# Women's International League 

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

14 BEDFORD ROW, LONDON, W.C. 1.

## FIFTH YEARLY REPORT.

 October, 1919 - October, 1920.Price 3d,

## Women's International League.

## FIFTH YEARLY REPORT.

October, 1919-October, 1920.

## INTERNATIONAL

During November, 1919, an International Sub-Committee was formed, consisting of the British Headquarters' Executive Member, Mrs. Swanwick; the International Hon. Secretary, Miss Cooper Willis; and Miss Courtney and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, who were co-opted as Headquarters' Consultative Members, and Miss Marshall.

International Language.-Headquarters was asked to consult the National Sections on the possibility of holding the next International Conference in Esperanto, and failing that to suggest ( 1 ) using Esperanto as the medium of translation; (2) having some sessions in Esperanto ; (3) making it a subject of study at the Summer Schools.

Repatriation of Siberian Prisoners.-In December, 1919, Frau Hertzka arrived in London from Vienna, with the object of pressing for the repatriation of the 200,000 prisoners of war in Siberia and the 400,000 in Turkestan. The Women's International League drew up a memorial on this question, signed by variously representative influential people, visited various Government officials, and arranged meetings for Frau Hertzka in co-operation with other societies in London, Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow, and Leeds.

Finally, as a result of representations from many quar ters, the Government assured us that all Governmental
obstacles were cleared out of the way, and the International Red Cross at Geneva undertook to repatriate the prisoners. The League of Nations has now appointed Dr. Nansen to complete the work, and it has been stated in The Times of June ${ }_{17}$ that credits sufficient for the purpose have been released.

Vienna Children. - In answer to an appeal by Max Winter, Mayor of Vienna, for funds to enable children to be sent from Vienna into the country, where the conditions were not so bad, a special fund was opened. The money was sent to Frau Scheu Riesz, a member of the Austrian Section, through the Friends' Emergency and War Victims' Relief Fund, who obtained the $£ \mathrm{I}$ for $£ \mathrm{I}$ grant. The amount raised in the year was $£ 425 \cdot 7 \mathrm{~s} .8 \mathrm{~d}$.

Food and Credit for Vienna.-As a result of information that foodstuffs for Vienna were being held up at Trieste for want of credit, representations were made to the Prime Minister and members of the Supreme Economic Council on the subject.

International Peace Council.-It was decided to affiliate to the International Peace Council at Berne, and the following five members were nominated to the Council:-Mr. Heath, Miss Playne, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Charles Trevelyan, and Miss Huntsman. Miss Huntsman afterwards withdrew.

Visits of Foreigners.-Mme. Duchêne and Mlle. Mèlin visited London in November, 1919. Dr. Elisabeth Rotten, who is Director of the Education Section of the German League of Nations Union, arrived in England in March, and was given a reception at Central Hall, Westminster. She also visited the Cambridge, Newcastle, Manchester, and Scarborough Branches, where she addressed meetings. Dr. Arnesen, of Christiania, spent some time in London during May, 1920, for the purpose of trying to arrange an International Conference of Educationists in 192 1, preparatory to the formation of a permanent International Educational Council; she saw many prominent educationists and left things in train for action, as the time approaches.

Deputation to the Foreign Office.-A deputation organized by the Women's International League, consisting of Miss I. O. Ford (Women's International League), Miss Gostick (Friends' Emergency and War Victims' Relief Fund), Mr. Bertram Hawker, Miss Helen Ward (W.I.L.), Miss Leaf, Miss Sheepshanks (Fight the Famine Council), Mrs.

Raymond Unwin, and Miss K. E. Royds (W.I.L.), was received, on June 2, 1920, by Mr. Cecil Harmsworth. The deputation urged (I) that food, clothes, and raw material should at once be sent to Germany to avert the imminent chaos; (2) that there should be an international organization of transport and of distribution of raw material and coals, and that the $£ i$ for $£ 1$ grant should be extended to Germany. Several meetings were held on international questions. (See pages ro-i2.)

## MEMBERSHIP.

In the fifth year of its organization, the Women's International League has attained a membership of 2,893 Branch members and 850 Central members, some of whom also belong to Branches.

| Branches. | Membership. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Aberdeen ............................. | ...... $28^{*}$ |
| Barnet |  |
| Bath | $27^{*}$ |
| Brighton and Hove | 120 |
| Bristol ................ | 47 80 |
| Cambridge | 89 |
| Chelsea | ${ }^{64}$ |
| Croydon | ${ }_{82}^{48}$ |
| Derwent Valley | 120 |
| Dundee ......... | ${ }^{28}{ }^{*}$ |
| East Cheshire ............... | $36^{*}$ |
| Edinburgh and Midlothian | 71 |
| Hampstead | 408 |
| Heywood | 78 |
| Huddersfield | 40 |
| Hyde |  |
| Kensington | $4{ }^{\circ}$ |
| Kingston-on-Thames . | 117 |
| Leeds | 40 |
| Letchworth | 180 |
| Liverpool | 34 |
| Manchester | 750 |
| Newcastle | 750 |
| Norwich | 36 |
| Oldham | 19** |
| Hitchin and Stevenage | 24 |
| Stockport |  |
| Street | 68 |
|  | 122 |
| Total |  |
| * Last year's figures. |  |

Since the affiliation fees were paid there are several additional members in different Branches. No new Branches have been formed during the year, and the following have ceased to continue their work as Branches:-Balham, Beaconsfield, Bolton, Catford, Darlington, Harlesden, Northern Heights, Petersfield, Sheffield, Shipley, and Golder's Green. Swinton is now working under Manchester. Edinburgh Branch has affiliated to the Home Rule Association of Scotland.

The Women's Indian Association has affiliated to us this year.

The Executive Committee, consisting of twenty-five members, including officers, held eighteen regular meetings during the year. Representatives from it were appointed to the National Peace Council, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, the International Peace Congress, the International Suffrage Alliance, the Conference of the Fabian Women's Group on the Economic Position of Women, the Cobden Club Conference, the Conference on Parents' Committees, and the International Economic Conference of the Fight the Famine Council.

Delegates were sent to an informal Conference of various Women's Societies to discuss their action with regard to conditions in famine-stricken areas of Europe.

Delegates were also sent to a meeting got up by the International Council of Women and the N.U.S.E.C. to discuss the need for women in Parliament; to the National Council Congress, the International Peace Congress at Basle, and to the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association. The W.I.L. were invited to send delegates to the International Congress in Brussels of the World Institute of Public Health. We were not able to accept this invitation.

The Office.-During the past year the following workers have been engaged on work in the Office :-Miss K. E. Royds, Secretary; Miss Brewster, Literature Secretary; Miss Anderson, Financial Secretary; Miss Horscroft, Shorthand Typist and Clerk; and an office girl.

Library.-A number of members have availed themselves this year of the opportunity to read many interesting books on national and international questions which we now have in the Library. A list of these books was issued in the News Sheet.

Education and Literature Sub-Committee.
Bibliography.-The first edition, $\mathrm{I}, \mathrm{ooo}$ copies, of the "Bibliography for Teachers of History," published in April, 1919, is entirely sold out; a second edition is now in preparation, and will be published shortly by Messrs. Methuen \& Co.

Histories of the Peoples.-It has been decided to arrange for the publication of a series of short histories which will aim at giving the histories of the people as a whole, paying particular attention to the growth of democratic movements. Messrs. Methuen \& Co. have undertaken the publication, and the following volumes are in preparation :- "History of the English People," by R. H. Gretton; "History of the French People," by Guy de la Batut, with introduction by Henri Barbusse; "History of the Jewish People," by Dr. Epstein; "History of the Spanish People," by Prof. Huarte; "History of the Greek People," by Prof. Gardner. The editors are G. P. Gooch and K. E. Royds.

The Peace Treaties.-A series of pamphlets criticizing various points of the Peace Treaties have been published. Publications issued during the year :-

| Pamphlets. | Price. | No. disposed of. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The Covenant of the League of Nations, by H. M. Swanwick ... | 3d, | . | 606 |
| Germany and Austria: Territorial and Political Changes, by I. Cooper Willis $\qquad$ | 3d. |  | 529 |
| Germany : Economic Clauses, by W. E. Arnold Forster | 3d. |  | 674 |
| German Rights and Interests outside Germany, by H. M. Swan wick | 3d. |  | 326 |
| Coloured Troops in Europe ......... | 3d. |  | 510 |
| Leaflets. |  |  |  |
| Votes for Indian Women | 6d. per 100 |  | 3000 |
| Industrial War | 100 |  | 2320 |
| Statement as to the Prisoners of War in Siberia and Turkestan... | 6d. ., 100 |  | 2950 |
| Help the Vienna Childre | 100 |  | 3500 |

Elections.-Questions were drawn up from time to time throughout the year for the use of Branches and members where bye-elections took place.

## COUNCIL MEETING.

The Annual Council Meeting took place on October 30 and 31, 1919, and was attended by eighteen members of the Executive and fifty-two delegates representing nineteen Branches, and a number of Headquarters' members.

During the Council Meeting, Miss Marshall (who was in Germany during the signing of the Peace Treaty) gave a most interesting account of the work she had been doing in Germany and France.

The following resolutions were passed:-
Amendments to Rules.-II. ObjEcc. (i) ( $f$ ). International agreement to unite in bring that resorts to arms instead of referring its case to arbitration or conciliation.
III. Methods of Work- - (a) To take political and international action in support of the objects of the League as opportunity offers; (b) To conduct educational and propaganda work by the formation of study circles, the holding of meetings, the distribution of literature, and other methods.
Votes for Indian Women.-That this Council urges the Government to grant to Indian women in the proposed Reform Bill equal polit:cal and educational status with men, so that the principle of equal human rights, so slowly recognized in our own country, may be adopted immediately in our Eastern Empire.
Election Work.-That in order to give effect to the aims and object of the W.I.L. in national life, propaganda by means of meetings and of the W.I.L. in national out at every election, and that an election programme be drawn up on the following lines:-
Questions shall be put to all candidates, either in writing or by
deputation, on the measures, national and international, from time deputation, on the advocated by the W.I.L., and such action shall be taken to time advocated by the cans as the local W.I.L. Committee shall think desirable.
Responsibilities in the British Empire.-This Council, in view of Responsibilities in the British the principle accepted by the Allies when signing the Armistice, that nations should have the right of self-determ:nation, urges the Government to apply this principle without delay to our possessics, Ind right, India, and Egypt; and not only on the grounds of justice and righ, but also for economic reasons, urges and military, which the continu-
tries of the huge forces, both naval tries of the huge forces, both naval and mintary, whes and which is ance of the present policy of repression this country, a burden that laying an intolerabe to national bankruptcy.

Failure to make Peace.-This Council records its shame at the failure of the Paris Conference to make peace within twelve months of the signature of the Armistice. This failure can be attributed to of the seglect of certain conditions essential to genuine peace, viz. :-
(I) The entire abandonment of the weapon of famine against any
(I) The entire abandonment of the
(2) The resumption of normal conditions of industry and commerce;
(3) The unconditional return of all prisoners of war;
(4) The complete cessation of all interference with the internal affairs of Russia;
(5) The abandonment of the policies of plunder by which territorial questions which should be referred to the League of Nations have been settled by the Allies in their own favour-e.g. Egypt, Mesopotamia, Syria, South African Colonies, Morocco, Persia.
Relief Work.-That in the opinion of this Council the special appeal of the Vienna Section shall be an important charge upon the interest of the W.I.L., but that the main work of the League shall be political and educational and not philanthropic.
Conscription and Military Training.-The British Section of the W.I.L. advocates an international movement amongst women to abolish conscription and compulsory military training, and that full information as to methods adopted and results attained in, each country be interchanged through the International W.I.L. Secretariat.
War Emergency Lawes (Continuance) Bill.-That this Council calls upon the House of Commons as guardians of the liberties of the people to secure the withdrawal of all the restrictions of freedom of person, press, and meeting included in the War Emergency Acts and D.O.R.A., all trade embargoes and monopolies imposed and administered by the Department of Import Restrictions of the Board of Trade, and to watch closely on the return of the Bill from Committee that the necessary clauses are deleted and the Bill made applicable to Ireland, which still remains an integral part of the Kingdom.
Propaganda for the Revision of Treaties.-That Propaganda for the revision of Peace Treaties with Germany and Austria and for the enlightenment of public opinion concerning conditions in Central Europe be put in the forefront of the W.I.L. work this autumn.
Protection of Animals.-That the protection of animals should be organized internationally by societies formed for the purpose, and that the W.I.L. be recommended to co-operate where possible in pressing for such organization.
International Language.-That it be a recommendation to Branches to encourage the study of Esperanto in order to facilitate intenational intercourse, and to urge the teaching of Esperanto in schools.

Women's Work.-This Council protests against the wholesale and heedless dismissal of women from Government employment without any provision for their future welfare. It urges the Government to tide over the period of transition from war industry to peace, and demands the use of the Queen's Work for Women Fund and local relief funds to provide :-
(a) Employment for unskilled manual workers at not less than subsistence rates;
(b) Education for young workers with payment for maintenance ; (c) Further training for semi-skilled workers
and also to throw open all Civil Service posts on equal terms to both sexes.

Blockade of Russia.-That this meeting protests in the strongest terms against the continuance of the Blockade of Russia and demands that it be raised immediately

The Executive Committee were elected as follows :Hon. International Secretary: Miss I. Cooper Willis. Hon. National Secretary: Mrs. Tom Dehn. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

Executive Committec:
Miss Ashton.
Mrs. Briggs.
Miss Chick.
The Lady Courtney of Penwith.
Miss Courtney.
Mrs. Despard.
Miss Eckhard.
Miss Ford.
Mrs. Ayrton Gould.
Miss Huntsman.
Miss Leaf.
Mrs. Lloyd.

Miss Macnaghten.
Miss C. E. Marshall
Miss Morland
Lady Parmoor
The Hon. Mrs. Rollo Russell. Mrs. Salter.
Mrs. Swanwick
Mrs. Raymond Unwin
Miss Ward.
Miss Cooper Willis.
Miss Wilson Wilson.
.

Miss Morland has been acting as our representative in New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa. During the year Miss Wilson Wilson resigned from the Committee owing to pressure of work. Mrs. Huth Jackson was co-opted a member of the Executive in April.

The Executive Committee at its first meeting re-elected Mrs. Swanwick as Chairman.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Esperanto or Babel Meeting, October 30, 1919, Essex Hall.-Miss Ashton in the chair. The conclusion arrived at was that Esperanto would be of very great value to the International Movement. A generous offer was made to give Esperanto Classes, but there was no response.

Entertainment by Members of the West-Central Girls, Club, November 8, 1919, Alfred Place, W.C.-Mrs. Pethick Lawrence in the chair. Mr. Pett Ridge read some of his Cockney sketches. There was singing by the members, a eurhythmic display, and sketches.

Votes for Indian Women, November 14, 1919, Queen's Hall.-Mr. Ramsay Macdonald in the chair. The following addressed the audience :-Mrs. Naidu, the Indian Poetess; the Hon. Mr. Patel, Member of the Imperial Legislative

Council; Miss M. A. Tata; Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas; and Mrs. Annie Besant. The following resolution was carried unanimously :-

This meeting protests against the introduction in the Government of India Bill of a special disqualification for otherwise qualified women on account of their sex, a clause hitherto unknown in India, and demands that any extension of the franchise in India shall include women on equal terms with men.

Green, White, and Gold Fair, November 28 and 29, 1919, Central Hall.-This Fair was organized by the Women's Freedom League, and the W.I.L. Headquarters had one stall in aid of their funds.
"The Economic Effects of the Peace Treaty" and "The Depreciation of the Paper Currency," December 11, 1919, Essex Hall.-Mrs. Swanwick in the chair. Mr. Norman Angell spoke on "The Economic Effects of the Peace Treaty," and Mr. F. W. Hirst on "The Depreciation of the Paper Currency." The Hall was filled with a keenly interested audience.
"The Teaching of Languages and the Growth of Internationalism," January 9, 1920, University College, Gower Street, W.C.-Mrs. Swanwick in the chair. Speakers: Mr. Victor Russell and Mr. Palmer (of the International Students' Bureau).

Recital by Miss Hilda Saxe, February 3, 1920, at 64 Rutland Gate, by kind permission of Mrs. Huth Jackson.-Miss Hilda Saxe gave a delightful recital to a large audience. £28 was realized for W.I.L. Funds.

Repatriation of Prisoners of War in Siberia and Turkestan, January 26, 1920, Essex Hall.-A meeting was held to urge the repatriation of the prisoners of war in Siberia and Turkestan. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence in the chair. Speakers : Miss Margaret Bondfield, Mrs. Hertzka, Mrs. Branczik.

Trade with Russia, February 19, 1920, Central Hall.-A meeting was held to demand the resumption of trade with Russia. Mrs. Swanwick in the chair. Speakers : Mr. Asancheyev (of the All Russian Central Alliance Consumers' Societies), Commander H. Grenfell, Miss Llewelyn Davies, Mr. F. W. Hirst, Mr. L. S. Woolf.
"Economic Consequences of the Peace Treaty," March 12, 19, and 26, 1920, Mortimer Hall, W.-A course of three
lectures on "The Economic Consequences of the Peace Treaty" was given by Mr. Arnold-Forster. The chair at the meetings was taken by Viscount Curzon, M.P., Mr. H. W. Nevinson, and Mr. Graham Wallas.

Reception, March 9, 1920, Central Hall (Library).-Dr. Elisabeth Rotten received a warm welcome to England from W.I.L. members and many of her friends.
"International Threefold Commonwealth," April 23, 1920, at Mortimer Hall.-Mrs. Pethick Lawrence in the chair. Speaker: Dr. Vreede.

Use of Coloured Troops in the Occupied Districts, April 27, 1920, Central Hall.-A meeting was held to protest against the use of coloured troops in the occupied districts. It was supported by the Women's Co-operative Guild, the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations, the Independent Women's Social and Political Union, the National Federation of Women Teachers, the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, the Fabian Women's Group, the National Federation of Women Workers, and the Daily Herald. Mrs. Swanwick in the chair. Speakers Mr. E. D. Morel, Dr. Ethel Bentham, Colonel Bruce Kingsmill, and Mr. Ben Spoor, M.P.

Conference on the Position of Women under Guild Socialism, May 4, 1920, Central Hall.-Mrs. Swanwick in the chair. This Conference was held to hear the views of various women on the position of women under Guild Socialism. Mrs. Annot Robinson spoke on the Trade Union point of view, Mrs. Barton for the Women's Co-operative Guilds, and Mrs. Stocks for the point of view of the Home Workers. Mr. G. D. H. Cole answered on behalf of the National Guilds League. In the afternoon there was a preliminary meeting for women only, to clear the ground for the evening session, and at this meeting the following resolution was drawn up to be put to the evening meeting :-

This meeting is of opinion that no scheme of Guild Socialism which ignores motherhood as an occupation can be acceptable to women ; it therefore urges Guild Socialists to make their schemes comprehensive enough to cover this occupation.
Further, it urges women to study the reorganization of industry and government according to a system of National Guilds, giving particular attention to women's work as mothers, as home-makers, and as the majority of those engaged in personal services.

This resolution was passed at the evening meeting.

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE W.I.L. ON PUBLIC EVENTS.

The National Council for the Unmarried Mother. - A Bastardy Bill, as proposed by the Council, was considered, and Miss Ashton undertook to submit a criticism for representations to be made to the Council. A letter was sent to the Committee pointing out the necessity of there being a clear indication in the Bill that the financial provision for the unmarried mother and her child should be in accordance with the financial position of the father, and that in order to secure this a question should be inserted in Schedule B concerning the income and capital of the father, in order to give the necessary facts for the judge to arrive at a decision under Clause VI, where neither party appearssin court. The Executive were thanked for their careful criticism.

Attention was drawn to the dangerous clauses in the Criminal Law Amendment Bill with reference to girls convicted before any court, for prostitution, loitering, or solicitation, and to the clauses dealing with venereal disease.

Ireland.-The following protest against the treatment of Irish Political Prisoners was sent to the Irish Office, Sir Hamar Greenwood, Mr. Lloyd George, and Mr. Bonar Law :-

The Women's International League hears with grave concern of the danger that Irish political prisoners may lose their lives through protesting by the hunger strike against imprisonment without trial and treatment as common criminals. Should death occur under such conditions the odium would rest with our oppressive Government, which has driven Ireland into rebellion and now holds down the country by terrorism. We urge that there should be a general amnesty and that the Irish people should be invited to summon a National Convention to declare the will of the people.
Franchise. - At the opening of Parliament on February 10, 1920, a letter was sent to Mr. Lloyd George as a reminder that his pledge on the extension of the suffrage should be kept. There were several further letters written during the discussion of the Representation of the People Bill in Committee, to all members of that Committee, urging the importance of their attending and doing their best to get the Bill through. Miss Brewster organized a good deal of lobbying to get members to attend and support the Bill.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

Year ending August 31st, 1920.


15







## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST, 1920.


I have examined the above Statement with the books and vouchers relating thereto, and find the same to be correct in accordance therewith.

9 Regent Street, S.W. 1. Sebtember 30, 1920.
(Signed) M. S. CLUGSTON,
Certified Accountant and Auditor.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM.

Please ${ }^{*}\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text { send me further particulars } \\ \text { enrol me a member }\end{array}\right\}$ of the WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
LEAGUE (British Section of the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom).
*I enclose my membership Subscription of $£$
$s$.
d.
*Please also send me the "Monthly News Sheet," for one year, for which I enclose Is. $6 d$. ., in addition to my subscription.

Name
(Mrs. or Miss)
Address.

* Strike out words not required.

This slip should be returned to the Secretary, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE,

14 Bedford Row,
High Holborn, W.C.1.

## The Women's International

## League for Peace and Freedom.

President: JANE ADDAMS, U.S.A<br>Secretary: Miss EMILY BALCH, B.Sc.,<br>Central Bureau: Boulevard Georges Favon 19, Geneva.

Formed at The Hague Congress of Women in 1915 to bind together women in every country who desire to promote the following objects :-
I. The Settlement of disputes by some means other than War.
II. The Emancipation of Women.

National Sections have been formed in :-

| Australia | Germany | Norway |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Austria | Great Britain | Poland |
| Bulgaria | Hungary | Sweden |
| Canada | India | Switzerland |
| Denmark | Ireland | United States |
| Finland | Italy | Uruguay |
| France | Netherlands |  |

The BRITISH SECTION of the LEAGUE is known as THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Office: 14 Bedford Row, London, W.C. 1

MEMBERSHIP is open to all women who are BRITISH SUBJECTS, who desire to work for the above two-fold object. Minimum Subscription, 1/- per annum.

The League has over 40 Branches.
If the programme of the League interests you, write for further information, membership form overleaf, to the Secretary, W.I.L., 14 Bedford Row, London, W.C.1.

