

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

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## DANGER SPOTS TO WATCH

### Europe Still Armed.

Lloyd George in a recent speech said :  
« Two thirds of Europe is armed to the teeth with armies as numerous as they ever were before the Great War — and in many respects much better equipped — whilst the other third is helpless at the mercy of the strong man armed, who is their neighbour. If you take the Allied countries of Europe today, their armies, inclusive of reserves, number in the aggregate well over ten millions of men. They have weapons infinitely more formidable and destructive than those with which they were equipped in 1914. »

### Wasted Millions.

The actual payments made by Germans to defray the cost of the occupation of German territory by Allied troops from its beginning up to September 1st is estimated to be £306,000,000. This is the sum that has been thrown away in military expenditure at a time when all countries are in great economic need.  
« Manchester Guardian. »

### War Profits.

The Dupont Manufacturing Corporation of the United States, according to a letter from that company to the Attorney General, states that the total profits made on the gun powder furnished the government not including their profits on sales to the Allies

during the world war, aggregated about \$29,000,000.

### Hungarian Police.

Hungary has been carrying on a trial in Budapest against alleged Communists and Socialists. The information against them was secured by the torture of one Edward Rubin, a member of the Labor Socialist Party. Rubin in an affidavit says he was beaten and kicked by the police. His feet were tied and held up and the soles beaten with an ox-hide whip until he lost consciousness. When he came to, he was ordered to run around the room in a circle but the pain in his feet was so great he could not stand and he was dragged around by his hair. Another day he was again kicked and beaten and when he refused to give evidence, his hands were tied behind his back with a strap and he was suspended from a large hook in the wall until he lost consciousness. Completely broken by torture and being promised immediate release if he would do as he was bidden, Rubin agreed to everything. He gave the address of a Communist who was arrested. He was then instructed to give false evidence concerning a number of persons both labor and socialist. Rubin after his release went to Berlin as secret agent for the Hungarian police. There his conscience troubled him so much that he laid bare the above facts in an affidavit.

### Abyssinia and Slave Labor.

It is reported that the J.G. White Engineering Corporation of New York has obtained a concession from the Abyssinian Government to construct a dam across the Blue Nile and that the contract for the work is on the point of being signed. The matter is of great importance because Great Britain has also for the past twenty years been trying to negotiate a treaty with Abyssinia for control of the waters of the Blue Nile. These waters are the chief fertilizing agency of the cotton fields.

The American Corporation estimates it will take from three to five years to build the dam. The Abyssinian Regent in a recent statement to the press suggested that American capitalists should employ the slaves who abound in Abyssinia to construct the dam paying the slaveowners a yearly sum for five years as a sort of rental after which the slaves will be free.

## A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE.

Pax International sends to all its readers all over the world best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christmas time is the season of « Peace on earth and good will towards men », a time when pacifists may speak their message of world peace with special effect. Gandhi's words on the power of love have special meaning at this season. He says :

« If one of us would but develop the highest type of love it is sufficient to neutralise the hate of millions ».

This is a great thought to carry with us. If W.I.L. members all over the world could become centres of love they might wipe out hatred between nations, make war impossible and peace on earth a reality.

## GOOD TIDINGS FOR PACIFISTS

### Russia and Disarmament.

The Soviet Government is taking part in the Preparatory Disarmament Conference of the League of Nations. The Soviet Government informed the Secretariat of the League that the settlement of the Soviet-Swiss dispute allowed it to participate in the work of the Preparatory Commission. But the U.S.S.R. affirms that its consent to take part does not signify its adherence in any respect to the conclusions arrived at by the Council of the League in regard to disarmament problems.

### Pacifists Welcomed in Paraguay.

The Paraguayan Government has generously offered protection and concessions to the non-resistant sect known as the Mennonites. These people after years of sanctuary in the United States have been compelled to seek refuge elsewhere. In Paraguay they have found their new paradise and more than 100,000 are expected to emigrate there. The Paraguayan Government offers complete and perpetual immunity from military duty, exemption from participation in war even as non-combatants and the Mennonites are to be permitted their own church and schools conducted in their own language, German. They are to be exempt from all national and municipal taxes, immigration laws and tariffs.



# Capital Punishment And Prison Torture

Mary Sheepshanks

## Capital Punishment.

The German Reichstag commission on criminal law has rejected by 17 votes to 11 the proposal to abolish the death penalty. This is a matter of profound regret to us of the W.I.L.P.F. who stand for the abolition of this medieval method of punishment.

The world-wide horror aroused by the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti has led to a wide spread demand for the abolition of the death penalty. The outraged feelings of mankind at the six years' torture inflicted on men kept under sentence of death and then led to the electric chair, found outlet in the desire to prevent for ever any such possible horror in the future. People have been led to visualise the cruelty to the victims and the brutalising effect on the public of killing with official sanction.

In Bolivia four men have been in prison for ten years on a charge of murdering a former President of Bolivia. Recently they were ordered to draw lots as to which of them should be executed. The youngest, who was only a boy of 18 when the crime was committed, drew the fatal lot, and in spite of petitions for mercy, especially from the women of the country, was condemned to death.

Many states have long since abolished capital punishment altogether — Austria, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Portugal, Roumania and Czecho-Slovakia. In Switzerland, where the Federal penal code is under revision, the commission charged with that revision has recommended abolition of the death penalty; fifteen cantons have already abandoned it. Belgium has not executed anyone for over 60 years. Soviet Russia only inflicts the death penalty for acts committed against the Soviet system. Italy abolished it in 1889 and it has only recently been reintroduced by Mussolini for attacks upon himself or the king.

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay and Honduras have abolished it.

In those countries of which we have statistics, abolition of capital punishment has not resulted in any increase of murders; on the contrary, the murder rate has diminished.

In Italy capital punishment was abolished in 1889 and from that date there was a steady decrease in homicides for thirty years, so that in 1919 they were 70% less than formerly.

In Norway, Sweden and Denmark the number of convictions for murder has decreased since the death penalty was abolished.

Therefore it is not necessary to retain it as a deterrent, the only possible reason that could be urged in its defence.

Scientific investigation shows that the death penalty does not deter. Murders are committed usually in hotblood and without any thought of consequences; when in coldblood the murderer believes he will be able to escape detection. Prof. Bjerre of Sweden in his recent book «The Psychology of Murder» says that every murder «has developed from completely distinct and peculiar psychological conditions» they can not therefore be considered en

bloc, in each case conduct is determined by circumstances, environment and upbringing. Here we have both the explanation why crimes including murder have decreased and an indication as to how to decrease them still further. Improved education, better housing, better recreation, better moral surroundings, a higher general social tone have led to improved behaviour and will continue to reduce criminal offences. The fact that the abolition of capital punishment has not led to an increase in murders shows that there are not a number of potential murderers only deterred by the fear of death. Even in countries where the death penalty is retained, its application is comparatively rare and uncertain so that even as a possible deterrent it fails of its effect. The death penalty is therefore no protection and there is no excuse for its retention.

The main reasons why capital punishment should be abolished are:

1) Its irrevocability — the innocence of the victim, or at least mitigating circumstances may be established later on.

(N. B. Mr. Lewis Lawes, warden of Sing Sing prison U.S.A., in giving statistics of murders and executions for that prison, states that out of 415 persons sent there for execution, the convictions of 55 were reversed by the Court of appeal, and he asks how many of the remainder might not have been acquitted if they had had money or friends enough to secure new trials. The percentage of probable error is too high to warrant an irrevocable penalty. Judges and juries proved to have erred in 11% of the original convictions. Mr. Lawes has personally seen 109 men electrocuted and is a strong advocate of the abolition of capital punishment.)

2) Society would be sufficiently protected by the imprisonment of the guilty person; indeed this would give greater security, as juries are now unwilling to condemn to death, so the guilty are often set free.

3) The horrible interest surrounding execution has a degrading effect on the public, stimulates morbid excitement and even imitation of the crime.

4) It inflicts terrible suffering on the innocent family and friends of the condemned, on all the prison officials responsible for carrying out the sentence and also on all prison inmates.

Lastly and most important of all it outrages the moral sense of the community. The deliberate taking of human life is not to be tolerated; we feel this in the case of the murder, it is equally true of the legal killing of the murderer.

Punishment must be restorative, the offender must be reeducated. Intelligent, humane, scientific training can reform the criminal. Experts tell us that those guilty of murder are not usually the worst criminals; murderers who have been released after a term of imprisonment have not committed fresh crimes.

It is our duty no longer to acquiesce in an obsolete system of revengeful punishment but to try by every means in our power to remove the death pe-

nalty from every statute book which still retains it. Let the emotion roused by the deaths of Sacco and Vanzetti find a noble outlet in efforts to save any human being from a fate in any way similar.

Members of our League are urged to work for this reform in their own countries.

## Prison Torture.

Perhaps even worse than legal execution is the barbarous prison system which is at present submitting political prisoners to revolting tortures in Eastern Europe.

In Hungary, Dr. Bos, municipal councillor of Paris, member of the Council of the Seine, secretary of the Paris lawyers association, has attended the Szanto trial, as representative of the Ligue des Droits de l'Homme. Dr. Bos has denounced the system of torture of political prisoners which came to light during the trial of Szanto, and declared that public opinion and the world conscience must be roused to protest against these tortures.

The disclosures made during the trial proved that systematic torture of the most revolting kind is applied in Hungarian prisons by the instructions of the chief of police, in order to extract political information. Similar evidence has been given on oath to the Berlin police by Edward Rubin.

The Jugo Slav authorities are charged by Bulgarians with torturing Macedonian students in prison. A Hamburg paper states that the German, Wendel, confirms these charges and although himself a friend of Serbia, protests against the cruelties inflicted on the students.

Barbarities are being perpetrated in Bulgarian prisons by the present regime, the system of prison torture in order to extract information is intensified so that many succumb.

The victims of this «white terror» can be counted by the thousand.

It is time that a world wide protest was raised against these barbarities, of which we do not here give the sickening details, but which have been fully proved.

The best way to stop them would be the adoption by States members of the League of Nations of an International Prisoners Charter guaranteeing decent and humane treatment to all prisoners.

Another step which could be worked for is the granting of an amnesty to all political prisoners. A committee formed in England in 1926 drafted a schedule of conditions to be incorporated in an international prisoners charter, and this has been considered by the International Federation of League of Nations Societies, which has urged the League of Nations to institute an inquiry and frame an international convention.

A meeting was held in Paris on November 15 presided over by Professor Félicien Challaye to protest against the «White Terror» in the Balkans, and to support the movement for amnesty. Such public interest was aroused, that hundreds had to be turned away after the hall was full.

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

### German Section

This section has started in this fall on a campaign of active work. The account of its annual meeting is given below. Lida Gustava Heymann reports that one of the things this section is doing this winter is to get into touch with consulates and embassies of the smaller countries (for the big powers probably would not help much) and trying to bring the citizens of different countries together, for instance those of Bulgaria and Greece. The section hopes in this way to help create friendly relations. In Munich they have already had some intercourse with the Polish Consul who is much interested in the work the German and Polish Sections are doing on the German-Polish frontiers. Lida Gustava Heymann also reports that as a result of her visit to Palestine a long article on the W.I.L. in Hebrew has appeared in a newspaper of Tel Aviv. This is probably the first article in Hebrew on the W.I.L. that has appeared in Palestine.

This section held its 8th annual meeting at Duisburg on the Rhine from October 28th to 31st. The meeting was well advertised. At the entrance to the Duisburg railroad station, there was a huge canvas sign with the name of the W.I.L. on it in full, giving the place of the meetings, the «Town Hall», and the dates. Over the entrance to the Town Hall was a large reproduction of the «Pax» badge. At night an electric sign, the moving ribbon kind, announced the W.I.L. meetings. The electric sign was given free by the town.

The meetings were attended not only by the German W.I.L. members but also by representatives of 43 German workers' groups. Welcome foreign guests were Matilde Widegren, Sweden, Henriette Roland-Holst, Holland, Yella Hertzka, Austria, Lucie Dejardin, Belgium and Alice Park, U.S.A. The Duisburg Branch of the W.I.L. organised a most successful social evening in the attractive and newly decorated Duisburg Hof. This reception was presided over by representatives of the Duisburg Council of Women and by Councillor Cremers representing the Municipality. They welcomed the W.I.L. and expressed their sympathy with the pacifist objects of our League. Frau Martha Freund-Hoppe of Dresden gave an account of the activities of the German Section which now includes 70 branches with about 5000 members. Dr. Augspurg was unanimously elected president of honor. She and Frau Magda Hoppstock-Huth were elected to represent the German Section as Consultative Members on the international Executive.

Two well attended public meetings were held. The subject of the first was «World Disaster or World Solidarity». The speakers were Auguste Kirchhoff, Lucie Dejardin, Frida Perlen and Yella Hertzka. At the second meeting the subject was «Colonial Imperialism» and the speakers were Henriette Roland-Holst and Magda Hoppstock-Huth. The third speaker was to have been the Indonesian, Mohammad Hatta but to the great disappointment of the public it was announced that Hatta could not attend as he had been arrested and imprisoned in Holland.

Five business sessions were held and four of these were open to the public

and were well attended. Interesting reports on the work done in the local branches and in the central office and by the Committee of Seven, who direct the work of the German Section, testified to the intense activity of work in Germany. New activities reported on were the frontier work on the German-Danish and German-Polish borders. Resolutions were passed and directed to be sent to the Reichstag and the Ministries of Justice and Education on the protection of Jewish cemeteries from brutal desecration, on the abolition of capital punishment in the new penal code and on the abolition of abuses in German penal practice. The speeches of Yella Hertzka and Lida Gustava Heymann against the union of Germany and Austria (Anschluss) roused the liveliest interest and caused an extremely animated debate. Frida Perlen and Magda Hoppstock-Huth also roused much discussion on the colonial questions. The report on international work carried on by the League was warmly received.

The memory of Vilma Glücklich was honoured by the Assembly who stood for a moment in silence after a brief speech from Lida Gustava Heymann. A message of greeting was sent to Jane Addams. The Committee of Seven elected for the coming year are: Heymann, Hoppstock-Huth, Baer, Perlen, Kirchhoff, Dr. Schoedon and Stadelmann. Gertrud Baer was unanimously re-elected secretary.

To further the work of reconciliation with Belgium 1200 Marks was handed to Lucie Dejardin to be used for the exchange of Belgian and German speakers or as a grant for Summer School expenses.

It was decided to work for the introduction of an official Peace Day following the Scandinavian example.

Hearty thanks were expressed to the Duisburg workers' union for its splendid work which resulted in 30 new members for the League.

The address of the German Section is: Gertrud Baer, Secretary, Kleiststrasse 25 II, Berlin W 62.

### The Hungarian Section

This section on October 16th held a memorial service for Vilma Glücklich at the Headquarters of the Feminist Association. So many members and friends attended the ceremony that people had to be turned back into a lecture room and other rooms of headquarters. The service was opened by some beautiful music which brought tears to the eyes of all. Mrs. Mélanie Vambéry was the first speaker and she excused Mrs. Szirmai's absence who only the day before had lost a beloved daughter. Mrs. Vambéry said: «Vilma Glücklich may be compared to Antigone whom Sophocles made immortal by causing her to utter the famous 'I can love, I cannot hate'. Antigone was misunderstood by her time and environment as has also been our contemporary, Vilma Glücklich, but there will come a time when the people will recognize that the patriotism of a woman like Vilma Glücklich coupled as it was with a deep love of humanity, is the one sure way to insure the happiness, prosperity and development of the nation and of all humanity.»

Mrs. Eugenie Miskolczy Meller when her turn came to speak, said: «Vilma

Glücklich was a heroine and a forerunner. She was not frightened by power or violence. She did not bow before authority or profess respect for those who did not deserve it... In addition to her great faith and courage she also possessed the gifts of a great educator and like all great educators, she attained results not by admonition or praise but by the example which she personally gave and personally lived.»

Among the other speakers were Dr. Simon Gold, Dr. I. Beke, professor at the University, Miss Anna Kéthly, M.P., Professor M. Fordor, Professor Max Havas, Mrs. Ivan Vador, representing the Hungarian women writers and Journalists, Augusta Rosenberg, representing the International Council of Women, Marie Balaghy for the International Union of New Educators and Mary B. Thornton for the W.I.L. At the close of the ceremony Mrs. Vambéry presented a resolution for the Committee urging that the presidential vacancy in the Hungarian Section of the W.I.L. left by Vilma Glücklich's death be not filled but proposing that instead Mrs. Szirmai, Mrs. Meller and Mrs. Vambéry should be endowed with the further guidance of the work of this section. This resolution was passed unanimously and the meeting closed with a poem written for the occasion by Mrs. Jenny Baraai and read by Mrs. Pirooska Szabados with great feeling. The audience was deeply stirred and all eyes were wet as those present left the impressive memorial service.

### Austrian Section Political Group.

This group began its activities in the fall with two very interesting meetings.

At the first meeting Madame Drevet, one of our delegates to China, spoke of her visit to Bulgaria and the situation there. As a result of her lecture, members of the political Group got in touch with Bulgarians living in Austria, whose information on the situation in Bulgaria verified all that Madame Drevet had said.

At the second meeting Frau Emmy Freundlich, the delegate from Austria to the Economic Conference of the League of Nations, gave a report on the work of that conference. A discussion followed which lasted an hour and a half showing the interest in the subject. Other lectures have been given in co-operation with other associations in regard to the new legal code which is being discussed in Parliament in both Austria and Germany.

For the month of November a great meeting is planned with the subject «Internal Disarmament». Besides this meeting every week in November there will be meetings in the coffee houses where other women's organizations assemble. Six speakers have undertaken this task, for it has been found that at these small meetings of from 30 to 60 persons in the different districts of Vienna, it is possible to strengthen the W.I.L. groups and at the same time gain new members.

The Political Group is also planning a monthly reception at which current politics will be discussed.

### Irish Section

This section reports that it had its annual meeting in October. The following resolutions were passed:

a. «That we call the attention of all political parties to the fact that, in spite of the wider franchise for women in the Free State as contrasted with Britain and Northern Ireland, legislation is generally inferior, and the position of women is much worse in the Free State than in Britain or Northern Ireland. This may be in part attributed to the fact that women are not represented in the Dail. We urge upon all parties the advisability of selecting representative women candidates for the Dail as well as for the Senate, and we also urge that women be selected as candidates for local bodies, county and urban councils, and that every Commission set up by Government should contain at least one woman.»

b. «That the W.I.L. be recommended to make a study of the question of over-population in its relation to international warfare.»

c. «That a delegate or a number of delegates be sent by the W.I.L. to the next conference that is held on the subject of world population.»

### Australian Section

This section continues its campaign against conscription. During the Summer it held a No More War Demonstration. At a big mass meeting the following resolution was presented and passed with only a small dissent.

«We, Australian citizens assembled, with supporters in all States of the Commonwealth, urge our Government to agree to submit all disputes to conciliation and arbitration.

«Since adequate courts and councils now exist for securing impartial decisions, we maintain that war and preparation for war should no longer be tolerated, and we call on all patriots to work to free their country from this frightful and unnecessary evil.»

The Rev. Nicholas Richards, B. D., in a spirited address, pleaded for an absolute Pacifism as the only consistent policy for Christians, at the same time pointing out the practical difficulties arising out of the Commercial Spirit, and the Spirit of Nationalism. Mrs. J. Ernest James spoke on the power of Women to abolish war.

Mr. Maurice Blackburn, M.L.A., spoke on the necessity for the submission of all questions, without reservation, to a Super-National Court. In conclusion he said:

«It is no use crying 'Peace. Peace', when there is no Peace, and when nationalistic selfishness hides under the title of 'patriotism'.»

### Books

For W.I.L. members to read.

Outlawry of War by C.C. Morrison, published by Willett, Clark and Colby, Chicago.

The Problem of China by Bertrand Russell.

The Chinese Puzzle by Arthur Ransome, published by Allen and Unwin, London, 5/.

What and Why in China by Paul Hutchinson, published by Willett, Clark and Colby, Chicago, \$1.

China in Revolt by T'ang Leang-Li.

### Unmet Friends

One of our W.I.L. members, Mrs. Annie B. Sterritt, through reading «Pax» has come to feel in close touch with other members throughout the world and she has written the following poem which expresses her desire to some day meet these friends.

Thoughts have embraced them,  
Fancy has traced them,  
Though my eyes never,  
Seeking forever,  
Look into theirs!

Even life bounded  
Narrow, and grounded  
Fast in one section  
Leaves us selection  
Of some firm friends.

What if life's curtain  
Raised! It is certain  
From distant places  
Would look friend-faces  
Waiting our own.

See, they'd be teeming,  
Those faces beaming  
With the hot pleasure  
Which in wild measure  
Would thrill our hearts!

But how the years slip,  
And all the days nip  
Chance for such meeting,  
Still a soul-greeting  
Clasps these Un-met.

## Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Jane Addams, International President

International Headquarters 12, rue du Vieux-Collège, 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.

The work of all the National Sections is based upon the statements adopted and the Resolutions passed by the International Congresses of the League.

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