

"The men of the Four Seas are all our brothers... Do not do to others as you would not have them do to you."

Confucius.



"Better to perish than to hate and fear, and twice better to perish than to make oneself hated and feared."

Nietzsche.

PAX INTERNATIONAL

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

International Office 12, rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva, Switzerland.

Vol. 2. No. 6.

APRIL, 1927

CONTENTS

News and Comments.
Danger Spots to Watch.
Glad Tidings for Pacifists.
The Executive Committee Meets at Liège. Madeleine Z. Doty.
Friendship Between German and Belgian Children.
A Story of War's Tragedy.
A Message to Chinese Women.
The Executive Committee Plans a Delegation to China.
The French Conscription Bill.
News for the National Sections.
International Council to Meet in Geneva W.I.L. Summer School. "Education for Peace".

Editor Madeleine Z. Doty.
Office, 12, rue du Vieux-Collège,
Geneva, Switzerland.
Subscriptions to «Pax International»
One year fifty cents or 2/s.
International Dues . . . \$ 5 or £ 1.

DANGER SPOTS TO WATCH

Civil War in China.

On March 25th Shanghai passed in to the hands of the Cantonese troops. The Northern troops melted away before them. But before the Cantonese army arrived in force there was considerable guerilla fighting and looting. The International Concessions fearing trouble extended the zone they were guarding. There was a hostile demonstration by the mob to this. Then the women and children began to evacuate Nankin and were taken on board merchant marines. On March 25th word came that there had been acts of violence towards the foreigners in the concessions. A cable from Nankin said that a hill on which the foreigners had assembled was bombarded by the Cantonese. Two or three foreigners were killed and several wounded. British and American cruisers then bombarded this region, they said in order to permit the foreigners to escape but the bombardment killed many Chinese.

Marshal Chian Kai-Shek, the leader of the Cantonese Nationalist forces, has arrived in Shanghai and maintains that the lives and property of foreigners will be protected. He claims that all acts of violence by Chinese were performed by "irresponsible gunmen who cause us as well as the foreign residents trouble everywhere". He said these gunmen or snipers frequently wear the Cantonese uniform to disguise their identity.

Italy and Jugo-Slavia.

Another danger spot in the Balkans arises. Jugo-Slavia maintains that Italy wants to make the Albanian frontier into an Italian province, while Italy claims she is only maintaining the status quo in Albania which under the Treaty of Tirana she has a right to do and recently sent a note to all the powers protesting against Jugo-Slavia's military preparations on the Albanian frontier.

Jugo-Slavia indignantly disavowed any warlike intentions and has offered facilities for investigation through the League of Nations of her alleged "military preparations". Thus the incident is temporarily closed but this danger spot cannot be ignored. Italy's interest in Albania is self-evident. Control of entrance and exit to the Adriatic is a vital principle of Italian foreign policy.

U.S. Still Threatens Mexico.

The U.S. Senate voted unanimously for arbitration with Mexico but the Government still threatens that country with withdrawal of recognition and war. It does this in behalf of American oil investors in Mexico. But according to the weekly, the "New Republic", 85 % of American investment is either non oil producing or has complied with the law. Only 21 of the 147 petroleum companies are rebellious at the Mexican regulations but these 21 companies produce 58 % of the total output. 36 % of this output is under the control of the Doheny companies. Doheny's titles are doubtful. He was involved in the Naval Reserve oil scandal.

U.S. Marines Still in Nicaragua.

It has now developed that Diaz, the Conservative candidate for the presidency in Nicaragua, and the man who is backed by the U.S. Government, was not born in Nicaragua and is therefore ineligible for the office of President. Yet the U.S. State Department supports him with 5,514 marines, and eleven cruisers and has "neutralized" eight cities.

GLAD TIDINGS FOR PACIFISTS

Labour against War with China.

The Australian Workers' Union have demanded that the Government shall not embroil Australians in a war with China. The Victorian Seamen's Union have passed a resolution refusing to man ships carrying soldiers or munitions.

The British Labour Party sent a message to Mr. Chen. It deplored "flaunted military demonstration", sympathized with Chinese workers in their attempt

to improve their conditions, urged on the British Government "the patient and honest pursuit of peaceful negotiations" and appealed to Mr. Chen to "prevent incidents that will give excuse for military force".

The Labour and Socialist International in Paris called for withdrawal of troops from China and abolition of present treaties.

The Courage of Their Conviction.

The War Resisters Movement is growing daily. Today there are organizations of men and women in twenty countries pledged to resist war. In at least six different countries there are war resisters suffering imprisonment for their principles: Czecho-Slovakia, Holland, Poland, Roumania, Russia and Switzerland.

In Holland there are thirty men in prison for refusing military service; in Russia forty two men are in prison for the same reason. In New Zealand two thousand young men are convicted each year of refusal to bear arms as a result of their resolve not to participate in war.

Campaign to Outlaw War.

The Christian Century of February 24th in writing of Mr. Arthur Ponsonby's speaking tour through America says:

"The climax of Mr. Ponsonby's speeches in Chicago came when, before a great forum audience, he was asked his opinion of the probable reaction of Great Britain to the American proposal to outlaw war. He gave it not only his personal unqualified support, but promised that if he could know in advance when Senator Borah would bring up his resolution for debate in the U.S. Senate, he would introduce a similar resolution in the House of Commons and ask for its discussion at the same time. This expression was greeted with tremendous applause."

To Limit Private Manufacture of Arms.

Mr. Hugh Gibson, the United States representative at the March conference of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission, in Geneva stated that the United States is willing to enter into a general conference for the reduction of the private manufacture of arms and munitions. America, he said, was prepared to give full publicity to all statistics concerning armaments and this would apply equally to statistics on arms of private and governmental manufacture. Unfortunately the other nations present would not agree to this and the matter was sent to a Sub-Committee for further consideration.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS AT LIEGE

Madeleine Z. Doty.

The Executive Committee met at Liege in order to help Lucie Dejardin, our Belgian Consultative Member, form a group of the W.I.L.L. there. We hoped to carry on Executive business and yet meet Liege people and hold public meetings.

The women Lucie Dejardin knew were chiefly working women and Socialists. But as we wanted to reach all classes, we decided to have two meetings, one in the University and the other in the People's House.

The University meeting was to have been held on Monday afternoon, March 14th at five o'clock. We hoped to draw in a lot of the students. I had gone on to Liege some days ahead to make arrangements. Among others we paid for the University hall and had big posters made and pasted up about the town. Two large posters were put in the corridor of the University. They announced quite plainly: Subject: "Education for Peace", Speakers: Gabrielle Duchêne (France), Gertrud Baer (Germany), Louie Bennett (Ireland).

Monday morning came. We were deep in Executive business when suddenly at noon the telephone rang. It was from the University. We were told we could not hold our meeting, the reason given was that we had a German speaker. It was hard to believe. The war seems so long ago. Germans now sit with Belgians in the League of Nations.

Hastily we organized a little deputation to call on the Administrator of the University. In this deputation was our German Executive member, Gertrud Baer.

At three o'clock in the afternoon the Administrator received us. He was very formal and very positive. He said the University hall was only given for literary and scientific purposes. We pointed out that our subject, "Education for Peace", was surely a suitable one for a University and that our posters announcing our subject and our speakers had been posted in the corridor of the University for five days.

Faced with these facts the Administrator then said that no German had set foot within the sacred portals of the University and that no German would be allowed to do so as far as he was concerned, because no German had protested at the treatment of Belgium.

To this our French Executive member, Madame Duchêne, made answer and said that our women had protested before and during and after the war and that our German speaker in particular, Gertrud Baer, had been working for reconstruction in Belgium and France ever since the war. At this point she turned the conversation over to Gertrud Baer. And for once the Administrator had a German within that sacred University who was protesting at the invasion of Belgium. A German who spoke of her desire to right the wrongs of war and bring about reconciliation and understanding.

But the Administrator was not to be moved. He said many of the students objected to a German speaker, that he could not have disturbance and possible violence in the University, that he had ordered the police to stand before the University at five o'clock to prevent disorder.

Sorrowfully we went away. Time was short. What should we do with the au-

dience who would arrive at five for our meeting?

Very quickly we had two big placards made announcing what had happened and urging all to come to the meeting at the People's House on Wednesday evening.

Then two of us took turns holding up the placards at either side of the door of the University. As the audience began to arrive a body of students assembled in the open space in front of the college buildings. They were unfriendly students. Perhaps as children they had suffered under the siege of Belgium. They began first to make fun of us, then to call us names. Some even took to throwing orange peel and empty match boxes. But it was good to observe that though there were women students in the University, not one of them took part in this demonstration of the men. We stood our ground until we were sure all who had come to attend the meeting knew why it could not be held. This demonstration and this refusal to let us meet was good propaganda. It stirred up feeling in Liege. The papers wrote articles. On Wednesday evening the People's House was crowded. We had an audience of at least a thousand. There were five minute speeches from W.I.L.L. members representing eleven different countries. All of us, in spite of our different nationalities, manfully spoke French. And beside our own speakers a student from the University came to offer his apologies. He represented a body of students who had not demonstrated against us on Monday, who were deeply distressed at the action of the University and much ashamed of the behavior of the other students. He came to bid us welcome in the name of a large group of right minded students, to tell us that they believed Universities, in their search for truth, should be above nationalities and rivalries and thrown open to all. As to our German speaker, Gertrud Baer, he said he knew of her and her work and wished especially to extend to her greetings.

He said he as a Belgian had been in Germany and had there received a warm welcome. Then he thanked us all for our work and for coming to Liege and turned to go. But as he did so Gertrud Baer rose to greet him and this Belgian boy and German woman stood hand clasped in hand before that Belgian audience and into every heart came the knowledge that war is a monstrous absurdity, that as between individuals there is no national hatred, and as if in answer to that thought the Belgian boy very reverently stooped and kissed Gertrud Baer's cheek as he turned to leave the platform.

Many of the women in the audience were weeping. They had suffered much during the invasion of their city, but when Gertrud Baer spoke they gave her a tremendous welcome. There was no question but that that Belgian audience was with us in spirit. We went from Liege sure that we had left friends behind and that around Lucie Dejardin would grow up a sincere group working for peace.

FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN GERMAN AND BELGIAN CHILDREN

The Dresden Group of the German Section of the W.I.L.L. is cooperating with Lucie Dejardin and other Belgian members to arrange to have twenty three German children and two helpers make a trip to Belgium this summer between

the middle of July and the middle of August.

In a letter to Lucie Dejardin, Frau Freund-Hoppe of the Dresden Group says:

"The German children were delighted with the letter from you and have begun to study Belgian geography and have had lectures by a soldier from the front on Belgium. They are making arm bands with the "No More War" sign on them, they want to exchange a peace flag with the Belgian children. Every day they have a new idea of something they can do...

"They want to exchange letters with Belgian children so that when the summer comes they will already have warm friends in the places they are going to..."

"The idea of this trip came to the children because of the visits they paid to the "No More War" Exhibition in the Kunstgewerbemuseum in Dresden. One thirteen year old girl was so impressed by this exhibit that she lectured for an hour and a half about it to the children."

A STORY OF WAR'S TRAGEDY

In the little magazine, "The Message of Theosophy" for January 1924, is the following touching story. It was told by Lady Kinnard shortly before her death.

"The Prince of Wales was asked one day if he would visit a little Private Hospital where thirty-six men, so terribly injured in the war that they could never hope for release, were fighting the desperate battle of patience and courage. The Prince named a day, and drove round privately to the Hospital.

"In the ordinary way he went the rounds and was then conducted to the door by the grateful staff. But he stopped suddenly and said: 'I was told you had thirty-six patients. I have only seen twenty-nine.'

"It was explained to him that the seven other patients were so tragically disfigured that the visit to their ward was purposely omitted. 'For my sake or theirs?' he asked. 'For yours, sir', was the answer.

"At once he insisted on seeing these seven men. He was ushered into the ward where they lay, and at each bed he stopped for some minutes, saying cheerful words and thanking each man in the name of England for his self-sacrifice.

"Then, once again, he paused at the door. 'But there are only six men here,' he persisted. 'Where is the seventh?' He was told that nobody could see the seventh man. Blind, deaf, maimed, and disfigured out of likeness of humanity, this seventh man, they told him, lay in a bed in a room by himself, from which he never stirred.

"'You must not see him, sir,' said one of the officials. 'I must see him,' said the Prince. 'Better not, sir. You can do him no good. And the sight is terrible.' 'Still, I wish to see him,' said the Prince.

"One of the members of the Staff accompanied him to that little darkened room of unutterable tragedy. He relates that the Prince walked firmly to the bedside, that he turned very white, but stood there with bowed head, looking at the man who could not see or hear him, looking at that wreck of manhood, as though he would see the final anguish of murderous and monstrous war. Then very slowly the Prince stooped down and kissed the man's face. When he rose, it was as if another Presence had come into the room."

A Message to Chinese Women.

The International Executive Committee of the W.I.L.L. decides to send two members of the W.I.L.L. to confer with the women in China.

Events in China are moving fast though it is likely to be some time before China's civil war is over, and her people present a united front to the rest of the world. But while this struggle for national unity goes on the foreigners remain in China holding on to their concessions and protected by military force. This means that each moment a clash may occur between the Chinese and the foreigners leading to disastrous results. The serious nature of this situation was earnestly considered by the International Executive Committee of the W.I.L.L. at their meeting on March 12th. China was put down on the agenda as an urgent matter. What could we as women and as an International association do to help, in however small a way, prevent war, and bring peace to China? Different National Sections had taken action in regard to China but this it was felt was not enough.

The British Section on November 9th passed a resolution which they presented to their Government and distributed to the press and to various organizations. They asked the British Government "not to intervene... in the national conflict with cash, credit or munitions" and "to withdraw all ships of war from the Yangtze and other Chinese territorial waters" and to "abandon extraterritorial rights and control of Chinese taxation".

On February 8th the British Section in another resolution expressed their satisfaction at the Christmas Manifesto of the British Government and said this "constituted an important step towards direct negotiations with the Chinese nationalists" but added: "the dispatch of extensive British forces is prejudicing such an agreement and we urge the Government to recall them."

Finally at an Annual Council Meeting of the British Section on February 26th after British troops had been landed in Shanghai but after the British had signed an agreement with the Chinese about Hankow, another resolution was passed, which expressed satisfaction that Great Britain and the Kuomintang Government had come to an agreement as regards Hankow and asked the British Government "to continue conciliatory methods... to avoid threats or display of force and to withdraw all British troops from China at the earliest possible moment" and "to observe strict neutrality in the civil war in China".

Besides this action on the part of the British Section, the French Section of the W.I.L.L. also appealed to their Government on China.

On November 9th they passed and circularized a resolution demanding that the French Government "in agreement with the other Governments concerned should not intervene in China's national conflicts:

"That it instigate an international Conference to study the Chinese question.

"That this Conference ... seek a way to a just agreement resulting in the relinquishment of extra-territoriality, all political foreign intervention and all economic privileges contrary to Chinese interests."

The American Section of the W.I.L.L., like the British and French, also appealed to its Government on behalf of China. The U.S. Section on September 25th, at the commencement of the critical situation, telegraphed the President of the

U.S. begging the U.S. Government "to exercise untiring patience amid the chaotic conditions in China and not to allow itself to be provoked into naval intervention under any circumstances."

Important as has been the action of the National Sections in regard to China, the International Executive felt that this was not enough, that action ought to be taken internationally and unitedly by all the 25 National Sections of the W.I.L.L. A long discussion ensued as to what could be done. Finally a resolution was passed unanimously by the entire International Executive. The resolution is as follows:

Resolution on China

Believing that China has the right to be treated as a sovereign State, the Executive Committee of the W.I.L.L.P.F. opposes the use or the threat of military or naval intervention and urges the Governments of countries having interests in China:—

- 1) To withdraw armed forces;
- 2) To use only conciliatory methods for settlement of all points of difference between China and other countries with a view to concluding treaties based on justice and equality.

The Executive Committee of the W.I.L.L.P.F. calls on the National Sections to follow closely the course of events in China in order, when opportunity arises, to urge appropriate action upon their governments, bearing in mind especially the importance of using the machinery of the League of Nations.

As the concluding paragraph of this resolution indicates, each National Section is asked to follow events in China and press its own Government for a solution of the problem. But even this did not seem sufficient. The situation called for something more than resolutions. At last the idea came. Louie Bennett (Ireland) suggested we send a delegation to China to confer directly with the Chinese women. Trouble between East and West could only be averted through understanding and tolerance. Why not get the women of the East to collaborate with the women of the West in establishing peace on earth? If men must continue to settle disputes by battle, let the women at least come to an understanding and settle disagreements in another way.

With great enthusiasm the plan was agreed upon. Two women of the W.I.L.L., one a European and one an American, are to be sent to China. Meanwhile we have asked the Chinese women to send delegates to us so that we may confer with one another both in Europe and in China. The following letter was drafted.

Letter to the Chinese women

"Dear Sisters and Fellow-workers in China,

We offer to you greetings and our deep sympathy in the trials your Nation is now suffering.

We assure you that we, women of the W.I.L.L.P.F. and very many other groups in Europe and America are convinced that the Chinese nation ought to hold full sovereignty over all Chinese territory, and we are doing all in our power to oppose the use or the threat of military or naval intervention and are urging the Governments who have interests in China:—

- 1) To withdraw armed forces,

- 2) To use only conciliatory methods for settlement of all points of difference between China and other countries with a view to concluding treaties based on justice and equality.

We realise that hitherto the Western Peoples have attempted to impose their theories of life and civilization upon the East and have been blind to the spiritual and intellectual wealth of the Eastern Peoples. We know that we have much to learn from the Chinese People, and that the unfettered growth of a civilization indigenous to China would be of great value to the world. May the new age which is coming be made a period of co-operation between East and West, rich in promise for humanity.

Let us, women of the two hemispheres, unite to establish co-operation instead of conflict among the nations of the world.

We, as members of the W.I.L.L.P.F. appeal to you to stand shoulder to shoulder with us in our efforts to persuade mankind that justice and freedom may only be won by reason and moral force.

To us of the West, China is associated with the conception of pacific methods as a dominant factor in her national life. We appeal to you therefore, women of the East, to share with us the gifts of mind and spirit which made it possible for China, in the midst of warring nations, to keep alive this conception. Let us use all our efforts to make it dominant in the world.

We women of the West desire to establish closer contacts with you, women of the East, so that we may share with one another whatever knowledge and inspiration we may each have won from life. We therefore are arranging to send to you two messengers, members of our organization, in the hope that you will give them an opportunity to learn something of present conditions in China, and that you will confer with them as to how we may help one another to promote our common ideals.

We should feel it a great privilege and joy if you would send two members of your organization to visit us in Europe, and if possible to attend our Summer School on the subject of the relations between the white and coloured races which is to take place at Gland, Switzerland, from August 25th to September 8th, 1927.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committee of the W.I.L.L.P.F."

Every member of the W.I.L.L. no matter how humble can take part in this fine campaign. We want our delegates to leave for China by June 1st.

We will need about \$1500 or 300 pounds for each delegate. It is hoped that the Americans will raise money for their delegate and the Europeans do likewise for theirs. If every single member of the W.I.L.L. would contribute 25 cents or a shilling we should have enough to cover the expenses of the trip. Where there is a will there is a way. Please send any letters of introduction or special information you may have about China or any suggestions you think may be helpful to Louie Bennett, Chairman of the China Committee.

Americans please send your contributions to Hannah Clothier Hull, 504 Walnut Lane, Swarthmore, Pa.,

Europeans please send contributions to Maison Internationale, 12, rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva, Switzerland.

The French Conscription Bill

The Executive Committee at Liège considered the new French Mobilization Law.

The French Chamber on March 7th passed an extraordinary National Defence Act. It provides in time of war for the mobilization of every French citizen without distinction of age or sex. Women without the right to vote are conscripted along with the men. All the private resources of the French people are to be mobilized for defence.

The plan is worked out in great detail based on the experience of the last war and in effect provides for complete conscription of both man-power and wealth.

This bill was passed by the French Chamber in three days by a vote of 500 to 31. Camille Drevet, a French member of the W.I.L. who attended the hearing of this bill, came to the Executive Committee at Liège full of this tragic new law. She said the bill was rushed through so that Paul-Boncour, one of the instigators of the bill, might as French representative hurry to Geneva to attend the Preparatory Disarmament Commission.

Camille Drevet said she hoped to organize a group of French women in Paris who would pledge themselves to resist this law and if need be go to prison rather than submit to it.

The Executive Committee were much stirred by Camille Drevet's report. That Monsieur Paul-Boncour should be working for disarmament in Geneva and yet sponsoring universal French conscription, including the conscription of voteless women, seemed both monstrous and absurd. The Committee therefore wrote a letter in French to Monsieur Paul-Boncour of which the following is a translation:

Letter to Paul-Boncour

March 19, 1927.

"Dear Sir:—

We have followed with profound emotion and great unhappiness the debates which have just taken place in the French Chamber.

One cannot, without deep regret and astonishment, see a parliamentarian who has proclaimed himself a convinced pacifist, using his oratorical gifts to secure the passage of the most militaristic bill conceivable and even glorying in his collaboration in the preparation of this bill.

And when this parliamentarian occupies an important rôle in the League of Nations, and even in the Preparatory Disarmament Commission, his attitude takes on an especially tragic character.

Peace is talked of in Geneva while preparations for a state of war are made in Paris.

As a member of a party which declares itself to be the defender of the working classes, you give to the Government the right to mobilise the trade unions "in case of preparations for war deemed aggressive" leaving them no choice between submission and revolt.

A democrat in name, you prepare a law, which in the Fascist manner gives the Government the right of imposing, by a simple decree, the most dangerous measures.

Law is invoked on every occasion while International Law is violated.

Women are refused the vote and their lives and consciences are disposed of without their consent.

The Committee of the W.I.L.P.F., which is now meeting in Liège, wishes to ex-

press to you its indignant surprise and addresses to you a most vigorous protest against this attack on Peace and Freedom.

For the Executive Committee,
G. Duchêne (France), Catherine Marshall (Great-Britain), Vice-Presidents.

Beside this letter to Boncour the Committee wrote a letter to Monsieur le Député Ernest Lafont. Camille Drevet reported that Monsieur Lafont was the one man who attacked this bill with vigor calling it "monstrous and Fascist". The letter to him is as follows:

Letter to Ernest Lafont

"Dear Sir:— Liège, March 16, 1927.

At the time when the French Chamber was giving the world the tragic spectacle of its astounding passivity in accepting a law which you very justly characterized as "Fascist and monstrous", you defended Peace and Freedom with tireless energy.

The French Government and the Chamber have assumed a heavy responsibility before the world by deciding to mobilize "all French citizens and French nationals without distinction of age or sex".

By adopting such measures, they are drawing the world into a regime of armed peace much worse than any known up to now.

But your name will find its place in history because of your magnificent defence. The future will recognize you as a champion of Peace and Freedom.

Upholding in turn International Law, Parliamentary Freedom and the Right of Workers' Organizations, you showed that you realised all the dangers of a measure that is a provocation to foreign countries and a grave menace to the French people.

The Executive Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which has worked for Peace and Freedom constantly since 1915, having been informed of your courageous intervention, wishes to join with the French Section in expressing to you its admiration at your intervention and to request you, whenever the occasion offers, to read the enclosed protest in the French Chamber.

We beg you to accept our deep appreciation.

For the Executive Committee,
G. Duchêne (France), Catherine Marshall (Great Britain), Vice-Presidents."

To this letter Monsieur Lafont replied immediately thanking the Executive Committee of the League and saying:

"I am very happy to have the precious support of your organization in a battle, which we must continue against the spirit and letter of a law which is in every way to be condemned.

"I shall not fail in the near future to make every effort to secure the opportunity of reading this protest of your Executive Committee to the French Parliament."

In addition to these letters, the Executive Committee also passed a vigorous resolution against the French mobilization act, which the French Section will circularize and make use of in their campaign against conscription. The resolution is as follows:

Resolution on Conscription

"The Executive Committee of the W.I.L., faithful to the principles to which

it has constantly given expression since its inception, and greatly distressed by the bill adopted by the French Chamber providing for the mobilization "of all French citizens and French nationals, without distinction of age or of sex and of all legally constituted groups", "Believing:

"That in mobilizing associations — as well as trade unions — this law strikes at the root of the freedom of action and of speech of those organizations which are dedicated to the cause of Peace;

"That in violating International Law it may as a consequence bring down on the whole nation the destruction and cruelty of war;

"That it may drag all countries into a race of armaments, and so create a universal regime of armed peace, much more dangerous for world peace than the regime which gave rise to the war of 1914;

"Astonished that the country which first gave expression to the "Rights of Man" has taken the initiative in advocating measures which so gravely endanger freedom;

"And expressing the profound anxiety that the adoption of such a law has caused it and believing that to pretend to prepare for disarmament at Geneva and organize preparations for a state of war at Paris is an unacceptable policy,

"Protests vigorously against this policy which is contrary to the true interests of the peoples."

National Sections

At the time this resolution was drawn up the Executive Committee also passed a resolution appealing to all the National Sections as follows:

"Having carefully considered the bill providing for the mobilization of the whole French population in case of war, the Executive Committee of the W.I.L. requests each of its National Sections to set at work, in their respective countries:

- a) to prevent the adoption of similar measures;
- b) to obtain the abolition of all measures of the same character already in force."

The Executive Committee also felt it would be very helpful if one issue of "Pax" were devoted to a comparison of the conscription laws in the different countries. This can be done if each National Section will send in a memorandum on the subject. We want before May 15th a report of the laws in the different countries with regard to military defence and preparation for defence, and a statement indicating in what respect they affect women.

The following countries we find have compulsory military conscription: Albania, Argentine, Belgium, Bolivia, Chili, Columbia, Denmark, Ecuador, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Paraguay, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Salvador, Jugo-Slavia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Czecho-Slovakia, Russia and Venezuela. Though we wish material on these countries, we equally desire to have reports on the other nations so that we may make a comparative study of the whole situation.

NEWS FOR THE NATIONAL SECTIONS

On March 12th there was a meeting of the International Executive Committee and the Consultative Members of the W.I.L. at Liège. The meeting lasted a week. There were seventeen members present representing eleven countries.

Those present of the Executive Committee were Gabrielle Duchêne, Vice-President (France), Catherine Marshall, Vice-President (England), Gertrud Baer (Germany), Clara Ragaz (Switzerland), Vilma Glücklich (Hungary), Louie Bennett (Ireland), Cor. Ramondt-Hirschmann (Holland). Of the Consultative Members, Dr. Hilda Clark and Miss Chick (Great Britain), Dr. Aletta Jacobs and Mme Mulder Van de Graaf (Holland), Frau Frida Perlen (Germany), Frau Domska (Poland), Frau Neustadt and Dr. Malinska (Czecho-Slovakia), Lucie Dejardin (Belgium) and the International Secretary, Madeleine Z. Doty (America). There were also two auditors present, Mrs. Lola Lloyd (America) and Miss Chalmers (Belgium).

The two Vice-Presidents alternated in taking the Chair. Part of the time was devoted to the business and internal affairs of the League, the rest of the time was given over to a discussion of policy in regard to political and economic affairs and our campaign of work. Dealing first with the matters of the International Office the following decisions were reached.

The New Secretary

Miss Mary Sheepshanks (Great Britain) was elected as the new International Secretary to take office when Miss Doty's term expires next fall.

Officers' Meetings

It was decided to have regular officers' meetings four times a year if possible. The officers, i.e. the two Vice-Presidents and the Financial and Recording Secretary, are to come to Geneva between the Executive Committee meetings to consult with the International Secretary and share in the responsibility of the work. It was thought that the Officers, with the Secretary and Clara Ragaz, our Executive Member, who lives in Switzerland, might serve as a House Committee, and cooperate in proposing and carrying through plans concerning the Maison Internationale. The next Officers' Meeting is to take place in Geneva in May.

Executive Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive will be at Geneva immediately after the Summer School, from September 9th to 12th. At this meeting the new incoming Secretary, Mary Sheepshanks, and the outgoing Secretary, Madeleine Z. Doty, will both be present, and they will continue to work together at International Headquarters for some weeks until Miss Doty leaves.

Pax International

The Executive Committee discussed Madeleine Doty's proposal that she should continue to edit "Pax" after her return to America. Her suggestion was that she should secure the necessary funds for "Pax" and have the paper printed in America and shipped immediately to Europe. She felt she could collect international news from all over the world as well in America as in Europe and that she could keep in close touch with the National Sections and with Headquarters in Geneva. She fur-

ther suggested that Mary Sheepshanks, if willing to collaborate in this way, should whenever possible write a centre page for "Pax" giving the news of the League of Nations, and any other up to the minute European news.

The Committee in general recognized that "Pax" had its use as a propaganda sheet, that it would be difficult to secure the money necessary for the printing of "Pax" if Madeleine Doty did not undertake it and that it lay a very heavy duty on an International Secretary to expect her to fulfil all the duties of that office and at the same time edit a monthly paper in three languages. At the same time the Committee felt somewhat doubtful about the advisability of editing an international news sheet from America. After discussion it was decided to postpone decision in the matter until the September meeting, consulting with the new Secretary and the National Sections, and then decide as to whether it would be better to suspend the publication of "Pax" altogether or whether the new Secretary could undertake the burden of it (including the securing of the necessary finances. Printing of "Pax" does not come out of the regular budget) or as to whether Madeleine Doty's offer might be accepted on a year's trial and see how it worked out.

Meantime, until next November, the paper will continue as before with the three editions, French, German and English. Some of our German members felt that we could do without the German edition, but so many letters have come in even from Germany requesting that we continue with the German edition, that it seemed inadvisable to drop it. Also it was discovered that of the thousand German copies printed each month, that only three hundred and fifty copies go to Germany and that five hundred and twenty three copies go to other National Sections speaking German, and the rest to individual members scattered about the world.

Admission of Finnish Section

A group of women in Finland have applied for admission to the W.I.L. as the Finnish Section and they were formally admitted by the Executive Committee as a new section. They sent a representative last summer to the Dublin Congress and at that time expressed their desire to join us. Since then they have been meeting regularly and have drawn up a Constitution. Mrs. Beskow, one of our Swedish members, who visited Finland, says in writing about this group: "What is remarkable about this new section is that though two quite different languages, Swedish and Finnish, are spoken in Finland and the question of language plays a prominent part in political life, the Finnish women formed one section. This means that all the minutes, discussions and literature must be in two languages. At the very starting point this Section thus expressed their wish to reconcile and unite both groups."

China, Mexico and Nicaragua

The action taken by the Executive Committee in regard to China is set forth in full on the centre page of this issue. In regard to Mexico and Nicaragua, the Executive Committee endorsed heartily the activity of the U.S. Section in this matter. They felt it was due to the public opinion created in America by the various peace groups, that the U.S. Senate had been moved to vote unani- mously for arbitration with Mexico. The

Executive decided to write the U.S. Section endorsing their program and saying they had the support of the whole International organization in their campaign to have any difficulties which may arise between the U.S. and Mexico and Nicaragua submitted to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

Arbitration and Conciliation

The activities of the British and U.S. Sections were reported. Both sections have been carrying on a vigorous campaign for Arbitration. The British are asking their groups in the large towns to go out into the country districts and talk arbitration. Last year they got women from all over England to march to London for arbitration. Now they have reversed the order and instead of coming to a centre are sending their people out in ever widening circles for the cause of arbitration.

The U.S. Section, on the other hand, has been studying arbitration treaties and have had a model treaty prepared which can be secured from Headquarters on demand. They are working hard to get the U.S. to sign such a treaty with the different countries, beginning with Great Britain. The Committee recommended that the National Sections be asked to again read the Dublin resolution of the W.I.L. on Arbitration, and report what work they had been able to do in connection with this resolution.

Action against Conscription.

The Committee was presented with a report on the new French Conscription Law. It gave this matter earnest attention and its resulting action is reported at length on the centre page.

Disarmament Conference

Miss Marshall made a report at the Executive Committee meeting on Disarmament. She read a statement from Mrs. Innes, who is serving with Miss Marshall as Co-Referent for our League of Nations work. Mrs. Innes' article pointed out the three possible policies before every nation in regard to Disarmament.

- 1) The possibility of drifting, not putting forward any proposals on the reduction of armaments;
- 2) Total disarmament by a nation willing to take that risk, not a probable development of the problem in any country;
- 3) Gradual disarmament by mutual agreement. This is the method which has now become practical politics.

The question for the W.I.L. to decide was whether we wanted to take part in pressing for practical measures, knowing they will not mean total disarmament for a long time, or whether we wish to reiterate our general principles, not taking any part in steps which are less than whole.

Miss Marshall felt it was possible, while standing firmly for total universal disarmament, to advocate certain things as preliminary steps. The things suggested by her were:

- 1) Stand against conscription. The general abolition of conscription.
- 2) The disarmament of the key straits getting the countries which are great Naval Powers to disarm and internationalize the key straits.
- 3) Demand that the Oceans be made neutral territory. Battles will have to be fought in territorial waters. Neutral countries will have a right to safe Oceans. If, as all countries claim, defence is the only reason for armaments, then defence need only be like a watch dog chained to the door.

News For National Sections- Continued

4) Internationalize the air forces and the air routes.

5) Internationalize the arterial railways: the rolling stock could be internationally owned much like the wagon-lits.

These proposals were discussed. The close connection between economic and political disarmament was pointed out. It was agreed that it was desirable to have Miss Marshall dictate a full report on her whole proposition so that we may have it for study before the next Executive meeting.

Economic Policy

This subject was discussed at length and a report on it will appear in another issue of "Pax" as there is no space available in this number. In the same number a report on the Economic Conference of the League of Nations which takes place in Geneva on May 4th will be given. Louie Bennett (Ireland), of the Executive Committee, was appointed to represent us at this conference, and she will spend two or three weeks at the Maison Internationale while the Economic Conference is in session and prepare a memorandum for the W.I.L. to present to the League of Nations.

Russian Representation at the League Conferences

The following resolution in regard to the absence of Russia at the Economic Conferences of the League of Nations was passed:

"Convinced of the importance of Russian participation in all Economic Conferences for the improvement of economic conditions in the world, the W.I.L. expresses its regret that Russia cannot take part in the approaching Economic Conference of the League of Nations which is to take place May 4th."

Rights of Nationality

The Committee was presented with a report on the condition of thousands of people who are without nationality especially in the Eastern European countries and Russia. These people can get

no passports and cannot move about. There are no uniform international regulations concerning them and no tribunal exists to hear their cases. The following proposals were made and carried:

"1) to induce the League of Nations to put before the member states an international agreement according to which an international committee may be formed within the League of Nations where all questions concerning persons without nationality are dealt with. Such persons to plead before this commission their claims to belong to a given state.

"2) to appoint someone to take up this matter with the League of Nations.

"3) to urge the National Sections to take the matter up in their own countries."

This gives briefly the main matters touched on at the Executive Committee which was to have lasted from the 12th to the 17th but extended on to a final meeting on Friday morning the 18th when the Committee formally adjourned. On that day several members of the Committee left for Brussels where a public meeting was held which had been arranged for by Mlle La Fontaine.

Women at Geneva

The International Council of Women will meet at Geneva from June 7th to 17th, under the presidency of the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair.

In addition to the Committee meetings, there are to be five sessions open to all members of National Councils at which experts from the Secretariat of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office will give addresses on the different aspects of the work of the League and show how the National Councils can help forward the cause in their own country.

The report of the International Economic Conference, to be held in May, will be presented, and the help that the International Council of Women can afford to the League of Nations in its work for Public Health, Intellectual Cooperation, and Arbitration and Security, will be considered.

W. I. L. Summer School

Don't forget to make plans to attend the Summer School organised by the French Section, to be held at Gland, on the Lake of Geneva, from August 25th to September 8th 1927.

Subject: Some Aspects of the Relations between White and Coloured Races.

Director of Studies: M. Félicien Chalaye, Vice-President of the French Section of the League for the Prevention of Colonial Oppression.

Among those who have already promised their help and support are M. Romain Rolland; M. Henri Junod, Vice-President of the International Bureau for the protection of the Natives interests; Mr. John Harris, Secretary of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society; M. de Madariaga, Disarmament Section of the League of Nations; Professor Edward Mead Earle of Columbia University, U.S.A.; M. William Rappard, Member of the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations.

Address all inquiries, registration fees, etc., to: Mlle Yvonne Garreau, 2, rue Gaston-de-St-Paul, Paris (16e).

French Section

The French Section is preparing an International Exhibition and Sale for the 13th, 14th and 15th of May. It hopes to collect as many things as possible, coming from as many different countries as possible which will be representative of countries or regions. It would particularly like to have:

- 1) Toys, specially dolls in national or regional costumes and handiwork;
- 2) National or regional specialties — food stuffs or other things;
- 3) Books — if possible dedicated, and children's drawings.

The French Section would be very grateful if you would help in this matter, either by soliciting gifts for them or by indicating shops where things could be obtained at cost price.

Kindly send replies to Mme Kellersohn, 2, rue de Chézy, Neuilly (Seine).

Gifts should be sent to Mlle Yvonne Garreau, 2, rue Gaston-de-Saint-Paul, Paris, XVIe.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Jane Addams, International President

International Headquarters 12, rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva
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 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.

International Dués \$ 5.00 or £ 1.00 a year

Cable Willif



London S.E. 18.
Woolwich
21 Rectory Place
Mr. O.H. Grimling