative Member from that group, has written us a long article on the splendid international conference on «Peace through the Schools» which took place in Prague from April 16th to 20th. The W.I.L. Section in Czecho-Slovakia was very active in working for and participating in this educational conference, which was organised by the International Bureau of Education of Geneva. We regret we have not space to publish in full Martha Neustadtl's article, but we summarize here what she has written of that occasion:

«The Congress took place in the Czecho-Slovakian University in Prague. Many teachers were present. Guests had come from France, Germany, Poland, England, America, Sweden, Switzerland and other countries. The Swedish Section of the W.I.L. sent two represen-

tatives, the Dutch and Polish Sections each one.

«The first session of the Congress itself was opened by the chairman, Professor Bovet, President of the International Bureau of Education at Geneva. At this meeting two of the Czech ministers, Mr. Benes and Dr. Hodza, were present. The Ministry for School Affairs gave the Congress a contribution of 20,000 Kc.

«The subject «Peace through the Schools» was dealt with under three headings, 1) Psychology, 2) Instruction, 3) Education.

«The speakers on the first subject were Professor Bovet of Geneva, Dr. Prescott of Harvard University and Director Fridrich of Brünn. They dealt with the combative instinct of growing boys and emphasized the atavistic basis for this and gave advice as to how this instinct should be guided. Dr. Camaryt spoke on the second subject, instruction. He emphasized the value of the indirect method in education and the need of penetrating all subjects with a pacifistic spirit.

«Jules Prudhommeaux, the General Secretary of the French League of Nations Union spoke on the importance of eliminating the war spirit from the school text books. He emphasized the tremendous importance of the first book which a child reads not only for the sake of the child but also because these school books are often the only books which country people read. He said in France an organization of 80,000 teachers and in Germany one of 100,000 were working to eliminate passages of animosity in the school text books. It was pointed out that the French teachers have the advantage for they may choose the text books they use, while in Germany and Czecho-Slovakia the books are prescribed by the state.

The French teachers have already put 26 books on the index. A report was given on the work of the Rev. Dr. Davies of Wales and the educational work done there. The peace message of the children of Wales sent out on the 18th of May, Good Will Day, to other nations was read.

«The second day of the Conference was given over to hearing and discussing the splendid results attained through the exchange of letters between children of different lands and the exchange of students. The speakers were Professor Casimir of the Hague, Paul Dengler of Vienna and Dr. Smakal of Czecho-Slovakia. In order to facilitate the exchange of students, Professor Barolin of Vienna suggested establishing in all European towns similar types of normal schools.

«The last day of the conference a resolution was adopted and passed unanimously, covering the following points: it emphasized that love of country must never hinder understanding and friendship with other people, that the child ought to be educated in the spirit of cooperation, that peace work ought to be introduced in primary, grammar and high schools. The desirability of the revision of history text books was strongly emphasized. The exchange of correspondence between pupils of different countries was warmly supported. Esperanto was endorsed pointing out that a common language and a common badge, (the green star) awoke in children a sentiment of fraternity. It was noted that 63 schools in Saxony are teaching Esperanto. At the close of the Conference it was announced that an attempt would be made to raise money to print the results of the Conference.»

German-Polish Sections

These two sections have just been holding a conference for reconciliation on the Upper Silesian frontier. It met from the 6th to the 8th of May in Beuthen and Kattowitz, first on German then on Polish ground. Before the Conference took place a leaflet signed by both sections was widely distributed along the frontier districts calling to German and Polish women to work for understanding between Germany and Poland. It reads:

« Beware of efforts to work up the feelings of one nation against another. Bloodshed has never given birth to reconciliation, violence has never brought justice. Conquer violence by non-violence, hatred by understanding, fear by confidence.

« Your children, your family, your life are pawns in time of war. Don't forget that. Teach your children both the languages, yours and the one across the frontier. He who knows two languages is worth two men. Insist on two languages in the schools. Insist on equal rights for the national minorities. German and Polish women, you have a great responsibility for peace or war. Join the W. I. L. that works to bring peace and freedom by reconciliation. »

This leaflet made splendid propaganda for the Conference which followed. In a report on the conference Frau Augusta Kirchhoff says:

« We can say without boasting that the conference was really very successful.... At Beuthen a huge sign stretched across the street from the second story of one house to the second story of another, announcing in large letters to the people coming from the station the time of our meetings and our speakers. Big and small posters like our Pax pins were hung up at the meeting....

« At the opening session Frau Dr. Schoedon, Germany, and Dr. Budzinska Tylicka spoke. The Mayor and his wife, the former Mayor, the Polish General consul at Beuthen and the German Consul at Kattowitz were present. Five Polish members of the W. I. L. came from Warsaw and there were several Polish women from Kattowitz. The Germans sent representatives from Breslau, Hamburg and Bremen who with the delegates from Beuthen numbered 23. The mornings and afternoons were devoted to

private meetings dealing with the work. Frau Hoppstock-Huth reported on minorities and the experiences of the League at the German-Danish Frontier Conference. Frau Konietzny, Breslau, spoke on the Corridor Question and Dr. Marck on Cultural Autonomy.

« The practical results came on the last day at the meeting on the Polish frontier, at Kattowitz, when seven resolutions were passed, all in the spirit of reconciliation. Then a permanent frontier commission to include representatives of the Polish and German Minorities in Beuthen and Kattowitz together with members of the W. I. L. in Warsaw and Breslau was formed. It is the business of this commission to gather material, to consider misunderstandings of both sides and to hear complaints and to work in every way for reconciliation.

Besides the private meetings there were evening meetings when the public was invited, the first in the Municipal Theater in Beuthen and the last in the Assembly Hall of the Parliament in Kattowitz. Both dealt with German-Polish understanding. The speakers were Dr. Budzinska-Tylicka, Frau Dabska and Frau Senator Lypaczewicz from Warsaw and Augusta Kirchhoff of Bremen.

Besides the meetings there were two charming receptions given, one by the Polish Consul in Beuthen and the other by the German consul in Kattowitz.... One of the guests present at our meetings was Dr. Calonder, Chairman of the Minority Commission on Upper Silesia of the League of Nations who expressed his approval of what the women were doing. Perhaps the best part of the Conference was the creation of greater and deeper confidence than ever before between the German and Polish branches of the W. I. L. »

« Pax International » and the French Police.

The Commissaire of Police at the little French town of Annemasse has refused to let us post « Pax » from there because « Pax » has attacked the new French conscription law so well and so effectively that he thinks the paper threatens the military power in France. Hurrah!!!

It is our custom to take « Pax » across the Swiss border into France and mail the paper from Annemasse because the postage on printed matter is cheaper in France. When we attempted to do this as

usual with the April issue, the Commissaire of Police, who by the way is getting an education in pacifism by having to read our paper every month, was very annoyed with us. He said we had attacked the French conscription law much too cleverly. It seems he doesn't mind how much we attack the military laws of other countries but we musn't attack those of France.

Of course we will not let this matter rest. We are taking it up with the higher French authorities though the Commissaire of Police claims to be upheld in his decision by the Minister of Interior.

But we cannot believe that freedom loving France will stand for any such absurdity. It is all too ridiculous. We can mail the French « Pax » in Switzerland if we wish and flood France with them. There is no French law can keep them out. All the Commissaire is doing is to prevent our mailing them from France.

It is a pleasure to announce that we continue to get most encouraging comments on our paper. Within the last few days has come a letter from a member of the British Section which says:

« We always look forward to receiving « Pax ». It gives us just the deeds of other countries and what they are doing for peace, that we want. »

And from an American member in Louisiana: « We all read « Pax » with the greatest interest and find it so useful in our work.... I and all our Executive board were dismayed at any idea of discontinuing it ».

And several weeks ago, without any solicitation on our part, we were much touched to receive from Dr. Augustus Forel, former professor at the University of Zurich and a well known writer on psychology, a man now of 76, the following letter which he asked us to print:

Yvorne, April 27, 1927.

« To the Editor of « Pax International »
Dear Madam,

Just a few words from an infirm old man: reading « Pax International » gives me quite a thrill. Not only do you write in it about all those things which I ardently desire, but you do it in that clear and concise way that I like. I am ashamed of a lot of men editors who write confusedly and verbosely, often without saying anything. Courage! Carry on in this way until the victory of world peace. Hearty thanks! »



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Jane Addams, International President

International Headquarters 12, rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva
Secretary: Madeleine Z. Doty

WHAT THE W. I. L. P. F. STANDS FOR:

It aims at uniting women in all countries who are opposed to every kind of war, exploitation and oppression, and who work for universal disarmament and for the solution of conflicts by the recognition of human solidarity, by conciliation and arbitration, by world co-operation, and by the establishment of social, political and economic justice for all, without distinction of sex, race, class or creed.

The work of all the National Sections is based upon the statements adopted and the Resolutions passed by the International Congresses of the League.

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