

# PAX INTERNATIONAL

## Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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### Cry Of The Hungry World

I am starving and you let me starve.  
Can you pretend to love and leave me so ?  
For ninety days a man may fast and live  
But after that he dies.  
I have been fasting ?  
But the days draw to a close  
When I can fast and live.  
A hungry man who's desperate for bread  
Will break the law.  
You do not know how desperate I grow  
O this is true. You know I do not lie.

*Elsa Tudor Leland.*

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### CONTENTS

- Current Events.
  - Women and India.
  - Feminists Before League of Nations.
  - Preparatory Disarmament Commission
  - The Wounded Soldier. Marcelle Capy.
  - World Disarmament Needed.
  - W. I. L. Campaign For Disarmament.
  - Is it Peace in the Balkans?  
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  - Work Of W. I. L. National Sections.
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### Round Table Conference

The Round Table Conference called to form a new government for India was opened in London on November 12th. The result of this conference will have to be told in the next *Pax*. But at the opening of the Conference Mr. Jinnah, a Mohammedan lawyer, made a significant speech by bluntly declaring that India was demanding a "show down" on promises of home rule. Mr. Jinnah's outspokenness is believed to be due to the fact that there has been an agreement between Hindu and Moslem delegates putting aside for the moment their communal differences and uniting in a demand that dominion status shall be granted India as an outcome of the conference. The special correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* Nov. 7th says:

"It would seem possible to make a genuine, thoroughgoing, and far-reaching transfer of responsibility. And surely the need for such a transfer is great and urgent. For it is impossible to talk with those who have recently come from India without realising that the situation is almost desperate..."

"Over the greater part of India the Indian will to resist coercion is far stronger and far more unanimous than ten years ago. The Administration

has been consequently forced again and again to have recourse to brutality, and brutality itself proved unavailing against men, women and children resolved to suffer.

"When no alternative to coercion was in sight it was useless to insist on the harm that coercion was doing, but now that an alternative is visible on the horizon it is well to speak out."

### What War Ships To Sink

After the Naval Conference Will Rogers, American humorist, wrote the following amusing skit:

"Well, we got the treaty signed. Now for the limitation of naval vessels so we can settle down to building.

"You see, you must build between these various conferences, otherwise you have nothing to sink when you meet. You hold a conference and decide to sink some vessels that would sink themselves if the conference was postponed for another year.

"England is to sink three battleships that competed against the Spanish Armada.

"Japan is raising two that the Russians sunk and will re-sink them for the treaty and the weeklies. The U. S. are building two to sink."

### A Challenge To Pacifists

Over three hundred representatives of the different Peace Movements in Great Britain were called together at a big meeting on October 18 to consider the "Strategy of Peace". On this occasion Mr. Wells uttered a warning and a challenge. Part of what he said follows: "When the news comes that the guns have gone off, what will the Peace Movement do? Haven't you any thing ready? Is there nothing organised or prepared for that moment? Are you going to take part in the next war because nothing was ready?... The first business of the anti-war movement is to have something strong and effective which will stand in the way of war..."

"Every War Office in Europe knows

exactly what they are going to do... Then I want to know whether it is possible to get rid of war altogether... At the present time all the small political communities in the world are fighting desperately. They are not discharging guns, they are not exploding mines but they carry on a most savage economic war with tariffs. Since the great war there has been a preposterous national struggle to corner gold so that this metal which has become the life blood of the world is now being mined in South Africa and sent to America and France where it is promptly deposited in their Treasuries and immobilised with no benefit to them or to the world at large.

"The present state of affairs I should call "White War". We are either in a state of White War, and military preparations or in a state of Red War which is the acute stage of the disease. Why does this go on? Because we are all infected with this obsession of national self-sufficiency; we will not think of humanity, the 18 hundred millions of our fellow creatures, for some absurd reason we think only of some few millions of people who are "our own crowd" and spend a great deal of time and energy trying to injure other people who are not our lot... I want to suggest to you that at the bottom of the whole human trouble at present is a peculiar sort of bad thinking and that the cure for that bad thinking is a tremendous educational campaign... And in addition there is the urgent necessity of getting ahead with some sort of organization to check the war-ward drift that is going on all over Europe... For those who have the courage and conviction now is the time to organize themselves and say: "If you get us into war, we don't play. We will not fight. We will not work and we will not pay taxes"... Those I should call the "Shock Troops" and they might have a rough time."

## WOMEN AND INDIA

### British W. I. L. And India

India and the Round Table Conference have been very much on the mind of this section. At an executive meeting early in October they issued the following statement and asked all their branches to pass resolutions based on it and to forward them to the Round Table Conference.

#### STATEMENT

"Since all changes suggested for reform of Government in India depend for their application upon the willingness of Indian opinion to accept and apply them, the Executive Committee of the W. I. L. (British Section) deeply regrets the absence of representatives of the Congress party at the Round Table Conference and while welcoming the presence of two Indian women as members is greatly disappointed that organized women in India are not represented.

"Fully realizing that if India remains an integral part of the Empire it can only be of her own free will and accord, the members of the British W. I. L. believe that responsible Government involving Dominion Status should be handed over to the Indian people at the earliest possible moment, and urge British Representatives appointed to the Round Table Conference to make every possible effort to work out with their Indian colleagues a plan which could be accepted not only by them, but by all parties in India.

"They believe an amnesty to political prisoners and the avoidance of unnecessary severity in police measures in India would greatly aid in the creation of an atmosphere favourable to this end."

Since passing this statement the British Section have seen signs in their country that a group of people are intending to advocate the use of force to maintain British Rule in India. The Viceroy's new Ordinance has taken away the right of appeal to the law from persons found trespassing on banned property, thus giving unlimited power into the hands of the individual civil servant to punish as he thinks fit.

The British Section passed the following resolution at the meeting of their executive in November and sent it to the Secretary of State for India.

"In view of the growth of civil disobedience in India and of the undesirability of still further increasing the state of lawlessness, the Executive Committee of the British W. I. L. urges that the Secretary of State for India should demand the withdrawal of the clauses in the Ordinance issued on October 10th, which refuses the right of appeal to persons arrested under it."

## Letters From India

We give extracts below from two letters which have just arrived from Mrs. Nargis D.S. Captain who has long been a member of the W. I. L., who is one of our corresponding members in India and is a member of the "All Indian Women's Association".

"Dear Sister,

The Government of Bombay, presumably obeying orders from higher authorities have declared our Women's Organization illegal. They searched our office at 6 a.m. on the 15th of October, took away our National Flag, some old badges and a few papers... They forced open the locks of a couple of writing table desks... In a country like ours there is nothing much of material value to lose... Our propaganda both verbal and printed they are welcome to know, for there is nothing to hide. They think that by declaring us outlaws they will make us put aside our saffron saris. Not only shall we still hold to our opinion and carry on the picketing of foreign goods and liquor shops but we will try to make the streets of Bombay one mass of saffron robed humanity. There are said to be 30 or 40 warrants out for us... We await this event with peaceful hearts and may God help us to be true disciples of the soul of India, harbouring no anger or hatred towards those who are oppressing us, we will stand for the freedom of India, no matter what happens. They cannot quench that desire. \*\*\*

"Last mail I wrote you a hasty scrawl... We are still free though daily we hear rumors of our impending arrest. We have our bags already packed and when the time comes I hope we shall all stand firm with dignity and unmoved. About five days ago one of our workers, who had been elected the head of one of the large volunteer camps in the suburbs was arrested. She was put in the local police lock-up and has been there ever since. Her trial has not taken place because from the 20th to the 23rd October are the Hindu New Year Holidays and the court does not sit, so she was kept in a horribly dirty cell in the sweltering heat... The sight of conditions... left me gasping... We know that we are deliberately and knowingly courting arrest in doing what we consider our duty to our country but is that any reason that a so-called civilized government should put away all sense of decency in dealing with its foes, particularly when they happen to be women... Even on the faces of the policemen on guard you could see the sense of shame... I believe there is a provision that a woman is not to be detained in an ordinary police lock-up longer than 24 hours but all such provisions are now thrown to the winds because we put in no defence. After all though we are opposing the

Government, we women are striving with every nerve to keep up to the lofty spirit in which our Mahatma Gandhi started this fight. As our Irish sister put it in her letter to Mr. Benn (printed in the August *Pax*): "We desire Independence for India, but it is our great desire to see it realized without violence by the triumph of such a spirit as Mahatma Gandhi has striven to inspire in friend and foe alike...."

"If you can bring this in other papers beside *Pax* I know you will do so. It is to the women, our sisters whom we look for aid, for Empire builders the world over are the same.

"Greetings of affection to all our sisters who think of us beyond the seas".

## All Asian Women's Conference

The All Indian Women's Conference will directly precede the All Asian Women's Conference. It will occur the middle of January. Mrs. Sarajini Naidu who by that time will have completed her term of imprisonment for her political activities will be able to attend. The All Asian Women's Conference will take place the last week of January, at Lahore City, Punjab, North India. A quota of ten delegates is allowed to each of the 33 countries in Asia. It is not likely that all these countries will send even one delegate but it is hoped there will be between 50 and 100 women representing the chief racial divisions. Acceptances thus far have been received from Palestine, Syria, Ceylon, Nepal, Japan, Burma, Iraq, Siam, Indo-China and Malaga. The Indian Organisers of the Conference will secure hospitality for the delegates at the port nearest to Lahore (Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi), will pay their return fare second class between that port and Lahore, provide board and lodging for them in Lahore during the week of the Conference and will do everything possible to make their visit an enjoyable one. Women of Non-Asian birth will be welcome as visitors but will not have the right of speaking or voting.

The Conference will be carried on chiefly in English supplemented by Arabic, Urdu and French.

Briefly the objects of the Conference are (1) To promote the consciousness of unity amongst the women of Asia; (2) To take stock of the qualities of Oriental civilization so as to preserve them for national and world use. (3) To view and seek remedies for defects in Oriental civilization. (4) To sift what is appropriate for Asia from the Occidental influence. (5) To strengthen one another by the exchange of data and material; (6) To promote world peace.

For information address Organising Secretary Rani Lakshmi Bai G. Rajwade, Gwalior, Central India.

# Feminists Before The League Of Nations

## Women And Nationality

A very interesting campaign is being carried on to secure for women the same nationality rights as enjoyed by men. At the Hague last spring there was a conference to draw up the first section of the World Code. This first section dealt with nationality and contains one kind of law for men and another for women. For instance it recognises the national law in many countries whereby a woman who marries an alien cannot keep her nationality but must take that of her husband. At the 11th Assembly of the League of Nations this question of nationality was brought up and discussed including the first section of the World Code which has now gone to all nations for ratification. The League of Nations cannot now prevent ratification of this first section of the World Code but it could advise against it and demand that the whole question of the World Code be reconsidered at the next Assembly.

It was to secure this action that a group of women's organizations banded together and fought during the League Assembly. The campaign was launched by the Nationality Committee of the "Inter-American Commission of Women" of which Alice Paul is chairman. Miss Paul is widely known as the leader of the militant suffrage movement and the equal rights campaign in America.

The other organizations which joined in this fight were: The Interna-

tional Council of Women, the W. I. L. P. F., the International Suffrage Alliance, the Federation of University Women and the Open Door International. Towards the close of the Assembly Madame Henni Forchhammer, the Danish woman delegate to the League of Nations and a staunch W. I. L. member made a ringing speech before the Assembly. She said: "Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I beg to say a few words not as a Danish Delegate but in my personal capacity as a woman, on the subject of the nationality of women married to aliens. The women's organizations, both national and international which during many years have demanded full equality between the sexes in this respect, are not satisfied with the nationality clauses of the Hague Convention, which are not based on this principle of equality and are far behind the legislation actually in effect in a number of countries.

"On the other hand, I want to voice the satisfaction of women in regard to the following recommendations of the Hague Conference: 'The Conference recommends to States the study of the question whether it would not be possible to introduce into their law the principle of the equality of the sexes in matters of nationality; and especially to decide that in principle the nationality of the wife shall henceforth not be affected without her consent either by the mere fact of marriage or by any change in the

nationality of her husband.'

"It is now the duty of the individual countries to bring their legislations up to this standard. I am sure the women's organisations will do their best to remind their respective Governments of these recommendations; and then, at the next Codification Conference, we hope that this question of nationality, which is not only of theoretical but of very practical importance to women may be taken up again and find a satisfactory solution."

After Mme. Forchhammer's speech the Assembly decided to refer the whole question of the World Code to the next Assembly.

Dr. Ferrara, Cuba, commenting on the outcome said:

"In my opinion today's vote placing upon the Agenda of next year's Assembly my resolution concerning further study of the nationality of women ought most certainly to hold up ratification of the Nationality Convention adopted at The Hague. There would be no point in ratifying a Convention on this subject when the whole matter is to be reopened at the Assembly a year from now. The stopping of ratification of the Hague Nationality Convention and the reopening of the whole subject of codifying world law so that the world code may be free from the outset from discriminations against women, was what we were after—and this I believe we have accomplished."

## The League Preparatory Disarmament Commission

This commission is still sitting as *Pax* goes to print. It is only possible therefore to indicate what the outcome will be. It is pretty evident however that nothing effective will be done towards limiting armies, that any serious work will have to be put through by the full Disarmament Commission when it meets. It is hoped however that the Draft Convention will be completed by the Preparatory Commission so that the full commission can meet. There are 32 delegates on the Preparatory Commission among them the representatives of the U. S. and Russia. The Soviet delegates for whatever reason, have played a strong role as pacifists. Mr. Litvinoff is continually making telling comments. On the first day he said: "The Soviet Delegation came to the (preceding) Preparatory Commission with a proposal for complete and general disarmament... Meeting with the determined resistance of the majority of the Commission the Soviet delegates then proposed the reduction of all branches and kinds of arms on land and sea and air by 50%... Unfortunately this draft convention also was rejected..."

Confining myself however within the limits of the draft convention now under consideration... First and foremost we must once more invite the Commission to substitute throughout the draft convention the words "reduction and limitation" for the term "limitation of armaments"... The Soviet Delegation next proposes a re-examination of the question formerly decided in the negative of the inclusion... of trained reserves, as one of the principal elements of the belligerent power of modern armies, appalling as much on account of the millions which will be sent to the front in war time, as on account of the hundreds of thousands maintained under arms. Further the Soviet Delegation holds out for the inclusion in the Convention of reserves of military materials enabling vast armies to be equipped for war. The apparent diminution of armed forces... is at present more than compensated for by the impregnation of armies with military-technical supplies."

The question of reserve forces came up in the early days of the Commission. Count Bernstorff for Germany proposed limiting the size of the annual

contingent of conscript armies which by reducing the total number of men with military training would decrease the number of reservists ready to fight as soon as war broke out. There was a long and hot debate over this. Some telling comments were made such as that of Count Bernstorff, when he said: "The system of conscription has developed in European countries in such a way that the population of those countries are brought up as soldiers from their very cradles, and we now are proposing to establish a convention which does not take that situation into consideration... The exclusion of trained reserves from the Convention will result in the Convention not being worth the ink with which it is signed."

Count Bernstorff's resolution was lost by a vote of 12 to 6. Those who voted for it were Norway, Sweden, Russia, China, Holland, and Germany. An English-Polish amendment to limit the length of conscript service reading "and shall in no case exceed—months" was passed by a vote of 7 to 6, but the time which was not to be exceeded was left blank to be filled in by the Disarmament Commission.

# The Return Of The Wounded Soldier

Marcelle Capy

The following story is a chapter of a book by Marcelle Capy which is about to be published and is entitled "Des Hommes Passèrent". It is a story of what happened in Madame Capy's country village during the war and how the French women peasants lived in peace with the German prisoners brought there to do the work of the absent French men.

...The son of Widow Bertrand had come back. He had remained such a long time in one hospital after another that it seemed as if he enjoyed himself there. When he arrived, the eyes of the villagers grew large with horror. He was disfigured. Large red scars ran deep across his cheeks and bit into his nostrils. A piece of his lip was gone through which his teeth showed. Glasses concealed his sunken eye sockets. He had been trepanned, grafted, sewed, operated everywhere. He still had six pieces of shell in his body. And he still lived!

When Widow Bertrand saw her son's condition, she was dazed. She couldn't believe it and didn't wish to believe it. It was Albert—unrecognisable but alive. People came to shake hands with the disfigured man and try to say words of sympathy but ideas fled before this horror.

The old woman hid herself behind the house and sank down beside the rabbits' cages...

Seated on a stone, her head touching her knees, she cried softly. She cried over the irreparable disaster which had put an end to her joy and pride...

For Albert had been her pride. He was to have been the recompense, the divine reward which would make her forget all her affliction...

She hadn't realized she was getting old. She hadn't noticed she was breaking down. Albert had been there, strong as his father; a handsome boy as she had been a pretty girl. That was enough.

When Albert went to school, she often hadn't money for necessities... At that time she said he was "a bad case"—that he tore all his aprons, wore out his clothes and shoes like a richman's son.

She mended his breeches with bits of cloth taken from her dead husband's trousers. It wasn't the same colour but it had to do. She sewed with difficulty for her fingers were stiff with farm labor. The stitches showed and the patches fitted badly. But Albert was charming, on Sunday with a little white tie under his chin...

When Albert grew older a bit of moustache darkened his lip. It was like down on a young chicken.

She was careful to see that he always had a clean well ironed shirt for Mass...

He wasn't like some children who have to be coaxed and who cling to their mother's apron strings. She had had a hard life and she taught him to live a hard life. Some people kiss each other a thousand times a day, she had no time for such things.

Mother and son kissed rarely. But they understood each other.

Albert, as a little boy, knew he could count on his mother, that she would kill herself, if necessary in order to give him what he needed. They had been comrades in poverty; had shared the weak soup, and the meager fire, together—that was a bond stronger than any caresses...

But the Widow Bertrand was reasonable. If Albert had wished to marry, she would not have stood in his way.

But Albert didn't wish the old woman to take second place in the household. She was the first—for ever; the one he preferred—for ever. She was proud of this fidelity... It was a return for the fidelity which she as a widow had given the child who could not live without her.

Suddenly the widow Bertrand heard a noise in the house as though a chair had been knocked over. Her heart beat quickly. She straightened up. The load of the past slipped away...

Albert could not see. He was helpless, just as he had been when a baby. He was again the weaker one. The mother became a mother a second time. She wiped her eyes—as though he could see the tell tale drops. She entered the house, hopeless but young again...

Widow Bertrand talked to her son as though he were a child. He let her talk. He walked, feeling along the walls with his hands. He didn't complain and never spoke of the war. He had received the "croix de guerre" but he never wore it...

Before Albert's return, the widow Bertrand had grown fond of Bordette's German prisoner Frantz. She often went to gather grass near where he worked. If he saw her, he always came running, filled her bag and in the evening, carried it to the house. This saved the Widow Bertrand's tired back. It is things like this which create friendship.

But now the Widow Bertrand didn't know what to do, or think...

It was very puzzling. Albert was a good boy. But Frantz was too. Albert was blind and disfigured, Frantz was a prisoner. Both were brave hearts; but enemies. How could one understand that? And how could it be adjusted? The Widow Bertrand now no longer dared go out. What was she to say to Albert and what to Frantz? She placed the guilt on God, who was not just, for he ought not to have allowed good boys to make war on each other.

She talked to God. She called him to account. If he had been a really

"good God" he would have prevented such things. But he wasn't and everyone would end by hating him. Some day, perhaps, he would regret having caused so much earthly misery.

Albert knew that there were prisoners in the village. He had good hearing.

One evening the Widow Bertrand went out as usual to get grass for the rabbits. Since her son's return she had avoided going near Bordette's that she might not meet Frantz. But that day, in spite of her precautions, chance brought them together. She was going home, the bag on her back when Frantz appeared. He wanted to help as usual. She thanked him and refused. He laughed.

"Mother has worked hard enough, Frantz wants to help"; he said and took the burden off her shoulders.

When they reached the door, Frantz let the bag drop. She thanked him and went to look after the rabbits. She was loathe to go into the house...

On the threshold her heart stood still. Albert said: "Who were you talking to? Who carried the grass?"

Widow Bertrand couldn't lie. "It was Frantz", she answered.

"A prisoner?"

"Yes".

Albert said nothing more. Widow Bertrand had to help her son dress and undress, get up, and go to bed. She helped him that evening as usual. When he was in bed, she tucked in the covers.

"When you see Frantz," Albert said suddenly, "you can speak to him—and to the other prisoners too."

At these words the old woman sank down on a chair and poured out her distress...

She told Albert all: how Frantz had helped her; how he greeted her when they met... how he had fetched water for her at the fountain. She confessed it all, she declared truthfully that the prisoners were fine boys. When she had finished Albert said: "I have nothing against them".

"God is not just", sighed the old woman.

"Let God alone", replied Albert, "He has enough to do taking care of the dead. It is men who must take care of the living."

Widow Bertrand looked at her son. In the dim light, his face, on the pillow, took on a grandeur that seemed supernatural.

She was intimidated.

"My Albert talks like a book", she thought. At that moment she not only loved him, she adored him. But she hadn't understood his meaning.

# A World Disarmament Campaign Needed

"In spite of all the high resolutions, all the solemn treaties and all carefully prepared organisations set up for the adjustment of International conflicts, the world is arming more heavily than before the war and we hear too many distinct utterances of hostility".  
Calvin Coolidge, July 18, 1930.

## Some Facts

We give the following facts from various press reports published by the International Antimilitarist Commission, whose central office is at the Hague, Holland.

The world war of 1914 lasted 1561 days during which time 10 million soldiers and 1 million civilians lost their lives and 20 millions were returned home as invalids. The world now has 30 million trained soldiers ready as against 20 million in 1913. More and more countries are organising, openly or in secret, the whole national industry as war industry. Thousands of bombarding aeroplanes capable of carrying greater and greater weights are being built, with a view to the coming air war. The poison gas and the bacteria-war are being prepared for internationally and scientifically. Many of the countries this fall have been holding military manoeuvres to demonstrate their strength.

The military expenditure has been doubled since 1913. Europe spends six million dollars a day on war preparations. In France the new war budget is 125 million francs higher than last year. England spends 75%, America 72% and France 70% of their total budget on interest and redemption of war debts, and for military preparation. Meanwhile enormously high taxes and high tariff walls undermine international trade. Unemployment and poverty increase in every land. England and Germany now have from 2 to 4 million unemployed and America anywhere from 4 to 8 million without regular work. Bankruptcy faces many coun-

tries. The suicide statistics increase daily. In the midst of this economic crisis when almost all securities are falling there is one remarkable exception, namely that of war industry. Here the war profiteers continue to pocket war profits. For instance, shares in the Vickers Industry (England) and the Schneider du Creusot (France) have risen slowly but surely during the last year. The English aeroplane industry has got orders from abroad the last few weeks for several hundreds of thousands of pounds for aeroplanes. The Japanese and French Governments are among those who have given orders. Sweden now exports twice as many arms as in 1923 etc. This briefly is a picture of today.

## Manifesto Against Conscription

The Joint Peace Council, in which are associated the Friends International Service Council, the International Antimilitarist Commission, the Cooperative Women's Guild, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Union of Antimilitarist Ministers, the Peace Committee of the Society of Friends, the War Resisters, and the W. I. L., have just issued a manifesto signed by prominent people in 14 countries such as for instance Jane Addams and Prof. John Dewey, U. S. A.; Albert Einstein and Dr. Quide, Germany; the Rt. Rev. Bishop of Birmingham, H. G. Wells and Bertrand Russell, Great Britain, Selma Lagerlof, Sweden; Sigmund Freud, Austria; Victor Marguerite, France; and Rabindranath Tagore, India.

## THE MANIFESTO

"The Governments of the world

# The W. I. L. Campaign For Universal Disarmament

The world wide petition of the W.I.L. calling for total and universal disarmament is being actively circulated by all Sections. Most surprisingly this campaign has won the support not only of pacifists but even of statesmen and financiers. To illustrate we quote a few sentences from a long article in the "Commercial and Financial Chronicle", a conservative Wall Street journal published in New York which says:

"We cannot conjecture how many signers there will be to these petitions but if they are properly circulated a large majority of the people in every country ought to sign.... The work is good and ought to be prosecuted vigorously. The peoples and not the governments should rule in this heroic endeavour to banish war by destroying first its implements. Once destroyed and public opinion regnant we would have no more wars. The

arguments set out in this document are indisputable... The women of the world ought all to sign these petitions for they are the first and last losers."

A recent report from the British Section on their activities in regard to the petition says that, nearly 45,000 petitions have been sent out from the London office and 33,441 signatures have been received thus far. Nearly 100 large meetings have been arranged in connection with the campaign. A new leaflet is being circulated which links this campaign up with the recent "Women's Appeal to the World's Statesmen" at Geneva. Mrs. Zangwill is chairman of the Disarmament Campaign of the British Section. She has suggested a big final disarmament drive in the spring to secure signatures.

The North Wales Women's Peace Council is conducting a house to

now officially acknowledge the supreme claims of Peace. In the Paris Pact they have repudiated war as an instrument of national policy. Nevertheless preparation for war continues. Especially pronounced is the contrast between the peace declarations of Governments and the maintenance and extension of military training.

Military training takes two forms. In many countries it is imposed by law. In other countries, whilst nominally voluntary, it is imposed on a wide scale by moral or economic pressure. Furthermore, all Governments claim the ultimate right to demand war service from their citizens, men and women.

We urge that the time has come when every sincere lover of peace should demand the abolition of military training of youth, and should deny the right of Governments to impose conscription. Conscription subjects the individual entirely to the military powers...

Military training is training of mind and body in the technique of killing. It is education for war...

It prevents the development of the will to Peace. The older generation commits a grave crime against the younger generation when in schools, universities, official and private organisations, it educates youth, often under the pretext of physical training, in the science of war...

If Governments fail to recognise the strength of the revolt against war, they must expect the resistance of those for whom loyalty to mankind and conscience is supreme."

houses canvass to secure signatures. 10,000 forms have been distributed. 9000 signatures have been received. They say this is only the beginning. At a meeting of the Llandudno Labor Conference 700 more signatures were secured.

News comes from South Africa that the petition thanks to Mrs. Pethwick Lawrence's effort is being widely distributed there. In Pretoria the head mistress and all the teachers in a girls High School have signed.

The United States Section has sent out 75,000 petitions. The signatures are coming in slowly. The U. S. Section is making a particular drive for signatures of prominent people. They are trying to get the names of the Governors, Mayors and Members of the Supreme Court in every State. The German Section reports having sent out 40,000 petitions. It is run-

(Continued on next page.)

## W. I. L. Disarmament Campaign

(Continued)

ning a friendly race with the British Section and hopes to win. In France the French Section has called together a group of peace societies who have decided to form a Committee of Action for Universal Disarmament. To increase interest in the petition it has been decided to have a circulating exposition on war. The first presentation of the exhibit will be in Paris in January. The petitions are being readily signed by the French public.

In Belgium the Belgian Section organized with other International Associations a meeting in Brussels at the World Palace. Madame Duchene and Monsieur Otlet spoke on this occasion and a film was given showing the horrors of war. Madame Duchene

## Is It Peace In The Balkans ?

Mary Sheepshanks

GRECO-TURK AGREEMENTS  
A truce has been called; let us hope as a result a permanent peace has been established, between the age-long enemies, Greece and Turkey. M. Venizelos has visited Angora and Constantinople and a Treaty of Friendship and Arbitration has been drawn up, also a maritime convention and a commercial convention.

The two states each guarantee neutrality in case of the other being attacked, they also agree to give each other six months' warning of intention to build new warships. Thus the first steps are taken to a real reconciliation of centuries long hostility. The result will probably react favourably on the treatment by each country of the minority belonging to the other race. The Greeks in Constantinople will be the gainers, and the Greek Patriarch rendered grateful homage to M. Venizelos for his peace mission to Angora. Indeed M. Venizelos has made public declaration of his belief in fair treatment for minorities.

The Turks in Thrace will also benefit. It must be recorded that the Turkish Minister attended in Athens the centenary celebrations of Greek Independence.

M. Venizelos was given a splendid reception at Athens on his return from Turkey. He declared that the treaty had been signed with perfect mutual confidence and cordiality, that the foundation of firm friendship between the two countries had been established which would be in the interest of peace in the Near East. As the old Ottoman Empire has ceased to exist and its place has been taken by the new Turkish national state, and as Greece now includes nearly all Greek populations, a rapprochement of the two countries was needed, and both governments and peoples have now clasped hands.

M. Venizelos has also taken a step towards better relations with Bulgaria;

seized the opportunity to make an appeal for the W. I. L. Disarmament campaign. The public were so stirred that they readily formed a Committee of Action composed of representatives of many organizations and carried off many petitions to secure signatures.

In Liege a Committee of Action has also been formed. They arranged a meeting at which Madame Duchene and Monsieur Otlet spoke. Over 600 people were present and at the end of the meeting petitions were distributed for signatures. Lucie Dejardin and Miss Chalmers are carrying on the Disarmament campaign with vigor in Belgium. The work for the petition goes more slowly in the Balkan countries.

Bulgaria however reports sending out many petitions and that these

are now being collected. They say several thousand signatures have already been secured. The petition has just been translated into the Roumanian language but the Roumanian members doubt whether they can get it signed without running danger of arrest. The Hungarian Section has been doing valiant work; it has sent out 1000 petitions with places for 15 signatures on each. 79 petitions have already come back with 1068 signatures. But the W. I. L. campaign has only begun. It must go on. Each section should try to outdo the others. Let us see which land has the biggest peace army. Send to Geneva Headquarters for petitions. Whoever you are and where ever you are, you can help in this work.

sent by: Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria, Jugoslavia, Roumania and Greece. The delegates were members of parliament, university professors, presidents of chambers of commerce, presidents of railways, bankers, and other leading men of affairs. The League of Nations and the International Peace Bureau were represented. Important work was done in the commissions, e.g. the Transit Commission sketched far-reaching plans for improvements in inter-Balkan communications, roads and railways. In this and in other domains, both economic and political, a basis was laid for future collaboration between all the states concerned.

The final gathering of the Congress took place at Delphi, where all the Congress members were made citizens of the country. Speaking from this great historic shrine, M. Papamastasiou made a moving and dramatic appeal to the peoples of the Balkan lands to unite.

The Balkan Conference is now to be an annual affair, a secretariat has been established, and already next year's conference at Constantinople is being prepared.

If indeed this linking together of all the Balkan States develops successfully, a new era will have dawned for those war-worn regions. Not the least gain will be that a halt will be called to the rivalries and interventions of Western Powers in the affairs of the Peninsula. If Albania is linked with the other five states, farewell to Italian suzerainty; if Jugoslavia is allied to Bulgaria, Turkey and the rest, French financial and military influence will be counteracted. If the much desired Balkan Federation should emerge, it would be one of the Great Powers of Europe, and henceforth none of the countries composing it could be used as pawns by imperialist powers.

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

### The U. S. Section

On October 22 this section held an all day Conference in Washington on a "Consultative Pact" to implement the Briand-Kellogg Treaty for the renunciation of war.

The suggestion of a Consultative Pact by which nations would agree to consult with each other in case of possible conflict was one of the most important considerations at the London Naval Conference last winter and was vigorously urged by all the Peace organizations in the United States. Though Secretary Stimson at the time stated that the American delegation would consider the Consultative Pact "with an open mind" nevertheless this statement was frowned upon by Washington and the whole subject closed. It is not however a closed subject with the peace organizations and the W. I. L. who intend to keep the idea before the public and urge it upon the government. At the Conference in Washington the morning session considered the "International Implications" of a Consultative Pact. The speakers were Hannah Hull, Emily Balch and James G. McDonald with a discussion led by Frederick Libby, Laura Puffer Morgan and William Stone. In the afternoon the topic was "Practical Considerations" in such a Pact. The speakers were Agnes MacPhail M. P. and Edward Evans, with the discussion led by Amy Woods, Nevin Sayre and Mildred Olmsted.

Another activity of this section was to send out at the time of the U. S. elections a questionnaire to all candidates running for office. The questions were designed to show the candidate's attitude towards the peace problem. A covering letter sent out with the questionnaire says: "Members of the W. I. L. wish to vote for the candidate who will most effectively promote International Peace. They believe they should vote for this candidate regardless of his political party."

This section secured through Mrs. Carrie Weyl the broadcasting of an Armistice Day Message on November 11th. The message was written by Zona Gale and delivered over the radio by Katherine Blake.

There is not space to print the whole program of this section but we print below their program on International affairs.

Work for governmental action on: (a) Immediate agreement on an International Pact to consult in case of threatening conflict. (b) Ratification of Pan-American Arbitration Treaty by the United States Senate. (c) Arbitration Treaty with Great Britain (Old Treaty expired June, 1928). (d) Entrance of the United States into

the World Court through Root Formula: Acceptance of Optional Clause. (e) Entrance of the United States into the League of Nations exempt from any obligation to supply military forces or to join in exerting military pressure.

Work for popular interest in: (a) Polyglot petition to be presented to next disarmament meeting under the League of Nations. (b) Question of revision of Treaties of Versailles, etc. (c) Revision of the War Debt Settlements. (d) International Aspects of Control of Raw Materials.

### Netherland Section

We have had an interesting letter from Mrs. van Oosten Moessinger describing the Children's Peace Light Parade held in Holland on the 11th of November. She reports that U. S. W. I. L. members living in Kansas, California, New York, Pennsylvania and Louisiana have written her about this children's festival and expressed a desire to have similar celebrations. Mrs. von Oosten says:

"The 11th of November is a day remarkable in history. On that short autumn day, way back in primitive times, children with lighted torches went out into the darkness and made signs to the sun, praying the sun not to leave the earth for ever. The grown up people in those days thanked the children with gifts of apples and nuts.

"Then in Christian times this custom of the 11th of November was transformed into a festival in honour of St. Martin who was a soldier who got permission from Caesar Julianus to leave the army and to become a "soldier of God". He devoted his life to the poor, with whom he shared his food and his clothes. And again the children with their lights went out into the darkness of the old dwelling places of mankind and sang their songs in honour of the holy man who brought light into many dark lives. And the children were rewarded by gifts from the adults.

And again in our age, on November 11th the light of peace came to the world after the darkest night of war. And now in several of the northern towns of the Netherlands, Groningen, Leenwards, Winschoten and Sneek, children are going forth through the streets with their lights on the evening of November 11th and singing their peace songs. And in the hearts of the grown ups who watch these little peace light bearers there is a blessing for these children and a prayer that justice, peace and freedom may rule."

Mrs. van Oosten adds: "It is hoped by all of us that this custom will become general in all the towns of the world where W. I. L. members are living and that either November 11th Armistice Day, or August 27th Kellogg Pact Days or May 18th Good Will Day, will be celebrated."

### Mexican Section

The following interesting resolutions were passed at the Conference in Mexico this summer, at which beside the members of the Mexican Section, there were 25 delegates from the U. S., 3 from Cuba and groups of women from Tampico and the Yucatan.

#### THE FRONTIER

Whereas, Mexico and the United States have adhered to the Kellogg Pact, and whereas they are therefore pledged not to use war as a weapon for settling international disputes; therefore:

Be it resolved that we urge both our governments to make this plan effective in regard to the frontier by facing the necessity of reducing the troops as speedily as possible.

#### DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Whereas, the spirit of the Kellogg Pact requires the cooperation of all;

Be it resolved that we urge our governments to carry on diplomatic relations with all countries regardless of differences of belief in political, economic and religious creed.

#### THE FOREIGNER INVESTOR

Whereas we believe money invested in foreign countries should be governed by the rules of those countries, and whereas any difficulty which arises between the investor and the foreign government can best be settled by arbitration;

Be it resolved that we urge our governments to enact legislation to prevent the use of the army for the collection of public or private debts.

#### WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE

Whereas we believe the real work of embassies and consulates is the promotion of better relations...

Be it resolved that in such positions, governments appoint persons capable of promoting peace, and that those appointments include women.

### Haitian Section

The following interesting letter has come from Madeleine G. Sylvain, one of our members in Haiti:

"On the 14 of October the Haitian people, who since 1911 have been considered incapable of choosing their own representatives, elected their senators and deputies amidst great calm.

"Throughout the island there was no disorder of any kind, no excitement. Soldiers both Haitian and American had been stationed in all the district garrisons but in no case was resort made to them, the people themselves maintained order and prevented all fraudulent voting. I think Haiti has thus given to the world a true lesson in civilization.

"In general throughout the country it was the nationalist leaders who won. This result of the free popular elections has shown what the general sentiment of the Haitian is. Next month the people's representatives will choose their new president."

## The Equal Rights International

During the month of September another women's international organization was formed. It was brought about by the union of women in various countries who are fighting for Equal Rights for men and women. The Council of the new Equal Rights International consists of representatives from seven nationalities as follows: Jessie Street, Australia, Helene Grantsch, Austria, Blanche Z. de Baralt, Cuba, M. Rhondda, Great Britain, L. v. d. Schalk Schuster, Holland, Maria Loschi, Italy, Alice Paul, United States, with Helen Archdale, Great Britain, acting as first chairman.

Fours years ago the idea of an international agreement to give equal rights to men and women was suggested. Two years ago the Equal Rights Treaty was presented to the Pan American Conference. The Conference did not accept the Treaty but did appoint an Inter-American Commission of Women with the duty of making a study of the civil and political status of women in the 21 American Republics, and reporting to the next Pan American Conference. A year ago 1929 a small band of women came to Geneva during the League Assembly and interviewed Delegates from different nations.

They felt there was so much interest shown in the matter that this year the Equal Rights International was formed with the purpose of having the Equal Rights Treaty placed on the agenda of the 1931 League Assembly. The major clause of the Treaty runs:

"The Contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this Treaty men and women shall have equal rights throughout the territories subject to their respective jurisdictions."

While the Equal Rights International did not succeed in getting its Treaty before the Assembly, according to the chairman they did secure the support of representatives of seven nations and the support with

certain qualifications of representatives of nine other nations. Not one nation had the temerity to declare that it did not believe in the equality of the sexes. At a luncheon at the Hotel Beau-Rivage, the guest of honor, Dr. Bénès of Czecho-Slovakia said to the Council of the Equal Rights International: "You will succeed because the current of history is on your side. The only question is the date of your success."

### Important Meetings

**ECONOMIC CONFERENCE OF THE W.I.L.**  
This Conference will be held in Paris on April 9th, 10th and 11th. For information write to the Chairman of the Economic Commission, Frau Yella Hertzka, 11-III Tuchlauben, Vienna, Austria.

### Pax International

There will be no January Pax because the editor is going to America for six weeks to arrange for the future of Pax with the U. S. Section. There will be a July issue in place of the January number.

### Chemical Warfare

An abridged report of the papers on Chemical Warfare read at the W. I. L. Conference at Frankfurt is now printed in English. It is very effective material. No W. I. L. Member should be without it. *Chemical Warfare*, publisher Williams & Norgate Ltd, Price 2 shillings. Copies can be had from the U. S. Section in Washington or from the British Section, 55 Gower Street, London.

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