

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, January 5th, 1944
at 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1. from 11.a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair in the morning (until
2.30 p.m.)
Mrs. McGregor Wood in the Chair in the afternoon.
Mrs. Ballinger, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Miss Burton, Mrs.
Grindley, Mrs. Bedford, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Malcomson, Miss
Haughton, Mrs. Innes, Representatives from Branches: Miss Jean
M. Lay (Cambridge), Mrs. Cranmer (Leicester).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSNECE were received from Mrs. Beesley, Mrs.
Castle, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Lord, Miss Pye, Mrs. McGregor Ross,
Dr. Scott. *Mrs. Castle*

Before the commencement of the business Mrs. Duncan Harris
wished the W.I.L. and the Executive a prosperous and successful
year's work.

MINUTES OF MEETING on 1st December were signed as correct, having
been previously circulated.

BUSINESS ARISING: (Minute 475). Reported the following arrange-
ments had been made for Lunch Meetings:-

January 19th: Dr. Audrey Richards on "Some African Food
Problems." Miss Mosa Anderson in the Chair.
" 26th: Dr. Rita Hinden on "Labour Conditions in the
Colonies." Mrs. Irvine in the Chair.
February 16th The Rev. Myers Grace on "Colonial Education."
Mrs. McGregor Ross in the Chair.
February 23rd: Mr. C.W. Greenidge on "International Action
for the Colonies." Chairman not yet arranged).

Place of Meeting: Friends House, Euston Road, N.W. 1. Price 2/6d,
including Lunch.

It was agreed to advertise these meetings in The New States-
man, to send a notice to "The Friend" for information; to send a
notice to the Salvation Army in the Flats below (War Dept. for
Canadian and American soldiers).

476. FINANCE. The Treasurer presented the attached Statement of
Accounts showing a balance in the General Account of £48. 11. -
She thanked those Branches who had brought their quota up to date -
some had even exceeded it. The representative for Leicester
Branch regretted that her Branch had been unable to send in any
quota this year but it hoped to be able to do something towards
it next year (1944). The amount of the quota had now reached
£180 which the Treasurer considered excellent. Taking the £60
from the London "Bring and Buy" Sale we were not far off the
£260 aimed at. This year the Branches had had only eight months
in which to raise the quota but next year they would have the
full 12 months and so she thought the system should be tried again.

Mrs. Wood reported that our old Auditor, Miss Clugston,
had expressed the hope that now the Office had returned to London
we would give her the accounts to audit. After consideration, it
was agreed that in view of the financial situation we should ask
Mr. Selby to audit them.

477. WOMEN IN PRISON. Mrs. Duncan Harris reminded the Committee that
there is a body of highly moral people in prison who are coming
out feeling free to speak on conditions they found there, and she
said that we, as a women's organisation, must ask ourselves whether
we are concerned with the safeguarding of personality and should
consider some of the things that are being brought to our notice
just now. The pamphlet on "Conditions in Holloway Prison" which

had gone round to the Executive on rota) is a report from the medical angle. She recognised that the blackout and shortage of staff were partly, but not entirely, due to the present day conditions there. She had consulted Lady Artemus-Jones, who had made a study of penal history in this country and her reply was now before the Committee. It pressed the need for immediate reform in a number of directions. The Committee gave it careful consideration. Mrs. Grindley said that bad conditions existed in men's (particularly military) prisons as well as women's and she hoped that we would not differentiate between the two in asking for any reform. After consideration the Committee were of the opinion that it had sufficient evidence of bad conditions in the civil prisons and agreed that a letter should be sent to the Home Office informing the Home Secretary that as a body of women, the Women's International League is concerned with respect for the individual, and that we considered present hygienic conditions in our civil prisons for men and women harmful both to the personality and the health of the prisoners, and a hindrance to reformation; while recognising the present difficulties under which the Authorities are labouring due to shortage of staff and blackout regulations, we feel there is no reason for the lack of elementary cleanliness and safeguarding of health in our prison system, and we would, therefore, ask that the existing evils be remedied at the earliest possible moment.

Agreed also to write to the Howard League for Penal Reform expressing (1) our concern about reports of conditions in military prisons, which we understand are even worse than civil prisons, and asking to be informed if they are concerning themselves with the need for their reform; (2) our appreciation of their work in taking advantage of this generation of prisoners of conscience.

478. BRANCH REPORTS. Reports were given of work in the Birmingham, Manchester, Leicester, Croydon, North Wales, Liverpool, Cambridge, Welwyn Garden City Branches, by members of the Committee who belong to these Branches. A written report from Mrs. Castle, of Reading Branch activities, was read.

479. FAMINE RELIEF CONFERENCE. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported on a meeting on January 3rd at Caxton Hall of representative people from parts of England, Scotland and Wales, called together by the Famine Relief Committee on the inspiration of Miss Pye, from which a deputation went to interview Lord Selborne on the question of sending food to Europe. The deputation returned to the meeting to report the result of the interview. It felt that very little had been gained by the interview but that it had been worth while.

The attention of the Committee was drawn to the two-day Fast undertaken by a number of people to express their unity with the famine stricken peoples of Europe. Agreed to send a letter to Dr. Alfred Salter, M.P. for Bermondsey, expressing admiration for his two days' fast, and telling him that the W.I.L. through its Executive and Branches had been consistently supporting the sending of relief to Europe.

480. DISCUSSION OF ORGANISATION OF NEW BRANCHES AND GROUPS. Agreed that this was a question which needed much preparation before discussion and members of the Committee were invited to send in any suggestions for improving the organisation before the February meeting, when it would again be considered. It was, however, agreed (1) that new groups or Branches should not be asked to pay a quota on their members for the first year; although they would be invited to contribute anything they could to Headquarters Funds; (2) that in the starting of new groups or Branches Headquarters should be prepared to help over the initial expenses.

481. INTERNATIONAL NEWS. Mrs. Innes reported having received a cable from Frau Clara Ragaz announcing the death after a short but painless illness, of Anita Augspurg. A cable of sympathy had been sent to Frau Ragaz signed by Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Pye and herself. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Swiss Section expressing appreciation for their care of Anita Augspurg and Lida Gustava Heymann during their residence, as exiles, in Switzerland.

The Committee stood for a few moments in silence in memory of Anita Augspurg.

482. NEWS SHEET. Mrs. Innes reported that articles about Anita Augspurg would appear in the February News Sheet by Olga Misar, Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Pye (it was hoped) and herself.

Mrs. Grindley agreed to write 700/800 words on Present Day Prisoners of Conscience in this country.

On the suggestion of Mrs. Lloyd Prichard it was agreed to ask Mrs. Jones of North Wales (through Mrs. Lloyd Prichard) for 800/1000 words on Nationalities in the British Isle from the Cultural Aspect, for a future issue, and Prof. Newfang to be asked to write on World Government (through Mrs. Lloyd Prichard).

For later issues, it was AGREED that Marie Butts should be asked to write on ^{the present & future} national minorities in Europe from the point of view of their cultural contributions.

Articles on the contributions in a rather wider sense of Canada, New Zealand, Australia were to be asked for from W.I.L. members in those countries.

483. ANNUAL COUNCIL. Reported that the L.C.C. Physical Training College was not a residential one and that Eltham College had only dormitories and no single or double rooms. After considering whether the Council should be held in Manchester or London it was agreed not to ask the Manchester Branch to shoulder such a heavy responsibility, though the Committee deeply appreciated its willingness to have the Council there, and hoped that it would renew its invitation when times were more normal. Miss Burton was asked to convey the very warm thanks of the Committee to Manchester. It was decided to hold the Council in London, if possible at Friends House, or the Y.W.C.A. on April 12th to 13th.

484. DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL POLICE FORCE (Question VII of the W.I.L.B.F. Pool of Opinion).

Mrs. Innes read the following draft proposed reply which she had extracted from Comments sent in by Branches and made at the December 1943 Committee:-

"There is general agreement that while total disarmament is the ultimate goal it is not likely to be achieved soon after the war. We must, however, declare our belief in it and work for it. It is certain that no "renunciation of war" will give a feeling of security while national arms are retained.

"Our Chairman reminded us that in mid-twentieth century, disarmament without relation to the alternative use of machinery might well produce chaos and disaster, which might rival the ravages of war, or even outstrip them. Therefore, disarmament must begin with deliberate planning for the full use of men and machines for the welfare of mankind instead of for his destruction. It will involve a widespread and dramatic raising of the standard of life in every corner of the earth. Beginning at this point disarmament becomes a positive achievement, an addition sum, not a subtraction.

"There should, however, be a speedy and progressive reduction under international supervision of the armaments of all countries, and no private manufacture of or profit in arms must be tolerated. The reduction must go on in conjunction with an orderly transfer of production power, to the service of the constructive needs of the peoples, - dematerialisation and internationalisation of strategic points and waterways.

"We feel that some period of service should be given to the State by all young citizens, but we are not prepared to support conscription.

"As regards the right to intervene in the internal affairs of any nation, the International Authority should have this right in the case of any action being taken by a National Government which would disturb the peace and in the case of violations of the Charter of Human Rights.

"As regards an International Police Force, we realise this will be a necessary stage in national disarmament and as realists we must accept stages towards the goal we desire, while keeping always the end in view."

Mrs. Duncan Harris proposed the following amendment to the last paragraph:-

"As regards an International Police Force, we realise that a necessary stage in national disarmament may well be international control of such arms as remain, but this control must be for the purpose - not of compulsion by violence, but for the ordinary and rapid elimination of arms from the world. As realists we must accept stages towards the goal we desire, while always stressing the under-lying purpose."

In proposing the above amendment Mrs. Duncan Harris said she thought we had something more constructive to say about the last paragraph of the proposed draft of reply to Question 7 of the Pool of Opinion. The world moved forward - it is not where it was ten years ago. Solutions today must be our thought and the question is not such as can be answered by a bare "yes" or no."

With a world packed with arms from end to end we must find the way to liquidate those arms. We know that they cannot be liquidated in a moment, physically and psychologically they cannot be abolished at once. But a disarmed world is our objective.

We must consider first how production for arms shall be turned over to production for peace, and under whose control. What is the purpose of the control that will supervise the turn-over?

In the answers that have come in from the Branches there is a reluctant acceptance of the fact that there will be a residue of arms for some time after this era, and we must face the further fact that a large number of people in the country will press for the continuation of arms. There is something we can say which will go some way towards suggesting a way along which those events might be guided. Our responsibility is for thinking out the road along which disarmament is possible, and one of our first concerns is to say that national armies, navies and air forces must cease to exist and to press that international control should be established for whatever force remains in the world, for the purpose of the elimination of arms, taking control of such arms as remain until they can be liquidated.

The question was asked: "are we thinking of an International Police Force as a Force that can bring an offender before an international tribunal?" If we speak of an International

Police Force we must define what we mean. We want to link together the economic collaboration of the nations and the economic reconstruction involved in the changing over from war time to peace time activities.

Mrs. Lloyd Prichard contributed the following note:-

proposed reply of the Executive Committee
"There is general agreement that while total disarmament is the ultimate goal it is not likely to be achieved soon after the war. We must, however, declare our belief in it and work for it. It is certain that no "renunciation of war" will give a feeling of security while arms are retained. *amendment to the draft*

Disarmament involves deliberate planning of the full use of men and machines for the welfare of mankind and a widespread raising of the standard of life everywhere. It must proceed in conjunction with the just transfer of all productive power to the service of the constructive needs of the people involving such ownership and control as would make impossible inter alia private manufacture of and profit in arms.

But the problem of disarmament is not simply a mechanical one. If it were, one could conclude that all well-fed people are of necessity pacifists. The fact is that a vast improvement can take place in the realm of matter and still in the human sphere severe conflict may occur. To solve the problem of disarmament we have to make 'a heroic effort of spiritualisation thanks to which all progress in the material and technical order - can at last serve to effect real progress in the emancipation of the human being.' (Redeeming the times, Jacques Maritain, p. 114). Our contribution as pacifists to this 'heroic effort' lies not in demonstrating in superior fashion the advantages of planning or in the support of an International Police Force, but in supplying the driving force to active co-operative living, in which case every person would gladly supply service to the state without the compulsion of conscription."

Mrs. Ballinger suggested, and it was AGREED that the draft replies should be referred back to the Branches, with Mrs. Duncan Harris's proposed amendment and the note drafted by Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, and that they be asked to give further thought to Question VII with a view to a full discussion at the Annual Council Meeting.

485. INDIA AND COLONIES COMMITTEE. Miss Burton, for the Committee, reported:

(1) that the Committee recommended the co-optiON of Mrs. Malcomson and Mrs. Ballinger on to this sub-Committee. AGREED.

(2) arrangements for the Warrington Conference. AGREED to do everything possible to make it a success.

(3) that the Committee recommended to the Executive the sending of a letter to the Colonial Secretary congratulating him on the progressive step of adopting the policy of total prohibition of opium-smoking in the British and British-protected territories in the Far East (now in enemy occupation), and expressing the relief that the Government monopolies for the sale of opium prepared for opium smoking will not be re-established on the recovery of those territories. AGREED.

(4) that the Committee recommended a letter being sent to the Colonial Secretary expressing:-

- (a) disapproval of the recent extension of forced labour.
- (b) disapproval of the proposed increased settlement of white peoples in Kenya and future alienation of land.
- (c) the hope of increased native representation on legislative Council and other bodies,
- (d) the hope that amalgamation of colonial territories in

East Africa and elsewhere would not be undertaken without full discussion in Parliament and without the consent of the native peoples concerned.

It was hoped that Mrs. Ross, Miss Anderson and Mrs. Lloyd Prichard would be prepared to draft the letter. AGREED that the letter should be sent.

(5) that the Committee recommended the attention of Branches and members of Executive be drawn to "Forced Labour" by C.W. Greenidge. AGREED.

(6) that the All India Women's Conference had been postponed until Easter, and that the proposed cable from the last Executive had therefore not been sent.

(7) that no reply had been received from the I.L.O. in Montreal re women in mines in India.

(8) that Mrs. Irvine had accepted co-option to the India and Colonies Committee and had been appointed Publicity Secretary for India and the Colonies.

(9) That the Branch replies to the questionnaire on work done on India and the Colonies were left over until the next meeting of the Committee, when it was hoped Miss Harrison would be present.

(10) that the Committee recommended that the Message "Metropolitan of India Appeals for Reconciliation from Calcutta, January 1st, 1944, should be sent to the Branches with the suggestion that it be used as a follow up of the Day of Prayer and the Statement by the 25 Missionaries. AGREED.

486. NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR RESCUE FROM NAZI TERROR. Miss Anderson reported she had attended a meeting of this Committee on 4th November which had been addressed by an American Unitarian who told of the position of refugees in Portugal and what was being done for them there. Not much could be said of what the British Government is doing but the Committee was satisfied that they were doing something. The difficulty is that countries do not like taking refugees unless they have some assurance that they can pass on to other countries. Miss Anderson had asked about the possibilities of Jewish Homes apart from Palestine. She felt that unless further Homes were found their position would be very difficult indeed, and she urged the W.I.L. to keep this matter to the fore of its programme. She reported that funds were needed for the continuation of the work and she hoped the W.I.L. would feel able to respond to the Hon. Treasurer's appeal.

On the proposal of Mrs. Ballinger it was AGREED to send 10/6d as a token of sympathy and interest in the work being done.

487. Miss Dickinson referring to the correspondence in the Manchester Guardian, particularly the letters of Sir ~~Josiah~~ Lucas suggested (1) that Mrs. Innes be asked to insert in some issue of the News Sheet articles representing the Jewish, the Arab and Sir Josiah Lucas's points of view; (2) that the Committee should keep this matter in mind. Miss Dickinson was asked to draft a resolution for the consideration of the Committee at its next meeting. *Joynlin*

488. CORRESPONDENCE. Reported a letter from THE PROGRESSIVE LEAGUE asking if the W.I.L. would write to the Foreign Office expressing concern over the difficulty which is being experienced by Italian anti-Fascists who wish to return to Italy to assist in the revival of democracy there, and to draw attention to the widespread feeling that action should be taken to enable political exiles to return immediately, if they so desire, to the country which is in such sore need of their services. AGREED to take no action.

Reported the receipt of complimentary tickets for the Allied Inside Germany Council for a Public Meeting at the Central Hall on January 22nd at 3.30 p.m. Subject: "Zero Hour for Germany - Destruction or Revolt" Lord Faringdon was to be in the Chair, and Miss Rathbone, M.P. was amongst the speakers. No members of the Committee were free to attend.

International Women's Day, 1944. Reported an invitation to send a representative to join the National Committee for Celebration of International Women's Day and to attend its next meeting on Thursday, January 13th at 2.30 p.m. No member was able to attend this meeting.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS.

B. Bureau Harris
2. 11. 44

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, December, 1943.

Balances on 1st December:-		Salaries.....	22. 10. -
Midland Bank:		News Sheets.....	6. -. -
General	37.11.4	Literature.....	5. 17. 3
India	36.17.6	Stationery.....	2. 18. 1
Geneva subs.	2. -.-	Travelling Expenses.....	2. 15. 3
P.A.W.Fd.	<u>1.14.-</u>	Postage.....	2. 8. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	78. 2.10	General Subscriptions.....	2. -. -
Petty Cash.....	5. 4. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	Office Expenses.....	1. 1. 6
Co-operative Permanent		Nat. Health & Un. Insur...	7. 6
Building Soc:-		Meetings.....	2. 6
Penny-a-Week Fund....	152.18. 6	Heating.....	1. 4
Congress Fund.....	75. -. -		<u>46. 1. 9$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
		Bank Balances:-	
Subscriptions..	2.14. -	India.....	36. 17. 6
Donations (Gen.)	1.19. 2	General.....	48. 11. -
Fr. of H.Q.....	3. -. -		
Quotas.....	22.10. 6	Petty Cash....	5. 10. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$
News Sheets....	9. 4. 9	Penny-a-Week	158. 14. 2
Literature.....	9. 3	Congress....	<u>76. -. -</u>
Affil. Fees....	15.18. 9		325. 13. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Penny-a-Week...	<u>4.12. 8</u>		<u>£371. 15. -$\frac{3}{4}$</u>
	<u>60. 9. 1</u>		
	<u>£371.15. -$\frac{3}{4}$</u>		

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, 2nd February, 1944,
at 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1. from 11 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. McGregor Wood,
Mrs. Malcomson, Mrs. Ballinger, Mrs. Bedford, Miss Haughton,
Mrs. Grindley, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Berwick Sayers, Miss Burton, Miss
Harrison, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. McGregor Ross, Mrs. Castle, Miss
Anderson (for a short time in the afternoon). Visitor: Frau Hertzka.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs. Beesley, Mrs. Innes, Mrs.
Lloyd Prichard, Miss Pye, Dr. Scott.

Before the meeting commenced a letter was reported from the
Hon. Secretary of our Australian Secretary, dated October 12th,
1943, thanking us for the News Sheet, expressing warm appreciation
of the activities of the Peace Organisations in England, particu-
larly the W.I.L., the N.P.C., the War Resisters' International, and
of the letters of Miss Vera Brittain, and hoping that the Committee
would have a little "Australian Tea" when two cakes and a pound of
tea which had been sent to us with the very best wishes from the
members of the Australian Section, reached us. They hoped that we
would "think of us on the other side of the world as we think of
you."

AGREED that our warmest thanks should be sent to the Austra-
lian Section when telling them of the "Family Tea Party" which en-
joyed their cake and drank their health in the tea during the meet-
ing of the Executive Committee, when our thoughts went out to them,
and we spoke of the joy we had in knowing that they, on their side
of the world, were playing a big part now in the development of
the next era. We realise that the Eastern hemisphere may well be
the centre of the development of the next phase of civilisation,
and we hope that together we may help to bring into being a better
world for men and women to live in, by our work for the acceptance
of our common belief that war must be abolished and disputes
settled by peaceful means.

It was AGREED that the letter and gift should be mentioned in
the News Sheet.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON JANUARY 5th were signed, having been prev-
iously circulated, after the following amendments had been made:-

page 3. Minute 482 NEWS SHEET, 4th paragraph 2nd line, after
"write on" delete "national minorities" and insert "the problem
of Nationality" The par. thus reads:-

"For later issues it was AGREED that Marie Butts should
be asked to write on "The problem of nationality in
Europe" from the point of view of cultural contributions."

Reported that Mrs. Lloyd Prichard asked for an amendment to Minute
484 DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL POLICE FORCE, as she did not
think it was clear from the Minute that she objected to the draft
memorandum on several grounds and had particularly made the point
that if we agree to countenance an International Police Force,
such a departure in our policy should come before the Annual Coun-
cil Meeting for full consideration by the Branches. She must in-
sist, therefore, that the "note" she contributed was intended as
an amendment to the draft proposed reply of the Executive Com-
mittee.

On page 5, in 5th line after "following" delete "note"
and add "amendment to the draft proposed reply of the Executive
Committee."

On page 6 Minute 487, second line "Josiah" should be "Joelyn"
Lucas.

489. BUSINESS ARISING.

Lunch Meetings. Reported that the Lunch Meetings on January
16th and 29th were not well attended and the Chairman urged all

members of the Committee to help to make the meetings on February 16th and 23rd more successful. Dame Rachel Crowdy had consented to take the Chair on the 23rd. AGREED to advertise each meeting in the New Statesman.

Reported that Mrs. Lloyd Prichard had suggested that Lunch Meetings should be held on Yugo-Slavia, Greece, Albania and Poland. AGREED not to plan any lunch meetings for the present, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard's suggestions were noted.

490. International Women's Day. Reported that Mrs. Innes had consented to allow her name to stand as the representative of the W.I.L. because we were very anxious that women should play their part in post-war reconstruction. The International Women's Day Committee had been informed in a letter dated 24th January that "the W.I.L. stands for the abolition of war and is, therefore, perhaps not wholly in sympathy with the whole of your programme. We very much hope that some formula will be found later on which will not exclude German women."

Since then, however, further correspondence had been received which showed the Movement as one developing into a pressure for a victory of arms and along lines on which the W.I.L. is not desirous of pressing.

AGREED to write to the Committee to say (1) that while the W.I.L. is deeply concerned with the abolition of want and of war it does not feel that the line the Committee is taking is one on which the W.I.L. could unite; (2) that we cordially support the second part of their programme.

491. ad hoc Women's Conference. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that the Committee called to organise the next Meeting had not succeeded in getting speakers. She had recently had a talk with Miss Margaret Bondfield who was under the impression that the Group of Public Welfare were planning just the work the ad hoc Committee had in mind. After consideration the Executive suggested that if this were the case Mrs. Duncan Harris should suggest to the ad hoc Committee that they review the plans for a Women's Conference, perhaps relying less on known names than on concerned people.

492. Reported that four W.I.L. delegates had been appointed by the Officers to attend the One Day School on Methods of Presenting International Subjects, but only Miss Dickinson had been able to attend. She reported briefly on the proceedings.

493. Women in Prison. Reported a letter from the Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, dated 25th January, enclosing a copy of a reply which the Home Secretary gave last March to a Parliamentary Question by Miss Rathbone on the subject. The Under-Secretary said in his letter "There is no ground for your fear that the matter to which you refer may be regarded as "unimportant." On the contrary the Prison Authorities are fully aware of the great importance of vigilant attention to all matters of detail which affect standards of cleanliness and hygiene; and are constantly seeking both to raise the general standard and to minimise the risk of the occurrence of lapses from those standards."

Mrs. Duncan Harris was not clear whether the reply covered the question of vermin.

AGREED a further letter should be sent to the Home Secretary asking whether his reply covers verminous premises, as we have considerable evidence that parts of Wandsworth Prison are not free from vermin (bugs!)

Mrs. Grindley's offer to supply Executive members with a report on detention barracks written by a C.O., and her comments on the Oliver report, was gratefully accepted.

Mrs. Grindley was warmly thanked for her article in the

February News Sheet.

The position of C.O's in the navy was referred to by Mrs. Grindley who said that conditions in naval detention barracks were far worse than in military detention barracks.

AGREED to write to the Central Board of C.O's asking if they were doing anything in the matter of detention of naval C.O's and if so what steps were they taking, and could they advise us as to whether there was anything the W.I.L. could do in the matter.

494. National Committee for Rescue from Nazi Terror. Reported a letter of thanks for the donation of 10/6d and appreciation of W.I.L. support.

495. FINANCE. Mrs. Wood reported that many Branches had completed their 1943 Quota. Annual subscriptions were coming in steadily and several members had increased their amounts and a number had expressed pleasure on hearing of the formation of new Branches and the increase in young members.

Mrs. Wood said that more clerical help was needed in the Office. Miss Harrison supported this and it was AGREED to try to get help immediately. The Officers were asked to look into the question.

Reported that Miss Palmer had now got paid work of the kind she wanted. AGREED that good wishes for her success, and an expression of gratitude and appreciation for all her help be sent to her.

496. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS. Reported that Friends House, Euston Road, London, had been booked from April 12th to 14th. Dates for receiving resolutions, amendments, etc. were reported. These would be sent to Branches as soon as possible.

Discussion on suggestions for a main Subject of the Council took place. Mrs. Wood said the time was drawing nearer when it would be possible to make contact with women of other countries and we must be ready for that time. AGREED the Branches should be asked to be considering the question of the re-shaping of Europe and that a resolution should be drafted by the Executive for the Council.

The following amendment to Rule VIII (d) drafted by Mrs. Innes was accepted for the Agenda:-

Delete "All" and substitute "written" and after "Meetings" add "but this rule shall not preclude the acceptance of verbal amendments at the Annual Council Meeting, at the discretion of the Chairman."

The following were appointed Agenda Committee:-

Miss Haughton, Mrs. Berwick Sayers and the Officers.

AGREED to have a Bring and Buy Sale during the Council, the charge of which Mrs. Malcomson kindly undertook.

497. ORGANISATION OF NEW GROUPS AND BRANCHES. In opening the discussion on Organisation Mrs. Lord said that she found it a fairly simple matter to get a group together in one's own locality but sooner or later the question was asked "What is the special contribution the W.I.L. has to make which other Organisations are not already making, and she has found it very difficult to answer. She would be glad if this could be clearly defined. She did not feel clear that her work as Liaison Officer was any longer necessary. In the early days, judging from the W.I.L.P.F. reports of the first two Congresses big meetings were held, but now it seemed no longer possible to get large audiences. Mrs. Lord did not believe there was vital life in the W.I.L. before the outbreak of this war and SHE KNEW MANY Branches were just being kept alive. She felt it needed something really dynamic to bring it to life.

Mrs. Castle saw the need for the education of women in political events in our own country and in internationalism. She believed there was a vast scope for future work in making women conscious of their responsibility and the need for them to pull their weight if war is to be got rid of. She supported Mrs. Lord's view that it is easier to get groups started than to get an increase of members. In Reading the Committee seemed to have got in touch with all the keen women and to have touched the outer fringe, but the Branch does not grow and the burden of the work falls on a small nucleus of keen people. Mrs. Castle felt the need for literature which explained the work of the past, the present and the future - something more than "Calling all Women," which does not go far enough.

Mrs. Wood thought "Calling all Women" not good style for an appeal to the young modern woman. Something was needed about the size of the Annual Report, containing a brief tribute to the work of the women at the beginning of the Movement, followed by an account of our present and future work, much on the lines Mrs. Duncan Harris had spoken on at Cambridge recently.

The cost of printing was raised and it was thought it might be necessary to get the work done in the Provinces.

Miss Haughton said Welwyn Garden City was being kept alive so that when the younger women are more free they can come in and carry on the work.

Mrs. Duncan Harris spoke of the vitality of the Cambridge Branch.

Mrs. Ballinger said Birmingham had increased its membership and is more vital and alive than before the war. She believed that as long as women are uninformed on international matters there is a job for the W.I.L. to do.

Mrs. Berwick Sayers thought the vital work of the W.I.L. was to make women think internationally. There are many women's organisations but very few have anything but a slight interest in international affairs. The main difficulty in the world is not lack of kindness towards one's neighbours internationally, but lack of understanding of the problems and the way in which Statesman work, and finance is manipulated. The ground is so vast it cannot be covered in a life time. This making of women to think internationally is the real work of the W.I.L. and the experts in political matters in the W.I.L. are those who have to do the outside work, dealing with Government, Committees, etc., but she felt the Branches can back them up when necessary.

Mrs. Malcomson said that the Liverpool Branch, which was almost dying, is now definitely reviving. The younger women are doing some hard work.

Miss Burton said that Manchester's great trouble seemed to be to get members to meetings.

Mrs. Wood asked what was being done to follow up the work of the W.I.L. speakers at meetings of other organisations. Interest had been shown but the W.I.L. itself had not been strengthened.

Mrs. Bedford referred to the affiliation to the W.I.L. of the London Women's Congregational Union, which believed the W.I.L. to be the finest women's organisation they knew, and Mrs. Wood had been instrumental in getting that affiliation. Several branches of the Union had also affiliated to the W.I.L.

Mrs. Grindley spoke of the opportunity recently given her to speak about the W.I.L. at meetings of the Diocesan Federation of Women Anglican Fellowship.

Mrs. Duncan Harris said that our job was to influence women politically and to get them to use their influence on the policy of the Government. The reason for the W.I.L.'s existence is to find a way to abolish war and the realisation that war is not the right method of settling disputes. Now, when a new international pattern is being drawn is the moment for the W.I.L. to make its special contribution.

Suggestions on organisation were reported from Mrs. Lloyd Prichard and the Liverpool Branch through Mrs. Malcomson.

At the end of the discussion it was AGREED that the Organisation Committee should meet at 10 o'clock on Wednesday, March 1st to consider the suggestions put forward with a view to bringing the matter before the Executive Committee and the Annual Council Meetings.

The suggestions re literature were referred to the Publicity Committee, Mrs. Castle undertaking to list the proposals made during the discussion.

498. CABLE FROM MISS BALCH, U.S.A.

Reported the following cable had been received by Mrs. Innes from Miss Balch:-

"Suggest that U.S.A. and British Sections propose to respective Governments, United Nations Migration Conference and United Nations Colonial Conference on U.N.R.R.A. pattern. Please cable whether acceptable."

Mrs. Innes had consulted the Officer and Miss Pye. Miss Pye had said that she would not be prepared to give a final answer about asking for a Conference on Migration of 44 nations until we had obtained advice from experts in this field. Mrs. Duncan Harris endorsed this view, and said she was trying to get into touch with some of the experts in this country. Frau Hertzka said there was great unrest among refugees about this question of migration and no Government had given any assurance of whether refugees should be allowed to stay or where they would be moved to. She thought perhaps it was not wise to urge commitments now but thought a special Committee ought to be set up to consider the matter. She would like to see refugee organisations consulted.

AGREED that the Executive Committee is not prepared to give an answer to Miss Balch without giving the matter much more consideration.

With regard to the proposal for a Colonies Conference, Mrs. McGregor Ross's reaction was that this was not the right time for it. If the coloured people thought that 40 nations, almost entirely white, were going to decide their fate they would be more nervous than they are at present. They would prefer to deal with one country than with 40. Mrs. Ross said that the Colonies Committee the preceding evening had felt it might be a good thing to agree to this international Conference, and although it might be more white than coloured it would be wider than an Empire Conference. Mr. Greenidge of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society was anxious to have an international Colonial Conference. His Society had drawn up an International Colonial Convention and he suggests that an International Conference is essential to work out the terms of the Colonial Convention, which would embody principles of administration to all Colonies and set up machinery for enforcing them. Unfortunately Mrs. Ross had not been able to get into touch with Mr. Greenidge on this particular matter, but if he supported the view that the proposed Conference would be a good thing to urge, the answer we send to U.S.A. would be strengthened. She thought that we needed exact terms of reference before making a final reply.

Points raised by Mrs. Innes in a letter were reported and Frau Hertzka thought that if one Empire - either the British, the Dutch or the French - gave more freedom to its Colonial people, others might follow their example.

AGREED that Mrs. Innes should be asked to send a letter to Miss Balch asking if the U.S.A. Section were prepared to ask their Government to call a Colonial Conference on the U.N.R.R.A. pattern, with limited terms of reference, on the lines of the International Colonial Convention, drafted by the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society."

499. INDIA AND COLONIES COMMITTEE.

Reported (1) that considerable time had been spent on discussing the cable from Miss Balch (see previous Minute 498).

(2) Replies from Branches to the questionnaire showed a need for literature, study courses and speakers on both India and the Colonies. Mrs. Irvine had been appointed Publicity Secretary for both subjects and it had been agreed that Branches should be given particulars of the vast amount of literature in existence through a periodic letter and the News Sheet. Where it was a matter of asking M.P.'s questions it was felt that it would be better for individuals to get into touch with their own M.Ps.

(3) that it was hoped a Regional Conference on India similar to that of Warrington or Glasgow, would be organised in the summer.

(4) that Mrs. Duncan Harris had cabled W.I.L. sympathy to Mrs. Pandit on the loss of her husband, who had been released from prison owing to ill-health.

(5) no information from the I.L.O. Montreal had yet been received re women in mines, but meanwhile a question had been asked in the House;

(6) the current issue of the Bulletin issued by the Liaison Group that co-operates with the All India Women's Conference contains the text of the important resolutions passed by the Standing Committee of the All India Women's Conference. Miss Dickinson, the Editor, said that many of the Branches subscribed to this and Miss Harris^{on} said this contained information that could be obtained nowhere else. It was essential that every Branch had it in its possession.

(7) A new Government of India Ordinance had been issued on 15th January. It insists on the reviewing of personal detention without trial for six months and the giving the individual a reason for his detention. It was felt more information must be obtained and questions asked by individuals to their M.Ps. Miss Harrison undertook to draft a short memorandum on questions which should be asked.

(8) that the Viceroy of India would shortly be making his speech to the Legislative Assembly. If the political deadlock is left untouched it will be necessary to consider rallying public opinion all over the country.

(9) On the 15th February the British Council of Churches and the India Committee of the Conference of British Missionary Societies are meeting to review the situation in India. Mrs. Brayshaw, represented the Society of Friends on the former. Miss Harrison was asked to write to her assuring her of the support of the W.I.L. and expressing the hope that this meeting would result in the combined Christian forces giving a lead to the country regarding the political deadlock.

(10) that two draft letters to the Colonial Secretary re forced labour and land in Kenya from Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Lloyd Prichard had been considered and Mrs. Ross and Miss Anderson had been appointed to draft one letter from the two for the consideration of the Executive.

Mrs. Ross read the draft letter, illustrating the points about the land by an interesting map.

After discussion the Executive AGREED that the letter should be referred back to the Colonies and India Committee and that a copy should be sent to Mrs. Lloyd Prichard for her consideration.

(11) that the final Report on U.N.R.R.A. and the Colonial Paper on Mass Education in Africa be sent to those Branches with a literature Credit Account.

(12) that the Executive be asked to allow time in March for the situation in Palestine to be reviewed briefly by Miss Anderson, Miss Dickinson and Mrs. Irvine. AGREED that this would be welcomed and that Mrs. Irvine should be invited to attend the Committee for that purpose.

(13) that Miss Burton had been appointed Hon. Secretary of the India and Colonies Committee. Miss Harrison said Miss Burton's appointment would be an enormous help to the work of the Committee. Any points the Branches wanted raised either on India or the Colonies at the monthly meetings should now be sent to Miss Burton, Wrayton, Brooklands, Cheshire.

The Executive congratulated the Committee on their good fortune in securing Miss Burton as its Hon. Secretary.

500. LEAGUE OF COLOURED PEOPLES. Mrs. Malcomson reported that they were organising a Conference on Colonies in London. AGREED to ask for further particulars.

501. FAMINE RELIEF COMMITTEE. A discussion arose as to whether it would be wise to press for a larger supply of food stuffs and vitamins to go into Belgium and Greece and for the whole scheme to be widened. It was agreed, however, that a larger scheme would endanger the support in the country and that any drastic change of policy would be a mistake at this stage.

502. "BERLIN IS SLOWLY DYING." Miss Harrison said that when reading the papers and listening to the wireless she often felt a sense of unreality over discussions for a post-war world; that these were necessary and imperative she knew. But had not an organisation like the W.I.L.P.F. a prior responsibility in the face of the slaughter going on all over the world; she drew attention to the descriptions of the bombing of Berlin. Miss Harrison said she realised the force of the arguments of the uselessness of protesting against one form of warfare, yet she felt there was a value in registering persistently our original aim and felt that time must be given at the Council Meetings to review our position.

Mrs. Duncan Harris agreed with Miss Harrison that at some time the W.I.L. must ask itself where is the end of it all? As Chairman of the Committee she reminded us that the logical sequence to it is to say "stop it" but there were some in the W.I.L. who are not prepared to say that and she wondered how far it would be useful to go half way.

Mrs. Castle felt you could not discriminate in war. It is all to be condemned - root and branch. She did not see any point in protesting against the bombing of Berlin, which has a certain military objective and she did not feel it to be the most useful thing to do at the moment.

Miss Anderson thought there ought to be a political campaign to bring about a just peace. The only justification for the bombing is that the war will be brought to an end more completely and quickly. We ought to urge that all the time efforts should be made to bring about the only conditions on which a real peace can be built, and we ought to make a declaration that the German people will have a chance of a full life as soon as the war ends.

After further discussion in which Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Berwick Sayers took part, it was AGREED that Miss Harrison should be asked to draft a resolution or statement focussing attention of the Annual Council on the points that had been raised.

503. CORRESPONDENCE.

(1) Agreed a letter should be sent to Mrs. Corbett Ashby congratulating her on the courageous step she has taken in standing as an Independent Liberal Candidate at the Bury St. Edmunds By-Election; wishing her well in her effort to secure full representation in Parliament, and saying we were very glad to know that a voice like hers might be raised in Parliament on India and on the wider questions of international understanding which she has so ably supported.

(2) Women's Suffrage (Blanket) Bill. Reported that our Manchester Branch would like to know the attitude of the Executive Committee on this Bill as they had been asked to support it and had given some thought to it. Mrs. Duncan Harris said that as a Section we have never stood for the sweeping away of all protective legislation and the wording of the Bill in that sense is the real difficulty, though we have never given enough thought to it, but it has always been a thorny question in our international meetings. AGREED that Manchester Branch should be left free to support the Bill, or not, bearing in mind the question of protective legislation.

(3) The National Publicity Planning Association asked if we would be prepared to make representation to the Bar Council to secure the appointment of more women Judges and Records. The Committee felt it was entirely in sympathy with the object outlined but felt that the Women's Publicity Planning Association were in a better position to put forward a panel of names. AGREED to reply in this sense.

(4) The Six Point Group wrote concerning a method by which gainfully employed wives can ensure that a refund of income tax deducted from her earnings will be repaid to her and not be included in her husband's re-inbursement. NO ACTION TAKEN.

(5) The Six Point Group wrote re an all London Conference on Dependents' Allowances Forces Pay and Pensions. NO ACTION TAKEN.

(6) Dr. Edith Summerskill wrote re a Petition to urge that legislation should be passed which will make the working housewife a partner by giving her a right to an equal share with her husband of the home and its income. The Committee welcomed the Petition, copies of which can be obtained from Dr. Edith Summerskill, M.P., 1, Fitzroy Park, London, N. 6.

(7) The Fabian Society wrote re a Conference on Food and Agriculture, February 12th and 13th, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square. NO ACTION TAKEN.

B. Duncan Harris

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS.

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DATE, PLACE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

Wednesday, March 1st, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Flat 8, 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1. Branch representatives welcomed.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

*Signed duplicate
as we fear the origin
of lost to. 4/10/44.*

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, March 1st, 1944, at 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1. from 11. am. to 4 p.m.

PRESENT. Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Grindley, Mrs. Castle, Miss Dickinson, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Bedford, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Mrs. Berwick Sayers, Mrs. McGregor Ross, Mrs. Innes. Miss Anderson. Visitor: Mrs. Irvine, member of India and Colonies Sub-Committee.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs. Ballinger, Mrs. Beesley, Miss Burton (who had come down to London for W.I.L. Meetings, but had to return owing to illness), Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Malcomson, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Dr. Scott.

Reported that Lady Unwin, who was prevented from attending meetings owing to illness, had sent a message of love to all members of the Committee she knew, and her very best wishes to those members who had joined the Committee since she left England for America. She was greatly cheered to find so many of them younger women.

MINUTES OF MEETING on February 2nd were signed, having been previously circulated.

BUSINESS ARISING: Reported that the Lunch Meetings on February 16th and 23rd had seen a slight increase in numbers. The speakers were very good indeed. Dame Katharine Furse had taken the Chair instead of Dame Rachel Crowdy, who had been called unexpectedly out of London. AGREED a letter of appreciation should be sent to Dame Katharine Furse.

AGREED to leave the planning of future lunch meetings until after the Council Meetings.

Mrs. Grindley reported that the ad hoc Women's Conference was to be on Saturday, April 29th. Lady Falmouth would be in the Chair. The following were appointed W.I.L. delegates:- Miss Harrison, Mrs. Bedford, Miss Haughton, Miss Dickinson. AGREED to send notices of the Conference to near-by London Branches asking if they would like to appoint a delegate to attend the meeting. AGREED to make a grant of £2.2.0. towards the expenses of the Conference.

Reported an acknowledgment from the Home Secretary of our letter of the 15th February re CONDITIONS IN PRISONS, saying that the matter was receiving his attention.

The Central Board for Conscientious Objectors had written to say that they have never had a conscientious objector in naval detention barracks. They were anxious not to overlap in the work which is being done in the interests of prison reform by bodies which were set up long before the Central Board, and have always taken care that they do not go outside the scope of the function of the Board.

The Howard League for Penal Reform had replied to our letter saying that military prisons are barely within their purview. They have always confined their activities to the question of civil prisons, and must continue to do so as they have not the time or the staff to extend the field.

It was suggested that Mrs. Rackham might be consulted, as Vice-Chairman of the Howard League, as to whether that League could do anything about Naval Detention Barracks, though we realised how pressed their Office was owing to shortage of staff, etc. Or perhaps she could suggest something which could be done through the W.I.L. Mrs. Grindley agreed:- (1) to draft a note to the Branches asking them to interest themselves in this question; (2) to draft a resolution on the subject for the Annual Council; (3) to visit the Branches, subject to their consent, after the Council Meetings to talk about conditions in prisons, etc. AGREED no reply was needed to the letter from the Board of C.Os.

Reported a letter from the League of Coloured Peoples saying that the date of their proposed Colonial Conference in June had not yet

been fixed. All particulars would be sent us as soon as arrangements were completed.

Reported thanks from Mrs. Corbett Ashby for the Committee's good wishes in her efforts to secure full representation in Parliament.

FINANCE. The Treasurer presented the Annual Statement in hand, which showed the following Balances:-

General, including ear-marked money for India.....	£85. 8. 6.
Congress Fund.....	76. - . -
Penny-a-Week Fund.....	158.14. 2

It was reported that help had not yet been obtained for the Office, but inquiries were still being made and it was hoped to get a junior-typist before long.

On the recommendation of the Officers it was AGREED to increase Miss Horscroft's salary to £5 per week.

Mrs. Wood reported that some members had resigned during the year for financial reasons, and she regretted that the W.I.L. should lose some of its oldest and highly valued pioneers. After consideration it was AGREED that they should be invited to become Honorary Members for the "duration of the war."

It was reported that a cheque for £7 representing the balance of the funds of the late Shrewsbury Branch had been sent to Headquarters by Miss Bradley, late Chairman of the Branch which disbanded at the outbreak of the war. AGREED to hold the money for work at Shrewsbury when the time came for an effort to be made to restart the Branch.

Attention was drawn to the fact that literature and the News Sheet were not paying for themselves. AGREED that the Annual Council should be asked to consider the question of increasing the price of the News Sheet.

W.I.L. CZECH FUND. On the recommendation of Mrs. Duncan Harris it was AGREED that £5 should be taken from this Fund for Djina Rotter, who was taking a course of shorthand typewriting.

REPORT OF ORGANISATION COMMITTEE. Mrs. Castle, on behalf of his Committee, reported that suggestions by Mrs. Lloyd Prichard and the Liverpool Branch had been considered, and it recommended to the Executive:-

(1) that Branches should be encouraged to try to get new groups started in their district, and also new members.

(2) that members of Branches leaving one town for another where a Branch did not exist, should be invited to become Headquarters Members and to try to get a Branch started in their new town. Mrs. Castle would be willing to act as Transference Secretary.

(3) That Branches which have disbanded during the war should be reviewed;

(4) that Branches should be urged to develop the social side of their meetings by the appointment of hostesses who would be responsible for welcoming new members or visitors and introducing them to the older members. Also to have at least one social function a year.

(5) that London Headquarters Members should be asked to try to start Branches in their districts.

(6) that affiliated societies to the W.I.L. be invited to a Sandwich Lunch in the Office.

Mrs. Castle said there had not been time to consider all the suggestions made.

The Committee thanked Mrs. Castle for her willingness to act as Transference Secretary and asked her if she would make a detailed list of the proposals for organisation, to bring before the next Executive Committee, with a view to preparing proposals as a basis for discussion at the Annual Council. AGREED to consider these proposals which Mrs. Castle agreed to draft, at the Executive on 5th April.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS. In view of the recent raids over London, and the probability of further raids, the Officers were empowered to postpone the meetings, or if necessary change the place.

Subjects for discussion. The Agenda Committee, which would be meeting on March 14th at 11.45 a.m. was asked to consider asking either the Rev. Henry Carter, Lady Farmoor or Mr Carl Heath to introduce the subject of the "Re-shaping of Europe."

Miss Harrison referred to the Press Notices in this country of the W.I.L. in America approaching President Roosevelt to urge postponement of the invasion of Europe until every possible appeal for an armistice had been made to the German people over the heads of the Nazi Government. She suggested an appeal should be made to the British Government. After consideration the appended APPEAL was endorsed, to be sent to the Prime Minister, the deputy Prime Minister, (Mr. C.R. Attlee), the Foreign Office, the Minister of Aircraft Production, Secretary of State for Air, Secretary of State for War, Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister of Home Security, to the Press and to interested Organisations, W.I.L. Branches and Affiliated Societies, to our American, Australian, Canadian and New Zealand Sections.

AGREED that a covering letter should be sent with the Appeal, linking it with the press reports of the action taken by the American Section.

Mrs. Innes read the draft ANNUAL REPORT, which was adopted.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY. In reply to Mrs. Innes's letter of the 16th February withdrawing support of the W.I.L. for International Women's Day, the Secretary, Mrs. Waterman, said she quite appreciated the position of the W.I.L. and would place our letter before her Committee which meets at the end of March. In the meantime, the W.I.L. will be omitted from future printing.

W.I.L.P.F. NEWS. Mrs. Innes reported a letter from Mrs. Medders Robinson, President of the U.S. Section, sending greetings expressive of renewed friendship and fellowship on the brink of another year. AGREED letter of thanks and appreciation should be sent to Mrs. Medders Robinson.

Reported greetings cards had been received from Sweden and the U.S.S.R. Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Moscow, and letters from Switzerland and U.S.A.

INDIA. Reported that a warm invitation to attend the All India Women's Conference to be held in Bombay on April 7th had been received by Miss Harrison, Mrs. Lankester and Miss Brittain. Home circumstances prevented Mrs. Lankester and Miss Brittain from considering going but Miss Harrison said she could go if transport could be obtained. Every effort to secure this had been made, but the difficulties were insuperable. Had the Indian women given longer notice it might have been possible. Deep regret was expressed that no one could be present, particularly as the three asked were all members of the W.I.L. It was decided to convey these regrets to the Conference by airgraph, and to send a message by cable later.

Political situation. The Viceroy's speech is now to hand. While not minimising the good points in this, the W.I.L. is faced with an unchanged situation regarding the deadlock. The co-operation that the Viceroy stated "he would like to have" is impossible unless means for consultation among the interned leaders is possible. For this we must press. We understand that efforts to co-ordinate action are being explored by some of the bodies concerned about the Indian situation and that a draft statement is being prepared. As soon as this is in final form it will be circulated to Branches.

A cable of sympathy to Mahatma Gandhi on the death of Mrs. Gandhi has been sent.

COLONIES. Mrs. McGregor Ross read the draft letter to the Colonial Secretary re forced labour and land in Kenya which had been referred back to the India and Colonies Committee at the February Meeting. The letter was endorsed and instructions given for it to be sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Reported Dr. Hinden was unable to attend the Warrington Conference on The Colonies. Efforts were being made to replace her. Mrs. Duncan Harris was taking the Chair at the first session.

A resolution on the status of colonial people drafted by Mrs. Ross for the Council Agenda, was endorsed.

PALESTINE. Mrs. Irvine, Miss Dickinson and Miss Mosa Anderson gave short talks on Palestine, and afterwards they agreed jointly to draft a Statement for the consideration of the Executive Committee.

BRANCHES. Reported a new Branch had been started at Saffron Walden. AGREED a letter of welcome and good wishes should be sent from the Committee.

EQUAL PAY COUNCIL. AGREED to support a nation-wide campaign, organised by the Equal Pay Council for equal pay for equal work in the common classes of the Civil Services, as a preliminary step in a campaign for the economic equality of men and women. In replying to the letter it was AGREED to say that the Equal Pay Council could quote the W.I.L. as supporting the principle of equal pay for equal work, but regretted it was unable to devote time or money to assisting them.

WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL. Miss Dickinson reported that the Officers, on behalf of the Executive, had authorised her to put forward a resolution on the importance of Governments including women either as delegates or as advisers in their delegations to the International Labour Conference to be held on 20th April 1944.

NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL. Reported the N.P.C. were arranging two meetings of the Peace Aims Conference, one in London and one in Oxford, during March.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING. Wednesday, April 5th, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Flat 8, 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1.

B. Duncan Harris

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, April 5th, 1944, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Flat 8, 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Miss Harrison, Miss Burton, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Bedford, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Mrs. Malcomson, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Innes (Visitor: Mrs. Greta James, North Wales Branch).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs. Ballinger, Mrs. Grindley, Mrs. Beesley, Miss Haughton, Mrs. McGregor Ross, Miss Pye.

A letter of greetings was reported from Mrs. Margaret Huxley, who retired from the Executive Committee in 1941 owing to domestic difficulties. Mrs. Innes had written in reply and had congratulated her on possessing "a really delightful small daughter" of four months' old. Mrs. Huxley finds "The state of Europe, China and the World quite bewildering, and Vesuvius erupting just now is almost laughable as all tragedies are! But there are lots of green buds about the burst out of the dry wood," and she adds "if I don't live to see them, small Margaret may even enjoy their shade."

AGREED a letter of sympathy should be sent to Mrs. Rackham on the death of her husband. Mrs. Rackham is a Cambridge member and has given the W.I.L. much help.

CHAIRMAN OF MAY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Miss Harrison AGREED to chair this meeting.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON MARCH 1st having been previously circulated to members were signed as correct.

518. BUSINESS ARISING. Miss Dickinson reported that the resolution put forward in the name of the W.I.L. for the Agenda of the Women's Advisory Council of the L.N.U. at its meeting on March 8th was carried in the following form:-

"This Council desires to emphasise that Governments in their international planning in peace-making and in framing the Constitution of the World Authority of the future should recognise that all positions shall be open on equal terms to men and women, and that every endeavour should be made to appoint women with suitable qualifications to all representative bodies, and urges H.M. Government to take a leading part towards the promotion of this policy."

Ad Hoc Women's Conference to consider how best to work for the official inclusion of women in all steps taken in the making of peace and of reconstruction, is to be held on April 29th from 2.15 to 5 p.m. at the Gas Industry House, 1 Grosvenor Place, S.W. 1. Tickets 2/- each. Chair to be taken by Lady Falmouth. Speakers: Mrs. M. Holland, Mrs. Joan Clarke and Mrs. Eleanor Barton.

AGREED to ask Mrs. Humble, who had written to offer to represent the W.I.L. at meetings from time to time, if she would attend this Conference on behalf of the W.I.L.

Prisons. Reported letter from the Home Office dated 10th March, saying "that the assurances given in the Home Office letter of the 25th January apply to all prisons alike and not only to Holloway Prison," and that "The Secretary of State is informed that the Prison Commissioners have taken active steps to deal with this matter, with the co-operation of the Medical Research Council, and it is hoped that the measures now being taken will effectively dispose of the ground for complaint."

The Agenda Committee had decided that the resolution on Prisons, drafted by Mrs. Grindley on behalf of the Committee for the

Council, should be withdrawn owing to the many resolutions on the Agenda. THIS WAS ENDORSED.

519. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS. Reported that as replies from Branches clearly showed a preference for postponing the Council until July, efforts had been made to get accommodation out of London and the Friends Meeting House, Euston Road had been cancelled. Branches had been notified of this decision made by the Agenda Committee on behalf of the Executive, when the amended resolutions had been sent to them for discussion and information. Many places had been written to but negative replies had been received in each case. Inquiries were being made in various directions.

Mrs. McGregor Wood said she had been making inquiries in Cambridge and that it might be possible (1) to get beds in different houses in Cambridge, (2) for meals to be provided at The Hermitage (7/- for four meals or 5/- without breakfast), (3) to get a Hall attached to a Church for meetings.

During the Executive telephone inquiries were made at a College in Crewe and at Knebworth House, Herts. Both were unsuccessful.

Mrs. Innes AGREED to send an S.O.S. to Mrs. McFie, Warden of Newnham College, Cambridge (who was a personal friend) to ask if we could have the use of a Room for Meetings only. Mrs. Duncan Harris AGREED to write a personal note to The Warden of St. Hilda's, Oxford. (Note: The reply since the Executive Meeting regretted St. Hilda's was not available).

AGREED that if Newnham were available for meetings, Mrs. McGregor Wood should be authorised to make arrangements for meals at The Hermitage and for beds in the town near The Hermitage. Mrs. Lloyd Prichard consented to visit one or two houses to see if the accommodation were suitable.

AGREED to express thanks to Friends House, Euston Road, for not charging for cancellation of rooms.

Reported that the following had been nominated for the Executive Committee, 1944-1945. Mrs. Longson, Mrs. Stapledon, Mrs. Phillips and Miss Edith Hayler. AGREED to ask them to accept co-option on to the Committee immediately until the Annual Council Meetings in July.

Reported a letter from Miss Pye saying that now she has been made Chairman of the Friends Relief Service Overseas Committee, which means an enormous amount of work, she felt she had no right to remain on the Executive Committee. Yet she doesn't want to dissociate herself with the W.I.L. by dropping out of attendance." UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to ask Miss Pye to remain a member of the Committee until the Council Meetings and ask her to become a Vice President at the Council.

AGREED that the Committee should be free to issue a new Council Agenda and the Meeting in May would consider subjects.

With regard to the amendments to the Constitution, Manchester and North Wales (a member of each Branch being present) were asked to consult together over this matter before the Annual Council Meetings, as it was felt to be a pity to spend much of the Council's time over domestic affairs when there were so many subjects of international importance to be dealt with.

520. FINANCE. The attached Statement of Accounts for March was adopted. Mrs. McGregor Wood reported that our Leicester Branch had sent £5 for their 1944 Quota and the Hon. Treasurer of the Birmingham Branch, who had just given up office, had sent a donation of £5 as a Friend of Headquarters. Croydon, Acock's Green and Cambridge Branches had also sent contributions towards the 1944 Branch Quota. This was a great encouragement to Mrs. Wood, who was confident that the Quota scheme for the full twelve months would be very successful. She also rejoiced in the way the Penny-a-Week Fund and the Congress Fund were being maintained in readiness for work, internationally, after the war.

It was reported that Miss Horscroft, while much appreciating the Committee's desire to increase her salary, had declined to accept the increase. On the proposal of Miss Harrison it was AGREED that this matter should be raised again in three months' time.

Reported that Miss Palmer had found the work she had undertaken unsuitable, and had left it. We were, therefore, able to engage her to help with the general work of the Office at a salary of £2. Her hours were 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday. The Labour Exchange had been willing for her to come to us.

521. ORGANISATION. A discussion took place on the proposals before the Committee for developing the organisation of the W.I.L. AGREED: (1) that regional Conferences be encouraged amongst the Branches, it being suggested that the following be asked to take the lead in the different areas: Croydon, Cambridge, Leicester and Birmingham;

(2) that the question of area organisation be raised at the Council Meetings;

(3) that Mrs. Lloyd Prichard prepare a memorandum on the training of the women in the Peace Movement as Organisers, Speakers, etc. by Courses at a College such as Wood, Summer School Courses, etc;

(4) that Branches adjacent to a University be urged to get in touch with Students, if they have not done so already;

(5) that a map of the British Isles should be marked to show where we have W.I.L. members with a view to getting together groups. Mrs. Wood suggested using the News Sheet for announcing places where members live, with some such title as "HAVE YOU ANY FRIENDS THERE?"

522. APPEAL FOR PEACE TERMS DECLARATION. The following Report was given on the circulation of the Appeal:-

Formal acknowledgments received from The Deputy Prime Minister, The Foreign Office (Mr. Anthony Eden's Private Secretary), Minister of Air-Craft Production (Sir Stafford Cripps's Private Secretary), Air Ministry (Sir Archibald Sinclair's Private Secretary) which included an assurance that Sir Archibald would pay careful attention to the views expressed in the Appeal, and from the Home Office (Herbert Morrison).

Letters from other Organisations received from The Peace Pledge Union, the Central Board for Conscientious Objectors, The Co-operative Holidays Association, the Adult School Union, the Friends Peace Committee, who sent out 500 copies their Peace Correspondents.

The Appeal or reference to it appeared in the following PRESS:- Daily Evening Telegraph, Manchester Guardian, Yorkshire Evening News, Morning Advertiser, Evening Dispatch, Edin-

burgh, Edinburgh Evening News, The Citizen, Gloucester, Dorset Daily Echo, Express and Star Wolverhampton, South Wales Argus, Gloucestershire Echo, Evening Advertiser, Swindon, Sussex Daily News, Evening Chronicle, Manchester, the Co-operative News, Manchester, Bath Chronicle and Herald, Manchester City News, Derby Evening Telegraph and the Catholic Herald (which resulted in a number of inquiries about the W.I.L. These Press notices came through Durrants Press Cuttings Agency to which the W.I.L. subscribes.

A letter was read from Miss Pye expressing the opinion that the Appeal looks as though the W.I.L. advocated negotiation with those at present in power in Germany, with which she definitely dissociates herself as she did not think that peace and freedom could be obtained in that way. She agrees, however, with the W.I.L. associating itself with all those who desire negotiations with the other Germany and therefore wishes that some pronouncement could be made by our Government to state the willingness of the United Nations to consider this.

Mrs. Innes had replied to Miss Pye and had put the following preamble to the Appeal in the April News Sheet:-

"Believing that the formula "unconditional surrender" can only strengthen the hands of the Nazis by giving them a lever to keep among their supporters many who have fears for the fate of their country after defeat, the British Section through its Executive has again appealed to the Government to make a clearer definition of its peace proposals, along the lines of the Atlantic Charter. Such definition, reaching the German people over the heads of their present rulers might, we believe, be a factor in shortening the war."

Mrs. Duncan Harris drew attention to the letter from the American Section to President Roosevelt and the draft proposals of peace terms suggested by the American Section, to be offered by the United Nations to the Axis Powers. The letter and draft proposals had been duplicated for consideration by members of the Executive. (enclosed letter and draft proposals).

523. NEWS FROM ABROAD. Mrs. Innes reported W.I.L.P.F. News from Sweden and America. In her reply to Sweden she was asked to convey greetings to the Swedish Section.

524. COLONIES. Reports were given of the Warrington Conference on "The Colonies and Us" on March 11th. There was an excellent attendance and the Warrington Branch were to be congratulated on its great success. A full report was given in the April News Sheet. The resolution adopted was as follows:-

"This Conference welcomes the proposed recommendations on minimum standards of social policy in dependent territories to be brought before re-assembled nations at the forthcoming International Labour Conference. It urges that as far as possible representatives of the dependent territories should be included in the British delegation and also that the British delegation gives its full support to the recommendations."

AGREED letters of appreciation be sent to Mrs. Davies, Hon. Secretary of the Warrington Branch and to Dr. Hinden, the chief Speaker.

Reported that the Liverpool Branch were arranging the next North West Regional Conference on June 28th on "INDIA."

525. PALESTINE. Reported, with regret, that the Statement drafted by Mrs. Irvine, Miss Moss Anderson and Miss Dickinson, had been

lost in the post, and no copy had been kept. The Colonies Committee felt that such a Statement was needed. They had considered a letter in Four Lights by ^{Mrs}Blake on Palestine, and felt that a careful reply to it should be sent. The Executive asked a group of the sub-Committee to draft a reply. It was suggested a comprehensive list of books on the Palestine situation be inserted in the June News Sheet with an article reviewing the problem of Palestine.

526. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE, PHILADELPHIA. On the recommendation of the Colonies and India Committee it was AGREED a letter on the following lines be sent to Mr. Phelan of the International Labour Conference in Philadelphia, and a copy to the London Office for information:-

(1) warmly welcoming the meeting of the International Labour Conference at Philadelphia;

(2) asking that note should be taken that the W.I.L. does not consider that any questions coming before the Conference are outside the purview of women, and deprecating the suggestion made in the invitation to the Conference that women should be included in the delegation, only on the grounds that there were special subjects on the Agenda which were of interest to them;

(3) regretting that inclusion of representatives of the dependent peoples had not yet been assured;

(4) expressing satisfaction with the Report on Minimum Standards in Dependent Territories, and trusting that the Recommendation will be generally adopted as a Charter of Social Justice and Social Welfare throughout the world;

(5) enclosing an extract from a letter from Mrs. Mehta, President of the All India Women's Conference held in Bombay on 7th April concerning the position arising out of the withdrawal of the ban on the employment of women underground in mines in India.

AGREED also, on the recommendation of the India and Colonies Committee, that a letter regarding the situation of Indian women in mines be sent to Miss Hancock and Dame Ann Loughlin, who were attending the International Labour Conference.

527. INDIA. Reported from the India and Colonies Committee that in connection with the Government of India Ordinance regarding detention of prisoners, letters had been sent by various Branches to Members of Parliament. Ditchling and Farnborough Branches have appointed Member to specialise on India and The Colonies.

re Death of Stuart Emeny. Miss Dickinson wished that a letter be sent to the News Chronicle and to his family. AGREED a letter of sympathy and expressing a warm message of appreciation for his courageous reporting on Indian Affairs should be sent and Miss Harrison undertook to draft it.

Mrs. Duncan Harris had attended the Memorial Meeting to Mrs. Gandhi at Caxton Hall on March 11th, at which Miss Harrison had been one of the speakers.

A letter of greeting to the All India Women's Conference had been sent. Regret had been expressed that owing to transport difficulties no representative would be able to go from England. Sympathy with their work and hopes for co-operation in the near future had also been expressed in the letter.

AGREED to have reprints for distribution of any Manchester Guardian comments ON important work done in the All India Women's Conference.

Miss Harrison had agreed to speak at the Liverpool Branch North West Regional Conference on June 28th on INDIA. It was understood that John Hoyland was to be one of the speakers. Other suggestions for speakers, if needed, were Dr. Shalvanker and Mr. Leonard Barnes.

The India Conciliation Group had issued a leaflet "Comment and Proposals for action on Lord Wavell's speech. AGREED to circulate this to Branches. Miss Harrison explained the background of the preparation of this leaflet and it was suggested that Branches should be asked to do all in their power to make it known, without prejudice to any work that they might be doing already.

528. ATLANTIC CHARTER. AGREED, after discussion, that a letter be sent to Lord Cranborne (1) regretting there had been no debate in the House of Lords on 4th April; (2) expressing the hope that there would be some clarification of the position which had arisen from the Prime Minister's Statement of February 22nd (that the Atlantic Charter did not apply to Germany as by right) which the W.I.L. felt could not be regarded as conforming to the original intention of the Charter; (3) hoping that on behalf of the Government Lord Cranborne would make a further Statement to bring the British position into line with the past declarations; (4) assuring him of W.I.L. support in any action taken in consultation with the Allied Governments to reaffirm the principles of the Atlantic Charter. AGREED to send a copy of the letter to Lord Noel-Buxton and to express appreciation of his effort in the House of Lords to initiate a debate on the Government's interpretation of the Atlantic Charter.

529. NEWS SHEET. Mrs. Innes reported she had sufficient material for the May issue.

530. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL. AGREED that the attached National Petition for a Constructive Peace, when printed, should be sent to W.I.L. Branches with a suggestion that they should approach other Organisations in their areas with a view to co-operation over the Petition. AGREED to send with the Petition the N.P.C. leaflet "Conditions of a Constructive Peace."

531. BRANCH NEWS. Reported that Miss Harrison had been invited to speak at a meeting of the Leicester Branch in May on the W.I.L. and its responsibility to India. At this meeting it was hoped that interest would be reawakened in the town in the W.I.L. Miss Harrison agreed to put forward the suggestion that an Autumn regional Conference should be held in Leicester.

Reported that the Rules and Constitution of the Liverpool Branch had been received. These were in line with the general rules and constitution of the League.

Reported that Worthing had changed its Hon. Secretary and a letter of welcome had been sent to her, and another of appreciation of work done had been sent to Mrs. Dalrymple, the retiring Secretary.

532. CORRESPONDENCE. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported an invitation to serve on a Committee to consider the suggestion of a Memorial Window to George Lansbury to be made by Eugene Yoors, the premier stained glass window artist of the Continent, to be placed at Kingsley Hall, Bow, which had been his Constituency. THE COMMITTEE agreed that Mrs. Duncan Harris should serve on this Committee as a representative of the W.I.L.

Reported a meeting on "The Future of Germany," April 9th, 7 p.m. organised by the Socialist Vanguard Group. No delegate was appointed, but some members made a note of the particulars.

Reported the Women's Group on Public Welfare was organising a One Day School on U.N.R.R.A. on April 17th. Mrs. Duncan Harris was hoping to be present.

Reported The Women's Publicity Planning Association were organising a Poster Parade and a Protest Meeting in Hyde Park on April 9th against the Government's refusal to bow to the will of Parliament re equal pay for equal work for teachers. No member of the W.I.L. was able to walk in the Poster Parade, but several Committee members took particulars of the Protest Meeting.

Reported an acknowledgment of our letter of July 30th, 1943, from Madame Chiang Kai-Shek's Secretary. Madame Chiang Kai-Shek hoped that "there may be fruitful co-operation between the women of Great Britain and China in the happier days of which we can already discern signs of dawning."

This concluded the business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING, May 3rd, 1944, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Flat 8
144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1. Representatives from
Branches will be welcome.

Agatha Harris
3. 5. 44

Statement of Accounts for March, 1944.

Balance at 1st March:-	Postage.....	7.12. 3
In Midland Bank:	Salaries.....	28.10. -
India activities.....36.17. 6	Rent.....	15. -. -
General Fund.....223.19. 2	News Sheets.....	6. -. -
Petty Cash..... 11. 2. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	Office Expenses.....	3. 9. 6
In C.P.B.Soc:-	Affil. Fees for 4 years to	
Penny-a-Week.....170.12. 8	W.I.L.P.F.....	12.10. -
Congress Fund..... 78. -. -	Grant to ad hoc Women's	
520.12. - $\frac{1}{4}$	Conference.....	2. 2. -
	Literature.....	1. 4. -
Subscriptions 15.10.-	Lighting and Heating.....	17. -
Donations:	Stationery.....	2. 1.11
General..... 15. -	Travelling Expenses.....	16. 8
Fr. of HQ.... 6. -.-	Meetings.....	1. 3. -
Branch Quota. 5. -.-	Insurances:- N.H. & Un....	8.11
News Sheets... 2. 3.3	War Damage... 10. -	
Literature,... 1. 9.6	Inland Revenue.....	3. 7. 7
Affil. Fees... 18.-		<u>83.12.10</u>
Penny-a-Week.. 15.11		
32.11. 8	Balances:	
	In Midland Bank:	
	for India.....36.17. 6	
	General.....168. 8. 7	
	Petty Cash..... 11.16. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	
	In C.P.B.Soc:	
	Penny-a-Week.....171. 8. 7	
	Congress Fund.... 79. -. -	
		<u>467.10.10$\frac{1}{4}$</u>
		<u>£553. 3.8$\frac{1}{4}$</u>
<u>£553. 3. 8$\frac{1}{4}$</u>		

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, May 3rd, 1944 at Flat 8, 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1.

PRESENT: Miss Agatha Harrison in the Chair, Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Hilda Burton, Mrs. Longson, Miss Maud Dickinson, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Bedford, Mrs. Stapledon, Mrs. Malcomson, Mrs. Beesley, Miss Edith Hayler, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Mrs. Grindley, Mrs. Ballinger, Miss Amy Haughton, Mrs. Berwick Sayers, Mrs. Innes and Miss Mosa Anderson.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Miss Edith Pye, Mrs. McGregor Ross, Dr. Richenda Scott.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON APRIL 5th were signed, having been previously circulated.

533. BUSINESS ARISING. Reported Mrs. Lloyd Prichard had written drawing attention to the fact that in the Minutes of April 5th her objection to the inclusion of compensation for land in Kenya in the letter sent to the Colonial Secretary, was not recorded. AGREED to minute this.

Reported acknowledgment of letters from (1) Mrs. Rackham thanking the Committee for its message of sympathy; (2) the News Chronicle expressing thanks for letter on the death of Stuart Emeny, (3) Lord Noel-Buxton saying he was glad the Executive thought his action had been useful.

The following had accepted co-option to the Executive Committee: Miss Edith Hayler, Mrs. Longson and Mrs. Stapledon. Mrs. Phillips regretted she was unable to accept co-option just now. Miss Edith Pye had written to say she would be very glad to serve as a Vice-President if appointed at the Annual Council.

534. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS The following report was given:-
(1) Peile Hall, Newnham, had been booked provisionally for July 12th, 13th and 14th, for the meetings. The charge would be one pound per day, which included the use of the Cloakroom.

(2) The Hermitage Guest House could provide meals for only 30 people - breakfast, dinner, tea and supper at 7/- per person. A number of landladies near Newnham had been recommended by The Hermitage, all of whom had been written to asking if they could provide supper and bed on the 12th, breakfast and supper and bed on the 13th and breakfast on the 14th.

(3) Friends Meeting House, Cambridge, had been written to ^{to} ask if we could have the use of the Meeting House if other plans failed.

(4) Acting on the suggestion from some of the Cambridge members The Hermitage had again been written to ^{to} ask if instead of providing meals for 30 people they could provide 50 to 60 suppers on the 12th and 13th. and the Dorothy Cafe had been asked if they could arrange a Lunch on the 13th. Cambridge Branch members between them hoped to provide teas on Wednesday, and Thursday if Newnham would allow this at the College, and tea and coffee on the Friday if delegates would like to provide themselves with a picnic lunch.

Resulting from these inquiries: (1) three landladies had replied regretting they could not help as another Conference was being held in Cambridge at the same time; (2) no reply had been received from The Hermitage about the 50 suppers; (3) no reply had been received from The Friends Meeting House; (4) the Dorothy Cafe could provide a Lunch for 50 to 60 people on the 13th July at 3/6d per head if the order were given as soon as possible.

After discussion it was AGREED that Miss Horscroft should go to Cambridge to see what arrangements she could make for sleeping and

feeding. If, however it proved impossible to make satisfactory arrangements it was AGREED that the Council should be held in London during July.

With regard to the SUBJECT for the Council, it was AGREED that the National Peace Council pamphlet "Conditions of a Constructive Peace" should be used as the basis of discussions. As an Affiliated Society of the N.P.C. the W.I.L. representatives had had a good deal to do with the drafting of this pamphlet, which had received the careful consideration of experts on the various points. AGREED to have two speakers to open discussions on Nos. 9, 10, and 12, 13. Dr. Camm was suggested for 9, 10 and the Rev. Henry Carter or Dr. Hildebrand for 12, 13.

BRANCHES were to be informed that the Committee felt the Agenda prepared for the Council in April had covered too many diverse subjects to be coped with effectively, and they were to be asked to send in, as far as possible, resolutions which would be related to the subjects in the N.P.C. pamphlet. Resolutions already sent in would be placed on the new Agenda BY REQUEST.

It was also hoped that questions not yet answered in the W.I.L.P.F. Pool of Opinion would be considered in the light of the N.P.C. document. These questions were Nos. 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12. AGREED to send them to Branches and when asking Dr. Camm to speak, to send them to her saying we should be very glad if she would bring them into her speech. Mrs. Innes undertook to try to make a summary of the discussions bearing on these questions, to send to America.

AGREED to make a contribution towards the cost of the N.P.C. pamphlet.

Mrs. James's kind offer to prepare a map showing the distribution of the W.I.L. over the country, was gratefully accepted. Agreed this would be useful during the discussion at the Council on W.I.L. ORGANISATION. The Branches were to be asked to send to the Office a list of places wherever they had members, and the numbers in each place.

1945 ANNUAL COUNCIL. Reported that after their Committee Meeting in June, the Warden of Woodbrooke, Selly Oak, would let us know if we could hold the 1945 Council there from April 11th to 13th. AGREED to make inquiries also at Westhill.

535. FINANCE. Mrs. McGregor Wood presented the attached Statement of Accounts for April. She drew attention to the balance of £142 and appealed to the Branches to send portions of their 1944 quota to Headquarters from time to time during the year in order to carry on in the lean months. Owing to the postponement of the Council the Bring and Buy Sale had also been postponed. MRS. MALCOMSON WOULD be in charge of this and it was suggested that Mrs. Munro Hogg (late of Edinburgh Branch) should be invited to help her.

AGREED that the target for the PENNY A WEEK FUND should be £200 by the Council Meetings.

536. NEWS FROM ABROAD was reported by Mrs. Innes. As much of it as possible will appear in the News Sheet.

537. BRANCH NEWS was reported by members who were associated with Branches. Mrs. Ballinger undertook to make personal contact with some of our Headquarters members in Coventry. It was hoped that one day a Branch would be formed there. Mrs. Wood was shortly addressing a meeting at Bury St. Edmunds and had also offered to go to Coventry some time when on a visit to her daughter at Kenilworth. Miss Pickworth was arranging to talk to an informal gathering of women at the house of one of our new members at Mayfield, Sussex.

Mrs. Innes raised the question of Branches affiliating to other

Organisations without first consulting Headquarters Executive Committee. She advocated co-operation rather than affiliation wherever possible. She instanced the withdrawal of the P.P.U. from the National Council of Civil Liberties on account of the Council's refusal to allow a free expression of opinion.

538. NEWS SHEET. Mrs. Innes asked for the approval of the note she had put into the News Sheet about book reviews. The Committee endorsed Mrs. Innes's comment. AGREED that forthcoming News Sheets should contain: (1) an article on Pictorial Charts Service; (2) an article on the I.L.O. Conference in Philadelphia. Mrs. Margaret Meade to be invited to write this; (3) an article on the Labour Party's Pronouncement on the Air (Mrs. Duncan Harris agreed to consult Miss Mary Sutherland), (4) an article on "Majorities and Minorities," Miss Marie Butt to be asked to write this; (5) a paragraph by Mrs. Grindley on the ad hoc Women's Conference of Organisations on April 29th.

Mrs. McGregor Wood asked if editorial comments on topical subjects could be included in the News Sheet. Mrs. Innes said she would bear this in mind and would be glad if members of the Committee would send notes as a basis for any such comments from time to time. One of the difficulties was the length of time between sending "copy" to the printer and despatching it to readers. Where before the war he only required a week for printing he now required three weeks, and any comments on topical subjects became out of date.

539. LITERATURE. AGREED to recommend to Branches "Statement of Principles for an International Monetary Fund," Cmd. 6519, 1943, H.M. Stationery Office, London.

540. ORGANISATION. Reported that Mrs. Lloyd Prichard was making inquiries about Courses for the training of women in the Peace Movement at Aberystwyth and Woodbrooke.

541. INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS. Mrs. Duncan Harris suggested a W.I.L. Autumn or Summer School on "The international thinking of to-day for reconstruction and towards peace-making." AGREED to make inquiries as to whether any international schools were being organised for the summer or autumn before making plans for a W.I.L. School.

542. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. Mrs. Innes reported that the Polish Association of University Women in Great Britain were arranging a meeting for May 23rd at 2.30 p.m. when Mr. Voigt would be speaking on "Ethics and Foreign Policy." Mrs. Longson undertook to represent the W.I.L.

Attention was drawn to the letter and enclosures sent by Miss Edith Pye from the Food Relief Committee.

Colonies. Miss Burton on behalf of the India and Colonies Committee reported (1) that as it had not been possible to prepare a resolution on Palestine Mr. Norman Bentwich, who has recently returned from Palestine, was to be invited to meet the sub-Committee in the Office on Tuesday, June 6th to advise on the policy the W.I.L. ought to take. If he accepted members of the Executive will be welcome.

(2) a Conference on May 10th at the International Friends Centre is to be addressed by Norman Bentwich who will put the Jewish point of view, and an Arab who will speak for the other side. Some members of the Committee will be present.

(3) A letter from Acock's Green Branch reported a comprehensive and well-informed talk on his country by a young medical student of Jamaica, who is studying at Birmingham University on a scholarship from the new funds allotted to Colonial development.

(4) the publication of a report on Minimum Standards of Social Policy in Dependent Territories by the I.L.O. which the sub-

Committee recommended to all Executive Members and Branches (price 2/6d) from the I.L.O., 38 Parliament Street, London, S.W. 1.

India. Miss Burton reported (1) the distribution of 100 reprints of the Report of the All India Women's Conference from the Manchester Guardian;

(2) that Miss Harrison was taking the Chair at the North West Regional Conference on India in Liverpool on June 28th, when Mr. John Hoyland and Mr. Leonard Barnes were to be the speakers;

(3) that the leaflet on Lord Wavell's speech on February 17th issued by the India Conciliation Group had been sent to all our Branches. North Wales had sent it to 80 newspapers and Manchester Branch were sending it to their Members of Parliament with a request that they should be in the House when the debate on India takes place;

(4) that an invitation had been received from the Women's Advisory Council on Indian Affairs (to which the W.I.L. is affiliated) to the Annual Meeting on May 10th at the Y.W.C.A. at 4.30, with the invitation had come a list of popular books on India (fiction and non-fiction), a copy of which Miss Burton could supply on application;

(5) that Mrs. Ballinger had asked the Member of Parliament for Handsworth for information concerning political prisoners in India and if Mr. Gandhi had been informed of the charges against him. He had forwarded the letter to the India Office and the Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for India (Mr. Turnbull) had sent Mrs. Ballinger a very concise letter on the new Ordinance regarding the detention of political prisoners. The letter was read by Mrs. Ballinger. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Mrs. Ballinger for obtaining this information from the India Office;

(6) a request that the Executive Committee should send a letter of sympathy to Mrs. Crozier on the death of her husband (the editor of the Manchester Guardian), and a letter to the new Editor, Mr. Wadsworth, expressing regret at the death of Mr. Crozier, making particular mention of the work he had done for India, and expressing the hope that we may look forward to the continuation of the help which the Manchester Guardian has always given us. AGREED to.

Miss Harrison reported the publication in the Penguin Special series of "India since Cripps" by Horace Alexander. The Oxford University Press had recently published "The Way Out" by Mr. Rajagopalachari. Both these books were recommended.

Miss Harrison (1) asked that the religious press this week should be watched to see if publicity had been given to the Reply from the Indian members of the National Christian Council to the letter of May 31st, 1943, from the India Committee of the Conference of Missionary Societies in Great Britain and Ireland and the British Council of Churches;

(2) said she may have to send an S.O.S. out when the debate on India takes place, asking Branches to urge their Members of Parliament to be present;

(3) spoke on the situation in relation to Gandhi's serious condition of health.

NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL. The following were appointed to serve on the N.P.C. during the year: Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Harrison, Miss Haughton and Mrs. Longson. The nominations of persons to serve on the Executive Committee of the N.P.C. was left to the representatives.

REPORTS OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS. Mrs. Duncan Harris and Mrs. Grindley reported on the ad hoc Conference of Women's Organisations held

on April 29th. The attached directive Statement had been prepared by the Committee in connection with this Conference and was now available for all the Organisations. The Executive Committee welcomed the Statement and AGREED to order 200 copies, and urged that it should be widely used through the Branches. The Conference had agreed that the ad hoc Committee should remain in abeyance, ready to be called if and when it was advisable to organise another Conference. Mrs. Duncan Harris thought perhaps the time had come when the W.I.L. should carry on the work for reconstruction. After discussion it was AGREED that united action by women's organisations would have more far-reaching results. Mrs. Grindley reported that Mrs. Naftel of the International Women's Co-operative Guild was suggesting that women's organisations should work together on a joint programme.

Mrs. Duncan Harris reported on the One Day School on United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration organised by the Women's Group on Public Welfare, (which is associated with the National Council of Social Service) on April 17th. At the close of the day organisations represented were invited to make suggestions for further work.

The Executive AGREED to suggest a One Day School on the International Labour Organisation.

Miss Harrison and Miss Burton reported on the Demonstration in Hyde Park on April 9th to protest against the reversing of the vote in the House on equal pay for equal work.

WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL of the L.N.U. Mrs. Castle and Miss Hayler expressed their willingness to attend the meeting on 5th May when Professor Arthur Newell of the Institute for British and American Understanding would speak on 'Partners in a World Task.'

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 5th at 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1.

June 7th.
B. Duncan Harris
7. VI. 44

W.I.L. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR APRIL, 1944.

Balances at 1st April:	News Sheets.....	6. 7. 6
General.....168. 8. 7	Postage.....	4. -. 8½
India activities..... 36.17. 6	Office Expenses.....	1. -. 6
Petty Cash..... 11.16. 2½	Insurances.....	12. -
Co-operative Permanent	Affil. fee to N.P.C.....	2. 2. -
Bldg. Soc:-	Salaries.....	26. -. -
Penny-A-Week Fund....171. 8. 7	Stationery.....	1. 4. 8
Congress Fund..... 79. -. -	Heating.....	6. 4
Subs: -..... 1.10. 6	Travelling Expenses.....	3.12.11
Donations:-	Telephone.....	7. 8.11
General.... 2. 6	Literature.....	1. 8. 9
Br. Quota..10. -. -		<u>54. 4. 3½</u>
News Sheets. 7. 5. 2	Balances:	
Literature.. 17. 4½	Bank.....141.19.11	
Affil. Fees. 2. 6	India..... 36.17. 6	
Inter. Circu-	Circ. Letters 10. -	
lar letters. 10. -	Petty Cash.... 2.18. 7¼	
Penny-a-Week 1.10. 6	P. A. Wk. Fund172.19. 3	
	Congress Fund..80. -. -	
		<u>435. 5. 3½</u>
		<u>£489. 9. 6½</u>
		<u>£489. 9. 6½</u>

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, June 7th, 1944 at Flat 8, 144 Southampton Row, W.C. 1. from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Bedford, Mrs. Castle, Miss Burton, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Mrs. Stapledon, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Hayler, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Innes. VISITORS: Miss Pickworth (Brighton Branch) and Frau Hertzka.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Dr. Scott, Miss Pye, Mrs. Malcomson, Mrs. McGregor Ross, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Mrs. Berwick Sayers, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Longson.

MINUTES OF MEETING on May 3rd were signed, having previously been circulated.

546. BUSINESS ARISING.

(1) The results of inquiries about International Summer or Autumn Schools on International Reconstruction and Peace-making were that (a) The L.N.U. had been thinking of planning an International Conference in London late July or early August on the New United Nations Organisation for Education and Cultural Reconstruction (when formed), but were now considering whether to go forward, or not, with plans, owing to the railway restriction announcement.

(b) The F.O.R. were having a Conference in Bangor on "The Way Forward" but all accommodation is booked.

(c) The Woodbrooke Extension Committee were having Summer Schools from June to August. The August School was on "The Contribution of U.S.A., Russia and Great Britain to the shaping of a new world order." All accommodation is taken.

The F.O.R. and the Woodbrooke Extension Committee have been asked to put the W.I.L. on their mailing list to receive notices of future Schools or Conferences.

(2) Letters of appreciation had been received from Mr. Wadsworth of the Manchester Guardian and from the relatives of Mr. Crozier.

(3) Mrs. Longson had attended the Polish University Women's Reception at which Prof. Voigt had spoken.

(4) The directive Statement of the ad hoc Women's Conference was now 12/- per 100. The ad hoc Committee will watch for an opportunity to call a further Conference. It appreciated the message from the W.I.L.

547. The formation of a new Branch at Coventry was reported. Best wishes were to be sent to the Secretary.

548. The London Diocesan Federation of Women's Meetings of London Diocesan Board of Women's Church Work, and the John Keble Church (attached to the London Diocesan) had affiliated to the W.I.L. and Mrs. Innes had sent them letters of welcome.

549. MRS. Duncan Harris was addressing a small group of women in the Methodist Peace Fellowship at Kingsway Hall.

550. Miss Pickworth had addressed a meeting at Mayfield, Kent, near Tunbridge Wells. Some of those present were in disagreement with the Objects of the W.I.L. but others were sympathetic and these were meeting at a member's house to talk things over and had invited Mrs. Duncan Harris to an informal meeting at the same member's house at a later date.

551. FINANCE. The Statement of Accounts showed a balance in the General Fund of £120. 18. 8d.

552. LONDON W.I.L. MEMBERS' MEETINGS. AGREED to try to arrange four weekly evening meetings in the Office on the N.P.C. "The Conditions of a Constructive Peace."

553. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that the Officers had given careful consideration to the question of cancelling or continuing arrangements for the Council. The Cambridge Branch had felt it would be right to cancel them in response to the Railway Companies' Executive request that Conferences should not be held, and the announcement of train restrictions, but it was ready to stand loyally by the Executive decision to carry on, if necessary. All plans had been made for sleeping accommodation, etc. Peile Hall had been booked and a Lunch arranged at the Dorothy Cafe for the Thursday.

A quick decision had to be taken and the Officers decided that in view of all the circumstances the Council should be cancelled and letters had been sent to all those concerned announcing the decision. Attention was drawn to the fact that according to our Constitution a special Council Meeting could be called at three weeks' notice on the request of the Executive or one-tenth of the Branches.

A letter from Mrs. Ballinger was reported expressing her views that a wrong decision had been made as in any case there would only be two or three travelling from any one town, and the W.I.L. needed the inspiration that comes from Council meetings. She felt that such an important decision ought not to have been taken by the Officers, and the Executive ought either to have been called or a postal ballot taken.

Warrington, Ditchling and Manchester Branches had expressed regret at the cancellation, while understanding the difficulties of the decision.

After discussion the decision of the Officers to cancel the Council in July was ENDORSED, with the proviso that this did not preclude the possibility that there might still be a later opportunity this year for calling it. Mrs. Innes was asked to convey the Committee's appreciation and thanks to the Cambridge Branch for all the work it had put into the preparations for the Council.

The Officers had agreed to call the Executive Committee in June, July and August from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and arranged that the June and July meetings should consider the unanswered questions in the W.I.L.P.F. Pool of Opinion, together with the N.P.C. "Conditions of a Constructive Peace." Mrs. Innes had been asked to open the discussion on question VII. Disarmament and International Police, Miss Anderson on questions X. Minorities, c. XI. Axis Countries and XII Countries occupied by Axis Powers, and Miss Pye on Question IX Rehabilitation of Emigres and Refugees. Branches had been asked to send in their answers to the above questions by June 26th.

The August Executive would consider Organisation, dealing with the proposals which were to have come before the Council, together with the suggestion of co-operation in the work of the W.I.L. of scholastic establishments, made by Mrs. Lloyd Prichard.

The Executive AGREED to invite Miss B.M. Baker to come and open the discussion on the co-operation of scholastic establishments.

Mrs. Malcomson had written to suggest that as the Bring and Buy Sale at the Council would not be held, an appeal should be made to Branches to exchange gifts intended for the Council Sale, the proceeds to go to Headquarters.

Mrs. Innes suggested that members of the Executive be asked to bring to, and buy an article at, the July Executive.

554. NEWS SHEETS AND LEAFLETS. The Officers recommended a supplementary sheet with the July issue, or an August number of the News Sheet dealing with matters which would have come before the Council. After consideration AGREED that the July News Sheet should be issued without a supplement but that the printer should be asked if he could this year print an August number.

Manchester Branch had inquired if it were possible to have the five Objects of the League on the front page of the new leaflet and if so they would like 200 copies. AGREED to say we should be willing for them to print the Objects in the leaflet, with their own name and address at the back, if they would care to do so. The Objects were printed on "Calling all Women," so there was now a choice Branches could make.

Reported 1,000 copies of the Annual Report had been printed and 2,000 of the new leaflet about the W.I.L. Expressions of appreciation of the leaflet had been received.

555. INTERNATIONAL NEWS. Mrs. Innes reported that Gertrude Baer had written to urge an increase in the number of International Headquarters Members in Great Britain.

AGREED that an effort should be made, particularly in the Branches, and that an appeal should include some account of the removal of the W.I.L.P.F. from Switzerland to U.S.A. and of the Leaders, such as Miss Balch and Gertrude Baer. Mrs. Innes agreed to draft the appeal.

Miss Gertrude Baer had suggested that we should get into touch with Mr. Hallsworth of the British delegate at the I.L.O. Conference in Philadelphia in connection with Migration problems, and that we should get into touch among others with Mr. J. Rens of the Belgian Office in London for a report of I.L.O. work on Colonial problems. AGREED to inform Gertrude Baer that the N.P.C. is asking Mr. Rens to speak at their next Peace and Conference on what happened at the Philadelphia Conference concerning Colonies and that we are co-operating with the N.P.C.

The India and Colonies Committee was asked to make itself responsible for a report to Gertrude Baer of the N.P.C. Conference.

Mrs. Innes drew attention to the Report of the Permanent Central Opium Board to the Council of the League of Nations on measures to re-establish the control of dangerous drugs in liberated and occupied countries. Mrs. Lloyd Prichard undertook to follow this matter up with the India and Colonies Committee which would consult ~~Mrs. John Jones~~, Mrs. Irvine and Miss Pye.

556. QUESTIONS IN THE "POOL OF OPINION." Mrs. Innes opened the discussion on Disarmament and International Police, Miss Pye's written views on Rehabilitation of Emigres and Refugees was read. After discussion Mrs. Innes undertook to summarise the conclusions reached, together with the replies from Branches, for consideration at the July Executive. Miss Mosa Anderson opened the discussion on Minorities.

557. REPORT OF INDIA AND COLONIES COMMITTEE. Reported that Mr. Norman Bentwich had attended their meeting the previous evening and had put the Jewish point of view on the Palestine situation. An Arab was being invited to put the other side at the July Meeting.

Mrs. Irvine had given an account of the recent Conference on Palestine at the Friends International Centre and a summary of the Conference made by Mr. Castle was being sent to members of the India and Colonies Committee.

The Committee had received a letter from the League of Coloured Peoples informing them of an important Conference they are holding in London at which a Peace Charter for Coloured Peoples will be considered. At this Conference representatives of all the Allied Governments will be asked to give their views on international action in the Colonies. The W.I.L. has been asked to submit recommendations on the minimum needs of coloured and colonial peoples.

This request has been considered and Miss Anderson and Mrs. Lloyd Prichard have been asked to draft a letter embodying proposals made by the Committee, for the consideration of the Executive.

The Executive considered the draft which drew attention to Clause 15 "Freedom for Colonial Peoples" in the N.P.C. "Conditions of a Constructive Peace," the International Colonial Convention prepared by the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, and clauses adopted by the recent I.L.O. Conference at Philadelphia. The letter also suggested urging the fullest human and community rights for Coloured Peoples, for both sexes.

Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that the St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance were putting forward suggestions for incorporation in the Charter which it asked the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations to endorse. The Liaison Committee would be considering the matter at their next meeting to be held before the Conference of the League of Coloured Peoples.

Miss Harrison reported the receipt of resolutions, etc. from the All India Women's Conference. These will appear in the next India Bulletin.

558. FAMINE RELIEF COMMITTEE. AGREED to send to the Branches copies of Miss Pye's circular letter re the needs of Polish and Greek children, together with the wording of the Poster "Hunger."

Mrs. Harris reported that Dorothy Dotzer was co-operating in a "Feed the Children" Campaign in U.S.A. on 11th June. AGREED to send the following cable to her:-

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (BRITISH SECTION) WISH EVERY SUCCESS TO YOUR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF HUNGRY EUROPEAN CHILDREN ESPECIALLY ON JUNE 11th. BARBARA HARRIS.

559. CORRESPONDENCE. Christianity Calling. Reported a letter asking for W.I.L. co-operation in a public demonstration to urge the Government to make an offer of PEACE to the peoples of the Axis Countries. AGREED to reply that we were in sympathy with their object and would like to send a representative to their first meeting to see if there is any common basis on which we could work; agreed to draw attention to our own recent Appeal for a Declaration of Peace Terms.

Women's Publicity Planning Associated. Reported:- (1) an invitation to be represented on a deputation to the Executive of the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Parties to put before them the proposal that complete equality of men and women before the law should be established by means of an Equal Citizenship (Blanket) Bill. The Liberal Party Organisation has agreed to receive a deputation on June 20th at 23 Gayfere Street at 4 p.m.

(2) an invitation to be represented on the plinth in Trafalgar Square during a Demonstration on Economic Equality and

the Equal Citizenship (Blanket Bill) on Sunday, July 9th, 3 p.m.

No representatives were appointed.

660. REPORTS OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported on an All Slav Rally in Kingsway Hall on 25th May, which she had attended on behalf of the W.I.L. in response to an invitation from the Czech Women. It proved to be a meeting on the theme "Death to the Invader" and Mrs. Harris had followed it up by a letter to the Council of Czecho-Slovak women in Great Britain saying that the W.I.L. was deeply concerned in the building of understanding between nations, even across warring frontiers, and appealing to Czech women to consider whether they, as women understanding both Slav and Anglo-Saxon peoples could not find ways of building bridges between the nations, based on women's common concern for the fostering of life.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS.

Date of next meeting, Wednesday, July 5th, 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
at 144 Southampton Row, W.C. 1.

B. Duncan Harris
Reading 2. VIII. 44

Statement of W.I.L. Accounts for May, 1944.

Balances on 1st May:-		Postage.....	5. 1. 4
Bank:-		Office Expenses.....	19. 6
General Fund.....	134.19.11	Insurances.....	12. -
ear-marked for Shrewsbury work after the war.....	7. - -	Affil. Fees (Women's Advisory Ccl. for Indian Affairs)	5. -
Geneva.....	10. - -	Geneva.....	9.16. -
India.....	36.17. 6	Salaries.....	26. - -
Petty Cash.....	2.18. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Stationery.....	2.16. 8
C.P.Bldg. Society:-		News Sheets.....	6. 3.11
Penny-a-Week Fund.....	172.19. 3	Fares.....	12. 9. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Congress Fund.....	80. 0. 0	Literature.....	1.19. 3
			<u>66. 2. 9$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
Subscriptions...9. 7.6		Balances:-	
Donations:-		Bank:-	
General.....	2.12.6	General.....	120. 18.8
Br. Quota.....	24.17.6	Shrewsbury.....	7. -.-
Br. & Buy Sales	12.4	India.....	36.17. 6
News Sheets....	2. 8.5	Petty Cash.....	1.15. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Literature....	1. 2.7	C.P.Bldg.Society:	
Inland Revenue	2.11.7	Penny-a-Week..	179.18. -
Affil.Fees....	12.6	Congress Fund..	81. -.-
Geneva Subs... 7. 3.6			
Penny-A-Week..	<u>6.18.9</u>		
	58. 7. 2		427.9. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$
	<u>£493.12. 5$\frac{1}{4}$</u>		<u>£493.12.5$\frac{1}{4}$</u>

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Meeting of Executive Committee, 2nd
August 1944, from 11 a.m. to 3.15 p.m. at the Friends Meeting
House, Reading.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Lanes, Miss
Agatha Harrison, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Ballinger,
Mrs. Castle, Miss Burton; Visitors from Reading Branch: Mrs. Barber,
Mrs. Cousens, Miss Stansfield.

On behalf of the Committee Mrs. Duncan Harris expressed
warm thanks to the Reading Branch for their kind hospitality
in their own homes and for making it possible for the meeting
to be held in their town.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs. Grindley, Mrs.
Lloyd Prichard, Miss Pye, Mrs. Beesley, Mrs. Malcomson, Mrs.
Bedford, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Stapledon.

661. The Colour Bar. Mrs. Duncan Harris asked leave to bring before
the Committee the case of the young West Indian who had refused
Home Guard Service in Liverpool as certain amenities had been
refused him on account of the colour bar. The Judge had
expressed himself strongly against the Colour Bar. After
discussion it was agreed to send the press cutting about it
to Mrs. Malcomson to see if she could get publicity in local
papers welcoming the comments of the Judge, and to let Dr. Moody
of the League of Coloured Peoples know of our satisfaction
and that we had asked our Liverpool people to try to get some
local publicity for it.

MINUTES OF MEETING on June 7th were confirmed, after deleting
Mrs. John Jones's ^{name} from page 3, Minute 555.

BUSINESS ARISING.

662. Family Allowances. Reported that on behalf of the
Committee letters had been sent to the Minister of Health and
the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the recommendation of Miss
Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., urging that in any proposals put forward
to H.M. Government for children's allowances it is most important
that the money be paid to the mothers and not to the fathers.
Mrs. Crosfield (of Croydon Branch) had, on behalf of the W.I.L.
attended a meeting at the House of Commons on July 19th called by
the Family Endowment Society which had urged interested
Societies to take action and to ask their members to keep in
touch with their Members of Parliament on the matter.

AGREED to inform our Branches and to send them a copy of the letter
from the Family Endowment Society and of our letter to the
Minister of Health and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

663. Reported that as Miss B.M. Baker was not able to attend
the Executive to open the discussion re the W.I.L. and Scholastic
Institutions, and as Mrs. Lloyd Prichard was not able to be present
the Officers recommended deferring the discussion on the proposals
Mrs. Lloyd Prichard had put forward on the subject until
September. AGREED.

664. With regard to Questions 9, 10, 11 and 12 in the "Pool of
Opinion" the Officers recommended sending the summaries of
discussions at the June Executive to the Branches with a covering
letter, informing them that the matter will be further discussed
at the September Executive Committee.

On Question 7 it was decided to send to the Branches notes
on the conclusions reached by the Executive in the discussion
in June, with the proposal that these might be adopted at the
September Executive as the Section's reply.

665. Mrs. Duncan Harris drew attention to the forthcoming inter-
governmental discussion in U.S.A. on future international organ-

isation and proposed that a resolution should be sent to Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt. The following was unanimously adopted and instructions given for it to be sent to the Prime Minister and to Mr. Eden, for information; to the W.I.L. in America for use there and approach of President Roosevelt, if possible; to Mr. Winant, American Ambassador in Great Britain, Mr. William Phillips of the American Embassy, the Press and the Branches, and interested organisations:-

"In view of the discussion between the Governments of the U.S.A. and of Great Britain which are announced to begin this month we beg to lay before you an urgent plea.

With the advent of the flying bomb we are made vividly aware of the extent to which science now holds in its hands the possibilities of destruction.

We recognise that the weapons of the future could be developed within measurable time to such dimensions that their operation would threaten the annihilation of civilisation.

We, therefore, beg that for the sake of the generations that come after us you will consider embodying in the conditions of peace the inauguration of that era which you and President Roosevelt foresaw when the nations, for realistic as well as for spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of force.

We urge that, beginning with the orderly transfer of men, women and machines for the purposes of war to the requirements of a peaceful humanity, the prevention of aggression should be sought through the control of the world's resources by international co-operation."

666. Business arising on April Minutes: With reference to the resolution in the April Minutes (No. 518) re the opening of all positions on equal terms to men and women, Miss Dickinson reported that at the meeting of the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union on March 8th she had proposed and Miss Pierotti, of the N.U.W. Teachers, had seconded it with the recommendation that the resolution submitted by the Women's International League be sent to the Executive Committee of the League of Nations Union with the request that it be forwarded to H.M. Government and at a subsequent meeting in June of the Women's Advisory Council it was reported that this resolution had been accepted by the Executive Committee of the League of Nations Union and accordingly sent to H.M. Government.

667. OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that owing to the renewed bombing of London the July Executive had been cancelled and Miss Horscroft asked to take her month's holiday, during which time the Office was closed. Miss Palmer had also been given a holiday. Since then Mrs. Innes has been dealing with the correspondence, helped by the Miss Harrisons in London and by Miss Horscroft who was giving some help in St. Mary Bourne. At the Officers' Meeting on July 26th it had been agreed to keep the Office closed until August 14th. As Miss Palmer had already returned to London she was asked to go to the Office daily to forward letters to Mrs. Innes. It had also been decided by the Officers to call the Executive in Reading.

These arrangements were APPROVED by the Committee and it was agreed a letter of appreciation should be sent to Miss Palmer for her return to London and the Office before her extended holiday had expired.

668. By a vote taken for the September Executive Reading was given the largest number of votes.. AGREED The September meeting should

therefore be in Reading, if conditions in London had not improved sufficiently to warrant calling it in the Office.

669. 1945 COUNCIL MEETINGS. AGREED that no action need be taken until November as Mrs. Wood said it will only be a case of picking up the threads from the 1944 arrangements, if it is decided then to meet in Cambridge.

670. 1946 COUNCIL MEETINGS. AGREED to make application for Woodbrooke and failing that Westhill, Birmingham, during the Easter vacation.

671. INDIA. Reported: (1) A very successful Conference on India on June 28th.

(2) Letters had been received from a number of Branches telling of action taken in response to the appeal to approach M.P's regarding the forthcoming India debate.

(3) that there is a limited number of the Government of India publication containing the correspondence between Mr. Gandhi and the Government during his detention, together with his reply to the charges made against Congress. Branches already receiving the India Office information might write for a copy.

(4) appreciation and new subscribers to the Bulletin of Indian Women's Movement. The Committee endorsed the Officers and India Committee's suggestion that a sum should be taken from the India Work Reserve Fund to cover the difference between the normal issue of four pages of the Bulletin to eight pages. By a printer's error there are a number of extra copies that can be had for free distribution.

AGREED that a letter should be sent to the Editor of the News Chronicle of appreciation for the part their Correspondent, Stewart Gelder, had played in helping to clarify Mr. Gandhi's position.

AGREED to write to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Minister of Labour in India, urging that the ban be reimposed re women in mines, the six months' having expired. Suggested a copy of the letter be sent to the India Office, the High Commissioner and the Secretary of the All Indian Women's Conference.

AGREED a letter be sent to Mr. Pethick Lawrence expressing our gratitude for the striking contribution he made in the recent India debate in the House.

AGREED that a letter containing the details of the Mrs. Gandhi Memorial Fund, organised by the India women's Committee in London, be sent to Branch Secretaries. Miss Burton, as Hon. Secretary of the India and Colonies Committee undertook to send this out.

Miss Harrison reporting on the present political situation, said that all attention was now riveted on the coming talks between Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah.

672. COLONIES. Reported (1) a letter had been sent to Mrs. Obassa of Nigeria, following a suggestion made by Mrs. Greta James and considered at the June Executive. A copy had been sent to Mrs. James for information, and follow up. Mrs. Obassa had been put on the mailing list to receive a copy of the News Sheet.

(2) Mrs. Mary Barrow's visit to the July India and Colonies Committee had been postponed, but she was being asked to address the next meeting to be held in London. Pending this meeting no action was taken on the Palestine situation.

AGREED to send a letter to the Colonial Office welcoming the

representation of an African to the Kenya Legislative Council.

Regarding Gertrude Baer's suggestion that we contact British delegates who attended the I.L.O. Conference in Washington, particularly with regard to Colonial matters, it was AGREED to support the N.P.C. meeting which was being arranged later in the summer.

Reported Miss Mabel Shaw had returned to England.

673. W.I.L.P.F. NEWS. Mrs. Innes reported warm greetings and best wishes and sympathy in present situation from Gertrude Baer. She urged again a drive for International members, and it was AGREED to send round to the Branches once more the letter inviting members to become International Members.

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674. BRITISH AMERICAN SECTIONS. On the proposal of Mrs. Wood it was AGREED to suggest to Branches that they make contact with W.I.L. Groups in America through Dorothy Detzer, the Secretary of the American Section.

675. "FOUR LIGHTS." AGREED that the copies received in the Office should be sent on rota to the Executive.

676. BRANCH NEWS. Reports were given, all of which showed good promise for the future of the W.I.L.

677. NEWS SHEET. Mrs. Innes reported on what she hoped to insert in the September issue, including an article on Anti-Semitism by Miss Haughton. Mrs. Castle was asked to urge the Reading Branch to let Mrs. Innes have the memo she (Mrs. Innes) had suggested should be drafted on "What is real defence of your country."

Miss Harrison asked for and received permission to send a note on Mrs. Innes's new book, "Life in a Hampshire Village."

678. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. Mrs. Wood said she had been reading the resolutions passed at the Annual Meeting of the American Section and the Annual Report of Dorothy Detzer. There were paragraphs in the latter which disturbed her and she would like the views of the Executive on them, and she proposed that at the September Executive time should be given to the consideration of European politics. AGREED.

DECIDED to ask Miss Anderson to open a discussion on Poland and Russia and Mrs. Innes undertook to open the discussion on Western Europe at the October meeting.

Mrs. Innes AGREED to write to Miss Emily Balch, the Hon. President of the W.I.L.P.F. to ask how far the views expressed in the Annual Report by Dorothy Detzer reflected any large section of American opinion and whether she would give her personal views on the line of argument.

679. CORRESPONDENCE. N.P.C. four months' campaign for attached Petition. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that widespread publicity was asked for the Petition. AGREED to co-operate and to ask our Branches to take the initiative in their town if necessary, for calling together all organisations likely to support the petition - to secure joint action.

680. Peace Pledge Union. Miss Harrison was appointed Observer on behalf of the W.I.L. at a meeting of the P.P.U. on 10th August when the following resolution would be considered:-

"That this meeting affirms its belief in civil liberty as an essential democratic value and agrees to consider how best measures can be advanced for the progressive recovery and enlargement of such liberties. It believes that freedom of speech and assembly should be denied to no one."

673. Six Point Group. Reported request for representation on deputation to Chancellor of Exchequer on August 3rd to support policy of taxation of married persons as if they were single persons and the right of a married women to her own Post-War Credits. AGREED to support claim but say that no one was able to serve on deputation.

674. Miss Brewer. Reported a request that the names of National Cestions and Correspondents of the W.I.L.F.F. before the war should be printed on all our literature. AGREED the Committee could not bind itself to this on every leaflet, though it was very interested that the suggestion should be made and recognised ~~the need to stress~~ the international character of our League. AGREED to reply that the proposal was welcomed and considered and that while the Committee could not undertake to print the list on all literature it would show the international character of the W.I.L.F.F. whenever feasible.

675. "Christianity Calling." In response to a request by the Rev. A.D. Bolton it was AGREED to send a copy of his pamphlet "Pax Christi" with the News Sheet to all British readers.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING. WEDNESDAY, September 5th from 11 a.m. at the FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, (turning off the London Road) READING, if circumstances still make it undesirable to meet in London.

B. Duncanson

6. IX. 44

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, 6th September, 1944, from 11 a.m. to 3.15 p.m. at Friends House, Reading.

PRESENT. Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Ballinger, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Miss Burton, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Bedford, Mrs. Innes.

Visitors: Frau Hertzka, and Mrs. Barber from Reading.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Received from Mrs. McGregor Wood, Mrs. Beesley, Miss Hayler, Mrs. Stapledon, Miss Anderson, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Malcomson, Mrs. McGregor Ross and Miss Pye.

676. A letter was read from Miss Pye saying that owing to great pressure of work she was unable to attend any meetings of the Executive and felt she must resign. The Committee unanimously AGREED to invite Miss Pye to remain a nominal member of the Committee until a meeting of the Council, when they would invite her to become a Vice-President.

677 The Chairman reported that Miss Lettice Jowitt had returned to this country, and suggested that she should have a letter of welcome and be invited to resume her membership of the League and to serve on the Executive Committee. AGREED. A suggested meeting of London members to meet her, was left for London members of the Committee to arrange, if possible.

678. EUROPEAN W.I.L.P.F. MEMBERS. With the rapid liberation of many parts of Europe Mrs. Duncan Harris suggested the need for writing letters to some of our well-known leaders on the Continent. Mrs. Harris and others were asked to write as opportunity arose. AGREED to invite Mademoiselle Dejardin of Belgium to an informal gathering in the Office, and Mrs. Innes would try to find out present addresses.

Mrs. Duncan Harris reported she had accepted an invitation to attend a meeting of representatives of British and Allied Women's Organisations and a Czech medical relief team which was about to leave for Czechoslovakia. The meeting was to be on 15th September. AGREED to ask if the invitation could be extended to other members of the W.I.L.

679. MISS DOROTHY EVANS. AGREED to send messages of sympathy to the relatives and to the Women's Publicity Association and the Women for Westminster on the great loss they had sustained in the sudden death of Miss Evans. AGREED to ask Mrs. Pethick Lawrence to write a note for the News Sheet.

680. BUSINESS ARISING. Reported that the N.P.C. Petition had been sent to the Branches with the suggestion that if action had not already been taken in their district, they should take the lead in organising a Campaign for signatures to the Peace Petition.

681. Reported formal acknowledgments from the Prime Minister's Secretary and the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, of our letter of 3rd August urging that the prevention of aggression should be sought through the control of the world's resources by international co-operation.

682. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS. Reported that Woodbrooke Settlement had replied that our application for the 1946 Council was too early, but that it would be brought before their Committee. No arrangements had been made for the 1945 Council, but if it is decided to hold it in Cambridge Mrs. Wood considered November would be soon enough to make arrangements.

683. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING. In view of the rapid development in international affairs AGREED to call a special Council on

23/25th October, in London, to consider International Affairs (a) The Immediate Situation and (b) "Picking up threads with the W.I.L.P.F."

AGREED the existing Agenda Committee should meet on 26th September to consider the Agenda and general arrangements for the Council.

The Rule dealing with special Council Meetings was read. It was pointed out that resolutions on the immediate situation in International Affairs would be very difficult to formulate some weeks before the Council and it was AGREED that Branches should be asked to send in any comments for the guidance of the Agenda Committee by the end of September.

684. FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts was adopted. A letter was read from Mrs. McGregor Wood suggesting drawing on the Reserve Fund for general expenses, and expressing satisfaction at the near approach to £200 in the Penny-a-Week Fund for international work after the war, and the £84 in the Congress Fund. AGREED to withdraw £50 from Reserve.

685. W.I.L. ORGANISATION. The Chairman expressed great indebtedness and thanks to Mrs. Lloyd Prichard and Mrs. Greta James for the time, energy and money they had put into preparing the Memorandum on W.I.L. Organisation, which was before the Committee. In future reprints she suggested the omission of the Map if the document went beyond W.I.L. members, as that was for domestic consumption only. Some discussion circled round the idea of a Pacifist College, but it was AGREED not to go into details now but to send the Memorandum, with a covering note to the Branches asking for their comments on the proposals, and offering the loan of the maps relating to their area with the relevant notes written by Mrs. James. AGREED to contribute 10/- for copies for the Branches. AGREED that the Memorandum should be considered by an Organisation Committee with any comments from the Branches, but in so far as it had bearings on the Organisation of the W.I.L.P.F. it should come to the Council in October.

AGREED the two suggestions from Manchester Branch for (a) a W.I.L. Economy Label and (b) the publishing of a W.I.L. Song based on its international ideals should be considered by the Organisation Committee, when considering the Memorandum. Manchester was to be thanked very warmly for the suggestions.

686. NEWS SHEETS. Contents for October number were AGREED upon. Mrs. Ballinger expressed appreciation of the August number.

687. W.I.L. QUESTIONNAIRE. AGREED that as many of the Branches had not yet had an opportunity of considering the proposed replies to Questions 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12, the Committee should wait for their comments until October meeting. A letter was reported from Mrs. Stapledon on the question of an International Police Force and Mrs. Ballinger said that Mrs. Bayes, the Secretary of the Birmingham Branch had sent a detailed letter dealing with the summaries. This had not been received by Mrs. Innes and was presumed lost in the post. Mrs. Ballinger gave the gist of the contents as far as she could recall them but said she would ask Mrs. Bayes if a copy of the letter could be sent. Regret for the loss was expressed.

AGREED that a note to Question 7 should be added in any final answer to the effect that there is a division of opinion throughout the League as to the problem of an international police force.

688. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. There was an interesting discussion on the present situation in Western Europe, opened by Mrs. Innes. Notes written by Miss Anderson also led to discussion on the

situation existing between Russia and Poland.

AGREED to leave to the Officers the suggestion that Mr. N. Montchiloff should be asked to address a W.I.L. Meeting in London in the near future.

689. INDIA. Miss Harrison reminded the Committee of the talks between Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah to take place on September 9th. In view of the fact that much would take place before the October Executive, the Executive authorised appropriate action if necessity arose, and if necessary Miss Harrison was authorised to summon a special meeting of the India and Colonies Committee.

Mrs. Lloyd Prichard felt the situation might require more direct action than we have taken in the past, and though nothing less than an approach to the Prime Minister would serve any useful purpose, if he refused to receive a deputation some more drastic action should be envisaged that would compel his attention, such as the members proceeding to Downing Street. Discussion followed on this suggestion. No decision was taken on it as the situation could not be foreseen until after information from India had been received, when any action decided upon would follow the lines already approved by the Committee.

Miss Burton reported that £14 had been received from W.I.L. Branches and Executive in response to the appeal for Mrs. Gandhi's Memorial. She thought more would be coming in. The Committee organising the Fund in London hoped to send £500 to Mr. Gandhi on his birthday. So far £100 had been received.

690. COLONIES. Reported (1) The N.P.C. proposed meeting with British delegates to the I.L.O. Conference in Philadelphia this year, on the Colonial Question had not yet been arranged owing to pressure of other work in the Office; (2) Mrs. Mary Barrow was being invited to put the Arab point of view in the Palestine situation at the October India and Colonies Committee; (3) the sub-Committee recommended the publishing in the News Sheet of the Charter drawn up by the League of Coloured Peoples; (4) with reference to the Report of the Permanent Central Opium Board of the League of Nations of May 5th, 1944, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard had drafted a letter for the consideration of the Executive, reminding the Government that in a previous statement the Permanent Central Opium Board had stressed the importance of re-establishing at the earliest possible moment a complete control over narcotic drugs in enemy-occupied countries as they are liberated, and that the last Report advised that steps be taken which would lead to the restoration of the full system of control, national and international, established under the Conventions of 1925 and 1931. The Report points out that only the occupying Powers are in a position to take these steps. The letter expressed the hope that H.M. Government will keep this very urgent situation in mind.

AGREED that the letter should first be sent to Miss Pye, as she had for many years interested herself in the Opium question. Miss Harrison undertook to send her the draft before it was sent to the Government.

(5) Colour Bar. Reported a letter from Mrs. Malcomson saying that the man who had refused Home Guard duties had been satisfied with the publicity of his case in the papers. He is well known to the Liverpool Branch members and considered a most sincere man and a good citizen. With coloured troops and technicians in the country it was thought that now was the moment for stressing the need of personal work among our members for friendly contact in most places. A suggestion was made that a much deeper study of the Colour Bar question was necessary and it was proposed that Mr. K. V. Little, ^{be asked to} who has made a special study of the colour bar question - should speak at a London meeting. This

proposal was referred to the India Committee for consideration;

AGREED to make inquiries as to whether Miss Freda White is ready to renew her membership to the League, in which case she should be invited to serve on the India and Colonies Committee.

691. PROPOSAL by David Peat FOR A PLEDGE TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FROM A GOVERNMENT STARTING A WAR. AGREED the Executive could not ask its members to pledge themselves to any Declaration but appreciated the efforts of Mr. Peat to foster loyalty to an international organisation.

692. INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS. Reported that 24 British members had paid International Subscriptions for 1944, including Several Branches. A number of Branches had responded to Mrs. Innes's letter appealing for International Members.

693. INTERNATIONAL BUREAU FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN. Reported that Miss Harrison had attended a Conference on behalf of the W.I.L. Subsequently the International Bureau had asked the W.I.L. and other Organisations to support a Statement which they had drawn up and Mrs. Innes had signed on behalf of the W.I.L. the following:-

STATEMENT.

(1) That in view of the prevailing grave conditions all the Allied Governments should agree to co-operate in abolishing all forms of traffic in women and children;

(2) That the International Bureau for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children should invite the Governments to consider without delay, what alterations are needed in the laws of their country, in order to bring those laws effectively into line with the articles of the Convention of 1904 (International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic), 1910 (Second International Convention for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic);

1921 (Third International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children)

1933 (Fourth International Convention for the Suppression of the traffic in Women of full age), and also of the 5th Draft Convention (to protect persons of full age and of either sex against procuration for profit, even when they consent and are not taken abroad, and also against any other form of exploitation of prostitution, the Conference for the conclusion of which was to have been called for 1940 had not war supervened);

(3) That the Advisory Committee on Social Questions of the League of Nations to which this subject stands referred should be revived as soon as circumstances permit and that Governments should consider in the meantime in what way their co-operation in abolishing all forms of traffic in Women and Children can be made most effective;

(4) That the International Bureau, for many years Assessor to the League of Nations Committee, should continue to collect information relative to the above, obtained from Government and other sources for submission either to that Committee or to such other official body as may succeed it.

AGREED to watch the situation and to ask Dame Rachel Crowdy to keep us informed of any action the W.I.L. can take.

694. LETTERS TO THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN RE THE L.N.U. PEACE BALLOT. Following on correspondence which had appeared recent-

ly in the Manchester Guardian, Mrs. Innes, on the suggestion of the Manchester Branch, had sent a letter which was not inserted. The letter was endorsed by the Committee.

695. AGREED to send an Observer to a Conference on "First Steps Towards a World Society," which a number of Societies are organising on October 14th. The Organisations interested include The World Unity Movement, Federal Union, The New Commonwealth Society, the League of Nations Union, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Progressive League. Mrs. Barber hoped to be able to represent the W.I.L.

696. CHRISTIANITY CALLING. Reported that the proposed meeting demanding "Peace Terms" had been postponed until September owing to the flying bomb hindrance, when it was thought likely the N.P.C. might take the initiative.

This concluded the business.

Date and place of next Meeting: Wednesday, October 4th, at 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1.

6 Oct. 1944
Agatha Harwood

W.I.L. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS for July/August, 1944.
(two months).

RECEIPTS.

EXPENDITURE.

Balances on 1st July.....	352.17.	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Subscriptions.....	8. 5. -	
Donations.....	2. 5. -	
Friends of H.Q.....	6. 5. -	
Branch Quotas.....	39. 6. 8	
Bring & Buy Sale	12. 6	
News Sheets...	2. 9. 7	
Literature.....	7. 7. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Inland Revenue...	7. 2. -	
Affil. Fees.....	1. 7. 3	
Geneva Subscriptions...	5. 1. -	
Inter. Circular Letters	5. -	
Penny-a-Week.....	5.15. 1	
		86.1.3 $\frac{1}{2}$

Salaries.....	49.13. 8
News Sheets.....	13.18. 2
Literature.....	12. 4. 3
Postage.....	9. 5. 7
Inland Revenue.....	7.10. -
Stationery.....	4.13. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Office Expenses (Storage, etc.)	2.18.10
Insurances.....	1. 7. 4
Geneva Subscriptions, etc..	5. 2. -
M/G. leaflets re India.....	1.10. -
Meetings (hire of Rooms for Committees).....	1. 3. 3
Travelling expenses.....	16. 6
Telephone.....	7. 1
	<u>110.13.10$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

Balances:-

Midland Bank:-	
General.....	8.11. 3
India work.....	<u>35. 7. 6</u>
	43. 18. 9

C.P. Bldg. Soc.

For Shrewsbury	7. - . -
Penny-a-Week	190. 2. 1
Congress Fund	84. - . -
	<u>281. 2.1</u>

Petty Cash...	3. 4. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	3. 4. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
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£438.19. - $\frac{1}{4}$

£438.19. - $\frac{1}{4}$

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, October 4th, 1944 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Flat 8, 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1.

PRESENT. Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Miss Hayler, Miss Burton, Mrs. Longson, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Grindley, Mrs. Bedford, Mrs. Stapledon, Mrs. Beesley, Mrs. McGregor-Wood, Mrs. Innes, Miss Harrison, Miss Anderson.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs. Ballinger, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Malcomson, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Miss Pye, Mrs. Berwick Sayers.

MINUTES OF MEETING on 6th September were confirmed, having been previously circularised.

BUSINESS arising.

697. Miss Jowitt had written to say she would like to defer her answer about re-joining the Executive as she was not yet certain of whether she would be living in Buckinghamshire or Cornwall. She had renewed her membership.

Arrangements for Miss Jowitt's meeting were well in hand. It was being held at the Y.W.C.A. in the Board Room at 3 p.m. on October 11th. An advertisement had been inserted in the New Statesman and Nation.

AGREED that the Chairman should appeal for a generous collection to defray the expenses of the meeting.

698. Dorothy Evans. Reported that Mrs. Pethick Lawrence had written an article for the November News Sheet.

Miss Hayler AGREED to attend a meeting being arranged for October 13th, the purpose of which was to consider launching a Fund for carrying on the work which Dorothy Evans was devoting herself to when she died.

699. N.P.C. Petition. Reports were given of the advice support being given by a number of W.I.L. Branches. Others were considering action. AGREED the Branches should be asked to take the initiative in starting a campaign in their towns, if not already started.

700. Opium. Reported formal acknowledgments of our letter of 14th September re the Report of the Permanent Central Opium Board of the League of Nations, May, 1944, from the Secretary of the Prime Minister and the India Office.

701. FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts was adopted. On the proposal of Mrs. Wood it was AGREED she should invite loans of £20 or £25 each from four or five members of Committee for a period of three months, to enable the current work to be carried on, instead of drawing on the Reserve Fund. Later in the afternoon, Mrs. Wood reported she had obtained her loans, free of interest.

Mrs. Wood made an earnest appeal for the development of organisation work, and for the funds to enable the work to grow. If we do not seize the opportunity now the W.I.L. might become an advisory body only. She pleaded for a big missionary drive now.

Mrs. Grindley proposed a THANKSGIVING SALE, plans to be started immediately.

702. AFFILIATION. Reported the Women's Group of the Methodist Peace Fellowship had affiliated to the W.I.L. It was hoped that Branches would get into touch with women in the M.P.F. where they were known in Methodist Churches in their towns.

It was suggested that similar groups might be found in other denominations, and it was AGREED to make inquiries.

703. COUNCIL MEETINGS. Reported that Prof. Mitranj had consented to open the discussion on Monday on "The Present International Situation and the development of World Organisation"; and Miss Pye had AGREED to open the discussion on Tuesday morning on "Relief and Rehabilitation."

AGREED to ask Miss Minna Specht to speak for a short time on The Treatment of War Criminals and Post-War Education for Peace, and perhaps another speaker on Reparations.

AGREED that some part of Tuesday morning should be devoted to The Far East. The North Wales Branch had suggested that their resolution on the Far East, proposed for the cancelled April Council, might come before the special Council. This proposal had been carefully considered by the India and Colonies Committee, who recommended that a letter should be sent to the Branch saying that the Council is being called to consider the broad principles of peace and reconstruction in the world in which the Far East would be envisaged as a whole as well as the European situation, and that it was hoped the Branch would raise their specific points re India and Burma during the discussions on the Far East.

AGREED that a statement on W.I.L. policy would be a better outcome of the Council than resolutions.

The Agenda Committee were to be asked to see that the Far East has a definite place on the Agenda.

Miss Burton, for the India and Colonies Committee undertook to write to Mrs. Lloyd Prichard about her North Wales Branch proposal.

Question 7 "An International Police Force" in the Pool of Opinion. Correspondence from Mrs. Stapledon and Mrs. Castle as Executive members and from the Childwall Branch advocating an International Police Force as a short term policy was considered with great care and given full discussion. As copies of Mrs. Stapledon's letter had gone to Executive members, AGREED Mrs. Innes's reply to her should also be sent, with the leaflet mentioned in the letter.

The suggestion from Childwall Branch of a ballot on the question among the membership of the W.I.L. was considered, but not accepted. Mrs. Stapledon said it was possible that Liverpool and Childwall might take a ballot among their own members.

Mrs. Innes suggested that the Statement already drafted for the consideration of the Executive should be somewhat modified, and Mrs. Castle and Mrs. Stapledon AGREED to think out some wording that could go into the Statement and to let the Agenda Committee have it in time for its meeting on October 12th.

On the proposal of Mrs. Innes AGREED to send the Notes from Birmingham which had been lost, for information, to America, together with the Answers to questions 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in the "Pool of Opinion."

Mrs. Innes was asked to write to the Childwall Branch.

704. W.I.L. REFUGEES. The death of Mrs. Klaghofer was reported. She was a member of the Hungarian Women's Movement, a great collaborator with Count Karoly, the leader of the Free Hungarian Movement. On coming to the country she had associated herself at once with the British Section of the W.I.L.P.F. as she had been a member of the League in Hungary. Since coming to this country she had endured ill-health, poverty and suffering, through which she worked part-time in a factory, and in her spare time she worked as her health permitted on the problem of the peasants in Hungary. AGREED that

sympathy should be expressed to her friends through Miss Karleen Baker.

705. BRING AND BUY SALE. Mrs. Malcomson had AGREED to take this in charge. A notice of it had been sent to all Headquarters members, inviting gifts to be sent to Mrs. Malcomson, C/o W.I.L. Council, Friends House, Euston Road, London, clearly priced. AGREED to ask Mrs. McGregor Wood to act as Hostess during the Social Hour.

706. W.I.L.P.F. Mrs. Innes reported (1) that Miss Balch had promised to send a little later her comments on Dorothy Detzer's views expressed in her report to the U.S.A. Annual Meeting; (2) that no newshad been received for some time from Switzerland; (3) that the National Council of Women of Belgium in Gt. Britain were collecting information and data about women's organisations to take back to Belgium, likely to be useful to the women of Belgium in their work for reconstruction. W.I.L. Literature had been sent; (4) that the names of 21 International Members had been sent to Gertrud Baer during the last week. Mrs. Innes was greatly encouraged by the Branch response to her appeal for International Members.

AGREED to invite Mrs. Leroy, the Hon. Secretary of the National Council of Women of Belgium in Gt. Britain to the Social on 24th October.

707. ORGANISATION. Reported a recommendation from the Officers' Meeting that ad hoc Organisers be appointed for periodic organisation work as W.I.L. Officials. Mrs. Phillips, late of Manchester Branch, now living in Nottingham had been approached to see if she were willing to undertake a week or two's organising work in the North from time to time, but her reply had not yet been received. Mrs. Grindley was prepared to do some organising work in the Southern area and Mrs. Castle was ready to help in the Western Area. The Committee approved this recommendation.

On the proposal of Mrs. Duncan Harris AGREED to put before the Council the appointment of an Hon. Organising Secretary, and to send out a special notice to this effect to all the Branches, Executive Committee and Vice-Presidents. Mrs. Grindley had expressed her willingness to act as Hon. Organising Secretary, if appointed.

AGREED to invite Mrs. Berwick Sayers to serve on the Organisation Committee in place of Mrs. Lord.

W.I.L. speakers. Attention was drawn to the great need for speakers on the W.I.L. for large and small meetings. Mrs. Grindley was willing to be the Leader of a W.I.L. Speakers' Class if sufficient members would attend.

708. INTERNATIONAL BUREAU FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN. Mrs. Longson and Miss Dickinson were appointed to attend a meeting on October 10th and were authorised to support the following resolution:-

"This meeting deeply convinced of the need for immediate action, urges that an International Commission of Experts of the Allied and Neutral Governments, and Representatives of the International Organisations, shall be convened in London under the auspices of the British Government to prepare:-

- (1) practical plans to aid the victims of the enemy traffic in women and children.
- (2) preventive measures against traffic in women and children in the period immediately following the cessation of hostilities;
- (3) practical measures for a world-wide enforcement of the existing International Conventions including the last Draft Convention for the Suppression of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others."

Mrs. McGregor Wood has already started a considerable amount of organisation work in East Anglia

709. NEWS SHEET. Mrs. Innes advised the Committee that the November issue would be late as it would be held up to contain accounts of the Council Meetings.

710. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. Miss Harrison drew attention to the U.D.C. pamphlet "The War, the Peace and Germany." AGREED to order 4 dozen copies (2d each) for sale at the Council Meetings.

711. REPORT OF INDIA AND COLONIES COMMITTEE.

On the suggestion of Dr. Moody decided to ask Mr. Lionel Aird to a future meeting of the India and Colonies Committee for discussion on the Colour Bar.

Miss Dickinson agreed to represent the W.I.L. at the Conference called by the Fabian Colonial Bureau on October 7th on "Some Colonial Problems of the Peace."

Miss Burton reported that Mrs. Barrow is to be asked to present the Arab point of view in relation to Palestine at the next meeting of the India and Colonies Committee.

Miss Burton reported that £86. 1. 6d had been collected for Mrs. Gandhi's Memorial Fund. The money had been handed over to Mrs. Handoo of the India Women's Committee at a friendly informal tea at the W.I.L. Office on September 28th. Miss Burton was asked to prepare a short report for the News Sheet.

Miss Harrison reported on the situation arising out of the Gandhi-Jinnah Talks. The correspondence that had been passed between them is now available and can be obtained from the Information Department of the India Office by those who are making a serious study of the subject. The W.I.L. shares the disappointment in the outcome of these talks but sees in the situation a challenge for further effort. Miss Harrison was authorised to call a special meeting of the India and Colonies Committee, if necessary, and to keep in touch with other groups who are concerned about next steps.

It was decided that Mrs. Duncan Harris should write to our two members, Mrs. Pandit and Mrs. Hamid Ali.

712. BRANCH REPORTS were given by members of the Committee attached also to Branches, and several Reports were read.

713. MARRIED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Reported that Miss Palmer had represented the W.I.L. at the "WELCOME HOME" to Dr. Edith Sumner-Skill from her visit to the Dominions as a Representative in the Parliamentary Delegation. Miss Harrison had also been present and, in company with other women's organisations, had given a very brief outline of the work and aims of the W.I.L.

Reported the receipt from the Married Women's Association of a Questionnaire to obtain information for recommendations the Association is making to the Royal Commission on Population. No action was taken.

714. WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. AGREED to ask Mrs. Berwick Sayers (or failing her Mrs. Kinnish) to represent the W.I.L. at a Conference on November 11th on "The New Community and the Co-Partnership of the Woman Citizen - How shall we achieve it?" Mrs. Corbett Ashby will be welcomed as the new President of the Women's Freedom League. The following draft resolution to be put to the meeting was endorsed:-

"This Conference of Women's Organisations called by the Women's Freedom League records its urgent conviction that the time has come when all adult citizens and all organisations which stand for social justice and a truer democracy

in the post-war world should unite to impress upon the Government by every means in their power the need for the abolition of all differences based upon sex in the law, in administration, in public relations or in custom and usage. And that as a practical step, a Committee be formed to consider the best means of action, such as a great demonstration in favour of this principle as one among the celebrations of the Victory of Freedom."

715. LONDON REGIONAL FEDERATION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.
AGREED to distribute notices of the International Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication in St. Martin-in-the Fields on 14th October, at Miss Jowitt's meeting on October 11th.

716. CELEBRATION OF ENTRY OF WOMEN INTO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS: SILVER JUBILEE OF THE VISCOUNTESS ASTOR'S ELECTION - to be held on December 1st, 1944. Reported the Officers, on behalf of the Committee, had sent a cheque for one guinea towards the cost of an illuminated Address, to be presented to Lady Astor. Two 3/6d tickets had been ordered for the afternoon Reception at Grosvenor House. This action was endorsed.

717. ETHIOPIA. Miss Dickinson reported on a meeting of the Abyssinia Association on October 3rd when Prof. Norman Bentwich spoke on "Progress in Ethiopia."

Princess Tsahai Memorial Hospital Council. Reported an invitation to send representatives to meet the Appeals Committee of the Memorial Council on October 26th. No action was taken.

DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE, Wednesday, 1st November.

MEETING OF INDIA AND COLONIES COMMITTEE, Tuesday, October 31st, 4.30 when Mrs. Mary Barrow will be present to put the Arab point of view in relation to Palestine.

B. Duncan Harris
 1. 11. 44

W.I.L. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1944.

<u>RECEIPTS.</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	
Balances on 1st September:-		Postage.....	7. 5. 1.
<u>Midland Bank:</u>		Office Expenses.....	1. 4. 8
General Fund.....	8. 11. 3	Workmen's Compensation In-	
India Work.....	35. 7. 6	surance.....	1. 13. 6
<u>Co-Operative B.B.Soc.</u>		N.H. & Un. Insurances.....	1. 4. 4
Shrewsbury.....	7. -.-	Rent.....	15. -.-
Penny-a-Week Fund..	190. 2. 1	Salaries.....	37. -.-
Congress Fund.....	84. -.-	Stationery.....	3. -.-
Petty Cash.....	3. 4. 3 ³ / ₄	Meetings.....	11. 3. 6
	£328. 5. 1 ¹ / ₂	News Sheets.....	6. 8. 6
Subs.....	11. 9. 6	Travelling Expenses.....	4. 19. 7
Dons:-		Literature.....	8. 11. 1
General.....	8. 9.-	Geneva Subscriptions.....	10. -.-
Fr. of H.Q....	6.-	India Work.....	5. 7. 6
Br. Quota....	8. 9. 6		<u>112. 18. -</u>
B & B Sale... 5. 5.-		Balances:-	
News Sheets.. 9. 1. 4		Petty Cash.....	4. 3. 6 ³ / ₄
Literature... 2. 10.-		<u>Midland Bank:</u>	
Affil. Fees... 14.-		General Fund....	5. 5. 10
Geneva Subs. 21. -.-		Geneva Subs....	11. -.-
Penny-a-Wk... 3. -.-		P.A.W.....	6. -
	70. 5. 2	<u>C.P.B.S.</u>	
From Reserve Fund	50. -.-	P.A. Week.....	192. 16. 11
	£448. 10. 3 ³ / ₄	Shrewsbury.....	7. -.-
		Congress Fund	85. -.-
			<u>335. 12. 3³/₄</u>
			£448. 10. 3 ³ / ₄

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, November 1st, 1944,
at 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Longson, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Stapledon, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Miss Hayler, Mrs. Bedford, Mrs. McGregor Ross, Miss Anderson, Miss Harrison.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Miss Hilda Burton, Mrs. Ballinger, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Malcomson, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Miss Edith Pye. AGREED (1) a letter of sympathy and best wishes for a speedy recovery should be sent to Miss Burton, who is ill in a Clinic in North Wales; (2) a letter of appreciation be sent to Mrs. Malcomson for all she did to make the Bring and Buy Sale such a success.

MINUTES of meeting on October 4th were confirmed, after the following sentence was added to Minute 707 Organisation last line after "Area." "Mrs. McGregor Wood had already started a considerable amount of work in East Anglia."

BUSINESS ARISING.

718. Mrs. Duncan Harris and Mrs. Castle were appointed W.I.L. representatives at the Reception to Viscountess Astor at Grosvenor House on December 1st on the occasion of her Silver Jubilee of her entry into the House of Commons.

719. FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts was adopted. Mrs. Wood reported that she had received £95 in Loans and £25 as a gift. The Collection at Miss Jowitt's Meeting on October 11th amounted to £3. 16. - which covered the expenses.

On the proposal of Mrs. Wood AGREED that a fee of 1/- should be charged to non-delegates at future Council Meetings.

720. 1945 COUNCIL MEETINGS. Reported that neither Westhill nor Woodbrooke, Birmingham, nor St. Hilda's, Oxford, could accommodate the Annual Council next year. AGREED to write to The Beeches, Birmingham, Reehampton College, London, Miss B.M. Baker re Badminton School, or other suitable places in Bristol, and the University, Aberystwyth, for accommodation during their Easter Vacation.

721. REPORTS OF BRANCH ACTIVITIES were given by Branch members who were present at the Committee.

722. MISS EDITH PYE. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that Miss Pye expected to leave for France during the week. AGREED a letter of good wishes, signed by those members of the Committee who were present, should be sent to her.

723. REPORT OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, October 23/25th. Mrs. Innes reported (1) that her report of the proceedings would appear in the November News Sheet, (2) she had received a letter from Mrs. Lloyd Prichard suggesting that if a Women's Education Association is formed, it should be representative of national unity to make quite certain of its being more inclusive than if it is created from the Executive. After discussing the best ways of developing the scheme proposed in Part 2 of the Memorandum, AGREED that some of the outstanding educationists in the W.I.L. should be sent a copy of the Memorandum and asked if they would give their advice on the proposals contained in it, as a preliminary to setting up a special group to explore further possibilities.

International Police Force. The views expressed at the Council by Mrs. Stapledon on the need for an international police force, at least for a time, were again brought forward by her, and the question was carefully discussed. Mrs. Stapledon felt that

she and other members had come into the W.I.L. owing to a misconception of the leaflets issued.

AGREED that the decision of the Council was binding that "the advocacy of an armed police force was outside the province of the W.I.L."

AGREED to print a new leaflet containing the International Statement issued in October 1920 (reprinted in 1936) which embodied the beliefs and principles upon which the W.I.L. work has always been based, and the Statement adopted at the Council on an International Police Force. Mrs. Innes undertook to see to this.

Other leaflets. Mrs. Duncan Harris undertook to draft a leaflet on "The new methods, free from violence must be worked out for ending abuses and for undoing wrongs, as well as for achieving positive ends."

A reprint of the two-page membership leaflet for use at meetings was also decided upon.

Dumbarton Oaks. AGREED to send this to the Prime Minister, the Foreign Office and to the N.P.C.

(It was also sent to the Press).

Miss Myrtle Wright. AGREED to invite Miss Wright to address a meeting of London members on the afternoon of November 23rd and to come to a meeting of the Executive on January 3rd, 1945 at 3.30 p.m.

Hon. Organising Secretary. Reported a meeting of the Organisation Committee was being called for November 28th at 1 p.m. to meet Mrs. Grindley, the new Organising Secretary. Mrs. Phillips would also be present.

724. CO-OPTION ON TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. On the proposal of Mrs. Lloyd Prichard Mrs. Phillips was co-opted on to the Committee, having expressed herself willing to serve, if appointed.

725. OFFICE STAFF. Reported that Miss Palmer had given notice to leave the W.I.L. as she had accepted a post with the N.P.C. at a considerable increase in salary and more responsible work which she now felt qualified to take. The Committee were sorry to hear that she was leaving but asked Mrs. Innes to send her best wishes for success in her new work.

726. WILPF. Thankfulness was expressed ~~that~~ news/brought to the Council by Miss Myrtle Wright, of our friends in Norway and Sweden. Mrs. Innes reported receipt of a cable from Frau Ragaz saying that if travelling is possible she would be ready to join the other International Chairmen in London after the New Year. She had sent details in an airmail letter which had not yet arrived.

The death of Mrs. Lola Maverick Lloyd was reported. AGREED to send Dorothy Detzer a letter of sympathy for the loss which our American Section has sustained in the death of such a devoted worker for peace.

AGREED that Mrs. Duncan Harris should send greetings to Mrs. Sigrid Helliesen Lund of Norway, at present in Stockholm.

727. International aviation conference. Regret and concern was expressed that Russia had recalled her experts at the last moment. After general discussion AGREED that a letter should be sent to the Women Members of Parliament expressing the hope that the British Government would take the lead in making the use of the air available for peoples everywhere as one of the major factors in securing world peace.

AGREED to sign the following Statement (No. 2 AIRWAYS) from the Committee to promote the formation of a Joint Advisory Council for Reconstruction:-

"Boundaries and frontiers in the air do not exist and war has proved the futility of attempts to define and defend them. The conquest of the air is a new gift to men, which renders national isolation impossible and demands new measures of world co-operation. Attempts to divide or control the air nationally or imperially must not only prove disastrous to the cause of future world peace, but must destroy the great common heritage which the consent of the air holds out to the rising generation of the world. Whatever agencies may be deemed most capable of developing and operating the public services of the air, and of regulating the use of the air as a medium of transport, these agencies must be under the ultimate and effective control of an authority which will represent the peoples of all nations."

(Signed by K.E.Innes on behalf of the W.I.L.)

728. REPORT OF INDIA AND COLONIES COMMITTEE. Miss Harrison reported a very useful meeting between Mrs. Mary Barrow (an Arab woman married to a British man) and the India and Colonies Committee the previous evening on the Arab point of view in the Palestine situation. Mrs. Irvine had agreed to frame a question to be put in the House asking what has been done regarding the allocation of funds for educational work on behalf of the Arabs. Mrs. Barrow had expressed the opinion that Conferences with Arab and Jew speakers and an unbiased Chairman, such as Mr. Castle made at the Conference at the International Friends Centre a short while ago, would be very helpful. Mrs. Barrow said she would sometimes be available for such Conferences and could give a list of people who would be able to present the Arab point of view quite fairly and without prejudice.

The Executive asked the India and Colonies Committee to watch the situation in Africa, regarding the proposal to hand over certain territories to the Union of South Africa to administer, and to consult the Fabian Society about it.

The resolution on The Far East referred back by the Council to the Executive Committee was considered. It was believed that the Queen of Holland had made a statement on colonial policy which would affect the wording of the resolution and it was therefore referred back to the India and Colonies Committee until exact information was received.

Reported a letter dated 25th October from the Colonial Office re the Report of the Permanent Central Opium Board dated 5th May, 1944, stating that "it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to restore the system of control of dangerous drugs in accordance with the Conventions of 1925 and 1931 as soon as circumstances permit."

Mrs. Innes reported a letter from the Permanent Central Opium Board in Washington, D.C., expressing appreciation of the encouraging interest and action of the Committee in this matter.

It was reported that several suggestions were being made in INDIA. All these emphasise the need for the calling of an All-Party Conference. Such a Conference could not be effective unless the Congress leaders were present.

729. CORRESPONDENCE. London Women's Parliament. Reported invitation to send delegates to the fifth Session of the London Women's Parliament on November 19th, called to consider post-war questions, such as Housing and Post-War Status of Women. No appointment made.

Women for Westminster. Reported meeting on November 8nd re Government Plan for Social Security.

National Peace Council. Miss Hayler and Miss Dickinson expressed a wish to receive an invitation to the N.P.C. Conference on "Dumbarton Oaks - Project for Peace" on November 14th. AGREED to notify the N.P.C. accordingly.

London Regional Refugee Council. Reported invitation to appoint a representative on to the London Regional Refugee Council. Miss Mosa Anderson agreed to serve.

Married Women's Association. Reported an invitation to be identified with a Protest Meeting on November 23rd, re Family Allowances, and that on behalf of the Executive Mrs. Innes had authorised the name of the W.I.L. to be included on the handbill as supporting the meeting. This was endorsed. The following resolution would be put before the meeting:-

"That this meeting most urgently requests the Government to pay Family Allowances primarily to the Mother or person directly responsible for the material care of the child." This resolution was endorsed by the Executive.

Mr. David Peat had sent a letter to Mrs. Innes expressing his thanks to the Executive for considering his proposed "Declaration."

730. REPORTS OF MEETINGS OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS by W.I.L. representatives. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported on the deputation arranged by the Family Endowment Society to Sir William Jowitt;

Miss Dickinson and Mrs. Longson reported on the meeting called by the International Council of Women Equal Moral Standard Committee re traffic in Women. AGREED to ask Miss Turner of the Asso. for Moral & Social Hygiene for a copy of the document referred to at the meeting.

Miss Hayler's report on the Dorothy Evans Memorial Fund Committee Meeting was read. AGREED to ask Mrs. Innes to put a note of the Appeal into the News Sheet.

Miss Mosa Anderson regretted she had not been able to attend the Annual Meeting of the Allies Inside Germany Council (now known as the British Council for German Democracy).

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Wednesday, December 6th at 144 Southampton Row. Meeting of India and Colonies Committee, Tuesday, December 5th at 5 p.m. At 4.30 p.m. Mr. Lionel Aird will be present to discuss the Colour Bar question.

Agatha Hansson
6.12.44

Statement of Accounts for October, 1944.

<u>RECEIPTS.</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	
Balances on 1st Oct....	335. 12. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	Salaries.....	28. --. --
Dons: General.....	1. --. --	Geneva Subscriptions.....	11. --. --
Friends of H.Q.	1. 9. --	Postage.....	7. 15. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Branch Quotas.....	9. --. --	Office Expenses.....	1. 9. 6
Bring and Buy Sale.....	52. 5. 8	Travelling Expenses.....	4. 8. 3
Subscriptions.....	2. 15. --	Literature.....	1. 11. 7
News Sheets.....	1. 19. 9	Meetings.....	2. 5. 5
Literature.....	1. 7. --	Stationery.....	12. 7
N.H. & U. Insurances....	12. 8	Heating.....	3. 8
Meetings.....	6. 9. --		57. 6. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Geneva Subscriptions...	13. 6. --	Balances:	
Loans.....	95. --. --	General Fund...38. 1. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Penny-a-Week.....	7. 9. 2	Loans.....95. --. --	
		Geneva..... 2. 6. --	
		P.A.W. Fund.... 7. 9. 2	
		India Work....30. --. --	172. 16. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
		In C.O.P.B.Soc.....	284. 16. 11
		Petty Cash.....	13. 5. -- $\frac{3}{4}$
			£528. 5. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$
	£528. 5. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$		

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, December 6th, 1944, at 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PRESENT. Miss Harrison in the Chair in the morning and Mrs. Duncan Harris in the afternoon. Miss Haughton, Miss Burton, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Stapledon, Mrs. Malcomson, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Hayler, Mrs Longson, Mrs. Beesley, Mrs. Bedford, Miss Anderson, *Mrs Castle, Mrs Ballinger.*

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs. McGregor Wood, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Mrs. McGregor Ross, Miss Pye, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Berwick Sayers, Mrs. Brayshaw.

MINUTES of meeting on November 1st were confirmed, having been previously circulated.

BUSINESS ARISING:

731. Reported formal acknowledgment of letter re DUMBARTON OAKS from the Secretary of the Prime Minister. The resolution on the Dumbarton Oaks proposals had been sent to the Press.

732. Formal acknowledgment reported of letter from Miss Irene Ward, M.P. re INTERNATIONAL AIR CONFERENCE, CHICAGO.

In reply to our letter about the International Air Conference Lady Apsley, M.P. wrote to say she was in general agreement with the W.I.L. that aviation should be developed on lines of co-operation and international control, but she asked what solution the W.I.L. suggested when Soviet Russia and the U.S.A. both refuse to countenance international control for their territories, and while denying to other nations the right to fly over their continents, demand the right to do so over what part of the British Empire they desire? Lady Apsley also said that if freedom of the air is denied to us by others, we shall be forced to make our own arrangements, or go under in world trade - thus dropping our standard of living which ultimately depends on selling manufactured goods in order to buy half our food and nearly all our raw materials in Peace time.

In Mrs. Innes's reply to Lady Apsley she said that the W.I.L. realised that no country can by itself achieve the ends indicated but it would be very regrettable for Britain - because it was convinced beforehand of the unchangeability of the attitudes of other countries - to drop its ideals and adopt an attitude disastrous to future peace. Proposals for internationalisation may, as our Dominions have discovered, be defeated, but may nevertheless be worth making. As to the question what we should do in the face of U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. refusal to agree to proposals we may favour, as in all practical politics, it is obvious we must accept a compromise, but our aim should remain - to seek a compromise as little detrimental to future prospects of peaceful organisation as possible, and to keep the ideal of organisation for peace always in view.

Lady Apsley replied to this letter saying "I repeat I am personally in favour of freedom of the Air but you will have noted that the U.S.A. has now turned down these principles, that Russia refused even to discuss them, that China has already opened her Air Traffic to the highest bidder and therefore we shall be forced to make the best of what Air Traffic we can attract to ourselves. May I add that the stronger we are in the air, the more likely shall we be to keep the peace."

733. Reported that arrangements were well in hand for MISS MYRTLE WRIGHT'S MEETING on December 8th at the Y.W.C.A. Gt. Russell Street. An advertisement had been put into the New Statesman, and the handbill announcing the meeting had been printed.

734. Reported that Mrs. Mary Phillips had written to say she would be very pleased to serve on the Executive Committee, and hoped to attend her first meeting in January.

735. Reported a letter from MISS PALMER thanking the Committee for its good wishes and expressing the hope that at some time she would be able to help the W.I.L. She had become a member.

736. FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts was adopted. Literature Accounts and requests for Branch affiliation fees were being sent to Branches and it was hoped they would be paid before Christmas. It was hoped to get the Headquarters' Members' subscription letter out early in January.

Mrs. Grindley pressed the need for an increased membership. She thought Branches might increase their membership if the subscription could be collected on the Penny-a-Week Scheme. The 4/4d would not be noticed so much as the paying of the subscription at one time each year. If this idea were taken up it might lead to the raising of the affiliation fee to Headquarters - a matter which would have to be brought before the Annual Council of the Women's International League.

In discussion several Branch members in the Committee believed the subscription could be increased without very great greatness, but several felt the collection of a weekly sum presented difficulties. The general feeling was that this idea was one to be discussed by the Branches.

737. 1945 Council. It was reported that negative replies had been received to all the letters applying for accommodation for the Council - with the exception of Mrs. McFie of Nawnham, who had written to Mrs. Innes to say that we could hold the Council in the Hall previously booked by us, during the Easter Vacation.

Mrs. Malcomson agreed to make inquiries at Bootham School and The Mount School in York, and Mrs. Grindley would find out the address of a likely place in Surrey.

The Committee considered that if delegates were not going to be under one roof it might be as well to hold the Council in London, and instructions were therefore given to make a provisional booking at Friends House, Euston Road for a mid-week during the Easter Vacation

REPORT OF OFFICERS' MEETING, November 28th.

738. Reported that information had been received from Miss Myrtle Wright that there was a possibility that Mrs. Sigrid Helli-son Lund, the Vice-President of the Norwegian W.I.L., who is now in Sweden, might be permitted to enter this country. The Officers recommended that the Committee should give her a warm welcome and the Branches be asked if they would invite her to speak at meetings. She would require only travelling expenses and hospitality connected with any meeting arranged by the Branches. On arrival Mrs. Lund would need a period of rest during which a programme could be arranged for her.

AGREED to welcome Mrs. Lund in the event of her coming to England and to ask the Branches if they would organise meetings for her when she was ready to accept speaking engagements.

739. On the request of Mrs. Lloyd Prichard the question of paying fares to W.I.L. members attending meetings on its behalf was considered. AGREED that the principle of paying fares to Executive Members who attend Executive meetings for at least four hours at one meeting should be maintained, as long as money is available for the purpose; that the principle be accepted that representatives from the W.I.L. to meetings of other organisations should be paid fares as long as money is available. The question of members of W.I.L. sub-Committees receiving fares was left to the discretion of the Hon. Secretary and of the Hon. Treasurer.

740. The Officers recommended the closing of the Office during Christmas Week. AGREED.

741. Reported Messrs. Dunstan & Co., had submitted estimate for two leaflets, one of which was already printed and the other set up in type. The estimates were accepted by the Executive. AGREED another time to get competitive estimates from C.O. printers known to Mrs. Grindley.

The Birmingham printer to whom "copy" for one of the leaflets had been sent with a request for an estimate, had not replied.

742. Mrs. Innes had been asked to make inquiries about entry visas into this country for the International Chairmen from U.S.A. and Switzerland respectively, and for Dr. Sahlbom from Sweden and Dorothy Detzer from U.S.A. She agreed to consult Mrs. Pothick Lawrence.

743. Reported the Officers had authorised advertising for an Office Worker.

744. Mrs. Innes reported to the Officers that she had sent the following letter to the Daily Herald, the News Chronicle and the Manchester Guardian re the extra rations at Christmas:-

November 21st, 1944.

"Much concern has been expressed among women at the idea that we - who are better nourished than before the War - should take the extra rations, particularly of fat and sugar offered at Christmas, while very many in liberated Europe are, as a recent letter from scientists to "The Times", and the reports of U.N.R.R.A. show, suffering in health from a shortage of these. Colonel Llewellyn has said we may rest assured that what we take will not come out of supplies already ear-marked for relief, but this is not the point.

"Surely if anyone is to have extra it should be those suffering from deficiency. Many of the proposed recipients of our rations would be greatly relieved for the assurance that anything they give up would go to the Continent as a supplementary allowance, now or when transport allows.

"It is to be hoped the Ministry of Food will make this possible."

This letter had appeared in the Daily Herald.

On the 1st December Mrs. Duncan Harris followed this up by another letter to the Daily Herald, as follows:-

"May I, through your column, make the suggestion that, if as is probable, Christmas rations are already distributed, women who are uneasy at receiving them when such widespread distress prevails in liberated Europe, should either with, or without taking the rations, send the cost of the extra supplies to a relief organisation."

This also appeared in the Daily Herald.

The Executive ENDORSED THESE LETTERS.

Miss Harrison drew attention to Vera Brittain's "Letter to Peace-Lovers," November 30th, in which the suggestion was made that the extra rations be given away as "conscience gifts" to individuals especially in need of them, such as children, the aged, or patients in hospitals. One Children's Hospital in London has expressed its willingness to receive gifts for its young patients. Miss Brittain added that "these gifts would receive added significance if their purpose were explained to the shop where they were purchased, to the local Food Control Committee, to the Ministry of Food and to the

Foreign Secretary."

The Executive suggested that a copy of Mrs. Duncan Harris's letter to the Daily Herald and the suggestion of Vera Brittain should be sent to Branches.

Mrs. Castle said that the Meeting for Sufferings of the Society of Friends had discussed this question and had agreed to send an Appeal to the Prime Minister and those concerned with the allotment of food to the Continent, urging them to work on the principle that until the amount of food in the Occupied Countries is brought up to the level of Gt. Britain, no increases should be made to this country.

The Officers were asked to send a letter to the Government on the above lines.

Reported correspondence was going on between a new member, Mrs. Campbell, and Mrs. Innes. Mrs. Campbell had raised question under the following points:- (1) Confusion arising from lack of precise definition of W.I.L. attitude towards present war; (2) Tendency to over-simplification resulting in failure to get at grips with underlying problems; (3) too rigid an adherence to pre-conceived ideas; (4) the causes of war are spiritual, etc.; (5) Lack of (a) Funds, (b) Publicity, (c) co-operation with other bodies.

AGREED THAT COPIES OF THE CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD be made available for members of the Executive who would like to see it.

745. BRANCH REPORTS. Members of the Committee who were attached to Branches reported on activities in their Branch. Reports were also read from Childwall and Cambridge. Reported a letter on behalf of the Committee had been sent by Mrs. Innes to Mrs. Tiller, Hon. Secretary of our Childwall Branch congratulating her on the birth of her second son.

746. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. With regard to the present internal situation in some of the liberated countries, Mrs. Duncan Harris's proposal was adopted that the W.I.L. should register its dismay at the apparent trend of our own Government in backing the reactionary rather than the progressive forces in the liberated countries.

Miss Anderson believed the present trend is the result of our Government's general attitude to force, a direct sequence of our over-throwing of the Atlantic Charter principles, and an encouragement to people to think in terms of force if independence and liberty are to be maintained.

The Officers were empowered to act on the lines suggested above, incorporating them in a short statement.

747. Council Resolution on the Far East. Miss Dickinson reported the situation in regard to the Council resolution on the Far East which had been referred back to the Executive for further consideration. Information from the Dutch Government had only been received that day and there had not been time to study it. It appeared that the Dutch Statement materially altered the wording of the original resolution.

In view of the unavoidable delay in drafting a resolution ~~Miss Dickinson suggested~~ Mrs. Innes ^{on behalf of the Finance & Costing Committee} was asked to send a letter to the Government embodying the points on which agreement was reached.

Mrs. Duncan Harris felt that under the circumstances it was not possible to draft a letter which would satisfactorily express the desire of the Council that the situation in the Far East should be drawn into the general picture of post-war reconstruction and that further examination was necessary.

The Executive AGREED that very much more thought must be given to the matter before proposing any specific action to the Government.

AGREED a letter explaining the position should be sent to Mrs. Lloyd Prichard and Mrs. Dorothy Hogg, who had been the movers of the Council resolution.

748. INDIA. Report of Sub-Committee. Miss Harrison reported that Mrs. Pandit (Mr. Nehru's sister) was one of the delegates to the Pacific Conference to be held at Hot Springs, U.S.A. on 6th January. The Liaison Committee of Women's Organisations in this country interested in Indian affairs, of which the W.I.L. is one, has sent an invitation to Mrs. Pandit to come to this country, and ^{written} Mr. Anory asking for every facility for this visit. It was felt that Mrs. Pandit's help would be invaluable to us in regard to the Far Eastern affairs. Mrs. Duncan Harris agreed to write to Miss Balch about Mrs. Pandit's visit to the States.

Miss Harrison reported a new effort was being made by Sir Tej Sapru to form a representative Committee of non-party men. When fuller information is to hand Miss Harrison said she would send a brief statement to the Branches with suggestion for action.

Reported a Sale in the Kingsway Hall, London, and Concert for the India Famine Relief on December 16th at 12.15 p.m.

Women in Mines. Reported no reply had yet been received from Dr. Ambedkar and the India Sub-Committee proposed waiting another month for his reply, and if not then received, to write to him again.

Mrs. Lloyd Prichard had written to Miss Harrison concerning the attitude of the National Council of Women on this question.

With regard to the situation between India and South Africa, it was proposed a letter be sent to the International Missionary Council urging that the Christian forces in both countries should be approached. It was decided to send a letter to the Rev. Norman Goodall to this effect.

Mrs. Malcomson reported on Mr. Lionel Aird's talk on the Colour Bar at the India and Colonies Committee the previous evening. He would be willing, if desired, to write an article for the News Sheet giving the gist of his talk.

Palestine. Reported that Mr. Castle had found it impossible to write an article on Palestine in the space allotted to him for the News Sheet, but an article he had written in the Hibbert Journal was being reprinted. Mrs. Castle was asked to find out the cost and the Officers were authorised to use their discretion either in buying copies for sale to Branches, and others interested, or for insertion in the News Sheet.

Mrs. Irvine reported she had made inquiries and found that the moment was not opportune for a question to be asked in the House regarding Arab education in Palestine. She will watch the situation and report later.

Miss Harrison reported that Commander Stephen King Hall's letter of 30th November (No. 438) was devoted almost entirely to the Palestine situation.

Miss Anderson reported that the Fabian Colonial Bureau and the Anti-Slavery Committee jointly were putting forward their policy regarding the Protectorates in a pamphlet, which she thought the W.I.L. ought to study. She will let us know when it is ready.

749. W.I.L.P.F. NEWS. Reported Mrs. Lloyd Prichard had written an article "News from Britain" which had been sent to Gertrude Baer in U.S.A. The Committee expressed their gratitude to Mrs. Lloyd Prichard for writing these articles, which Gertrude Baer had spec-

ially asked for.

Reported a letter from Dr. Sahlbom of Sweden saying that their Section had succeeded in stimulating some scientists, representing biology, psychiatry, jurisprudence and economy to start a Committee for a profound study of the causes of war, as a basis for finding the ways to prevent war. Personally, she said, she thought the causes have been studied and discussed enough and she was urging an expert Conference as soon as possible after the war. She asked the British Section to help by giving her some names of British scientists who would be sympathetic to the idea. The following were suggested: Julian Huxley, Dr. Howe, David Mitran, Dr. Chick and Dr. Helen Cam. AGREED to ask the following Branches if they could suggest other Scientists:- Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cambridge and North Wales.

Reported Circular Letter No. 3, 1944 from Gertrude Baer had been received. It contained further replies from some Sections to the "Pool of Opinion." AGREED to inform Branches that copies could be borrowed from the Office, and some members of the Committee were prepared to lend their copies to the Office for this purpose.

Mrs. Duncan Harris reported she had received a copy of the American Section's letter to its many Branches. In it reference was made to the Chinese proposals to the Dumbarton Oaks Conference. Mrs. Grindley undertook to consult two members in the Chinese Embassy as to whether a translation of the proposals was available.

750. Reported that a few copies were available of Mrs. Innes's booklet "The Romance of the Health Work of the League of Nations," price 1/-, postage 2d.

751. REPORT OF ORGANISATION COMMITTEE. Mrs. Grindley reported:-

- (a) replies from Branches to Part I of "Two Steps Forward" memorandum;
- (b) a recommendation to hold a summer school next year;
- (c) a recommendation that Mrs. Greta James be appointed to the Organisation Committee, recognising the fact that she could only attend meetings during vacation.
- (d) a recommendation that Branches be asked to give a list of local speakers who might be willing to do lecture work in other towns.

AGREED that Mrs. Grindley's report be attached to the Executive Committee Minutes.

Decisions of the Executive on the above were as follows:-

(1) Suggestion of summer school next year ENDORSED, and the Organisation Committee were asked to bring forward a draft programme for a week's school, which was considered a suitable length of time. The general feeling was that the School should be for men and women and that Mrs. McGregor Ross should be asked to make inquiries about accommodation in the Lake District.

Mrs. Grindley reported that she was hoping to get a W.I.L. Branch at Golders Green and another at Anerley.

Reported the formation of a Branch at Nottingham with Mrs. Phillips as Hon. Secretary. AGREED a letter of welcome should be sent to the Branch.

The question of arranging Regional Conferences was considered and Mrs. Ballinger agreed to consult the Birmingham Branch about holding one in the Spring. Manchester Branch was contemplating a Regional Conference in the Autumn of 1945. Croydon Branch plans for a Regional Conference had had to be suspended because of constant enemy activity.

752. LITERATURE. Reported that Miss Emily Balch's "Venture in Internationalism" - a history of the W.I.L. was out of print.

753. CO-OPTION TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. AGREED to invite Miss Myrtle Wright to serve on the Executive Committee, and also Mrs. Agnes Hardie, M.P. if she were a member of the W.I.L. AGREED to ask Glasgow Branch if she were one of its members as she was nota Headquarters member.

754. CORRESPONDENCE. Reported a letter from the British Council for German Democracy asking for renewal of subscription. It was pointed out that the 10/6d sent to them last year was a contribution towards the literature they sent us. AGREED that 10/6d should be sent again this year, making clear that it was not a subscription to the British Council, but towards the cost of literature they were sending the W.I.L.

Reported an invitation from the Women's British-Soviet Committee to appoint two delegates to a Conference of Women's Organisations on the new Soviet Law on Mothers and Children, Marriage and Divorce, on December 9th. Mrs. Longson agreed to attend and Mrs. Duncan Harris undertook to ask Miss M. Billson to attend on our behalf.

Reported an invitation from the Women's Freedom League to appoint a representative to attend a preliminary Committee to consider the next step to be taken following on their Conference on 11th November on the "New Community and the Co-partnership of the Woman Citizen." From the preliminary Committee it was expected to appoint a working Committee to carry on. Miss Haylor undertook to attend the preliminary Committee.

Reported Miss Muriel Lester had asked for publicity in the W.I.L. for the George Lansbury Memorial Window Fund. AGREED to send out copies of the Appeal to members of the Executive and to Branches.

See Family Endowment Society below //

755. REPORT OF MEETINGS OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS. Miss Harrison reported she had been greatly impressed at the Dorothy Evans Memorial Meeting on 3rd December, particularly by the reading by Dame Sybil Thorndike of "O Wild West Wind" and the 91st Psalm, and by the letter from Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

Lady Astor's Silver Jubilee Reception, December 8th. Mrs. Castle and Miss Haughton had attended this Reception, on which they reported.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS.

DATES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS; 1945.

<u>India and Colonies.</u>	Tuesday, January 2nd at 5 p.m.	in the Office
<u>Executive Committee:</u>	Wednesday, January 3rd, 11 a.m.	ditto
<u>Organisation Committee,</u>	Thursday, " 4th, 1 p.m.	ditto.

// Family Endowment Society. Reported letter asking for assistance in bringing pressure to the bear on the Government re its scheme for Family Allowances, with particular reference to (1) the payment to the mother, (2) the inadequacy of the amount, (3) an additional allowance for children who cannot obtain school meals. It was pointed out that action had already been taken on points (1) and (2). No action was proposed on point (3).

B. Duncan Harris

3.1.1945

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Statement of Accounts for November, 1944.

Balances on 1st November:-

General.....	38.	1.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Loans.....	95.	-.	-
Geneva subscriptions...	2.	6.	-
Penny-a-Week Fund.....	7.	9.	2
India Work.....	30.	-.	-

Co-operative Permanent Building Society:

Penny-a-Week Fund.....	192.	16.	11
Shrewsbury Work.....	7.	-.	-
Congress Fund.....	85.	-.	-
Petty Cash.....	13.	5.	- $\frac{3}{4}$
	<u>470.</u>	<u>18.</u>	<u>8$\frac{1}{4}$</u>

Subscriptions.....	3.	14.	6
Donations:-			
General.....	34.	13.	-
Branch quota....	12.	13.	-
"Bring & Buy"...	1.	12.	6
News Sheets.....	19.	9	
Literature.....	1.	9	
Inland Revenue...	3.	17.	-
Affil. Fees.....	2.	7.	6
Meetings.....	1.	6	
Geneva Subs.....	4.	5.	-
Penny-a-Week Fund.			
	<u>3.</u>	<u>9.</u>	<u>8</u>

67.15.2

£538.13.10 $\frac{1}{4}$

Salaries.....	24.	-.	-
Stationery.....	10.	5.	3
News Sheets.....	13.	10.	3
Geneva Subscriptions.....	13.	6.	-
Postage.....	8.	5.	9
Telephone (six months)...	7.	8.	5
Inland Revenue.....	4.	17.	-
Meetings.....	4.	1.	6
Liaison Cttee of Women's International Organisations (for W.I.L.P.F.)	2.	2.	-
Office Expenses.....	1.	3.	-
Travelling expenses.....	1.	7.	5
Heating.....		7.	10
Nat. Health & Un. Insurs...	1.	4.	11
	<u>91.</u>	<u>19.</u>	<u>4.</u>

Balances:-

Midland Bank

General.....	9.	13.	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Loans.....	95.	-.	-
India work....	30.	-.	-
Geneva Subs...	4.	5.	-

C.P. Bldg. Soc.

P.A. Week Fund.	204.	1.	9
Shrewsbury..	7.	-.	-
Congress Fund.	88.	-.	-

Petty Cash..... 8.14.1 $\frac{3}{4}$

446.14.6 $\frac{1}{2}$

£553.13.10 $\frac{1}{4}$

&c

Mrs. Grindley's REPORT OF ORGANISATION COMMITTEE, Nov. 28th, 1944.

Mrs. Duncan Harris chaired the preliminary meeting. Mrs. Phillips agreed to become the Chairman for future meetings. Mrs. Grindley consented to act as Hon. Secretary for the Committee.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Berwick Sayers, Miss Harrison, Miss Horscroft and Mrs. Grindley.

APCLOGY RECEIVED FROM MRS. Lloyd Trichard.

MEMORANDUM "Two Steps Forward."

I. REPLIES IN GENERAL.

The replies from Branches were considered. Nine had sent in their comments:- Bury St. Edmunds, Liverpool, Manchester, Saffron Walden, Childwall, Coventry, Croydon, Worthing and Reading. All showed general agreement with Part I. Liverpool considered the whole scheme far too ambitious from the financial standpoint. An ideal for the future.

ALL but Coventry were against the use of the term "Pacifist." Childwall and Worthing support idea of College for Education in World Citizenship, or Women's International College. Saffron Walden wants an International or Peace College.

Bury St. Edmunds, Manchester, Croydon and Reading think the training could be done through colleges and organisations which already exist. Reading thinks further exploration into existing facilities should be done.

There was general agreement with the idea of appointing a paid Organising Secretary at a salary of not less than £300 per annum.

Bury St. Edmunds, Childwall, Coventry and Manchester urge W.I.L. Summer School every year. AGREED to put the suggestion of holding a Summer School next year before the Executive Committee, and for power to go ahead with arrangements.

Three Branches query the use of the phrase "Call to Arms." Several queried the age limit of thirty, and thought very few women would be able to spare time for a year's course, and not unless possessed of private means.

Childwall feels that Headquarters and strong Branches should give more help and support to weak Branches.

A Lecture Agency was considered necessary.

Most felt regional Conferences would be helpful but that some overlapping would occur if there was an Organising Secretary.

Reading felt the subscription should possibly be raised and that more consideration must be given to the question of finance.

II. POINTS IN PART I CONSIDERED IN DETAIL BY THE ORGANISATION COMMITTEE, etc.

The Organisation Committee felt perhaps regional conferences would be useful, and thought a Midland Regional Conference was due.

Concerning page 7 of the Memorandum, it was AGREED that Mrs. James should be asked for her advice and assistance during the Christmas vacation, and that she should do this in conjunction with the Secretary of the Council for Education in World Citizenship. AGREED to recommend to the Executive the co-opting on to the Organisation Committee of Mrs. Greta James.

The Committee approved the principle of a Lecture Agency.

It was AGREED that a list should be circulated to each Branch giving the names of notable people willing to lecture for the W.I.L. Each Branch to be asked to send in two or three names for this list.

Reported some headway is being made re the formation of another Branch at Golders Green, and a group of women will be meeting shortly at Anerley.

AGREED a new leaflet was required.

The following questionnaire to Branch was adopted.

QUESTIONNAIRE.

1. How long do you keep members on your register after their subscriptions have become overdue?
2. Do you pass on to Headquarters the removal of a member to another town, with her new address?
3. Do you hold:-
 - (a) regular Committee Meetings?
 - (b) regular Members' meetings?
 - (c) Study groups, each group studying some aspect of the current international situation, or some special country? If so, do these Groups "brief" the general members of the Branch?
 - (d) Open Meetings?
4. Do you keep in touch with Schools, Colleges and other women's organisations in your town, and if so, how?
5. Have you tried placing the News Sheet in your Public Library, Doctors' Waiting Rooms, etc.? If so, what has been the result?
6. Could you take extra copies of the News Sheet each month for use in trying to get new readers?
7. Have you speakers in your membership willing to address meetings of local organisations, Churches, etc.? If so, have you offered these speakers, with their subjects, to Organisations? What has been the result?
8. Do you employ any particular method to get new members? If so, will you state what it is?
9. Have you a Press and Publicity Secretary?
10. After the war will you consider inviting members of another Branch to pay a visit to your Branch?