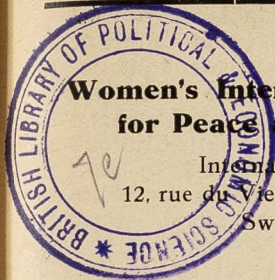


PAX INTERNATIONAL



**Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom**

International Office
12, rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva
Switzerland



Sorrow exists because there is lack of harmony in oneself, disharmony between what one thinks and what one does, what one feels and how one acts. In a truly cultured man there is no gap between his thoughts, his emotion and his actions.

Krishnamurti.

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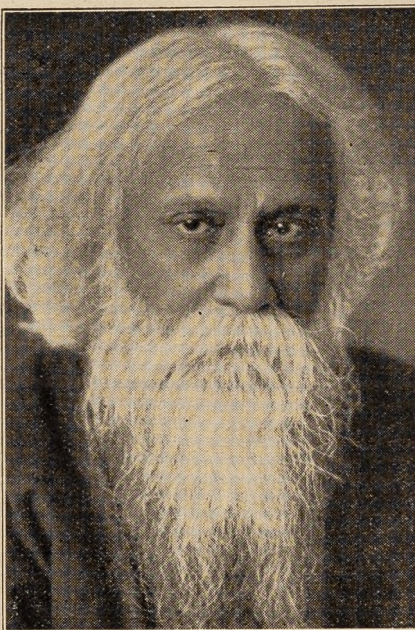
Position In India

There has been considerable fighting with the frontier tribes. Peshawar has been put under martial law. Large bodies of British and India troops have been moved nearer the frontier.

There is very little movement towards peace in India. The campaign of non-violence continues. The contents of Mr. Gandhi's letter to the Viceroy written after a conference in prison with the moderate peace mission and his fellow congress leaders has not yet been revealed. The India congress Boycott Committee has refused to take the 24 European-managed cotton mills in Bombay off the black list unless 75 per cent of the capital remains in India; the staff is completely Indianised with two thirds of the directorate Indians.

French On Italian Border

"New York Paris Herald, Aug. 11. France is holding extensive army manoeuvres in the Alps along the Italian frontier at the end of August. More than 50,000 men of all arms will participate. This is the first time since the war that manoeuvres of such extent have been held."



Tagore's Message To W. I. L.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has done valuable work in bringing to bear upon the civilisation of the West the ideals of spiritual life which demand social service and belief in non-violence to establish the future civilization of humanity. Women are naturally gifted with the power of Peace and the modern age needs their active co-operation in its effort to unite the different peoples of the world on the basis of mutual understanding. I am glad to know that the W. I. L. has accepted its full share of responsibility in this great work.

I am sure our women of India will be happy to join hands with their sisters in the West in their service to humanity, and that the visit of the representative of the W. I. L. to India, which I hear is being arranged for, will help to bring India and Europe closer together in lasting bonds of comradeship. *Rabindranath Tagore.*

Gandhi Society Formed In U. S.

An all-world Gandhi fellowship has been formed with a committee of one hundred. This committee includes, John Haynes Holmes, and other prominent clergymen and citizens. The committee has its headquarters in New York, and is enlisting members for the fellowship and also organizing an all-American committee of one thousand.

A hundred-page journal named "Dharma" is published as an organ of the All-World Gandhi Fellowship. This magazine will keep the members and the public informed of the progress of the non-violent, passive resistance movement. The present number contains articles on various subjects from such writers and reporters, as Rabindranath Tagore, Dr. Annie Besant, Romain Rolland, Aurobindo Ghose, Sherwood Eddy, Mahatma Gandhi and many others.

A fellowship centre has been arranged at Rhinecliff-on-the-Hudson, New York, where members can stay and put into practice the principles of Gandhi Fellowship.

The object of the fellowship is to cultivate in individual and collective life the doctrines of khimsa (non-violence) and satyagraha (soul-force) for the promotion of peace and happiness of the world.

New York Herald, Paris. August 21.

Progressive Mexico

Mexico has reduced its army from 175,000 men to 50,000 men. Its military budget has been cut from 200 million pesos to 70 millions pesos, or to 35 millions dollars in American money. The millions thus saved are being used for public works, highways, dams, railroad extension, and education.

Even the 50,000 soldiers that remain are not all "soldiering". Thirty-two thousand of them are at work as highway builders or on the other communication systems and the dams.

RIBEAUVILLE SUMMER SCHOOL

The W. I. L. Summer School at Ribeaupville was organized by the French Section and the following report has been received from Mme. Gabrielle Duchêne and Mme. Léo Wanner.

The courses at the Summer School were followed with great interest by those who attended, who numbered more than 150 persons, coming from Germany, England, France, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Sweden and Czechoslovakia.

Well known personalities in the realm of literature, economics and political science had been invited from different countries to lecture on the problem "Federalism (World Government) in relation to World Peace".

Mme. Kirchoff, Bremen, M. Alphonse Paquet, a Rhenish poet, M. Weitzel, one of the promoters of the federalist movement in Germany, Major Galloway, London, and Peter Bender, Director of the Labour Bank, Frankfurt, set forth, in poetical or technical terms, the moral, philosophical and practical aspects of the question. Dr. Kalidas Nag, of the University of Calcutta, explained in a very moving way the principle of federalism according to the Hindu conception which aspires to bring together oriental and occidental civilization into one vast world symphony.

Representatives of those countries where national political federalism is already in force, i.e. the United States, Switzerland, and the U. R. S. S. were invited to explain the different systems in use in their countries.

The United States referent unfortunately failed to appear in spite of promises. M. Jean de la Harpe, Professor of the University of Neuchâtel, gave with precision and clarity the historical steps of "Federal Development in Switzerland".

M. Edouard Hoerchelmann, Professor of International Rights at the University of Moscow, the recipient of a scholarship from the Carnegie Foundation, set forth, in a most objective manner the rather complicated but very flexible system which furnishes the Russian population, which is so varied and unequal in culture, the opportunity for rapid development, while it at the same time respects their national peculiarities and the different languages.

Mme. Léo Wanner presented a commentary on the Briand Memorandum on a Federated Europe.

The discussions which followed drew forth these conclusions.

(1) That Federalism alone, rightly understood, can eliminate the political, social, economic and psychological antagonisms which produce war.

(2) That the principles of a European Federation are to be welcomed and supported by all friends of Peace, pro-

vided that this federation is built up on sane principles, i.e. not as an alliance of states against another state, or a group of states, but as a step towards a World Federation.

(3) As to the Briand Memorandum for a European Federation:

(a) that the failure to include the two European nations, i.e. the U. R. S. S. and Turkey, constitutes a serious menace to Peace;

(b) that it is regrettable that the principle of equality among all nations is not stated, as it creates the apprehension that the great nations are seeking to exercise leadership over the smaller nations;

(c) that facts do not prove (as the Memorandum states) that the "political" can always master the "economic" (the opposite would be more true, although, perhaps, too sweeping a statement).

(d) that it is impossible to declare that a federation of states can be secured without limiting, to a certain degree, the national sovereignty of these states;

(f) that we must consider it as a very serious defect that the question of disarmament has not been linked with the one of a European Federal Union.

Alsace was chosen as the place for these discussions because it seemed to the organizers of the School as if that country was the natural soil for Federalism. Coveted and possessed, in turn, by France and Germany, Alsace seems destined to live in peace only in a federated Europe where reconciliation and solidarity exist permanently between France and Germany.

This idea was warmly welcomed by the enlightened elements of the population of Alsace which possess an international spirit. Only a few nationalist municipalities, under the influence of their mayor, abstained from all manifestation.

Numerous receptions on the other hand were organized by the municipalities of some of the big cities, such as Strassburg, Colmar, and villages like Riquewihir, Hunawihir, Sesenheim.

The sympathy and understanding experienced during the summer school brought numerous new members into the French Section. Two new groups have been created, at Ribeaupville and at Colmar.

World Union

Miss Katherine Devereux-Blake, well known W. I. L. member, in a review in the "World To-morrow" of Oscar Newfang's book "The United States of The World", says:

"It indicates the way out of the present European difficulties. Mr. Newfang's comparison of the League of Nations with the early experiences of the United States of America under the articles of Confederation is most illuminating and points the way to the need of a second form of organization for the League of Nations just

as it became necessary for us in America to form a "more perfect union" by adopting our present Constitution. The author sketches the history of our adoption of the Constitution, citing the jealousies of the individual states, their defiance of Congress, and the demonstrated impotence of the Articles of Confederation—all of which are comparable to conditions the League has met. He points out the fundamental differences between the Articles and the Constitution—the first dealing only with states, the second concerned directly with the people who have thus been welded into a homogeneous nation.

The latter part of the book is an admirable argument for the rebuilding of the League of Nations into a world-wide institution, "not a supergovernment acting upon the governments of the states, but a federal government coordinate with that of the states." "The United States of the World", published by Putnam, \$ 2.00. New York City.

French Peasants And Disarmement

"New York-Paris Herald" August 14, "Let there be no more fighting. Let there be no more arms or armaments. No talk of disarmament, but real disarmament."

"Such is the proposition; and there are already 113 signatories to the new pact, and these are the peasants, the backbone of French civilization. Mlle. Doriot, aged 84, and formerly a French teacher in the United States, is the originator of the movement, and to her little cottage in a tiny village of the Vosges she called her lieutenants for the cause. They are Miss Mary Kelsey, the American founder of the Foyer de Honfleur and other charitable institutions, and Mlle. Lucie Dejardin, a deputy from the Belgian city of Liège. To their white flag has come also a professor of the Sorbonne and a Parisian journalist.

"Their first move was to call together the peasants of the country side.

"Result: the mayor of the village agreed with the good ladies. His signature heading the list, all the towns-people signed a petition in the name of the Women's International League for Peace, demanding of the nations of the world immediate disarmament and permanent peace. The first day 68 women of Franche-Comté signed; next day 46 women affixed their solemn signatures.

"Next the women "attacked" nearby towns—Ronchamp, Clairegoutte, Eto-bon, Margny. The peace movement spread like wildfire. Now they are preparing an extensive campaign in the entire region.... The French press said yesterday that, if the peasants of France want peace, it is because they know what war is. It adds that the momentum of such a movement might sway the world."

One Month In Mexico

Camille Drevet

Mme Drevet was invited by the U. S. Section to attend a conference in Mexico on July 10, 11, 12 held jointly by the U. S. Section and the Mexican Section of the W. I. L. She has just returned from her trip and sends us the following report.

While the boat glides over the ocean in a fiery temperature of about 127 degrees in the sun and 90 in the shade, I am going over the documents gathered together during my journey and living once more through the weeks spent in Mexico.

The very lively conference in which delegates from all over Mexico took part, the enthusiasm of our new Mexican friends, the carefully worked out reports on the activities of women everywhere—all this comes back to my mind. I wish I could give the names of all our Mexican friends, not only those of the Committee, Senora Clemencia Ostos de Kiel, Senora Josefina Mandragon de Angeles, and Senorita Maria Elena Ramirez, but also those of the speakers, among whom were Senora Guadalupe de Joseph with her great gift of eloquence, Senora Rosaura de Martinez Garcia so devoted to the cause of peace, and Senora Elena Torrez, an old friend of the W.I.L.

Education is the great problem in Mexico and the one to which many inspired propagandists and experts are devoting themselves. If it was interesting to hear our friends Senorita de la Luz Grovas and Senorita Rosaura Zapata talk about the exchange of students and the children's gardens and to listen to Senorita Cejudo explain the development in the international friendships among students, it was still more encouraging to see for ourselves the pacifist work being carried on in the schools by the teachers.

The exhibitions and the drawings of the children and the entertainments given by them gave us an opportunity to judge of the extent of the work being done. Almost all the members of the Mexican Section including the president and the members of the committee, are teachers... In the home for Indian students, in the rural schools, in the cultural missions, everywhere I found the spirit of devotion and initiative.

The day I spent at the Indian Mission of Actopan, about 120 kilometers from Mexico, is for me unforgettable. A teacher, a physician, an engineer, a professor of physical culture, a nurse, a social woman worker are changing the country and its inhabitants. A new village is springing up. The school is already half constructed, and other buildings will soon follow. For the Mexican Indians who have been oppressed for centuries, a new life is commencing.

During the congress one was shown the value of the traditions of the Mexican Indians in ancient and modern art. The ancient civilizations of

the Mayas, Toltecs and Aztecs have left their magnificent ruins, temples and palaces which have gradually been unearthed beneath the tropical vegetation. Many other beautiful ruins may still be discovered.

Besides the splendid monuments there are all the things which for centuries have been created by the Indians out of wood, stone, clay, straw and vegetable fibre.

The artistic sense of the Indians is very great. One sees this in the Open-Air Schools for children where the workers come at the end of their day's work and asking for canvas, paint and brush, paint pictures inspired by the gorgeous natural scenery. Some of these pictures are fascinatingly beautiful.

Our Mexican friends have a rich soil for their work, and if their task is great, their hopes may well be boundless. For nothing mediocre comes from this soil where the tropical flora is so varied, and where the immense plains are dominated by volcanic summits of geometric beauty...

On Mexican soil you see side by side ancient Pyramids and very modern paintings. Among the most modern artists one must mention Diego de Rivera, whose frescoes decorate the Education Building, the National and the Cortez Palaces, and the School of Agriculture of Chapingo. He is an artist who has combined primitive coloring, modern science and the fertility of the Renaissance, and portrayed everywhere the history of the Mexican people and the history of human labour. His vision of the Mexican labourer throughout the ages and during the revolution is strong like life itself. The aspects of this wonderful country are manifold...

The architect Amabilis one day related to me the legend concerning the origin of the Toltecs who were supposed to be the children of Earth and Sun. They received directly from their mother Earth all they needed and like children were gathered to her maternal bosom and remained attached to the earth up to the time they learned how to cultivate their spirit. Then they became able to detach themselves from the earth and approach their father the Sun. Those who succeeded, by endurance of body and soul, in conquering matter, became true sages, masters of art and beauty, of science and learning. When these creatures had transformed themselves into disciples of Love, they went all over the world trying like their father the Sun, to warm mankind. They became sons of the

Sun. These white pilgrims of wisdom and light would traverse all the dark roads of the Toltec empire. They offered their aid to all who needed it. They were known by a golden triangle with two wings which they wore on their breast. This triangle was a symbol not of a privilege but of a duty. The one who wore the golden triangle had to serve humanity, and always to give..."

The craving for poetry and the high ideals of the race are seen also in a few lines that were written to me by Doctor Ursua, a woman doctor who is fighting ignorance and misery and who terminates her letter with the following words:

"I salute in you the ideals of the W. I. L. which seeks not merely the multiplication of matter but also the triumph of the spirit. That is the ideal dearest to the Mexican soul that the Spirit shall speak through the race".

Among the voices of the builders of the new Mexico, there is the voice of Rosa Torre. Speaking about inter-american economic relations, she says:

"I would like to see all political problems solved as they are in Chili and Argentine, where they have erected on the frontier between the two countries a Christ on the cross stretching out his hands towards mankind, an eternal symbol of peace. But unfortunately, if conflicts break out between nations, we must resort to courts of arbitration to settle them.

We ought to work to increase the things that bind us together, we must abolish passports and custom duties, we must establish a common currency in the Latin countries, federated syndicates, industrial legislation, a unified commercial code."

She adds also that we must consider the workers who are the messengers of civilization, and consider them collectively. We must create bonds between people that have the same work and the same preoccupations.

Thus man will become superman, not Nietzsche's superman of individual omnipotence, but superman, through making life more intense and better for all.

In Mexico, the children of the Sun have started their march on the human roads. We find some of these pilgrims among the educators, the social workers, the pacifists of Mexico.

We salute them with emotion. And I wish to express my gratitude to all who have welcomed me and helped me, and also to those whom I have not seen but whom I hope to see.

The League Of Nations' Report To The Assembly

Mary Sheepshanks

The Assembly meeting in Geneva in September 1930 will look back on a year of action which includes many important diplomatic conferences.

LEGAL QUESTIONS

The Conference on Progressive Codification of International Law which met at the Hague in March and April drafted and signed conventions and protocols on questions relating to Nationality and Statelessness.

The Committee appointed to consider the amendment of the Covenant in accordance with the Paris Pact has drawn up amendments which will be considered by the Assembly.

REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS

The Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference is to meet in November and later on the special commission on manufacture of arms, etc., will meet.

ARBITRATION AND SECURITY

In 1928 the Assembly approved a model treaty to strengthen the means of preventing war. The Committee on Arbitration had to try to embody this in a general Convention; this has proved to be very difficult as different governments take different views with regard to possible military action in the event of a threat of war. Consequently alternative proposals will be submitted to the Assembly.

This Committee has also approved a convention on Financial Assistance to States which are the victims of aggression and the Council hopes that delegations to the Assembly will sign it....

ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

Much activity has been displayed, but with unfortunately negative results. The great Economic Conference of 1928, recommending a general lowering of tariffs in the general interest of economic development of all countries, has had no practical results. World economic conditions have got worse, and in view more especially of America's high tariffs on imported European goods, European nations have considered possibilities of closer economic relations between themselves. At the 1929 Assembly the British delegation proposed a Conference for Concerted Economic Action with a view to a tariff truce. This conference sat for over five weeks in the spring but all it could agree upon was a very meagre arrangement for temporary stabilisation of tariffs. The Conference on the Treatment of Foreigners, which met in Paris November 1929 was equally abortive. In the sphere of agricultural questions it may be hoped that better results will follow. Agricultural experts are now associated with the work of the Economic Committee and met together

in January to consider the agricultural crisis; studies will be made with a view to concerted action.... If governments refuse to act, the responsibility and blame, if any, lies with them, not with the League.

FINANCE

The Financial Committee is studying problems connected with fluctuations in the purchasing power of gold. This will be of interest to the W. I. L. Economic Committee, which is planning a conference on a cognate subject.

REFUGEES

The Refugee Settlement Commission is expected to finish its work for the settlement of refugees in Greece this year and the Greek government will take over the two thousand complete settlements and a large amount of property provided by the refugee loans. Two hundred thousand families of refugees have been settled by the commission and large districts of Greece colonised and agriculture developed in them. In this work as in that of the refugees in Bulgaria the League Finance committee has played a big part.

TRANSPORT

The Transit committee deals with a large number of matters, both general and technical, including international transport of newspapers, the provision of a wireless station for the League in times of crisis, maritime measures for lighting of coasts and for buoys, and inland navigation.

HEALTH

Various Governments appeal to the Health organisation for help, and the work is always extending. New China has invited the League to co-operate with it in reorganising its health services and it is hoped the result will be the establishment of hospitals, the reform of quarantine, improved medical education and control of epidemics. Officials of the Health Organisations have visited China with these objects in view and also Bolivia and Greece with similar purposes.

In Bulgaria they are co-operating with the Government in a campaign against syphilis.

In South America expert investigations are being made into infant mortality on the lines already pursued in Europe, and into leprosy, and in India into malaria.

The inquiry in Europe into infant mortality has shown the value of infant welfare centres and of the medical and social measures taken for the health of mother and child, but also that much more is needed.

MANDATES

The most important events considered by this Commission have been:

1) The announcement by Great Britain of its intention to relinquish the mandate of Irak and to recommend the admission of Irak to the League; in this connection the Commission asks for guarantees for the protection of religious and racial minorities in Irak. 2) The report of the British commission on the tragic disturbances in Palestine. A further commission composed of non-British members has also studied the rights and claims of Jews and Arabs at the Wailing Wall.

3) The unrest of Samoa under the New Zealand mandate. Reports emanating from the mandatory power have been conflicting and the dissatisfaction and passive resistance of the Samoans continue. The Mandates Commission has recognised certain good work by the Administration especially in public health, education and economic development, but points out defects in financial administration and in the appointment of officials. This question will come up again in November.

HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

The chief subjects dealt with by this section are:

Traffic in Women and Children; Child Welfare; and Traffic in Narcotic Drugs.

The League inquiry into the Traffic in Women is now being extended to countries in the Far East.

A review of the work of the committee for ten years shows how knowledge of the facts has led to the condemnation of the licensed brothel system. The recent meeting of the Commission recommended the abolition of these houses.

The Advisory Committee on Opium was instructed by the last Assembly to prepare a scheme of limitation of the manufacture of dangerous drugs. The Committee approved a plan for the direct limitation of the manufacture of narcotics. This plan has been communicated to the Governments and as soon as their comments have been received a Conference will be convened to take the necessary action.

Many cases of illicit traffic in drugs on a large scale have been reported to the Committee, in particular from France and from Switzerland to Egypt, and from France into China and Turkey.

The Committee's plan for checking such abuses is:

1) To fix the total amount of drugs to be manufactured annually;

2) To allocate this amount between manufacturing countries;

3) To distribute this amount so that each country receives what is necessary for medical and scientific purposes.

The Policy Of The British Labor Party

F. W. Pethick-Lawrence

Mr. Lawrence who is both a member of Parliament and in the British Cabinet as the chief assistant to the Chancellor of the Exchequer has written a most interesting letter to his constituents. He has given us permission to print extracts.

First let me remind you of what was the situation when the Labor Government took office. We had had five years of Tory rule under which both at home and abroad things had been allowed to drift towards disaster. The general election had produced a triangular result and Mr. Macdonald as the leader of the largest single party, though without a clear majority in the House of Commons, had been invited to assume the premiership.

The Cabinet having been formed had forthwith to decide upon its line of policy. All sorts of possibilities of action were presented to it but broadly it had to choose between two divergent views. Either it could proceed along the line of practical reform achieving as much immediate advance as all the circumstances permitted. Or, alternatively, it could lay down an ideal programme, which it could not hope to carry through, but which would be in the nature of a demonstration, and it could refuse to budge from this. The latter course presented several obvious advantages. It would set out in bold relief the difference between the socialist order of society and that which is now existing; it would involve no compromise or diminution of declared programme; it would enable the whole onus of failure to fall upon the Opposition.

Napoleon once said of a certain proposed stratagem that "it was magnificent but that it was not war". The Government considered that a similar remark would apply to the political course suggested above—it would be magnificent but it would not be statecraft. It would in fact be throwing away the power, entrusted to it, of making certain quite important changes at home and abroad on the off chance that defeated in Parliament it could obtain at another general election the much greater power needed to carry the more revolutionary programme. It decided therefore in favour of the less heroic but more work-a-day policy....

This decision has brought it into conflict with a small but persistent section of its own followers who have expounded on every possible occasion the opposite standpoint, commencing with occasional discreet criticism, and developing as the session proceeded into almost daily public denunciation of the Government....

That does not mean of course that the Government has always chosen right, still less that constructive criticism is not wanted in the House of Commons as elsewhere. On the

contrary it may be most helpful as providing a counterblast to the reactionary arguments from the opposition.... It is when criticism becomes denunciation and leaving the world of reality becomes impossibilist and spectacular that it ceases to be helpful and constructive, and becomes negative and destructive.

Let me now remind my friends of some of the changes the Government has actually carried out. Turning first to foreign affairs, the Government has signed the "optional" clause at Geneva thereby reversing the decision of its predecessor and pledging this country to resort to arbitration instead of war.... A second step was taken in the Treaty of London. The Prime Minister had carefully prepared the way by a visit to the United States; and the Five-Power Naval Conference met this year in London. As a result the three great naval Powers—Britain, America, and Japan—agreed to a substantial limitation of naval armaments while France and Italy though refusing to come in to the main bargain also made some advance. A third big step was bringing back the troops from the Rhine, and a fourth the restoration of relationship with Russia.

India has proved a problem of almost insuperable difficulty. The pitch had been queered badly by the late Government who had contrived to alienate Indian opinion by the manner of appointment of the Simon Commission and to tie the hands of our Government by a time-table which we could not break through. As a consequence a grave situation has arisen. Short of clearing out altogether it was necessary for law and order to be maintained by the British Government but we have made it plain that self-governing Dominion status is our objective and that the round-table conference will be free to make whatever recommendations it likes. It looks as if at last there was a chance of a real interchange of views and possibly of a settlement which will be honourable to all parties.

In East Africa our Government has stood firm for justice to the native races and has refused to be stampeded into relinquishing its trusteeship and into handing over the natives' destinies to the unfettered discretion of a small number of white settlers.

I turn now to the terrible question of unemployment... We have witnessed month by month an increase in the numbers of the unemployed until

they reach now the heart-rending total of over two million...

If we examine the cause of this disaster we find 1) that there has been a shattering fall in wholesale prices which has deprived the producer of any incentive to produce, and 2) that this phenomenon is world-wide. In Germany the figures of unemployment exceed ours; in America it runs into several millions. When Winston Churchill restored the gold standard in 1926 he bound this country hand and foot to the wheel of international finance; and the operations last year of the Federal Reserve Board, the Central Banking Authority of America, have resulted in this world-wide slump in prices. The origin of this disastrous increase in unemployment last year was therefore outside this country....

I now come to the action of the Government with a view to stemming the awful tide of unemployment. Having first obtained powers from Parliament by legislation it took steps to initiate public activities of various kinds... In all a total of over a hundred million pounds of public work has been organised (37½ millions for roads, 21 millions for railways, 11½ millions for electricity and 7½ millions for docks)...

The problem of unemployment has two sides. The first is that of finding work. The second, nearly equally important, is that of looking after the physical well-being of the unemployed and their dependents... Very great changes have been made in the Unemployment Insurance Acts. In particular there has been an increase in rates of benefit to dependents and young people and the abolition of the much abused "not genuinely seeking work" provision....

I have left to the last the Finance Bill of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in which much of my own personal time has been taken up. It was necessary to raise over £30 millions this year and nearly £650 millions next of additional taxation. The whole amount has been placed on the shoulders most capable of bearing it, while earned incomes up to nearly £900 a year in the case of married couples with at least three children escape any increase. In addition we have carried through elaborate provisions against evasion of surtax and death duties by the very rich....

Altogether it has been a very strenuous session and I believe that my friends... will share my view that much valuable work has been accomplished though much remains to be done.

International Penal Reform

Haven't we come to a period in the world's history when humanity must be treated as one big family? Isn't it time there was a standard of treatment for the average individual, for the worker, for the sick, for the person we intend to look up? What better work can the League of Nations do than set such a standard and demand it of all countries? Editor.

The Howard League

The Howard League for Penal Reform, an organization of which we have spoken in Pax on several occasions is trying to get the League of Nations to take up the matter of penal reform.

It has sent a memorandum to the coming Assembly of the League of Nations. In it, it has set forth a series of abuses which exist in prisons in different countries all of which it can vouch for, and the Howard League claims that if these abuses were given world-wide publicity, as they would be if the matter were handled by the League of Nations, such barbarities would be impossible. Some of the prison abuses cited are:

a) A man was driven almost insane by 12 months' solitary confinement when on remand awaiting trial for an offence of which he was finally proved innocent.

b) Woman and girls under constant surveillance and at the mercy of armed male warders.

c) Thirteen prisoners in one cell several suffering from tuberculosis and others from venereal disease.

d) A young man who had stolen some clothing was beaten until he was in a fainting condition, with great weals showing all over his bared flesh. A chimney sweep suspected of theft received twenty-five blows from a rubber cudgel. Another man was beaten on the soles of his feet with the same weapon, so that they were black and blue and three days later he was still unable to stand or walk. Sixty prisoners herded in a dungeon 4x6 meters, all through the night heard the sound of blows and cries of pain.

e) A prisoner (untried) was passed from prison to prison in five different towns and in three different countries in four weeks. He was lodged in ice-cold prisons, in dark cells full of vermin. In one prison he lay on a bare concrete floor with sixty prisoners all engaged in hunting for vermin.

f) "We are all subjected to beast-like tortures. I myself was kicked and beaten with rifle butts and bludgeons till I fainted. A. was tortured so frightfully that he went mad. He is still in prison but in a straitjacket. B. committed suicide by jumping out of the window. Many have tried this and failed... Our friends outside are watched and terrorised to prevent our legal right of consultation."

These incidents will suffice to give some idea of the terrible situation.

The Howard League demands that the League of Nations take this matter up that the abuses may be remedied. It claims also that prison reform has an international aspect. It cites the case of a man from one country who is arrested, tried and sentenced to imprisonment or death in another country. The alien prisoner suffers greatly through the strangeness of language, climate and customs. Then there are the cases of fugitive criminals, who are arrested in the country to which they have fled, under a warrant from their own country. The surrendering up of a person in a country where the death penalty has been abolished to a country where it is still in existence may be a very grave matter. Then there is the matter of deporting aliens after a term of imprisonment back to their own country. Many persons so deported find it difficult to get home without funds and assistance. These and other examples the Howard League gives to prove its case. It points out that an unofficial International Prison Commission has existed for fifty years thus demonstrating the international aspect of the problem.

The proposal that penal reform should be taken up internationally was presented to the Council of the League last January and passed by that body. It requested the Howard League and the International Prison Commission to draft memorandums showing the international aspects of the question. The Howard League had printed and sent to Sir Eric Drummond, the head of the League Secretariat, a thousand copies of their memorandum. Unfortunately the International Prison Commission has delayed preparing a memorandum until after their conference in Prague at the end of August. Sir Eric Drummond has therefore not circularized the Howard League Memorandum, and the problem of penal reforms has not been placed on the agenda of the League for debate at this Assembly. This is a great disappointment for it means a delay of a year. There is however one way to get around the situation and that is to get one of the countries represented at this year's assembly to move a resolution asking that the matter be put on the agenda. The Howard League is hoping to find some country with pluck and energy enough to do this.

Political Prisoners In India

The Bombay Chronicle of August 2nd, prints the report of the Congress

Committee on the conditions of political prisoners in the Visapur jail. The political prisoners in this jail have all been arrested for taking part in the Gandhi campaign of non-violence. Some extracts from the report are as follows:

"The Visapur Jail is situated 27 miles away from Ahmednagar City. The place is like a desert with no human habitation within ten miles. The Jail consists of 12 barracks for prisoners, each separated from the other by a double fencing and the whole area enclosed by wire fencing, excepting three barracks which are all "Kacha buildings", no more than sheds, fit for housing cattle rather than human beings.... The floor area of each barrack is about 128' x 16' of which 10 ft. square is occupied by a latrine. 110 prisoners are lodged here for the night... The prisoners are made to lie down in two opposite rows of fifty-five each along the length of the barrack which is 116 ft. thus leaving a space of about 2 ft. 1 inch per man.... During the time they are inside the barrack, no prisoner is allowed to get up or stir from his so-called bed. The floor on which the prisoners are forced to lie down for such long dreary hours is nothing more than an earthen floor very badly beaten down.... Further the whole jail compound is infested with snakes, scorpions and centipedes..

"There are no bathing arrangements in the way of taps. The prisoners are marched off at 8 A. M. to a public tank. The bath consists of no more than two minutes dip in the water. No soap is supplied even though all the Satyagrahi prisoners come from a class accustomed to clean personal habits and daily baths....

"The meals supplied to the prisoners are always full of dirt and grit and ordinarily uneatable.... The result of this dieting has been the alarming prevalence of dysentery and diarrhoea.

"The supervision of the prisoners is in the hands of the convict warders imported from other jails and sepoy recruited from the criminal tribes. Allegations are made that these warders assault the prisoners for no provocation whatsoever.... The assaults are made not only with fists but also lathis are freely used. We were shown marks of bruises and confused wounds which were the result of these assaults.... Several persons told us that an unrestrained reign of terror prevailed in the Jail against which they had no hope of remedy or redress."

Canadian Section

This Section feels as the year's work draws to a close that a distinct advance has been made in public opinion for Peace in Canada. It feels its own Section has taken on form and substance and has laid out a definite plan of work. It has distributed many thousands of leaflets during the year most of which it has published itself. It has cooperated very closely in its work with certain members of the Canadian House of Commons. The resolution introduced by Agnes MacPhail that for every one hundred dollars spent on Defence, Canada should spend one dollar on organizing for peace was an epoch making event. It brought out most illuminating and significant facts showing how greatly Canada is dependent upon other countries for markets and material. For instance:

Canada sells to foreign countries 70% of its wheat, 50% of its lumber, 90% of its furs, 70% of its fish, 90% of its copper, 100% of its nickel and 80% of its lead.

Canada buys from foreign countries 100% of its rubber, 100% of its coffee, 100% of its tea, 50% of its coal, 95% of its petroleum, 100% of its tin and 100% of its bananas.

Dr. O. D. Skelton says in his testimony before the House of Commons, March 25, 1930:

"It is a commonplace that the chief development of the past generation has been the way in which nations are being brought together, the way in which barriers are being broken down. Isolation is becoming a thing of the past; the whole world is shrinking....

"The whole world is becoming a single market. Rain, down in the Argentine, will send wheat prices tumbling in Winnipeg; a good crop in a little island half way around the world sets people moving resolutions on butter imports in the Canadian House of Commons. The Stock Market crash in New York is echoed in Buenos-Aires and Melbourne. The world is becoming one, and international affairs are coming home to the ordinary man; they are becoming part of our national and individual lives in a way that was not dreamed of a single generation ago."

Danish Section

Every other year this Section has a Peace Day when they are allowed to gather money in the streets for peace propaganda. This is the way they raise most of their money for their work. Out of the sum they have gathered this year they have just sent 2000 Swiss Francs to Geneva for the International work. This is a big assistance to Headquarters. We wish all other sections could follow the fine example of Denmark.

The French Section

Madame Léo Wanner, the chairman of the Lyon branch writes:

"Twelve girl and boy students of Lyon have been the guests of their little German comrades in Dresden during the entire month of August, under the direction of Madame Michaud who is a member of the W. I. L. All the boys and girls have been entertained by the W. I. L. members of the Dresden branch as well as by Frau Freund-Hoppe, the president. In September thirty students from the Dürerschule Dresden are coming to Lyon and will be received in families and the municipal institute. The entertainments arranged in Dresden will be repeated in Lyon. I want to tell you also that one of our members has offered a prize of fifty francs to the student who writes the best composition on the subject, "The reconciliation of two mothers, former enemies, at the graves of their sons who were killed in the war."

German Section

The following open letter has been sent by the German Section to the French Section of the W. I. L. "Dear Comrades!

"We who have been in common agreement with you both before, during and since the war, that violence of any kind should be abolished, wish herewith to say that not only we, but many German men and women deeply regret and utterly condemn the acts of violence and rioting which occurred in parts of the Rhineland at the time of the evacuation by the French troops; there is no excuse for this.

We blame our government and police, that they did not see far enough ahead to prevent the atrocious intrigue of certain chauvinistic agitators who stirred the people's fanaticism.

We sincerely appreciate the fact that the evacuation of the Rhineland took place five years sooner than originally planned, and we gratefully recognize that the French troops at the time of their departure were most discreet and gave not the slightest provocation for offense.

We urgently request you to bring this letter to the knowledge of the French public, and please be assured that after these distressing occurrences we will work harder than ever for Franco-German understanding, which forms the basis for the universal peace of Europe.

In this spirit we greet you most cordially as faithful comrades."

Signed by the Executive Committee of the German Section, Anita Augsburg, Gertrud Baer, Magda Hoppstock-Huth, Lida Gustava Heymann, Else Bauer, Kläre Schœdon.

The Cuban Group

Madame Camille Drevet on her trip to Mexico stopped twice at Havana, Cuba, once for a day and a half and the other time for two days. She writes: "Thanks to the activity of Mme. Ferrari and the committee, and thanks also to the assistance of the Club Féminin and the "Club des Amis de la Culture française" I have been able to see several people and to witness the enthusiasm with which the Cubans accept the principles and the program of the W. I. L. Mme. Ferrari is an ardent pacifist. She is not only ready to fight against war now but more than that she wants our League to follow a given policy in case war arises. Thus, our new groups in Mexico and Cuba, though but recently created, are ready with suggestions. Mme. Ferrari says: "In Havana women of the Labor Union are prepared to add to their program the fight against war and noted feminists like Senora Montalvo de Sotonavaro, president of the Suffrage Alliance feel the feminist groups should join us in our fight..."

"As I said 'au revoir' to the friends who saw me off I felt sure that the little group in Cuba would grow... I think of the elan, the poetry, the symbolism which our sisters in Latin America are bringing to us. And I know that these qualities will not hinder them in joining with us in our struggle to put into reality the noble ideas of Peace and Liberty."

Austrian Section

The following leaflet is published and distributed by the Youth Group of the W. I. L. in Vienna.

CALL TO YOUTH

1. You must believe in Peace.
 2. You must talk to others of this belief.
 3. Be fearless, stand up for your faith, even if ridiculed, sneered at, suspected, or persecuted.
 4. Without peace and freedom, there is no happiness. For this ideal, no sacrifice should be too great.
 5. Undertake some work for peace, even the smallest, and do it regularly and conscientiously.
 6. Love your people, and you will understand that others love theirs.
 7. Do not repeat the criticisms of newspapers, parties, or individuals, unless you have verified them. It is your duty to think for yourself. Public problems are the problems of humanity, therefore your business.
 8. You are serving the true needs of this age, if you fight for peace.
 9. Remember, that in all your deeds and actions you are responsible for the happiness or the misfortune of your people.
 10. Truly serve humanity, then you will serve your people.
- Youth, be unselfish, strong, sincere, faithful!

Hungarian Prisons

A book on the terrible cruelties in Hungarian Prisons has recently been published in both French and German by Sandor Kémeri. This is the author's penname, her real name is Frau von Bölöni. She is the wife of a well-known Hungarian journalist and herself a popular writer. She and her husband fled from Hungary at the time of the white terror under the Horthy Government. They did not have anything personally to do with politics. They were simply people with a liberal progressive point of view. They went to Vienna to live. But later on Frau von Bölöni longed to visit her old home. Equipped with proper papers she started for Budapest. She found the authorities had lodged several families in her house. These people had so neglected it that it was in horrible condition and looked like a pigsty. Disgusted at the sight and deeply hurt, Frau von Bölöni decided to leave at once. But before she could do this she was denounced as a spy, arrested and during six weeks pushed about from one prison to another without knowing what she was accused of. An anonymous letter had been sufficient to cause her arrest. The accusation had so weak a foundation that finally after many protests and complaints she was set at liberty. But her weeks in prison were a veritable hell. She pictures the terrible suffering of the prisoners who were beaten, tortured and mutilated. She tells of stinking cells with rotten straw-sacks, the nauseous food, the lice, the bed-bugs, the germs of syphilis, tuberculosis and loathsome skin diseases. Frau von Bölöni came out of this inferno diseased in body and well-nigh broken in heart. Her book is a heart-rending story. Henri Barbusse has written a preface "Sur le chemin des douleurs", publisher Ernest Flammarion, Paris. Price 12 French francs. German edition "Die Kerker von Budapest", publisher Buchverlag Kaden und Comp., Dresden.

Persons Without Nationality

There will be a conference on "Persons without Nationality" at the Maison Internationale on September 8th and 9th. The following persons among others will take part: International Council of Women: Miss Louise van Eeghen; Society of Friends: Miss Emma Cadbury; International Suffrage Alliance: Mrs. Corbett-Ashby and Mme. Malaterre-Sellier; League for the Rights of Man: Dr. Egidio Reale; League of Nations Union: Dr. Medinger and M. Ruysen. W. I. L. Sections Austria: Mrs. Aszkany, Germany: Frau Kläre Marck, Hungary: Mrs. Havas and Mrs. Meller, Great Britain: Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M. P.

Peace Demonstration. On September 9th in Geneva there is to be a Conference of representatives of all the pacifist societies and a demonstration to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the League of Nations. An appeal is to be presented to the League of Nations by the peace societies.

W. I. L. Executive Meeting. On October 11th and for five or six ensuing days the Executive Committee of the W. I. L. will meet in Warsaw.

On the two days preceding this meeting the various Commissions of the W. I. L. will meet in Warsaw.

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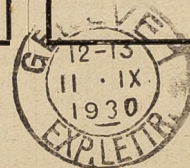
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