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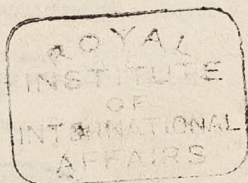


WHY
HAVE A
LEAGUE OF NATIONS
UNION
?

CHATHAM
HOUSE
CANCELLED

*Summary of the Annual Report of
the League of Nations Union for
the year ending December 31st, 1926*

20,674



LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION
15 GROSVENOR CRESCENT, S.W.1

ONE PENNY

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Rt. Hon. the LORD SINHA
Lt.-Gen. Rt. Hon. J. C. SMUTS
Sir HUGH SHAW STEWART, C.B.
Sir CHARLES WAKEFIELD, Bt.
A. WHITEHEAD
Rt. Hon. J. H. WHITLEY, M.P. (The Speaker)
His Grace the ARCHBISHOP OF YORK
The PRESIDENT OF THE FREE CHURCH COUNCIL
The CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH LEGION

Chairman of Executive Committee:

Professor GILBERT MURRAY, LL.D., D.Litt.

Treasurer:

Rt. Hon. the LORD QUEENBOROUGH, G.B.E.

Trustees:

DAVID DAVIES, M.P.

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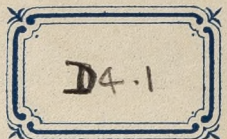
WHY HAVE A LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION?

THE UNION'S MISSION

AS memory of the war grows dim the Union's educational work is more difficult, but far more necessary. Dogged determination is required to carry through every activity undertaken by the League. The League could hardly have survived without the organisation of public opinion in the past seven years: it could not long continue without the continuous effort of education and inspiration which is the Union's task, FOR IGNORANCE IS THE GREAT ENEMY OF THE LEAGUE. The Governments cannot do right if their peoples' thoughts are wrong. Even when, as in the Preparatory Disarmament Commission at Geneva, no substantial difference of principle remains between the statesmen in conference, their agreement is impeded because they do not know how far public opinion at home will allow them to go. There will be no all-round reduction of armaments, no progress in the power of the League to prevent war, no progress towards a serious reduction in taxation, unless public opinion can be taught to demand these reforms and organised to make the demand effective. It cannot be so educated or organised without such a body as the League of Nations Union.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS OF 1926

We can be grateful that the Union, after a year of industrial strife in England, is stronger



than it ever was. The entry of Germany into the League, and the fact that all of the Locarno Agreements have come into operation, have given a great impetus to its work. They have created a new situation in which a great measure of security being achieved in Europe, the extension of arbitration and the achievement of a general reduction in armaments become matters of practical politics. Hence the Union's concentration upon creating a public opinion eager for the success of the World Disarmament Conference, and upon the development of plans for the peaceful settlement of all disputes, on the principles already embodied in the Locarno Treaties. The relations of the Empire to the League have been boldly faced by the Union in the past year: the Imperial Conference gave the Dominion statesmen an opportunity of showing how the League is required for the good of all the Dominions, and how "the League is helping us to solve some of the difficulties which are due to the far-flung nature of our Empire."

THE UNION'S STRENGTH TO-DAY

There are now 2,414 Branches, and 587,224 Members were enrolled up to the end of 1926, not counting those who are known to have died or resigned. It should be noted that small subscriptions are difficult to collect and that many Branches still lack adequate machinery for collecting them. Hence, up to December 31,

1926, Headquarters had only received notification of the payment of 285,372 subscriptions. Experience in all parts of the country shows, however, that the adoption of some form or other of the "ward collector" system* has proved most successful. Many Branches have reported that by this method they have secured the payment of 100% of their subscriptions before the end of the year. There are now 2,119 Corporate Members, mostly Churches, who have joined the Union in a corporate capacity, and 423 Junior Branches, principally in schools. There has been a marked increase of co-operation with other national organisations, notably the British Legion and the Rotary Movement, with both of which the Union now has joint committees. A great number of Employers' and Workers' organisations now constantly co-operate. The Union's Conference on the Minimum Wage and Methods of Conciliation in Industry has shown them of what serious and technical service the Union is capable. Sixty-eight societies are represented on the Women's Advisory Council of the Union. The national character of the Union has therefore been more fully realised in 1926; all the more reason, then, for a concerted effort to secure, not a minority, but a real majority of the thinking people of Great Britain as MEMBERS of the Union.

**Further particulars can be obtained from Head Office
15, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W. 1.*

EDUCATION

The future of international peace lies with the younger generation. What has the Union done for them during the year? In the first place, the Union, through its Chairman, Professor Murray, has made possible a great step forward by the League itself. A Committee of Experts, over which he presided, thrashed out practical suggestions for teaching the essential facts concerning the League's work and principles to young people. These were unanimously endorsed by the Seventh Assembly of the League, and have led to definite action by many Governments. The President of the Board of Education convened a Conference of Education Authorities on June 8, 1927, to consider the application of these recommendations to the schools of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Meanwhile, the Union's Executive has secured agreement between the Headmasters' Conference, the National Union of Teachers and the other principal organisations of schoolmasters and mistresses upon the way in which the spirit of the League should impregnate the whole of education, and the actual methods of incorporating this new teaching in the school work. That is a notable achievement.

During 1926 the British Universities' League of Nations Society, with branches in every University and University College, has been formed under the auspices of the Union, though with an independent constitution approved by the Union's Executive. This has led to a great

increase of membership and activity among undergraduates of Great Britain, and has enabled them to be represented at all important international gatherings of students, as, for instance, at the Executive and Congress of the "University Federation for the League of Nations," and at a special Congress, convened at Geneva by the League of Nations Committee of Intellectual Co-operation.

WHY IS HEADQUARTERS NEEDED?

This strictly educational work alone would require a competent central organisation of the Union. But Headquarters fulfils many other necessary tasks in order to complement the work of Branches throughout the country.

- (a) *Public Meetings.* In 1926 Headquarters supplied speakers for 3,075 meetings, more than in any previous year, and many more Armistice Week meetings were thus made possible in 1926. Several consecutive tours were also made by speakers secured by Headquarters, notably by Dr. Inazo Nitobe, Dr. F. W. Norwood, Professor Darnley Naylor, Vice-Admiral S. R. Drury-Lowe, and a number of Rhodes Scholars and other members of Oxford University.
- (b) *Publications.* If the first task of the Union is to secure people's interest by the appeal of a public meeting, its second is to sustain that interest by publications concerning the League in its varied work, suited as far as possible to all conditions of men.

The circulation of the monthly review *Headway* has increased to more than 80,000. It can now be bought as a newspaper in the ordinary way, but without the four-page *Supplement of Union News*. The *News Sheet*, a much lighter periodical, is now published monthly as well as in the old quarterly edition. The average monthly issue is about 70,000. Of the last half-yearly issue of the Inset for Church Magazines, *Church and Home*, 580,000 copies were issued, and *League News*, for boys and girls, has a circulation of 30,000.

For those who want to follow up any special item of news concerning the League in these periodicals, there is a constant supply of pamphlets*. Some of those published during 1926 are the new edition of *Organising Peace ; Armaments*, a very practical report of the Union's special Committee on Armaments Reduction ; *The League*, by Sir Austen Chamberlain ; *Geneva* 1926, a summary of the Seventh Assembly ; and the thirteenth edition of *The First Fruits of the League*. Pamphlets on the International Labour Organisation in 1925 and 1926 have also been issued, and new or revised publications on such special subjects as *The World Economic Conference*, *Limitation of Navies*, *Stamping Out a Scourge* (Traffic in Women and Children),

*Price List free from 15, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

Health (the work of the League for the World's health), etc. The Executive's policy on the Chinese situation has been widely circulated and a special report of *Factory Conditions in China*, issued. Among the more general pamphlets on the moral value of the League and its work in general, *The League of Nations and the Churches* should be mentioned.

But there are many who want something more detailed than pamphlets. For those, the well-stocked Headquarters' Lending Library exists with the help of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees. The Library has now 2,500 volumes, of which 1,200 were added in 1926. Boxes of twenty or thirty books are constantly sent out to Branches for the use of Study Circles.

- (c) *Industry*. There is an Industrial Organisations Section at Headquarters, supervised by an Industrial Advisory Committee of which Lord Burnham is Chairman. The Committee includes representative employers, nominees of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, and of the Co-operative Union. In 1926 a large party of representative employers and workers were taken to visit the International Labour Conference at Geneva. Special speakers are supplied both for Trade Unions, Chambers of Commerce and Em-

ployers' Associations. Through these means the Union endeavours to secure support for the International Labour Organisation in particular, as well as for the League in general.

- (d) *The Press.* Who has not noticed the steady increase of news about the League in responsible London and Provincial newspapers, the more favourable spirit shown in editorial columns, the prompt replies to newspaper attacks on the League? Much of the credit for this can be claimed by the Publicity Section of Headquarters which in 1926, supplied twice as many articles to the Press as in the previous year and has, perhaps, done even more by personal contact with editors and journalists.
- (e) *Intelligence.* It will be seen at once that if speakers are to be equal to their task: if publications are to be useful and effective: if study in schools and universities is to follow the right lines: if accurate news is to be sent promptly to the Press: and if the searching enquiries of industrial organisations are to be answered, the Union must have means of securing and sorting out all the available facts concerning the multifarious activities of the League, and in particular the relations of our country to it. For this purpose the Intelligence department, "the eyes of Headquarters," exists.

- (f) *Government and Parliament.* But of what value is the whole body of public opinion which Branches and Headquarters together create, unless it is made articulate? It is no good to have the right principles in people's heads; they must make a vigorous attempt to apply them to the needs of their country and the League. Hence the Executive Committee of the Union from time to time makes concrete suggestions, embodying the Union's policy, to the Foreign Secretary, and occasionally sends deputations to him. For instance, in order to explain the resolutions passed by the Union's General Council in December, 1926, on many important points of foreign policy, the whole of the Executive Committee was received by Sir Austen Chamberlain on February 22, 1927, and conferred with him at length. But this is not enough: the right way for citizens to influence the British Government is through Parliament. Hence a Parliamentary Committee has been formed which contains more than half the Members in the House of Commons and many Members from the House of Lords. Nine meetings of the Committee were held in a Committee Room in the House of Commons during 1926, six of the nine being addressed by Cabinet Ministers on aspects of the League's activity with which they were particularly concerned. On other occasions

the Secretary-General or other important officers of the League have met the Committee and have given full and frank answers to questions.

- (g) *Links with the Greater World.* However efficient were the Union's work, it could not, in isolation, achieve its purpose—which is to make the League really effective to prevent war and to promote co-operation between nations. The mobilisation of public opinion in other countries is even more necessary and even more difficult than in Great Britain. Hence the value of the International Federation of League of Nations Societies; there are now thirty-eight of these, many of which have been formed through the encouragement or good example of the Union. The Congress of the Federation meets once a year (at Aberystwyth in June, 1926; at Berlin in May, 1927). It has a double purpose: to put forward concrete proposals for the future development of the League as a whole, and to promote consultation with the constituent societies upon their educational methods. There is also a representative Council, an Executive Committee and a permanent office of the Federation at Brussels. The Union plays an important part in all the Federation's work and has a special department whose business it is to keep in close touch, not only with the Federation, but also with the

national societies that compose it and in particular with the sister-societies in different parts of the British Empire. It may be mentioned that League of Nations Societies already exist in Canada, New Zealand and India, and are in process of formation in Australia and South Africa.

A DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION

- (h) The national Headquarters then has something to show for the expenditure of £33,000 a year upon its many activities. But it is not a bureaucracy. The Union is a democratic institution. All its members have the right to join in electing their Branch Committees, and the Branch elects its representative or representatives on the General Council of the Union, which meets twice a year. This Council both determines the main lines of the Union's policy and appoints its Executive Committee. The Headquarters is the secretariat of the Executive Committee, and no important work is undertaken by the Headquarters staff except at the wish of the Committee. Thus the Union is a coherent whole, a living organism, in which all members and officers have their part to play. Only so is it able to fulfil its great task of reinforcing the League; and it is because of its organisation, which is peculiarly well suited for this great purpose, that it appeals more confidently than ever for the support of all good citizens

SOME STATISTICS

I.—PROPORTION OF MEMBERSHIP TO POPULATION

The following table shows by countries, "regions" and counties, the gross membership of the Union in Great Britain as compared with the population, and the percentage of subscriptions paid during 1926:—

<i>Members (gross) per 10,000 of population</i>					<i>Percentage of Membership Subscriptions paid in 1926</i>
<i>Dec. 31, 1925</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 1926</i>				
128	142	England	..	..	49
127	136	Wales	..	..	38
48	58	Scotland	..	..	59
ENGLISH REGIONS					
186	220	" South Eastern "	..	..	54
194	209	" Southern "	..	..	48
152	177	" East Midland "	..	..	39
159	176	" South Western "	..	..	52
155	163	" Eastern "	..	..	50
122	147	" North Eastern "	..	..	50
127	140	" Metropolitan "	..	..	50
110	130	" North Western "	..	..	48
90	105	" West Midland "	..	..	45
83	96	" Northern "	..	..	45
ENGLISH COUNTIES					
702	739	Westmorland	..	..	56
410	472	Oxfordshire	..	..	42
284	300	Berkshire	..	..	55
278	298	Hertfordshire	..	..	61
260	290	Cambridgeshire	..	..	35
187	260	Cumberland	..	..	67
227	255	Surrey	..	..	56
164	219	Northamptonshire	..	..	62
187	212	Sussex	..	..	55
195	201	Somersetshire	..	..	38
176	197	Middlesex	..	..	56
175	191	Wiltshire	..	..	40
173	189	Buckinghamshire	..	..	54
173	184	Dorsetshire	..	..	52
121	177	Huntingdonshire	..	..	76

<i>Members (gross) per 10,000 of population</i>				<i>Percentage of Membership Subscriptions paid in 1926</i>
<i>Dec. 31, 1925</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 1926</i>			
159	173	Derbyshire	..	29
140	172	Herefordshire	..	72
146	172	Nottinghamshire	..	34
154	171	Devonshire	..	55
130	164	Cheshire	..	62
145	163	Cornwall	..	50
134	162	Kent	..	52
139	162	Gloucestershire	..	50
142	160	Leicestershire	..	30
152	157	Bedfordshire	..	39
143	156	Essex	..	48
127	155	Yorkshire	..	50
130	138	Hampshire	..	45
121	131	Northumberland	..	35
106	124	Worcestershire	..	54
106	118	London	..	45
97	116	Warwickshire	..	47
97	115	Lancashire	..	42
90	115	Lincolnshire	..	56
72	106	Rutland	..	35
75	98	Shropshire	..	42
75	96	Norfolk	..	50
75	84	Staffordshire	..	36
43	54	Suffolk	..	55
44	48	Durham	..	37
WELSH COUNTIES				
779	818	Merionethshire	..	—*
637	644	Anglesey	..	—
332	400	Cardiganshire	..	—
290	343	Montgomeryshire	..	—
350	336	Carnarvonshire	..	—
242	262	Denbighshire	..	—
132	162	Flintshire	..	—
135	144	Carmarthenshire	..	—
90	132	Radnorshire	..	—
77	94	Pembrokeshire	..	—
86	94	Brecknockshire	..	—
62	66	Glamorganshire	..	—
50	63	Monmouthshire	..	—

* *Figures not available.*

II.—SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
ACCOUNT FOR 1926

INCOME				£	s.	d.
Received from or through Districts and Branches	..	..	..	17,597	2	2
Paid direct to Head Office	..	..	..	14,998	7	1
				<hr/>		
				£32,595	9	3
				<hr/>		
EXPENDITURE						
Head Office	..	..	..	21,411	14	11
Regional and other Expenditure	..	..	..	12,460	4	8
				<hr/>		
				£33,871	19	7
				<hr/>		

For detailed figures see pages 64 and 65 of the Annual Report for 1926.

“The first duty of every citizen who desires to help the League is to join the League of Nations Union.”

—LORD GREY.