

YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU  
 Your country needs you—alive and not dead!  
 Your healthy beating heart—not your weak  
 and shattered nerves!



Your full strength—not your crippled body!  
 Your active spirit—not your shell-shocked mind!  
 Your living self—not your rotting corpse!  
 Arthur Ponsonby, M.P.

# PAX INTERNATIONAL

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Published monthly

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

Vol. 4. No. 8.

JULY, 1929

## CONTENTS

Current Events.  
 Rosika Schwimmer's Case.  
 W.I.L. Prague Congress.  
 Hungarian Summer School.  
 Marie Curie, Spirituel Heroine,  
 Marcelle Cappy.  
 International Labour Conference,  
 Madeleine Z. Doty.  
 Work of National Sections:  
 British, French, German, Canadian,  
 Japanese.  
 Swiss Section and Poison Gas.  
 Stop Manufacture of Poison Gas.  
 Editor . . . . . Madeleine Z. Doty.  
 Office, 12, rue du Vieux-College,  
 Geneva, Switzerland.  
 Subscriptions to «Pax International»:  
 One year fifty cents or 2/-.  
 International Dues . . . . . \$5 or £1.

## CURRENT EVENTS

### The Victory Of The British Pacifists

The return of the British Labour Party to power in England undoubtedly means a victory for British Pacifists. All over the world pacifists cannot help but rejoice. Think of the things we can hope for this year as a result of this victory. We put them all down in a row. They are things the Labour Party promised if they were returned to power:

1. Reduction of armaments.
2. Negotiations for naval disarmament.
3. Better relations between the United States and Great Britain.
4. The signing of the Optional clause of the Statute establishing the Permanent Court of International Justice.
5. More active support for the League of Nations.
6. The signing of the Washington Convention providing for a maximum eight hour work day.

This year's assembly of the League of Nations ought to be much more interesting than any meeting since 1924 for England will be helping not blocking progress.

### America Wakes Up On Peace

President Hoover's recent Memorial Day address shows that he is awake to the possibility of serving in the cause of peace. It is a speech that may well cause pacifists to rejoice. And equally encouraging is the statement of Secretary Stimson who in commenting on the Budget Director's certification that America is obligated to pay \$1,170,800,000 for new naval vessels, among them the 15 new cruisers voted last winter and which are now rendered obsolete by the epoch making new cruisers of Germany, spoke of the wastefulness of our naval building programme. Probably never before has a Secretary of State discussed a naval programme with reference to the fact that if we go ahead "other nations will be impelled to follow suit" and therefore "the burden of unproductive expenditures which will be imposed on the economic world during the next fifteen years can be to a certain extent realised."

President Hoover said in his speech: "If this declaration (the Kellogg Pact) really represents the aspiration of peoples; if this covenant be genuine proof that the world has renounced war as an instrument of national policy, it means at once an abandonment of the aggressive use of arms by every signatory nation..."

"Yet still the net result has been the building of more fighting ships. Therefore we believe the time has come when we must know whether the pact we have signed is real, whether we are condemned to further and more extensive programmes of naval construction. Limitation upward is not our goal, but actual reduction of existing commitments to lowered levels.

Such a programme, if it be achieved, is fraught with endless blessings. The smaller the armed force of the world, the less will armed force be left in the minds of men as an instrument of national policy. The smaller the armed forces of the world, the less will be the number of men withdrawn from the creative and productive labors. Thus we shall relieve the toilers of the nations of the deadening burden of unproductive expenditures, and above all, we shall deliver them from the greatest of human calamities—fear. We shall breathe an air cleared of poison, of destructive thought, and of potential war."

### Narcotics In The United States

Miss Ellen N. La Motte who has attended all the Opium Commission meetings of the League of Nations and made an intensive study of the traffic in drugs throughout the world has just discovered some interesting facts about the situation in the United States which she has printed in the *American Nation*. For five years the United States has posed as the one country which has limited the manufacture of its drugs to medical needs. It has signed Article 9 of The Hague Opium Convention which demands this of its signatory Powers. To carry out its obligations the U.S. created a Narcotic Federal Board. But the curious thing is that since the "limitation" under the Federal Control Board the *import* of opium has increased from 43 tons in 1924 to 70 tons in 1928. As Miss La Motte says: "a casual observer might think we were better off before we began to 'limit' ourselves".

If the United States has increased its import of opium, has it also proportionally increased the drugs manufactured from opium and coca leaves? This is difficult to say for the U.S. only submits in its report the *manufacturers sales*. It seems odd to pose as limiting the manufacture of drugs when only the amount *sold* is known and not the amount *manufactured*.

Miss La Motte sheds an ugly light on the situation by showing that the sales in 8 years aggregate 68 tons of drugs, and that according to the Federal Control Board only enough opium was imported in those 8 years to make 42 tons. Where then did the opium come from to make the 26 additional tons of drugs? There are several explanations; either there is an immense reserve in the country, or contraband opium or contraband drugs are coming in, or opium is much richer in morphine value than formerly. Whichever it is, it is evident something is wrong, there can be no doubt of that. The Health Committee of the League fixed a standard as to what the per capita consumption of opium for medicinal purposes should approximate.

In 1928 the U.S. manufacturers sold 3 tons of morphine and 4 tons of codeine, but the per capita consumption called only for the 3 tons of morphine with the 4 tons of codeine left out.

There is one more point to consider in the situation that is *what are the medicinal needs of the U. S.* Has anyone ever found out?

## ROSIKA SCHWIMMER'S CASE

In October 1927 Madame Schwimmer applied to the District Court in Chicago for admission to citizenship into the United States. She was denied admission because she refused to kill or bear arms in behalf of the country.

An appeal was made from this decision to a higher court, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Illinois. Here the decision of the lower court was reversed in April 1928 and we all rejoiced feeling that Rosika Schwimmer who had been so buffeted about by fate had at last the citizenship she desired.

But it was too good to be true. The Solicitor General on behalf of the United States asked to have the whole case reviewed by the highest court of all, the Supreme Court of the United States.

This has been done and on May 27th, 1929, the highest court in the land denied Rosika Schwimmer citizenship. It is unbelievable but true, and the pacifists and lovers of freedom in the United States are feeling deeply the disgrace of this decision. Fortunately the Supreme Court was not unanimous in its opinion. There were three judges who dissented and the chief justice Oliver Wendell Holmes has written a powerful dissenting opinion in which he observed that Mme. Schwimmer held none of "the now dread creeds" and seemed to be "a woman of superior character and intelligence, obviously more than ordinarily desirable as a citizen of the United States". He concludes:

"The notion that the applicant's optimistic anticipations (world peace) would make her a worse citizen is sufficiently answered by her examination, which seems to me a better argument for her admission than any that I can offer. Some of her answers might excite popular prejudice, but if there is any principle of the Constitution that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other it is the principle of free thought—not free thought for those who agree with us but freedom of thought for the thought that we hate. I think we should adhere to that principle with regard to admission into, as well as to life within this country".

Madame Schwimmer's opinions which have caused some comment are due to statements she made in Court when she said: "I am an uncompromising pacifist. I am an absolute atheist. I have no sense of nationalism, only a cosmic consciousness of belonging to the human family."

In further explanation of her answer relating to nationalism she said:

"That 'I have no nationalistic feeling' is evident from the fact that I wish to give up the nationality of my birth and to adopt a country which is based on principles and institutions more in harmony with my ideals. My 'cosmic consciousness of belonging to the human family' is shared by all those who believe that all human beings are the children of God. This consciousness has given me the rule of conduct through life; not to do to others what I would not have done to me."

If Madame Schwimmer is a strong internationalist, she is an equally strong anti-Bolshevist, a fact which makes it surprising that the United States did not welcome her with open arms. When she was asked: "what do you mean when you say you are willing to support the Constitution and Laws of the United States?" She replied: "I mean the sort of thing I have already done; in many meetings in

which it was said that it would be far better to have a Soviet regime—"that is a far better kind of regime" I, having lived under such a Soviet regime in Hungary, would get up and tell the people: "Don't think to change to something better". To this day there is no better form of government than that of the United States, which is by the people and for the people, as the great saying is, and that Sovietism is nothing but tyranny under a new name; I wrote these things and I said these things and I can prove it by writings which I can get from Hungary. That is what I mean by other means (instead of killing) to defend the Constitution and the institutions of this country".

It will be good news to those of us who believe in pacifism, justice and liberty that a group of people in the U. S. are not going to let this matter drop. They have already gotten busy. A bill has been introduced into congress by congressman Anthony S. Griffin of New York amending the naturalisation law so as to permit the naturalisation of persons professing pacifism. Also the American Civil Liberties Bureau is taking up the case of Martha Graber, making a test case of it and carrying it to the Supreme Court. Martha Graber is a Mennonite born in Alsace-Lorraine who was recently denied citizenship in Ohio when she declared: "I conscientiously could not take life. I would be willing to do anything else, to give my own life for my country, but I could not take life."

### The Exclusive Patriot

N. Y. TIMES

The woman always preaching peace  
And arguing for wars to cease,  
She is a Red, I'm very sure,  
And should be shunned by patriots pure.

And any woman who will jaw  
Until she makes them pass a law  
The poor and needy to assist,  
I'm certain she's a Bolshevik.

And if you disagree and say  
These baneful things are all O.K.,  
I think you ought to be escorted  
To Leavenworth and then deported.

### The W. I. L. Congress at Prague

Each day brings word from Prague of preparations for the Congress on August 23rd.

The Prague Committee is arranging a reception in the City Hall just before the Congress so that the executive and consultative members attending the executive meeting may speak. Then there will be the Congress reception, the reception, given by the Czech groups, a garden party and the dinner on the 29th. An opportunity will be given to see the Czech National Theatre and hear an opera from Smetana. Also there will be a performance at the German Theatre, probably "Fidelio". At one of the receptions the chorus of Bakule children will sing, at the other the chorus of Prague teachers. Everything however is being arranged so as not to interfere with the business of the Congress. For those who can get to Prague before the Congress or remain afterwards, a series of sight seeing excursions will be arranged. If there is anyone who has not yet written for reservations they should do so at once. Dr. Anna Schusterova, Prague XII, Slerska 24, Czecho-Slovakia.

### Congress Funds

Now is your chance to make contributions. Congresses cost money and have to be paid for. Send something even if it is only a small amount. Many little contributions make a big pile. Norway has started the ball rolling and set a splendid example by contributing 500 Swiss francs. Well done, and many thanks little Norway. We know that means a lot from your small section. Send money care of Miss Mary Sheepshanks, 12 Rue du Vieux-College, Geneva.

### W. I. L. Summer School Hungary

The Hungarians have just sent in the list of the speakers for the Summer School at Visegrad, in September.

*Unemployment Insurance*: Dr. Béla Kovrig, Government Secretary, Lecture in French.

*Legal questions*: Dr. Rustem Vambéry, University Professor. Lecture in English.

*Free Trade*: Prof. Max Havas, Lecture in German.

*Taxation*: Dr. Jules Pikler, Lecture in German.

*International Labour Organisation*: Dr. Desider Papp, Government Council, Lecture in French.

*The Standard of Living in a Worker's Family*: Anna Kéthly, M. P., Lecture in German.

*Wonders of Technical Development*: Prof. Pfeiffer, Lecture in German.

*Literature*: Prof. Marcel Benedek, Lecture in French.

*International and National Economic Councils*: Emmy Freundlich, M. P., Lecture in German.

*Colonial Politics*: Camille Drevet, Lecture in French.

*Poison Gas*: Prof. Dr. Rudof Ballo, Lecture in German.

*Agriculture, Industry, Trade*: Joseph Vago, Economist, Lecture in German.

*Economic Results of the Peace Treaties in Europe*: Dr. Georg Lukacs, M. P., former Minister, Lecture in English.

If you haven't yet made your reservations please do so at once: Mme. Eugénie Meller, Jozsef ter 9, Budapest V.

### Maison Internationale

We have been meaning for some time, to call your attention to the fact that we have seven attractive rooms for rent in the Maison.

People frequently turn up in Geneva and say: "We didn't know we could stay in the Maison; if we had we certainly would have done so." So please tell every one you know who is coming here that they can stay with us. In the Summer during July, August and September we are always crowded and haven't half enough place to put folks. But this is only the case in the Summer, at other times our rooms often stand idle.

We have three finely heated rooms (centrally heated) on the second floor. Just the thing for winter. Two of the rooms have been done over and the third is just being done over. Mrs. Kate Crane Gartz, who was here recently, gave \$50 to *Pax* and \$50 to the *Maison*. The latter gift pays for fresh paint and paper for a room with gay chintz curtains and a rug for the floor. Pension, nine francs a day for members, 10 francs for non-members. Spend a winter in Geneva and see how much you will like it.

## Marie Curie, A Spiritual Heroine

Marcelle Cappy

Her real name was Marie Sklodowska, and she was born in Warsaw where her father was a teacher. She came to Paris in 1892 to carry on her study in science at the Sorbonne.

In two years she obtained the degree in physics and studied for the degree in mathematics. During her free hours, she worked in the laboratory of Prof. Lippmann.

She was very poor and lived in a little room on the sixth floor of a house in the Latin Quarter. She swept her room, prepared her meals, washed and mended her clothes. Often, in spite of the greatest economy, she had to do without many of the necessities. But she accepted joyfully the hardships of her life. Though her health was delicate she bore lightly the fatigue and the daily privations. She had a passion for her work and she was possessed of a great dream: to serve Poland, her enslaved fatherland, and all of suffering humanity.....

One day, one of her friends, a professor of physics, invited her to spend the afternoon at his house with some other friends. The first person she noticed on entering was Pierre Curie.

"I was struck" says she, "by the expression in his clear eyes and a certain abandon in the tall figure. His speech was slow, reflective and simple, and his smile, which was both grave and youthful, inspired confidence. We talked together and found our conception of things surprising alike."

Pierre Curie was then thirty five years old and he had dedicated his life to science. Ten years before, he had written in his diary: "Women much more than we, care for life, for life's sake. Women of genius are rare. So when we are pushed by an inner vision and wish to live an abnormal existence, when we wish to give all our thoughts to our work... we have to fight against women, and the fight is always unequal because it is in the name of life and nature that women seek to draw us back."

He did not know when he wrote these lines that destiny would put in his way, a woman of genius, Marie Sklodowska.

He recognised her for what she was at once. She recognised him. A profound affinity drew them together.....

They were married in July 1895 and the Polish girl became a French woman. "All my dreams were merged in one", she says, "the dream of scientific research with another." Their life was modest. Pierre Curie who was a professor at the school of Physics and Chemistry, earned six thousand francs a year (then \$1200). The young married couple settled down in a little apartment of three rooms. Although the young wife did the house work and helped her husband with his work, she at the same time prepared herself for the university examinations.

In 1897, she gave birth to her oldest daughter and as soon as she was well again, she went back to her labors. It was then she took up research work in the laboratory to prepare her thesis for her Doctor's degree. She chose for her subject radioactivity. A year before the scholar Henri Becquerel had discovered that substances which contain uranium continually emit a feeble light analogous to that of an electric discharge in a tube of Crookes.

Marie Curie went further and showed that another element, thorium, had the same property. Continuing with her experiments, she proved that certain minerals emit an even more intense light than warranted by the amount of uranium or thorium which they contained.

It was this lead her to make the hypothesis of a new radioactive element.

This was a discovery of tremendous importance. Pierre Curie put his own work aside to help his wife in her researches. They worked with passionate zeal and at the end of several months, detected in the minerals treated the presence of two unknown radioactive substances to which they gave the names, Polonium and Radium.

This being accomplished, there still remained the task of isolating radium, a heroic struggle.

It was necessary to treat tons of minerals. Impossible to accomplish such work in their little flat. They had no place to work, and no money....

The School of Physics and Chemistry lent the Curies an old wooden shed whose leaky glass roof let through the rain. It was in this miserable barracks furnished with old wooden tables, an iron stove and a black board, that one of the greatest discoveries of history was made.

For two years Marie and Pierre Curie worked without respite in their so-called laboratory. The cold came through the cracks between the wooden planks, dampness rose from the ill made floor. No one came to their assistance. Out of their meagre resources, they had to get tons of "pechblende" which they needed for their research, from a factory in Bohemia. Hard days followed hard days, with fatigue upon fatigue, privation upon privation. They showed superhuman courage. They staggered under a task so great it would have crushed them, had they not both been inspired by a faith greater and more powerful than their frail bodies.

Madame Curie, recalling those heroic times, says to-day: "We spent our days in the laboratory, sometimes we dined there very simply, like students. In our poor shed, a great peace reigned. Some times as we watched an experiment, we would walk back and forth the length of the room talking of the work of the present and the future. When we were cold, a cup of hot tea taken beside the stove refreshed and warmed us. We lived in complete preoccupation as though we were in a dream. Sometimes we came back after a dinner at home to take a look at our domain. Our precious products for which we had no proper receptacles, were placed on tables and planks; their faint luminous silhouettes could be seen everywhere and these gleams of light which seemed suspended in the darkness were an ever new source of emotion and joy to us."

Months slipped by—Marie and Pierre Curie lived their heroic dream in a corner of Paris while the noisy city played and sang indifferent... Madame Curie set herself the task of preparing pure radium salts—a crushing labour.

"I have had to treat", says she, "upwards of twenty kilos of material at a time, which meant filling the shed with great flasks full of precipitates and

liquids... stirring for hours with an iron rod the boiling mass in an iron basin."

But victory came in 1902; she obtained at last a decigram of chloride of radium. At once she wrote her thesis for her Doctor's degree. It was like a thunder bolt in the scientific world.

Madame Curie showed that pure radium possessed a radio-activity a thousand times greater than uranium at whose expense it is formed and that this strange radio-activity, this emission of rays, endowed with extraordinary qualities, is only energy, relatively immense, which has been released by the destruction of atoms of radium.

Marvelous discovery of a substance which destroys itself by radiation. The scientific conceptions of the world were completely changed. From thence forth it was established, that atoms, elements of matter, which until then were thought irreducible, were themselves miniature worlds in movement....

The disinterestedness of the Curies was magnificent. They refused to take out a patent on their discovery.

If it has been possible to spread throughout the world the practical uses of radium and the benefits of Curie-therapie, it is thanks to the unselfishness of two great souls who gave their all to humanity.

The Nobel Prize was bestowed on this learned couple. The world of science hastened to pay its homage. Glory came. But what was glory to these two? They received it humbly, astonished at so much noise...

In 1905, Pierre Curie was appointed Professor of the Faculty of Science in Paris and his wife the Director.

Alas, the hour of separation had sounded. A few months later, there was a fatal accident. Pierre Curie was crushed under a motor truck. In the early days of their marriage he had once written to his wife: "If something should happen to one of us, if one were like a body without a soul, still the work must go on."

And she has carried on. She replaced her husband on the Faculty of Science and was the first woman in France to be given such a high academic position. She continued alone the work they had created together.

At home she hid her tears that she might not darken the youth of her two little girls, the oldest of whom to-day has her degree in physics and mathematics, while the youngest is a talented musician.

When the war broke out, Madame Curie ill and at the end of her strength thought to retire. But again duty called her. Men suffered....

She was to be seen in all the hospitals. She organised the X-ray departments, examined the wounded and founded the school of Radiology at Paris.

Then peace came, but she did not stop. The University of Paris decided to create an Institute of Radium. She took the direction of it.

Recently she has established the Institute of Radiology at Warsaw. Everywhere the blessed discovery brings new methods of cure. And everywhere Madame Curie watches and works, that the precious secrets she has snatched from nature, may serve to heal the sick and promote the progress of civilisation.

## Twelfth Conference Of The International Labour Office

Madeleine Z. Doty

Few people outside of Geneva realise the importance of the International Labour Office. It is thought of as a branch of the League of Nations. But it is an offspring that threatens to become more powerful than its parent.

Its physical appearance is more impressive. It has a huge light stone building of its own which stretches in unbroken mass on the Lake of Geneva midst green lawns and great trees. Behind its myriad windows are housed representatives of governments, employers and workers. There is a staff altogether of 399 persons. This great organisation has been living and growing for ten years. The man directing it, is the Secretary-General Albert Thomas.

Each year there is an International Conference. This year from May 30th to June 21st, the 12th session was held.

Fifty countries sent representatives, the greatest representation so far. The countries not yet members of the I. L. O. are the U.S.A., Russia, Mexico, Egypt and Turkey. The latter country sent an observer. But there were only 36 countries with complete delegations namely two government representatives, one employers representative and one workers representative. The great feature of the Labour Conference is its varied representation; the countries which only sent Government delegates were not looked on with favour. The object is to get the three points of view. This produces interesting results. The Labour Conference frequently rises above national feeling the way the League Assembly does not. The League Conference is a meeting of nations; the Labour Conference a meeting of government officials, employers and workers. The workers often vote solidly against the employers, regardless of nationality. It is the interest of one class against another, not of one nation against another.

Sometimes delegates are challenged. This year Mr. Jouhaux for the workers, challenged the Italian workers representative. He said that trade unions had been suppressed, that there was no free association in Italy, that only Fascist unions existed, that the representative sent was in reality a government and not a workers representative. After considerable discussion the Italian delegate was admitted, by a vote of 84 to 27.

The Conference was made up of 391 members. 86 government representatives and 89 advisers. 37 employers representatives and 72 advisers. 36 workers representatives and 72 advisers.

This year for the first time China sent a full delegation. There were only 8 women delegates. Madame Wasniewska, a member of the W.I.L., was one of the Polish workers advisers.

The meetings were held in the big election hall of Geneva. A German, Dr. Braun, was made President of the Assembly.

The key note speech of the conference perhaps was given by a workers delegate who said in part:

Mr. Joshi (India).—"Geneva stands for the establishment of just and human conditions of work by evolutionary and peaceful methods of discussion and per-

suasion... but dissatisfaction at practical achievements is growing... The influence of Geneva is not the only influence affecting the imagination of the workers... There is another influence: Moscow... It is futile to argue that the translation of ideals into actuality is a slow progress. The slowness of evolution makes revolution attractive. The workers of Asia and Africa will not wait for many decades to achieve what the European workers have achieved in the last century."

Many of the workers delegates as well as Mr. Joshi expressed dissatisfaction at the rate of progress. The slowness of the Governments in ratifying the Conventions of the International Labour Conference was commented upon. The Washington Convention providing for an 8 hours day has only been ratified by nine governments and these provisionally. 42 are needed to make it effective.

In other words it is the same old story as with the League of Nations, beautiful programs can be made but if these are not ratified by the different Governments little happens. That is where the W.I.L. can help. We can bring pressure to bear in our respective countries and insist on ratification. Thus far the Labour Conferences have put out 26 conventions which have each been ratified on an average by only 13 states.

There were four subjects dealt with at the conference.

1. Prevention of industrial accidents.
2. Protection against accidents of workers loading and unloading ships.
3. Hours of work of salaried employees.
4. Forced Labour.

There is only space in this article to deal briefly with the last of these subjects.

Forced labour is a subject in which the W.I.L. is especially interested. The British Section of the W.I.L. in 1927 convened a meeting of representative women's organisations in London and prepared a memorandum on Forced Labour which it sent with a letter to the Labour Office. This memorandum has been printed in the back of the Labour Office Report on Forced Labour.

In it the British Section condemns the institution of forced labour and urges that it be tolerated only temporarily as an expedient for public work. While it is tolerated the following regulations were demanded: that forced labour shall only be used when voluntary labor is unobtainable; that in colonies and mandated territories it shall only be used with the consent of the Home Government; that forced labour be adequately paid; that the number of men taken shall not be so great as to cause local distress; that natives employed be allowed to return home every month, expenses paid; that there be adequate protection against accidents; that forced labour be only from adult males; that there be medical inspection of the men and conditions under which they work; that adequate records be kept showing cases of illness and death; that the regulations be printed in the local native language.

The International Labour Office prepared for the Conference a questionnaire covering these points and others. This session of the Conference was merely asked to pass on the questionnaire and

revise it. No Convention on the subject was drawn up, that is to be done at the Labour Conference in 1930 after the replies from the different Governments have come in. But even over the questionnaire there was great difference of opinion. The workers' representatives stood for the abolition of forced labour altogether, many of the employers and government representatives felt it was justified for public work. The workers representatives wanted the questionnaire worded so as to show that the aim was to abolish forced labour. The Committee which considered the questionnaire finally brought in a majority and minority report. In the minority report the workers demanded the insertion of three additional questions: 1. Do you believe the natives should have the right to free association, namely the right to form trade unions? 2. Do you believe the work of forced labour should be limited to eight hours a day? 3. Do you consider it would be advantageous to create a permanent committee of experts on native labour in connection with the International Labour Office?

These questions were brought before the Conference as a whole. The first question was adopted, the second defeated. The third and last question, after numerous comments to the effect that it was "an interference with the internal policy of the State", and "an abdication of national rights in favour of the International Labour Office", was passed by a vote of 59 to 49.

Many interesting speeches were made.

Mr. Shiva Rao (India) said: "The coloured natives and workers... far outnumber the white population of the world. Great Britain, France and Belgium have colonial populations in Africa which aggregate 90 millions. In Asia there is a colonial population of nearly 25 millions; in the Dutch East Indies there are nearly 50 millions workers; and in Australasia about 10 millions; so that leaving aside the vast populations in my own country of India, and in China and Japan, these colonial populations constitute such a large proportion of the human race that it is time the International Labour Conference considered their case..."

Mr. Furtwängler (Germany) described conditions. "In a French settlement in Shanghai, I am informed offenders are chained together and made to sweep the streets... During the building of a railway in the French Congo 25,000 natives died... I know the soul of these native workers and I feel I must be their spokesman. We must demand that committees of inspection be sent periodically to the areas concerned to study the conditions..."

Mrs. Kjelsberg (Norway) brought up the opposition of women to forced labour and presented the memorandum of the British section of the W.I.L.

Mr. Hadji Salim (Netherlands) said: "Forced labour is a scandal to humanity. It is based on the theory of the innate inferiority of certain races. It is harmful to those who are subject to it...; their development is checked and their sense of responsibility is not strengthened. It is an obstacle in the way of the formation of sympathetic contact between races."

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

#### British Section

This section for the past months has been busy with the election campaign. Twenty nine national organisations combined in the Peace Crusade.

"A Parliament of Peacemakers" was the slogan used by the Women's Peace Crusade. "How the Women badgered me on Peace" is likely to be one of the topics of conversation between the members of the new British House of Commons. At this election the men candidates had to listen to the women for the women voters were in the majority.

In 300 constituencies the Crusade was at work and the men candidates were informed they could only get the women's votes if they stood squarely for a progressive peace policy. Deputations of 12 to 20 women visited the men candidates with questions as to whether they would: 1) support the Kellogg Pact; 2) vote to sign the Optional Clause; 3) agree to the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means; 4) urge a large measure of disarmament; 5) demand the immediate evacuation of the Rhineland.

The replies of the Liberal and Labour candidates were mostly satisfactory but the Conservatives stumbled over the Optional Clause and Disarmament. The replies of candidates were printed in the newspapers and given wide publicity.

The British Section of the W.I.L. took a leading part in the campaign. 1240 meetings were held; mass meetings filled the biggest halls in the towns; the churches held special Peace Crusade Services. At one factory permission was given to address 1200 young voters inside the works. In another town employers in the large factories circulated an invitation to a meeting to discuss "How to use our votes for Peace". The gathering which resulted was amazing and there was great keenness and interest shown by the young factory workers and shop assistants, the "under thirties", in politics.

Miss Agatha Harrison who has been the organiser for the Peace Crusade work of the British Section says in an article just before the elections:

"All kinds of plans for arresting the attention of women voters are being devising. Our poster "Women of all Parties" is in great demand. In the first instance judging by previous experience the Election Campaign Committee decided five hundred would be sufficient but we have just ordered the fourth thousand! It is being displayed in all kinds of places, for example, on boardings, outside houses, churches, and chapels, in cinemas, factories, schools and clubs.

Some committees are dividing the towns into districts and "leafletting" each house, interviewing clergymen and ministers to see what help the Church can give... The interest in the Crusade is amazing, and the question is being constantly asked: "Is this only until election?"

On the eve of the dissolution of Parliament, the British Section arranged a great mass meeting in central London. Miss K.D. Courtney was in the chair; the speakers were prominent women in each of the political parties and distinguished guests from France, Germany and the U.S.A. gave accounts of work being done for world peace.

#### French and German Sections

Marcelle Capy has just been making a speaking tour in Germany for some of the German branches of the W. I. L. Though she only speaks French she was welcomed with enthusiasm by the Germans. She was welcomed as a sister rather than as a French woman. She delivered lectures in Karlsruhe, Stuttgart, Göttingen, Frankfurt, Offenbach and Nuremberg. Her subject was "European Understanding or Annihilation." Marcelle Capy gave facts and figures to prove her thesis. Such a profound impression was made by what she said that the sections in Stuttgart and Frankfurt are having her lecture printed in a pamphlet form to use for peace propaganda.

On her return to France, Marcelle Capy wrote a series of articles on Germany for *l'Oeuvre* and through these and a talk she delivered at the "Club du Faubourg" she has started a sincere movement for mutual sympathy and understanding. As she has expressed it, the heart and the head, France and Germany, must unite in a fraternal collaboration. To do this they must first of all realise that the tragedy they have both suffered has been caused by their common ignorance and their lack of fraternal goodwill. Not only for the sake of France and Germany must there be this rapprochement, but for the sake of the peace of the whole world.

The following quotations are from one of Marcelle Capy's articles in *l'Oeuvre* describing her journey to Germany:

"I got out at Karlsruhe... An auto car took me to my hosts in a quarter of an hour. The lunch was just ready to serve. There were vegetables and fruit on the table which came from France, a bottle of Burgundy wine, a Gervais cheese white and creamy as though it had just come with me from Paris. At the door of the dining room my host welcomed me with the words: "We were only waiting for the French smile." Charmed and touched by this first greeting which welcomed me so delicately to Germany I gave without counting all the smiles that joy can create. We took our places at the table. The large and luscious cherries and strawberries in their glass dishes, the asparagus with its mauve tips, the wine which was soon sparkling in the glasses—all this in truth was France of out-of-doors. To find these simple things in a country where vegetation ripens slowly, where the trees are only in blossom when the rich growth of our Midi has already produced its fruits, had for me a more real and powerful eloquence than any words.

These simple things seemed to say: "we bring the things they haven't". My hosts eating with pleasure plying me with questions, seemed to reply: "We like the things we haven't."

Remembering the meticulous cleanliness and neatness of the German who swept out the coaches of the train, the perfect correctness of the conductor with his shining lantern, admiring the organised arrangements of this modern house, I thought: "They have something we haven't" and from that in the twinkling of an eye the conclusion: "Let us exchange."

In the room arranged for me, some spring blossoms in a vase smiled at me. A grave German smile,—a French smile, they mingled and fused. Smile of the heart—the universal language. Thus began my journey, and thus it continued."

#### Japanese Section

Only a small item of news from this section but an important one. Tano Jodai writes that with great regret they have been obliged to give up the idea of sending a delegate from Japan to the Prague Congress. One of their members may be in Europe at that time and will then of course attend. This section is devoting all its energy this year to raising money for the Famine Relief Fund for the starving Chinese people in the nine provinces. The Japanese W. I. L. women are living up to their pacifist belief and making every effort to help the Chinese people.

#### Canadian Section

##### WINNIPEG BRANCH

This branch in April held an all day conference on "Public Education for Peace". It followed the lead that had been set by Vancouver which some time ago held a similar conference. The objects of the conference were: 1. To consider the existing perils to peace and the means of safe guarding it. 2. To consider the moulding of public opinion in favor of peace. 3. To emphasize Canada's part in world peace. The idea for the conference which originated with the Winnipeg Branch was taken up whole heartedly by the League of Nation's Society and 37 other organisations. One of the W.I.L. members of the Winnipeg Branch, Thelma M. Ayre, has sent us an account of the meeting which is quoted below in part.

"The meetings, which included four round table discussions led by men well equipped to introduce their subjects, were held in the assembly hall of the University of Manitoba and were attended by over 150 men and women, largely leaders of the groups they represented. A Luncheon gathering of about 250 people was addressed by Professor Watson Kirkconnell on "Organising the World for Peace" with an address in the evening by Dr. John W. Dafoe, editor-in-chief of the Manitoba Free Press, on "The United States and the League"...

The number of well informed women who took part in the round table discussions was a revelation to many.

One of the most significant features for us was the presence of some thirty-seven delegates from rural Manitoba, representing their local Women's Institutes. Those who have their fingers at the pulse of the country have felt that the farm women of Western Canada have signified several times lately that they are ready for education in things pacific. It would seem that here lies the most fertile field for the efforts of the W.I.L. in this part of the world...

We felt that the lesson of the conference for those of us who are more or less active in peace work was the need to be well and accurately informed on questions of peace and international relationships.

The Winnipeg Branch took its initial step in public affairs when it obtained some 200,000 signatures to a petition urging the government to signify to Great Britain its willingness to sign the Optional Clause. The Conference, successful beyond our fondest dreams, was the second step. May we prove equal to the more arduous task of following through and giving leadership to the women of the West who are now fast becoming aware of the significance of the problems of peace."

## Canadian Section

### TORONTO BRANCH

This group has issued a leaflet on military training in the schools in Canada. So great is the demand for it that 15,000 copies are being printed. An effort is being made to distribute these leaflets to teachers, students, scouts masters, church groups and especially to young people.

### VANCOUVER BRANCH

This branch has just had the privilege of a lecture by Charles Rann Kennedy, actor and playwright who gave great encouragement to peace workers especially women. Mr. Kennedy's new play "Old Nobody" stresses strongly the renunciation of the appeal to force.

### SASKATOON BRANCH

This new and enterprising branch has organised an all day conference on Peace Education for June 28th.

The Canadian Section is sending a delegation to the Prague Congress consisting of Agnes McPhail M. P., Mrs Laura E. Jamieson, Secretary of the section, Mrs. Byers, editor of the pamphlet on "Militarism in the Canadian Schools", and Mrs. V. McNaughton of the "Western Producer", Saskatoon.

## Swiss Section

### THE RED CROSS AND POISON GAS

This section has combined with three other pacifist Swiss organisations, the "Swiss Centre for Peace Action", the "Zurich Teachers Anti-Militarist Associations", the "Swiss Anti-Militarist Pastors Association" and written a very strong letter of protest to the Swiss Red Cross against their campaign calling on the public for the discovery of some re-agent for the detection of poison-gas which will protect the civil population in time of gas warfare. These Associations say there is no protection except to end all war. Their letter is as follows:

"International Committee of the Red Cross—Honored Ladies and Gentlemen:

The newspapers have just inserted an article in which you draw the public attention to the dangers of the next war and particularly of gas warfare to the civil population.

Instead of deducing the logical conclusion from these facts that one would have thought you would, namely the need for an end of war, you finish your extraordinary appeal with a plea that a method be devised to protect the civil population during gas warfare and even offer a prize for this purpose.

By such proceedings you amaze those who on the one hand have a very high idea of the mission of the Red Cross and on the other hand know what gas warfare means.

The leaders of the Red Cross should see clearly in this case as in all others, that prevention is better than cure. As for gas warfare, not only does it put the very name of the Red Cross in derision in the most terrible way, but the idea that there is adequate protection constitutes a tragic and dangerous utopia, and one to which all those who know the seriousness of the thing and feel responsible cannot subscribe.

You have certainly heard about the conference at Frankfort against Gas Warfare held last January by the W.I.L. Experts of the greatest competence who conducted the debate came to the unreserved conclusion that there was no real protection for the civil population against gas warfare except to end war. Perhaps in your eyes the conclusions of the International Commission of Experts held in Brussels from the 16 to 19 January 1929 have greater weight. When you read in the minutes of the sessions of this Commission (reviewed in the Womens Medical Review, Berlin, March 1929), the findings of those experts, every reader possessed of common sense sees plainly that all the proposals proved one thing, that there was perhaps some little protection for the soldiers, but none whatever for the civil population. If gas warfare breaks out the civil population is doomed, subjected without defence to the most infernal tortures.

In the face of such a situation we must declare that it is a sinister and inexcusable fraud on the people to create the idea that there is protection against this danger. That is why we consider it our duty to put the public on its guard against

your actions and instead of making an appeal to collect money for poison gas masks, we wish to show the people that the only sure means of real protection against poison gas is to prevent war altogether.

That alone will really combat the danger, and appeals to the reason, the heart and the conscience of the people, crying to them—NO MORE WAR.

## Stop Manufacture Of Poison Gas And Munitions

At the end of May a Conference was held at the Hague by the Dutch Section of the Anti-Militarist Society and groups of people who had pledged themselves against every kind of military service. Some of the points made by the speakers were as follows. Mrs. Roland Holst declared that it was even more necessary to refuse to work in munition factories than to refuse to serve in the army for in the future it is quite possible the governments will abolish conscription preferring a small volunteer army they can count on.

Mrs. Vine Minnema laid particular stress on the need to refuse *now* to manufacture arms and poison gas. "Don't wait until war is declared and every one has lost his head." She said many Dutch factories were making poison gas in secret and selling it to other countries, therefore Holland if war came would be as criminal as the country that took up arms. Mrs. Minnema also warned against the "Red Army".

The Conference was attended by people of different classes but not by the trade unionists for they are not against the Red Army and class war.

The outcome of the congress was that it was decided to take action to induce the workers in the arms, munition and poison gas factories to stop work. The Conference did not feel the action would necessarily be successful as the wages are higher in these factories than in others and the workers would not want to give up their jobs. They recognised they would have everyone against them both employers and employees yet they decided it was the thing to do. It might awaken a sense of responsibility in the workers.

## Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Jane Addams, International President

International Headquarters, 12, rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva  
Secretary: MARY SHEEPHANKS.

### 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 Dues — \$5.00 or £1 a year.  
Cable Willif.



London S. E. 18.  
Woolwich  
71 Rectory Place  
Mr. C. H. Grinnings