

see page 7.

WILPF 2/27

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOR PEACE & FREEDOM
BRITISH SECTION



THIRTY-SEVENTH
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

MARCH 1952
FEBRUARY 1953

ADDRESS - 29 GREAT JAMES STREET - LONDON - W.C.1

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
BRITISH SECTION

WILPF International Headquarters:
12, Rue du Vieux Collège, Geneva, Switzerland.

International President:
Miss Emily Greene Balch.

Formed at the Hague Congress of Women in 1915 to bind together women in every country who desire to promote the following objects:—

- I. The Settlement of Disputes by some means other than War.
- II. The Emancipation of Women.

At present there are National Sections or Correspondents in Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Iceland, Israel, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.A.

The WILPF has Consultative Status B with ECOSOC and Consultative Status with UNESCO and FAO.

Headquarters Office:
29 Great James Street, London, W.C.1.

President:
Lady Parmoor.
(died July, 1952)

Hon. Secretary:
Mrs. Ineson.

Hon. Treasurers:
Mrs. Stapledon and Mrs. Sutherst.

News Sheet Editors:
Miss Haughton and Mrs. Cusden.

Liaison Officer:
Mrs. McGregor Wood.

Chairman of Executive Committee:
Mrs. Nuttall.

Vice-Chairmen of Executive Committee:
Mrs. Hartley, Mrs. de Swiet, Miss Walmesley.

MARIAN EMILY PARMOOR

President, WILPF, British Section, 1950—July 6th, 1952.

Marian Emily Parmoor was a foundation member of the WILPF, British Section, and during the last years of her life she gave especially devoted and outstanding service as its President. She brought rare gifts to all her tasks. She had an unusually fine speaking voice and an irrepressible youthfulness of spirit combined with an obstinate optimism in spite of the crippling handicap of severe lameness and of hands twisted so that she could scarcely turn a door handle. She had, too, a ripe statesmanship acquired in close association with her father, who was for 25 years a member of Parliament and a Minister in a Liberal Government, and with her husband who as Lord President of the Council in 1924 was much occupied with the affairs of the League of Nations. Her international contacts were strengthened by her work with the churches and through her term of office from 1924-28 as the World President of the YWCA. During the last decade of her life she devoted unstintingly her small store of strength to work for peace and international understanding. To the last day of her life she was active in the cause to which she was so wholly pledged. The inspiration of her rare personality and fellowship will remain with us in the work which lies before us.

INTRODUCTION

Looking at the record of the work of the past year the first impression must be one of good, consolidating work of our groups in London and up and down the country, meeting the challenge of swiftly moving events in a menacing world and putting forward patiently constructive criticisms and proposals.

Not only in our own circle, however, but also in a much wider one the year is marked by the passing of our dear President, Lady Parmoor. We have suffered a great loss, but the over-riding memory must be one of thankfulness for all that she gave to the WILPF in wide experience, mature statesmanship and the outstanding example of courageous devotion. Our hearts are still warm with the fire of her vision and faith and the abiding inspiration which she has left us.

Though we deeply regret that the triennial Congress has not been held in this country this year we have nevertheless enjoyed significant two-way international contacts. Agnes Stapledon has taken a message of friendship to the people of the USSR and has again proved that simple human fellowship can transcend the barriers of frontiers and differing ideologies and can find common ground in the universal craving for a sane and peaceful world. Agatha Harrison has worked with the Quaker team having Consultative Status at the General Assembly of the UN and has co-operated with our acting Consultant, Gladys Walser, and with other WILPF representatives. Mrs. Weiss and Mrs. Peat have also shared this experience on their visits to the USA. Among those who have visited us have been Sigrid Lund, of Norway, who was also with the Quakers in New York, Mrs. Blackburn, of Australia, and Dr. Bussey, who visited us *en route* for Geneva.

The record of the year's work cannot be rightly understood unless it is seen against the sombre background of wars, conflicts and tensions; heart sickening delays in the negotiations for a cease-fire in Korea; continuing violence in Malaya; widespread disregard of Human Rights; and perhaps nearest of all to us, the creeping shadow over Africa. It is the deepening twilight that is closing in on the day of White supremacy, and it is our endeavour to play our part in welcoming the dawn of a new era of juster and lovelier relations between the races of mankind.

In national affairs the astronomic figures of the expenditure on arms is producing its inevitable repercussions on the standard of living of our people and on the social services, and rationing by price is replacing rationing by "fair shares." Our own WILPF treasury has been hard pressed by financial stringency, but the vigorous response that has come to appeals for help reveals that the health of the WILPF is sound and there is vitality and determination in our old League enabling it to face its difficulties and weather the storms.

BARBARA DUNCAN HARRIS,
Acting President.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

1. **WAYS AND MEANS.**—Since the last Annual Council (Leicester, March, 1952) the British Section has had a year of exacting and also of expanding work. This has been carried out at Headquarters by the Executive Committee and its sub-committees, and in the provinces by the Branches—acting both in conjunction with Headquarters as well as independently—and also by the slowly increasing number of Headquarters members.

The Executive Committee met six times during the past year and the Officers met at least once between each of its sessions in order to deal with urgent business and, in particular, to take over for most of the year the responsibilities of the Finance Committee.

The Race Relations Committee met regularly the day before each Executive and its members kept in close touch by letter and telephone so that the group was always able to integrate its work with that of the Parliamentary Committee which, meeting almost weekly, has always co-operated when needed with the Race Relations Committee. Several Branches have been active on the problems concerning this group; in particular Liverpool has made Race Relations their special responsibility during the past year.

The Parliamentary Committee has been very active this year and has increased the scope of its work. Its members have been regular in attendance and it can also count on a very considerable group of regular visitors besides the occasional "onlooker" from overseas. This group has begun to find a sense of community in its work and is developing more effective ways of coping with its heavy agenda and the great responsibilities which may rest upon it. Most of the approaches made to Her Majesty's Government and to the United Nations have been instigated and carried through by this committee.

In the autumn of 1952 a discussion in the Parliamentary Committee of a Parliamentary debate on children's "Comics" led to the establishment by the Executive Committee of an Education Committee. This group has met twice and has carried out initial work in trying to define the limits of its huge field of potential responsibility and in evolving methods of work. Several papers on special subjects have been prepared for the use of its members. The Education Committee plans to meet monthly during 1953. The Cheadle Hulme Group (Manchester) have devoted much of their time to problems of education this year.

All these committees have carried out the tasks of trying on the one hand to encourage or press Her Majesty's Government both in home and foreign affairs and in the UN to follow policies which we hold to be right and on the other to stimulate public opinion. Letters, notes and cables have gone to Ministers, to M.P.s and to the national and provincial press, meetings have been held and whenever possible the WILPF point of view has been put forward personally through deputations or interviews.

Both at Headquarters and in the Branches the Section has continued to co-operate with other organisations in pressing for common objectives on the lines of our agreed policy and in dealing with the crises arising in affairs at home and abroad during the year.

2. ACTION TAKEN.—So short a survey can perforce only briefly mention some of the decisions and acts of a busy year. The problems and dangers of the continent of Africa have inevitably been of first concern to the Section. As in the previous year, a letter was again sent on the subject of South-West Africa to the Chairman of the *ad hoc* Committee of the United Nations. Letters were also sent to the High Commissioners of the other countries of the Commonwealth pointing out the joint responsibility of our Commonwealth for the actions of an individual member. Events in Kenya were carefully watched and the Parliamentary Committee had a private meeting with Mr. Peter Wright. Much work was done throughout the year on the question of Central African Federation and both at Headquarters and in the Branches great efforts were made to influence Her Majesty's Government, to interest Members of Parliament and also to rouse public opinion. Under the auspices of the Race Relations Committee a group of some 55 WILPF members and representatives from other organisations were able to meet four of the African Chiefs and to hear at first hand their opinions and their history of events. Work was also done on the subject of the draft Constitution for the Sudan which was found to exclude women from political rights. Since the adoption of the UN Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Section has also raised with our International Consultant at the UN the matter of the Libyan and Eritrean Constitutions.

Strong protests were made to the Government about the practice of mass punishment in Malaya and also about the absence of the rights of conscientious objection in that country. The Parliamentary Committee further considered the position of the young conscientious objector in the Boys' Battalion in the UK, and Branches co-operated in pressing M.P.s to study this question in relation to the Army Act. Work on conscription and on the question of a Conscience Clause for both boys and Reservists is being planned.

The problem of the world's refugees and in particular the responsibility of the UK in this matter has been constantly under consideration. A meeting with Dr. Kullmann, the Representative of the High Commissioner for Refugees in this country, was a valuable source of information and encouragement. The WILPF was one of the NGOs which shared in the work of drafting the Covenant, and the British Section has continued to urge Her Majesty's Government to ratify it as quickly as possible.

Both with our own Government and in the United Nations the Section has continually pressed for a determined and never slackening attempt to solve the deadlock of the Korean Truce Negotiations. Supporting the Statement on Korea issued by the Society of Friends, the British Section repeatedly urged that India's offers and suggestions should receive the most careful consideration. Latterly, in urging that truce talks be resumed, letters were sent pressing that civilians should be added to the group carrying on the negotiations.

Before the Seventh Session of the General Assembly of the UN a paper was circulated to members of our Government delegation in which our agreed policy on certain subjects on the agenda was given and where an attempt was made to give the delegates a sense of the strong support for the ways of arbitration and discussion which would be given by a large section of the community. Later a further note was sent to the delegates on the subject of the dismissals of UN staff. Copies of both these papers were also sent to the appropriate UN authorities. Our International Consultant and members of our Section who attended the Assembly worked with unremitting diligence to make effective the contribution of the WILPF as an NGO having Consultative Status B with ESOSOC and Consultative Status now with FAO as well as with UNESCO.

Two special undertakings were agreed upon at the Annual Council in 1952: a study conference on the "Internationalisation of Waterways and of the Arctic and Antarctic Regions" and a project on Human Rights, "Human Rights: Focus on the UK." The conference was held in Bedford College in the autumn of 1952. Although only a small number of WILPF members and a mere handful of non-members attended it, this conference, with its two sessions led by experts in the fields of polar geography, economy and politics, and of international law, proved well worth while. More than 300 members asked for copies of the notes prepared for the Human Rights Project. Work on this was planned to continue throughout the year and to be collated by March, 1953. Only a small number of those planned to take part have made their findings available to Headquarters so that no assessment or report can yet be given. It is, however, certain that some useful work must have been carried out at least in a personal and careful study by a number of women of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. The results will, it is hoped, be issued during the coming months.

The *News Sheet* was published every second month during the year. The name was changed to "Peace and Freedom" and the front page was given a two-colour heading. There were no printed pamphlets issued during the year, but besides the occasional duplicated *ad hoc* "Notes from Headquarters" which were circulated when need arose, a duplicated leaflet giving a brief history of the WILPF and a statement of its aims was produced as a "throw-away" to be used in conjunction with the printed folder, "We ask you."

The office, under the able guidance of the General Secretary (supported by Mrs. Boaden, who is now on the staff), has once more become stable and efficient. Two-way traffic between Headquarters, Branches and individual members has increased. A great deal of the work of dispatching (envelope addressing, stamping and filling for example) is carried out by some of our members who most regularly and willingly give much time and skill to these essential jobs. Our thanks are due to Miss Gill, Miss Ruth Harrison, Miss Hinton and to Mrs. Boaden.

From April, 1953, our address will be:—

29 Gt. James Street, London W.C.1. CHAncery 4817.

ANNUAL COUNCIL, 1952

The Annual Council was held at Leicester from March 28th to 31st. Lady Parmoor, President of the British Section, was present and gave both the opening address and the summing up at the first and last meetings of the Council. The excellent arrangements made by the Leicester Branch included a meeting to which representatives from a large number of women's organisations active in Leicester took part. The local press took keen interest in the proceedings of this Council.

ANNUAL COUNCIL, 1953

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ON KOREA.

This Annual Council of the WILPF meeting at Oxford, March 20th to 23rd, 1953, believing that a Cease Fire would create the atmosphere in which mediation for peace can take place, urges an immediate Cease Fire in Korea.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ON CONSCRIPTION (CONSCIENCE CLAUSE).

The WILPF, British Section, strongly supports the inclusion of a conscience clause in the revised Army and Air Force Acts for those who enter as young boys into long service engagements, to be operative at and after the age of 18.

Between the ages of 15 and 18 the adolescent mind may change considerably and we believe it is a denial of a fundamental human right to hold a boy to a decision made either in immaturity or by his parents on his behalf. We would urge that there should be an opportunity for appeal against military service on grounds of conscience to an impartial civilian tribunal as in the case of conscripts under the National Service Acts.

RESOLUTION ON CONSCRIPTION.

This Annual Council of the WILPF deeply concerned at the disruptive influence of peace-time Military Conscription (1) on the lives of young people who are not even old enough to have a vote, (2) on the economic state of the country, (3) in its continued disregard of Human Rights, urges Her Majesty's Government to allow the National Service Act to lapse from the Statute Book at the end of 1953.

RESOLUTION ON REFUGEES.

This Annual Council of the British Section of the WILPF expresses its firm conviction that the Refugee problem should continue to form a vital part of the work of International Headquarters and of the Sections.

FIRSTLY because the vastness of the accumulation of human misery and despair involved renders it one of the main barriers to the building of peace and endangers the social life of the whole world community. Roughly 60 million people are still uprooted and it is estimated that Korea will ultimately add another 10 million to the total.

SECONDLY because the basic need of the refugee is for a home (spiritual as well as material) and a job, and the fact that he is without either is a flagrant denial of Human Rights for which the WILPF should and does unceasingly work.

The British Section feels very strongly that these Human Rights should be granted to everyone without discrimination on political or any other grounds.

RESOLUTIONS ON RACE DISCRIMINATION.

I. This Annual Council of the WILPF meeting at Oxford, March 20th to 23rd, 1953, earnestly petitions Her Majesty's Government that in all territories under its jurisdiction laws and regulations pertaining to Race Discrimination shall be rescinded without undue delay and thus reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person. Further, as an immediate step towards this end would respectfully urge that Government servants be encouraged to have fuller social relations with the indigenous people of such territories.

II. This Annual Council of the WILPF meeting at Oxford, March 20th to 23rd, 1953, believes that the racial problems of British Central Africa and British East Africa would yield to the establishment of a basic common system of education which admits neither colour prejudice nor racial discrimination. It therefore urges Her Majesty's Government to establish immediately a policy of equal rights for all men and women regardless of their race and colour and to apply this policy to all forms of State-aided Education, so that equal opportunities and status for all can be assured.

RESOLUTION ON CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION.

This Annual Council of the WILPF meeting at Oxford, March 20th to 23rd, 1953, deplors the apparent determination of Her Majesty's Government to proceed with plans for a Central African Federation of the territories of Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland in the face of increasing African opposition.

Bearing in mind the importance of Her Majesty's Government's adhering to the established British principle of the paramountcy of native interests in her colonies and in territories under her jurisdiction, we urge Her Majesty's Government to postpone any decision until such time as the confidence and support of Africans can be won.

RESOLUTION ON GERMANY.

This Annual Council of the WILPF meeting at Oxford, March 20th to 23rd, 1953, regrets the policy of encouraging Germany to rearm because it will (1) undermine the confidence and beliefs of Germans who had trusted that democratic institutions would bring about a reversal of the Nazi cult of force and militarism, and (2) thus encourage, by the memories it awakens, any tendencies towards a revival of Nazism.

RESOLUTION ON SUDAN CONSTITUTION.

This Annual Council of the WILPF meeting in Oxford, March 20th to 23rd, 1953, deplors the fact that in the new Sudan Constitution, voting at elections is listed as for males only.

We therefore urge Her Majesty's Government, as one of the signatories to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and as an interested party in the future of the Sudan, to help implement Article 21 of the Declaration, by continuing to use all possible influence in Egypt and the Sudan, to have the new Constitution amended, so that the Sudanese women may be included in the franchise.

RESOLUTION ON ATOMIC WEAPONS.

We condemn in no uncertain terms from the standpoint both of ethics and the very rudiment of civilised morality, the development of atomic weapons which will precipitate atomic warfare. We therefore urge Her Majesty's Government to stop this mad race towards destruction of humanity.

RESOLUTION ON COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT.

We regard with shame and indignation the policy of inflicting collective punishment on native communities. We urge that Her Majesty's Government abandon this policy at once.

RESOLUTION ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

We abhor the infliction of corporal punishment as a court sentence because there is no evidence to support its efficacy as a deterrent or as a factor in rehabilitation, and because it not only degrades the offender but brutalises those who inflict it and society as a whole.

RESOLUTION ON CONGRESS.

That the venue of each Congress be decided by vote taken at previous Congress. Invitations to be sent by inviting Section in the form of a resolution. Further, no invitation be considered unless definite prospects of holding it have been explored.

RESOLUTIONS ON CONSTITUTION.

1. That in addition to the Rules and Constitution there should be Bye-Laws on matters which need readjustment or restatement each year.

These shall be formulated at the Annual Council.

2. That one such Bye-Law shall state the minimum affiliation fee required from Branches for the current year.

3. That in Rule III in the Rules and Constitution the words "not less than 3s. 6d. per member" shall be omitted.

Rule III. Branches.

Each Branch shall pay for the current year to Headquarters an affiliation fee of not less than 5s. per member.

Revision of XIII by Standing Orders Committee.

The Annual Council recommends that, as far as possible, Branch Representatives to Executive Meetings shall have their expenses defrayed by the Branch which they represent.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1952

1951	To	EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.	1951	By	INCOME	£	s.	d.
135	Rent	...	130	0	0		Subscriptions (including £100 from Barrow Cadbury Trust)	...	415	2	0
3	Lighting and Heating	...				284	Donations (including £200 from Barrow Cadbury Trust)	...	361	5	3
104	General Expenses	...	56	2	6	179	Branch Affiliation Fees	...	159	3	4
2	Insurance	...	2	3	6	4	Sales of Literature	...	6	15	7
	Salaries and National Insurance	...				94	Sales of News Sheet	...	94	7	11
423	ance	£520 1 9				7	Meetings	...	4	17	0
	Less Donation towards Secretary's Salary	...				17	Building Society Interest	...	12	8	10
323			520	1	9		Lady Parmoor Appeal	...	326	15	0
117	Travelling Expenses	...	143	15	8		Proceeds of Outside Appeal	...	38	18	0
5	Affiliation Fees	...	5	4	6		Legacy	...	10	0	0
87	Postages	...	71	17	4		Sale of Office Equipment	...	9	0	0
165	Printing and Stationery	...	220	6	11	175	Proceeds of Birthday Appeal	...			
21	Literature	...	6	4	9	115	Proceeds of Headquarters' Week	...			
136	News Sheet—Cost of printing	£115 12 1					Sundry Receipts	...	9	3	3
	Less Donation towards cost	20 0 0					Transfer from Penny-a-Week Fund—				
			95	12	1		International Delegate's Expenses	...	60	0	0
8	Meetings and Hire of Rooms	...	5	7	0		Balance—Excess of Expenditure over				
21	Telephones	...	22	6	9	62	Income for the year	...			
	Bank Charges	...	3	12	0						
	Repairs	...	6	15	7						
	Expenditure on Office Equipment	...	125	0	0						
	Balance—Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	...	93	5	10						
£1127			£1507	16	2	£1127			£1507	16	2

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1952

CURRENT LIABILITIES		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	FIXED ASSETS		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
42	Accounts and Accrued Expenses								Office Furniture and Equipment				Not Valued			
100	Loan								CURRENT ASSETS							
142								81	Balance at Bank	...	399	11	7			
8	Affiliation Fees received in advance				20	10	0	4	Cash in Hand	...	12	10	11			
	CAPITAL FUND—								Co-operative Permanent Building Society—Deposit		...	122	8	6		
	Balance, January 1st, 1952	...	432	3	6			37	Sundry Debtor	...	11	8	4			
432	Less Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	...	93	5	10								545	19	4	
						525	9	4	582				545	19	4	
582									SPECIAL FUNDS—							
	SPECIAL FUNDS—								Congress Fund—							
	Congress Fund—							32	Co-operative Permanent Building Society—Deposit	...	32	4	1			
32	Balance as per last Account	...	32	4	1				Ford Memorial Fund—							
	Ford Memorial Fund—							96	Co-operative Permanent Building Society—Deposit	...	100	11	5			
96	Balance as per last Account	...	95	17	5				Jane Addams Memorial Fund, British Section—Cash at Post Office Savings Bank		...	167	2	11		
	Add Interest received	...	4	14	0				Guarantee Fund—							
						100	11	5		Balance at Bank	...	205	0	0		
	Jane Addams Memorial Fund, British Section—								Penny-a-Week Fund—							
	Capital Account	...	167	2	11			187	Co-operative Permanent Building Society—Deposit	...	131	16	11			
	Guarantee Fund—															
	Amounts received during year	...	205	0	0											
187	Penny-a-Week Fund—															
	Balance as per last Account	...	187	0	3											
	Add Amounts received during the year	...	4	16	8											
						191	16	11								
	Less Transfer to General Fund	...	60	0	0											
						131	16	11								
£897			£1182	14	8	£897			£1182	14	8					

I have audited the accounts of the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, British Section, for the year ended December 31st, 1952, and certify that, in my opinion, the foregoing accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit the position of affairs in accordance with the information given me and as shown by the books.

13, Womersley Road,
Crouch End, London, N.8

March 18th, 1953

L. DAYAN, Incorporated Accountant,
Hon. Auditor

Printed by
H. G. MATHER LTD.
(T.U. throughout)
Lower Green
Mitcham, Surrey