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HOW THE LEAGUE  
OF NATIONS UNION  
SPENDS ITS MONEY

CHATHAM  
HOUSE  
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*Being a Summary of the  
Annual Report for 1923*

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

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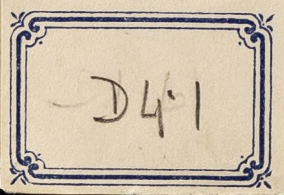


# HOW THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION SPENDS ITS MONEY

Is it worth it? Will your shilling, your three and sixpence, your guinea—whatever it is—be turned to good use, or will it simply be thrown away? In these days of competition between good causes for the support of the generous, those who give wish to be satisfied that they have chosen the one which most deserves and best profits by their help.

The League of Nations Union Headquarters do not ask you to give your money to them to spend just as they like. Their budget has to be approved by the General Council of the Union, the majority of whose members are representatives elected by the branches all over the country. The expenditure authorised for 1923 was £29,875; the actual expenditure was £600 less.

This may seem a large sum, but an analysis of the activities which it represents leaves no doubt that it has been used to good purpose. The figures given below represent the approximate cost in 1923 of each department of Headquarters. Overhead charges—rent, light, cleaning, maintenance, administration, stationery, postage, etc.—have been apportioned in accordance with the nature of the work of each section.



	£
Intelligence and Library .. .. .	2,750
Press Publicity .. .. .	1,750
Public Meetings and Speakers .. .. .	3,700
Overseas and Parliamentary .. .. .	4,000
Education .. .. .	1,350
Labour .. .. .	1,400
Religious Organisations .. .. .	1,350
Women's Organisations .. .. .	650
Local Organisations .. .. .	11,200
Appeals (overheads only) .. .. .	1,125
	<hr/>
	£29,275

Let us take these sections one by one and consider the work they do.

## INTELLIGENCE AND LIBRARY

The Intelligence Section is the main-spring of the educational work of the Union. It can supply any information on League affairs and almost any on most subjects of international interest. The material for the Union's publications is supplied by this department, which also primes speakers with the latest information, prepares special memoranda for those who wish to study particular branches of the League's work in detail, and is ready to answer questions of the most varied nature.

Headquarters also possesses a valuable reference library on international affairs, which is about to be reorganised as a lending library on a subscription basis.

## PUBLICITY

The amount of work done by the Publicity Section has been expanding continuously. The circulation of *Headway* has increased in the past year from 52,500 to 67,000 copies a month. *Church and Home*, the half-yearly inset to church magazines, met with an immediate success; 200,000 copies of the April number and 400,000 of the October number were

issued. A Quarterly News Sheet and numerous pamphlets, leaflets and booklets are also published. The number of columns of Union material appearing in British newspapers in one week has risen from sixteen in January, 1922, to 302 in November, 1923. Altogether the number of issued copies of the Union's publications has exceeded 2,000,000. An even wider public has been reached by a series of broadcasting lectures.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS

No fewer than 2,773 public meetings were organised from Headquarters in 1923, the record number in one month being 420.

#### OVERSEAS

Contact is maintained by the Overseas Department with more than thirty different League of Nations Societies in foreign countries, including the United States and Germany. The British Union is the strongest of these societies, and the others look to it for support. It does all it can to encourage the formation of new societies and to co-operate with those already existing.

#### PARLIAMENTARY

The Parliamentary Section co-operates with the League of Nations Parliamentary Committee, which has listened to a number of addresses by experts on various aspects of the League's work. At Election time this department is particularly busy in encouraging branches to make their candidates come out into the open and declare their views on the League. The result of the Union questionnaire was to show that out of 615 members of the present Parliament, under thirty can be described as definitely hostile to it.

#### EDUCATION

Headquarters have made special efforts to stimulate the interest of teachers in the League. All the principal teachers' organisations and a growing number of local education authorities now work with the Union, and over 2,000,000 school children and students receive regular instruction in the League.

#### LABOUR

The Labour Section disseminates information through labour organisations. It is the source of up-to-date facts with regard to the International Labour Organisation, and it ensures that these facts receive their due share of attention.

#### THE CHURCHES

During 1923 the number of churches which had become corporate members of the Union increased from 110 to 370. The principal religious bodies in the country have co-operated from the start in the work of the Union. Headquarters co-ordinate their activities and keep them informed. In 1923 Armistice Day fell on a Sunday, and a special effort was made to put the cause of the League before all congregations on that day. On no other single day did this cause make so great an advance.

#### WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

The Women's Advisory Council at Headquarters represents seventy-five women's organisations, including political, educational, professional, religious and social bodies. Its work consists in telling women about the League, and in making effective the views of women on League matters in which they are particularly interested.

#### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality Committee offers a welcome to visitors from abroad. When members of the Council, Committees and Secretariat of the League are in London, opportunities are made for representative people to meet them. But its attentions are not confined to the illustrious; it is even more ready to welcome and help the ordinary individual from abroad who comes to study our national life.

#### BRANCH AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

There are now (June, 1924) over 1,800 Branches of the Union scattered over the country. The organisation of

public opinion in support of the League, which is one of the Union's principal aims, is effective only in so far as the mass of opinion scattered among these branches is co-ordinated into one whole. Moreover, this opinion is valueless if it is not founded on a close acquaintance with League developments. In order, therefore, to ensure close contact between branches and Headquarters, the country is divided into nine regions, each of which is covered by a travelling secretary. In addition to keeping the branches in touch with Headquarters, these secretaries stimulate the growth of the Union by encouraging the formation of new branches and in every way keeping alive interest in the League.

#### WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

A certain share of members' annual subscriptions is paid by branches to Headquarters. The principle followed is that, after the literature supplied to members has been paid for, the branches retain out of each subscription sixpence more than they send to Headquarters. From this source not much more than £5,000 was received in 1923. Until March, 1923, the balance of the Union's expenditure was met entirely by donations to the Central Fund; and the Union has been fortunate in meeting with some munificent benefactors.

Since March, 1923, the branches have agreed to raise each year, in addition to membership subscriptions, the proportion of the Union's budget voted by the General Council. The branches have done splendid work to raise these funds. Out of the £15,000 voted for the last nine months of 1923, £8,713 was obtained in spite of the difficulty of raising money in a period of bad trade and unemployment.

In the first half of 1924 well over £9,000 was raised out of £10,000 voted by the General Council. This splendid response shows that branches are alive to the value of the Union's work, and are doing all they can to keep it going.

The finances of the Union have improved during the last year, but this does not mean that its work can be carried on without continuous effort. In the four years 1921-23, the Union's annual expenditure was reduced from over £50,000

to less than £30,000. This was largely made possible by the generous assistance of voluntary workers both at Headquarters and in the branches. But it must be remembered that as the work of the Union grows the expenditure will have to grow too, unless economy is to be pursued at the cost of efficiency.

The budget for 1924 is £30,000. Of this, £20,000 is to be raised by the Council Vote; the rest, and any balance of the £20,000 which remains unpaid, has to be met by appeals from Headquarters. Of all the tasks which fall to an organisation like the Union, none is more uphill than this. Amazingly generous responses are balanced by heart-breaking disappointments. But when the comparative claims of the Union and other bodies which make similar appeals are weighed, it should be borne in mind that if the League succeeds there will be money enough and to spare for all worthy causes, while if it fails, a derelict Europe may be left with no money for any cause.

On the League of Nations Union and its fellow societies abroad lies the whole burden of educating and organising public opinion into a force so strong that the League will not fail.

#### *Terms of Membership (per annum).*

Membership and monthly copy of HEADWAY, minimum 3s. 6d.

Membership, HEADWAY, and all pamphlets issued, minimum £1.

Membership, minimum, 1s.

The above minimum subscriptions do not provide sufficient funds to carry on the work of the League of Nations Union, either in the Branches or at Headquarters. Members are therefore asked to make their subscriptions as much larger than these minima as they can afford.

## PUBLIC OPINION ESSENTIAL

"The League of Nations affords the best hope of the peaceful settlement of international disputes and of gradually superseding the reign of force by the reign of law in world affairs. But the League can only operate effectively in so far as it has the support of public opinion. This the League of Nations Union has done much to secure. I am sure that it will do much more if only it is given the necessary funds. I hope they will be given promptly and generously. It would be hard to find a cause with greater claims upon all whose prosperity depends upon international co-operation, security and peace."

—*Letter to Viscount Grey, from Mr. J. Beaumont Pease, Chairman of Lloyds Bank.*—28/1/24.

The Headquarters work of the Union costs six times as much as membership subscriptions provide. Donations to the Central Fund are urgently needed. Cheques should be made payable to the "League of Nations Union," and addressed to the Secretary, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.