

PAX INTERNATIONAL

The W. I. L. P. F. 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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Jane Addams, Honorary President

THE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

In accordance with a proposal by Miss Balch at the last Executive Committee meeting, the following letter was sent to all the Governments and to National Sections for presentation to their respective Governments:

"The International Executive Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in Geneva, April 11-14, and representing women organized in twenty-six countries, desires hereby to call the attention of the Governments to be represented at the Economic Conference to certain points.

"I. The extreme urgency of the situation requires that the Conference should begin its work at the earliest possible moment and without further delay.

"II. The World's necessity should prevail over nationalistic considerations. Each delegation should be prepared to make sacrifices on behalf of the whole. In accord with this, tariffs should be reduced and world trade freed in other ways, the burden of world debts should be got rid of by a policy of generous concessions, the principles of economic nationalism (autarchy) should be repudiated.

"III. The prosperity of the people, not the advantage of those who direct industry, commerce and finance should be the controlling aim of the Conference.

"Every question should be considered from the point of view of the consumer. How the consumer is affected should be the producer's problem but consumers should also have special spokesmen as such in the Conference, and, in particular, qualified women should be among the delegates.

"We suggest that in countries where there are cooperative organisations of consumers these be asked to name one or more delegates."

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DEPUTATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

During the W. I. L. Conference on certain Obstacles to Disarmament held on April 6th and 7th, it was proposed to ask the Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organizations to send a deputation to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Deputation would ask the Committee: 1) to remind the National Red Cross Societies of the important resolution on the ineffectiveness of any protection of the civil population against chemical warfare, passed at the Brussels Expert Conference in 1928; 2) to ask the National Red Cross Societies not to act against the findings of their own experts but to refrain from taking any part in the ever growing propaganda for protection, which is of use and profit to international war industries alone.

This proposal was supported by the W. I. L. Executive Committee meeting at Geneva, April 11th to 14th, and a resolution was passed to ask the Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organizations to make the necessary arrangements.

On May 23rd the deputation was received by the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The members of the deputation, Miss Mary Dingman, president of the Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organizations, Mrs. Marjorie Corbett-Ashby, president of the International Alliance of women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, and Gertrud Baer, joint-chairman of the W. I. L. P. F. pointed out that the civil population in nearly every country of the world was made to believe that protection against chemical warfare was effective—though the Expert Committee had made it very clear that there exist no effective means of protecting mankind against chemical and air warfare.

Convinced of the fact that a false feeling of security, constant fear of attack, suspicion and a psychosis of war are being spread among the peoples; that great sums of money are wasted for shelters, masks, etc., etc., which do not really provide protection; that the only people who profit from the ever growing propaganda for protection are war manufacturers; the Deputation asked the Red Cross to do all in their power to influence the National Red Cross Societies not to continue to support propaganda for protection of the civil population, so cleverly carried on by those who are interested in War and not in Peace.

The representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross promised to use their influence in the direction indicated, as they fully agreed with the arguments given.

We ask our National Sections to make an urgent appeal to their Red Cross Societies, referring to this interview at Geneva, and to work more energetically than they yet have to make the Experts Resolution of the International Red Cross widely known.

The W. I. L. P. F. combats any attempt to "humanise" war. We must attack the root of the evil, and the symptoms will then disappear.

Gertrud Baer.

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France: Hotel Avenida. Proprietor: Mme Marthe Bray, 42 rue du Colisée, Paris.

Balearic Islands: International School of the Balearics, Palma de Mallorca.

Roumania: Villa Erna, family boarding house in the south Carpathians. Proprietor: Mme R. de Baiersdorf, Sebes-Alba.

THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Extracts from the Report of the Study Conference of the Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations, May 24th to 27th, 1933.

The Disarmament Committee held a Study Conference from May 24th to May 27th under the special direction of Miss Kathleen D. Courtney. This Conference was designed to bring together a limited number of women seriously interested in disarmament. A group of 37 women represented 10 countries.

The Conference opened with a delightful reception where guests from many lands had an opportunity to meet members of the Disarmament Conference and colleagues working in Geneva.

It had been planned that the work of the Study Conference should be based on the Disarmament Conference. The time chosen proved an especially fortunate one, since it coincided both with the critical discussions in the General Commission, following the Roosevelt communications and the Hitler address to the Reichstag, and with the May meeting of the Council of the League of Nations.

Mrs. Laura Puffer Morgan gave a résumé of the work of the Disarmament Conference, together with a simple exposition of outstanding problems and difficulties at the present moment. This proved an ideal introduction. Informal discussions under the leadership of Miss Courtney with the collaboration of Mrs. Morgan took place on standardisation of European armies, partial or total abolition of military aircraft, and naval limitation.

At the regular meeting of the Women's Disarmament Committee guests brought valuable suggestions as to the future of the Committee.

Two public meetings were held. One evening M. Maurice Bourquin, Delegate of Belgium, spoke on "Control as a Measure of Security". At the other meeting, Senor Salvador de Madariaga, Delegate of Spain, spoke on "Military and Civil Aviation", and M. K. Kormanicki, Delegate of Poland, on "Traffic in and Manufacture of Armaments".

The Study Conference ended with a public luncheon at the International Club when about 150 guests had the privilege of listening to an address by Viscount Cecil of Chelwood whose message was one of combined encouragement and exhortation to unremitting effort.

CONFERENCE ON EAST EUROPE

The W. I. L. P. F. intends to organise a Conference on East European questions at Vienna at the beginning of October. The Conference will aim to find a basis for collaboration in peace work by means of discussion with women from different countries. There will be private meetings and one or two public meetings. The economic, social and political situation will be studied. Reports will be presented on the living conditions of peasants, workers and women. It is hoped that a large number of women from East Europe and the Balkans will attend the Conference.

All forms of outside collaboration will be gratefully received: if you have material of interest for the Conference please send it to Geneva Headquarters; if you know of persons who would care to attend the Conference, send in their names; if you can help with publicity, please do so; most important of all: come to the Conference yourself if you can.

There will be no PAX in July and in August. The next PAX will appear in September.

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