

If my soldiers would begin to think, not one would remain in the ranks.

Frederick II of Prussia.



There is no international dispute that cannot be solved in the Council Chamber. There is no international dispute that can be solved by war.

Arthur Ponsonby, M. P.

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DANGER SPOTS TO WATCH

The Crisis in China.

A short while ago William E. Borah, Senator from Idaho of the U. S. and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, gave a powerful address before the Council of Jewish Women against "the brutal policy of force in China". He presented a graphic picture of conditions there saying in part:

"In dealing with the problems which the Chinese situation now presents we cannot ignore the fact that more than 40 of her important cities and many of her great ports are now under foreign control. What would be the possibilities as to peace and contentment, of progress and development, in any country under such circumstances ?

"China's natural resources are being divided among outside powers. Her tariff duties are fixed by 13 nations. These nations determine what tariff duty China may collect and what tariff duty she must pay when importing into these respective nations. The Chinese have been permitted for years to enjoy but 5 per cent tariff rate on imports. There is not a nation, even a professed free trade nation, which could or would, live under such a revenue law.

"The foreigner in China is exempt from Chinese laws. Foreign war-ships patrol her defenseless coast and foreign gunboats police her rivers. In foreign factories Chinese children work under conditions and environments which human language is inadequate to describe... "China, in other words, is dominated by foreign powers in all matters essential to a nation's prosperity and growth.

"The result is that the spirit of nationalism is fast laying hold of China. China for the Chinese has come to be the battle cry... "The Chinese problem at bottom is imperialism coming into the presence of imperialism.

"What is the world going to do about it? What are those going to do about it who are most interested in China? Here is your test in the peace program. Will we seek to adjust conditions through peaceful methods, in doing justice, or will China be tantalized into desperate things and then the appeal to force?"

GLAD TIDINGS FOR PACIFISTS

U.S. Passport Department Sees Light.

Recently an American conscientious objector, Roger N. Baldwin, who served nine months in prison during the war for his refusal to bear arms on conscientious grounds, wanted to get a passport to come to Europe.

Now every American who gets a passport has to take an oath of allegiance to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic".

If to defend the Constitution meant with force of arms, it was of course impossible for Mr. Baldwin to take this oath, so he wrote the State Department: "I am a pacifist and wholly opposed to bearing arms for any purpose or to aiding warfare". To this letter he received a most satisfactory and enlightened reply to the effect that the oath of affirmation of allegiance does not necessarily involve physical defense of the Constitution, especially as it is administered to women and children, but that if Mr. Baldwin has scruples against taking the oath as it stands, the State Department will do what it can for him if he will sign the following statement:

"Further, I do solemnly affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and will, so far as my conscience will allow, defend it against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation

freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion. So help me God."

This statement Mr. Baldwin was able to sign. He received his passport.

No More War Toys.

A unique children's meeting was arranged in the church of the community of Clapham England by the rector, Mr. Stanley Russel. The children were asked to bring all their military toys, tin soldiers, guns, cannons, etc., to the church and destroy them. The children came in a long line but with very few military toys. Although the shops had had great supplies of such toys, these children had not received them as presents. Mr. Russel said that it was an excellent sign.

At the close of the meeting such military toys as had been brought were burnt and the children promised solemnly never to give or to accept more in the future.

More Peace Trees

Last spring we heard that the German women of the W.I.L. had gathered together money to buy trees to plant in the devastated areas of France.

Now comes the news that German boys and girls, inspired by this example, at a conference of young people of all nations, planted a "peace tree" in front of the Reims cathedral.

While it was being planted a young French boy made a little speech, saying "May this peace tree planted by young German pacifists in French soil grow freely. May it spread its boughs widely and protect the love and brotherhood of a people reconciled forever!"

This one tree is to be followed by others. German boys and girls are day by day saving their pennies and placing them at the disposal of the City of Reims to buy more trees.

A Fund for the Maison

Great good news. Already three sections have replied to our appeal to raise money to buy the Maison.

The Chicago branch in America has started an active campaign for the cause. The Czech Section says "we can't give much but we will certainly raise some money for this purpose". The French Section, through Madame Duchêne, declares "we couldn't raise money for any other purpose, but to buy the Maison it will be possible to get some money".

Also we have had word from Louie Bennett in Ireland endorsing the campaign for International Members, so we may have a permanent income for Headquarters. Miss Bennett says she will do what she can to get members in Ireland.

CHRISTMAS AT THE MAISON

Madeleine Z. Doty.

On December 25th Geneva was bare and grey though the mountains were snow-covered, but inside the Maison was laughter and light.

A good friend had sent us funds for Christmas. We decided to have an International Christmas party. We bought a Christmas tree. We searched for trimmings to represent different national customs. We put on our tree a Santa Claus, an angel, two birds, imitation snow and icicles and 36 candles. We filled the library with holly and mistletoe. All our lovely red candlesticks from Sweden including a gorgeous new one, big and tall, like an altar candle stick, were filled with red candles. Then we invited the office staff, the household and intimate friends of the Maison, twenty one in all representing seven nations, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Austria, German and French Switzerland, Holland and America. At four-thirty on Christmas Day when all the candles had been lighted, we began singing English and German Christmas carols, and marched gaily into the library. On the tree were jokes and rhymes for all in three languages, French, German and English, thanks to the skill of Eleonore von Eltz, one of our International Members, and Anne Zueblin of our staff. In a conspicuous place at the foot of the tree were three small adorable dolls, white, black and brown, holding hands and reposing on a large red card. These had come from Catherine Marshall and the card read:

"Au Bureau de la Ligue Internationale des Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté avec les meilleurs souhaits pour une solution heureuse du Problème des Rapports entre les Races."

There is not space to tell of all our jokes but among others, was a puppet head, with Demon face, a God of War. It was for Fritz Schubert, a member of the Disarmament Section of the League of Nations. The rhyme with it read:

"In League of Nations office pent,

You ponder on disarmament
From 9 to 5 or more.

While I the demon-god of Greed
Foment another war.

When all the world this face shall know

That I now come to you and show
Your work, my day, is o'er."

I confess most of the verses were less international and more personal. There was one for Sophie Hattinga-Raven who keeps house for us, and is indefatigable in her efforts for our comfort. To her we gave a carved wooden horse, a patient plodding creature with a verse which read:

"This gentle and benign old horse
Can steer a safe and steady course
Between Maison and Market.

So ride him out upon the street,
To save your errand running feet
And spare us dark remorse."

To "our Charlotte" who has done our housework for two years and who recently left us to get married, we gave a toy cook stove with an appropriate rhyme in German. We hated to have Charlotte leave us, but Frida Schlageter, who has now come to do our work is also a treasure. We discovered she is a bit of a feminist, with a room of her own in town, where she goes to read when she has her day off. We also discovered that she likes to smoke, but never does because cigarettes cost too much. For her we got a tiny smoking table for her

room and put on it a match box, an ash tray and a large box of cigarettes. Frida has a good sense of humor. Her amusement was great. She had us all in gales of laughter.

It was a very gay party, a true mixture of race nation, class and creed. To give the occasion a particularly familiar W.I.L.L. atmosphere, we had frequent false telegrams arrive from our members. One supposed to come from Catherine Marshall which caused the most delight and for which we hope she will pardon us, read:

"Season's greetings to all. Please send 16 Documents on mandates problem. Have just seen Austin Chamberlain. He has agreed to give up the British Empire."

Such was our Christmas party. But I must not forget that when the candles had burned low, we went to the dining room for refreshments and that thanks to good friends, there were many good things to eat, including all kinds of cakes and candy. And after the refreshments came games until one by one our friends took leave.

Perhaps the best thing about the Maison is the opportunity it affords for international living together. For what is internationalism but technique in team work. This came home to me at our midday Christmas dinner. There were nine of us and only three were vegetarians. There was a demand for a turkey dinner. Ordinarily the Maison table is vegetarian, but Fräulein Hattinga and her sister, two of the vegetarians, gladly consented to the group demand for turkey, though they ate none of it themselves. That was true internationalism. I, the third vegetarian, was the one who failed. I agreed to team work, but didn't live up to my ideal, I succumbed to the turkey.

Jesting aside, this business of surrendering one's personal will to a group, of consenting to be one in a ball game instead of playing the whole game oneself, is difficult. When one determines to cooperate with a number of people who have other views than one's own, it makes sacrifice necessary. I remember Gilbert Murray telling us at a meeting in Geneva on "Intellectual Cooperation" that the great painter Corot once sold one of his famous paintings for a pair of boots. Corot had put into it his own conceptions and had not carried other people along with him. Twenty years later people reached the point of understanding his conception. Prof. Murray said in telling us this story: "The first thing one has to realise in taking up international work is that it is not going to be so good as the work one does alone. When you wish to take other people along with you, you must be content in order to get what you want, with what other people will agree to."

In team work, the chain is only as strong as the weakest link, yet team work can accomplish more internationally, than one person alone. For instance we of the W.I.L.L. stand for total universal disarmament. It is easy individually to hold this view, much harder to meet each others differing views as to how disarmament shall be brought about and together work out a concrete program, a piece of team work to which we can all agree.

We complain bitterly of the slowness with which the League of Nations functions, but it is struggling with this same problem. The hope for the future is that little by little through contact at Geneva team work is developing.

Raymond B. Fosdick said on this subject in an article in "The World Tomorrow": "The nations in the League are learning what it means to play ball together. The hope of the situation lies right at this point: with this habit of team work a little more thoroughly interwoven into the life of the world, with the technique of cooperation a little more completely understood, perhaps when the next great test comes, and another 1914 throws down its ugly challenge to mankind, there will be a better chance for sanity and self control and a larger hope of escape from a world wreck of untold proportions".

SUFFRAGISTS CONCENTRATE ON PEACE

The League of Women Voters in America has turned its attention to peace. It held its second big conference from December 5th to 10th on the Cause and Cure of War with Carrie Chapman Catt as Chairman. The group of women who attended this conference were drawn from nine national organizations representing eight million women and there were about nine hundred women at the conference.

Although this group of women do not go as far as the members of the W.I.L.L. in the things they advocate a cure for war, still, even they have come in for their share of attack as pacifists from the militaristic organizations in America. It is still difficult to be a peace maker in the U.S.

For instance an American manufacturer the other day listed Jane Addams, Carrie Chapman Catt, Lucia Ames Meade and Emily Balch as Bolsheviks. Asked what he meant by a Bolshevik, he answered: "A Bolshevik is anyone who wants to change anything."

Mrs. Catt met the attacks on her and the Conference on the Cause and Cure of War with serenity. She said: "When our opponents call us Bolsheviks and traitors it does not help our side to shout back 'reactionary and narrow minded'. The American Legion has become rather outspoken in some places against peace makers. I am not sufficiently familiar with the aims of the Legion to know how valuable it is. I do know that when it tries to break up peace meetings and prejudice authorities against allowing peace makers to be heard, it is using a boomerang which hurts the Legion and not the cause to which a hearing is denied.

The meetings which were a great success, were addressed by many prominent men in America both in the academic and political world. As a result of the Conference, the women decided to set up two committees, one on the Cause and Cure of War, the other on Foreign Policy, to be supplemented by a number of sub-committees. The nine national women's organizations are to put in two years of intensive study and to meet again in 1928.

Briefly, some of the things said by Mrs. Catt were: "The cause of war is fear. Nations not only fear for their survival but they fear to cast aside custom in settling their differences. They always have gone to war, therefore they continue to go to war.

"The remedy is a system of treaties built up between nations under which they promise to submit to arbitration their international differences and further agree to abide by the result of the arbitration. Arbitration is the main objective."

Limitation and Reduction of Armaments

Admiral Mark Kerr, C.B., M.V.O.

The following speech of Admiral Mark Kerr was broadcast from London all over England by the British Broadcasting Company on December 13th, at 9.30 P.M. One of the executive members of the British Section of the W.I.L.L. has sent us a copy of the speech and while "Pax" ordinarily only prints articles by members of the W.I.L.L. this seemed too significant not to publish. When an Admiral of the British Navy talks in this fashion, the New Year seems bright with hope. Moreover as British Broadcasting is controlled by the Government and as this speech was submitted to the Post Office and passed upon by them, with it is understood, the sanction of the Foreign Office, it makes the whole occasion most significant.

Presentation of Case

In order to put the case for the reduction and limitation of armaments before you, so that all hearers can form their own opinion on the subject, I wish you to consider my statements as the summing up of a Judge, and each of you listeners to consider yourselves as members of a Jury, and after due consideration, give your verdict.

Nelson, Napoleon, and other masters of war have taught us that armies live only by their communications. If their communications fail, they will starve and die, or be driven into surrender. Great Britain is almost the only country in the world, and certainly the only great one, who is dependent for her existence on food and supplies coming over the seas from the British Dominions and alien countries. Cut Great Britain's communications and she will starve and die.

In both peace and war ours is the most vulnerable country in the world, and it is, therefore, necessary that we should consider what effect the reduction of armaments will have on our Country and Empire before we decide what our policy should be in this matter.

The Problem with Regard to War

First of all, let us look at the problem with regard to war.

Communications are not only more vital to us than to any other country, but ours are at least one hundred thousand miles longer, for they include all the ocean routes and the vessels plying to and fro on them, bringing the necessities of life and commerce to us, and taking the equivalent in goods to other countries in payment. It is perfectly obvious, then, that we are more vulnerable in war and harder hit by it, than any other nation on earth.

One of the greatest factors in producing war is the great strain caused by the strict discipline and the tuning up of armies. Men cannot remain in hard and rigid military training without wishing for the relief brought by action and, when a great part of the male population is educated in this way and suffers from this strain, war is more or less certain to come, as a result. Therefore, it follows that the smaller the army the smaller will be the strain, and in consequence less pressure will be felt in a country to find an outlet through war.

Competition in armaments brings about a constant increase in navies and armies, until both the Government and the people resort to war to try and put an end to the increasing expenditure which threatens an economic disaster.

The Problem in Peacetime

Now let us consider the effect reduction of armaments will have on our country in peacetime. If we can reduce the expenditure on armaments, many of the factories now employed on the manufacture of arms, ammunition, warships, and engines of war, would turn their machinery and their men on to the making of motor-cars, furniture, gram-

phones, china, electric necessities, and many other things which bring comfort and happiness into homes where at present they are hardly known. This has already occurred in America, where the abolition of the factories which formerly manufactured wines, spirits and beer has not caused unemployment, but merely a change in production, and so by increased production and competition of many other articles, (which are a blessing to mankind), have reduced the prices of these and brought them within the reach of the purses of the middle and poorer classes, where formerly these articles were looked upon only as the luxuries of the rich.

Next — Great Britain has already saved about fifty million pounds from the reduction of capital ships ordained by the Washington Conference a few years ago.

Consider carefully the foregoing statements, and when you have thought it all out, ask yourself the simple question: "What country in the world will gain most in war and peace from the limitation and reduction of armaments?"

Further — consider for a moment that, at certain periods of sanity in the world's history, a duel or a tournament has taken place instead of the clashing of great armies, to decide a dispute, and has done so much more effectually, and without so much bitterness (because of the laws of chivalry observed), than experience has shown us would have been accomplished by the prosecution of a great war.

What is Best for Mankind

Now ask yourself another question: "Which is the best for mankind? Useful production of merchandise which feeds and benefits mankind — or — destructive production of arms and munitions of war, which deteriorate mankind, morally and physically?"

There are many people in the world who, carried away by sentiment and enthusiasm, pray that the League of Nations may grow to its full height, and that reduction of armaments may sink to the lowest level until they disappear altogether, and all this to come to pass from reasons of love and unselfishness. But for the whole world we must show more than this. We must prove to every country that they will benefit by substituting Law for War, and Prosperity instead of Misery.

We have often heard it said that if people are good they will be happy, and no doubt this is a good prescription. But, taking into consideration the weaknesses of human nature, it will probably be found that more universal results will be obtained from a new proverb: "If people are happy they will be good."

War causes deterioration in morals and unhappiness, and the aftermath of strife is bitterness. This deterioration in morals and bitterness has been increased enormously since the introduction of poison-gas, indiscriminate submarine warfare, air bombing, and the consequent killing of non-combatants as well as combatants, and it will increase to a

greater extent in more extended forms of gassing, bombing and killing of non-combatants as well as combatants if unhappily another war should come upon the world.

Now you have the facts before you. Do your own thinking, and then give your verdict.

A World Congress Will Make War Impossible

Finally, remember that Garibaldi spoke to Great Britain in 1862 as follows: "War will no longer be possible when a World Congress has power to adjudicate on the disputes that arise among nations. No more standing armies, which render liberty impossible! What we want is not batteries and ironclads, but reaping machines! Let the millions that are squandered on engines of destruction be used to foster industry, and to alleviate human want and misery. Start, O People of England, the new era of human concord, and confer a priceless boon on mankind."

Pledge Against War

Over a year ago Arthur Ponsonby, M.P., inaugurated a great peace campaign. This campaign reached its climax in December in a huge meeting in Albert Hall, London, a hall which holds 10,000 people. At this meeting it was announced that 100,000 signatures had been secured to the Ponsonby peace letter which pledges itself: "not to support or render war service to any government which resorts to arms."

This is one of the most remarkable campaigns ever known for its purpose has been to give notice to the Government that the people who signed the peace would not take part in any war.

There were many brilliant speakers at this great demonstration, among others Margaret Bonfield, M.P. She said: "It is time we woke up to the fact that it is gross egotism to demand that bodies of men should be organised to protect our own puny bodies. The time will come when it will only be cowards who will call on soldiers and sailors to protect them."

The great ovation of the evening was, of course, for Mr. Ponsonby. He was greeted with applause and waving of hats and the singing of "He's a jolly good fellow".

Mr. Ponsonby said that the great gathering was not a final meeting but a beginning which would end in triumph and he added: "If those who do the quarreling had to do the fighting there would never be another war." In conclusion he appealed to all to "Respect your conscience or obey your rulers; stand for truth or yield to falsehood; live for your country or die for exploiters and profiteers; rid the world of this curse of war or let civilization crumble.

"Down with the sham fight of international warfare; turn all your energies to the real fight for economic liberation, the enlightenment of the people and the salvation of humanity."

The League of Nations

Some Points Discussed by the Council

Jessie Lloyd (U.S.)

The last session of the Council, held in Geneva from December 6-11, dealt with a long and important agenda. The most pressing question of all, however, that of the form of League supervision over Germany and the date when it would supersede Allied control, was not on the agenda at all, and was settled in private conferences between the permanent members of the Council. The accord reached gives the League no permanent machinery in Germany, but simply the right to investigate whenever a majority of the Council votes to. That right, however, applies to all Germany, not just the demilitarized Rhine zone. The date when the League takes over this duty is January 31 next.

In the line of preventing future wars, the Council considered an interesting proposition, which originated with the French. The proposition points out that since the object of the League is to preserve peace, as much attention should be devoted to Article 11, on the prevention of wars, as to Article 16, on the punishment of a state which resorts to war. Article 11 has not received the study it deserves. After six years, a threat of war would find the League without machinery to prevent it.

The remedies now proposed were on the whole favorably received. Only the representative of Italy, M. Scialoja, made reservations. He said it might be dangerous to define Article 11 too precisely, for it might limit the Council's action when an emergency arose. Nevertheless the specific measures embodied in the report were approved by the Council. It recommended: a study of present facilities of communication, by rail, air, telegraph, and radio; the improvement of the service between Geneva and the capitals; the construction of the world's most powerful wireless station at Geneva, capable of encircling the world and to be used both in emergencies and in broadcasting official news reports; the designation in each state of a central communications authority empowered in time of danger to cooperate with the League; and the formal assumption by all states members of an obligation to cooperate in case of emergency.

It recommended that each state draw up lists of military and civil experts from among whom the Council could appoint Commissioners to send to any spot where a dispute arose.

It asked the Secretariat to study a scheme of general financial aid to a state which was the victim of aggression; to study legislation calculated to make it easier for states to apply the economic sanctions; and to consider the legal situation which would be created by a blockade in peace time.

The Council agreed with the Assembly's resolution about the desirability of putting the principles of arbitration into practice, and declared itself ready to offer its services to the various states.

On the other hand, in the matter of actual disarmament, the Council showed no undue haste. The necessity for making the preparations for a Disarmament Conference as complete as possible, and the crowded program for next spring, were emphasized particularly by Mr.

Chamberlain, MM. Boncour (France) and Benes (Czecho-Slovakia) while sharing Chamberlain's desire for thoroughness, considered that the preparations of the last four years had already cleared up many points. At a later meeting of the Council, preparations were made for holding a conference on the private manufacture of arms next autumn.

The Council turned down the request of the Mandates Commission to be allowed in exceptional cases to hear petitioners in person, instead of only the representative of the Mandatory Power. This question is a knotty one, since a certain section of public opinion is inclined to count it as a test of the Council's sense of justice, while on the other hand, all the Mandatory Powers consider the right of written petition sufficient and oppose personal hearings. These, with numerous other things, were some of the important points discussed.

The British Section Tackles The Mandates Problem

We have had some very interesting material from the British Section which has been actively opposing Sir Austen Chamberlain's attack on the Mandates Commission. This attack is particularly open to censure, for Sir Austen acted as though he were the representative of a Mandatory Power (Great Britain), whereas he should have spoken as a member of the Council since he was sitting in the Council of the League of Nations.

The work of the Permanent Mandates Commission, as we all know, is to examine the reports of the Mandatory powers and the petitions sent them concerning the peoples of the mandated areas. For the Mandatory Powers are not sovereigns over mandated areas. They are supposed to administer the mandated areas such as Irak and Syria for the benefit of the natives and not for the benefit of the Mandatory Power. They are bound to render account of their trusteeship to the Council of the League.

The purpose of the Mandates Commission, first, is to relieve the Council of the duty of detailed investigation into the administration of mandates, a task requiring expert knowledge and complete impartiality. Second, to serve as a clearing house of knowledge and experiment in the administration of mandates.

The Mandates Commission, in order to more adequately fulfil their function, have recently put forward a new questionnaire. The old questionnaire could be answered by vague generalities. The new one aims to elicit facts and figures as well as explanations. It consists of 118 questions instead of 50, the number in the old text. But this questionnaire, together with the query on the part of the Mandates Commission as to whether they should not, under certain conditions, be allowed to hear and personally examine petitioners from mandated areas, has brought down sharp attacks from Sir Austen Chamberlain.

In spite of the fact that the British Government in its annual reports on mandated areas, has in fact answered 117 of the 118 questions, Sir Austen Chamberlain says of this new questionnaire: "It is infinitely more detailed, infinitely more *inquisitorial*, than the

questionnaire which has hitherto been in force with the sanction of the Council. It seems to me that there is a tendency on the part of the Commission to extend its authority to a point where the *Government will no longer be vested in the Mandatory Power but will be vested in the Commission.*"

But it is not only to the questionnaire that Sir Austen Chamberlain objects. He is even more positive in the matter of hearing petitions. He says: "This appears to me a very extreme proposal. Here, even more strongly than in the case of the questionnaire, I think it would be unwise, imprudent and even dangerous for the Council to take any decision until it had before it the observation of the various Mandatory Governments."

The British Section of the W.I.L., feeling that Sir Austen Chamberlain's attitude towards the Mandates Commission had aroused anxiety among people of all parties, interested in the welfare of native races, drafted the following letter which was printed in the London 'Times' and supported by widely representative signatures from people in every political party.

"To the Editor of the 'Times'.

Sir, —

The attitude of Sir Austen Chamberlain at Geneva in regard to the relations between Mandatory Powers and the Mandates Commission has stirred the conscience of many in this country, and considerable anxiety is being felt at the growing tendency of Mandatory Powers to regard mandated areas rather as portions of their own territories than as trusts to be administered by them on behalf of the League of Nations, and to resent inquiry by the Mandates Commission into their administration.

We regret that the British Foreign Office letter of November eighth to the Secretary-General should have represented Great Britain — a member of the Council — as regarding the question at issue (the Mandates questionnaire and the personal hearing of petitioners) purely from the standpoint of the Mandatory Powers within the British Empire, instead of from a wider and more general point of view. It should be obvious that a uniform method of procedure must be adopted by the Mandates Commission towards all Mandatory Powers, and those who have nothing to conceal should be the last to offer objection to the fullest inquiry, even if in particular instances it may appear to them superfluous. We would wish to offer to the Mandates Commission our warm support in the disinterested carrying out of the difficult and delicate duties imposed upon it in the interests of the "sacred trust of civilization".

Yours, etc.,

Francis D. Acland, Walter Baker, P.J. Noel Baker, Harrison Barrow, Eleanor Barton, Wedgwood Benn, Henry Bentinck, C. Roden Buxton, Elizabeth Cadbury, Margaret Corbett-Ashby, Wyndham Deedes, Robert Hamilton, John H. Harris, Percy Harris, C.F.G. Masterman, Olivier, S.K. Ratcliffe, W. McGregor Ross, Maude Royden, H.M. Swanwick, Leonard Woolf.

Women's International League, 55, Gower Street, W.C.1. Dec. 3. 'Times', Dec. 4, 1926.

WORK OF THE W. I. L. NATIONAL SECTIONS

Czecho-Slovakian Section

The Czech and German branches of the Czecho-Slovakian Section have been holding meetings separately and together.

One of the first things considered by them this fall was the amendment proposed by Senator Frazier of the United States which would outlaw war in the United States. This resolution, which was introduced into the U.S. Congress last April, declares that "War for any purpose shall be illegal".

It was the Brünn branch in Czecho-Slovakia which first took this resolution up and called it to the attention of the other branches in Czecho-Slovakia. The Brünn branch wrote a letter to Senator Frazier saying:

"We most whole-heartedly endorse the Senate Joint Resolution 10002".

This letter was later signed by the German branch and the Czech branch in Prague and was then sent to Senator Frazier endorsed by the whole Czech Section.

The Czech Section has been quite concerned over the reactionary proposals relating to the military training of youth in their country.

Last year, both the German and Czech branches requested the political parties to veto proposals for military training of youth and for keeping the 18 months period of military service. This year these proposals were again before the country and both branches are working against them.

A protest meeting against militarism was held by the Czech, German and Slovak Social Democratic youth. This meeting was supported by letters and by representatives from the W.I.L. On November 14th there was a great outdoor demonstration against militarism and another one in a large hall on the 16th. At both of these meetings the Czech Section was represented. At the latter, Madame Hanaukova, a prominent member of the Czech branch, was one of the speakers.

This Section decided to hold a debate pro and con in December on the military training of youth. Dr. Wiechowski is to report on the training of youth in the different countries. The latest news is that this debate will be postponed until January as these proposals on military training will not come up in Parliament before the new year.

The Czech Section has succeeded in getting lengthy reports of the Dublin Congress in the daily papers. The Czech branch has lectured on the Congress in Prague and Pressburg and the German branch in Prague and Brünn and written reports on the Congress have been sent to the local groups.

Dr. Wiechowski, the President of the German branch, gave a lecture on the political situation in Ireland which was followed by a lecture by her son, Witold Wiechowski, with lantern slides. Dr. Wiechowski has not only spoken in her own country but has been to Vienna and lectured on the Dublin Congress. At one of her meetings a representative of the Standard Oil Company came to oppose the stand she took.

A Committee of both branches of this section has prepared a report on the resolutions adopted at the Dublin Congress for presentation to all the competent Czech authorities before Christmas. They are emphasizing particularly

free trade, the military education of youth and the minority question.

This section hoped to arrange a lecture tour through Czecho-Slovakia for Marcelle Capy but this tour has been postponed until later in the year.

The German branch of the section organized a folk evening as it does annually to collect money. At this occasion old and new Spanish music was given with great success.

The section writes concerning the common work of the two branches, German and Czech, that: "The political situation is still so complicated that the work undertaken by the two groups together is difficult and no report can be given for the present. However, the women of the two branches can be proud that it was they who began the work of reconciliation and that they did this quite disinterestedly."

Bulgarian Section

The Bulgarian Section reports a very important committee meeting which was attended by a delegation of Macedonian women who came to give official confirmation that 35 of their cultural groups were ready to unite with the Bulgarian Section of the W.I.L. They wanted to take the name "Group of Macedonian Women". Madame Karavelov expalined to them the purpose and the work of the W.I.L. and gave her impressions of the Dublin Congress. The Macedonian women were much interested. They showed a fine spirit and are ready to give active support to the Bulgarian Section in its work.

The Bulgarian Section is much interested in the foundation of a "new school" in Sophia. In this school instruction will be given in the principles of the W.I.L. Two meetings were organized for Professor Tzonev, Professor of Pedagogy at the University of Sofia, who spoke on the "new school". Madame Karavelov has made arrangements to obtain a plot of ground for such a school.

The Bulgarian Section had a large public meeting at which Madame Karavelov reported on the Dublin Congress and the Summer School. The meeting was well attended and the audience was deeply impressed, with Madame Karavelov's report.

A new Executive Committee has been elected and is meeting regularly. Madame Karavelov was re-elected President.

A very interesting event was the visit to Sofia of Lady Aberdeen, Miss Sanford and Mlle. Eeghen. Members of the W.I.L. attended all the receptions and met Lady Aberdeen. They were able to tell her about the Bulgarian Section of the W.I.L. and its work and also to draw her attention to the miserable condition of the refugees in Bulgaria. In spite of the loan that has been promised by the League of Nations, and in spite of the money that has already been received, there is a shortage of shelter, clothes, food, medicine and all the necessities of life.

The Bulgarian Section wishes to call the attention of the W.I.L. to the plight of the refugees and their urgent need of money.

Hungarian Section.

This section opened its first meeting after the summer vacation with a tea party to Miss Josephine Schain, an American on her way to the Near East. Miss Schain spoke on the difference in mentality of Americans in different

parts of America but of the united efforts of women's organizations everywhere in the U.S. to promote peace.

On another occasion, Miss Muriel Curry lectured on the League of Nations. Later Professor Baudouin, of the Jean Jacques Rousseau Institute of Geneva, gave a lecture in French on the importance of auto-suggestion in education.

At one of the regular meetings of the section reports were given by members and co-workers of the W.I.L. on the International Congresses and Conferences of last summer. There was a report on the Suffrage Congress in Paris by Miskolczy Meller and Miss Fried; on the Dublin Congress by Mrs. Irma de Szirmai, the Vice President of the Hungarian Section, and by Miss Thornton as a British observer; on the Peace Pilgrimage with the final big gathering in Hyde Park by the secretary, Mrs. Mélanie Vambéry.

Then Anna Kéthly, the only woman member of the Hungarian Parliament, spoke about the W.I.L. Summer School at Gland where she spent a week and delivered several lectures. She said she was delighted with the spirit of love and internationalism at the School, which linked scholars and lecturers together, that it was the united effort which created an atmosphere of fellowship.

At Miss Kéthly's lecture the W.I.L. Headquarters were crammed. Everyone was anxious to express their appreciation of her wonderful and untiring work.

Besides these series of lectures, the Hungarian Section has been busy making peace propaganda before the Hungarian elections which took place between December 8-15th. A circular letter was sent to every candidate, calling attention to the various items on the W.I.L. political program and asking them to endorse the program in their speeches.

Encouraging letters in response to this circular letter have been coming in ever since.

At election time as only the Social Democratic Party and two Opposition groups had women on their lists, the W.I.L. Section distributed a leaflet all over town with the heading "Where are the Women on the list of candidates of most of the parties?" Further, women were reminded of their responsibility as voters, and urged to consider not the words but the deeds of the candidates.

In this leaflet all were invited to a big mass meeting on November 30th. Vilma Glücklich was in the chair and made a charming presiding officer. The speeches of the men and women candidates were of a high order and the meeting was a great success.

Austrian Section

The Social Group of the Austrian Section reports that it joined with three other organisations — "The Peace Society", "The Peace League", and "The Society of Education for Peace", — and sent a request to the Vienna Municipal School Board, which is the highest school authority for all the primary and grammar schools. The request urged that regular lectures and courses be given in the Pedagogical Institute and the Normal School to all the students, preparing themselves to be teachers, on International Law, the League of Nations, Arbitration, etc.

Recently, the Vienna school authorities complied with this request and they are putting these courses into the institutions, so that, beginning with the summer of 1927 all Vienna teachers will have a regular opportunity to study pacifism.

Netherlands Section

We just have a report from Holland about activities in that country.

Way back in September 1924, the Dutch Section made its first attempt to form a No-More-War-Federation. By November 11th, 1926, this Federation counted about thirty organisations of all kinds: political, ethical, educational, religious, anti-militaristic, women's organisations, trade-unions, etc.

The fine cooperation of these groups made it possible to have impressive Demonstrations and Public Meetings for Peace in 12 places on Armistice Day. A member of the W.I.L. National Board wrote a play which was acted and proved a great success; in some places there was a special children's demonstration; a Peace Song was composed for the occasion; very generous musical assistance was given everywhere; the Hague branch organised a bazaar in order to help financially; and last not least the press took great interest in the demonstrations and gave elaborate accounts in the large papers as well as in the local ones.

Canadian Section

We have had a report from the Vancouver Branch of the Canadian Section on its work.

For the September meeting an illustrated lecture was arranged on the League of Nations under the auspices of the Vancouver W.I.L. and the Vancouver International Club. It was held in the new auditorium of the Woman's Building, a large building for women and women's work which has recently been completed, and was the first public function to be held there. The lecture was well attended by the general public.

At the October meeting, Professor Seward of the University of British Columbia spoke on "The Problem of War". It was arranged to have Professor Seward give this same speech over the radio during Armistice Week. The Vancouver Branch also arranged to have an elocutionist give a cycle of poems relating to war and peace over the radio in the same week. Another radio feature was a talk by an Anglo-Dutch member of the Vancouver W.I.L. on "The Women of Holland" at what is called a radio

"Matinée" where the audience is made up mainly of women. This same W.I.L. member is to give a radio lecture on Ellen Key.

The Vancouver Branch is now very busy making preparations for its annual Peace Pageant and International Fair. It will be held in the new Woman's Building. The Fair will have booths of ten nations presided over by women from those nations.

The pageant is taken from a splendid book compiled by Florence Broeckel, "Across Borderlines". The Branch has written a prologue and adapted the pageant to our purpose. It opens with Mother Earth, after a bountiful harvest, coming to confer with her children. Several children ask for help for the under-nourished and crippled children. Mother Earth promises assistance, but just then War comes in and demands four fifths of the Earth's income for preparation for war. Then Fairy Goodwill appears and sends War away. Mother Earth is afraid War will come again, but Fairy Goodwill says this can be prevented by bringing the children of all nations together, to learn to understand and love one another. Then she calls to the children of different nations and they come forward dancing and singing the folk songs of their countries. When all have assembled, Fairy Goodwill has the children join hands and dance and sing together, while she repeats the verse "In hearts too young for enmity", etc.

Irish Section

The Irish Section has been very active during December and has sent in the following report:

On December 3rd a public meeting was organised by the Irish Section for Mr. R.J.P. Mortished (Assistant Secretary of the Labour Party) who spoke on "Unemployment."

The Irish Section protested against the action of the Government regarding the Optional Clause of the Statutes of the Permanent Court of International Justice. It sent the following resolution to the Ministers who attended the Imperial Conference:

"The Irish Section of the W.I.L. notes with great regret the reported decision of Ministers of Saorstat against adherence to the Optional Clause of the Stat-

utes of the Permanent Court of International Justice which provides for the compulsory submission to arbitration of certain classes of international disputes. The Irish Section is aware that the Government of Great Britain and the British Dominions have expressed objections, based upon their respective circumstances and policies, to adherence to this Clause, but points out that these objections do not apply to the case of Saorstat, and recalls that at the Assembly of the League of Nations last year, Mr. O'Higgins stated that the matter would be considered independently and sympathetically by the Saorstat Government. In view of the fact that the compulsory Arbitration Clause has been adhered to by a number of smaller European States, notably Sweden, distinguished for devotion to the cause of peace, the Irish Section of the W.I.L. calls the attention of the public to the gravity of this decision of Saorstat Ministers and urges reconsideration of the whole matter."

On December 4th, Miss Chenevix and Mrs. Kingston spoke before a local Debating Society on "The Unpopularity of Pacifism". They made special reference to the Dublin Congress and the general work of the W.I.L. and an interesting discussion followed.

On December 10th a successful Sale of Work was organised by Mrs. Neill Watson, to raise money for the Section.

A Message of Romain Rolland to a War Resister.

I want to tell you, that I never worry about the immediate or future success of ideals which I know to be true, healthy and sacred. The success does not concern us. We are servants of our ideals. We have only to serve them bravely and faithfully. Whether we shall be victors or vanquished this matters little. It is a joy to serve the eternal and to sacrifice oneself for it. I do not love those at all who so ardently expect a sort of human paradise on earth, and I have no confidence in them. These are weak people who in order to act morally feel that they must be promised an early reward, either for themselves or for their own people. The reward lies in your own self. It does not come from outside. It lies in our faith, our struggles, our courage.

The War Resister, December 1926.

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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