

The defense budgets of all the nations of the world for a year would suffice to meet the present expenses of the League of Nations (including the World Court and the International Labour Office) for about six centuries.



This means that the world (even if the United States, Russia, Mexico, Turkey, Ecuador, Egypt and Afghanistan are left aside) is now a-days spending in preparing for war, six hundred times the sum which it devotes to preparing for peace.

SALVADOR DE MADARIAGA.

PAX INTERNATIONAL

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Published monthly

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

Vol. 4. No. 6.

MAY, 1929

CONTENTS

Current Events.

A Visit To China And Japan,
Hannah Hull.

Camille Drevet's Tour.

W. I. L. Deputation To Delegate From
China.

W. I. L. Congress In Prague.

Conference On East European Problems,
Mary Sheepshanks.

International Executive Committee Meet-
ing in Geneva. Resolutions On Disarm-
ament, Minorities, Autonomy.

Contributions To Pax.

Cooperative Women On Disarmament.

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Subscriptions to «Pax International» :
One year fifty cents or 2/-.
International Dues \$5 or £1.

Preparatory Commission For The Disarmament Conference

The Preparatory Commission is still sitting as *Pax* goes to press and in spite of the fact that the Russian proposals were again brought before the Committee, and that Ambassador Hugh Gibson for the United States said the United States was willing to make concessions to meet the point of view of other nations and urged that the word "limitation" be replaced by the word "reduction" of armaments, and that His Excellency General Tsiang Tsoping of China proposed the universal abolition of conscription, not much has yet been accomplished. As Count Bernstorff of Germany somewhat jestingly remarked, it looked as though the principle of the Commission was a mutual protection against disarmament.

Both the Russian and Chinese proposals were turned down and even the word "reduce" continued to cause trouble. In the convention for the disposal of field forces, the Soviet delegation insisted on the word "reduce" but Lord Cushendun of England insisted on "limit" and his desire prevailed.

Among other matters brought forward was Count Bernstorff's proposal that air bombardment and the use of explosive or incendiary gases be prohibited. This called forth much discussion, some main-

taining that it was not normal to consider methods of warfare after the signing of the Kellogg Pact renouncing war. When the proposal came to a vote Germany, China, the Netherlands, Sweden and Russia voted for it.

Traffic In Dangerous Drugs

The following statements are taken from an article in the British Medical Journal of February 16th.

"There are really two problems involved: first, that of opium smoking and opium eating in the Far East, and secondly, that of the abuse of the alkaloids, morphine, heroin, cocaine, etc... The two problems are linked by the fact that limitation of the production of alkaloids is made much more difficult by any excessive production of the raw materials... The total legitimate need in the world for these drugs has been estimated to be approximately as follows: morphine 20 tons, heroin 2 tons, cocaine 12 tons. If M. Chao's figures are correct they imply that the amounts of morphine and heroin smuggled into China annually are greater than the total annual legitimate world requirements for these drugs. It is obvious that European civilisation has a grave responsibility in this matter, since the greater part of these alkaloids is manufactured in Europe....

"The illicit trade in morphine and cocaine is, of course, not confined to China. Sir Malcolm Delevingne (England) described the situation in China as being far the most serious, but mentioned that the illicit traffic was still very serious in the United States of America and in Canada, and also in the Eastern Mediterranean... Unfortunately the quantity manufactured appears to be actually rising, since it is estimated that the world production of morphine was 60 tons in 1926, as compared with 30 tons in 1921... It is believed that there are only about forty factories engaged in the production of habit-producing alkaloids; but they fail to explain the origin of the immense quantities well known to be passing through clandestine channels...

Apart from the damage done to individuals, this traffic obviously constitutes a serious source of international ill-will, since countries that have taken pains to regulate their drug manufacture naturally resent being flooded with poisons from countries that are less careful or less scrupulous."

Opium Situation In China

A letter has just come to the W. I. L. from the National Anti-Opium Association of China, with a statement regarding the opium situation in that country. We print extracts below:

"In August 1928, and in the month following, the Opium Suppression Act and Regulations were promulgated, aiming at an absolute prohibition of opium and other narcotic drugs...

"But we are quite taken by surprise by the fact that inversely as the evil practice of opium-smoking is on the decrease through the united effort of the people, the extent of the illicit trade in, and use of, narcotic drugs, such as morphine, heroin and cocaine, is ever on the increase. In the provinces of Shantung and Shansi, where opium-smoking was for a time effectively prohibited, there witnessed at the same time an unexpected growth of the traffic in, and the use of, morphine, heroin, cocaine, etc., and up till the present, we are informed, these two provinces still form the best market for imported narcotic drugs. This same pathetic state of affairs can be found in practically all other provinces where the new rigid suppression regulations are being enforced... Morphine and heroin are being taken both in the form of injections and pills, and the addicts to these drugs can be counted by the million... And these pernicious drugs, let it be specially noted, are smuggled into China from other countries, practically all of whom are signatory nations to The Hague Convention of 1912, and some to the Geneva Convention of 1925, and both Conventions provide for the strict limitation of narcotic drugs to scientific and medicinal purposes...

"We understand also that the increase of the illicit traffic in, and use of, narcotic drugs is not peculiar to China; the evil is a universal one... This being the situation, we do not understand why the proposed Commission of Inquiry on Opium smoking to be sent to the Far East by the League should so limit their field of inquiry as to overlook the growing and, in fact, universal evil of narcotic drugs... Since the absence or presence of narcotic drugs in China means the success or the failure of our anti-opium campaign, we cannot but request that the work of the proposed Commission should be extended, so as to include all the drug manufacturing countries."

A VISIT TO CHINA AND JAPAN Hannah Hull

Mrs. Hull who for several years was president of the United States Section of the W. I. L. has just made a journey through China and has sent to Headquarters the following interesting letter.

On the train ride to Canton, I pulled from my bag the copy of *Pax* having Edith Pye's account of her visit there with Camille Drevet a year ago, and as I read I wondered whether it would be possible for me to get in touch with the women whose names had been given me by them. I had written ahead to Miss Yan Tsit Law to inform her of the date of our arrival. We preceded this by one day, so we took the first day for sightseeing and went that afternoon to Lingnam University...

The following morning a messenger came to inform us that a luncheon had been arranged for us by Miss Law at the Returned Students, Club. Upon our arrival there we found a most interesting group of women awaiting us. A dozen of us sat around the table and ate with chopsticks a truly Chinese meal.

After luncheon we sat before an open fire to discuss peace, the W. I. L. and kindred topics. I gave greetings from Geneva and from the United States Section, which were received with keen interest... The wish was expressed that the Chinese women could be represented at the coming Congress and they asked that full information should be sent them. One of their group may be in Europe next summer. They also desire more literature which could be kept on the tables at the Returned Students' Club and at the Y. W. C. A....

They asked that we should continue to keep them in our minds and hearts and send them personal messengers whenever possible. Miss Law was at the station early the next morning to speed us on our way with bunches of the first violets that had bloomed in her spring garden, we were sure then that the opportunity of the day before had been far more than a mere formality.

This experience in Canton was typical of visits to Shanghai and Peking. In both of these places also we had similar opportunities of meeting women at luncheons and teas arranged before our arrival by the women whose names had been given us by Edith Pye. In Peking I was afforded the opportunity of addressing a meeting of a Chinese Women's Club.

My time was all too short in China, but I was there long enough to catch the atmosphere and to carry away a vivid picture. I can assure the Executive Committee of the sincere interest of the women I met in having a Chinese Section of the W. I. L. in the near future. Everywhere there was the same hearty response to the message of which I was the bearer, and everywhere I heard expressed the warmest remembrances of Edith Pye's and Camille Drevet's visit...

The same difficulties hold this year as last year in China. The active women are all over-taxed in the working out of their own national affairs. They want to join the women of the world in every international movement, and a number of them are ready to join our organization as far as their principles are concerned. Their groups are far apart, however, and travel is still difficult. In the various

centers, the same women are leaders in all movements and their hands are already too full...

In closing my brief report, I want to pay further tribute to the success of Edith Pye and Camille Drevet in finding such fine types of women. When the time comes that we shall have a section in China, the W. I. L. will be enriched by such personalities who classify as prominent educators, members of Faculties of women's colleges, the first Chinese woman college president, heads of the Y. W. C. A., physicians, public welfare workers, and many who are taking part in the political reconstruction of their country. The W. I. L. should be proud indeed to welcome such women into membership and through them to be led into closer fellowship with the best of Chinese womanhood. I want also to record the continued interest and activity of Mrs. Grover Clark on our behalf, and without whose help my experience in Peking could not have been all that it was.

It may not be out of place to add the story also of my visit to Tokyo. There the Executive Committee of the W. I. L. arranged an address before fifteen hundred women of the University of Tokyo, a tea with members of the Faculty, and with the Executive Committee. I shall not soon forget the hospitality and the enthusiasm and the flowers. Still more important is it to describe the activity of the Japanese Section in having provided entertainment on two afternoons for four hundred tourists from the S.S. Empress of Australia. This was made possible through the kindness of Baroness Konde who opened her typically Japanese home and beautiful garden for the inspection of the visitors. The graciousness of the Baroness herself, as she and her daughters in native attire, received the guests, tremendously impressed the group of foreigners. We were proud to have the W. I. L. brought before this large international group of men and women in such a pleasant and unique way, and were glad to have the way thus opened for a second address on peace to the passengers of the Empress.

A further item of interest which deserves comment is the fact that two members of our Japanese Section are considering visiting China this summer. The names of "our" Chinese women (you see I already claim them!) will be sent them, and our Japanese sisters will carry with them to a people with whom misunderstandings exist, a message of friendliness which will help incalculably to demonstrate the W. I. L. spirit. It will also be one more link with those whom we hope to welcome soon into our organized work.

We are now on the Pacific Ocean nearing our native shores. Our journey around this interesting world has enriched our lives and broadened our vision and made us realize more than ever the truth of Matthew Arnold's statement that if the women of the world once become aroused in common action, there will be an upheaval such as the world has never known.

CAMILLE DREVET'S TOUR

During the past few months Camille Drevet has been making a journey for the W. I. L. going from Roumania to Poland, stopping at Lvov and Krakow, in the Ukraine, then travelling to Lithuania

and Esthonia. The purpose of her tour was to try and get East European women interested in the W. I. L. and to form sections wherever possible. Also, she discussed with the Polish and the Ukrainian sections their problems and difficulties. Her trip seems to have been unusually successful, for many letters have come into Headquarters expressing appreciation of her activities. Also largely through her efforts women from the above-named countries attended the East European Conference and have stated their intention of coming to the Congress at Prague, thus making our League more universal and international than ever. Madame Drevet in summing up her journey says:

"From the 4th of January to the 25th of March I tried in the different countries I visited to work in accordance with the principles of our League and to secure the cooperation of large-minded people for international work. I tried in the thirty speeches I delivered to make plain the danger of race in armaments and preparation for war. The countries of Eastern Europe, however, which have been recently created, can not have the same point of view on international questions as the people of the older nations. The work for peace must therefore be undertaken with a knowledge of the difficulties against which these new countries are struggling. These people do not desire war but they have not given enough consideration to the fact that they are the instrument of Western Imperialism.

"I therefore ask the Executive Committee (1) to secure documentation on political problems and send this material to our friends in the East European countries; (2) to draw the attention of our sections to the problem of anti-semitism; (3) to aid the sections in work against the military training of the young and against military organizations for women; (4) in order to aid the work among young people I urge the Executive Committee to give their moral and material aid in making it possible for one young person at least from Lithuania, Esthonia, Roumania and Poland to attend the W. I. L. Summer School in Hungary."

The Executive Committee is giving Camille Drevet the assistance she has asked for on her first three points but the fourth point needs the co-operation of all members. The Executive Committee have no funds for creating scholarships for the W. I. L. Summer School in Hungary. But it is a splendid idea. One that must be realized. Think what it would mean if a young person from each of the East European states could attend the Summer School, glimpse a new world, get a true idea of internationalism, and go back to their countries to work for internationalism instead of nationalism. Perhaps there are some of you who were planning a trip this summer and have for one reason or another had to forgo the joy, and would be willing in that case to give it to another. Scholarships cost a 250 francs or \$40, for travelling is expensive. But whoever you are, whether you are, be a sport and help educate the new and coming generation by contributing to the Scholarship Fund. Send the money care of Miss Mary Sheepshanks, 12 rue du Vieux-College, Genève.

W. I. L. Deputation To The Delegate From China

During the Executive Committee meeting in Geneva on April 17th, Catherine Marshall brought to the attention of the Committee the fact that His Excellency, General Tsiang Tsoping, chief delegate from the National Government of the Republic of China to the Preparatory Commission on Disarmament of the League of Nations, had introduced into the Commission a resolution calling for the universal abolition of conscription.

Miss Marshall suggested, and it was immediately adopted and agreed to by the Executive that a deputation of W. I. L. representatives be sent to General Tsiang Tsoping to congratulate him on his resolution and assure him of our sympathy and support.

On Friday evening April 19th at the Hotel Beau-Rivage, General Tsiang Tsoping received the deputation which was made up of the following members, a representative from each country attend the Executive meeting: Miss Chenevix (Ireland), Madeleine Z. Doty (America), Mme. Gabrielle Duchêne (France), Mrs. Heilesen (Denmark), Mrs. Hoppstock-Huth (Germany), Mrs. Keiler (Ukraine), Dr. Malinska (Czecho-slovakia), Miss Catherine Marshall (Great Britain), Miss Edith Pye (Great Britain), Mrs. Clara Ragaz (Switzerland), Mrs. Ramondt-Hirschmann (Holland), and Miss Mary Sheepshanks, the International Secretary of the League.

Miss Edith Pye introduced the deputation and said in part:

"This honour has been given to me because I was in China last year as a delegate of our League to the Chinese Women, and had the opportunity while there of realizing the sincere desire of the Chinese people, especially of the women, to settle all disputes by peaceful means and their belief in the use of reason instead of force."

Mme. Gabrielle Duchêne then spoke for France telling of the energetic action in France against the law introduced by Paul-Boncour providing for the conscription of the whole population without distinction as to age or sex, and of the

defeat of that law. She said that a petition formulated by the W. I. L. opposing the law had been signed by great number of people possessing widely different views.

Catherine Marshall for England assured His Excellency that whatever reception his resolution might have with the governments, it would have the active support of the working classes and the women. She gave facts about the strong opposition to conscription in Great Britain during the war by Liberal and Labour, members of Parliament, by Socialists, Trade Union Movements, the Quakers, and by several thousands of conscientious objectors who faced imprisonment and sentence of death rather than accept compulsory military service.

Fran Hoppstock-Huth for Germany said that her country had been without conscription for ten years, that among the young people one begins to see the moral effect of not being forced to take military training. She said there was a great growth of the War Resisters Movement in Germany and that specially among the Proletariat the youth is anti-militaristic. She concluded by saying that the German Section of the W. I. L. hopes that the anti-militarist spirit will become strong enough some day to do without the Reichswehr of 100,000 men whose maintenance we believe costly and unnecessary.

Miss Madeleine Z. Doty for the United States said that the women of America as a whole were against conscription. She said when women were aroused they could exert a powerful influence on public opinion; she illustrated this by citing the effective work done by women in America in preventing war between the United States and Mexico and said that women would do equally effective work for His Excellency's resolution abolishing conscription.

His Excellency General Tsiang Tsoping who could only speak Chinese was accompanied by an interpreter, and all the conversation was translated from French into Chinese. His Excellency

himself spoke at some length expressing great appreciation for our sympathy and support and saying he felt women could be of great assistance in the campaign against conscription and that he himself would continue to work unflinchingly for his resolution.

The deputation then departed leaving the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ON DISARMAMENT

The Executive Committee of the W. I. L. P. F. now in session in Geneva, representing organized groups of women in 26 countries, has seen with feelings of warmest satisfaction the draft amendment which has been presented to the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference by the Delegate of the National Government of the Republic of China.

The W. I. L. P. F. has, since its foundation in 1915, repeatedly urged that the system of universal military service should be abolished as a first step in the reduction of national armaments to which all the States Members of the League of Nations are now pledged under Article VIII of the Covenant and by the specific undertakings given at the time of the signing of the Versailles Peace Treaty. The International Executive Committee endorses all that is so admirably stated in the Chinese amendment, and there are many other reasons why a proposal to abolish conscription makes a particularly strong appeal to women.

The International Executive Committee believes that if all the Governments would adopt the proposal made by the Delegate of the Chinese Republic an important step would be made towards establishing the peace of the world on a more secure foundation. It therefore urges the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference to give serious and favourable consideration to this proposal and calls upon all its National Sections to obtain for it the fullest publicity and the effective support of public opinion.

W. I. L. Congress At Prague In August

We are very fortunate to be holding our Congress in such an interesting city as Prague. The delegates to the congress will want a few days for sight seeing. There is hardly a stone in Prague that hasn't a historical interest and visitors have called the city a "museum of the middle ages". The history of Prague is for the most part the history of Bohemia which, on the break up of the Holy Roman Empire, came under Austria-Hungary. In 1620 the court at Prague was transferred to Vienna and the old Royal Castle dating from 930 was allowed to fall into neglect. But in 1918 it became the residence of the President of the newly established Czechoslovak State, and the castle of Prague awakened to life and to renovation. This old castle of the Hradcany was for long centuries the residence of the Bohemian kings. The view from the square in front of the castle is one of great beauty, for below the castle lies the old and new city

of Prague on either bank of the Moldau.

Beside its historical interest and beauty Prague is a great industrial town. During the Austria-Hungarian Empire Vienna was the distributing centre of the Empire, but Prague and the surrounding towns were the factory centres.

The W. I. L. is to hold its Congress meetings in the Agricultural Institute. This is a splendid new building with a fine hall and there are a number of large well-decorated and well-furnished rooms for Committee rooms and offices. The Agricultural Institute is not far from the Wilson Station and there is a group of hotels near by:

Hotel Esplanade — 1st class single rooms \$2 to \$3.50.

Hotel Wilson (very good but near railway), single rooms \$1.50 to \$2; double rooms, \$2.50 to \$3.50.

Hotel Atlantic (modest but good),

single rooms \$1 to \$1.75; double rooms \$1.50 to \$2.

Rooms may also be had in pensions at a cheaper rate and there are a number of bedrooms with two beds in each room in the Agricultural Institute. These rooms are intended for students and only early morning coffee is served. The other meals must be got outside.

Prague will be very crowded in August and reservations must be made early. It is better to write to the secretary in charge of accommodations so that if she cannot secure rooms in one place they can be found in another. In applying for rooms please state:

(1) Exact date of arrival and departure.

(2) Whether a single or double room is desired.

(3) Whether a 1st class hotel or cheaper accommodation is required.

Write hotel or pension for accommodations to Dr. Anna Schusterova, Prague XII, Slerska 24.

Study Conference On East European Problems

Mary Sheepshanks

The Conference on East European Problems was held in Vienna from March 26th to 29th. Before it occurred Madame Camille Drevet spent two months visiting Roumania, Poland and the Baltic Provinces.

One of the results of her efforts was that representatives of fifteen countries assembled in Vienna. Women from Esthonia in the far north-east corner of Europe, 60 hours journey from Vienna, women from Latvia, Lithuania and from Rumania (in none of which countries has our League had any organised group), came together with members from our sections in Poland, the Ukraine, and Bulgaria; all these countries being on the borders of Russia. Representatives also came from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Germany and Austria, which are their nearest neighbours, and from England, France and Sweden.

Frau Yella Hertzka undertook all the local arrangements in Vienna, free accommodations were supplied to guests from a distance and a truly Viennese welcome made everyone feel at home. The Women's Club was a pleasant place for our meetings, which began with a cheerful social evening.

The first day's conference was devoted to a general study of the political position in Europe in general and in Eastern Europe in particular. Madame Kodice (Poland) took the chair with Madame Abel (Latvia) as vice-chairman.

Fräulein Lida Gustava Heymann, in her address opening the conference, gave an inspiring and soul-stirring call to all members new and old to be true to the spirit in which our League was founded and which inspired its members in the warring countries from 1915 onwards to oppose and condemn their own governments when they were acting contrary to the principles of peace, freedom and justice. In our League, as she pointed out, we do not adopt the nationalist standpoint. Our duty is to go forward, to combat "Machtpolitik" (a policy of force). We renounce all violence and demand for all peoples self-determination and liberty. We have two main principles: instead of violence we adopt conciliation; we renounce national egoism, i.e. we do not claim advantages for our own country at the cost of injury to others. Englishwomen took the part of Ireland against the British Government in 1920; Frenchwomen protested against their Government's occupation of the Rhineland; German women collected money and took it to the districts in France devastated by German troops; Japanese women are supporting the claims of China; in many countries women are opposing compulsory military service; these are examples of the independent, critical and constructive spirit of our League.

Yella Hertzka described the general political situation in Europe, war preparations, the press, transport services, budgets, economic arrangements all directed to war. So-called peace treaties which are really only military alliances—no disarmament, on the contrary increased armaments in every country, great or small.

She said this conference however was called particularly to deal with the special situation in Eastern Europe where the policy of the great western powers has been to isolate Russia and to form a united bulwark of all the border states, against Russia. Secret military treaties have been made with this object in view and Russian proposals for disarmament have been disregarded. What is to be done about it? It is to be hoped that the eastern border states will cease to let themselves be used as pawns in the game of the Great Powers.

Madame Drevet, Madame Lypacewicz and Madame Rudnycka followed Frau Hertzka with comments on the foreign policy problems of Eastern Europe.

Madame Rudnycka, a Ukrainian, emphasised the contrast between the more stable and pacific conditions now established in Western Europe and the unsettled conditions in Eastern Europe. Ukrainians, and White Russians have not got political freedom. Russian Imperialism is as great a danger to the peace of Eastern Europe as other imperialisms. Ukrainian culture is also repressed outside of Russia. Peace is illusory as long as the eastern states contain unfree nationalities. Injustices in the Peace treaties should be revised by peaceful methods.

Madame Drevet showed how ambition rivalry and enmity between the Great Powers led to the formation of blocks and the drawing up of secret treaties and military accords and armaments increase in spite of peace pacts.

Madame Lypacewicz said frontier questions have not yet been settled in a way that satisfied public opinion. A historical and statistical account of Lithuania led her to the conclusion that the Vilna question had been fairly settled by the plebiscite. She also defended the Polish possession of the Danzig corridor.

In the afternoon Madame Loosberg (Esthonia) and Miss Sheepshanks presided and the discussion opened up some of the burning problems and causes of friction between Eastern states. The Polish and Lithuanian delegates gave their views on the Vilna question fully and frankly, and in complete opposition to each other. Madame Ciurlionienne presented the Lithuanian case from the historical and cultural point of view. The Ukrainian claim to liberty, to national independence, was stated uncompromisingly by the Ukrainian delegates, and their grievances against both Polish and Russian Imperialism. Pacifism seemed at times in their speeches somewhat overclouded by patriotism, and Dr. Augspurg had to remind the conference that the W. I. L. P. F. standpoint was not the national one, but that we exist to find peaceful solutions. But at least the case was stated for each side and stated calmly.

The second day was devoted to internal problems. Madame Drevet and Madame Vambéry (Hungary) presided in the morning and Fräulein Baer and Mademoiselle Margita (Roumania) in the afternoon.

The Minority question was discussed. Miss Mosa Anderson of England briefly touched on the importance and the dan-

gers of nationalist feelings and claims, and Dr. Bella Kunvari (Hungary) gave a full and detailed account of the whole history and legal position of the present minority question (a documentation of great value as material). This burning question again brought Poles and Ukrainians to their feet but ended with a promise that they would get together and try to come to an agreement. The Hungarians, as usual, showed their complete pacifism and lack of "national egoism" and helped to create a favourable atmosphere.

After dealing with Minorities, the problem of the Press was dealt with faithfully by Dr. Klara Schoedon, and then the present horrible militarisation of education and the need of radically changing it was presented by Madame Wiechowsky who gave details of the excessive militarisation of education in Soviet Russia. Moral disarmament was urged by Frau Olga Misar, Camille Drevet gave an account of the terrible conditions in prisons and the urgent need of protecting all persons imprisoned, especially political prisoners! Other problems of internal misgovernment, such as antisemitism and autocratic dictatorship, were also brought forward.

On the evening of the second day a practical round-table discussion took place; one delegate from each country participating, and the proposals for practical work set forth were discussed in the full meeting on the last day. The last day was reserved for getting together and finding solutions.

Proposals for practical work were:

(1) A Peace Policy.

To consist in the facilitation of frontier communications; exchange of information; pacifist political literature in the language of the country; methods of conciliation between the different nationalities in a State of mixed nationalities; the securing of equality for all subjects within a state; recognition of the national and cultural claims of minorities, in so far as they are in accordance with the principles of the W. I. L. P. F.

(2) Propaganda.

To be carried on by a speaker representing the international view point travelling through the countries; exchange of press material; exchange of visits (especially of teachers and students) between countries; summer schools.

(3) Education.

Supervision of school books and libraries; supervision of educational methods and programmes; assuring to every child the right to education in its mother tongue, when desired; bilingual schools in all frontier districts; compulsion on children to take part in national fêtes and demonstrations; abolition of military training in schools; establishment of children's newspapers.

(4) Exchange visits.

Between children, apprentices, students, workmen, professors and teachers of different countries; between sport organisations.

(5) Matters for immediate action.

Intervention on behalf of political prisoners; demand for amnesty for all political prisoners.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AT GENEVA

From Tuesday April 16th to Saturday the 20th, the International Executive Committee met in Geneva. There were 19 members present. Executive members: Lida Gustava Heymann, Gabrielle Duchêne, Catherine Marshall, Mme. Ramondt-Hirschman, Gertrud Baer, Clara Ragaz. Consultative members: Dr. Anita Augspurg and Frau Hoppstock-Hutt (Germany), Edith Pye and Mrs. Corbett-Fisher (England), Dr. Irena Malinska, Mme. Hanauskowa and Fräulein Neustadt (Czechoslovakia), Mrs. Cederfeld and Mrs. Heilesen (Denmark), Miss Chenevix (Ireland), Mme. Wanner (France), Miss Doty (America). As members of a Commission Dr. Hilda Clark (England) Mrs. Keller (Ukraine).

Prague Congress

One of the chief tasks of the Executive was the final arrangements for the W. I. L. Congress to take place in Prague the end of August. The Congress is to be conducted by the International Office, but a local committee comprising members from the three different groups of the W. I. L. in Czechoslovakia, will cooperate with the Geneva office in carrying through the arrangements. The Congress will have public meetings and carry on propaganda as well as conduct the business of the W. I. L. A special attempt is to be made to secure Chinese and Japanese delegates, and because of the distance of China and Japan from Prague and the expense involved in making the journey, a sum has been set aside to aid delegates from these countries.

Nominations To Executive Committee

Each section is requested to send in to Headquarters immediately a list of persons, nine or less, whom they think suitable as members of the Executive Committee with indications as to these persons' qualifications. Headquarters will then send a copy of all these names to the different sections and these nominations will be voted on at the Prague Congress. The nine receiving the largest number of votes will make up the next Executive Committee.

Constitutional Amendments

There was much discussion concerning the question of enlarging the Executive Committee, and giving the Consultative Members the right to vote at all the Executive meetings which they attend. No unanimous agreement was reached, though a majority agreement was arrived at on one proposal. It was decided therefore to send the three most popular proposals to all the sections for consideration. Delegates to the Congress should get these proposals from their national Headquarters.

Reports On Frankfurt And East-European Conferences

Madame Duchêne reported on the Chemical Warfare Conference held at Frankfurt. She said it was really an historical event and that there had been uniformly good and wide publicity. Reports of this Conference in French and English are now being printed and may be had from Headquarters on application.

Gertrud Baer reported on the East European Conference held in Vienna. She said the meetings were conducted in a fine spirit in spite of the differences

of opinion. As a result it is expected that the new delegates from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Esthonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Rumania and Ukraine who attended this conference will also come to the Prague Congress. A full report of the East European Conference is given on another page.

Minority Conference

Dr. Hilda Clark reported on the study conference on Minorities held recently in London by the British Section, which proved most interesting and fruitful. She presented a resolution on Minorities which was accepted and unanimously adopted. This resolution was then sent to the Committee of Three of the League of Nations, recently appointed by the Council, to investigate Minority problems.

Minority Resolution

This Executive Committee of the W. I. L. P. F. urges the Committee on Minority Procedure set up by the Council of the League of Nations in March 1929 to embody the following proposals in their report to the Council.

(1) That whatever procedure be adopted it should provide (a) that when a petition is received from a Minority claiming that there has been a breach of the treaty, the Minority should be informed as to the answer given by its government; (b) that all petitions dealt with, together with the replies of the governments and relevant documents with report of action taken, should be presented to the Council and inserted in the Official Journal.

(2) That an Advisory Committee should be constituted, consisting of both men and women having special knowledge and experience of the Minority question from the points of view of the majorities and of the minorities, and that this Committee should have the duty of examining and reporting to the Council upon all petitions relating to Minorities presented to the Secretary-General, and of advising the Council as to how it can best discharge its obligations under the Treaties.

The W. I. L. further begs the Committee of the Council to take into special consideration the situation in the Balkans where the Yugoslavian and Greek Governments have denied that the Macedonian population in their territories have any rights under the Minority Treaties, and these Macedonians are afraid to make complaints to the League.

The W. I. L. also urges the Committee of the Council to recommend the Council to institute without delay an enquiry into this situation in order that it may assure itself that the rights which the Council has undertaken to guarantee are not infringed.

Opium Conference

It was agreed to hold a Conference on Opium in Geneva to take place shortly before the meeting of the League of Nations Advisory Committee on Opium next winter, some time in January. A Committee was set up to prepare for the Conference consisting of Fräulein Heymann (Germany), Mme. Drevet (France), Miss Pye (Great Britain), Dr. Woker (Switzerland), Mme. Ramondt (Holland), Miss Doty (America). All sections are urged if possible to establish opium committees and aid with this Conference. It was agreed that large meetings on the problem of opium be held in Holland and France before the Conference in Geneva.

Autonomy In Alsace-Lorraine

Madame Duchêne said that a bill was before the French Chamber which if passed would seriously effect the autonomist movement in Alsace-Lorraine and curtail any opposition. She asked that the Executive Committee pass the following resolution and this was agreed to:

"The Executive Committee of the W. I. L. P. F. meeting in Geneva after examining the proposed law adopted by the Civil and Criminal Legislative Committee of the French Chamber, and the considerations set forth in the report of M. Cautru, expresses its sorrowful surprise in seeing the representatives of the country which gave birth to the statement of the "Rights of Man" sanction a law which is in such complete contradiction to French traditions.

Being convinced that the passage of such a law, in France, would be the greatest encouragement to attempts to introduce Fascism in France and to strengthening Fascism in many other countries, this Committee expresses the hope that the French Parliament will reject this bill."

Disarmament

It was agreed that a letter should be sent by the W. I. L. to each of the delegates to the 6th session of the Preparatory Commission on Disarmament of the League of Nations, and the following letter was prepared and sent by Catherine Marshall for the Executive Committee:

"On behalf of the Executive Committee of the W. I. L. P. F. representing organised groups of women in 25 countries, I have the honour to submit to Your Excellencies a report of a Deputation that waited on the President of the Ninth Assembly of the League of Nations to present to him a Resolution on Disarmament which is relevant to the present discussions of your Commission. I beg that you will read the statements made at that time by the representatives of our National Sections in the United States, Great Britain, France and Germany.

"I enclose also a report of an International Conference on Modern Methods of Warfare organised by our League and held at Frankfurt in January of this year. The Conference aroused world-wide interest and is forming the basis of active work for the mobilisation of public opinion by women in our National Sections. The texts of the papers read at the Conference were sent on February 25th to the Director of the Disarmament Section of the League of Nations.

"We watch with acute anxiety for a favourable result of your deliberations and assure you of the existence of a public opinion which is ready to support, and which insists on, some immediate step towards that general reduction of armaments to which all States Members of the League of Nations are pledged, and which should follow without undue delay on the signature of the Pact of Paris if the public confidence in the value and sincerity of that act is not to be disappointed. Such a disappointment might have disastrous effects.

The National Sections of the movement which we represent will give active support in their several countries to the most radical measures of disarmament that your Commission is prepared to recommend."

Political Prisoners

Camille Drevet in her report stated that there was great need of enquiry into the condition of political prisoners in different countries. She urged that a questionnaire which she had prepared be sent to all countries.

It was agreed to study the matter and Miss Marshall was asked to present the material of the "Howard League for Penal Reform", on political prisoners, and Miss Doty to present the material of the American Political Prisoners Association, at the Executive Committee meeting in Prague in August. With the facts before them as to what already had been done, the Committee would then work out a programme.

W. I. L. Exhibit

From July 25th to August 24th there is to be an Education-Era Exposition in Geneva held in connection with the World Federation of Education Associations' Congress. The exhibition will present the latest and best methods of teaching, together with national and international exhibitions. The League of Nations and the International Labour Office are to have exhibits. The W. I. L. is to have a space among the international organisations and it was agreed to present the work of the W. I. L. in the best possible way so that we should not only be well represented on this occasion but also in order to create for the W. I. L. an exhibit which could be moved about and be available for use on other occasions.

Summer School

Plans for the Summer School of 1930 were discussed and it was agreed to accept with enthusiasm the invitation of Mme. Wanner and the French Section to have the school in Strasbourg, Alsace.

This year's Summer School is conducted by the Hungarian Section at Lepence (Visegrad) on the Danube and occurs directly after the Prague Congress. For further informations write to Madame Eugenie Meller, Josef-Ter 9, Budapest V.

Additional Contributions To Pax

Australia	
Miss E. M. Moore	£3/0/0
Austria	
Frau Burgeni	Sb. 2.0
Frl. M. Schischmanow	Frs. 2.50
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Miss E. Addison	Frs. 5.10
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Mme. E. Henningsen	Frs. 1.50
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Miss Ruth Abbatt	£ 0/2/0
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British Section	" 10/—
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Anonymous	" 10.—
United States	
Mrs. H. Rosenfels	\$5.—
Miss Anne Martin	" 5.—

Cooperative Women's Guild On Disarmament

The following resolution was passed at a meeting in Prague in April.

"The Committee of the I.C.W.G. meeting in Prague, and representing the housewives and mothers organized in the World Cooperative Movement, record their profound concern that in spite of the fact that the nations, in signing the Kellogg Pact against War, have renounced war as an instrument of national policy, armaments and warlike preparations are dangerously increasing and the governments of the world in general show no disposition to take any serious or effective steps towards disarmament.

The Committee demand an immediate and drastic reversal of the policy of competition in armaments, and look to the Disarmament Commission of the League of Nations at its forth coming meeting to initiate steps in this direction, and from the concrete schemes now before it to establish the basis of a Convention, to be submitted to a World Disarmament Conference within the next year, providing for such reductions in armaments as will lead within a specified time to total disarmament."

Conference on Education

From July 25 to August 4th the World Federation of Education Associations is holding its third biennial conference in Geneva. This is a great cooperative movement of educators with affiliations in 60 countries which believes that as children are taught so will the future be. Some of its special objects are, to promote friendship, justice and goodwill among the nations of the world, by emphasizing in all schools throughout the world the essential unity of mankind and the evils of war and by developing a psychology of peace. It is estimated that about 5000 teachers representing most of the nations will be coming to Geneva for the conference. In connection with the conference there is to be the big "Education-Era Exposition" held in the Grand Palais des Expositions. One of the exhibits represents the interdependence of the whole world. This exhibition alone will be well worth seeing and all our members who are attending the Prague Congress are urged to stop off in Geneva and take in the Education-Era.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Jane Addams, International President

International Headquarters, 12, rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva
Secretary: MARY SHEEPSHANKS.

WHAT THE W. I. L. P. F. STANDS FOR:

It aims at uniting women in all countries who are opposed to every kind of war, exploitation and oppression, and who work for universal disarmament and for the solution of conflicts by the recognition of human solidarity, by conciliation and arbitration, by world co-operation, and by the establishment of social, political and economic justice for all, without distinction of sex, race, class or creed.

The work of all the National Sections is based upon the statements adopted and the Resolutions passed by the International Congresses of the League.

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