

PAX INTERNATIONAL

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THE PEOPLE'S MANDATE CAMPAIGN

The Mandates Campaign has started. Already encouraging news has reached us from Holland, Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia, Sweden, France and the United States.

In Holland 5000 forms have been sent to individuals, libraries and organisations.

In Hungary, where they began work in July, 5 organisations are co-operating in the Campaign.

In Sweden, more than 20,000 people have signed the Mandate at meetings held in a hundred towns and villages.

In Czecho-Slovakia our League is co-operating with more than 40 societies. The Mandate has been endorsed in many important meetings, notably in the big Demonstration at Prague on 11th November.

In France, where our League and the Ligue des Mères et des Educatrices are running the Campaign, it is planned to hold a large Demonstration on 15th March near the Cemetery at Arras where thousands of dead from all countries lie buried. The organisations working for

disarmament and all those who in the various countries are co-operating in the Campaign will be invited to the symbolic town of Arras, where in 1926, the German and French members of our League met together.

The Campaign is progressing wonderfully in U.S.A. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt (Honorary Chairman of the National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War) in announcing her support and that of her Executive Committee writes: "It is wise for all the nations to pull together in this manner as you have planned, to get peace".

The long list of organisations that have agreed to co-operate gets ever longer and among the numerous prominent people on the Honorary Council our League will especially welcome Miss M. Woolley, President of Mount Holyoke College, Mass.

Our American friends have circulated enough forms to hold 3 million signatures. They hope that we shall get 50 million for our International Campaign. Why not?
Camille Drevet.

JANE ADDAMS MEMORIAL FUND

The Jane Addams Memorial Fund is now open for contributions. We are extremely fortunate in having secured Sir George Paish as Honorary Treasurer to the Fund and are grateful to him for his support. The following letter has been drafted and is being sent out widely.

Dear Sir or Madam,

The work of Jane Addams for international peace is known and honoured in every part of the world. She gave her devoted assistance and special affection to the work of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom of which she was a Founder and the International President.

We understand that this is recognised on her tombstone where underneath her name, stands the inscription "Hull House and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom".

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is deeply anxious to associate her name with the carrying on of their work for peace, and for this purpose they are instituting a Jane Addams International Peace Fund.

The first piece of work to which the Fund will be devoted is an appeal to the public conscience and to Governments of all countries in the form of a People's Mandate calling them to the sincere relinquishment of all war. We append a copy of its wording, and we feel that we need not stress the vital need to give support at the moment to any appeal for the abandonment of the war method, and for constructive peace.

We are writing to ask if you will help us by sending a contribution to the Jane Addams International Peace Fund. As the People's Mandate specially needs assistance at the moment, will you earmark a portion of your donation for that? Only sums so allotted will be put to that work.

We are, in the cause of peace.

Yours sincerely,

*Gertrud Baer, Clara Ragaz, Joint Chairmen,
Women's International League for Peace
and Freedom.*

*Barbara Duncan Harris, K. E. Innes, Joint
Chairmen, People's Mandate Committee.
George Paish, Hon. Treasurer.*

NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

Austria.

The Section is especially interested and active in educational work. It considers it essential that the youth of its country should be acquainted with all possible methods which may prevent the application of brute force in the settling of international conflicts. In collaboration with women teachers it tries to find paid jobs for young people, and it explores new ways for making a living for them. At present lectures on Finance are being given which are especially interesting to all friends of Peace.

Czecho-Slovakia.

The W. I. L. P. F. has just founded a new group in Reichenberg, distributing in this town leaflets "To all Women and Mothers who want Peace". This leaflet was printed both in German and Czech and invited people to a big Demonstration for Peace on November 17th. The Branch sent a letter to the League of Nations on October 21st asking that decisions be taken only in the interests of Peace and Justice. In a wire sent to the League of Nations the W. I. L. P. F. asks that "in the name of humanity, the application of poison gas and microbes be stopped in Africa".

After a big meeting in Prague in October there followed a demonstration, held on Armistice Day, and attended by more than 1000 people. It was presided over by the Vice-President of the W. I. L. P. F. and 25 organisations took part, all of whom signed the People's Mandate. The speakers supported the policy of Sanctions against the Aggressor, and protested against the building of subterranean shelters for the protection of the civil population. They further protested against the production of gas masks and expressed a vote of confidence in M. Benes's policy of peace and conciliation. The two main speakers of the evening were the representatives of the World Alliance for Friendship through the Churches and a deputy of the Social Democratic Party, Mme Jurneckova. On the same evening big meetings were also held in Bratislava and Brno. On November 9th Dr. Schustlerova, president of the Section, spoke over the radio and the play "Mother and Son" was produced for the first time.

Finland.

The Section is very glad to report much greater activity than before. The

Northern Peace Meeting in Denmark gave a new stimulus to the work.

Three interesting lectures given by Elisabeth Waern-Bugge from Sweden on November 10-12th to an audience of about 600 people led to the formation of a working Committee which is to work with the Finnish Section in the fight against unprovoked attacks. Speakers will be sent into the provinces and into the country to spread information.

On October 9th the Swedish journalist Barbo Alving spoke to a women's meeting on the Fight of Women against War. An interim Commission was formed which addressed an appeal to the Women to hold a Northern Peace Day on November 3rd. This appeal was printed in all the big papers of the Finnish Capital. On October 14th the Section took part in a big popular meeting against War and Fascism which was attended by 1200 people.

Two W. I. L. members were elected to serve on the Commission which is to deal with the work for the People's Mandate. Because of the critical political situation no demonstration can be held, but 500 lists with space for 40 names each, and 30,000 pamphlets are being distributed. In spite of strong opposition, public opinion for Peace is growing. While the work hitherto was limited to a small circle, new workers are now being found to help, and were it not for lack of money our cause would make really good progress.

France.

This Section is publishing a new "News Sheet" called "EnVigie". The first number shows a photograph of Jane Addams, evidently taken shortly before her death, and another artistic photograph of Henry Barbusse.

The Section has been very active, not only in its own field of work, but also in collaborating with all organisations working against War and Fascism. In Châlon sur Saône and in Dijon, Gabrielle Duchêne spoke to meetings which seemed very interested. Again on November 10th, Gabrielle Duchêne and Camille Drevet spoke at a big meeting against War and Fascism, organised by women of Rouen, and presided over by Victor Basch, President of the League for the Rights of Men. A huge demonstration was held for the immediate and loyal application of Sanctions, and addressed by Gabrielle Duchêne and

other speakers representing many shades of public opinion. This meeting was organised by the National Committee of Women against War and Fascism and attracted 4,500 people, two thirds of whom were women.

The Section together with the *Entraide Européenne*, the *Ligue des Mères et Educatrices*, the Women's Committee against War and Fascism and other organisations sent a delegation to Mr. de Vasconcellos when he was in Paris on his way to Geneva to preside over the Committee of Coordination. The delegation renewed their demand for immediate and sincere application of economic and financial sanctions.

An illustrated "carte-pétition" has been circulated and sent in great numbers to the President of the League of Nations Assembly asking for the cessation of the massacre in Africa and the prevention of the extension of the conflict, without sacrificing the independence and territorial integrity of Ethiopia.

Great Britain.

The General Election, sprung upon us at short notice, occupied a great deal of time and energy. The peace issue being one of major importance at this election it was up to the peace Societies to see that as many candidates as possible publicly declared their views on various important questions, for the benefit of their constituents. Thus a carefully worded questionnaire was drawn up containing the following questions:

1. Will you oppose all increase of armaments and of armed forces?
2. Will you, at the earliest possible moment, urge the resumption 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, etc., on the trade routes of the world under international control by the League of Nations?

Various methods of putting the questions to candidates were used, such as deputations from local organisations, questions at meetings, and letters from important local citizens. The candidates answers, were published wherever possible in the local press for all to read. The W. I. L. questions were adopted by the National Peace Council and altogether about 14,000 copies were distributed.

The Campaign for the People's Mandate has now been launched. Signatures of organisations and endorsements of the Mandate from meetings and groups are being collected but there will be no attempt to collect individual signatures as this has been done too recently in the Peace Ballot.

A number of prominent people are being approached to join the Honorary Council.

Holland.

Report of the Annual Meeting of the Dutch Section held on 26th-27th October at the Hague.

A resolution was sent to Mussolini, the King, Queen, Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Italy with an appeal that the leaders in Italy should stop the fighting in Abyssinia and resort to measures of conciliation.

An appeal was issued to the People of the Netherlands loyally to support their Government in the application of Sanctions and to put universal interests before personal and selfish interests.

A letter was written to the political parties having members in Parliament asking them:

1. To take up more seriously within the Party and on a larger scale, the study of international politics.
2. To urge the Government to discuss the Agenda of the League of Nations Assembly beforehand.
3. To insist on the delegates to the Assembly being elected not exclusively by the Government but by the Parliament.

4. To send young people to Geneva to study international affairs whenever possible.

It was decided to send the above proposals to the Spring Executive asking other Sections to take similar action.

It was proposed to protest against a competition for very young and older children, which was offering a price for the best design of a plated cruiser.

In connection with the Bill that is now before Parliament on "Protection against Air Raids" a declaration was carried covering the following points:

1. Disbelief in the possibility of protection from air attack.
2. Demand for those whose conscience would not allow them to co-operate in protective measures for permission to abstain.
3. Demand for a more energetic attempt on the part of the Government to abolish war and every kind of violence, and to use moral, financial and economic pressure on the event of a conflict such as was now taking place in Ethiopia.
4. Reiteration of the fact that the W. I. L. P. F. was working for total disarmament as the final goal, but in the meantime it demanded, as a first step, the abolition of war from the air, and the reduction of armaments.

A request was issued to the Dutch Government to propose to the League of Nations that the manufacture of and traffic in chemical products for war purposes shall be reduced and controlled in the same way as opium and other narcotic drugs. i.e. by an international convention.

A further proposal was submitted to the League of Nations:

That the League of Nations shall take the initiative in drawing up a Convention by which States undertake to include in their national legislation, special conditions relating to war industries, such as: stipulations that the shares and debentures of limited companies connected with such industries shall be exclusively registered and not made out to bearer, and that a list of the holders of such shares and debenture bonds shall be deposited at a Public Registry Office where any person may consult such list and obtain a copy thereof.

A resolution, welcoming the Memorandum drawn up by the International Law Association on the minimum requirements for the improvement of the conditions of Political refugees and presented to the 6th Committee of the League of Nations Assembly, urged an early and thorough discussion of the requirements contained in this Memorandum, and its adoption in practice.

Hungary.

There were many surprises during the summer for the *Feministak Egyesulete*. There was suddenly the presentation to Parliament of a Bill for Protection against Air Attacks. The *Feministak Egyesulete* immediately addressed a petition to Parliament protesting against the fallacy of this measure and pointing out that an all-round constructive peace policy was the only possible protection against attacks from the air. Our petition asked for the rejection of the Bill. Nevertheless the "Frame Bill" passed and under this Law every Hungarian citizen above the age of 14 years will henceforth be subjected to some military regulations.

Another surprise was the introduction of a Reform Bill for the regulation of Lawyers' Chambers, which laid down that the first qualification for a lawyer was to belong to the male sex. This Bill bars women from the membership of the Chambers and consequently disqualifies all women from entering the legal profession. The *Feministak Egyesulete* called a protest meeting in October at which prominent men lawyers declared their solidarity with their women colleagues and the women proved their ability by speaking brilliantly for their cause. This meeting passed a resolution for a petition to be presented to the Minister of Justice in which the elimination of the offensive measure was demanded.

On October 29th Dr. Bela Denes, at an afternoon tea of the *Feministak Egyesulete* gave an excellent talk on the "Biology of War" in which he discussed the erroneous beliefs, that the struggle for life and the development of the races are the causes of war.

On November 15th Lily Korber, the author of "Life in the Soviet Factory" and other books, gave a delightful lecture on Japan and China, particularly in relation to women and child labour, the customs and spirit of these countries.

Our plan for the next few weeks is to bring out our Hungarian People's Mandate sheets. Our first sheets were in English for the "select subscribers", to prove the international character of the campaign, and a number of prominent names were printed on it.

Jugo-Slavia.

The Section is especially interested in educating public opinion for peace. Lectures on Peace problems are being organised.

A Memorial meeting for Jane Addams was held and the appeal of the Empress

of Ethiopia was read and broadcast on the radio.

The book by Anna Nilson "A. B. C. of the Pacifist Movement" has been translated and printed.

The Appeal to Governments against Terror in Germany was translated and sent to the Jugo-Slavian Government, as well as the Appeal to Non-Jews in Europe.

With permission of the police, 1000 lists of the People's Mandate are being distributed and names collected.

New Zealand.

The Section took part in the Anti-War Demonstration which took place in the Summer, although not affiliated to that body. The idea, which we share with the Australian Section is that being a peace society we must assist at every demonstration against war no matter by whom it is organised. It was a fine object lesson and many people who had come out simply to line the sidewalks and look on, fell in and marched with us to the Domain where the speech making took place. There were similar demonstrations in Wellington and other parts of the Dominion. There is no doubt the Peace plant is growing steadily.

The Section endorsed the sentiments expressed in the following letter to His Holiness the Pope:

"The League of the Christian Anti-Militarist Society, Church and Peace, in the Netherlands numbering 8,000 members of all churches and denominations, clergy and laity, holding the conviction that war and preparations for war are incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ and deeply concerned with the preparations for war being made by the Italian Government against the Ethiopians — a nation which, like the Italians, is numbered among the Christian nations, — and considering that the two countries are members of the League of Nations, remembering your message in April when you quoted these words from Psalm 68, verse 30, "Scatter, Thou, the people that delight in war", with regard to a State which wishes to be the cause of a shocking massacre with the inevitable result of its own suicide."

"We implore you to cry Halt to the Government and the people of Italy so that they will stop their preparations for war and submit their differences with the Ethiopian people of the Permanent Court of International Justice."

"Trusting for humanity's sake that your Holiness will accede to this request."

Sweden.

The Swedish Section started the People's Mandate Campaign on November 3rd, the very same day we had chosen for our Peace Day all over the

country (Unfortunately Armistice Day is not easy to choose because of its being a national festival day, especially in the south of Sweden where most of the peace work is done).

The women's organisations who have collaborated in the Campaign represent about 100,000 members. Because of this Women's Peace Day on November 3rd, we have not yet reached the men's organisations with the Mandate.

An effort to make the Church cooperate with us through the bishops gave a good result. 40 churches arranged Peace services.

Mrs. Höjer spoke for the Mandates Campaign on the wireless on November 3rd. Mrs. Sandler, wife of our Minister for Foreign Affairs, spoke, also, for the Mandates in the North of Sweden, and she has promised to give two other speeches before Christmas, and of course, all our active members were mobilised that day.

The Radio News mentioned our Campaign, and gave the text of the Mandate on Sunday evening.

Reports still come in on the 3rd November work, many meetings have been arranged by others who are not members as an answer to our appeal.

Results till today: In 109 places meetings have taken place. 18,563 persons have signed the Peoples' Mandate.

Some towns have had both meeting, demonstration and Church service. More than 30,000 persons have attended the meetings.

Switzerland.

The Section had a most successful Autumn School in Attisholz and it held its Annual Meeting, which was well attended, in Solothurn.

The problems of Sanctions, Boycott, Aerial Protection, Neutrality and an International Police Force were discussed. The application of *Sanctions* was considered an imperative duty of the Swiss Government, which would lead both to the strengthening of the League and of Switzerland. "No small country", the resolution reads, "can any more rely on the maintenance of its freedom and its independence, if the first beginnings of a new international order, as foreseen in the Covenant, are being rejected without punishment". The meeting agreed in principle to take part in a movement for the *Boycott* of Italian goods, though the members realised that thorough preparations for such a movement would be necessary if it were to be successful. If the Swiss Government

would take part in the application of Sanctions, in accordance with its obligations, the question of a people's movement for a Boycott would be superfluous.

The so-called Aerial Protection was once more denounced as a great danger, in that it militarises the whole population and tries to give a false sense of security.

Marguerite Gobat's report on the "Pax-Jugendwerk", which every year grants six weeks holiday to 6 French and 6 German children showed the true meaning of the education for Franco-German Conciliation.

The fundamental claims of the W. I. L. P. F. in Switzerland are: Self-determination of Peoples, International Arbitration, Democratic Control of Foreign Affairs, Disarmament, Equality of sex, race and religion.

Tunis.

The Section, to show its good will and fidelity to the principles of the W. I. L. P. F. in spite of the great difficulties in Tunis, has generously doubled its contribution to Headquarters, to be used for the Mandates Campaign.

ARTHUR HENDERSON

The Womens International League perhaps more than most Peace Organisations mourn the loss on October 21st. of Arthur Henderson, the President of the Disarmament Conference. He was a staunch friend of the Women's Movement in the days when the British women were working for their enfranchisement, and he was very largely instrumental in making effective the presentation of our own Disarmament Petition. He had a strongly religious background, which continued with him until the end of his life.

In his own country he served the Labour Movement for 23 years as the well-loved and respected Secretary of the Labour Party. In all the maze of detailed organisation he never lost his ideals or his vision for the Socialist State for which he worked. When Labour, as a minority Government, took office in 1929 he became Foreign Secretary and from that time his life was devoted to the cause of international understanding. When in 1932 he returned to Geneva his Government had gone out of Office, and he became President of the Disarmament Conference not as a minister, but as a private citizen. In his capacity as President he used all his influence to ensure that expressions of public opinion from all over the world in favour of Disarma-

ment were given their full weight and adequate publicity, and the great demonstration at the opening of the Disarmament Conference was able to present over eight million Disarmament Petitions from 56 countries. An English woman writes of him "no young crusader ever dedicated himself with more enthusiasm and determination to any cause than Arthur Henderson at 68 who gave himself to the purpose of bringing peace through disarmament in a divided world."

Certainly through these four years, with failing personal health and frequent pain and growing gloom over the hopes of disarmament, with obstructions strangling the life out of the Disarmament Conference, Arthur Henderson fought for his ideals with a courage which will be a lasting inspiration to all workers for peace.

He seemed in the last months as one who had passed through fire; he was ready to meet his opponents and to understand their point of view, to give them every inch of ground he could surrender without the surrender of principle, but for that he fought undauntedly to the end. Thanks be, he died not knowing that war had again broken out in the world. His work can best be summarised in his own words "either civilisation gets the better of anarchy or anarchy will plunge us back into barbarism through war, these are the issues bound up with Disarmament".

All honour to his faith and courage, all welcome to his challenge.

REFLECTIONS ON THE WAR IN ETHIOPIA

The facts of the war between Italy and Ethiopia are too widely reported to need repetition. The steps taken by the League are matters of discussion everywhere, and develop daily, so that anything recorded in a monthly paper would be out of date before its issue.

A few reflections on the whole situation and the lessons to be gathered from it may be of interest though the risk of prophecy for the immediate future is obvious and anything said must be mainly temporary opinion.

It is not often that one can say with any confidence that an event one is living through marks a turning point in human history. If League action, having as its object the ending of the violation of Covenant pledges and of an act of aggression, succeeds in bringing that aggression to a close, it will be such a turning point. And no mixture of

motives in the background can rob even the attempt of its significance. Indeed in a sense the mixture of motives adds to this. The Great Powers, as previous "arrangements" and even Treaties between them show, were not averse to partitioning Ethiopia into spheres of influence, to be covered by economic penetration. From whatever motives, it is definitely the method of *war* against which they, and the League have been constrained to take action.

The pledges of the Covenant are by present happenings thrown into relief, as the abandonment of that method. There is surely no reader of the papers, no "listener in", outside Italy, who does not know that any act of aggression is a violation of a Covenant pledge, and that it is the duty of all League members to combine now and in future to bring aggression to an end. The Statesmen may one day find to their discomfiture how well the lesson has gone home.

Great Britain may be anxious at the prospect of an Italian Colony held by force, between Egypt and Kenya, but the anxiety in this case has driven her —with others—to commit herself irrevocably to a League policy and the doctrine of collective security, together with the reverse of that doctrine, the renunciation of the right of private war. That is the first great fact of the present situation, of which peace-workers ought to take every possible advantage.

The second is the fact that non-League Powers cannot merely stand aside. They are being drawn also to the same conclusions. Already, President Roosevelt has gone as far as he can in discouraging American citizens from assisting aggression by trading with the aggressor. The German Government has announced that for its own interests it will not allow exports beyond the normal to Italy, and is instituting a licensing system to see that the regulations are carried out.

Probably the person most surprised over the application of sanctions is Signor Mussolini himself. It is more than likely that misled by M. Laval, not realising the force of public opinion in Britain in support of the League system, and never himself really gripped with it, he believed the fulfilment of its obligations to be merely a matter of political expediency.

He evidently thought that demonstrations of Italy's military might would influence the decision of League members. In addition he did not realise that European opinion no longer supports the kind of military adventure against a coloured people which as he has truly

pointed out, others have indulged in freely for their own ends in the past.

In the Far East, Japan is at this moment continuing its aggression against China, but with astuter diplomacy than has been shown by Mussolini. The movement in North China will be represented as the will of the people concerned, with much more support as far as surface appearance goes, than has Italy's claim that the tribes on the borders of Ethiopia are welcoming her advance as that of a deliverer. Mussolini showed either colossal ignorance of changing opinion, or a reckless defiance of it, in his flagrant disregard of all Italy's pledges, as he prepared for, and finally set out upon, his deliberate aggression. His belated pleas of fulfilment of the true spirit of the Covenant, and of self-defence, appeared merely ridiculous, and, if they convinced either Mussolini or the Italian people, the method of government by Dictatorship stands, for that alone, self-condemned.

When we turn to examine the situation as regards sanctions and League efforts to stop the war certain criticisms and questions at once present themselves.

Why did the League actually do nothing between January and September 1935 while Mussolini piled up his preparations for aggression in East Africa, till the non-official mind saw war as absolutely inevitable, and a stage was reached when Mussolini himself is reported to have said if he did not give the order the guns would go off by themselves?

There were, no doubt, as has been pointed out in many places, reasons for this inaction in the state of public opinion in different countries and in political difficulties, particularly with France, whose Treaty of Friendship with Italy caused evasions and hesitations till the last moment. Obvious comments occur on both these points. Better publicity for the League should be thought out and carried through. For a body largely dependent on public opinion, it is strangely lacking in realisation of the needs and methods of legitimate propaganda. And, on the second point, the threat to the existence of the League, through the continued practice of the methods of the old diplomacy of alliances and bi-party understandings should be emphasised. Politicians trained in pre-war methods are still trying to hunt with the hare and run with the hounds, and this must cease if the new diplomacy is to prevail.

Should sanctions from the beginning have been more drastic, if employed at all?

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It is certainly still on the laps of the gods, whether the sanctions employed—though now really very drastic, apart from their non-universality—will have any other effect than uniting Italy and hastening the advance in Ethiopia. Those two things are certainly their immediate result, and only time can show whether the measures can outlast the one, and in the end cause the other to fail. Meanwhile Ethiopians and Italians are being slaughtered. The hesitation over an embargo on petrol is a lamentable exhibition of the power of vested interests. Here is something not necessary for life, but essential for the army. It might well have been the first embargo and the Powers will be entirely discredited if vested interests triumph.

But there is one factor, which makes the employment of drastic measures dangerous, unless the prospect is faced of an appalling World War,—indistinguishable in character from the last—. This fact is that the League system has not been worked as a whole. Sanctions were not envisaged as measures in isolation for the stopping of war. Before the promise to join in measures of war-prevention, every League member is pledged in the Covenant to measures of disarmament, and it is those who forget this, while urging sanctions to the uttermost, who are not supporting the entire League system.

Quite apart from this theoretical aspect, there is no doubt that the consciousness of the dangers of any coercion in a world armed to the teeth are a constant check on decisive action. We must get back to, and achieve disarmament, if the League system is to work.

The remoter outcome of the war is very difficult to foresee. It is apparent that victory for Italy is not within the expected reach of her carefully trained and massed armies. Some say openly that she has already lost the war. In view of the war-hysteria, engineered and exploited by every device of propaganda, the best hope, seems a distant one. It is that the Italians, as well as all other Governments and people who can by no means afford to throw stones, may come more widely to realise that national honour is bound up with submission of all disputes to third party judgment and the keeping of pledges; that mechanised and wholesale murder of a primitive people, men, women and children, cannot lead to satisfactory solutions, and that in this case a way out may be found in disinterested assistance to Abyssinia and respect for her rights, together with the satisfaction of Italy's legitimate

needs and claims in other directions, by the application to the problems involved of reason and goodwill.

Space does not allow of any enlarging of these points. They are the ends to the supporting of which, in details worked out with study and precision, the W. I. L. P. F. should turn its attention.

K. E. Innes.

Note.— This article was sent to press before the Anglo-British proposals for a peace settlement were made. It was impossible to revise it in time for publication.

CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE AT THE MAISON INTERNATIONALE ON OCTOBER 16th 1935

In order to coordinate and harmonise "peace forces" in the crisis created by the Italian aggression in Ethiopia, Miss Balch, just before leaving for the U. S. A., called together the most important Women's International Organisations to a Consultative Conference. Nine organisations affiliated to the Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee were represented, some of them by "observers". The World Committee of Women against War and Fascism and the Red Women's Trade Unions sent delegates from Paris and several other women took part in their personal capacity. A resumé of the minutes of the proceedings can be obtained from W. I. L. P. F. Headquarters. The exchange of views on the political situation in different countries and the action taken by different organisations was interesting and stimulating. Concrete proposals for common action were made. A plan of action was presented to the meeting of the Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee the following day and was received with sympathy and understanding. The W. I. L. P. F. representatives stated that there was no question of creating a new organisation, but that a "Centre of Initiative and Coordination" was to follow attentively the evolution of political events and, in case of emergency, to take the initiative in convening the organisations concerned, in order to take common action in support of the League of Nations policy for the application of economic and financial sanctions. The Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee however did not want to support the plan of action, as they considered some proposals to be a duplication of the work done by their Committee and others to be of a character calculated to

defeat the purpose it was intended to serve.

Thus the organisations represented in the Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee, except the W. I. L. P. F. and the Ligue des Mères et Educatrices, were not present at the second Conference held on November 16th at Paris. At this meeting it was decided that appeals for joint action ought to be signed not by the "Centre" but by the individual organisations agreeing to the proposal and prepared to share the responsibility.

TO ALL READERS OF PAX

We are asked to draw the attention of readers of Pax International to a book which has just been published: "*The Writers help*", Edition Oprecht, Zürich, Rämistrasse 5.

It is a collection of stories by such well known authors as Selma Lagerlöf, Thomas and Heinrich Mann, Upton Sinclair, Duhamel, and others who are showing their solidarity with their exiled fellow-workers by unselfishly offering some of their finest writings. The price of the volume of 336 pages is s. frs 4.80 unbound or 6.80 s. frs bound. Ten copies—30% reduction. Net profit going to the Committee for securing employment to refugee professional workers.

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