

For me truth is the sovereign principle, and includes numerous other principles. This truth is not only truthfulness in word, but truthfulness in thought also, and not only the relative truth of our conception, but the Absolute Truth, the Eternal Principle, that is God...



I worship God as Truth. He alone is real, all else is unreal. I have not yet found Him, but I am after Him. I am prepared to sacrifice the things dearest to me in pursuit of this quest. Even if the sacrifice demanded be my very life I hope I am prepared to give it. Mahatma Gandhi.

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Editor . . . . . Madeleine Z. Doty  
 Office, 12, rue du Vieux-Collège,  
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## DANGER SPOTS TO WATCH

### A Gun-boat Policy in Peking

Will the Powers use force in an attempt to compel observance by China of their old special Treaty rights? This is the critical question in the relationship between China and the other Powers. With the resumption of Civil War in North China the forts at Taku, the port of Tientsin were occupied and the port closed by mines. This action openly violated the 1901 Protocol between China and the Powers which calls for the maintainance of free access to Peking from the sea. The Protocol Powers have seized upon this issue and issued an ultimatum to the Chinese Foreign Office. On March 12th the situation became very serious when two Japanese destroyers proceeding towards Tientsin were fired upon by the forts and nine Japanese sailors were wounded. Japan, of course, has protested violently. Meantime a further division of American destroyers has been dispatched from Manila to China. War ships of other nations have been concentrated and the Japanese Rear Admiral Nogana has been ordered to Tientsin with carte blanche to act in any emergency.

If the Powers really wish to respect the sovereignty and independence of China it would be well to let China run her civil wars her own way.

### Russia's Red Army

The Society of Military Science in Russia has appealed to the masses, asking them to take greater interest in military matters and stating that a "very cruel struggle is ahead — a life-and-death grapple of the two opposing systems of sovietism and capitalism.

"All peaceful citizens," it says, "must be taught the rudiments of modern warfare; school children must be drawn into our military orbit. Victory will be on the side with the strongest nerves, and such nerves will be on that side whose people are really prepared for war, its privations and hardships. We must convince the masses that the coming war is defensive and just and is waged in their interests."

### Europe's "Little Hell": The Balkans

Henri Barbusse, the famous French novelist and author of "Le Feu", has been publishing a series of articles in the French paper "Le Quotidien" which sound like the stories of the Spanish Inquisition. Henri Barbusse has returned from a trip through the Balkans and he charges nothing less than that the Governments of Roumania, Bulgaria and Jugo-Slavia maintain their control by the utmost barbarities.

He declares: "In the central police station at Belgrade, there is in regular use a brazier on which the bodies of prisoners from whom information is wanted are presented to the flames. . . Needles are stuck into the tongues of suspects and red hot pins are forced under their nails. . . There is at hand a special machine designed to squeeze the head until the skull is fractured. . .

"The sheerest sadism prevails throughout typical Balkan police stations. . . Brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, children and parents are flogged by the police before one another's eyes upon the least pretence of obtaining information. . ."

### Mandates for Germany

"Manchester Guardian", April 23rd.

There is talk of retransferring French mandates over Togoland and the Cameroons back to Germany in fulfillment of the Locarno pledge. Such a re-transfer Italy would be sure to veto unless her own desires were satisfied. . .

Signor Mussolini's loudly proclaimed colonial ambitions continue to be discussed from every possible angle.

This much is certain (1) that Italy is taking a very lively interest in Abyssinia as well as the Eastern Mediterranean, (2) that the Locarno Powers have promised Germany a mandate in Africa if and when the chance arises.

## GLAD TIDINGS FOR PACIFISTS

### More Arbitration

The Czech-Austrian Arbitration Treaty was signed in Vienna on March 5th and provides for obligatory arbitration of all possible disputes between the two signatories.

### Mediation in South America.

Both Chili and Peru have accepted the offices of the United States to mediate in the Tacna-Arica dispute and agreed that the suspension or non-suspension of the plebiscite proceedings should not affect the new agreement.

### Emancipation for Widows in India.

Thanks to the great reformer, Mahatma Gandhi, a new morality in regard to the treatment of widows has been brought about in India.

Formerly these unfortunate women were burned to death at their husband's funeral. This rite had been stamped out, but even so widows were badly off.

Now Mahatma Gandhi has proposed a code of conduct for women for which he would have been decried in the market place a few years ago.

He recommends:

- (1) No girl should marry until 15.
- (2) All present widows less than 15 should remarry.
- (3) Girls married at 15 and widows at 16 should be encouraged to remarry.
- (4) The relatives of young widows should treat them with kindness and make arrangements for their education.

### Striking Russian Wives.

Orel, Russia, March 27th:

The married women in the village of Verteyevka organised a strike against their husbands. The women marched to the village school where they drew up their ultimatum. They said:

"We married women live under harsh conditions. The men often beat us, treating us like cattle. We refuse to suffer these offenses any longer. Therefore we serve our husbands with an ultimatum that we are ready to be help-mates and companions, but we demand that our husbands should not be so free with their hands or abuse us. We shall not return to them until they all sign this agreement."

The husbands thus confronted meekly signed the pledge and agreed to treat the women better. Why don't we women pacifists learn a lesson from this and go on strike until our men agree there shall be no more war?



## MORE ABOUT THE OBJECT

We publish two more short articles below bearing on the discussion of our Object which will, it is hoped, help to prepare for the final discussion at Dublin. Is it not a matter for congratulation rather than regret that we have in our League so many differences of gift and outlook? Any organisation, material or spiritual, is the richer for the variety of forces and materials which it can unify and enable to work together. Out of such cooperation come new life and vigor. The combination of the seven colors of the rainbow creates light. Out of many sounds, each keeping its own tone and quality are born wonderful harmonies. Let us not then be afraid of differences. Let us rejoice in them and bring them all into the service of those spiritual ends which are none the less real because they are so difficult to embody in words.

### The League Must Not Go Backward.

Gabrielle Duchêne

I regret that the discussion about our "Object" has been brought before the public by "Pax" instead of merely informing our sections by letter of the propositions made by some of the sections relative to the revision of the "Object".

I add that this discussion over the wording of the "Object" has no importance except in its relation to the position of our League.

On this point, with Anita Augspurg, I remain convinced that our League must preserve faithfully the spirit which animated it at the beginning, this spirit which attracted the sympathy and cooperation of courageous women who were determined to fight, under all circumstances, for their ideal of peace, of internationalism and of social justice.

Otherwise our League would lose all reason for its existence if it covered the same ground as the countless pacifist organizations, without strength or audacity which, at the moment of crisis, do nothing but keep silence or even support their governments!

I state once again my conviction:

1) That if our League does not wish to decay it must keep its original rôle of pioneer, of initiator and inspirer of new ideas.

2) That the strength of numbers is illusory if it is acquired only at the price of a weakening of the ideal.

Besides, if we succeeded in doubling our membership — even in increasing it tenfold, which would call for immense efforts and years of time — would we ever be able to rival by "strength of numbers" the great masses in the international sphere which are organized politically or syndically?

No, our true strength can only be spiritual strength, our power, moral power.

In consequence, everything that lessens our ideal, that weakens our energy, that makes us banal, harms our power of action.

As for educational work, whose value I completely appreciate, this cannot be done by the League, without endangering it, except it is done outside the League.

If we were to admit among us, on the pretext of educating them, members who were insufficiently prepared, we should compromise irremediably the future of our League.

### The Danger of Crystalization.

Marguerite Gobat.

Every organization runs this danger. Born spontaneously through the necessity of a cause — as our organization was — in a wave of enthusiasm and

high intentions, it often ends by being nothing but a separate wheel detached from the whole and turning through habit and the interest of a few. This can be said of the Administration of a state which crushes small and weak people.

Could it be said of the W.I.L.? No, I don't believe so. Not yet. But that might come to us as well as to any other organization. The danger of being satisfied with work accomplished and of contenting ourselves with citing our traditions hangs over our heads.

Several of our members, and not the least important ones, say: "The League is not an organization for education, educational work cannot be done by the League without danger to the League." Haven't we ourselves, each moment, the need of education, and the need of seeing with others' eyes? Have we in our W.I.L. arrived at the stage of perfection? That would be crystalization in perfection. Very often we need someone smaller than we are, and very often it is the weaker ones, the less advanced, who help us to see clearly. Also, we have small and weak people among us. Everybody has not the stuff of which heroes and martyrs are made. How many are there, who would wish to give their lives for a cherished cause, and cannot do it, because they have others dependent on them. How many others there are, who fear words, who are constitutionally incapable of making a definite promise, but who, at the moment when they must act their faith, show that they measure up to the situation. Shall we treat them as a negligible quantity, cast them off with disdain, sure of our strength and our superiority?

We have better things to do than to fight over words, if the words use up our strength and separate us.

Life doesn't stop for a second, the time for action is short, the danger which menaces humanity is immense and discussions which to-morrow will be valueless are idle. Let us act to the best of our consciences and our possibilities, and work to make the different sounds which are heard in the bosom of our League into one great harmony. That should not signify that we are retrogressing.

## THE DUBLIN CONGRESS

The time for our Congress, which begins with a reception to the delegates on the evening of July 8th, is fast approaching. If the following matters are promptly attended to, it will do much to assure the success of the Congress.

### National Costume.

The Irish Section has suggested that in those countries where there is a national costume, that the delegates and members who attend come provided with the national costume, so that on the opening day we may parade through the streets of Dublin.

It would, of course, add much to the occasion if national costumes were worn and banners, flags and pennants carried.

In those countries where there is no national costume, one might be devised. For instance the British Section have been asked to wear their Pilgrim's costume, the blue tabbard which they will wear in their great Peace Pilgrimage Demonstration.

In such countries as America or Canada where there is no national costume, a very effective one can be made by

dressing in white and wearing broad ribbon bands on which is printed the name of the national section. This is a matter for the Chairman and Secretary of each national section to take up with the members of the section. But better make this a gay occasion and introduce all the beauty and color there is in the different nations. The Irish Section will be delighted if you do.

### Next Steps Towards Peace.

Each National Section is to prepare a report giving a survey of the conditions in its country that might bring on war, and a brief account of the next steps to be taken to overcome the danger, and suggestions for International action directed to the same end.

The reports are not to be more than 5,000 words long and should be arranged in topics so that a comparative study can be made of the reports and a digest prepared for Miss Addams, who is to make a concluding speech on this material and enumerate the points which emerge as providing ground for common action.

These reports must be in at Geneva Headquarters by June 1st accompanied by a summary. The summaries are to be read by the national sections at a Plenary Session of the Congress and must not take more than 5 minutes to read.

### Commissions.

As was said in the preliminary program, there is to be only one plenary session a day at the Congress, and the mornings are to be given over to the three commissions on Imperialism — Economic and Colonial; Relations between Majorities and Minorities, and Militarism.

The Rapporteurs for these commissions are as follows:

*Colonial Imperialism* — European Rapporteur: Madame Jouve or Madame Duchêne. American Rapporteur: Emily Balch.

*Economic Imperialism* — European Rapporteur: Dr. Budzinska Tylicka.

*Relation of Majorities and Minorities* — Rapporteur: Dr. Hilda Clark.

*Militarism* — Rapporteur: Olga Misar.

All material that the national sections want brought before these commissions should be sent to Geneva Headquarters not later than June 1st and it will be forwarded on to the Rapporteurs of the respective Commissions.

At the conclusion of the Congress the Rapporteurs of these Commissions will present their reports to the Congress as a whole, proposing remedies for these causes of war, i. e., Imperialism, Minorities and Militarism, which will be embodied in resolutions on Arbitration and Conciliation, Cooperation, Democratic Control and Disarmament.

All resolutions sent in must be on one of the topics treated at the Congress.

### Delegates.

Each national section may have 20 delegates and 10 alternates and 2 consultative members. These delegates must have a letter stating that they are delegates, and signed by the national Chairman of the section. This letter must be presented in Dublin where the delegates will then receive a delegate's badge.

International or associate members may also attend the Congress without any extra charge and may speak from the floor. They should present their membership cards. A special place will be reserved for them.

# The League of Nations and the Disarmament Conference

It is better to face the fact at the start that this Conference of the League is not one to discuss Disarmament, but only a preparatory commission to prepare for what will later be merely a conference on the Limitation of Armaments.

This preparatory Commission whose meeting was postponed from February 15th begins its work May 18th at Geneva.

Because the gathering is to be on Swiss soil Russia will not participate, maintaining that the failure of the Swiss Government to make official amends for the assassination of Worowski, the Soviet delegate at Lausanne, indicates that the Soviet delegates could not hope for any effective protection now.

Germany and the United States, the other non-member States invited to join the League powers on the Commission have both accepted. The latter is as yet the only State that has announced her delegates in full. The Honorable Hugh S. Gibson, American Minister to Switzerland, will be in charge of the American representation. He will be assisted by Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Councillor of Legation, and Mr. Dorsey Richardson of the State Department; Major-General Dennis E. Nolan, Brigadier-General H. A. Smith and Major George V. Strong, of the War Department; Rear Admiral Hilary P. Jones, Rear Admiral Andrew T. Long and Captain Adolphus Andrews of the Navy Department.

### Aim Merely to Limit Armaments

To a pacifist the presence of so many military men on a Commission which is to plan for the gradual scrapping of the war machine is discouraging. But it is understandable when one realizes this is only a "Commission to prepare for a Conference on the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments." If the Military were to be abolished they could not be asked to take part in their annihilation, but since they are merely to be reduced, no good democrat can resent their having a voice in their own reduction.

Their presence, however, and the careful definition by the Council of the purpose of the Conference are a sharp reminder that from the pacifist viewpoint there is to be no disarmament conference. There is no intention to give up reliance on armies, or to abandon force as a method. The aim is merely to control and regulate armaments so as to minimize the chances for conflict. Pacifists who recognize this now before the Commission starts will be spared disappointment as to what the League can accomplish.

### Success Doubtful

How nearly the Commission will reach even its limited goal is open to conjecture. The machinery for action has been provided. Preliminary work has been given to accredited representatives of Governments who are expected to decide on proposals for the Conference and submit them to the Council. (For the technical questions the Commission must consider, see February "Pax"). Besides the technical advisors of the United States delegation there is the Permanent Advisory Commission on Military, Naval and Aerial Questions, made up of delegates who represent the Powers not sitting on the Council. A Joint Commission composed of members

of the various technical organizations of the League and Labour Office will also be in session for consultation on the economic aspects of disarmament. Should further technical advice be needed the Commission is empowered by the Council to seek it where it will.

Here is plenty of machinery and to spare. The facilities for advice and discussion are so unlimited that it seems doubtful if the Commission will go beyond consultation with the experts and the splitting up into sub-committees for further study on technical points. Europe, it is pointed out, particularly since the Special Assembly, is in no mood to push plans for a Conference and it is felt in some quarters that definite preparations will be made only if there is pressure by the United States delegation.

### Discord Predicted

On the other hand, it is predicted that the United States may wreck the Conference from the start by insisting on excluding the discussion of the limitation of naval armaments on the ground that the question was settled by the Washington Conference. This view would not be accepted by France who it is expected will reopen the question of relative naval strength whenever Great Britain and the United States press plans for reduction of land forces. Japan and Italy likewise have declared they cannot see their way clear to dissociate naval, military and air armaments and further, the fifth Assembly declared by resolution that "naval disarmament should be discussed as part of the general question of disarmament to be dealt with by the International Conference".

### Germany and Conscription

Another snag for the Preparatory Commission is the probable insistence of Germany on including in the Conference programme a proposal either to abolish conscription for all countries or permit it for Germany.

Further there is the Anglo-French dispute on "potential" and "visible" armaments. The British say that international disarmament agreements can consider only visible armaments — that is men, machines and munitions. The French claim that in reducing visible armaments, potential armaments in the form of economic resources, mountain ranges, protective alliances, etc. must be taken into account. The extreme proponents of this view would say that before reducing the army of any one country you must consider its birth rate and health statistics as compared with those of its neighbors.

On the other hand a military expert, one closely connected with disarmament study, declares that efforts to measure men versus mountains will lead to no solution. Meantime we are faced with the fact that the nations go on spending the major part of their resources for armaments.

The budgets of the United States and Great Britain for National Defence for 1925-1926 were by far the greatest. America spent 80% of her Federal Expenditures on National Defence. Great Britain's budget was approximately 112 million pounds, France came next with a budget of half that amount, approxi-

mately 44 million pounds but France's colonial possessions are not so great as Britain's. Not only money but men are being uselessly expended.

Since the war conscription has become more popular than ever. The following countries have compulsory military service of from one to two years. France, Russia, Italy, Poland, Roumania, Jugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia, Belgium, Spain, Greece and Switzerland.

As to navies, figures by the British Admiralty show that the United States has the largest navy in the world, having 99 more war vessels than Great Britain while Japan holds 3rd, France 4th, Italy 5th and Russia 6th place.

In the matter of land forces, Russia has the largest peace army which numbers 800,000 and Russia is not taking part in the Conference to limit armaments. "He who forges the sword will want to use it". Surely it is time to do something against this madness. The nations are paying heavily for a security that does not secure.

### Discussions Have Led Nowhere

For five years commissions of the League have investigated and discussed the Limitation of Armaments. An Armament Year Book has been prepared with 1100 pages giving statistical material on the military situation in 57 countries.

It is evident commissions might go on gathering facts indefinitely without getting us anywhere nearer our goal.

The W.I.L. ever since 1915 has in numerous resolutions stood strongly for complete and universal disarmament. That of course is the stand to take and such resolutions are valuable but they are not likely to influence the members of the Commission on the Limitations of Armaments. Such resolutions will be merely looked upon as idealistic and impractical.

### What the W.I.L. Can Do

Is there then any move the W.I.L. could make which would influence this Commission? On consultation with persons closely connected with the League it was suggested that one of the best ways to get the nations really to reduce their armaments was the assurance by the great powers that they would not sell arms to a nation that refused to arbitrate, i.e. an "aggressor nation", according to the terms of the League. In short all nations are afraid to disarm so long as America, for instance, continues to manufacture and sell arms indiscriminately. If pressure could be brought to bear on the U. S. government and all other governments forcing them to agree not to sell arms to a country which had refused to arbitrate, then indeed something really effective might be done towards Disarmament.

This surely is a practical program. While standing firmly for Universal Disarmament, we of the W.I.L. can as a first step try to force our governments to limit the sale of arms. Also there is another practical step that can be taken, i.e. the introduction into every country which has compulsory military service of a bill against conscription. Concerted action along both these lines by all Sections of the W.I.L. would undoubtedly be of the utmost value in producing a real Disarmament Conference.



# My Experiments with Truth

Mahatma Gandhi

It is with great joy that we have discovered that Mahatma Gandhi is writing the story of his life. The English version is appearing in the American weekly paper, "Unity". We have taken extracts from the three issues of "Unity" which have reached us and hope to continue from time to time to give portions of this interesting autobiography. Gandhi calls it his experiments with truth and says:

"The seeker after Truth should be humbler than the dust. The world crushes the dust under its feet, but the seeker after Truth should so humble himself that even the dust could crush him. Only then, and not till then, will he have a glimpse of Truth."

The Gandhis seem to have been originally grocers. But for three generations from my grandfather they have been Prime Ministers in Kathiawar States. . . Kaba Gandhi was my father. He was a member of the Rajasthani Court (now extinct, but in those days a very influential body for settling disputes between the chiefs and their cousins). He was for some time Prime Minister in Rajkot and then in Vankner, and was a pensioner of the Rajkot State when he died. Kaba Gandhi had four wives, one after another. He had two daughters by the first two.

The last, Putlibai, bore him a daughter and three sons, I being the youngest.

My father was a lover of his clan, truthful, brave, and generous, but short tempered. To a certain extent he may have been even given to carnal pleasures, for he married for the fourth time when he was on the wrong side of forty. But he was incorruptible and had earned a name for strict impartiality in my family as well as outside. His loyalty to the State was well known.

. . . The outstanding impression my mother left on my memory is of her saintliness. She was deeply religious. She would not think of eating her food without her daily prayers. Going to *Haveli* — the Vaishnava temple — was one of her daily duties. As far as my memory can go back, I do not remember her having ever missed the *Chaturmās* (The period is a sort of long Lent, 4 months). She would take the hardest vows and keep them without flinching. Illness was no excuse for relaxing them. . . . Of these parents I was born at Porbunder or Sudamapuri on the 2nd October, 1869. I passed my childhood in Porbunder. I recollect having been put to some school. It was with some dif-

ficulty that I mugged up the multiplication tables. The fact that I recollect nothing more of those days than of having learnt in company of other boys to abuse our teacher, would suggest a strong inference that my intellect must have been sluggish, and my memory as raw as the raw cake which figured in the couplet about the poor teacher.

. . . I must have been about seven when I was put to a primary school, and I can well recollect my days there, including the names and other particulars of teachers who taught me.

. . . I could only have been a mediocre student. From this school I went to the suburban school and thence to the high school, having already reached my twelfth year. I do not remember having ever, during this short career, lied either to my teachers or to my schoolmates. I used to be very shy and avoided all company. My books and my lessons were my sole companions. To be at school at the stroke of the hour and to run back home as soon as the school closed — that was the daily habit. I would literally run back, as I scarcely liked to talk with any one. I was even afraid lest any one should poke fun at me.

There is an incident which occurred at examination time in my first year at the high school which is worth recording. Mr. Giles, the then educational inspector, had come on a visit of inspection. He had set us five words to write, as a spelling exercise. One of the words was "kettle". I had misspelt it. The teacher tried to prompt me with the point of his boot, but I would not be prompted. It was beyond me to see that the teacher wanted me to copy the spelling from the neighbor's slate. For I had thought that the teacher was

there to supervise us against copying. The result was that all the boys, except myself, were found to have spelt all the words correctly. Only I had been stupid. The teacher tried later to bring the stupidity home to me, but without effect. I never could learn the art of "copying."

. . . As a rule I disliked to do any reading beyond my school books. . . But somehow my eyes fell on a book purchased by my father. It was *Shravana Pitribhakti Nataka* (a play about Shrivana's devotion to his parents). I read it with intense interest. There came to our place about the same time itinerant showmen. One of the pictures I was shown was of Shrivana carrying, by means of a yoke, his blind parents on a pilgrimage. The book and the picture left an indelible impression on my mind. "Here is an example for you to copy," I said to myself. The agonized lament of the parents over Shrivana's death is still fresh in my memory. The melting tune moved me deeply and I played it on a concertina my father had purchased me.

There was a similar incident connected with another play. I had, about this very time, secured my father's permission to see a play performed by a certain dramatic company. This play, *Harischandra*, captured my heart. It haunted me and I must have acted *Harischandra* to myself times without number. "Why should not all be truthful like Harischandra?" was the question I asked myself day and night. To follow truth and go through all the ordeals Harischandra went through was the thing I learnt. I literally believed in the story of Harischandra. The thought of it all has often made me weep.

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

### British Section

All the efforts of this section are concentrated on the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage. From every corner of England women are preparing to set forth. 100,000 women will march hundreds of miles during May and June. "British soldiers marched to war; British women march for peace." It will be a picturesque peace army, for most of them are making themselves the blue tabbard (somewhat like a sleeveless jumper) of the pilgrims of old, and banners and pennants of all descriptions are to be carried.

The pilgrimage of old went to pay homage to the bones of dead saints, but this is a nobler adventure, it is to carry a new message to the common people, and to tell them if they want an end to war for ever they can have it.

The Declaration of the pilgrims is: "We members and supporters of the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage, believing that law should take the place of war in the settlement of international disputes, urge His Majesty's Government to agree to submit all disputes to conciliation or arbitration, and by taking the lead in the proposed Disarmament Conference of the League of Nations to show that Great Britain does not intend to appeal to force."

To quote from Mrs. Pethwick Lawrence: "This Pilgrimage means that in many hearts faith is alive — faith, which is strong enough to become an impulse of action. Great evolutionary changes have begun that way — in action whose first expression is hardly more than a gesture. The creature that first stood up and walked on two feet initiated a new departure in the life story of this planet. How strong is our own belief that the human creature can emerge from its illusion of the separate *Self* which has written the history of war for countless ages, and can begin now to enter into the life of *Union* with his fellow beings which will inaugurate the new era. . . . According to our own faith shall be the measure of our power to awaken the interest and enthusiasm of others."

It is with such faith and hope that 12 of the largest women's organizations in Great Britain have joined the W.I.L. and are setting forth on this Pilgrimage. Every town and village through which the Pilgrims pass and where a meeting is held is to make a pennon inscribing its name, and all these pennons will then be borne to London.

On Saturday, June 19, comes the great demonstration in London, when all the Pilgrims, bearing their banners aloft, make their way to Hyde Park. The Park has been reserved for the Pilgrims. This is a high adventure worth seeing; every member of the W.I.L. who can get to London by the 19th of June should do so.

### Czecho-Slovakian Section

This section has been much interested in studying the problem of Minorities and in promoting greater understanding between the Germans and the Czechs in Czecho-Slovakia. Recently a large meeting was held in Prague under the auspices of the Czech and German Groups of the Czecho-Slovakian national section of the W.I.L. There were many prominent speakers. Madame Hanauskova spoke a few words of greeting in Czech and Frau Dr. Wiechowski gave the welcome in German.

Yella Hertzka, the leader of the Political Group of the Austrian Section of the W.I.L. came to Prague for the meeting and presented an impressive picture of the Minority problem and the stand which the W.I.L. took even during the war in support of self-determination for the peoples. Frau Dr. Malinsky spoke in Czech of the work of the W.I.L. in this field.

Dr. Leo Epstein said that he would not attempt to deal specifically or fully with the complaints of the Minorities in Czecho-Slovakia but would speak of the fundamental points underlying the general problem of nationalities — points which have in a way become slogans.

One such slogan was the national state versus a state of nationalities. The Peace Treaties envisaged Czecho-Slovakia as a national state and the Constitution is drawn up on that basis. But the speaker questioned whether the point could be regulated by law. Even according to the Census, which the Minorities declare inaccurate, the Minorities form 34.5% of the population. Further considerations such as historical growth, the cultural and economic level of Majority and Minorities and the strength of national consciousness on each side, lead one to conclude that Czecho-Slovakia is a state of nationalities.

The second slogan, concerning the need for a common language, he thought debatable, pointing out that when the roles were reversed and Czecho-Slovakia was under Austria the Czechs declared an official language impracticable.

Decentralization and Autonomous Administration were the third slogan. Domination of the Parliament by the Majority, was from the psychological standpoint one of the hardest things for the Minorities to bear.

In conclusion, Dr. Epstein said that while loyalty should be asked of the Minorities, it should be reciprocal and it could not be forced by means of declarations. Loyalty is best brought about through the way in which the Minorities are treated. He welcomed the move of both groups of the W.I.L. who had made possible for the first time in Prague a quiet discussion of this problem and believed that the men would be glad to give assistance to this sort of political activity by women.

Dr. Lany (Czech), said that Czecho-Slovakia could not become a state of nationalities to the extent that the Czechs were not recognized as having greater interests than the Germans. He said a combination of wholesome understanding and honest democratic spirit was needed.

Dr. Sobotka (Czech), said that it was important that the Minorities should formulate their economic and cultural programme as well as their **nationalistic** programme.

There were other speakers from both the Czech and German standpoint. Frau Illova of the Czech section of the W.I.L. closed the inspiring meeting.

### Italian Section

The members of this Section have had considerable difficulty in doing any active work. When a country is prosperous and aggressive it is difficult to talk peace.

But the members of the Italian Section have tried to do what they could chiefly along educational lines. Even this work, however, is becoming impossible.

Two Conferences, one the National Congress of Philosophers, the other the International Congress of Education

have been suppressed and not allowed to meet. The Mayor of Milan closed the Congress of Philosophers because it had protested at the lack of free speech in Italy. Said Mussolini's paper "Popolo d'Italia":

"These philosophers wanted to talk high culture and liberty; and there emerged the notion that culture because 'high' can stand above everything and take no account of national deeds. . . . At this point the Fascist intervenes and chases the babblers out of the hall."

All the teachers in the schools are expected to enlist in the National Fascist Society. One of our members, believing too firmly in the principles of Peace to do this, has refused, but one can only fear that the result will be dismissal.

This member in an article says: "Too often apparent peace only indicates the suppression of all opposition.

As long as history places more importance on the material strength of a state rather than on the value of the individual, no effective use of free energies is possible.

"To day that holy of holies, Universal Love is glorified by those who call violence sacred. It is this overturning of all our moral values that makes our souls feel lost and confused.

"We claim the necessity before all else of spreading the idea of the sacredness of human life and liberty; we declare the necessity of obeying even at the greatest sacrifice, Kant's imperative law, that humanity be treated in every individual as an end and not as a means. . . .

"Perhaps woman's intuition which has been developed by her ability for sacrifice and by silent suffering and by humility and faith will be able to offer a balm to the many wounds produced by the pride and the supreme power of a force which believes itself unconquerable because of its cruelty.

"We women must never resign ourselves to the offenses against our highest ideals nor tire of the bitter struggle, but proudly keep our wills firm, so that our vision may be realized on earth. . . .

"We demand that the reform in education for children and girls be entrusted to us, to women, who through their own suffering hand on the gift and the burden of life, and are therefore the strongest and most courageous in defending intangible rights."

These are brave words and it is good to hear this message of "peace on earth, goodwill towards men" coming from Italy. Also one must not forget the widow of Matteotti, whose husband was so brutally murdered.

A few weeks ago the verdict was pronounced on the men accused of this murder. They were sentenced to pay the cost of the trial and to suffer two and a half months imprisonment. Matteotti's widow refused to take any part in the trial which her lawyers declared "judicially and morally nil".

But there was no hate in the heart of Madame Matteotti. It will be remembered that directly after her husband's murder she issued an appeal to the people to abstain from violence.

To this appeal of Madame Matteotti the W.I.L. made answer, thanking her to which she replied:

"I am touched by the high and noble words sent to me from Geneva from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. . . . The condemnation of despotism and violence, cannot fail to bear beneficent fruit and we who have been wounded in that which is most dear to us will await the happy return of a community life."

### A Chinese Martyr.

The May number of the "World's Youth" tells the story of Akim Chen. He was seventeen when he died. He was one of the most brilliant students and all-round athletes that China had. Also he set an example of the square deal and fair play to the other students. This is his history. Last year Chinese laborers in a Japanese owned mill went on strike and one of them was killed. Six students as a result made speeches against "foreign imperialism" and were arrested. The student body in Shanghai including Akim Chen grew indignant. When the morning of the trial came and it was indefinitely postponed the students determined to demonstrate. The bugle sounded to make ready for the demonstration. One of the first to volunteer was Akim Chen. He marched in the front row gaily, bravely. When the foreign guns spat out their fire he went down with the first volley. His last sentence as he died was what Chinese students could do to make the day's sacrifice worth while. Surely this chivalrous, laughing, courageous young student should become one of the inspiring figures of Chinese history.

### THE TREES THAT DIED IN THE WAR

Angela Morgan

(U. S. Section W. I. L.)

Published in the *London Spectator*. February 27, 1926.

So gentle they, yet glorious,  
Living their lives unseen;  
Treading the soil, victorious,  
Brave gods with banners green.

They asked for naught but the pleasure  
Of serving the sons of men,  
Lavish with leafy treasure  
When Spring should come again.

What answered we to their yearning?  
What gave we for their cheer?  
Hatred and shells and burning,  
Death in the Spring of the year.

Gone like a vanished city,  
Tragic and far as Greece.  
God! Shall they give us pity?  
Men! Shall they bring us peace?

### Ellen Key

On April 25th, at the age of 75, in her home at Strand Alvastra, Ellen Key passed away. Her death was hastened by the loss of her well beloved housekeeper and friend, a few months earlier. This woman had become almost Ellen Key's other self. She had waited on her and served her and on a never to be forgotten day during the war, which I spent with Ellen Key, it was Marlin who let me in and served lunch, and who, I saw, gave Ellen Key the kind of love that only a daughter can.

Only once did I see Ellen Key but then I spent the day with her at her home and it was as though I had known her always. It was in 1918, and the agony of the warridden world tortured her. We talked of war. She said: "It is love not force that will remake the world," and added sadly: "I fear the hate that will come after war." When lunch was over she raised her glass of crystal clear spring water and said: "Drink with me to the love that shall some day overcome force." M. Z. Doty.



### A Children's Peace Day

The school children of Geneva are to celebrate Good Will Day. Monsieur Oltramare, the head of the Department of Education, hopes to let some of the public school children join the children of the Fellowship School of Gland and have a festival of all nations in one of the public halls.

The children of the Fellowship School have just come back from a holiday at Arles in Provence where they spent this year's "school journey" in company with about 150 members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and their friends.

The city of Arles gladly gave the use of its ancient theatre and Miss Watson made a simple story, expressed in dance and rhythm, to the music of Schubert's Unfinished Symphony, of Greek phantoms coming back to the world and lamenting that they find it still at war. Peace appears by the two beautiful columns and they appeal to her. She bids them watch and then calls groups of many nations who each celebrate their arrival by a national dance. The ancients see that in simple human relations and innocent pleasure is one way to harmony. They call the nations together and to the music of Liszt's Rapsody all dance a merry measure, offer garlands and adoration to Peace, and then join with the 1500 spectators in singing the Song of Friendship.

It is a Fête similar to this which is now in preparation.

Those who would like to know more about the Friendship Fête at Arles should read Marguerite Gobat's small book which tells about this memorable pilgrimage. Its seven chapters are bound together by one leading motif: the aspiration towards a fraternity of the peoples, towards an era without violence, towards Peace the regenerator of the world. — En Provence by Marguerite Gobat, Fellowship School, Gland, Switzerland — price 1 Swiss franc.

### The Summer School.

The arrangements for the Summer School are going steadily forward and we hope to send out the final programme and application form the first of June. The list of lecturers is growing and new ideas are coming in every day. One of the latter is a suggestion for a practical course of what may be called musical dramatics. This is a strange hybrid of drama, music, dance and eurhythmics

which has grown up at the Gland School and has already proved its usefulness for propaganda-entertainment purposes on many occasions. In any case we are convinced that music is a very valuable instrument for peace. We beg all who are coming, to come prepared to give all the help they can with the music, and in all other directions. The atmosphere at Gland when the children are there has been well expressed by a visitor who said "it is difficult to know which are the teachers and which the pupils". We are looking forward to that same happy cooperation in the Summer School.

This is really a unique opportunity for a summer holiday, for you can study or play, or do both just as suits your fancy. If you want highbrow courses on International Affairs you can go into Geneva and attend the lectures there, or you can have two or three hours of lectures and discussions at the Gland School in the morning with all of the rest of the day for play.

Further, while this is a six weeks Training School for Peace Workers, you do not have to take a prescribed course but can come for a short or long time as you desire.

A very good two weeks course is to spend one week at Gland taking our courses and the second week while still living at Gland, going in to Geneva every morning to take Professor Zimmermann's lectures on International Affairs.

Don't forget the School opens July 26th and it would greatly help our preparations if we knew exactly how many we had to provide for. Will all those who expect to come and have not yet written, please drop a post card to Miss Emma Thomas, Fellowship School, Gland, Switzerland.

### Train Travel to Congress.

We are now arranging for two special trains for the European delegates, one to leave Vienna either on the 4th or 5th of July, the other Leipzig on the 5th or 6th of July. The travel is second and third class, always at least second on the water.

The round trip ticket from Vienna to Dublin, going by way of Paris and London, and including a night in a hotel in Paris with dinner and breakfast, transport across London and dinner, and also ten days board in Dublin, is about 17 1/2 pounds.

The cost of the round trip ticket from

Leipzig, going by way of Ostend, all rail travel, third class, and no stop in Paris but transportation across London and dinner, including ten days board in Dublin, is about 15 pounds.

For both of these trains, in order to get this rate, we need 20 to 30 persons. The parties must travel out on the special train together, but may come back separately when they desire. The tickets are good for thirty days.

Remember these rates do not include incidentals such as meals on train and laundry, but only cover all transportation to and from Dublin and ten days board in Ireland.

Please let us know at once if you wish to travel this way, for unless we have the names of a sufficient number of people we cannot make these arrangements. Write: Travel Department, 12 rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva.

### A Great Book.

John W. Graham's book "Conscription and Conscience" under the title "Friedenshelden im Weltkrieg" (Heroes of Peace During the World War), has been translated into German by Olga Misar. (Publisher: Quaker-Verlag, Berlin-Biesdorf.) This book was first published in England in 1921, and is of inestimable value for those who are studying and opposing military service and war. It shows the madness and the inhumanity of the war in documented facts, and is therefore convincing.

Olga Misar says in her foreword:

"It is hard to express through words what this book meant to me... The education of many generations under conscription had had its effects and anyone who wished to work for peace, was almost desperate. In this atmosphere I had passed the years of the war, and then, through John Graham's book a new world opened before me. In England there was a circle of people who had stood firm and opposed their government during the war. They had organised and worked ceaselessly for the abolition of conscription. The quiet faith of these people, their claim to their right to their own opinion, their courage in maintaining this at the sacrifice of comfort, health, even their lives, gave a picture of a bigness, which consoles one for the many sad experiences of the war and gives one new faith in humanity."

## Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Jane Addams, International President

International Headquarters

12, rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva, Switzerland

Secretary: Madeleine Z. Doty

### WHAT THE W. I. L. P. F. STANDS FOR:

It aims at uniting women in all countries who are opposed to every kind of war, exploitation, and oppression, and who work for the solution of conflicts not by force or domination but by the recognition of human solidarity, by world co-operation, and by the establishment of social, political and economic justice for all, without distinction of sex, race, class or creed.

International Dues \$ 5.00 or £ 1.00 a year

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London S. E. 18.  
Woolwich  
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Mr. C. H. Gilling