

# 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.

Published  
by the Women's International League for Peace  
and Freedom



International Headquarters :  
12, rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva  
Jane Addams, Honorary President

## GENEVA LETTER

At the beginning of November posters all over Geneva announced a meeting of public accusation organised by a nationalist group against two Socialist leaders, the meeting to take place on the evening of November 9th at the Salle Communale de Plainpalais. The Socialists wanted to reply by a counter demonstration and many Socialists, persons of different parties and on-lookers went to the Plainpalais quarter. A crowd of four or five thousand people was thus massed together at the police barrage. The troops had been mobilised in advance and fired with rifles and repeating rifles on the crowd. There were 13 killed and more than 60 wounded.

After these tragic events, the Swiss Section of our League sent a letter on the intervention of the troops to the Federal Council. "What fills us with apprehension" said the letter, "is the way in which the troops intervened in the conflict, especially the employment of young recruits and the use of machine guns. In our opinion, which has been reinforced by various recent events, the calling out of the troops is in itself likely to arouse anxiety and excitement rather than to calm the masses. The

sight of troops marching through the streets of a city before there have been any disorders, must, when there is already a tense atmosphere, be a provocation to the population." The League for the Rights of Man published a strong resolution and the Swiss Socialist Party protested. A protest signed by Hélène Claparède-Spir, Anne-Marie Ferrière and Elisabeth Meyer-Stolte was circulated in Genevese circles. The Swiss Committee for Peace Action joined in the protest of the League for the Rights of Man but also voted a resolution stressing the absolutely pacific character of the crowd "which never thought for a moment of using the arms taken from the soldiers."

The Committee for Peace Action states also "that at the same moment that the Disarmament Conference envisages a militia as capable of insuring peace, events in Geneva show the use made of a militia in a democracy,

"Recognises that only a courageous attitude on the part of soldiers who refuse to carry out a criminal task is capable of marking the beginning of coordinated action for peace at home and abroad,

"Asks for the liberation of civilians and soldiers who were arrested arbitrarily either on the ground of a pseudo revolutionary plot or for having given expression to the highest law of human conscience : Thou shalt not kill."

This resolution shows the absolutely pacifist attitude of the crowd which tried to disarm the soldiers and prevent their

using their weapons; which broke the rifles but did not use them.

The resolution also stresses the attitude of soldiers who refused to be mobilised or to fire.

After November 9th the city was under a state of siege and many Socialist or Communist "demonstrators" were arrested, among them Léon Nicole, editor of the Socialist paper *Travail*.

There was talk of a plot, of an attempt at revolution and the official report of the Grand Conseil (annexe No. 28) justified the intervention of the troops with the fact that the police had learned that the demonstrators intended to come armed with *whistles and bags of pepper*.

Besides the Swiss protests, resolutions and letters came from different foreign countries, especially France where many meetings were organised. The Tunisian Section of the W. I. L. sent a protest to the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

We find the following phrase by Pierre Hamp on copybooks for Swiss school children : "A time will come when it will seem as horrible to shoot men down with machine guns and cannons to the accompaniment of national hymns, as it now seems to burn men to the accompaniment of religious hymns." We must work to bring this time to pass.

The tragic events at Plainpalais show us that it is our absolute duty to work more actively than ever in each country for external and internal disarmament.

C. D.

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## REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS

### IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OR THE STATE?

Every year millions of members of the white and coloured races become victims of Opium and Noxious Drugs.

Every year Governments of many countries enrich themselves by trade in and taxes on opium. The Anti-Opium Information Bureau has published figures which make a total of 2,500,000,000 Swiss Francs.

Every year big producers, big manufacturers and smugglers on a large scale enrich themselves with dizzying sums at the cost of the spiritual and physical welfare of millions of human beings.

Conventions and national laws have failed to militate against this international calamity. Only common international action can help; change can only be brought about by fulfilment of the demand to limit production and manufacture of opium and noxious drugs to the amount needed for medical and scientific purposes. The 1931 Convention of the Opium Commission of the League of Nations succeeds with regard to this demand, if expectations do not deceive. Representatives of 57 countries signed this convention. The League of Nations has in fact done good work here: Even the blind hen has found a grain.

The Convention will, however, enter into effect only if ratified by 25 of the 57 countries. Of the 25 countries, there must be 4 of the following which flood the world with their production or manufacture of narcotics: Germany, England, France, Holland, Japan, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America. Ratifications must arrive at the League of Nations by April 13, 1933; as yet, of the above countries, only the United States have ratified. Peru, Persia and Portugal have also ratified.

It is an outrage that no more ratifications have been received. The League of Nations has finally done a thorough piece of work and the Governments and peoples fail to support it.

That must not be! S. O. S. ! Women to the front!

What can be done? Insist, by means of petitions, personal conversations or influence that your country's representatives, your Government accomplish ratification of the Geneva Convention without delay.

Mobilise all medical, social, cultural and women's organisations to act along the same lines. If that is not successful, then appeal to the press and to public opinion by means of meetings and pamphlets.

Action must be immediate. The hour hand stands at twelve. The spiritual and physical life of whole peoples is involved and all other interests must be set aside.

Women of the W. I. L. P. F., do not forsake us, take your places and start work; forward march!

*Lida Gustava Heymann.*

Editor's Note: In the communiqué, No. 19 of the Anti-Opium Information Bureau of Geneva, Mr. Blanco pointed out that at the last meeting of the Opium Commission, of the 50 delegations from 50 States, 43 kept silence. And he added: "It can be stated with certainty that no meeting of manufacturers of drugs or traffickers in opium would offer such a lamentable spectacle of lack of preparation, of general indifference, of ignorance of the problems of narcotic drugs and of wretched preparation." We must not imitate the silence at that meeting.

Mr. Blanco will give a lecture on the opium question at the Maison Internationale on February 20th and a summary will appear in *Pax*.

### NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

The Women's Consultative Committee on Nationality presented to the 1st Committee of the Assembly this year a resolution demanding withdrawal of articles 8 to 11, which discriminate against women, from the Hague Nationality Convention and the submission for ratification of a new Convention based on the principle of equality of sexes in nationality.

Mme Pizano, delegate of Columbia, presented a similar resolution on behalf of Columbia and Chile. Mme Vergera, Chile, supported her as did the Latin American delegations and Turkey and China. The Great Powers supported immediate ratification of the Convention and the final result was the adoption, by the Assembly, of a resolution recommending ratification of the Hague Convention in its present form. As a concession to women it invited the Women's Consultative Committee on Nationality to continue to act as an advisory body to the League; it recommended to Governments to incorporate the principle of sex equality in their own nationality legislation, and instructed the Secretary-General to keep in touch with legislation in the various countries with a view to the adoption of a new nationality convention in harmony with the principle of equality.

The resolution was passed by 30 votes to 9 abstentions. These 9 abstentions (Chile, China, Columbia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, Mexico, Poland and Turkey) are important and constitute, with the long discussion of the whole question, a moral triumph. *A. Z. F.*

### REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON SCIENTIFIC WARFARE AND FOR DISARMAMENT

Since the Grenoble Congress the Commission has issued a memorandum which has been circulated to the Sections with an appeal to work on the following points:

1. Air manœuvres and the civil population (with a questionnaire).
2. International Force (with a questionnaire).
3. Private manufacture and free traffic in arms.

Up till the present only the British and the Australian Sections have answered the first questionnaire. Documents from other countries show that air manœuvres are combined with voluntary or compulsory participation of the civilian population.

The French Section has opened an active campaign against this method of incorporating the population in the military system.

Mrs. Hoppstock-Huth has suggested that the League prepare a pamphlet in three languages on the industry for air-war and air protection.

In response to the second questionnaire, the Australian Section discussed the question of an International Police Force and a short report has been distributed to the Sections.

Point 3 has been studied by several Sections or by joint committees and dealt with in meetings and resolutions.

A document from the Swedish Section has been distributed, containing the information that the Swedish Government has decided to set up a special commission to study the possibility of controlling private manufacture of war materials and eventually of establishing a state monopoly of this industry.

The above questions are of urgent present importance and the creation of public opinion on them is so vital that the Commission appeals to the Sections to consider them seriously and to send in information for our documents.

*Dr. Naima Sahlbom.*

### PENAL REFORM AT THE 13th SESSION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

This year, as was anticipated, everything was very reactionary which was mainly put down to economy. The

Howard League got a good deal of support in the demand for a Convention which was, however, postponed for the International Prison Commission to present their revised "Set of Rules" in May. There was a good deal of discussion in the 5th Commission which showed that Public opinion on the subject was moving and many of the Delegates urged the great importance of something being done. May we not think that the Italian move to release political prisoners was brought about by the publicity of the discussion in the League and the evident disapproval of civilised nations to cruelty and brutality to helpless people?

We shall need the support of all Sections of the W. I. L. to get a Convention through next September. The Howard League has sent out thousands of their "Appeal to the Conscience of the World" and is getting a satisfactory response.

*Gertrude Eaton.*

The amnesty of Italian prisoners does not include the highest type of political prisoner. Mussolini himself said the measures should not help those "whose past life makes them unworthy of this act of clemency". The amnesty does not touch prisoners on the Lipari Islands or those condemned to more than five years' imprisonment. The majority of political prisoners tried by special tribunal received sentences of 20 to 30 years; persons receiving smaller sentences were generally agents provocateurs or people who weakened in their convictions. Editor's note.

### SECTION NEWS

At the September meeting of the Australian Section a platform discussion of an *International Police Force* was held. The discussion dealt with the kind of force meant by the term international police and the contingencies which a force in the army sense would have to meet. It was pointed out that in the last resort moral force must be the controlling factor. The Section drew up a questionnaire on an international police force.

The Belgian Section has formed a new group at Jolimont, in the mining district, a coal and industrial region. Almost all the members of the group are working women and factory hands. The group was formed after a stirring speech by Isabelle Blum. The temporary secretary is Claire Henrotin, a young architect, very enthusiastic and active. At present the group counts 51 members.

The Danish Section is working against *war industries*. All the 12 districts and

many of the smaller branches have held meetings and passed a resolution demanding more constructive work by the Disarmament Conference and urging prohibition of all private manufacture and control of state manufacture. The Section has formed a *Geneva Watch*, i.e. men and women all over the country who give particular attention to work in Geneva. They pay 10 Kr. and receive material and are kept in close touch with each other. The "Watch" is first going to study the question of war industries, but will also take up the work of the Commission on Moral Disarmament. During the general elections, the Section questioned candidates as to their views on conscription, disarmament, military training of youth, war profits, etc.

Mrs. Toini Iversen, chairman of the Finnish Section, gave two lectures on the Grenoble Congress at the Finnish Peace Union and also spoke for the "White Ribbon", where she works as peace expert in the Executive Committee.

The French Section reports that local committees against war have been constituted as a result of the Amsterdam Congress (more than 130 in the Paris region) and have held numerous meetings thus inspiring other pacifist groups to do likewise.

The French Section's independent but advance guard position makes members of the Section highly desirable as speakers at a moment when there is a strong movement for unity. L. Wanner and G. Duchêne have done a great deal of speaking all over France, 9 lectures during a 10 days tour of Brittany, 5 in 6 days in the Pyrenees.

The French Section was asked to invite women's and pacifist societies (also those not present at Amsterdam) to attend the manifestation organised by the Regional Committee against War in the Bois de Vincennes on Armistice Day. The French Section took an active part in preparations and sent a delegate to this manifestation (30 to 35,000 people) to present the W. I. L. viewpoint. Thousands of the French Section's pamphlets were distributed. There was a similar manifestation on the same day at Lyon in which the W. I. L. took part.

Meetings addressed by members of the French Section were attended by the most various audiences from fishermen to students and there was always warm welcome for the W. I. L. viewpoint on total disarmament, revision of the treaties, Franco-German rapprochement, the so-called "constructive" French plan. Strong resolutions were passed. The audiences have been large, 1000 in a

town of 4000 with people covering a distance of 40 kilometres in autocars to attend the meeting.

The French Section took part in a meeting in favour of amnesty in France and in a protest meeting on the tragic events in Geneva.

Mme Duchêne, on behalf of the French Section, presented a criticism of the *French plan* at the 2nd *Free Disarmament Conference*. A resolution was voted expressing appreciation of the recent—though scandalously long delayed—recognition by France of the principle of equality; and demanding immediate application of this principle through general disarmament. The resolution found no real measure against trade in materials of warfare in the French plan; it considered distinctions between "defensive" and "offensive" arms dangerous; that any prohibition of methods of warfare is illusory; that an international force at the service of the League of Nations dominated by imperialist powers could only aggravate dangers of war and that an international army, even under disarmament, would be useless and dangerous; that, as regards France, any benefit from the shortening of the period of military service would be offset by the military education of youth envisaged by the French plan; it stated the absolute right of the child to be protected against official instruction in murder; that re-introduction of military service in the disarmed countries is an odious form of re-armament; that the militia system in no way diminishes the dangers of compulsory military service; the resolution finally protested at the insufficiency of the French plan with its pretence of pacifism and real threat of permanently militarising Europe and declared that the men elected last May would be betraying their mandates if they did take steps for immediate and substantial reduction of armaments.

The same Conference voted a resolution protesting at the inexcusable use of arms against an unarmed crowd in Geneva and congratulated those soldiers who refused to obey the orders of their "chiefs" and preferred to follow their duties as men.

The resolution proposed by the Arles group on secret treaties was also voted.

The French Committee against war has sent instructions to its local committees which remove any obstacles to active participation on the part of pacifist organisations of whatever tendencies.

More than 80,000 leaflets against civilian participation in air manœuvres have been distributed by the French Section and many signatures are coming in.

Mme Duchêne says the activity of the French Section is only limited by its restricted finances and the physical capacity of its members. Its work has never before been so sympathetically welcomed as now.

The Swedish Section took part with other peace organisations in organising a peace week with a final big meeting on November 11th at which Matilde Widegren spoke. The meeting passed a resolution demanding that the Disarmament Conference conclude a Convention securing immediate effective reduction of armies, war material of all kinds and military budgets, the abolition of private manufacture of arms, and leading to complete, universal and controlled disarmament.

Mrs. Maud Stockwell reports that the Minnesota Branch of the United States Section brought Amy Woods to Minnesota for a lecture tour through five cities, including a three day seminar in four of these cities. Miss Woods also spoke to high schools, colleges, women's clubs, men's luncheon clubs, open evening forums, radio audiences, a State Conference of 8000 teachers, a Teachers' college, student forums and a North-western States Conference of club women. Miss Woods gave valuable information on the Disarmament Conference, women's organisations in Geneva, Lord Cecil's Disarmament Conference and the Grenoble Congress. She stressed the importance of articulate public opinion and urged continuous, intelligent activities for better understanding and world wide cooperation.

The very successful Seminars were organised by Berna Reinhardt Wells and

placed the W. I. L. before the public in a very favourable light.

The Minneapolis Seminar passed a resolution demanding national or international control of traffic and manufacture of arms, abolition of conscription, budgetary reduction and a permanent international commission of supervision, and called upon the President to declare an embargo on shipment of arms either in peace or war time.

All over America Armistice Day has been celebrated in the schools. Katherine D. Blake spoke in six New York schools during Armistice Week, twice in High Schools, and told the children of the shameful munition trade of the "Bloody International".

The New York Branch has organised four congressional districts in New York and all over the country the Section has asked senators and representatives to state their stand on disarmament.

The Section asks to be informed when members from other Sections visit the United States.

The addresses of the Czecho-Slovak Section were stated wrongly in the pamphlet containing addresses of National Sections. They should read: Chairman of the International Centre: Dr. Anna Schustlerova, 36 Slezska, Prague XII; Secretary: Lola Hanauskova, Orechovka 346, Prague; Consultative Members: Lola Hanauskova and E. Kalmus, Podskalska 46, Prague II; Chairman of the German National Group: E. Kalmus; Secretary: Clara Schmerber, Podbabska 739, Prague XIX; Chairman of the Jewish National Group: Maria Schmolikova, Kamzikova 3, Prague. Mixed local groups exist in Bratislava and Brunn.

## MANIFESTO OF GERMAN PACIFISTS

The chief task of the Disarmament Conference is to lay the foundations for organisation of peace. The idea has recently been brought forward in the disarmament negotiations of allowing those nations, on whom the Peace Treaties imposed abolition of military service, to re-introduce it. On the French side this proposal is thought of as a concession to Germany. The German Committee for Peace Propaganda, to which 16 pacifist and liberal organisations belong, gives urgent warning against the introduction of compulsory military service in any form whatsoever, even if an attempt is made to render it more agreeable to the nation as a militia. In Germany, compulsory military service would lead to a fatal militarisation of the entire people, would be a menace to internal peace and would mean not a step towards world disarmament but rather the eternalising of national armaments and with them international insecurity.

German Committee for Peace Propaganda:

Prof. Dr. Ludwig Quidde.  
Gertrud Baer.

Dr. Otto Reinemann.

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**AND SUBSCRIBERS TO PAX**  
**AND HELP OUR INTERNA-**  
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MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE  
FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

published by the Headquarters Office of the  
W. I. L. P. F., 12, rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva.

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