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Women's International League

British Section of the Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom)

WILPF. 2118



Thirty - Third Annual Report

MARCH, 1948—FEBRUARY, 1949

Address: 104, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, LONDON, W.C.1

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

Head Office:

12, Rue du Vieux Collège, Geneva, Switzerland.

Secretary General—Mrs. Ann Bloch.

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 we have National Sections or Correspondents in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Yugo-Slavia, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.A.

The BRITISH SECTION of the LEAGUE is known as

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Address: 104, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

President—Mrs. Barbara Duncan Harris, J.P.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1948-1949.

Chairman—Mrs. G. R. McGregor Wood.

Mrs. G. Bedford, Mrs. K. Butcher, Mrs. M. Castle, Mrs. P. Cusden, J.P., Miss M. Dickinson, Miss A. Harrison, Miss E. Hayler, Mrs. C. M. Kemp, Mrs. M. Nuttall, Mrs. de Swiet.

Representing Branches: Lady Artemus Jones, Mrs. Ballinger, Miss Camfield, Mrs. Gill, Mrs. M. E. Hughes, Miss McAra, Mrs. Malcomson, Mrs. G. Needham, Mrs. M. Schlossmann, Miss M. Stansfield, Mrs. O. Sutherst.

Consultants: Miss Mosa Anderson, Mrs. Warner, Miss Myrtle Wright.

Hon. Secretary—Mrs. E. F. Ineson.

Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. Olaf Stapledon.

News Sheet Editor—Miss Amy Haughton.

Vice-Presidents—Miss B. M. Baker, Miss Vera Brittain, Miss Grace Colman, M.P., Hon. Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Mary Graham White, Mrs. M. Grindley, Mrs. K. E. Innes, Lady Mayer, Mrs. McGregor Ross, Lady Parmoor, Lady Pethick Lawrence, Miss Edith Pye, Lady Unwin.

MEMBERSHIP is open to all women who are BRITISH SUBJECTS, who desire to work for the above objects. Associate membership is open to women and men of any nationality resident in Great Britain. Minimum subscription to Headquarters, 5s. per annum. Monthly *News Sheet* 2d., 3s. per annum, post free.

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

March, 1948 — February, 1949

The beginning of our year's work was darkened by the recent assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and, later, two other peacemakers, Jan Masaryk and Count Bernadotte, died under tragic circumstances. India's leaders have eventually come back to the ideals of their great exemplar and Palestine too, appears to be facing the end of fighting. Events in Indonesia have been extremely disappointing and fact-finding has been unusually difficult. The so-called great powers continue their "Cold War" and an apathetic acceptance of these conditions seems to have settled down upon spirits that are by nature eager and active.

To turn to the credit side: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention to Prevent and Punish Genocide are noteworthy achievements; they must be adequately publicised.

Sir John Boyd Orr, formerly Director of the Food and Agricultural Organisation, constantly draws our attention to the necessity for considering as the most urgent problem of our times, Food—Soil—Population, taken as one inter-related subject, and he stresses the need for a world authority for the settlement of this and other pressing questions. We, in like manner, work in and for the United Nations Organisation but exercising our rights of assembly, discussion and peaceful agitation as world citizens-in-spirit. We seek to influence the assembled statesmen from outside, and to get across to them that women see hope for peace, only in the working out of human problems, with patience and in a spirit of co-operation, and not in the ceaseless twanging of ideological strings.

This need for doing is brought out in the New Year's Message of the Secretary General of the United Nations:—

"This will be a time of extremely hard work and, I am confident, of continued accomplishment. For everybody it will be a time for clear thinking, calm nerves, and steady confidence in the ability of the nations, working loyally together in the United Nations to give the world a permanent and worthy peace."

Executive Committee

During the year eleven meetings have been held, presided over by the Chairman Mrs. McGregor Wood, with one exception, when the Chair was taken by Miss Agatha Harrison. The main subjects on which decisions have been made are the Women's Peace Movement, the World Government campaign, the tension between East and West, the Refugee Problem and the work of the United Nations.

An Extended Executive was held at Manchester in October by the invitation of the Manchester Branch, and was an outstanding success. Apart from that the meeting in June merits a special mention when the International President Emily Greene Balch was present, and gave a Broadcast Message on the subject of Women and Peace in Woman's Hour, to which the Committee listened with great interest.

Several individual members of the Executive have undertaken to become well informed on special subjects, so that the Committee can now turn to them for guidance on the subjects relating to the United Nations, World Government, Refugees, German problems, as well as India and Pakistan.

Executive Sub-Committees

ORGANISATION.—This Committee planned the visit of the International President, and made arrangements for the Extended Executive in co-operation with the Officers of the Manchester Branch.

The London Group and Headquarters Office were responsible for the following meetings:—

- Conference on World Government.
- Lecture by Dr. Olaf Stapledon on "East and West and the Wroclaw Congress."
- Conference on "Refugees and Displaced Persons in Europe."
- A tea and talk with Sir John Boyd Orr.
- Bring and Buy Sale.
- Annual New Year Social.

PUBLICITY.—During the year there have been three publications:—

- "Pax—An Invitation to Women"—a leaflet compiled by Miss Dickinson, giving concise particulars of the League and its activities.
- "The Struggle for Peace"—summary of a speech by Sir John Boyd Orr to the Royal Society of Arts on June 28th, 1948.
- "War!—You can do something about it"—a leaflet for free distribution prepared by the Orpington Branch.

COLONIES.—Though the Committee felt unable to continue its work throughout the year, subjects concerning the colonies were brought to the notice of the Executive by individual members. Two of these were the fate of the Italian Colonies and the question of the Government of Cyprus. In both cases correspondence was taken up with the Fabian Research Bureau but no specific action was taken. A report was given by Mrs. Malcomson on the Liverpool riots which took place in August, and brought up the question of the colour prejudice as it exists in this country.

Affiliations, etc.

Organisations to which we are affiliated or to which we send observers, and the names of our representatives:—

- Abyssinia (Ethiopia) Association—Miss Dickinson.
- British Commonwealth League—Mrs. de Swiet.
- Equal Pay Campaign Committee—Mrs. de Swiet.
- Joint Standing Parliamentary Committee—Miss Edith Hayler.
- Liaison Committee for World Government—Mrs. McGregor Wood and Miss Haughton.
- Liaison Group of Women's Organisations interested in Indian Affairs—Miss Harrison and Miss Dickinson.
- National Peace Council—Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Harrison, Miss Haughton and Mrs. Longson.
- No Conscription Council—Miss Hayler and Mrs. Nuttall.
- Status of Women Committee—Mrs. Nuttall (deputy Mrs. McGregor Wood).
- U.N.A. Women's Advisory Council—Miss Dickinson.
- Women's Council on Indian Affairs—Miss Harrison and Miss Dickinson.
- Women's Group on Public Welfare—Mrs. Ineson (deputy Mrs. McGregor Wood).

Groups Affiliated to Our Headquarters

- East Hull Branch, N.B.W.T.A.U.
- London Diocesan Board of Women's Church Work.
- Hendon Central Women's Co-operative Guild.
- Holiday Fellowship Limited.
- Knighton Fields Women's Co-operative Guild.
- New Malden Congregational Women's League.
- Peckham Women's Co-operative Guild.
- Penzance Labour Party (Women's Section).
- Ross-on-Wye Women's Co-operative Guild.
- Wallasey B.W.T.A.U.
- Winchmore Hill Women's Adult School.
- Women's League of the London Congregational Union.
- Women's Permanent Peace League.

Events of the Year

ANNUAL COUNCIL.—This was held at "High Leigh," Hoddesdon, April 13th–16th, and included a day at Cambridge sponsored by the Cambridge Branch, with a public meeting at which Canon Raven spoke on Population Problems of the Far East. On the last day an informal discussion took place on the subject "Where do we go from here?" and there was a strong feeling that the time was ripe for a new Peace Crusade, the outcome of which was the birth of the Women's Peace Movement. A fund for this purpose was opened and realised £43 3s. 6d.

The following resolutions were passed and sent to Government Departments and appropriate organisations:—

Palestine.—This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League welcomes the calling of the United Nations General Assembly on Palestine, and urges the Secretary General to continue to use all possible means of mediation to bring Arabs and Jews together in a direct discussion of their difficulties, assuring them of full support for any common effort to achieve a joint solution which would meet the needs of both parties.

Women of the World Unite!—This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League, recognising the increasing danger of a race between nations in the development of the atom bomb and other instruments of war, calls upon the women of the world to unite to urge their Governments to outlaw all forms of war as a means of settling international disputes.

Atomic Weapons.—This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League urges His Majesty's Government to take the initiative at the appropriate meetings of the United Nations, by declaring that under no circumstances or provocation whatsoever would it use atomic weapons for military purposes, and urging the United Nations to adopt the same policy, as a step towards universal disarmament.

House of Lords.—In view of the fact that the House of Lords is the only Council of State from which women are excluded, this Annual Council meeting of the Women's International League is of the opinion that the time is long overdue when women should be entitled to sit therein, or in any second chamber which may be constituted. It therefore urges His Majesty's Government to take the necessary steps to introduce legislation to this effect.

World Government.—In view of the general fear of a further war, and considering the Government's lack of policy on the control of atomic energy, as exemplified in the recent debate in the House of Lords, and bearing in mind the dictum of the Archbishop of York that "to take no action might be the most dangerous course of all," this Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League urges the Executive to re-examine all projects for World Government, and particularly those with concrete programmes which take account of the time factor, and decide in which way the League can further the cause.

Civil Defence.—This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League deplores the establishment of a Civil Defence force while the disastrous effects of modern war still surround us on every side. The restoration of such a body will do much to condition the mind of the public to the acceptance of war, and cause many to imagine that effective defence against atomic bombs is possible. We believe that to prepare for war is the surest way of getting it, and in the knowledge that civil defence against atomic weapons is futile, we urge its abandonment.

Conscription.—This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League believes that conscription is:

1. Foreign to the British conception of democracy and a denial of individual liberty.
2. That the training of young people for war at the age of 18 years must tend to result in their accepting war as the normal state of the world.
3. That the demoralisation which is inevitable in any army of occupation, and military training, makes a disastrous break with all the standards of behaviour which have been inculcated throughout the years of education.

We therefore urge His Majesty's Government not only to abolish conscription in this country, but to explore the possibilities of an international agreement for world-wide abolition and put such before the United Nations without delay.

Atomic Energy.—This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League, while opposing the use of atomic weapons for war purposes, calls upon His Majesty's Government to press forward the development and use of atomic energy for constructive industrial and humanitarian purposes.

Civil Service.—This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League, while appreciating the responsibility of His Majesty's Government for ensuring the integrity of the Civil Service and recognising the safeguards against victimisation which have been adopted, nevertheless deplors the measures agreed to by the Government defining party allegiance as the basis for action against a Civil Servant, believing that such definition constitutes a departure from the principles of liberty and democracy.

The Rules and Constitution were amended as follows:—

1. *To Rule III, "Membership," (b) add:—*

The subscriptions of new members joining on or after October 1st in any year shall cover the period to December 31st in the following year.

2. *Rule V, A. (a):—*

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Hon. Officers and twenty four members, sixteen of whom shall be the elected representatives of the branches, which for the purpose of the election shall be grouped if necessary and possible, and eight of whom shall be elected by the Annual Council. Any Branch shall be entitled to send one representative to the Executive Committee meetings with power to speak, but not to vote, the Executive not being responsible for such representative's expenses.

EXTENDED EXECUTIVE.—This was held in Manchester on October 5th-7th and proved to be of great value in the opportunity it gave for a closer acquaintance with the unique position and work of the Manchester Branch. Dr. Joseph Mitchell, Secretary of the League of Coloured Peoples addressed one session of the Executive, and Lady Parmoor and Muriel Lester were speakers at a public meeting. A letter was sent to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Trygve Lie, asking for the services of a mediator between the four Powers on the question of Berlin.

An urgency resolution was sent to the British representatives at the United Nations in Paris, and to the Foreign Secretary on the tension between East and West which had then become acute:—

"This Extended Executive Committee of the Women's International League, realising the danger of continued tension between East and West, reiterates its belief that this can be resolved only round the conference table, and therefore appeals to His Majesty's Government to continue with patience and determination to seek agreement on the problems involved, and to express willingness to reopen discussion of the whole German problem.

"Further it urges the Government to take the initiative in renouncing the use of atomic and bacteriological weapons, and to accept—as a basis for discussion—the latest proposals of the U.S.S.R. for disarmament and the control of atomic weapons with a view to achieving not only the control of atomic energy for peaceful ends, but also with a view to the abolition of all weapons of mass destruction and the progressive reduction of all other arms."

The reply to this, received from Sir Hartley Shawcross, stated: ". . . You may rest assured that His Majesty's Government will continue 'with patience and determination' to seek every possibility of securing agreement on the various outstanding problems which are under discussion at this Assembly. I am afraid, however, that the latest proposals of the Soviet Union, in regard to disarmament, control of atomic weapons and other matters, are not really put forward with the intention that they should provide the basis of any agreement at all. None the less, we shall not be deterred in our efforts to seek whatever reasonable accommodation of our views is possible." This was considered most unsatisfactory and a reply was sent pointing out that the W.I.L. felt the proposals should be considered on their merits without any prejudgment of the sincerity of the member State introducing them, and that this is the only attitude which is in keeping with the constructive peace-making aims of the United Nations.

THE VISIT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT.—Emily Greene Balch came to England in May after an extensive tour in North West Europe. She first visited Norway where she gave her delayed lecture following the award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946. Then she visited the W.I.L.P.F. Sections in Sweden, Finland and Denmark, speaking in all these countries with royalties and statesmen. Finally, she travelled through Germany, bringing to the re-formed Branches hope and encouragement.

To the British Section she brought great inspiration, and a wider publicity for our work than has been known here for many a day. Wearing the crown of her 81 years right royally, she did not spare herself but gave in full measure both to individuals and to our groups the benefit of her ripe wisdom and experience. She was interviewed very thoroughly by the Press and broadcast for the B.B.C., and it was encouraging to see that people from all walks of life were most eager to make the acquaintance of our International President. She was entertained by M.P.s in the House, and spoke at a lunch given in her honour in Crosby Hall, where many of her old friends, including Lord and Lady Pethick Lawrence, came to pay their tribute to her life-long service to the cause of peace. She visited Birmingham and spoke to a combined meeting of Midland Branches, and on the day on which she started on her homeward journey she spoke at a crowded reception in the Cora Hotel, London, emphasising as always, the need for tolerance and for the maintenance of principles and of her belief that war need not come. This reception was attended by delegates from other societies and many international friends and visitors. From that meeting a large group escorted her to the station, and with deep reluctance bade farewell to the leader who so utterly embodies the ideals and values for which the W.I.L.P.F. has always stood.

Action taken by the Executive on Vital Issues

UNITED NATIONS.—Gertrude Baer has continued to act as Liaison Officer at Headquarters, and Mrs. Mignon Castle consented to be U.N. Consultant to the Executive.

Genocide.—On this subject the W.I.L. added its signature to a petition signed by 140 organisations urging the General Assembly to adopt the Convention on Genocide at the Paris Session. In December a cable was received stating that Britain had supported the Convention in Committee up to the last week and then had abstained from voting. Immediately the following cable was sent to the British Delegation and the Foreign Secretary:—

"Women's International League deplors British abstention Genocide Draft. Strongly urges favourable vote Monday Assembly."

On December 9th the vote in the General Assembly was unanimous, and the Convention was adopted. At the January Executive a resolution was passed expressing satisfaction and urging prompt ratification by the Government.

Control of Polar Regions.—In March the Executive wrote to the Foreign Secretary urging support for the proposal made by the International Executive that the Arctic and Antarctic should be placed under International Control.

In September a further letter was sent, following action by the American Section, urging that the proposal made by the United States State Department to "internationalise the Antarctic as the best solution to settle contradictory claims to these areas and to continue scientific research" should receive strong support from the Government.

International Children's Emergency Fund.—A letter was sent to the Government urging that the decision to make no contribution to the I.C.E.F. should be rescinded and information was received that the question was under consideration. Subsequent announcements indicated that the Government had decided to make a limited contribution proportionate to the amount raised by the Lord Mayor's Fund for the United Nations Appeal for Children.

In September the Executive appealed again to the Government to support the continuance of the U.N. Appeal for Children and received the reply that the appeal would continue through national committees, and that in any case the I.C.E.F. would still carry on.

Human Rights.—Mrs. Roosevelt was congratulated by the Executive on her responsible work in connection with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10th, and it was agreed that the resolution relating to publicity should be studied, and a response made to the invitation to non-governmental organisations to do their utmost to bring this Declaration to the attention of their members, especially in view of the fact that the W.I.L.P.F. has Consultative Status.

WORLD GOVERNMENT.—The resolution passed at the Annual Council was discussed at the June Executive and a further resolution passed “that the W.I.L. should make World Government in general one of its major projects for work in the coming winter, giving special attention to the Henry Osborne Plan.”

This was sent with a letter to the Branches and many of them have responded by making World Government one of their chief objects of study and main activities for peace.

CONSCRIPTION.—In reply to the resolution on this subject sent from the Annual Council, the Minister of Defence expressed his belief that military training would turn out good citizens who would be all the more anxious to work for the avoidance of war. The Executive then sent a further letter as follows:—

“ May 10th, 1948.

“ I am directed to thank you for your reply of April 27th to the resolutions passed at the Annual Meeting of the Women’s International League.

“ My Executive would, however, submit that, so far from military training ‘turning out alert and self-disciplined citizens who . . . will be all the more anxious to work for its avoidance,’ experience of countries having the longest tradition of conscription would seem to point to the exact opposite, and it would appear to condition the minds of young people in their most impressionable years, to accepting the inevitability of war.

“ I am also to reiterate that my Executive Committee feels the deepest concern (which we have reason to know is shared by some senior officers in the services) about the moral effect on young conscripts of service in Germany, where economic conditions are such as to expose them to grave temptations and where their position as members of an occupying power tends to induce in them the Herrenvolk outlook.

“ Much as we appreciate the measures you are taking in improving educational facilities, we submit that the evils of the position are too serious and deep-seated to be dealt with by improvised measures of this kind. We would also submit with all respect that it is useless to inculcate moral principles which are not expected to be acted upon, as is evident from what we believe is the fact that prophylactics are still issued to service personnel.”

We print in full the final reply which came from the Minister of Defence:—

“ Ministry of Defence,
Great George Street, S.W.1.
May 14th, 1948.

“ Madam,

“ The Minister of Defence directs me to thank you for your letter of May 10th, which expressed the concern of your Executive Committee at the effects of conscription generally and at the particular danger of sending young National Service men to Germany.

“ Mr. Alexander is disturbed at your belief that National Service will necessarily have a demoralising effect on the youth of the country and induce in them an acceptance of war. He would grant that National Service is an unpleasant necessity, unpleasant because it means that most of our young men have to spend twelve months undergoing compulsory military training instead of following more congenial and productive pursuits. But being once convinced of its necessity the Government have determined to make the best possible use of those twelve months, and to take the opportunity thus given to them of playing a real part in the education of the men who pass through their hands. The further education which the National Service Act, 1947 calls upon the services to provide will include training in citizenship as well as general education, and it is the intention that men leaving the forces after their National Service shall be fitter in mind, body and soul than

when they came in. This is not merely a pious hope. It is reasonable to claim that compulsory military training has never before in any country been safeguarded and supported by such a determined educational drive.

“ On the dangers of sending National Service men to Germany Mr. Alexander has no wish to conceal his own serious concern. If it were possible, with the many other commitments of the services overseas, to form the occupation force entirely from seasoned regular troops this would be done; unfortunately it is not possible, nor is it likely to be for some time to come.

“ In the face of this the Minister and his Service colleagues accept full responsibility for the welfare of these men and intend that no effort shall be spared to combat the moral dangers associated with conditions in present-day Germany. Much of this work falls to the chaplains; facilities for general religious instruction are provided during working hours, and courses in moral leadership are held at various centres and attended by all ranks. On the educational side, evening classes in a wide range of subjects are held in most units and at Education centres in the larger towns. Clubs and canteens run by various welfare organisations are a very potent factor in providing wholesome recreation; and of course sports and hobbies are strongly encouraged.

“ Mr. Alexander would not admit that the situation is beyond reclaim by methods of this kind—which are carefully planned and by no means improvised. He instructs me nevertheless to assure your Executive Committee that these efforts will in no way be relaxed and that he will not rest content until he feels that service with the B.A.O.R. exposes young soldiers to no greater moral danger than service in any other part of the world.

“ I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) N. S. FORWARD.”

When it was known that the Bill for lengthening the time of service was coming before the House, a telegram was sent to all women M.P.s:—

“ Deplore extension conscription please oppose.”

The Executive has received reports of the work of the No Conscription Council and has co-operated when possible.

PALESTINE.—Following the resolution passed at the Annual Council the Executive took action on two further occasions:—

1. In response to a cable from Gertrude Baer a letter was sent to the Foreign Secretary expressing appreciation of the statement of policy made at Lake Success on May 27th, by Sir Alexander Cadogan, and urging the Government to take every possible step to secure an immediate truce, to refrain from giving military or financial aid to either side, and to strive to obtain the adherence of other nations to this policy.

2. The Executive discussed the following resolution passed by the International Executive in Geneva in July:—

“ The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom—International Executive Committee— meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, July 8th–13th, 1948, profoundly disturbed by the critically serious situation in the Near East, demands an end of the shocking state of affairs in Palestine, appeals to the members of the Security Council—

to exert all their influence to bring about an extension of the truce long enough to negotiate the basis for a constructive solution acceptable to those concerned,

to determine the refusal of the Arabs, if maintained, and any other further comparable act by either side as an act of aggression,

to proceed immediately under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter and to keep in Palestine an increased number of United Nations’ police forces.

“ The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom unflinchingly believes in and works for the U.N. Organisation and wants it to emerge from this test strengthened not weakened.

“ Peace in the Near East is in your hands.

“ War is not inevitable.”

After much thought and interchange of opinion the following resolution of protest was passed and sent to Headquarters with a request to circulate to all Sections:—

“The Executive Committee of the W.I.L. (British Section), which met on September 1st, passed the following resolution:—

“That this Executive Committee, having heard the report of its members of the International Executive at Geneva, regrets that the resolution on Palestine should have been passed, as it feels that it is contrary to the aims and objects of the Constitution of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, in that it invokes the use of armed force.”

NATIONAL HEALTH SCHEME.—In September a letter was sent to the Minister of Health stating that the W.I.L. having followed the public discussion concerning the treatment of V.D. as provided for in the National Health Service Act, urges the reinstatement by an amendment thereto of the statutory obligation to maintain complete confidence in this matter. The reply received reiterated the statement made in Parliament in July that treatment for V.D. would continue to be confidential, but without the statutory provision made formally.

A second letter was sent still pressing for statutory backing, and in December the following statement was received from the Ministry of Health:—

“... The Minister has now issued Regulations under the National Health Service Act restoring the position as it was before the unavoidable revocation of the Regulations of 1916.”

India and Pakistan

It was decided in May after the Annual Council that the India Committee should be dissolved, as there was no longer any need for it to function. The Committee owes a debt of gratitude to the Chairman, Miss Agatha Harrison, for the inspiration and statesmanlike qualities with which she steered it through so many difficult years. Miss Harrison is now in India—her sixth visit (at the invitation of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur), where she is representing the Liaison Group of British Women's Societies (of which the W.I.L. is one) at the 21st Session of the All-India Women's Conference which met in Gwalior at the end of January. The W.I.L. sent the following message to the Conference:—

“The British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom sends warm congratulations to the All-India Women's Conference on attaining their 21st Annual Session and for all the splendid achievements of the past years. It is confident that members of the Conference will continue to take an important share both in the Government and welfare of their country, and in the international sphere.”

It has been a great pleasure during the past year to welcome a number of distinguished Indian women, and meetings, public and private have been arranged for them generally by the above-mentioned Liaison Group and the Women's Council on Indian Affairs and Pakistan Affairs.

The most auspicious occasion was undoubtedly the reception at the Cora Hotel, London, on July 16th, in honour of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Minister of Health, and which Lady Mountbatten graced with her presence. Other visitors from India were: Begum Hamid Ali, Mrs. Hannah Sen, Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Lady Rama Rau, and Mrs. Lakshmi Menon, while from Pakistan came Begum Liaquat Ali Kahn, wife of Pakistan's Prime Minister, and Begum Ikramullah, Pakistan delegate to the United Nations, all of whom told us of their national and international work.

Letters were sent to the following: to Lady Mountbatten in deep appreciation of her splendid services as last Vice-reine of India; to Her Excellency Mrs. V. L. Pandit, according our best wishes and congratulations on leading India's delegation to the United Nations Assembly for the third time; and to Pandit Nehru, welcoming him in this country for the Conference of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers.

With great satisfaction it was learned that the New Year opened with the “Cease-fire” in Kashmir. We hope India and Pakistan can now go ahead with progressive plans to help each other in both countries.

International Affairs

Foremost in the history of the W.I.L.P.F. must be put the recognition accorded to it by the United Nations of Consultative Status (B), as a non-governmental body co-operating with the Economic and Social Council of U.N. This has been made a reality by the appointment of Gertrude Baer as representative, and by her tireless work in this connection.

The International Executive met in Geneva from July 8th–13th. It was a specially significant occasion because for the first time since the war there was a representative from the German Section, Magda Hoppstock-Huth. In all, members from nine countries were present, including the Czecho-Slovak Republic. From the British Section there were five members, Mrs. Stapledon and Mrs. Barbara Duncan Harris as elected members, Mrs. Phoebe Cusden and Mrs. McGregor Wood as consultative members, and Mrs. Warner in a consultative capacity. The discussion on the Palestine resolution is dealt with on page —. The two resolutions sent in by the British Section, on World Government and Disarmament respectively, were passed, the latter with amendment. At the invitation of the Danish Section it was agreed to hold a Congress in Copenhagen in August, 1949, and to discuss the Constitution. During the winter, consultations took place on the probable postponement of the Congress, but it was finally decided to adhere to the original date, omitting any discussion of the Constitution. So 1949 will be one of the notable years of the W.I.L.P.F.

A member of the British Section, Mrs. Mary Phillips, represented the International Executive at the Conference of the War Resisters International held in Shrewsbury in the summer, and gave an inspiring report of the meeting.

The W.I.L.P.F. has also been interested in the formation of the World Union of Peace Organisations, to which it sent observers, and the British Section has been able to keep in touch with developments through one of the Vice-Presidents, Lady Parmoor, who is taking a heavy share in the organisation of this or some Liaison Group of International Organisations working for peace.

It was decided at the Executive to discontinue representation of the W.I.L.P.F. on the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations, as it was felt that other opportunities were now possible for carrying out the purpose of that group.

Women's Peace Movement

At the close of the Annual Council meeting at Hoddesdon the delegates, concerned at the deteriorating International situation and conscious of their responsibility as citizens, decided to explore the possibility of initiating a Women's Peace Campaign in which all women's organisations might be invited to co-operate. After two or three preliminary meetings of representatives of women's societies, one of which, through the good offices of Mrs. Leah Manning, M.P., was held in a Committee Room of the House of Commons, the Women's Peace Movement was inaugurated, 21 organisations co-operating, and the following officers being elected:—*President*: Lady Pethick Lawrence; *Vice-Presidents*: Lady Parmoor, Miss Vera Brittain, the Rev. Elsie Chamberlain; *Chairman*: Mrs. Phoebe Cusden, J.P.; *Vice-Chairman*: Mrs. Cecily Cook, O.B.E., Miss Sybil Morrison, Mrs. Cecil Heath; *Hon. Treasurers*: Mrs. H. D. Oliver and Miss P. Leeds; *Hon. Secretary*: Mrs. Twiston Davies.

The Objects of the Movements are:—

- To give voice and direction to women's will to peace;
- To arouse women citizens to a sense of their responsibility in national and world affairs;
- To press for the inclusion of more women in the policy-making councils of the nations;
- To take active steps to unite with women of all other nations in demanding a peaceful settlement of international disputes and in furthering policies which lead to that end.

The Movement was publicly launched at a meeting in the Central Hall, Westminster, on February 10th, 1949, at which the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

“We women of Britain, recognising our responsibility as citizens, pledge ourselves to do all in our power to promote friendly relations between the peoples of all nations.

“We deplore that so few women are filling responsible positions in the United Nations and we urge His Majesty’s Government, as our representatives, to take an early opportunity to appoint women from this country as full delegates.

“We call upon the Government to take the initiative in continuous and determined efforts to use the machinery of the United Nations in a spirit of generosity and conciliation to achieve the peaceful settlement of disputes and the co-operation of all nations in developing the food and scientific resources of the world for the benefit of mankind; and we pledge our support for such a policy.”

The Foreign Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P., having consented to receive a deputation of four representatives of the Movement, Lady Parmoor, Mrs. Phoebe Cusden, Mrs. Cecily Cook, and Mrs. McGregor Wood were appointed to wait upon Mr. Bevin, and it was decided to present the resolution to him personally.

Visitors from Abroad

From Norway—The British Section has been honoured by two very brief visits from one of the International Chairmen, Miss Marie Lous Mohr. Both on her way out to U.S.A. on a lecturing tour at the beginning of September and on her return journey at the very end of December, she spent a few days in this country, and members of the Executive Committee had the most valuable opportunity of meeting her and discussing with her the immediate work of the W.I.L.P.F.

From Austria—The late Frau Hertzka and Dr. Rambousek.

From Germany—Gräfin Baudissin, Frau Cossmann, Frau Hoppstock-Huth, Dr. Kalkofen, Frau Krebs, Frau Meng and Frau Oschatz.

From U.S.A.—Miss Emily Greene Balch, International President (see special paragraph), Miss Ellen Starr Brinton, Mrs. Ruth Gage Colby, Miss Greenwood and Mrs. Dorothy Medders Robinson, International Treasurer, for whom a lunch meeting was arranged.

The Branches

There are now twenty-six branches in the British Section:—

Acocks Green, Birmingham.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Bisson, 21, Ladbrook Road, Solihull, Birmingham.

Birmingham.—Hon. Secretary: Miss D. Robinson, 651, Shirley Road, Birmingham, 28.

Brighton.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Goring, Hatherley, Chancellors Park, Hassocks, Sussex.

Cambridge.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. Schlossmann, 8, Latham Road, Cambridge.

Childwall.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. N. Greaves, 2, Terence Road, Liverpool, 16.

Coventry.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. T. A. Twyman, 17, Cannon Hill Road, Coventry.

Croydon.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. A. Percy, 45, Ashburton Avenue, Croydon.

Edinburgh.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. McLaren, 1, Spylaw Park, Colinton, Edinburgh, 13.

Folkestone.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. Sussams, St. Stephen’s Hall, Cooling Lane, Folkestone.

Glasgow.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Shanks, 32, Crompton Avenue, Glasgow, S.4.

Harrow.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Skinner, Upper Longridge, London Road, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.

Leicester.—Acting Hon. Secretary: Miss Edna Greet, 44, Elmfield Avenue, Birstall, Leicester.

Liverpool.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Holmes, 33, Vernon Avenue, Hooton, Cheshire.

Long Eaton.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Beard, 140, Derby Road, Long Eaton, Notts.

Manchester.—Organising Secretary: Mrs. G. Needham, W.I.L. Office, 1, Princess Street, Albert Square, Manchester, 2.

North London.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. Dayan, 13, Womersley Road, London, N.8.

North Wales.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. D. Pritchard, Bron Llwyn, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.

Nottingham.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Wilde, The White House, Lambley, Notts.

Orpington.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Sutherst, 8, Clarendon Way, Marlings Park, Chislehurst, Kent.

Oxford.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Napier, Windrush House, Shotover Hill, Oxford.

Peterborough.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Fishbourne, 63, Exeter Road, Peterborough.

Reading.—Hon. Secretary: Miss M. S. Stansfield, 70, Northcourt Avenue, Reading.

Sheffield.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Wood, 10, Norwood Road, Sheffield, 8.

Warrington.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Davies, Bleak House, Heath Road, Penketh, Warrington.

West Derby.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Pearson, 19, Lydford Road, West Derby, Liverpool, 12.

Worthing.—Hon. Secretary: Miss G. M. Camfield, 71, Church Walk, Worthing.

An increasing number of Branch Reports have appeared in the *News Sheet* during the year and there has been closer co-operation between branches and members and the Headquarters Secretaries in London. The Chairman, Mrs. McGregor Wood has visited several Branches and letters of appreciation have been received. We are glad to report that two new branches have been formed during the year, one at Long Eaton, which is an offshoot of the Nottingham Branch, and one at West Derby, fostered by the Childwall Branch.

The Office

The Executive accepted Miss Hayward’s resignation with deep regret and appreciation of her work. Her place was taken by Miss Fairlie McLaren, who was warmly welcomed and has already won a high place in the esteem of those with whom she works. We have to report the resignation of Miss Moriggia after a very happy period of four years in the office. During this time, thanks to the reliability and method she has shown in her work, her position has grown in value and importance, and we part with her with great regret. The best wishes of the Officers and Executive go with her.

Voluntary Workers

Our thanks are due to the voluntary workers who have continued to give their help in the office throughout the year—Miss M. Gill, Miss Ruth Harrison, Miss McAra, Miss Lucilla McLaren, Miss Orr Patterson and Mrs. Spielman.

News Sheet

Miss Amy Haughton has continued as Editor throughout the year, with H. G. Mather, Ltd., as printers. Three issues were bi-monthly, May–June, July–August, and December–January. Full-page supplements have been added to five *News Sheets* during the year. Contributions of interest have been received from many sources, among which we may perhaps mention in particular the article by our World President, Emily Greene Balch: “The United Nations: What it is and what it may be.”

Obituaries

Among the Headquarters members whom we have lost during the year by death there are two who stood to us in a special relationship. They were both members of the Austrian Section exiled to this country during the war years. YELLA HERTZKA was one of the first of that band of “international women” who shaped the W.I.L.P.F. during its initial stage and almost throughout its history she took a significant part in the work at the international level, serving on the International Executive and attending Congresses. Her passing leaves a great blank, but her courage and her gaiety, in face of heavy odds, remain an abiding inspiration. EMMY FREUNDLICH, a member of the Austrian Parliament from 1919

till the coming of the Dolfuss régime, was for many years chairman of the International Women's Co-operative Guild, and through the war years maintained from their office in London, all that was possible of the international co-operative contacts. She was a most helpful colleague in our work and, in spite of the tragic isolations of war, she remained a persistent internationalist, thinking above the warring frontiers.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

The Balance Sheet which we present for the year ending December 31st, 1948, still shows us to be well on the wrong side as far as the year's working is concerned. We have spent £121 6s. 8d. more than we have received. This should depress us all and I hope it does! but only sufficiently to make us determined not to let it happen again, and not so much as to make us despair.

An analysis of the figures reveals that expenditure has been higher this year in several of those things which we cannot control, such as stationery, insurance, railway travel, and somewhat higher also, in a way which we do not want to control more than is absolutely dictated by our means—namely in salaries.

Together, all these small increases make a substantial rise in our expenses, and *even so* we have been a good deal nearer this year in meeting our obligations than we were the previous year.

Of our four steady sources of income, only affiliation fees are slightly lower. Branch Quotas are well up, subscriptions have increased substantially, and donations, including those in response to the special Autumn Appeal, have been higher than in any year since the Thanksgiving Fund.

These are things which justify optimism in spite of a present deficit and give courage to go forward.

What stands out very clearly is that our membership is not large enough to carry the basic expenditure involved in an international organisation like ours.

My fervent hope in rounding off one year and embarking on the next is that every member will take seriously the job of bringing in new supporters.

From the Treasurer's point of view I could not want *better* members, but I do want a lot more of them.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1948

	To EXPENDITURE		£ s. d.		By INCOME		£ s. d.
1947							
130	Rent		130 0 0		218	Subscriptions	263 14 6
14	Lighting and Heating		16 5 3		97	Donations including Autumn Appeal ...	301 10 7
58	Office Expenses		41 6 10		211	Branch Quotas	213 11 1
2	Insurance		5 6		29	Affiliation Fees	27 2 10
451	Salaries and National Insurance		506 17 2		48	Sale of Literature	32 8 1
48	Travelling Expenses		74 18 9		109	Sale of <i>News Sheets</i>	123 7 1
11	Affiliation Fees		6 10 0		19	Meetings	61 3 5
60	Postage less Refunds		63 6 1		91	Proceeds of Christmas Fair	51 13 6
26	Telephone		23 13 6		32	„ Christmas Appeal	—
48	Stationery		72 6 2		29	„ Autumn School	—
99	Literature		58 8 0		12	Sale of Furniture	—
85	News Sheets		105 7 11			Balance being Excess of Expenditure	
16	Meetings and Hire of Rooms		85 1 7		159	over Income	121 6 8
6	Audit and Accountancy		11 11 0				
			£1054				£1195 17 9

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1948

LIABILITIES		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	ASSETS		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
SPECIAL FUNDS:—					Cash at Bank		301 3 9		
Congress		66 5 1			Cash in Hand		14 1		
Czech Refugees		5 5 6						301 17 10	
Ford Memorial		85 8 2			Co-operative Permanent Building Soc.			1019 10 6	
India		2 0 5			Electricity Deposit			3 0 0	
Shrewsbury Branch		7 0 0							
Penny-a-Week		174 8 0			INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:—				
Thanksgiving		40 10 8			Balance, January 1, 1948		244 16 3		
				380 17 10	Transfer from Thanksgiving Fund		244 16 3		
LOANS				90 0 0					
SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ADVANCE				11 1 0	Add Excess of Expenditure over Income				
SUNDRY CREDITORS				52 5 8	for the Year				121 6 8
RESERVE FUND:—									
Balance, January 1, 1948		393 14 6							
Add Legacy		500 0 0							
Building Society Interest		17 16 0							
				911 10 6					
				£1445 15 0					£1445 15 0

I have examined the books and vouchers of the League for the year 1948, 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.
 CLUGSTON, SELBY & ROBINS, 25, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1
 January 20, 1949
 M. E. ROBINS (Certified Accountant),
 Auditor

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