

Christianity makes friends of enemies,
War makes enemies of friends.



Christ did not say "blessed are the war makers",
But "blessed are the peace makers".

PAX INTERNATIONAL

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Published monthly (except July)

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

Vol. 3. No. 3.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1928

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Subscriptions to «Pax International»:
One year fifty cents or 2/s.
International Dues \$5 or £1.

EVENTS OF THE MONTH

The two most important international events of the month have been: The Russian proposal to the League of Nations of universal total disarmament; the action of the League Council in settling the dangerous dispute between Lithuania and Poland. Both are dealt with elsewhere. In another sphere is Senator Capper's proposal to the U. S. A. Senate and House of Representatives that they should declare it to be the policy of the U. S. A. to make treaties with France, Great Britain, Germany, Japan, Italy and «other likeminded nations» renouncing war, accepting a definition of the aggressor, and providing that nationals of contracting governments should not be protected by their Governments in giving aid and comfort to an aggressor nation. This proposal, if accepted, would remove the European fear, that in the event of the League of Nations declaring a nation an aggressor and consequently liable to sanctions, that the U.S.A. might refuse to recognise such action of the League and thus make its sanctions of no effect.

American recognition of League action would strengthen it most importantly and help to establish «security».

The Indian Commission

In 1919 the Montagn-Chelmsford Act set up the Diarchy in India, a system of dual government, reserving certain powers to the British and giving certain powers to

Indians. This system was to come up for revision in 1929, but it has been decided to appoint a commission of inquiry at once, after only eight years trial. But the Parliamentary Commission appointed by the British Government to inquire and report is composed solely of British members, and although it is to confer with representatives of the Central Indian Legislature and the Provincial Legislatures, it is rejected by representatives of leading Indian opinion, who resent the exclusion of Indians from the Commission. The Indian committee will be asked to submit reports and should their views not be accepted, a special Indian committee may proceed to England and report to the Joint Committee of Lords and Commons. But though this may ensure representation of Indian opinion, it does not give the equal status that India demands.

Russian Proposal for Total Disarmament

The following letter was sent by Geneva Headquarters to Mr. J. Loudon, Chairman of the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference of the League of Nations.

December 6, 1927.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which, by the resolutions passed at its international congresses, stands pledged to work for universal, total disarmament by international agreement, wishes to express to you, as Chairman of the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference, its welcome of the proposal of the U. S. S. R. Delegation that an immediate beginning be made with the process of total disarmament, to be carried out, if necessary, by stages and to be completed within four years. The peoples of the world have been eagerly waiting for relief from the burden of armaments. This relief was promised them at Versailles in 1919 but so far no practical steps have been taken and little or no progress made towards it. On the contrary, armies, navies, air forces and all methods of destroying human life are increasing. Leading statesmen like Lord Cecil and military leaders like Field Marshal Sir W. Robertson warn us that unless disarmament is sincerely undertaken by the nations, war will again become inevitable and will destroy civilisation. We believe that armaments do not bring security but quite the reverse and that it is useless to wait to disarm until «security» is guaranteed.

We believe that the sincere and general adoption of the Russian proposal would free the world from its present state of fear

of insecurity and also from the crushing burden of taxation.

A sincere effort to carry out the Russian proposal would inspire renewed confidence in the League of Nations and add to its prestige. If on the other hand, the League of Nations should reject the proposal and if the delay in the adoption of practical steps towards disarmament should be still further prolonged, it is to be feared that the confidence of the peoples of the world in the League will be severely shaken. We urge, therefore, that the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference take the proposal for immediate universal total disarmament into earnest consideration and make every effort to give it practical effect. We beg you, Sir, to bring this letter to the notice of the members of the Commission.

A New French Pacifist Society for Women

The «Union fraternelle des Femmes contre la Guerre» is a new pacifist society of women in France and its first bulletin has just appeared (November 1927). Its declared object is to oppose all war, to oppose armaments, military budgets and military organisation (the Boncour law). The address of the U. F. F. C. G. is 43 rue du Simplon, Paris XVIII. Many local branches have been formed and more are being started. There is a central committee and a national congress will meet annually. We wish it all good luck!

Geneva School Teachers demand Total Disarmament

The Union of Genevese primary school teachers has passed a series of resolutions in which they affirm: the interdependence of nations, the need of rewriting school text books in an international spirit and the suppression of chauvinism, the usefulness of international children's camps, that children should be impressed with the illegality and immorality of war.

The Union then urges that peace action can not be carried out effectively as long as the army exists, that the army can not insure security and therefore that Swiss teachers should demand the suppression of the military budget.

CORRECTION.

In the article on Capital Punishment in the December number Czecho-Slovakia is given as one of the countries that has abolished the death penalty. We learn, with regret, that this is not the case.

FROM OUR CHINA DELEGATION EN ROUTE FOR INDO-CHINA

By chance, while walking round the deck, I catch a few words of conversation. A petty official had boxed an officer's cars. The wife of a doctor, exaggerating colonial customs, struck an Annamite servant, whom she had forgotten to pay, rather too hard...

I take refuge in my documents on Indo-China. A melancholy refuge: opium, alcohol, monopolies, forestalling, forced consumption, all the cruel and base exploitation of man by man. And I think of wise Franklin speaking of the process by which a great empire becomes small...

Up on the deck a few late locusts, fallen from a cloud. The other «docusts» (human ones), those who will only leave the ship at Saigon, Tourane or Haiphong to descend on Indo-China are fearfully busy today. When a flying fish appears, there is a «crack». A young colonial fires his rifle. Everything seen must be killed. Fortunately his clumsiness exceeds his cruelty.

The crack of the rifle is accompanied by a less harmonious chorus. Rough voices rise from the salon: «Aux armes, citoyens, Formez vos bataillons» shouts the chorus. They are rehearsing for November 11th. It seems that Armistice Day is to be celebrated. Thus peace is praised. The dead, and all the humble, obscure and wise people who in every country thought they were fighting for the right, do they ask for these songs of murder? Let our dead rest in peace. In respect for them, no more battle songs. If the brotherhood and love preached nineteen centuries ago are still vain words, may at least respect for life and man's simple human duty not to kill be imposed on the peoples.

OPPOSITE SUMATRA

Colombo rose before us one morning, offering the magnificent spectacle of its trees, its gardens and its inhabitants.

In the long streets the Hindus come and go, living bronze statues. Above the waist they are naked, below they are enveloped down to their feet in coloured drapery. Women with smooth hair and clear cut profiles carry baskets on their heads. A few priests with shaven heads, are clad in long yellow or orange robes.

Back on board, we discover too late that Gandhi was in Colombo that day. To console ourselves for not having seen the «Uncrowned King of India» we read the papers. For the first time an oriental has been received in the Town Hall. He visited different colleges. Everywhere he spoke in favour of the oppressed Hindu people. What simplicity and what grandeur his words have. With friendly irony he says fundamental truths to everyone. «What do you do for your poor here?», he asked the Municipal Council of Colombo. «Your Cinnamon Garden is beautiful and smells sweet. How are your homes? If they smell as sweet as the Cinnamon Garden I shall tell everyone that you are the ideal town. But I am afraid of not being able to say that of you.»

To the Buddhist priests he says that his Hindu soul is revolted by the doctrine of «untouchability» which he says, is a vicious excrement of Hinduism.

He advises the young Y. M. C. A. members who are astonished at even Christianised Chinese throwing off the ideal of the Occident, not to attack too strongly the beliefs of a people; to say sometimes «perhaps». He advises them all to reread the Bible by the

light not of modern science, but of the living instruction to be drawn from all faiths.

In a college of young girls he says to the women: «Married or not married, do not be slaves. Do what your country expects of you. Live courageously, protected by your purity.»

The customs official who had boxed the ears of his servant boy and kicked him down the corridors, threatened to hit him again if he complained to our lawyer. «All the Annamites are «bouzous», he said. All this sort of talk begins to weary us. And to the others we remain «Reds», like the reds in America, such as Jane Addams or Rachel Dubois who are persecuted, «Pax» tells us, by the «hunters of the reds».

Our friend from Batavia, whom good luck had brought us, is to leave us at Singapore. We are very sorry. Her intelligent goodness, her absolute sincerity, bring her so near us.

Another young woman of our group is also getting off at Singapore. A Russian having lived in Switzerland, Germany and France, and married to an Englishman, she was not afraid of our international circle.

We have one other friend. She was born in Tonkin. She speaks Tonkinese and loves the Tonkinese, but she thinks it will be hard for us to get to know the women of the country and that we shall surprise them greatly by talking to them of the role they can play in life. She is sorry that the colonial women are not interested in the customs of the country.

I begin to fear that the colonials belong to two schools: they economise or they lead a superficial and empty life. The third school which would be interested in the Annamites is little frequented.

The straits of Malacca. The blue line of the Sumatra mountains is reflected in the grey sea. Sumatra, the home of our friend Hatta, defender of Indonesian rights, today imprisoned in Holland.

Heat radiates from the sky, rises from the sea, and envelopes us like an oppressive suit of lead armour. We are approaching Singapore. Camille DREVET.

Saigon, November 25.

Truly we have not been long in beginning to learn about freedom in this country! Whether it was from France, or whether the people on the Cap St. Jacques communicated with the authorities here, they were all ready for us. It had been publicly announced everywhere that the boat would arrive at midday, and the Annamites had arranged for a delegation of important people of all parties, and some women to meet us. The boat came at 6 a.m. against the tide which they say is never done here, but fortunately two friends had found out privately and were there to help us. At the «Douane» they made us open every bit of luggage and took out everything and insisted on taking away books and papers and letters, etc.

During the morning two deputations came to see us to say that they have arranged to give us a little house to live in while we are here, so that we may be free to come and go! The Annamite gentlemen are extraordinarily charming. They are going to lend us motor-cars to go about in.

At 5.30 an exquisite little lady called, all in black but very elegant with black velvet sandals embroidered with brilliants, about the size for a child of eight. Her hands were tiny to match. She is about 3 feet 8. She is a cousin of our friend and came with him

and a comfortable open-car to take us about. We saw the whole of Saigon—a beautiful town, extremely well planned with no great luxury but a high level of comfort—only the poor little Annamite huts just outside reminded one that it was not in France. We also drove through the industrial town of Cholon which is entirely in the hands of the Chinese. It appears very well built and excellently lit and extraordinarily clean. The Chinese on the whole look stronger than the Annamites, who have a very serious air and often look very poor and careworn. The little lady told us all about everything and added very much to the evening's entertainment.

November 26.

This morning me moved into the charming little four roomed villa which has been lent to us. We have an Annamite «boy» to wait on us who speaks not one word of French, so we may succeed in learning a word or two of the language. The villa stands in a little garden of flowers and our «boy» had arranged two vases most beautifully for us. An Annamite lady came to visit us and brought us oranges from her garden. We went to lunch with the most important person in the party who tries to work loyally with the French and is hindered at every turn by them. There were two other young Annamites and the charming girl of last evening. It is quite amazing how psychologically blind the authorities are and very tragic. These young men that come back from France, full of interest in French culture and thought, having been treated as equals in France find such a very different state of things here. It is quite clear that so far as we have found out there are no organised groups of women in this part of the country.

Edith PYE.

BOARD OF OFFICERS' MEETING

Mme. Duchêne, Fr. L.G. Heymann, and Mme. Ramondt met at the W. I. L. P. F. offices on December 17 and 18 and the following decisions were come to:

1. A petition for the *Amnesty of Political Prisoners* based on purely humane grounds is to be sent before Christmas to the Governments of Yugoslavia, Roumania and Hungary.

2. A study conference on *Chemical Warfare* is to be held in Geneva in March 1928 to be organised by the international secretary of the W. I. L. P. F.

The International Executive will meet immediately after the above conference.

3. All sections are asked to collect data on the effect of *War Films* on young people.

4. The W. I. L. P. F. asks all its national sections to support the *Russian proposal* for universal disarmament and to urge other societies in their countries which are working for peace to support it. Sections whose governments send delegates to the League of Nations Disarmament Commission, are requested to ask their governments to instruct their delegates to support the Russian proposal.

N.B. A letter was sent from Headquarters on December 6 to the Chairman of the League of Nations Disarmament Commission, welcoming the Russian proposal.

Miss Sheepshanks is visiting the Scandinavian countries and some German Groups in January, speaking at meetings in Oslo, January 6 and 7, Stockholm January 9 and 10, Gothenburg January 12, Malmö January 13, Copenhagen January 14, Hamburg January 16, Bremen January 17, Frankfurt a/M January 19.

Progress of Arbitration since the War

Dr. Christian L. Lange

Secretary of the Interparliamentary Union. Member of the Norwegian delegation to the Assembly of the League of Nations.

History proves the importance of permanent institutions for the development of arbitration and judicial settlement of international disputes. Even the creation of the Arbitration Court at the Hague in 1899, imperfect as it was, had a distinct bearing on the development of arbitration treaties from 1903 onwards. The number of these engagements was rather imposing, about 130; but they were not very far-reaching, mostly riddled with reservations, which largely nullified their obligatory character.

The creation of the League of Nations and of the World Court has given a new impulse to the movement for arbitration, and it is of great interest to try to see how far this movement has now gone.

Neither the Covenant nor the Court statutes institute any binding obligation to submit disputes to arbitration or judicial settlement. Article 13 of the Covenant only states that disputes of a legal character are «generally» suitable for such settlement. The word «generally» leaves a loop-hole for unwilling states, and attempts made at the first Assemblies to strike out this word, and thus make the obligation absolute, have so far proved unsuccessful.

The Court Statute, through the optional clause in Article 36, has created a simple machinery for registering international engagements to have disputes of a legal character settled by the Court, and so far 18 States have signed and ratified this clause. Eighteen is not a large number, hardly a third of the membership of the League. The great event of the last Assembly was Germany's adhesion to this stipulation; first among the big powers it bound itself to have recourse exclusively to pacific procedure for the settlement of legal disputes with any other power having signed the same clause.

Along side of this clause should be mentioned that a great number of international treaties—the peace treaties of 1919-20; commercial and consular conventions; agreements on transit and communications, etc., in fact all general conventions concluded under the auspices of the League—contain a provision referring disputes as to the interpretation and the application of the treaty either to a special arbitration tribunal or to the World Court. A great number of such disputes have in fact been so settled or they are pending before the proper tribunal. It may be said that during these seven to eight years since the end of the war, a *tradition* has been developed to have recourse to peaceful and judicial procedure in the settlement of disputes the like of which history has never known before.

Finally we find an ever growing number of treaties between individual countries, stipulating either recourse to arbitration (or to the World Court) or to conciliation before a special Committee, or to both. If we compare these treaties with the pre-war conventions, we find them far more precise and comprehensive than the earlier ones. In the first place the two procedures: conciliation and arbitration (or judicial settlement) supplement each other and their respective fields are carefully defined. If a dispute is not referred to judicial settlement, an attempt shall be made to settle it before the Conciliation Committee and in the last resort the Council of the League will be ready to

lend a hand. And secondly an ever growing number of treaties provide for *all-in arbitration*, if an attempt at conciliation has failed.

In details these treaties differ very much in their special provisions. A huge field is here open for approach to unification and greater judicial precision. I shall not here go into these questions. It is more interesting to throw a glance at the geographical distribution of these new treaties. We are still in the middle of this movement; new treaties are constantly being added to the number, and an enormous effort is still needed before the world will be covered with an all embracing network of conciliation and arbitration engagements. But already now we can see emerge in Europe certain *areas of pacification*, in which war has been ruled out as a means of settling disputes as between the states concerned. These all-in arbitration treaties constitute the first steps towards an outlawry of war.

The first of these areas has *Switzerland* for its centre. Switzerland has not only signed the optional clause in the Court Statute. It has also concluded all-in arbitration and conciliation treaties with *all* its neighbours and besides with a growing number of other States. It began in 1921 by signing its treaty with Germany, followed it up three years later by concluding treaties with Italy and with Austria, and completed the system so far as its neighbours were concerned by its treaty with France. The last named treaty is still pending for ratification, but this now seems to be only a question of months, perhaps weeks.

Another area is centred around *Germany* which has concluded treaties with all its neighbours except Austria and Lithuania: Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, France and Belgium.

The last four treaties form part of the *Locarno system*. In two respects they stand out from the other treaties: they bind two big powers and moreover states which have had and are likely to have serious dealings between themselves; and these engagements are guaranteed, not only by the parties themselves, but also by two outside powers, Great Britain and Italy. The Rhine frontier, so long a sore point in Europe, has been declared intangible, and each and every dispute—also frontier disputes in the east—are to be settled in peace, through negotiation or through judicial settlement.

After Locarno Germany has carefully concluded a treaty for all-in arbitration with Italy, which moreover, as has just been said, has a similar treaty with Switzerland.

A third area of pacification has been created among the states in the north of Europe: Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. There too, war has been outlawed as between these four countries.

If space permitted other more or less isolated treaties for arbitration could be mentioned, particularly in Europe. Approximately I should calculate the number of arbitration engagements actually in force at about 300, pre-war engagements and clauses in special treaties included. This may seem an imposing number. But it must not be forgotten that given the number of states members in the community of states (about 60), the figure is a modest one, no more than between a fourth or a fifth of

what would be required to cover the civilised world with a complete network.

There is still left very much to be done in this field. A number of European states still stand aside, particularly in Eastern Europe and in the Balkans, and the most disquieting feature in our picture is the fact that the big powers are holding aloof, at any rate some of them. Germany has to an admirable extent drawn the appropriate lessons from its defeat in the war; France and Italy have made a praiseworthy beginning. But neither Great Britain nor the United States, nor Japan or Russia, have gone further than before the war. The two former states have concluded a certain number of conciliation treaties or arbitration conventions with ominous reservations; the two latter have stood completely aside even from such agreements. This shows that these powers reserve the threat of using their military preparation as a means of pressure in their dealings with other countries, particularly with the weaker ones.

Only when the big armaments are eliminated as a reserve force for diplomacy, will the peace movement have attained its first object, and the nations of the world be able to shift their ideals and to sublimate their combative instincts from the field of brutal force to nobles walks of human endeavour.

Senator Capper's Resolution

«That it be declared to be the policy of the United States:—

I. By treaty with France and other like-minded nations formally to renounce war as an instrument of public policy and to adjust and settle its international disputes by mediation, arbitration and conciliation; and

II. By formal declaration to accept the definition of aggressor nation as one which, having agreed to submit international differences to conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement, begins hostilities without having done so; and

III. By treaty with France and other like-minded nations to declare that the nationals of the contracting governments should not be protected by their governments in giving aid and comfort to an aggressor nation.»

Congressman Burton's Resolution

«That it is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States to prohibit the exportation of arms, munitions or implements of war to any country which engages in aggressive warfare against any other country in violation of a treaty, convention, or other agreement to resort to arbitration or other peaceful means for the settlement of international controversies.

«Whenever the President determines that any country has violated any such treaty, convention or agreement by engaging in aggressive warfare against any other country, and makes proclamation thereof, it shall be unlawful, until otherwise proclaimed by the President, or provided by act of Congress, to export any arms, munitions or implements of war from any place in the United States or any possession to such country, or to any other country if the ultimate destination of such arms, munitions, or implements of war is the country so violating any such treaty, convention or agreement.»

Meeting of the League of Nations Council

Those who may think of coming to Geneva on purpose to be present at a Council meeting would be well advised to postpone their visit until the accommodation is improved and extended, and in no case to count on admission until they are assured of a ticket. At present very few seats are available for the public and it is not easy to hear or to follow the proceedings, which consist largely of the reading and adoption of the reports of commissions, which can better be studied by obtaining the documents themselves.

The outstanding event of the 48th Council was, of course, the settling of the Polish-Lithuanian dispute. For eight years, since the taking of Vilna, the old Lithuanian capital but with a Polish and Jewish population, by the Poles, Lithuania has maintained that a «state of war» existed between the two countries. Not a letter even could cross the frontier, Polish timber could not be floated down the Niemen, the port of Memel was moribund, and the innumerable petty difficulties and grievances arising in countries, each of which included considerable populations belonging to the other race, could meet with no solution and became threatening sources of friction.

Moreover the character of the national leaders in each country made it difficult for either to make concessions. Mr. Valdemaras of Lithuania is a dictator of the Fascist

type, and Marshal Pilsudski a martial hero, each of them of unbending pride.

Considering that no intercourse was carried on between the two countries, a mediator had to be found. Russia did something by urging reconciliation, the Council has done more, it has brought the parties together. The calm atmosphere of the Geneva Council table, the quiet good manners that are the rule, the gentle influence of the Chinese president, the pressure of the representatives of all nations that peaceful solutions must be found, all these have brought about the end of the «state of war». Friendliness will not come at once, but the «insurmountable barrier» has been broken down, communications are reestablished, the League's officials offer their services to help solve disputes, and the «face» of the protagonists is saved. (Possibly they were not sorry to have their hands forced!)

Lithuania does not renounce her claim to Vilna but she will no longer boycott her neighbour. Poland pledges herself to respect Lithuania's independence. Thus a situation of acute danger has been removed.

Methods were also found of settling the long standing differences between Germany and Poland about the port of Danzig; and the dispute about the rights of German children to attend German schools in upper Silesia was referred to the Permanent Court of Inter-

national Justice. The Council has had these matters before it again and it is hoped and believed that they are now disposed of.

One pleasant piece of news was Roumania's gift of £1000 for the establishment of Armenian refugees in Erivan. This reflects great credit on Roumania, which is the first country to answer Dr. Nansen's appeal. Great Powers please note and copy.

Another appeal to which the Great Powers are reluctant to respond is that of the Commission on the opium traffic, that they should sign the Geneva Convention of 1925. Until sufficient countries have ratified this convention, the illicit traffic in noxious drugs can not be checked.

Dr. Snow, the Chairman of the Committee of Experts in the Traffic of Women, presented vol. 2 of their report.—Vol 1 was published early in 1927 and gave the main results of the investigation. Vol. 2 contains specific examples from various countries and it was considered only fair to submit this information to the governments concerned for their comments before publishing it. Vol. 2 is now published.

Many other matters were dealt with: international health work, codification of international law, settlement of refugees in Bulgaria and Greece, and other matters.

It was generally considered one of the most practically valuable sessions the Council has yet held. M. S.

The Mandates, and Education of African Natives

The Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations in allotting special departments of its work to its various members, entrusted the supervision of education in mandated territories to Mrs. Anna Bugge-Wicksell of Sweden. The account which she gives of the new type of education now being started in all the mandated territories is an inspiring one. The war had broken up previous systems, the schools and their equipment had been used for other purposes and the way was clear for a new experiment. A commission, financed by the Phelps Stokes Institute visited West Africa, and its representative, Dr. Jesse Jones, made a special investigation and report on education in East Africa at the request of the British Government. These reports supplied the idea on which the new system is based. Experience of the best type of schools for negroes in America was drawn upon. The old type of school with its attempt to apply European methods to African children was shown to be entirely unsuitable. The new plan aims at developing African children on the lines of their own native culture, to foster and develop all that is best in their tribal system and traditions, and to make them the basis of training the African to return to his native life and build it up on natural lines. Some of the schools are boarding-schools and in one of these in Tanganyika the boys may live in compounds, each one for a group from the same tribe or village; they may elect a chief from among themselves and it is interesting to note that when they do this the boy is chosen not for his own merits but for his relationship to a reigning chief. The system of education lays first of all the greatest stress on formation of character, the inculcation of truthfulness,

honour, loyalty, fairplay and discipline; and this teaching must be not theoretical nor from books, but arising out of every day life. Secondly, great attention is given to all physical exercises, to the teaching of healthy and clean habits, the hygiene of home and village life.

Thirdly music plays a great part and the practice of all native arts and crafts. The ordinary school subjects, reading, writing, arithmetic are always given the most practical application and illustrated from every day life, e.g. the number of chickens, the size of a compound, are calculated. Geography means showing them where their native products go to and what goods are brought from other countries in exchange.

History is first and foremost African history and later on some general idea of world history.

The whole aim of this education is to educate Africans, not to make them imitations of Europeans.

Above all, agriculture is taught and practised, the raising of home supplies of food and also the raising of the most important crops for export, such as coffee, cotton, or whatever the district is best fitted to produce.

The boys are not very keen on this part of their work, as they look upon agriculture as women's work. They have to be persuaded that the importance of producing for export makes it worthy of their manly dignity. The immense importance of developing and improving native agriculture is due to the fact that unless the natives themselves develop the valuable resources of the soil, it will not be long before the white settler

comes in and ousts them, and by taking the land reduces them to being mere laborers for his profit. The native leaves cultivation to the women, who are sorely overworked, as they have, in addition, to do all the domestic work and child bearing. It is therefore a great alleviation to them and involves a raising of the whole level of domestic life if the males can be led to undertake field work. This has been facilitated by the introduction of ploughs by the governments; ploughs involve cattle, and cattle belong to man's sphere, not woman's. By education therefore and the superseding of the spade by the plough, a fairer division of labour and more efficient cultivation are secured.

It is encouraging to note that already the standard set by the League of Nations Mandates Commission is exercising a salutary influence in colonies not under mandates. A colonising power which also holds a mandate has to appear yearly before the Mandates Commission to render an account of its stewardship; it is politely examined as to what it has done for native education, for health services for the proper remuneration of labour, and invited to remedy defects and to report in the following year as to what steps it has taken to carry out the Commission suggestions. If it has done particularly well in any line it is congratulated. The moral effect is great. Every Power wishes to merit praise and not to incur criticism. Then, having introduced reforms into its mandated area, the same Power feels that it can not leave the inhabitants of its own colony less well off, accordingly it adopts similar reforms for them. We may therefore soon see these schools spread throughout Africa. M. S.

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

News of the French Section

JUNE TO DECEMBER 1927.

Combating the Paul-Boncour project.

The petitions have come back in large numbers with signatures from many different circles. The leaflet, published by the «Comité d'Action» and written by our Section, has been sent to all the senators and deputies and circulated widely. The modifications to the project made by the Senate (see Klotz report) not being such as to calm our anxiety, we redoubled our efforts.

(Leaflets and petitions can be had from the «Comité d'Action contre le projet Paul-Boncour, 20 avenue Victoria, Paris 1^{re}».)

Visit to Bulgaria.

On her return last July, C. Drevet told of the results of her visit to Bulgaria at a meeting organised by our section at the «Sociétés Savantes». She succeeded in founding a Committee of the Save the Children Fund, on which the President of the «Ligue pour les Droits de l'Homme» and various Bulgarian people will act. She was assured that this Committee would really be able to help the children of political prisoners. After many vain efforts made by different missions this is really a fine success.

Gifts will be gratefully received. Send them to Mlle. Y. Garreau, 2, rue Gaston-de Saint-Paul, Paris XVI.

In her report, sent to the League, C. Drevet concluded by saying that she was in favour of a Balkan federation which she thinks the only means of bringing about the pacification of the Balkans.

Mme Duchêne's Visit to U. S. S. R.

At the invitation of various groups, Mme. Duchêne went to Russia on October 10th. She visited the country from Lenin-grad to Bakou. She was able to be present at the second Congress of the Working Women and Women Peasants of the Soviet Union (the first Congress was held on the first anniversary of the revolution, nine years ago).

This Congress, which brought together about 2,500 women, some of whom had come from very distant and primitive regions, gave her an opportunity of verifying the astonishing results obtained along the lines of improvement in women's conditions and their emancipation.

She was able to visit numerous factories, crèches, maternity hospitals, schools, prisons, etc. and to investigate them freely. Her conclusions are that if everything is not yet above criticism, some very interesting things have been achieved, in spite of very difficult conditions.

She is ready to give detailed information on what she was able to see to anyone who is interested. Meetings will be organised in Paris and in the provinces to give information about Russia.

Summer School.

The chief work of the French Section in the last six months was the organisation of the international summer school at Gland from August 28th to September 8th of which reports have already been given in *Pax*. The French Section is at present engaged in transcribing the lectures given at the school which will be published in a full report of the school.

Holland

Reaching the children by Radio.

Mrs. Vanoosten-Mössinger of Groningen reports a plan that is interesting Dutch youth

through the popular radio talks. In her talk during the children's hour she told the children of the different ways in which St. Martin's Day, November 11, is celebrated in the Tyrol, in Friesland, Thuringia and elsewhere by processions of children carrying lamps and singing old folk songs. This festival is of old pagan origin, was then transformed into the festival of the Christian martyr, St. Martin, and now co-incides with the Peace Festival of Armistice Day. On this occasion a children's competition was also organised for the making of transparencies illustrating peace. Finally a children's procession with peace-lights was formed. It is suggested that this celebration be adopted internationally.

For her next Radio-Talk, in January, Mrs. Vanoosten-Mössinger is going to ask the children to follow on the map while she tells them about the countries where the W. I. L. is working. Then she invites each child to send a picture postcard of its native place to her with the child senders name and address on it, and also a greeting (which is printed beforehand in the radio-journal). These cards will be sent in packets to our national sections of the W. I. L. to be given to a school, in which the children will have the greeting translated and be asked to send a card in reply. The cards will be collected and sent in a packet to Holland and distributed to the senders of the original card. In this way an international exchange of greetings will be started.

The Groningen branch organised a peace exhibition November 11, 12 and 13. In January it will have a course of lectures on the historical development of the Peace Movement and League of Nations ideas by Dr. Koppins.

The peace play «At the Turning of the Tide» is being performed for the 10th time and in various places.

Belgian Section - Branch of Liège

On Armistice Day a meeting was organised at the Maison du Peuple at Liège on the initiative of the W. I. L. Section and with the help of various groups of women, young people and socialist war veterans. Senator Louis de Brouckère and Senator Marie Spaak spoke on «The Six Months and Peace». In passing we may say that Mme. Spaak wishes to join the Liège Section and thus her name can be added to the list of women in Parliament who are members of the W. I. L.

W. I. L. members doubtless know that the burning question in Belgium is, at present, the reform of the army. They know also that the recent Cabinet crisis was provoked because the majority of the ministers refused to submit the socialist project—immediate reduction of the period of service to six months, gradual reduction of military forces until they are only a militia organised like the Swiss militia—to vote by the Chamber.

Although the idea of shortening the period of service is advocated in different circles for various selfish reasons, the Socialists call for this reduction entirely because of its pacifistic effect, as Vandervelde says: «Although a militia may serve as a weapon of defence, it is not suited for purposes of conquest and aggression.» This was the thesis that Louis de Brouckère developed before an enthusiastic audience.

Indeed, we are now taking part in a mass movement much like those that took place at the time of the fight for the right to vote and for the eight hour day. There were manifestations in all parts of the country, especially at Quaregnon, the cradle of Belgium Socialism, where more than 30,000

people demanded «the six months». By means of petitions young men and women are making their wishes known to Parliament and the women's petitions have already collected more than 25,000 signatures. Where does this enthusiasm come from? From the fact that the masses understand that their leaders see in the reduction of the period of service a first step towards universal disarmament, because they understand that it is the duty of each nation, large or small, to do all it can to achieve this longed-for end, and that, in a country where conscription exists, reducing the period of service means doing all one can, means cooperating in the international movement against war.

Bulgarian Section

The Bulgarian Section has published in the Bulgarian papers in résumé an article by Lida Gustava Heymann on the work of the W. I. L. P. F. They have also recently got out a pamphlet giving the work of the League in detail.

During the month of November the section held a meeting at which Mme. Moraliév spoke on «New Education» which she was able to treat fully as she had attended the Locarno Conference on New Education.

At the monthly meeting of the section four commissions were appointed, each one consisting of five members, to deal with the following questions: (1) Minorities, (2) New Education, (3) Finances, (4) Spreading W. I. L. Ideas.

Australian Section

This section is hoping to send a delegate to Honolulu for the Peace Conference of 1928. But the expense is very heavy and it is proving difficult to raise the necessary funds.

A joint meeting of the Peace Society (Melbourne) and the W. I. L. Section was held on Friday evening October 28th at the Australian Hall, Russell Street. Rev. Dr. Strong presided.

Mr. G. Gaidskar gave a moving and interesting address on the history of the Armenian people, telling of their suffering under Turkish persecution, their fitness and right to be a free and independent people, and the great need that still exists among Armenian refugees for sympathy and succour.

In the discussion which followed, instances were cited of other persecutions of subject races, and of sufferings inflicted upon them by military raids. Attention was drawn to the present naval expedition to the Solomon Islands, and the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

«That this meeting protest against the sending of a naval force to the Solomon Islands in consequence of the murder of tax-gatherers there by the natives; that it considers the proposed attack on the men, women and children of a whole village is an outrage against justice and humanity, and the policy of mass punishment for individual offences should be wholly abandoned.»

The Solomon Islands, in the Pacific, are British territory and it was recently reported that two white men (Englishmen) had been murdered there by the natives. The Englishmen were tax-gatherers, and the circumstances leading up to their death have not been made public in Australia. What has been made public is that a punitive expedition has been sent, including one of the Australian cruisers, the *Adelaide*, hence the protest of the W. I. L. Section in Australia.

Persecuted Pacifists

Russel Tremaine is the 10 year old son of pacifists parents, who belong to a religious sect of non-resisters. They are conscientiously opposed to the saluting of the flag which is now compulsory in public schools in the United States. They refused to acknowledge that the State had a right to compel school children to be indoctrinated with the principles of nationalistic patriotism and flag worship. They therefore educated Russel at home. The state of Washington, for this and no other reason, put the boy's father in prison and took the child away from his mother and put him into a detention home. This happened two years ago; since then the parents have not been allowed to see the child, nor even to know his whereabouts. It was reported by the supervisor that the child would not eat and would lie awake sobbing at night, that it was feared he would go out of his mind.

The parents long to have the child, and endure agonies of anxiety on his behalf, but they can not agree to the only condition on which the state will restore him to them, viz. that he should be compelled to take part in a ceremony contrary to his own faith and that of his parents.

As we go to press we learn that the boy has now been returned to his parents and is to attend a private school.

Books

Mr. Leonard Woolf has presented his book *Empire and Commerce in Africa* a study in

Economic Imperialism» to the library of the Maison internationale. This work is of the greatest value to all who are interested in Imperialism as it has been developed and exhibited by the European Powers in Africa and Asia. We should greatly appreciate further gifts of similar books for our Library. Those on our list appended below would be very welcome.

Der Kommende Giftgaskrieg, by Dr. Gertrud Woker, in the series Kultur- und Zeitfragen published by Ernst Oldenburg, Leipzig, price 2.50 Marks papers covers, 3 Marks, cloth covers. This book should be bought and studied by all our members who can read German, in view of the forthcoming W. I. L. P. F. conference on chemical warfare. In view of the horrible prospects that scientific experts hold out to us, of the wholesale gas attacks which will be made on large towns in the next war, and the consequent frenzy, panic and wholesale annihilation of entire populations, culminating in the extinction of European civilisation, all people should study the question. Dr. Woker as a worker in the physical-chemical Biology laboratory of Bern University is able to describe the various methods of chemical warfare and some of the preparations being made for it. The book is written in simple popular language and can be easily understood by those without scientific training. Interesting material was collected by the author in the U. S. A. as well as in Europe.

Those who understand Czech, should read the book by Sirius on the same subject. Its frontispiece is Sargent's great and terrible picture «Gassed» and a film made from this picture is shown in Prague cinemas as an advertisement for the book.

N.B. None of the Great Powers has ratified the Convention forbidding the use of poison gas in war!

Books recommended

Der erste Schritt zur Weltabrüstung, by Ludw. Quidde. 75 Pfennig. Verlag Hensel u. Co Berlin.

On Race Problems :—

An Africa for Africans, by Arthur Cripps, publ. Longmans. 9/.

History of Native Policy in South Africa from 1830 to the present day, by Edgar H. Brookes, publ. Simpkin Marshall. 22/6.

Kenya from within, by McGregor Ross, Allen and Unwin. 18/.

Sweden

Sweden has sent the first Christmas present received for the Maison Internationale a contribution from Miss Siri Ohlsen of Gothenburg of five Swedish crowns, and the first contribution for the Balkan Congress Fund for 1929, 60 Swedish crowns from the Malmö branch.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Jane Addams, International President

International Headquarters 12, rue du Vieux-Colège, Geneva
Secretary: MARY SHEEPSHANKS.

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.

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