

PAX INTERNATIONAL

The W. I. L. P. F. 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.

Published
by the Women's International League for Peace
and Freedom



International Headquarters:
12, rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva
Jane Addams, Honorary President

SECTION NEWS

The **British Section** worked with a large number of organisations to rouse public opinion in favour of disarmament on the anniversary of the presentation of the petitions, February 6th. Letters were sent to the government, posters were displayed and articles were sent to 400 newspapers.

The Section has been in correspondence with Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister (Colonial Secretary) on the subject of the recent amendment of the *Kenya Native Lands Trust Ordinance*. The Executive voted the following resolution: "The Executive Committee of the W. I. L. expresses its consternation at the breaking of the national pledges contained in the Kenya Native Land Trust Ordinance of 1930, by the Amending Ordinance passed on December 21, 1932.

"In particular it protests against the suggestion that the compensation should be in money instead of in land of equal value and area, and also against the abandonment of agreement with local representative Councils promised in the Ordinance of 1930.

"It suggests that in all action taken, the interests of the people of the country, particularly the natives (for whom we have repeatedly professed to be the

trustees) should be taken into account.

"Finally it earnestly supports the contention made recently by Lord Lugard and some other writers in the Press that no administrative orders should be made under the terms of the Amending Ordinance, until the matter has been fully debated in the Houses of Lords and Commons."

The British Section organised a meeting on January 31st for the Post-War Generation at which the speakers, organisers and stewards were all of the Post-War Generation and on the platform were young representatives of the Churches, law, medicine, literature, art, music, sport and flying. The following resolution was passed unanimously:

"This representative meeting of the Post-War Generation,

believing that disarmament is an essential feature of world reconstruction,

expresses its indignation at the delays and subterfuges which have hindered the Disarmament Conference,

strongly urges that H.-M. Government should even at this eleventh hour take the lead in insisting upon the abolition of those weapons forbidden to Germany in the Peace Treaty,

and is convinced that the danger to civilisation of bombardment from the air can only be averted by the total abolition of military and naval aircraft, together with the International control of civil aviation."

The **North Wales Branch** sends us the fine news that 27 Local Government bodies in North Wales have, during the last few weeks, passed the following resolution on Disarmament:

"(a) That in the opinion of this Council a failure of the Disarmament Conference would inevitably be followed by a new race in armaments which would make impossible the *Reduction of taxation so urgently required by trade and commerce.*

"(b) That the *Perils of the nation* from another era of competition in armaments are far in excess of anything to be feared from an Internationally agreed Disarmament Policy.

"(c) That the Council urge the Government to take every possible further step to secure disarmament by international agreement."

In meetings held between January 29th and February 6th celebrating the anniversary of the Disarmament Conference, 203 organised bodies in 47 towns in North Wales passed the following resolution:

"This meeting recalls the high hopes of the peoples on the opening of the first session of the World Disarmament Conference on February 2nd last year and the presentation of the petitions at Geneva from some 10,000,000 people on February 6th. Now that the Conference is reassembling for its second session it urgently expects concrete and drastic measures of disarmament, including general abolition of the weapons forbidden under the Treaties of 1919, viz., war-ships over 10,000 tons and submarines; tanks and big guns, military and naval aircraft. It also looks to see a large reduction of expenditure on armaments and suppression of manufacture of arms for private profit and international supervision of state manufacture and trade in arms."

The **Bulgarian Section** announces that in view of the Balkan Conference Mme Karavelova has just been elected member of the Bulgarian Committee of the Federation of League of Nations Societies.

The Section has asked Headquarters to transmit an appeal to the Minorities Commission of the League of Nations, whose purpose is to lessen the tension in Bulgaria and help peace work, which is becoming more and more difficult since the minorities treaties are not respected and substantial reductions in armaments have not been decided on. The Bulgarian Section wants to help calm public feeling in general and therefore made public protest against assassinations committed by Macedonians and asked that measures be taken with regard to the persons responsible for such crimes.

CONTENTS

Section News.

India — Political Prisoners.

Embargo on Arms and Munitions.

Wanted: Equality in Disarmament and not a New Militarist System.

Appeals against Terrorism, Oppression and Danger of Dictatorships.

The Sino-Japanese Conflict.

The Voice of Young People in Protest against the Danger of War.

February 6th at Geneva.

The president of the Brunn Group of the Czecho-Slovak Section spoke over the radio about Jane Addams. This speech was published in a magazine which is widely read in Czecho-Slovakia.

The German Group in Czecho-Slovakia writes of its work in collaboration with the Czech League and of the formation of several new groups in Bohemia.

The Dutch Section wrote to the Government asking that article 16 of the Covenant (paragraphs 1 and 4 concerning non-military sanctions) be applied in the Sino-Japanese conflict. It has approached the Government to insist on ratification of the Opium Convention of 1931.

The Dutch Section made strong protest against the use, by the Government, of armed force in the case of the strike of the sailors on the "Zeven Provincien" at a reduction in salaries.

Mrs. Iversen, president of the Finnish Section, spoke on the radio on disarmament.

The French Section, conscious of the gravity of the present situation, is developing its activity to the maximum, in all circles, in collaboration with other organisations working against war and alone. The Section has been glad to see that, in spite of provocation by the chauvinist press, which has made much of Hitler's success in Germany, the majority of the French people has remained calm and firmly desirous of peace. The extraordinary development of the Amsterdam movement in France, where more than 500 regional committees have been formed, is proof of this.

More and more meetings are being held and are only limited by lack of speakers to supply all demands. Members of the League are particularly desired.

Our Section has intervened in many cases of violation of justice and right, either in France itself or in the colonies, and took action in favour of the conscientious objector Gérard Leretour, who starved himself nearly to death by hunger striking but was finally liberated.

The Section has also been very active in work against the activities of organisations for the protection of the civilian population against air and chemical warfare, and has sent delegates to meetings of these organisations in order to enlighten the public by means of irrefutable arguments which are disconcerting to the speakers.

The Comité féminin de lutte contre la guerre takes an active part in this work.

In January, the French Section sent a manifesto to Mr. Henderson, President of the Disarmament Conference. We lack space to publish the whole manifesto which stated the necessity that equality between countries be reached through disarmament and not re-armament.

This manifesto, which is in harmony with the feeling of the great mass of French people, condemns the inadequacy and dangers of the so-called "constructive" plan which subordinates reduction of armaments to security, which looks for re-inforcement of defence through a decrease in aggressive forces, which, because of its system of conscription, militia and an international force, means no real measure of disarmament,

which does not call for the abolition of any existing armaments and is content with putting the most dangerous armaments at the disposal of the League of Nations. As long as the League of Nations is under the domination of the great imperialist powers, this latter provision must be considered by sincere believers in disarmament and far-seeing friends of peace as nothing but an aggravation of the dangers which threaten world peace.

The Geneva Group of the Swiss Section has formed commissions for work on war industries, propaganda and education.

The Group organised a meeting on February 21st at which Pierre Cérésole spoke on "civil" service as an alternative to military service.

INDIA

POLITICAL PRISONERS

The Annual Council of the North Wales Women's Peace Council passed a resolution urging:

"H. M. Government to propose to the Government of India that they should set free, as an Act of Peace within the Empire, all those Political Prisoners in India who have committed no criminal act of violence;

"It believes that such a gesture of Peace would go far to lessen the bitterness we all deplore, and to bring a Peaceful solution between our Fellow Citizens in India and the Government."

EMBARGO ON ARMS AND MUNITIONS

The Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations decided, at its meeting on February 23rd, to draw the attention of its affiliated organisations to the necessity of strengthening all work for abolition of military aviation and the internationalisation of civil aviation and for an embargo on the shipment of arms and munitions to nations which have broken the Covenant of the League of Nations.

In this connection, remark was made of the negotiations which are under way concerning measures to be taken with regard to Latin America, but arms and munitions continue to be sent to the Far East and elsewhere.

The English Trade Unions are attempting to take action which would put a stop to these shipments of arms and in the United States a second message in favour of an embargo has been sent to the Senate by Mr. Hoover.

WANTED: EQUALITY IN DISARMAMENT AND NOT A NEW MILITARY SYSTEM

The Union of Austrian Peace Societies, representing different parts of the population (Roman-Catholics, Social-Democrats, liberals, etc.) has once again expressed its opposition to the re-introduction of conscription in Austria and to a militia system based on conscription which would mean the rearmament of the country.

A resolution of the Permanent Delegation of French Peace Societies protests against the re-establishment of conscription and national armies all over continental Europe and especially in Germany, and declares that agreement cannot be reached between the militarisms of different countries, but by reduction of armaments and the organisation of peace on a basis of law.

The International Peace Bureau meeting in Paris voted a resolution on the same lines and asked that Franco-German rapprochement be sought not by military agreements but through reduction of armaments and International collaboration.

Nevertheless, on February 23rd, the General Commission of the Disarmament Conference voted in favour of the standardisation of European armies. The French text: "Is the General Commission of opinion that the European Continental armies should be standardised by being converted into armies with short term service and limited effectives?" was adopted by 21 votes.

The German text which asked that measures for disarmament, in both material and effectives, be taken before voting on the French text, received the vote of the German delegate alone.

The Italian proposal, asking that in the preamble of the resolution reference be made to the problem of material, was only supported by 5 votes: Italy, U. S. S. R., Hungary, Austria and Switzerland.

The Commission then adjourned until February 27th when it discussed: "Should this conversion apply in whole or in part to overseas effectives?"

The Journal de Genève stressed the merit of the French Government in turning Europe in the direction of the militia system. "We in Switzerland", it said, "are delighted to see this consecration of an ideal which has long been in practice in Switzerland, the realisation of the ideal of peace through careful preparation for the defence of our homes against any aggression, whenever it may come."

The principle of standardisation of armies has thus been voted. Each point in the program must now be worked out and it is for us, partisans of disarmament, to combat, step by step, proposals which tend to renew in Europe the military system.

APPEALS AGAINST TERRORISM, OPPRESSION AND DANGER OF DICTATORSHIPS

From the Latin-American Students Union of Paris, 1, rue Dante we have received a strong protest against the terror in Cuba and documents on political assassinations in that country. Several Latin-American student organisations are publishing a pamphlet on the tragic situation in Cuba. A meeting is being organised for March 10th in Paris.

We have received from Mme. Dr. Tatarcheff an appeal of Macedonian women to the free peoples of the world, to the conscience of the world, and to all peace organisations "that an end be made to the unspeakable terror of Serbian tyranny in Macedonia and Yugoslavia."

A new Ukrainian petition has been sent to the League of Nations.

The left-wing newspapers in Riga have appealed to the three Baltic states: Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, to unite on a policy in foreign affairs in opposition to the neo-imperialist movement of Hitler.

The board of the Labour and Socialist International, meeting at Zurich on February 18th, appealed to the workers of the world to help the working class in Germany against the menace of Fascism. This appeal stressed the tragic dangers arising today from the advance of Fascism, which places nationalist and militarist forces at the heads of Governments and, openly or covertly, imposes dictatorships on the nations.

It draws attention to the danger of a bloc of Fascist states being formed against the bloc of France and her allies and appeals to the working class to work against Fascism and the danger of war.

THE SINO-JAPANESE CONFLICT

After seventeen months' effort, all attempts at conciliation tried by the League of Nations have failed and Japan has refused to accept the report submitted to the Assembly by the Committee of Nineteen. Japan has moreover refused "to continue to cooperate with the League of Nations towards a solution of the Sino-Japanese conflict".

THE VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN PROTEST AGAINST THE DANGER OF WAR

The voice of young people is becoming more urgent. Oxford students studied the problem of war on February 9th and by 275 votes to 253 rallied to Einstein's stand (the Communists were absent) in refusing under any circumstances to take up arms.

A French Swiss newspaper called this action "défaitisme" and another spoke of it as "singular".

Such action is unfortunately still "singular", not yet universal enough. But the movement is growing.

A young Frenchman, Paul Laurent, of the "Jeunes Pacifistes", recently said to those who fought in the war:

"It is true that we have not made war; but is that a reason for reproaching us? That we were too young and too weak during the Great War is the only reason why we escaped the monster, for in those days even babes in the cradle respected him.

"But have you, who fought, really any right to be proud?"

"You won no laurels, 13 million poor devils won their wooden crosses; the living earned mutilation of the body or slow death by murderous gas which prolonged the agony of its victims.

"But the millions thrown into the gulf do not represent money lost for everyone. Others, instead of you, made their profit.

"While you, pariahs, were fighting to the death, those others, united in a brotherhood above frontiers, achieved that bloody international of armaments which lasted all through the war and still lasts.

"And when they had filled themselves full and had, through hatred, built up enough financial dividends, they finally made peace..."

"Fifteen years have passed. Since then we have found out why war was made. This is what we have learned: 'You fought for iron mines and potassium and thirteen million of you, died for the industrialists.'

"Many of you have not changed; you are still just the same. Military music suffices to revive your patriotism.

"And all the while nations are arming more and more. Poverty flourishes and millions famish. There is war in China. One spark would set off a fire which would encircle the world. That is where we are! What decadence and derision!...

"But today we are twenty and over. We have become men. The consequence of your mistakes will fall on us. You fought in the last war, but we shall fight in the next one!

"We have the right to defend ourselves and the duty to speak.

"We have not made war and we are proud of it. For we are going to make a more beautiful war than yours: we shall make peace! We shall impose peace! We shall not die for our unfatherly fatherland: that gag no longer works! After all the years of dying and killing in order to kill war, and of sacrificing youth in order to save right, justice and civilisation, we have come to understand that nothing at all is saved, except the strong boxes of the capitalists and of the munition makers of the world.

"We will not make war.

"Those who wish to make war are free to do so. But let them play their game on a desert island. And let them die as heroes!...

"We think that true courage lies in living and working: working for the coming of a better world and a better humanity. And we shall work!

"And if, some day, we too thirst for heroism, we shall not end our lives lamentably in a shell hole. We shall die as heroes. We shall die a sublime and glorious death, a free and willing death, like that, a few weeks ago, of the radiologue Georges Harel, victim of his own devotion to science and humanity."

(Reproduced from "La Volonté".)

An appeal to the youth of the world has been sent out by the Comité de lutte contre la guerre (world anti-war committee), whose members include Mme Duchêne and Léo Wanner of the French Section of the W. I. L. P. F. This Committee hopes to organise a world youth congress.

The movement of conscientious objectors is growing in several countries: Belgium, France, Holland, Switzerland, etc.

A permanent committee for the defence of conscientious objectors has been formed in Paris, with representatives of different organisations: Ligue Populaire de résistance à la guerre, Caisse de secours des objecteurs de conscience, International Red Relief, Internationale des Jeunes Pacifistes, War Resisters' International.

Our duty as women is to bend all our energies to solving, first of all, the problem of war as it involves us personally. For the problem of our position when faced with war must be met by each one of us, as our friend Claude Salives showed

at one of our recent Monday evening meetings. The question would be solved if, after Tolstoi's idea "those who make no profit out of war and consider it a crime to participate in warfare, would refuse to fight."

When once the problem has been solved for each one of us, we must then join with all those who are categorically opposed to war. It is essential for us to organise with others, to "get together" and make evident the superiority of human laws to national laws and military traditions. Last week Pierre Cérésolle spoke to us about that very necessary work of fighting the military ideal whose strength lies in tradition.

The great obstacles to work against war are unemployment, poverty, hunger. In too many countries there are growing masses of workers without work, ruined farmers, unpaid or badly paid employees. Recently I was asked to talk about our League to a group of women belonging to the Ligue contre la misère et la guerre. The name alone shows a program well adapted to present-day necessities. I said to these women: "We women of the W. I. L. must adapt ourselves to the needs of the hour; you must profit by our experiences, our

efforts; we must then all join together in forming working committees which are increasing in all those towns and villages where it has been possible to rise above individual and party quarrels."

"Yes, I too think that our most urgent duty is to create a united front", Mme Ragaz wrote to me. Our League has imposed on it the duty of organising, encouraging, drawing on, all those movements which will tend to achieve this vital union against the menace of war. It is no longer possible, like superstitious people, to avoid using certain words for fear of arousing evil forces. Those evil forces exist and we must take their measure in order courageously to attack them.

C. D.

.....

The Ligue internationale des mères et des éducatrices, Hamburg-Altona Branch, is organising an international youth foyer near Hamburg from August 1st to October 1st, 1933. Young people over fourteen will be welcome. Excellent opportunity to learn German. Excursions. Price: RM. 1.60 to 2.— per day. For information apply to Mme Lilly Jaskulla, Hamburg, Gryphinstrasse.

FEBRUARY 6th AT GENEVA

The International Consultative Group which organised a lunch for Mr. Henderson on February 6th at the International Club, presented to the President of the Disarmament Conference a joint statement on the present situation and on the measures which, according to them, must be adopted if the Conference is to be successful.

Mr. Henderson, in his reply, stressed the fact that the Conference is entering a new phase, the phase of definite decision. If a result is to be reached it is essential that the States keep before them the purpose for which the Conference has met, which is not to camouflage a return to the old system of rival alliances, but rather collaboration in the creation of a new order in international affairs. Mr. Henderson refused to contemplate the prospect of failure, but a treaty must be made which will effect what the organisations' statement calls "substantial immediate reductions visible to the world, in existing man-power and material". "Face to face with a tremendous crisis, the greatest since the grim days of August 1914, the Conference needs a spirit of faith and courage equal to the opportunity and challenge before it."

.....

The International Executive Committee will meet at Geneva from April 8th to 15th and will be followed by a study conference on "Obstacles to Disarmament and various aspects of militarism".

Hotel Avenida, Paris

41, Rue du Colisee

Proprietor: Mme. Marthe Bray
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR
MEMBERS OF THE W. I. L. P. F.

LE COULTRE TRAVEL AGENCY

24, GRAND QUAI, GENEVA

TICKETS IN ALL CLASSES FOR ALL
COUNTRIES AT OFFICIAL RATES

OCEAN PASSAGE

Baggage expressed Furniture moved
INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION

The Salvation Army

Rue Verdaine, Geneva

(around the corner from the Maison Internationale)

has very pleasant double and single
rooms to rent in its Foyer Féminin
Single rooms: Fr. 2.50 and 3.00 per day
Breakfast: Fr. 1.50

VEGETARIAN MEALS IF DESIRED

PAX INTERNATIONAL

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

published by the Headquarters Office of the
W. I. L. P. F., 12, rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva.
International Secretary: Camille Drevet.

The undersigned
wishes to subscribe to *Pax International* for one year begin-
ning Please send the English,
French, German edition (cross out those not wanted).

Signature:

Address: (please write legibly)

Subscription price: 2.50 Swiss francs, 50 cents or 2/6 a year.

IMPRIMERIES POPULAIRES (COOPÉRATIVE), GENÈVE, 14, RUE DU JURA