

WILPF 2/5

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
LEAGUE



Yearly Report

1935

PRICE 2D.

Women's International League

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

TWENTIETH YEARLY REPORT

MARCH 1935 — MARCH 1936.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, 55 GOWER STREET,
LONDON, W.C.1.

Telephone: MUSEUM 3179.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM.

Head Office: Maison Internationale, 12 Rue du Vieux Collège, Geneva.

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.

National Sections or Corresponding Groups:—

ARGENTINE	FRANCE	NORWAY
AUSTRALIA :	GERMANY	PALESTINE
VICTORIA	GREAT BRITAIN	PERU
TASMANIA	GREECE	PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
NEW SOUTH WALES	HAITI	POLAND
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	HOLLAND	ROUMANIA
AUSTRIA	HUNGARY	RUSSIA
BELGIUM	INDIA	SOUTH AFRICA
BULGARIA	IRELAND	SPAIN
CANADA	ITALY	SWEDEN
CHINA	JAPAN	SWITZERLAND
CUBA	JUGO-SLAVIA	SYRIA
CZECHO-SLOVAKIA	LATVIA	TUNIS
DENMARK	LITHUANIA	TURKEY
EGYPT	LUXEMBURG	UKRAINE
ESTHONIA	MEXICO	URUGUAY
FINLAND	NEW ZEALAND	U.S.A.

The BRITISH SECTION of the LEAGUE is known as

The Women's International League

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, 55 GOWER STREET, LONDON, W.C.1

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1936.

Chairman: Mrs. Duncan Harris.

Vice Chairmen: Mrs. Vipont Brown, Miss Pye.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. K. E. Innes.

Hon. Treasurer: Lady Unwin.

Hon. Press Secretary: Miss Karleen Baker, B.Sc.Econ.

Miss Mosa Anderson.	Mrs. Greenwood.	Miss Mary Sheepshanks.
Miss B. M. Baker.	Miss Agatha Harrison.	Mrs. Paul Sturge.
Miss Karleen Baker.	Mrs. Hunter.	Mrs. Thoday.
Mrs. Binyon.	Mrs. Lankester.	Mrs. Thornycroft.
Miss Mary Chick.	Miss C. E. Marshall.	Mrs. Philip Unwin.
Dr. Hilda Clark.	Miss W. G. Rinder.	Miss Freda White.
Miss Maud Dickinson.	Mrs. McGregor Ross.	

Vice-Presidents:

Miss Margaret Ashton.	Mrs. Dixon Davies.	Dr. Maude Royden.
Miss Vera Brittain.	The Hon. Mrs. Franklin.	Mrs. Basil Williams.
Mrs. de Bunsen.	Mrs. E. Pethick Lawrence.	Dr. Ethel Williams, J.P.

MEMBERSHIP is open to all women who are BRITISH SUBJECTS, who desire to work for the above two-fold object. Associate membership is open to women and men of any nationality. Minimum Subscription, 2s. 6d. per annum. Monthly News Sheet, 1d.; 1s. 6d. per annum, post free.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT.

March, 1935—March, 1936.

Jane Addams, 1860—1935.

The loss of our International President, Jane Addams, which took place in May of this year, has overshadowed all rejoicings over the twentieth birthday of the W.I.L.P.F. except the first great meetings at which Jane Addams herself was present, well and happy, giving her last peace message personally by radio to the whole world. The depth of the sense of loss universally expressed was astonishing even to those who best knew her worth. To the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom that loss is irreparable.

Ever since her coming over from America in 1915 to attend the Congress of Women at The Hague at which the League came into being, Jane Addams has been its International President. She brought there the genius of her personality which shepherded rather than led the divers hopes and aspirations into unity and firm intention, under circumstances which might well have daunted a less courageous soul.

Throughout the war years and the disastrous peace which followed, women in all countries, victor and vanquished alike, turned to her for courage and inspiration in trying to rebuild a world in ruins. When news of her death reached this country, our Section felt that it would be fitting to arrange for a Memorial Service at which her many friends might gather in remembrance of her and of her work for international understanding and for peace. On June 4th several hundred people, including the American Ambassador, Viscount Cecil, and many other distinguished personalities, came together at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, where the Rt. Rev. the Dean of Canterbury conducted the service and Dr. A. Maude Royden, C.H., gave the address.

The Minute passed by our Executive Committee was printed under her portrait on the front page of the Memorial number of Pax, and best described what all our members think of her:—

"We, who were inspired or strengthened by the great woman whom we knew as Jane Addams, desire that the spirit of her may remain in us to strengthen and inspire. It was a spirit of pure beneficence, which created peace; a spirit of trust, which put courage into weak hearts; a spirit of courtesy, which made beautiful the relations between human beings. Her judgments were far-sighted, because they were founded on this authentic spirit. Those of us who were happy to know her in the body as she lived among us have a priceless possession. We desire, by our own thoughts and deeds, to share this possession with those who come after."

General.

Last year's Report began with the words "1934 was a year of anxiety."

The Report for 1935-1936 might begin with the same words. This year has seen preparations for and actual outbreak of war between two members of the League of Nations, as a result of a definite act of aggression by Italy on Abyssinia. It has seen attempts through the collective system to take such measures as will bring the war to a close, but at the time of writing the war continues and there is little light on the horizon.

The future of peace must, in the long run, depend on the insistence of public opinion that war must be discarded as an outlawed method. With that insistence must go practical measures in many fields for dislodging the war machine. In addition we have come more and more to realise that no such dislodgment can succeed, unless we deliberately plan and sacrifice to build up a world of peace.

It is encouraging that one of the striking demonstrations of the past year has been the triumph of democracy over the methods of secret diplomacy, first in the evident influence on our foreign policy of the enormous vote in favour of a League of Nations policy in the Peace Ballot, in which almost all Peace Societies, as well as many other groups, co-operated, and later, in the abandonment of the proposed peace terms put forward as a solution in the Italo-Abyssinian dispute, and condemned by the public outcry as unjust to Abyssinia (see page 11). In the evidence we have received of the importance of pressure from public opinion lies, we believe, the justification and the need for the continued work of the W.I.L. The record of last year's work and the beginning of schemes for the future contained in the following pages will, we hope, confirm this conviction.

The Executive Committee.

The meetings of the *Executive Committee* have maintained a high standard of attendance throughout the year. We were sorry to lose the co-operation of Mrs. Corbett Fisher early in the year and later of Mrs. Grindley. The vacant places were filled by Mrs. Hawkin and Mrs. Ormerod.

The members of the following sub-Committees have been concentrating on their special subjects:—Publicity, India, Friends of Peace and Disarmament, and the Native Races Sub-Committee.

The Annual Council in 1935 was held in February, and so is outside the sphere of this report and its resolutions were printed in last year's report.

We may place on record the holding at the time of the Council Meetings of a Conference on "The Democratic Principle in Government," at which interesting studies of the democratic and authoritarian States were made by prominent authorities and proposals for development of democracy in various spheres were discussed. The Conference was well attended. The resolution arrived at was printed among the Council resolutions last year.

The Council left it to the Executive to consult with other Sections as to the future Constitution of the W.I.L.P.F., but as the Constitution could not be changed until 1937 it was decided to defer this consultation until a suitable moment nearer the time of the next Congress.

Matters with which the Executive has been deeply concerned during the year, have been the question of air raid drill and of the total abolition of military and naval air forces, on both of which resolutions and statements will be reported elsewhere; the problem of Sanctions (see page 12) and of support by non-violent measures for the collective system. Actions taken include: a letter to Earl Cromer suggesting that in the plans for the celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty's Accession there should be included some entirely civilian demonstration illustrating peaceful developments during the twenty-five years of the reign of George V; a letter to the Chairman of the L.C.C. Education Committee expressing appreciation of the action taken by the L.C.C. in ending grants to and official recognition of the Cadet Corps in Schools; a resolution to the British Government, the League of Nations, Mr. Arthur Henderson, &c., deploring the development of private conversations between statesmen of different countries and the reversion to secret diplomacy in connection with the Italo-Abyssinian crisis; a letter of appreciation to Mr. George Lansbury when he made his stand against military sanctions.

The Executive has had the pleasure of visits from the following

members of Sections abroad : (Australia) Miss Lambrick and Miss Helen Baillie; (Canada) Mrs. Osborne; (France) Madame Drevet; (U.S.A.) Mrs. Biddle Lewis, Mrs. Sturgeon, Miss Vernon and Miss Wellborn, while many visitors from abroad visited the Office during the summer months.

General Election.

As soon as it was known that a General Election would be held in November, a special meeting of the Executive was called to draw up questions for Parliamentary Candidates. These, with one on Colonial Territories proposed by the National Peace Council, were issued jointly by the W.I.L. and the N.P.C. Seven thousand copies were distributed as well as two thousand with notes. In addition the questions were embodied in the tenth leaflet of the Friends of Peace and Disarmament Movement of which nearly six thousand were used.

Notes on the questions issued by the National Peace Council were distributed to Executive members, with a Memorandum giving very useful facts on "Great Britain and the Reduction of Armaments."

The questions were as follows :—

- (1) Will you oppose all increase of armaments and of armed forces?
- (2) Will you, at the earliest possible moment, urge the re-summoning of the Disarmament Conference to achieve real measures of disarmament?
- (3) Will you stand for the complete abolition, by international agreement, of military and naval aircraft, and the internationalisation or international control of civil aviation?
- (4) Are you in favour of the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of armaments for private profit?
- (5) Will you urge the Government to work for the completion of the International Convention for the control of all manufacture and sale of armaments which has been under discussion this year in Geneva, and to support the inclusion in it of measures giving complete international supervision with inspection on the spot?
- (6) Are you prepared through our Government to urge the League of Nations to call a World Conference to consider the control of raw materials and undeveloped lands, and the problems associated with the exchange of goods and services between nations, with a view to a reasonable satisfaction of the needs of all men?

(7) As a first step towards the general withdrawal of exclusive controls over colonial territories and key positions, will you urge the Government to announce its readiness (a) to submit all the non-self-governing colonial territories of the British Empire to the supervision of the Mandates Commission, and (b) to join in placing all the strategic points, waterways, &c., on the trade routes of the world under international control by the League of Nations?

Armament Questions.

A Royal Commission on the Private Manufacture of and Trading in Arms has been sitting throughout the year. It was agreed to by the Government under popular pressure, due to interest aroused by reports of the revelations made in the Commission of Inquiry which took place in the U.S.A. It is interesting to note that the American Commission owed its origin largely to the energetic action of Miss Dorothy Detzer, the Secretary of our American Section.

The W.I.L. sent a detailed memorandum to the Royal Commission, designed to give evidence as to the desirability of the adoption by the United Kingdom of the prohibition of private manufacture of and trade in arms, on the grounds that in a democratic country, that which is wished for by a large proportion of the people should be carried out. The evidence collected was based on the findings of the National Peace Ballot and on resolutions from Peace Societies, a large number of Societies not specifically working for peace, and the Churches. The whole made a very impressive piece of evidence. London members of the Executive attended some of the public sessions of the Commission.

The estimate for the Budget at the beginning of the year showed increased amounts for all divisions of the Fighting Services. The W.I.L. made a pronouncement on the subject, drawn up by the Executive and signed by prominent leaders in different fields, which gained publicity in the press. It took its share in making vocal public disappointment at this surrender to the armaments race. A large number of our members and Branches sent letters and resolutions to the Prime Minister and to local Members of Parliament.

The Disarmament Movement suffered a heavy loss in the death of the Chairman of the Disarmament Conference, Mr. Arthur Henderson. Tribute has been paid to his work for peace in general and disarmament in particular in many quarters, but we must include an expression of our debt to him in this section of our Report.

The Home Office Air Raid Precautionary Measures.

A further development in the Government's progress towards rearmament was the announcement of air raid precautionary measures to be taken by Local Authorities. The Executive felt that these precautions were futile and deliberately connected with the propaganda for increased air forces. They immediately issued a Statement (May 14th) on the situation which received considerable press publicity, both approval and denunciation. The Statement was as follows :—

The Executive Committee of the Women's International League has read, with deepest regret, the proposals now being put forward for drilling the public in preparation for some future air attack.

They deplore these mainly on the following grounds :—

(1) Such preparation is bound to contribute to the creation of a war mentality, which in itself is a contributory factor in causing war.

(2) Where children are obliged to share in such preparations it is highly probable that such an experience will have a harmful effect on them. Their minds are likely to be dominated by fear of an experience which our present Government is striving to avoid, so that we hope it may never be the lot of these children to have to put such training into practice.

(3) The suggestion that there is any real defence against air attack is, as has been stated repeatedly by those with expert knowledge, entirely illusory. There is no defence except the total abolition of military and naval air forces of every country—it not being possible for us as women to contemplate the infamous suggestion, increasingly commonly accepted, that since there is no actual defence we must undertake immediate retaliation in case of attack, and that our airmen—while the home population is admittedly not protected—shall go out and slaughter men, women, and children in other countries. Those who trust in the fear of reprisals as a deterrent to attack are gambling with a terrible weapon. We repeat: there is no defence except the abolition of the fighting planes of every country.

(4) Preparation of the people for gas attack is further to be deplored, because it is based on the assumption that the obligations not to resort to war by which all the Governments concerned are bound, are not going to be kept. We believe this to be bad psychologically and we hope that on this as well as on the other ground indicated, the proposals will be withdrawn.

When the Government circular was sent out some weeks later a further pronouncement was made, analysing some points in the circular and appealing to the Governments to realise that the only defence against air attack is the total abolition of military and naval air forces. We co-operated also on this point with the National Peace Council, and a very effective evening of lobbying at the House of Commons was attended by many London members. Correspondence on the subject appeared in about twenty papers.

Italo-Abyssinian Dispute.

This dispute has, of course, been the major concern of all Peace Societies, both during the preparation for aggression and since its outbreak in October last. The W.I.L. has endeavoured throughout to be constructive in its comments and suggestions. Before hostilities broke out it urged upon the Italian Embassy a peaceful solution of the difficulties, but no reply was received. The following resolution was sent at the same time to the Government, the League of Nations Secretariat, Peace Organisations, and to the Press :—

“The Women's International League considers that the situation between Italy and Abyssinia constitutes a threat of war and urges H.M. Government to exercise its friendly right to summon a special meeting of the League Council under Article XI with a view to the solution of this problem by arbitration on those incidents which were the occasion of the dispute, and a settlement of the frontier of Italian Somaliland under League supervision.”

In July a resolution was passed on similar lines and the conclusion added “if the dispute is peacefully settled, the Women's International League suggests that the whole question of colonial markets should be examined by the League of Nations, with a view to facilitating an equitable distribution of goods and raw materials in the interests of both producers and consumers.” The resolution was sent to the Governments, and copies to the League of Nations Secretariat, Signor Grandi, the Abyssinian Embassy, and Peace Organisations.

The same month, in response to the appeal from the Empress of Abyssinia to women, published by the *Daily Mirror*, the following cable was sent :—

“British Section of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom responds to appeal of Empress Menen with

warm sympathy. It supports all efforts for peaceful settlement of present dispute and earnestly hopes war may be averted by measures consistent with peace and freedom in Abyssinia."

We also gave publicity to an appeal for funds for an ambulance for Abyssinia initiated by Lord Lugard, and passed on to Lady Gladstone an appeal which we received from Lady Barton of the Ethiopian Women's Work Association. A letter of thanks for our help was received from Lady Barton. It is interesting to record that Lady Gladstone took up the matter, and that an aeroplane was sent for Red Cross work to Abyssinia.

In September a small deputation from the Executive waited upon the Abyssinian Minister in London, Dr. Martin, with the following resolution:—

"The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, British Section, welcomes and supports the Government in their statement that Great Britain wants no economic advantage arising out of the Italo-Abyssinian dispute, and is glad to note that the Government will not protect British enterprise in connection with the Oil Concessions in Abyssinia.

"Without suggesting handing over the control of territory, we ask the Government to propose to the League an immediate examination of the whole question of the distribution of and access to the world's natural resources, and to ask that the International Labour Office be represented on any body making the examination.

"We urge our Government to express its willingness to participate in any such examination with a view to securing satisfaction for the legitimate economic needs of all countries.

"The Women's International League believes that the Government would have very considerable support in this policy."

This Statement was sent also to the Trade Union Congress, to the Leader of the Labour Party, Mr. Attlee; to the International Federation of Trade Unions; to M. Unden of Sweden; to an interested Oxford Group Leader, Mrs. Alexander Whyte; to the Minister for League Affairs, Mr. Eden; to the Foreign Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare; to the Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin; for the Council of Action to Mr. Lloyd George; to the Women's Co-operative Guild asking them if they would send it to any international Conference they were holding in the near future; and to the W.I.L.P.F., asking Miss Balch if she would consider sending it to the French Section with the suggestion that they should take steps on similar lines.

When war actually began, the W.I.L. supported the efforts of the

British Government to shorten it by the imposition of certain economic sanctions. The following telegram was sent to Mr. Anthony Eden, followed by a personal letter:—

"British Section of Women's International League appreciates your efforts to shorten delay and save life. Urges denial to Italy of credits, finance, arms, and materials of war."

The famous, but fortunately abortive, Peace terms put forward after the Paris interview of Sir Samuel Hoare with M. Laval caused the greatest indignation among those who had been supporting League action as a means to justice. The Executive, meeting on December 10th, the day after they were announced, passed the following resolution:—

"The Women's International League believes that not only the fate of Ethiopia but the future of the League of Nations depends upon the settlement of the conflict in Africa. It is therefore with grave apprehension that it regards the peace terms as reported in the press.

"If terms are imposed upon Ethiopia which destroy her territorial integrity and political independence it will have three results. Public opinion, which looks to the League for justice, would be disillusioned, and public support for the League would be damaged. British opinion which supported the strong line taken by the British Government in September would be outraged. In this present case, any settlement giving large gains to Italy would be placing a premium on aggression. In the future no State under threat of spoliation would look to the League for an equitable solution, and the whole machinery for peaceful settlement, which is under guarantee of the collective system, would be discredited.

"For these reasons, the Women's International League urges His Majesty's Government to stand fast for a settlement such as the League would have proposed had Italy, by legal methods and without threat of war, raised her grievances against Ethiopia, and had Ethiopia accepted impartial and disinterested assistance from the League.

"Meantime the oil embargo should be imposed immediately, and continued until Italy consents to the evacuation of Ethiopian territory."

The general public demonstration led to the withdrawal of the terms and to the resignation of Sir Samuel Hoare and to the appointment as Foreign Secretary in his place of Mr. Anthony Eden.

The resolution again gained wide publicity in the press and good support from our Branches over approaching Members of Parliament locally.

Sanctions.

The Italo-Abyssinian crisis has brought the question of Sanctions as a means of stopping aggression prominently to the front. The W.I.L. has consistently supported certain economic measures which would deprive the aggressor of the means of making war, and the following Statement was issued:—

“As a solution in the present conflict, the minds of many are turning once again to the employment of war as a means of ending war. We feel it incumbent upon us to reaffirm our belief in the wrongfulness of the war method and in the futility of thinking that force can drive out force. We believe that the only hope of a real solution lies in refraining from the use of the very method we are condemning and that the hope of helping Abyssinia can only be fulfilled by the exercise of moral pressure and such economic measures as will deprive Italy of the means to make war, and the making clear from the beginning the lines on which an ultimate solution must be sought.

We believe that the difficulties of the moment are largely due to the fact that Article 8 of the Covenant of the League (which deals with disarmament) has not been implemented. Disarmament must be turned to again as the first concern of the League of Nations. Armaments lead to war, and when war comes their retention in national hands makes it impossible to implement the peaceful machinery of the League without grave danger.

It is deplorable that in the name of collective security our Government should be taking part in a fresh armaments race. If, in the view of those who trust to arms for collective security, we have not sufficient to-day to fulfil our International obligations it is obvious that a great deal of our expenditure on army, navy, and air forces has been misdirected.

The argument that we need to be as heavily armed for the collective system as if we stood in isolation is, we believe, untenable.

As regards the terms which should be secured at the conclusion of the present crisis, next to a Treaty of general disarmament, we would place a conference to review the economic resources of the world with a view to satisfying the needs of all men. As regards the claims of Abyssinia, her independence and integrity must be safeguarded as the basis of a just Peace, and the principle should be securely established that the Governments of the world, having abandoned war, cannot at any stage give recognition to that which has been achieved by war in defiance of the pledges of the Covenant and the Kellogg Pact.”

It has recommended study of the Sanctions problem to Branches as a matter of urgency and several Branches have responded. One is holding a series of study circles and others have had meetings on

the subject. An article by Dr. Hilda Clark in the News Sheet formed a good basis for study as well as Notes she specially prepared for the use of Branches.

International Headquarters.

The Spring meeting of the International Executive was held in London in March, when the British Section gave a warm welcome to members from overseas, and arranged a much enjoyed reception for them. A cable was received from the United States Section proposing that the W.I.L.P.F. undertake united work on a People's Mandate to Governments. This suggestion was welcomed in principle, and after much consultation a form of words was later decided on that could be accepted by all.

The meetings of the Executive were attended by several members of the British Section as visitors, and with greater knowledge of the problems facing an International Committee came better understanding and a greater sense of fellowship. The September Executive held at Geneva was the first official gathering since the death of our International President, and moving testimony was given of the place that Jane Addams holds in all our hearts. A friendly gathering in remembrance of her, at International House, gave opportunity in a less formal atmosphere than that of a Committee Meeting for the personal expression of what she had been to our League.

At this meeting of the Executive, Miss Emily Balch was appointed World Chairman of the People's Mandate, two Committees were decided on, one to sit in America, the other in Europe, and Madame Camille Drevet was appointed Organising Secretary for the European work which is going forward energetically in the Sections, in spite of, or perhaps because of, the discouragement in the general situation of work for peace.

The question of Jewish persecution in Germany was the subject of a strong letter of protest sent from Geneva which appeared in the press of many countries; action has been taken in the same sense by several Sections including our own.

The situation of the refugees has also been taken up energetically, the Swiss, Swedish, Norwegian, Dutch, and Czecho-Slovak Sections as well as the British Section, all urging their Governments to take united action at the Assembly of the League, and assume responsibility for the problem.

A deputation of representatives of women's organisations to the President of the Council of the League of Nations on the Ethiopian

situation was organised by W.I.L.P.F. Headquarters, and had a cordial reception. Co-operation with the Peace and Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations continues.

Miss Emily Balch was obliged to leave Geneva for the States in October, and her devoted work as Hon. Secretary is greatly missed. The two Chairmen, Frau Ragaz and Frau Gertrud Baer, are shouldering the burden of the work in the meantime.

People's Mandate.

We turn now to the record of the piece of work which is this winter engaging the attention of all Sections of the W.I.L.P.F. At the Executive meeting of the W.I.L.P.F. in London in March it was agreed, in principle, to accept proposals which came from America for the carrying out of a People's Mandate to Governments, insisting once again that the war method must be abandoned. The text finally adopted embodied four points on which all are working, with different preambles. The text of the Mandate being used by the British Section is as follows :—

We are determined to end war. War settles no problems. War brings economic misery, needless suffering and death to us and to our children.

All attention is turned to-day on the war that is in being.

We must prepare for the day when peace will be restored. We must, in preparation, make effective the opinion of those who would plan a world without war.

We demand that our Governments in common action to fulfil their international pledges :

Stop immediately all increase of armaments and armed forces;

Use existing machinery for peaceful settlement of present conflicts;

and, at the first opportunity,

Secure a world treaty for immediate reduction of arms as a step towards complete world disarmament;

Secure international agreements founded on recognition of world interdependence to end the economic anarchy which breeds war.

As we sign this Mandate, people in countries throughout the world are signing it with us, united in the determination to secure world peace.

Meeting held at.....

on

Signature of Chairman.....

Name of Organisation.....

Address

Signature of Officer..... Date

It will be seen that the preamble indicates the need of being absolutely ready for any opportunity peace may again present. The Governments will have another chance presented to them of achieving disarmament and for resolving to appeal to reason instead of to force in future quarrels, and to build up a world in which the causes of war shall be, as far as possible, removed. In this country we are not seeking individual signatures, as that method has been so recently used in the Peace Ballot, but we are seeking endorsements of the Mandate from Societies, Groups, and Meetings. The following have consented to give their names to serve as an Honorary Council for carrying out the Mandate :—

Miss Margaret Ashton
Mr. Philip Noel Baker
Mrs. Eleanor Barton
The Rt. Hon. Margaret G.
Bondfield
Miss Vera Brittain
Mr. A. Barratt Brown
Dr. C. Delisle Burns
Rev. Henry Carter
Lady Clywd
Prof. H. J. Fleure
Dr. G. P. Gooch
Rev. A. Herbert Gray
Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P.
Mr. Laurence Housman

Mrs. Hughes-Griffiths
Prof. C. E. M. Joad
The Rt. Rev. Marshall B. Lang
The Moderator of the Church of
Miss Doris Lester [Scotland]
Mr. Wilfred E. Littleboy
Sir George Paish
Mrs. C. D. Rackham
Rev. Leyton Richards
Dr. A. Maude Royden
Mr. Siegfried Sassoon
Miss Agnes E. Slack
Rev. Sidney Spencer
Mr. J. Howard Whitehouse
Mr. E. Harcourt Williams

An Office has been set up in Paris with Madame Drevet as Secretary for the organisation of the work through Europe, Africa, and Australia. At the September W.I.L.P.F. Executive, Mrs. Innes and Mrs. Duncan Harris were elected joint Chairmen. Plans for dramatic presentation of the Mandate to Governments are now being considered.

The necessary funds are being raised by the ear-marking (where the donors indicate this) of part of the subscriptions to a Memorial Fund for Jane Addams. The Memorial Fund Appeal has been signed by—

CLARA RAGAZ and GERTRUD BAER, W.I.L.P.F. Chairmen.

B. DUNCAN HARRIS and K. E. INNES, Joint Chairmen, People's Mandate.

MARGARET BONDFIELD.

HENRY W. NEVINSON.

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

GEORGE PAISH, Hon. Treasurer.

India.

The year 1935 was a memorable one in the history of India. After years of commissions, Round Table Conferences, and Parliamentary Committees the Bill for the new Constitution for India was finally drafted and became law after passing both Houses of Parliament in July. The W.I.L., realising that the proposals as a whole were unacceptable to the Indian people, and that those concerning the franchise and status of women were not in accordance with the wishes of the organised women of that country, made efforts to get support for amendments to the Bill. No change of any great significance was made, however, in its passage through Parliament, and it is feared that the new constitution will not secure the goodwill of the people, although co-operation will probably not be withheld.

The W.I.L. is one of five societies that work in liaison with the All-India Women's Conference and a member of our Executive Committee, Mrs. Lankester, acts as the Liaison Officer in this country, while Miss Agatha Harrison is our representative on the Committee of the group. In this way W.I.L. has been very closely connected with the largest women's organisation in India and much

of W.I.L. work for India has been done through the activities of the Liaison Group.

Miss Harrison and Mrs. Lankester had the honour of being invited to attend as guests the annual session of the All-India Women's Conference at Travancore, but were unfortunately unable to accept the invitation.

Two of the foremost leaders in the Indian women's movement visited England during the summer and did a great deal of useful work. Begum Hamid Ali, leader of the Indian delegation to the International Suffrage Alliance Congress at Istanbul, was invited by the Liaison Group to come on to England in June and she spoke at meetings arranged by W.I.L. branches in London, Cambridge, Manchester, and Birmingham, besides attending many receptions and interviewing political leaders. Mrs. Ray, Hon. Secretary of the Social Section of the All-India Women's Conference, spent a few weeks in England in August while she was on a tour round the world, and she also spoke at several meetings and ably put forward the Indian women's point of view.

The Executive Committee and the India Committee have been much concerned about the military activities, including bombing, on the Indian Frontier. They have not only made protests with regard to bombing to the Secretary of State for India, but they are studying the question of alternative methods of pacifying that area. They are convinced that the subject is one of general concern to the Peace Movement from many angles, and especially that of Air Disarmament, and they realise that the causes of unrest on the Indian Frontier are the same as those in other disturbed parts of the world, *i.e.*, economic shortage, undefined boundaries, lack of education and health services, for all of which military expeditions are no remedy. The committees have been endeavouring to get other peace societies interested in the subject.

Mrs. Polak has acted as Chairman of the India Committee throughout the year, and we are indebted to her for her help.

W.I.L. and other Societies.

We are affiliated to the National Peace Council, the Women's Peace Crusade, the Women's Advisory Council on Indian Questions, and the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations.

We are represented on the Women's Advisory Council of the

League of Nations Union by Dr. Hilda Clark, and the Moral Welfare Committee of the National Council of Women by Miss E. Houghton.

We have sent representatives to the Annual Congress of the National Peace Council and to their Peace and Colonial Problems Conference; to the Conference of the British National Committee for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children; the British Commonwealth League; the British Movement against War and Fascism, &c. We also organised a contingent in the N.P.C. Procession and Demonstration in Trafalgar Square at the time of their Congress. We have continued to co-operate as opportunity and need has arisen with the National Council for Civil Liberties.

We have sent the National Peace Council's Notes on the International Situation to those who have expressed a wish for them.

Friends of Peace and Disarmament, 1935.

This has been a somewhat inactive year for the movement, largely because of the great difficulty in keeping contact with the Branch Secretaries of so loose an organisation, and of discovering what progress they are really making. There have been many resignations owing to overwork and illness, and it has not always been possible to fill these vacancies. Frequently requests for reports remain unanswered, but as far as can be ascertained the membership stands at something under 4,000.

Very simple leaflets have been issued quarterly on the following subjects:—Air Disarmament, Unemployment and Disarmament (illustrated), Peace and the General Election, the Abolition of Air Warfare. Care has been taken to keep these leaflets elementary, and they do perhaps deserve a wider circulation.

It is not surprising that a movement of this type should suffer some reverse during difficult months, but it has yet to be determined whether the lethargy of the past year indicates more than a temporary set-back.

Branches.

With more Branch representatives on the Executive, Headquarters has, we feel, been kept in closer touch with the Branches than ever before. Reports and letters from Secretaries, and press cuttings, show continued activity and enthusiasm, and reveal much

hard work of Committees and members. Meetings have been held dealing with many subjects, including an International Police Force, Indian Women and their attitude to the New Constitution, the Air Menace, the proposed Air Raid Precautionary Measures, the Government's proposed increase of expenditure on armaments, the situation in the countries of Central Europe, Penal Reform, Causes of War and Foundations of Peace, and the Traffic in Arms. Conferences, house-to-house distribution of literature, the collection of signatures of Organisations to a Statement protesting against the increased "defence" estimates, Garden Parties and Summer Sales have all been arranged. Edinburgh had its own Memorial Service for Jane Addams. And with it all, or perhaps because of it all, the Branches have been mindful of Headquarters and have sent generously to augment the subscriptions and donations of individual members, while letters of appreciation and encouragement have often put new heart into Officers and Staff alike.

Unfortunately we have to report the dissolution of Newcastle, St. Helens, and Godalming Branches. Of the Newcastle Branch, Dr. Ethel Williams wrote: "The work is being done by a very active International Club and the L.N.U. Branches which are active and progressive." Dr. Williams immediately joined Headquarters and the other members of the three Branches were also invited to do so. We are glad to report the formation of a new Branch at Worthing, which we welcome into our League with all good wishes for its future.

An effort was made to form a Branch of London members who are not attached to our two London Branches. Two meetings were held to consider the matter, but at the second it was agreed that the formation of a Branch was not desirable. The Executive Committee will therefore continue to organise meetings from time to time to which London members will be invited; it will ask them to approach their Members of Parliament on urgent matters either by letter or by lobbying in the House of Commons, and will invite their active co-operation in numerous ways.

Meetings in London were addressed by the following members, and others from abroad:—

Miss Helen Baillie (Australia) on the Australian Aborigines. To this meeting Miss Lambrick (Australia) sent a written address on the work of the W.I.L. in Australia, as owing to an accident she was unable to be present at the meeting with Miss Baillie.

Mrs. Osborne (Canada) on the work of the W.I.L. in Canada.

Mrs. Sturgeon (U.S.A.) on the Student Movement for Peace in the U.S.A.

Mrs. Biddle Lewis, a very moving talk on her long and intimate friendship and work with Miss Jane Addams.

Miss Dorothy Detzer on the Traffic in Arms and the World Situation at a public meeting in the Conway Hall, London, a subject on which she spoke at W.I.L. meetings in Brighton, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, and North Wales.

Mrs. Ray, Hon. Social Secretary of the All-India Women's Conference, on her impression of her World Tour through Japan, China, and America at an At Home at 44 Upper Park Road, Hampstead.

Financial Report.

Again this year the Executive Committee is able to present a satisfactory statement of accounts. Though the total of subscriptions and donations is considerably lower than that of last year, we carry forward a balance of £143. 19s. 6d. As subscriptions become due on January 1st, we should have money to meet our needs for the early months of 1936.

A special appeal for W.I.L. Funds was made in the early autumn, and our members and friends responded generously, sending donations large and small. The unusually large number of donations was specially encouraging, showing that most of our members were ready to help to the best of their ability.

Another appeal was made at the end of the year for the Jane Addams Memorial Fund. This fund has a separate account with Sir George Paish as Treasurer. Our supporters sent generous contributions, and many asked that part of their gift should be earmarked for the People's Mandate Campaign described elsewhere in this Report.

Our expenditure has been less this year, though the work has not lessened. We save £50 a year on our office rent and little has been spent on office equipment. The printing and literature bill is less by £83, as we have not published any booklets. Last year, it will be remembered, we published Mrs. Swanwick's three brochures, "Pooled Security. What does it Mean?", "New Wars for Old," and "Frankenstein and his Monster."

The fall in the amount of our subscriptions is serious. Both W.I.L. work and finances need the added strength of a larger membership. Will each member try to secure at least one new member during 1936?

International House.

The 1935 accounts for International House are satisfactory, and there is little variation in the current accounts from year to year. Last year was exceptional, as large sums were spent on repairs, &c., to secure the renewal of the lease of 55 Gower Street. This year there has been no grant to the W.I.L. Funds.

The tenants of the ground floor left in September, and the W.I.L. office has moved to their premises. After considerable difficulty and delay we have succeeded in letting the two upper floors to suitable tenants. The Japan Evangelistic Band, who have occupied the first floor since 1924, are still with us.

Mrs. Laurence Binyon, Dr. Hilda Clark, and Miss Mary Chick continue as trustees on behalf of the Women's International League.

The Office.

Our workers deprecate thanks, but the Executive wishes to place on record its deep appreciation of the continued loyal co-operation of the staff and of the devotion of our voluntary helpers, without whose efficient aid much of the work of the W.I.L. could hardly be carried on.

The staff throughout the year has consisted of three workers, Miss Horscroft, Miss Stroud, and Miss Florrie Chapman.

Among the voluntary workers we must mention that Miss Gill is constantly in the Office, and that the Press and publicity work and the "News Sheet" are entirely in the hands of Miss Karleen Baker, whose regular assistance is invaluable.

In Memoriam.

We have to record, with sorrow, the death of a number of our Headquarter members during the year:—

Miss Winifred Holtby, one of our Vice-Presidents, whose early death was a great loss both to the peace and women's movements, and to literature.

Miss Lettice Floyd, Mrs. A. E. Fox, Mrs. Harvey (Leeds), Miss B. L. Hutchins, Mrs. Littleboy, Miss M. C. Lock, Miss Moscrip, Mrs. Hully Rawlins, Mrs. C. E. Rutter, Miss E. K. Sinclair.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS.

March 10th, 11th, and 12th, 1936.

AT THE CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1.

The following resolutions were passed:—

European Situation (1).

“ This Annual Council of the Women’s International League now in session, whilst condemning the repudiation of any treaty voluntarily accepted, an act which must cause a set-back to international confidence and to the development of the Collective Peace System,

welcomes the statement by the Foreign Secretary in the House of Commons that the proposals made by Herr Hitler should be examined ‘ with a view to finding out to what extent they represent a means by which the structure of peace can again be strengthened,’ and

begs H.M. Government to use its utmost influence to secure an immediate discussion of these proposals and to use the situation as an opportunity for a new approach to the related problems of security, equality, and disarmament.”

European Situation (2).

“ This Council of the Women’s International League *believes* that the present political crisis calls for bold and constructive action.

It urges His Majesty’s Government to propose that the League Council should summon a Conference of all the European States, including the U.S.S.R., to consider comprehensive plans for the reconstruction and stabilisation of European relations on a basis that shall make possible a just and lasting peace.

The Conference, which should sit in public, should

- (a) inquire into grievances that hinder the establishment of international peace and the good understanding between peoples upon which peace depends;
- (b) deal with the general question of such economic readjustments as may be necessary to satisfy the needs of all countries and the demands of justice; and

- (c) endeavour to secure the extension, to cover every European frontier, of a 25-year Pact of Non-Aggression as proposed by Herr Hitler in respect of Germany’s western frontier only.

This Council urges His Majesty’s Government at the same time to press resolutely for the conclusion of a Treaty for the reduction and limitation of armaments on a basis of equality, and providing for the extension of mutual demilitarised frontier zones, as suggested by Herr Hitler, where these are considered by the Governments of the adjacent countries to be an added security.”

Italo-Abyssinian Situation.

“ This Council of the Women’s International League, *urges* His Majesty’s Government to propose to the League Council that Italy and Ethiopia should be requested to observe an armistice during the discussion of peace terms and that if Italy should refuse this, the embargo on oil should be adopted without further delay.

This Council further suggests that it should be the business of the League Council to propose the principles of settlement and that they should be in accordance with the Covenant, and should secure the real independence of Abyssinia. It urges that a scheme of assistance by League Advisors from disinterested States should be framed in consultation with experts in African administration. This should be designed to develop the security, health and prosperity of the native peoples of Abyssinia and should safeguard them from political domination and economic penetration by foreigners.”

The Proposals for Armaments Increase.

“ This Council of the Women’s International League deeply deplores the large scale armament proposals put forward by the Government. It believes they can only lead to a disastrous race in armaments, and the more firm entrenchment of vested interests in armaments manufacture.

It considers that the declaration by the Prime Minister, that in order to stop an aggressor by united action the countries in Europe ‘ will have to be much more ready for war than they are to-day,’ is a counsel of despair which contradicts the statement in the White Paper that disarmament is to be sought.

It urges the Government to seek at once to implement this statement and meanwhile to suspend the execution of its plans for vast increases in armaments."

Armaments and Unemployment.

" This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League,
deplores the fact that armament construction should be used as a means of reducing unemployment.

It urges the Government to use its utmost endeavours to find socially useful means of reabsorbing the unemployed."

Peace and the Colonial Problem (1).

" This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League
believes that the next step towards eliminating the causes of war is to urge :—

- (1) that the British Government should declare its readiness to apply the principle of the Open Door in trade and commerce which has to be observed in the Mandated Territories;
- (2) that the British Government, without waiting for the conclusion of the Italo-Abyssinian War, should invite the League of Nations to call a World Conference to deal with the whole subject of the redistribution of raw materials and the opening of markets."

Peace and the Colonial Problem (2).

" This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League,
believing that it would be a definite contribution to the Peace of the World for this nation to offer to hold her Colonial Possessions under the Mandatory System,

urges His Majesty's Government to make this offer before the next meeting of the League Assembly, and to propose at the same time the following changes in the machinery of the Mandate Commission :

- (1) to give Members of the Commission the right of visiting the territories under Mandate;
- (2) to give the Commission the right to invite petitioners to appear in person and state their case;
- (3) to make provision for the appointment of officials of foreign

nationality in British mandated territories and to extend this principle with the consent of the other mandatory Powers;

- (4) to fly a League of Nations flag by the side of the national flag in mandated territories.

Furthermore, it urges our Government to endeavour to hasten the development of self-government within all territories it holds, or may hold, under a Mandate,

- (a) through the territories themselves, by means of the reasonable extension of all Civil Rights increasingly, and the development of local governing bodies :
- (b) through the Mandatory Commission, by working for the extension of the powers of the Commission in this direction, and for this purpose."

Western Air Pact.

" This Council of the Women's International League holding that a Western Air Pact, involving mutual threats of retaliation, will neither promote the abolition of National Air Forces nor add to the security of Europe,

believes that no Air Force agreement should be entered into unless the abolition of bombing planes is included."

Private Manufacture of and Trading in Arms (1).

" This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League

considers that the evidence given by the representatives of armament firms to the Royal Commission on the Private Manufacture of Arms and Munitions supports some of the most important aspects of the case for the abolition of the system in which armaments are supplied by private enterprise, and presents no objections to such abolition that should be allowed to override the importance of eliminating the influence of private profits from the forces that are stimulating an armaments competition between nations.

It calls upon the Branches and the whole membership of the W.I.L. to study and make known the evidence and proceedings of the Royal Commission in order that, as soon as the latter publishes its report, the W.I.L. may take a leading part in a campaign to secure to the furthest extent possible the elimination of private enterprise from the manufacture and sale of armaments."

Private Manufacture of and Trading in Arms (2).

" This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League,

believing that the extreme importance of the evils arising from the system of the manufacture and sale of arms for private profit, acknowledged in the Covenant of the League, justifies the anxiety of the public to know the facts concerning the working of this system, even if these facts may be prejudicial to the financial or other interests of private trade,

expresses its appreciation of the statement made on February 5th by the Chairman of the Commission as regards publicity and of the fact that the evidence given by Sir Eric Geddes and Colonel Mayo in private has now been published,

and respectfully *begs* the Chairman to obtain and publish further evidence as to the methods of selling armaments in other countries and as to the profits which British armament firms derive from armament firms in other countries, either as dividends or as payments for patents or in other ways.

This Council further urges the speeding up of the work of the Royal Commission in order that the Report and recommendations may be known to the public before the country is committed to the vast increase in private vested interests in armament manufacture envisaged by the White Paper on National Defence."

Private Manufacture of and Trading in Arms (3).

" This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League

urges the Government to press the League of Nations at Geneva for the elimination of profit in arms, as it is an outrage to the moral sense that profit should be made on instruments of death."

Anti-Air Raid Precautions.

" Convinced that the only reliable precaution against air raids is the abolition of military and naval air-craft in all countries and that all such 'safeguards' as gas-masks, gas suits, bomb-proof shelters, &c., merely provide an illusion of security,

This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League

urges that the Government should once more be pressed to support

International Disarmament of the Air, and to that end should work out and table proposals for the control of civil aviation to prevent its misuse for military purposes which the Government has declared to be a condition of the abolition of military and naval aircraft."

Persecution of Jews (1).

" This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League

calls the attention of the Branches to the fact of the continued and increased ruthless persecution of the Jews in Germany, and to the danger that the calculated propaganda against the Jewish race may arouse anti-Semitism in this as well as in other countries,

it *welcomes* with thankfulness Sir John Simon's defence in Parliament of the principles of freedom of speech within the limits of the law, and his determination to put down firmly any form of persecution or intimidation of Jewish people in this country,

it *urges* the Branches to lose no opportunity of protesting against anti-Semitism as also against all persecution of political opponents and religious opinion in this or any other country, and to take every opportunity of helping those suffering under it."

Persecution of Jews (2).

" While remembering the sufferings of the Jews in Germany this Council of the Women's International League cannot ignore the persecution of those Christians and of all who voice opinions that run counter to their Government's narrow nationalism, and draws special attention to the gross injustice and iniquity of mass trials."

Psychological Causes of War.

" This Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League would suggest that the time is opportune for a study of the individual and group psychology underlying the apparent causes of war, and thinks that this line of inquiry might be included in the permanent work of the W.I.L."

India (1).

“ This Annual Council Meeting of the Women’s International League deprecates the dual policy of the Government of India on the North-West Frontier which, while seeking to bring civilisation to the disturbed areas by road-making and other means, yet continues the method of military expeditions, and especially the use of bombing aeroplanes.

Seeing that the policy of bombing villages on the Indian Frontier has not only been repudiated by Indian opinion as is demonstrated in the Legislative Assembly, but has retarded air disarmament in spite of world opinion as expressed in the Disarmament Conference, and is providing no lasting remedy for the local problems.

This Council urges the Government of India to renounce the use of bombs and to concentrate on removing the economic and other causes of unrest on the frontier by peaceful means, and to this end to appoint a Commission of British and Indian Statesmen to consider the problem in all its bearings.”

India (2).

“ The Council of the Women’s International League urges His Majesty’s Government that, as an act of clemency on the accession of King Edward VIII, political prisoners in India not convicted of violence should be released.”

Coronation Ceremonies.

“ This Annual Council Meeting of the Women’s International League,

resolves to take steps to lay before the proper quarters their earnest petition that in the forthcoming Coronation Ceremonies it shall be clearly demonstrated that the Crown derives its inherent strength from the Nation’s civil authority, with its Arts, Industries, and Social Services.”

Civil Liberties.

“ This Annual Council of the Women’s International League views with grave concern the increasing tendency shown by Government during recent years to limit and curtail civil rights, as instanced by :—

(i) The Incitement to Disaffection Act, 1934, by which wide powers of search and seizure are vested in the police and could be used to prevent pacifist and anti-war propaganda at a time when such propaganda was especially necessary.

(ii) The Sedition Ordinances and other similar enactments passed in recent years in India and many British Colonies, Protectorates, and Dependencies by which arbitrary powers are vested in the Governors and other officials, and in many of which enactments there is a reversal of the fundamental principle of British law by which an accused person is presumed innocent until proved guilty.

(iii) The continued operation of the Special Powers Acts 1922 and 1933 in Northern Ireland, under which Acts

- (a) Habeas Corpus is suspended and cases may be heard in camera;
- (b) persons may be and are arrested on suspicion and imprisoned without trial;
- (c) there is no appeal against such imprisonment;
- (d) the authorities may refuse to allow Coroners’ inquests to be held on executed persons.

(iv) Illegal police interference with orderly pacifist and ‘ left-wing ’ propaganda, as at Hendon, Mildenhall, and Duxford Air Displays, at which the actions of the police have been declared by the Judge in a recent civil action to have been unjustified.

This Council therefore calls on the National Executive and all local Branches to remember that the Women’s International League stands for Freedom as well as for Peace, and to co-operate actively with the National Council for Civil Liberties in resisting all encroachments on and infringements of our civil rights.”

Constitution and Rules.

I. TITLE.

“Women’s International League” (British Section of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom).

II. OBJECT.

- (1) To work for that peace between nations, races, and classes which is based on justice and goodwill.
- (2) To work for the acceptance of the belief that war is a crime.
- (3) To substitute Conference and Law for Coercive Force.
- (4) To secure full rights of citizenship to women.
- (5) To co-operate with women in other countries who are working for the same ends.

III. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) *Members.*—Membership shall be open to all women who are British subjects, who accept the above object, whose purpose it is to work for its accomplishment, and who pay an annual subscription either to a local Branch or direct to the national headquarters.

(b) *National Headquarters Members* shall pay a minimum subscription of 2s. 6d. in January each year.

(c) *Associate Members.*—Women resident in Great Britain, other than British subjects, who accept the above object shall be accepted as Associate Members.

Men resident in Great Britain who desire to become associated with the work of the League shall be accepted as Associate Members.

Associate Members shall pay an annual subscription of not less than 2s. 6d. and shall be entitled to all privileges of members except the right of election to Council or Executive Committee and the right to nominate and vote.

IV. BRANCHES.

(a) *Formation.*—Branches shall be formed in consultation with the Executive Committee. They shall consist of not less than ten members who support the object of the League, and shall

pay an affiliation fee of 3d. per member annually to Headquarters. Branches may make their own rules and by-laws, subject to the general rules and constitution of the League.

(b) *Affiliation to other Organisations.*—Branches of the League are free to co-operate with other societies in their neighbourhood, but before affiliating to any other organisation, they shall obtain the sanction of the Executive Committee.

(c) *Affiliation of other Organisations.*—Branches of the League shall have power to accept for affiliation any local organisation of women in their district which supports the object of the League and pays an annual subscription of the same amount as the annual subscription of two individual Branch members. Such an affiliated organisation shall be entitled to send two voting delegates to general meetings of the Branch, such delegates to have the same power as members of the Branch.

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A.—Constitution of Executive Committee.

(a) *Committee.*—The Executive Committee shall consist of the Hon. Officers and twenty-three members, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council. Each 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 representatives’ expenses.

(b) *Offices.*—The Officers shall be a President, Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries. The President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries shall be elected by the Council at its Annual Meeting. The Chairman shall be elected by the Executive Committee from among its members. An assistant Treasurer shall be appointed when necessary by the Executive Committee.

(c) *Co-option to fill Vacancies.*—The Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt members to fill vacancies that occur during the year.

(d) Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for one year, and at the end of that term shall be eligible for re-election without nomination.

Members of the Executive who have not attended 50 per cent. of the meetings during the year shall not be eligible for re-election unless some specific reason for absence can be offered, such as illness or absence from the country, and there is good reason to suppose that they will be able to attend in the future.

B.—Powers and Duties of Executive Committee.

(a) The Executive Committee shall meet, if possible, once a month.

(b) The railway fares of country members shall be paid so long as funds are available for this purpose.

(c) The Executive Committee shall carry on the business of the League between the meetings of the Council in accordance with the policy agreed to thereat.

(d) It shall administer the funds of the League and direct the organising work.

(e) It shall have power to appoint special Committees for carrying out the work of the League.

(f) It shall have power to appoint and dismiss all paid officials.

(g) In all things on which the rules are silent, the Executive Committee shall have power to decide, subject to appeal to the Council.

VI. AFFILIATION OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

(a) *Central Executives.*—The Executive of the League shall have power to accept for affiliation the Central Executive of any national women's organisation which supports the object of the League and pays an affiliation fee of 5s. a year. Affiliated Central Executives shall be entitled to send two voting delegates to the Council Meetings of the League, such delegates to have the same powers as Branch delegates.

(b) *Branches.*—Headquarters shall have power to accept for affiliation any branch of women's organisations or women's groups within mixed organisations in districts where no Branch of the Women's International League exists. Such Branches shall pay an affiliation fee of not less than 2s. 6d. per annum, and shall be entitled to send one delegate to Council Meetings. Such delegates shall have the right to vote on all resolutions other than those dealing with the Constitution, with the election of the Hon. Officers and the Executive Committee.

VII. GENERAL COUNCIL.

(a) The Council of the League shall consist of the Executive Committee, Delegates from Branches and Affiliated Bodies, and the Vice-Presidents. The Vice-Presidents shall be nominated by Branches or by the Executive Committee members, and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

(b) Each Branch shall be entitled to one delegate and one card vote for every twenty-five or part of twenty-five members for whom the affiliation fee for the previous year has been paid. This must be paid not less than a month before the date of the Council in the case of new Branches or increased membership. If the appointed delegate be unable to attend all sessions of the Council she may transfer her card to a proxy delegate duly accredited by the Branch or Affiliated Society.

(c) The Council shall meet at least once a year to transact the usual business of an Annual Meeting. The travelling expenses of one delegate from each Branch to the Annual Council Meeting shall be pooled, but no Branch shall be obliged to contribute to the expenses or benefit by the pool for the first Council Meeting after its foundation.

(d) A meeting of the Council can be called at any time by the Executive Committee or on demand of one-tenth of the total number of Branches.

VIII. RULES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS.

A.—Ordinary Council Meetings.

(a) Ordinary meetings of the Council shall be held at a time and place to be fixed by the Executive Committee.

(b) The General Secretary shall notify the Executive, Vice-Presidents, Branches, Headquarter members, and Affiliated Bodies two months before the Council Meeting, and all resolutions to be printed on the Agenda must reach the Secretary not later than five weeks before the Meeting.

(c) The Preliminary Agenda shall be issued to Branches four weeks before the Meeting.

(d) All amendments to Resolutions must reach the office not later than twenty-one days before the Meeting.

(e) The Final Agenda will be issued to Branches one week before the Meeting.

(f) Resolutions shall be placed upon the Agenda in the name of a Branch or affiliated organisation, or of the Executive Committee, or of any member of the Executive Committee, or of any of the Vice-Presidents.

(g) No business which is not on the Agenda may be taken at a Council Meeting, unless urgency is voted on the recommendation of the Standing Orders Committee.

(h) Delegates shall be admitted to Council Meetings on presentation of the official delegate's ticket signed by the Secretary of the Branch which she represents, or by the General Secretary.

B.—Annual Council Meetings.

(a) At the Annual Meeting of the Council, which shall be held in February or March, in addition to the ordinary business the Council shall :—

(1) Receive and adopt, if approved, the Report and Balance Sheet for the year;

(2) Elect by ballot the President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries, and twenty-three members of the Executive Committee;

(3) Elect Vice-Presidents;

(4) Consider any alterations of the rules that may be proposed.

(b) Nominations for the offices of President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries, and for the Executive Committee Members may be sent in by Branches, Vice-Presidents, and Members of the Executive Committee, and must reach the Secretary two weeks before the Council Meeting. Resolutions to be placed on the agenda and proposed alterations of the rules must reach the Secretary not later than one month before the Council Meeting.

(c) The consent of the nominees must be obtained in writing before nominations are sent in.

(d) The financial year shall end on 31st of December, and all affiliation fees must be paid before that date. Members' subscriptions shall be due in January each year.

(e) Branches which have not paid their affiliation fees before the end of the financial year will not be entitled to send delegates to Council Meetings.

(f) The Final Agenda and draft Annual Report shall be issued to the Branches one week before the Annual Meeting.

C.—Special Council Meetings.

(a) The Secretary shall give the Branches at least three weeks' notice of a Special Council Meeting, except in case of national emergency. Resolutions to be printed on the Agenda must reach the Secretary at least fourteen days before the Council Meeting.

(b) The Preliminary Agenda shall be issued to Branches at least one week before the Meeting, and a Final Agenda, including amendments, shall be issued before the Meeting if time allows.

(c) At special meetings of the Council no other business shall be taken except that specified in the notice calling the Meeting.

(d) Rules may be altered at Special Council Meetings, provided that notice of such alterations be given in the summons to the Council.

D.—Agenda at Council Meetings.

(a) The first business to be taken at a Council Meeting shall be—

(1) Appointment of Tellers for the votes in Council;

(2) Appointment of Standing Orders Committee;

(3) Appointment of Members of the Council as Returning Officers and Tellers for the ballot voting;

(4) Appointment of Auditor;

(5) Adoption of Annual Report and audited Statement of Accounts.

} At
Annual
Meeting
only.

(b) Otherwise the order of business shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee, and shall include the following :—

(1) Report of the Executive Committee;

(2) Election of President, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretaries, Executive Committee, and Vice-Presidents (at Annual Meeting only);

(3) Correspondence;

(4) Amendment to Rules and Standing Orders (if any);

(5) Resolutions, of which due notice has been given to the Secretary and by her to each Branch, and Amendments relevant to the motions before the meeting;

(6) Other business.

Branches

The names and addresses of our Branch Secretaries are as follows:—

- Acock's Green** ... Mrs. McMurdo, 58 Douglas Road, Acock's Green.
Birmingham Mrs. Morris, 112 Shenley Fields Road, Selly Oak.
Brighton *Pro. tem.* Mrs. Greenwood, 8 The Terrace, Roedean, Brighton.
Bristol Mrs. Smallpage, 10 Oakfield Road, Clifton.
Cambridge Mrs. Briggs, 8 Luard Road, Cambridge.
 Mrs. Stirland, The Red House, Bentley Road, Cambridge.
Cheltenham Mrs. Major, Melita, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.
Croydon Mrs. Savage, 27 Pollards Hill North, London, S.W.16.
Edinburgh Mrs. Matheson, 15 Dalrymple Crescent, Edinburgh.
Glasgow Mrs. A. Shanks, 84 Crofthill Road, Glasgow, S.4.
Golders Green and Hampstead Garden Suburb ... Mrs. Hunter, 36b Market Place, Falloden Way, N.W.11.
Leeds Mrs. Elgie, 135 Vesper Road, Leeds, 5.
Liverpool Mrs. Woods, Briarwood, Carnatic Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool.
Manchester Miss Ironside, W.I.L., 1 Princess Street, Albert Square, Manchester.
Marazion Mrs. Henson, 5 Mount View Terrace, Marazion, Cornwall.
North Wales (comprising Branches in Wrexham, Oswestry and District, Rhyl, Llandudno Junction and Deganwy, Penmaenmawr, Llanfairfechan, Bangor, Anglesey County, Menai Bridge, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Colwyn Bay.)
 Mrs. Thoday, Haulfre, Bangor.
Preston Miss Wilkinson, 1 Douglas Road, Lytham Road, Fulwood, Preston.
S.E. London Mrs. Blanchard Field, 165 Grove Lane, London, S.E.5.
Stockport Miss Doris Smith, Highfield, Heaton Norris, Stockport.
Tunbridge Wells... Miss Emily F. Jones, 17 Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells.
Warrington Mrs. Davies, Bleak House, Penketh, Warrington.
Welwyn Garden City Miss Edalji, 9 Brockett Close, Welwyn Garden City.
Worthing Joint Secretaries: Mrs. Darrah and Mrs. Dawson, Thur-mor, Lavington Road, Worthing.

In addition to societies affiliated to the above branches we have at Headquarters Affiliated Societies, consisting of Branches of the Women's Co-operative Guild, Women Citizens' Association, National British Women's Total Abstinence Union, Women's Sections of the Labour Party, Women's Liberal Association, Women's Adult Schools, the Women's Meeting of the Anerley Congregational Church, Wood Green and Southgate Women's Arbitration Committee, and the Women's Indian Association.

Faint, illegible text on the left page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is arranged in several paragraphs and is too light to transcribe accurately.



