

LNU/2/1

LEAGUE OF NATIONS ASSOCIATION

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE.



From the
NATIONAL PRESS AGENCY LTD.
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LEAGUE OF FREE NATIONS ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE.

held at 26, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1. on Monday the 24th June 1918.

Convened for the purpose of constituting a Provisional Executive Committee to formulate a scheme for the establishment of a League of Free Nations Association, and of drafting a Memorandum defining the aims, objects and organization of the Association.

PRESENT.

Professor Gilbert Murray,
Mr. C. A. McCurdy, M.P.,
Major David Davies, M.P.,
Mr. H. G. Wells,
Mr. J. A. Spender.

1. PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

RESOLVED.

- (a). That the signatories to the proposed manifesto of the League of Free Nations Association form themselves into a Provisional Executive Committee for the purpose of giving effect to the objects and constitution of the Association.
- (b). That Professor Gilbert Murray be elected Chairman and Major David Davies be elected Deputy Chairman of the Provisional Executive Committee.

2. MANIFESTO OF THE ASSOCIATION.

A draft memorandum setting out the objects, aims and organization of the Association having been considered and amended,

RESOLVED.

That the Memorandum as amended be reprinted and submitted to the next Meeting of the Provisional Executive Committee.

3. FORMATION OF COUNCIL.

RESOLVED.

That members of the Provisional Executive Committee should submit lists of names of persons to be invited to join the Council of the Association.

4. PRESIDENT.

The question of appointing the first President of the Association having been discussed,

RESOLVED.

That Viscount Grey of Falloden be invited to become the first President of the Association.

5. HONORARY PRESIDENTS.RESOLVED.

That the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith. and Mr. Balfour be invited to become Honorary Presidents of the Association.

6. HONORARY TREASURERS.RESOLVED.

That Lord Colwyn and Sir Edward Holden be invited to become the Honorary Treasurers of the Association.

7. GENERAL SECRETARY.RESOLVED.

That Captain W.H. Williams of the Cheshire Regiment at present engaged as Legal Adviser to the Ministry of National Service, Welsh Region, be appointed General Secretary of the Association at a salary of £500.0.0. per annum, plus Travelling expenses.

8. HEAD OFFICES.

Major David Davies having reported that suitable premises at 22, Buckingham Gate for Head Offices were immediately available

RESOLVED.

That the premises at 22, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1. be taken over forthwith and utilized as the Head Offices of the Association.

9. SIGNATORIES TO COVERING LETTER ACCOMPANYING MANIFESTO.

Major David Davies, M.P. having submitted correspondence with the Rt. Hon. J.H. Thomas, M.P. Sir Arthur Steel Maitland, M.P. and Mr. Wickham Steed.

RESOLVED.

That copies of the Association's Manifesto be sent to the above named asking them to append their signatures to the proposed covering letter to accompany the Manifesto.

Meeting held at 26, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1., on Wednesday the 26th June 18

PRESENT. Professor Gilbert Murray (Chairman)
Major David Davies, M.P.,
Mr. C.A. McCurdy, M.P.
Mr. J.A. Spender.
In attendance: The General Secretary.

10. MANIFESTO.

The reprinted draft of the Manifesto of aims and objects having been discussed at considerable length,

RESOLVED.

That the Secretary prepare a new draft embodying the suggested amendments for submission to the next meeting of the Executive.

11. FORMATION OF COUNCIL.

RESOLVED.

- (a). That members of the Executive Committee should submit the names of persons to be invited to join the Council of the Association
- (b). That a covering letter be drafted to be signed by all members of the Executive Committee
- (c). That a personal letter from a member of the Executive Committee should accompany the Manifesto and covering letter.

12. OFFICE EQUIPMENT.

RESOLVED.

That the General Secretary be authorised to incur the necessary expenditure to equip the Offices with the necessary furniture for immediate use.

13. FINANCE - BANK ACCOUNT.

RESOLVED.

- (1). That the General Secretary be authorised to open an account with the Belgravia Branch of the London, City and Midland Bank in the name of the "League of Free Nations Association"
- (2). That the following five members of the Provisional Executive Committee be authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Association:-

Professor Gilbert Murray,
Mr. J.A. Spender,
Mr. H.G. Wells,
Mr. C.A. McCurdy, M.P.
Major David Davies, M.P.

(3). That the cheques of the Association shall be signed by any two of the above and by the General Secretary. 6

14. OFFICE STAFF.

RESOLVED.

- (1). That the Secretary be authorised to secure the services and appoint a competent Correspondence Clerk for the General Secretary's Office,
- (2). That the Secretary be authorised to submit for the consideration of the Committee a further list of appointments which may be required.

15. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE.

RESOLVED.

That Sir Willoughby H. Dickinson, M.P. be invited to become a member of the Provisional Executive Committee.

PRESENT.

Professor Gilbert Murray, (Chairman),
Major David Davies, M.P.,
Mr. J.A. Spender,
In attendance: Captain Harri Williams for the
General Secretary.

16. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meetings held on the 24th and 26th June were read and confirmed.

17. FORMATION OF COUNCIL.

The composition of the Council of the Association having been discussed and names proposed,

RESOLVED.

That the General Secretary be asked to compile a list of names to be submitted to the Executive Committee at the next Meeting.

18. MANIFESTO OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The Manifesto of the Association having been discussed the Secretary was requested to submit a reprint as amended for final approval by the Executive at the next Meeting.

19. COVERING LETTER ACCOMPANYING MANIFESTO.

The draft of the covering letter to accompany the manifesto being approved,

RESOLVED.

- (a). That the Secretary order 1,000 typed copies of the covering letter,
- (b). That the Secretary arrange with members of the Executive to enclose a personal letter with the covering letter and manifesto when sent.

20. MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION.RESOLVED.

That the Secretary arrange to compile a list of persons from the Press who are interested in the League of Free Nations movement.

21. ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES TO MANIFESTO & MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.RESOLVED.

That the following be invited to sign the Manifesto and to join the Provisional Executive Committee:-

Mr. Wickham Steed,
Mr. J.L. Garvin,
Col. Sir Mark Sykes, Bt. M.P.,
Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, Bt. M.P.,
Sir Willoughby Dickinson,
The Rt. Hon. J.H. Thomas, M.P.

PRESENT.

Professor Gilbert Murray (Chairman)
 Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P. Bt.
 Major David Davies, M.P.
 The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, M.P.
 Mr. Wickham Steed,
 Mr. H. G. Wells.
 Mr. C. A. McCurdy, M.P.
 Mr. J. A. Spender,
 In attendance: The General Secretary.

22. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th June were read and confirmed.

23. NEW MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE.

Col. Sir Mark Sykes M.P. was unanimously invited and consented to act on the Provisional Executive Committee and Council of the Association.

24. ADDITIONAL SIGNATORY TO MANIFESTO.

Two letters were read from Mr. J. L. Garvin, dated 27th June and 2nd July, expressing his agreement with and agreeing to sign the Association's Manifesto of aims and objects.

After discussion as to obtaining further signatures,

RESOLVED.

That in order to expedite the issue of the Manifesto, the circular letters bearing the signatures already obtained should be sent out at once. Additional signatures to be added to subsequent covering letters.

25. MANIFESTO.

After discussion as to the advisability of issuing the General Declaration of the Aims of the Association (pages 2 & 3 of the Manifesto) as a separate leaflet,

RESOLVED.

That the Manifesto be issued in its present form.

26. MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION.RESOLVED.

(a). That the circular letter and manifesto should be sent out to persons nominated by the members of the Provisional Executive Committee, inviting them to become original members of the Association,

(b). That a curtailed form of the Manifesto be drafted by Mr.

McCurdy and the Secretary, setting out concisely

- i. The main objects of the Association,
- ii. The condition of Membership
- iii. Having a form of application for enrolment as member or helper attached.

27. HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE.

On the motion of Mr. J.H. Thomas,

RESOLVED.

That members of the Executive who are members of Parliament should arrange for a debate in the House of Commons at an early date.

28. INTER-ALLIED PARLIAMENTARY COMMERCIAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON.

RESOLVED.

That all the delegates be invited to become Honorary Members of the Association. Major David Davies undertook to arrange for French Translations of the Manifesto to be made and distributed to each of the delegates before they leave London.

29. FORMATION OF COMMITTEES.

RESOLVED.

That the following Committees be set up immediately, with power in each case to add to their number: -

(1). Research Committee.

Members: Mr. H.G. Wells
Professor Gilbert Murray
Mr. Wickham Steed
Mr. J.A. Spender.

(2). Overseas Committee

Members: Col. Sir Mark Sykes, Bt. M.P.
Major David Davies, M.P.

(3). Organization Committee.

Members: The Rt. Hon. J.H. Thomas, M.P.
Mr. C.A. McCurdy, M.P.

(4). Press & Propaganda Committee

Members: Mr. C.A. McCurdy, M.P.
Mr. J.A. Spender,
Mr. A.G. Gardiner
Mr. Wickham Steed
Mr. J.L. Garvin
Major David Davies, M.P.

It was further

RESOLVED.

(a) That Mr. Wm. Archer be offered the post of Secretary to the

Research Committee at a salary of £400. per annum, and that a clerk be placed at his disposal.

- (b). That the Organization Committee be empowered to prepare a scheme to include the enrolment of members, the creation of branches, the distribution of literature, and the holding of public meetings and lectures.
- (c). That the Press and Propaganda Committee arrange for the publication of the literature of the Association, the editing of the Monthly Report and the issue of notices and articles to the Press.
- (d). That the General Secretary, for the present, arrange for meetings of the four Committees enumerated above, and shall co-ordinate their work, and report progress at each meeting of the Executive Committee.

MEETING HELD AT 22, BUCKINGHAM GATE, S.W.1. ON TUESDAY the 16th July 18.

PRESENT

Viscount Grey of Fallodon
 Professor Gilbert Murray
 Major David Davies, M.P.
 Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, Bt. M.P.
 Mr. C. A. McCurdy, M.P.
 The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, M.P.
 Mr. H. G. Wells
 Mr. J. A. Spender.
 In attendance: The General Secretary.

30. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd July were read and confirmed.

31. MINUTES OF ORGANIZATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

It was resolved to defer the consideration of the Minutes of the first Meeting of the Organization Committee until the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

32. PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Lord Grey, in response to an invitation by the Committee to accept the Presidency of the Association, intimated his willingness to consider the proposal and to meet the Committee again at a later date.

33. NEW PAMPHLET BY LORD GREY.

Lord Grey also consented to write a special pamphlet on the League of Nations for the joint consideration of the Association and the League of Nations Society, which might be published under the auspices of the Association.

34. ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE.

Lord Grey consented to become a member of the Research Committee.

35. DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

RESOLVED

(a) That the Executive Committee meet fortnightly, the dates and times to be fixed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee on Friday, 26th July, at 4 p.m.

(b) That the other Committees make their own arrangements for meetings.

36. CO-ORDINATION OF COMMITTEES.

RESOLVED.

That the General Secretary convene a weekly conference of the

Secretaries of all Committees in order to co-ordinate the work of the different Departments, and submit a joint report to the Executive Committee. 22

37. OFFICE STAFF - APPOINTMENTS.

The Secretary having reported upon the Organization of the Office Staff,

RESOLVED.

That the following provisional appointments be approved, and that the terms of engagement be submitted in writing by the various Secretaries to the next meeting of the Committee,

General Secretary Captain W.H. Williams.

Research Secretary Mr. Wm. Archer,

Press & Propaganda Secretary Mr. W.L. Williams

Assistant Secretaries.

(1) Miss Dora West (General Secretary's Dept) £4.0.0. a week.

(2) Mrs. Scott Gardiner (Press & Propaganda Dept) £3.0.0. a week.

(3). Miss Elsie Norris (Organization Dept) £3.0.0. a week.
(Conditional upon commencing duties early in August).

Junior Clerks.

(1) Miss Rosie Lyons - 25/- a week, to date from 15.7.18.

(2) Miss Hilda Murray - 35/- a week, to date from 15.7.18.

(3) Miss Doris Burrows - 25/- a week, to date from 22.7.18.

It was decided that Miss Juliet Southwell now attending a Secretarial College, should produce references and call upon Professor Gilbert Murray on Thursday the 18th instant.

Caretakers.

Mrs. Brett engaged as Caretaker at 35/- a week.

Mr. Brett engaged as Janitor and Messenger at £1.0.0. a week and uniform.

38. EXPENDITURE.

Accounts for current expenditure amounting to £115.0.0. were passed and three cheques were ordered to be signed.

39. NORTHAMPTON MEETING.

A communication from the Secretary of the Liberal & Radical Association, Northampton, addressed to Mr. McCurdy was referred to the Organization Committee for consideration.

40. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES. 23

Mr.H.G.Wells having proposed that Mr.Wm.Archer should become a member of the Executive, Research and Press & Propaganda Committees

RESOLVED

That the matter be deferred until the next meeting.

41. MISSION TO PARIS.

A letter having been read from Mon. Mourize of asking that the Association should send a mission to Paris in order to meet representatives of French political parties to discuss the formation of a kindred Association in France,

RESOLVED

That the General Secretary be instructed to write to Mon.Mourize regretting that it was impracticable to send a mission to Paris immediately; that arrangements would be made for this to be done at a later date and to thank Mon. Mourize for his communication, and requesting him to keep in communication with the Association upon his return to Paris.

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EMERGENCY MEETING.

Held at 22, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1. on Friday the 19th July 1918.

PRESENT.

Mr. C.A. McCurdy, M.P.
Major David Davies, M.P.
Mr. J.A. Spender
In attendance: The General Secretary.

42. The Secretary having reported an interview with the sub-Committee of the Womens' National Liberal Federation at 120, Victoria Street,

RESOLVED

- (a). That the Womens' Liberal Federation be invited to nominate two of their members to act upon the Council of the Association
- (b). To refer to the Organization Committee the suggestion that an additional member of the Womens' Federation should be invited to serve on that Committee.

43. REGULATIONS RE PROPAGANDA ABROAD.

Mr. Spender having reported that restrictions were in force relating to the transmission of literature to Allied Countries

RESOLVED

That the Secretary be instructed to refer to the matter to the Press and Propaganda Committee and request them to make enquiries and to obtain copies of the regulations before the next meeting of the Executive.

44. FORMATION OF COMMITTEE.

RESOLVED.

That for the present the name of the Chairman of any Committee shall not be indicated in any list of such Committees for publication.

45. FORMATION OF COUNCIL.

On the motion of Mr. Wells.

RESOLVED.

That Mr. Arnold Bennett be invited to join the Council.

46. MISSION TO PARIS.

Correspondence having been read from Mon. Mourize relating to the formation of a kindred Organization in France,

RESOLVED

That Major David Davies, M.P. be asked to visit Paris forthwith to confer with representatives of various Societies and political groups and to convey to them a resolution from the Committee promising the support and co-operation of the League of Free Nations Association in England with any movement to establish a similar organization in France. Major Davies consented to carry out these arrangements and to draft a letter from the Association embodying the resolution of the Committee.

PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Meeting held at 22, Buckingham Gate, on Friday the 26th July 1918.

PRESENT. Professor Gilbert Murray (Chairman)
Major David Davies, M.P.
Mr. C. A. McCurdy, M.P.
In attendance: The General Secretary.

M I N U T E S

47. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday 16th July, and of the Emergency Meeting held on Friday 19th July were read and confirmed.

48. PUBLIC MEETINGS.

The General Secretary submitted a scheme for organizing and holding public meetings in the Regional Centres of the Country,

RESOLVED.

That the scheme be adopted in principle and referred to the Organization Committee and that they be empowered to make the necessary arrangements.

49. NORTHAMPTON MEETING.

Mr. McCurdy having proposed that a meeting should be held at Northampton at an early date,

RESOLVED.

That the General Secretary write to the Secretary of the Liberal Association of Northampton asking him to suggest a suitable date during the next few weeks for a non-party meeting to advocate the aims and objects of the Association.

50. LEAGUE OF NATIONS SOCIETY.

The General Secretary having reported the proceedings of the Joint Meeting with representatives of the League of Nations Society,

RESOLVED.

That this report be received and its consideration deferred until next week.

51. MISSION TO PARIS.

Major David Davies, M.P. having submitted a draft of the letter which it was proposed should be sent to Paris,

RESOLVED.

That the letter as amended be conveyed by Major David Davies and distributed by him in Paris.

52. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.

Reports of the Press and Propaganda, The Research and the Organization Departments were received and adopted,

RESOLVED.

That in future these reports be circulated every fortnight and sent on with the Agenda to members of the Committee.

53. OFFICIALS AS COMMITTEE MEMBERS.RESOLVED.

That no salaried members of the staff should also be members of any Committee but that Departmental Secretaries should attend the meetings of any Committee if requested.

54. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES.

Names having been submitted of persons who should be invited to join the various Committees,

RESOLVED.

That the Secretary be requested to send invitations to the following persons to join various Committees:-

Executive Committee:

Sir A. Shirley Benn, M.P.
Mr. W. F. Purdy,
Colonel Sir Leslie Wilson, D.S.O. C.M.G., M.P.

Overseas Committee.

Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P.
Colonel Sir Leslie Wilson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.P.
Mr. McCullum Scott, M.P.
Sir Charles Nicholson, M.P.
Professor Gilbert Murray,
Mr. H. J. McKinder, M.P.

Finance Committee.

Sir A. Shirley Benn, M.P.
Sir Williams Collins,
Mr. A. E. Bowen,
Mr. F. Hyde,
Mr. Hartley Withers,

Press & Propaganda Committee.

Mr. Robert Donald.

55. MISSION TO PARIS.

Major David Davies informed the Committee that he had forwarded a confidential report to every member of the Executive Committee relative to his visit to Paris,

RESOLVED

1. That the consideration of this report be referred to the Overseas Committee.
2. That the proposal that M. Bourgeois and M. Jules Cambon and M. Briand should be invited to become Hon. Vice-Presidents of the Association be deferred for consideration.

56. LEAGUE OF NATIONS SOCIETY.

The Committee having received the report of the members appointed to confer with the League of Nations Society the following resolution was carried:-

RESOLVED.

1. That the Executive Committee of the Association welcomes the report of the representatives appointed to confer with the members of the Executive Committee of the League of Nations Society and expresses its willingness for mutual co-operation between the respective Societies, with a view to the unification of their activities.
2. That Professor Gilbert Murray and Mr. McCurdy be asked to confer with the representatives of the League of Nations Society for the preparation of a complete scheme for giving effect to the above resolution.

57. PRELIMINARY LIST OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES.

A preliminary list of the Council and Committees having been submitted,

RESOLVED.

That 10,000 copies be printed and circulated.

PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held at 22 Buckingham Gate, on Wednesday, 11th Sept. 1918

PRESENT

Professor Gilbert Murray (Chairman)
 Mr. C. A. McCurdy, M.P.
 Major David Davies, M.P.
 Mr. Austin Keen
 Mr. Wickham Steed
 Mr. H. G. Wells

(In attendance: Miss Dora West for General Secretary)

M-I N U T E S58 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, the 26th July, were read and confirmed.

59 PUBLIC MEETINGSRESOLVED

- (a) That the Organising Secretary be instructed to attend the meeting to be held at Northampton on the 13th inst.
- (b) That the Organising Secretary be instructed to circulate a memorandum ^{to all members of the Organising sub-committee} on the procedure to be adopted in the Organisation of public meetings.

60 ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES.

A list having been read of persons who had been invited to join the various Committees with a report of the acceptances to date.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Col Sir Mark Sykes, Bt. M.P. should be asked to approach Col. Sir Leslie Wilson, D.S.O., M.P., with a view to his joining the Executive Committee.
- (b) That Major David Davies, M.P. should invite Sir Edward Holden, Bt. to become one of the Treasurers of the Association.
- (c) That Mr. Hartley Withers should be asked to join the Finance Committee.

61 FINANCE(a) TreasurersRESOLVED

.That the question of appointing Treasurers in addition to Sir E. Holden should stand over until a later date. ³³⁰

(b) Subscriptions

Resolved

That a definite plan of campaign and an appeal for funds be prepared at an early date, and that this matter be referred to the chairman and Major David Davies,

(c) Liabilities

Resolved

1. That the outstanding liabilities be checked by Major David Davies, M.P. and Mr McCurdy, M.P.
11. That no further typewriters be purchased at present unless the work of any Department is being definitely delayed. Mr.H.G.Wells kindly promised to lend a machine.

62. RESIGNATION OF GENERAL SECRETARY

A letter having been read from Captain W.H.Williams resigning his appointment owing to ill health,

On the motion of Mr McCurdy, M.P. seconded by Major David Davies. M.P.,

Resolved

The Acting Secretary was instructed to write to Captain Williams conveying to him the sincere regret of the Committee on learning of his illness, their hope for his speedy recovery and expressing their appreciation of the services he has rendered to the Association.

63. LYCEUM CLUB DINNER.

A letter was read from Miss Stevens to Professor Murray informing the Committee that it was proposed to hold a dinner at the Lyceum Club on the 7th October to advocate the aims and objects of the League of Free Nations Association.

64. ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF OVERSEAS COMMITTEE

Resolved

That subject to the approval of the Overseas Committee, Miss Stevens should be invited to join the French Sub-Committee of that Department.

65. PROPOSAL FOR A DEMONSTRATION IN OCTOBER. 31

A letter having been read inviting discussion upon a demonstration in October,

Resolved

That the matter be referred to the Chairman and Major David Davies, M.P.

66. CAMBRIDGE MAGAZINE

On the motion of Mr Wells.

Resolved.

That the Cambridge Magazine be added to the subscription list of the Association, and a copy be placed on the Library Table.

67. INAUGURAL DINNER

After discussion on this subject.

Resolved

That the preliminary arrangements be referred to Major David Davies, M.P. and that he be asked to report progress at the next meeting.

68. FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

Major David Davies, M.P. having reported that he had cabled and written inviting Mr Taft and M. Leon Bourgeois to attend the Inaugural Meeting of the Council in October.

On the motion of Mr McCurdy.

Resolved

That the preliminary steps be approved and that the matter be referred to the Chairman and Major David Davies, M.P., to complete the arrangements.

69. PAMPHLET NO. 10.

On the motion of Mr McCurdy.

Resolved

That pamphlet No. 10. be circulated amongst members of the Executive Committee and that the question of using it for general distribution instead of the Manifesto be considered at the next meeting.

70. DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

On the motion of Major David Davies, M.P.,

Resolved

That the report submitted from the Press and Propaganda Department be sent to all members of the Executive and its consideration be deferred until next meeting.

71. POSTAL PERMIT.

A memorandum having been read from the Acting Secretary of the Overseas Department upon the urgency of obtaining a postal permit for the transmission of literature of Allied and Neutral Countries.

Resolved

That this matter be referred to Mr Wickham Steed, who promised to approach the authorities concerned with a view to obtaining the permit without further delay.

72. STAFF APPOINTMENTS

(a) General Secretary

Major David Davies, M.B. having drawn the attention of the Committee to the vacancy caused by the resignation of Captain Williams,

Resolved

That the Chairman should be asked to submit names of candidates for consideration at the next meeting and that members of the Committee should send in names of suitable persons for the post

(b). Secretary of Organisation Committee

On the motion of Major David Davies, M.P.

Resolved

That Mr Edwards be appointed provisionally for one month commencing from the 19th September at a salary of £5.0.0. per week.

(c) The General Secretary having presented a list of the staff to date.

Resolved.

That the Secretary circulate this list with further details and comments to all members of the Executive Committee.

73. LEAGUE OF NATIONS SOCIETY

The question of amalgamation with this Society having been discussed,

Resolved

(1) That the present Manifesto of the League of Free Nations Association should be regarded as the basis of the circulation of any amalgamated Society. 33

(11) That the resolutions submitted by the League of Nations Society should form the basis of discussion at the Join Conference of the Executive Committee of the two Societies.

At the close of the discussion the Committee adjourned to meet the Executive Committee of the League of Nations Society.

PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held at 22, Buckingham Gate, on Tuesday, 24th September 1918.

PRESENT

Professor Gilbert Murray (Chairman)
 Sir Arthur Steel Maitland, M.P.
 Major David Davies, M.P.
 Mr. H.G. Wells,
 Mr. J.A. Spender.

(In attendance: Mr Butlin for the General Secretary)

MINUTES74. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 11th September, were read and confirmed.

75. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES

Major Davies reported that further invitations had been sent to the following persons:-

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lieut. Col. Leslie Wilson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.P.,
 Mr Wm Frank Purdy,

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr Hartley Withers.

TREASURERS.

Sir E. Holden.

Resolved

That this action be approved and Mr Spender be asked to approach Lord Cowdray with a view to his becoming one of the Treasurers of the Association.

76. ABBREVIATED MANIFESTO.Resolved

- (a) That Mr McCurdy's draft pamphlet setting forth the aims and objects of the Association be adopted with certain amendments and referred back to the Press and Propaganda Committee.
- (b) That the original Manifesto continue to be circulated.

77. PETITION TO ALLIED PARLIAMENTS

The drafts prepared by Mr McCurdy and Mr Archer having been considered,

Resolved

- (a) That Mr McCurdy's draft as amended be adopted.
- (b) That it be referred back to the Press and Propaganda Committee for report as to procedure to be adopted.

- (c) That the Petition when completed be sent to the Allied Parliaments.

78. INAUGURAL DINNER AND FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Major Davies reported that he had received a cablegram from Ex President Taft regretting his inability to be present, and a letter of acceptance from Monsieur Bourgeois.

Resolved

- (a) That the Chairman and Major Davies be authorised to write to Mr Taft and to communicate with other officials of the League To Enforce Peace.
- (b) That the arrangements for the first meeting of the Council and the dinner be left in the hands of the Chairman and Major Davies and that they be authorised to consult with Lord Grey as to what further action should be taken.

79. STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Resolved

- (a) That the arrangements for the appointment of a General Secretary be continued in accordance with Minute No.72 of September 11th.
- (b) That Mr Percy Butlin be appointed Acting General Secretary pro. tem. at a salary of £325 a year, with a view to his taking a post of Branch Secretary in the Organisation Department at a later date.
- (c) That the appointment of ^{Mr} W.L. Williams as Secretary to the Press and Propaganda Department at a salary of £500 a year be confirmed for one month from the 19th September 1918.
- (d) That the list of staff appointments as presented to date be confirmed, and the matter referred to the Acting General Secretary to make further report at the next meeting.

80. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The reports of the following departments were presented to Committee:-

Press and Propaganda
Research
Finance

81. REVIEW OF THE PRESS (SUB-COMMITTEE)

Resolved

That the recommendation of the Overseas Committee for the establishment of a special department to deal with all press cuttings from the British and Foreign press be referred to the Press and Propaganda Committee.

82. INVITATIONS TO JOIN THE COUNCIL

Major Davies reported that the following persons had been invited to become members of the Council:-

Sir Ryland Adkins, M.P. Sir Thomas Royden, Bt. M.P.
Col. Courthorpe, M.P. Mr J.A. Seddon.
Mr F. L. Davies, Major W. E. Weigall, M.P.
Captain Stephen Gwynn, M.P. Sir Arthur Yapp.
The Lord Bishop of Llanaff, Mr Robert Young.
Sir John Ure Primrose, M.P. The Lord Mayor of Manchester.
Col. Sir E. Pryce Jones, M.P.

d

Resolved

- (a) That these nominations be approved.
- (b) That the Secretary be instructed to write to all members of the Executive Committee enclosing a list of the present members of the Council to date, and asking them to nominate new members and to issue further personal invitations.
- (c) That the Secretary of the Press and Propaganda Department submit to the Executive Committee at their next meeting a list of the Bishops and the Heads of all the Free Churches,

83. HONORARY PRESIDENTS VICE PRESIDENTS & HON. VICE PRESIDENTS

- (a) Honorary Presidents.

Resolved

That the question of invitations being sent to

The Prime Minister,
Mr Balfour,
Mr Asquith,

To become Honorary Presidents of the Association be deferred until the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

- (b) Vice Presidents.

The Chairman undertook to invite the Archbishops of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York to become Vice Presidents of the Association.

- (c) Honorary Vice Presidents

Resolved

That the recommendation of the Overseas Committee that invitations be sent to the following persons be adopted:-

Mr Gompers	General Smuts	Mon. Briand
Mr Vanderveldt	Mon. Bourgeois	
Mr Branting	Mon. Jules Cambon	

This matter was referred to the Chairman and Major Davies.

84. OFFICIALS AS COMMITTEE MEMBERSResolved

That the resolution embodied in Minute No.53. of the 26th July should not be retrospective in its effect, and the election of Mr Archer as a member of the Research Committee be confirmed,

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-: LEAGUE OF FREE NATIONS ASSOCIATION :-

PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held at 22, Buckingham Gate, S.W. on Friday, 25th Oct., 1918.

PRESENT

Professor Gilbert Murray (Chairman)
Major David Davies, M. P.
Mr. C. A. McCurdy, M.P.
Mr. H. G. Wells.
Lt. Col. Leslie Wilson, M.P.
Mr. J. A. Spender.
Mr. Austin Keen.

MINUTES

85. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 24th September, were read and confirmed.

86. HONORARY PRESIDENTS

The Chairman reported that Mr. Asquith had intimated his willingness to become an Honorary President of the Association.

Resolved

- (a) That Colonel Wilson should approach the Prime Minister and that the Chairman should approach Mr. Balfour and invite them to become Honorary Presidents of the Association.
- (b) That Mr. McCurdy be asked to write to Captain Guest, to approach the Prime Minister with a view to his becoming an Honorary President of the Association.

87. COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION

The following list of nominations was submitted:-

Mr. W. A. Mount, M.P.
Sir Stuart Coats, Bart., M.P.
Mr. G. W. Currie, M.P.
Sir C. S. Henry, Bart., M.P.
Major C.G.C. Hamilton, M.P.
Major E. Royds, M.P.
Captain F.J.C. Ganzoni, M.P.
Sir S. Hoare, M.P.
Sir A. H. Crosfield. *RC*
Sir Frederick Bridge, M.V.O.
Col. G.L. Courthope, M.P.
Col. George Crosfield, D.S.O.
Fisher Unwin, Esq.

It was reported that the following had consented to join:-

Sir A. Crosfield.
Major C.G.C. Hamilton, M.P.
Sir Frederick Bridge, M.V.O.
Fisher Unwin, Esq.

Resolved

- (a) That the following be elected:-
 Lord Selborne, as the prospective Chairman of the Parliamentary Group, Lord Salisbury, Dr. Weizmann and Sir Frederick Bridge, Sir A. Crosfield and Mr. ~~Unwin~~ Fisher *Unwin*.
- (b) That notification be made to the League of Nations Society of any additional members to the Council of the Association, since the issue of the last printed list.
- (c) That further nominations be held over until after the amalgamation of the two Societies.

88. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following were nominated for the Executive Committee:-

Capt. The Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P.
 Sir A. Crosfield, Bt.
 Hon. Violet Douglas Pennant.
 Dr. Weizmann.

Resolved

That invitations be sent to the above, inviting them to join the Executive Committee.

89. AMALGAMATION OF THE LEAGUE OF FREE NATIONS ASSOCIATION AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS SOCIETY.

Major Davies, M.P. read a letter from the Right Hon. G. N. Barnes, M.P. urging the need for prompt amalgamation.

The Chairman read a letter from Mr. McCurdy addressed to the members of the Executive Committee, and the replies received from the Chairman, Col. Leslie Wilson, M.P., Mr. J. L. Garvin and the Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, M.P., dealing with the need for a plain statement of the basis of the amalgamation and the joint Declaration of Aims.

Resolved

- (a) That a letter should be sent to the "Times" signed by the Chairman of the League of Nations Society and the Chairman of the League of Free Nations Association setting forth:-
- (1) A Statement that the united societies stand for the policy adumbrated in Lord Grey's speech of October 10th.
 - (2) The sense of the "patriotic" paragraph of the original letter accompanying the Manifesto of the League of Free Nations Association.

90. NOTIFICATION TO L.F.N.A. MEMBERS OF PROPOSED AMALGAMATION

On the motion of Major Davies:

Resolved

That an explanatory letter be drafted by the Chairman and Mr. McCurdy, to be sent to each member together with a copy of the new Manifesto of the League of

Nations Union, informing them of the reasons for the amalgamation, and stating that if any objections are raised a General Vote of members will be taken by plebiscite.

91. JOINT DECLARATION OF AIMS

Resolved

That this Committee record that it is considered desirable

- (a) That a joint declaration of aims be drawn up on behalf of the amalgamated Societies.
- (b) That in the meantime the Declaration of Aims of the Association be accepted as the published declaration of the Union.

92. FINANCE

Major Davies reported that he had asked Mr. Nisbett

- (a) To audit the accounts of the Association.
- (b) To draft a scheme for the internal financial arrangements of the Office.

Resolved

That this be approved and the question of the appointment of an Auditor be referred to the Finance Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Major Davies reported that Mr. F. Hyde of the L.C.M. Bank had consented to act as a member of the Finance Committee.

Resolved

- (a) That the Chairman be asked to approach Mr. A. Gillet.
- (b) That Major Davies be asked to approach Mr. Williamson Milne, inviting them to act on this Committee.

93. IRISH LEAGUE OF NATIONS SOCIETY

Major Davies reported that communications had been received from the Irish League of Nations Society, and that Sir Horace Plunkett had attended the Parliamentary Meeting on the 24th inst. and had reported that the Irish War Aims Committee had requested Professor Murray to go to Ireland to speak on this subject.

On the motion of Mr. Wells

Resolved

- (a) That the Secretary be instructed to prepare a letter to be signed by the Chairman, thanking the Irish League of Nations Society for their Memorandum.

- (b) That the Chairman be requested to consider favourably the proposal from Sir Horace Plunkett.

94. PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Major Davies reported that a Meeting of Members of Parliament had been held at the House of Commons on the 24th inst. when 28 members were present, and it had been resolved:-

- (a) To form a Parliamentary group of the League of Nations Union.
- (b) To invite Lord Selborne to become the Chairman of the Group.
- (c) To appoint three Honorary Secretaries to represent the three parties - Liberal, Conservative, Labour.

95. STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Resolved

- (a) That the list of appointments as presented by the General Secretary be confirmed.
- (b) That the question of the appointment of a General Secretary be arranged as soon as possible and the matter be referred to the Chairman and Major Davies.
- (c) That the matter of increased pay to Assistant Secretaries be referred to the Secretaries of the Departments concerned to bring before their Committees.
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LEAGUE OF FREE NATIONS ASSOCIATIONPROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Saturday, 9th November, 1918, at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT

Professor Gilbert Murray (Chairman)
Mr. H. G. Wells
Sir Arthur Crosfield, Bt.
Captain Harri Williams (for Major Davies, M.P.)

M I N U T E S96 APPOINTMENT

The Chairman reported that he had interviewed
Captain Ercell Steele.

Resolved:

- (a) That Captain Ercell Steele be appointed as Secretary of the Overseas and Parliamentary Committee, at a salary of £450 per annum, subject to a month's notice on either side.
- (b) That Captain Steele be requested to act provisionally as Acting General Secretary of the Association.
- (c) That Captain Steele be asked to present a scheme for the reorganisation of the Headquarters Office, and to submit his report at an early date.

Captain Steele signified his willingness to take over these duties.

*Minutes of the Executive Committee of the
League of Nations Union in a
new book.*

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