

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Tuesday, January 9th, 1940 from 11 am. to 5 p.m. at 55, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Miss Dickinson, Miss Pye, Dr. Clark, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Sheepshanks, (Visitor) Miss Baker, Miss Harrison, Miss Rinder Mrs. Innes, Miss Anderson.

Apologies for absence received from Mrs Brayshaw, Mrs Huxley, Mrs Kinnish, Mrs Lankester, Mrs Wood, Miss Haughton, Miss Marshall, Mrs Thoday, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs Thornycroft.

Minutes of meeting on December 15th were confirmed, having previously been circulated.

810. MISS BALCH. A message of love and encouragement from Miss Balch, Hon. International President, W.I.L.P.F. was read to the Committee. This had been sent to the W.I.L.P.F. Executive Meetings in Geneva and circulated to the Sections.

811. BUSINESS ARISING ON MINUTES. Reported that Miss Nancy Parnell had accepted our invitation to open the discussion on January 10th, of the series on "The Building up of a New World."

Reported that Girton College were next term considering the commemoration of Mrs. Swanwick's name and work by a record in the College Chapel, but they feared the College would not see its way to initiating any larger scheme, and feel that the initiative would come more appropriately from the W.I.L.

Reported also a letter of thanks from Mrs. Oswald Sickert, the sister-in-law of Mrs. Swanwick.

Agreed to consult the Union of Democratic Control and the National Council for Equal Citizenship about the possibility of raising a permanent Memorial to Mrs. Swanwick.

812. INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. Mrs. Duncan Harris referred to the need for keeping abreast of things and she proposed that each month different members of the Committee should be asked to come prepared to open the discussion on the international situation. Miss Anderson had been asked to speak on the Balkans in relation to Russia and Mrs. Grindley on the Russo-Finnish situation.

Miss Anderson told of the intense diplomatic activity now taking place in the BALKANS. Italy was endeavouring to strengthen resistance to any advance from Russia in this sphere. Russia's reverses in Finland had lessened her influence over Balkan policies for the moment. At the same time Bulgaria formed a stronghold of Russian sympathy. It was unlikely that Bulgaria would accede to the supplications that she should join the Balkan Entente as long as her territorial claims were left unsatisfied.

Mrs. Grindley gave a useful historical survey of the RUSSO-FINNISH SITUATION to date. (Memorandum attached.)

The Committee felt the need for further information on the whole subject. It was suggested that Chatham House might be able to recommend a speaker. In the meantime, however, it was agreed to ask Mrs. Christie (who had spent many years in Russia, though not recently, and who had kept herself informed on current events) if she would open a discussion on the Foreign Policy of the U.S.S.R. at a Sandwich Luncheon on 24th January, or the 22nd.

The very grave situation in HOLLAND was considered, with special relation to the effect it would have on our own members there. It was AGREED that a letter should be sent to Madame Ramondt Hirschmann inviting her and any other members to come to us if they got into difficulties owing to the situation in Holland.

Miss Myrtle Wright of the Society of Friends, who was about to visit Denmark, and who attended the Committee towards the end of the afternoon, was asked to convey to Dr. Sahlbon and Mrs. Toini Iverson the warm greetings and deep sympathy of the British Section in their great difficulties.

813. INDIA. Miss Harrison reported on her recent visit to Geneva and Paris. In both places she had found an eagerness to know more about the situation in India. A meeting called under the joint auspices of the W.I.L. and the World's Y.W.C.A. was held at Maison Internationale and she also spoke to the International Consultative Group. At each of these Miss Harrison raised the question as to what the organisations in Geneva were doing about India. She found there was a tendency to regard this as a domestic issue as between Great Britain and India, and a hesitancy on the part of other nationalities to take up the question. Individuals - in particular Gertrud Baer and the Y.W.C.A. - were well informed and anxious to help. The result of these meetings will probably be a more intensive study of this situation as a world problem.

With regard to the general situation, Miss Harrison said it remained stalemate, though efforts were going on in the background to break the deadlock. The Government was still pressing the need for unity; the Congress pressing for a specific answer in regard to the question raised in the middle of September. The situation still remains serious and needs the greatest vigilance on the part of all W.I.L. members.

814. POLAND. News from the W.I.L.P.F. in Geneva had been received that our friends in Poland were alive and at their homes.

815. FINANCE. The attached Statement of Accounts was adopted. It was reported that Miss Pickworth had held a Whist Drive in her home on behalf of the British Branch, as a result of which a donation of £1. 2. 4d had been sent to Headquarters. AGREED that a letter of appreciation should be sent to Miss Pickworth.

816. W.I.L. CZECH REFUGEES. Miss Baker reported on the present situation. The balance in hand to date was £197. Mrs. Harris had seen several of the young Czechs over the Christmas holidays, all very promising young people.

817. ANNUAL REPORT Mrs. Innes presented the draft Annual Report, with the exception of a paragraph on the W.I.L. Czech Refugees and the Treasurer's Report, which had not yet been received. The Report was adopted.

House

818. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, March 5th, 6th and 7th, at Friends/
The Committee considered plans for the Council and AGREED to concentrate on consideration of "How to find a form of World Government that will include the control necessary in the interests of the community, and leave the individual the maximum liberty of thought and action." The Committee also AGREED to suggest to the Branches and Affiliated Societies that only resolutions of urgency should be submitted. Branches were to be invited to send in any ideas for the Agenda under this general heading, for the consideration of the Agenda Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee appointed included the Officers, Miss Harrison and Miss Baker. It would meet on February 1st at 1 o'clock. It was asked to consider the question of speakers for the Council.

Miss Dickinson was asked, and consented, to get the Artists for the International Social on March 6th. AGREED this should begin with tea, if possible, in the Restaurant at Friends House.

819. SPEAKERS' NOTES. Reported Mrs. Brayshaw had compiled two sets of Speakers' Notes for those W.I.L. Branches who had asked for them. Mrs. Harris said that Roger Carter of the Friends Peace Committee was planning the issue of Notes which she thought might cover similar ground to Mrs. Brayshaws, and if so, the W.I.L. might use them and so save Mrs. Brayshaw this extra work. AGREED to ask Roger Carter for copies of her first document.

820. WOMEN'S PEACE CAMPAIGN. It was reported that the Women's Peace Campaign were arranging a three months' campaign around London and in the Provinces with Miss Sybil Morrison as Secretary. They hoped the W.I.L. would co-operate with them over the proposed Women's Peace Day. After discussion it was AGREED to send the Branches the Primary Objectives and the outlined Programme, with the suggestion that they should take the initiative in any campaign planned for their area.

821. JOINT ADVISORY BUREAU. Reported that the Officers and Miss Dickinson had considered the Memorandum on the proposed work of the National Joint Advisory Bureau and felt that the work proposed was now outside the sphere of the W.I.L. They therefore recommended suspending our affiliation and withdrawing our representative. This recommendation was adopted and in writing to the Secretary to that effect it was AGREED to say that if at any time there was any special work they felt we could undertake we should be glad to hear from them.

822. CORRESPONDENCE. Reported that the Executive of the British National Committee were recommending to the British National Committee that the active operation of the British I.P.C. should be suspended and the Office wound up.

Reported that the Women's Committee for Peace and Democracy were holding a Conference on Evacuation on January 13th. No action was taken.

This concluded the business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING, February 13th, 11 to 5 p.m.

B. D. Harris

13. 11. 40

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Statement of Accounts for December, 1939.

Balance on December 1st.....202.12. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	Salaries.....26. 10. 0
Subscriptions 4. 6. 6	Wages..... 2. 10. 0
Donations....19. 2. 4	Stationery..... 5. 15.11
News Sheets and Lit..... 6.16. 9	News Sheets & Litera- ture..... 4. 4. -
Office Exps. refd. from	Office Expenses..... 1. 15. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
W.P.C. 16.18. -	Insurances(N.H.) 1. 9
Bring & Buy Sale. 11.12. 8	Postage..... 2. 1. 1
Affil. Fees. <u>14. 5. -</u>	Telephone..... 3. 6
73. 1.3	Rent.....18. 15. 0
	Bring and Buy Sale... 4. 7
	Fares..... 1. 7. e
	Geneva Subscriptions.21. 10. -
	Geneva Pax..... 3. 4. 4
	<u>88 2. 4$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
	Balance at Bank... 154. 14. 8
	Cash in hand..... 4. 16. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Co-operative Perma- nent Bldg. Soc. 28. e. -
	<u>£275. 13. 4$\frac{1}{4}$</u>
<u>£ 275.13.4$\frac{1}{4}$</u>	

Balance £187.10.11 $\frac{3}{4}$

Accounts not rendered:-

Telephone.
Electricity.
Gas.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Memorandum on Russo-Finnish Situation
by M. Grindley

FINLAND. Conquered by Sweden in 1157.
Over-run by Russia, 1710.
Later divided between Russia and Sweden.
Ceded to Russia in 1808.

Taking advantage of the revolution Finland proclaimed independence in 1918. Soviet was first nation to recognise this independence. Republic was formally recognised by the Great Powers. Port of Petsamo ceded by Russia, 1920, and when Finland joined the League of Nations in 1920, the Aaland Islands were ceded to her by the League.

Government. When crisis arose, consisted of the following:

Social Democrats	85
Agrarians	56
Fascists	8

(The Conservatives have since joined the Government).

Population - Just under 4,000,000.

Policy of Soviet Russia - falls into three phases.

As soon as there was a stable Government in Russia the Treaty of Rapallo was signed with Germany, 1922. A friendship directed against the victors of Versailles. They helped each other in military and economic fields, until Hitler came to power. Note-worthy, that when second phase began, and Russia contemplated joining the League of Nations, Stalin opposed such a move and wished to continue friendship with Germany. Expressed on many occasions his opinion that a strong Germany was essential to the peace of Europe. All through this phase, he tried to make sure that, should Germany provoke trouble in Europe, Great Britain should be deeply involved.

At the beginning of the second phase, he entered the League, and made an alliance with France, proclaiming Russia's belief in Collective Security. During this period, Russia and France were on one side, with Germany and Italy on the other, and Gt. Britain holding the balance of power

This phase ended at Munich in 1938.

For a short while after this, Stalin inclined towards isolation. It became quite obvious that Hitler intended to aggress. The fear that Hitler might conclude an agreement with France and England caused Stalin to consider the possibility of making a pact with Germany as his first line of defence. His second line of defence was to make a pact with France and England himself.

The dismissal of Ditvinoff was undoubtedly the signal for the outbreak of war.

German policy was now directly challenging Britain and France, and Russia was maintaining the balance of power. Stalin's negotiations with the Western Powers broke down, at two points:-

- (a) He asked for a free hand to deal with indirect aggression in the Baltic. Regarding Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, he desired to bring them under Russian military control and to seize certain islands and bases;
- (b) He stipulated that if Russia marched into Poland against Germany, she should have control of Civil Government in White Russia and the Ukraine.

He was promised these things by Germany. ~~Stalin-gained-strategical-positions-~~ Hitler probably was not concerned with any successes gained by Stalin as they could be retaken from him later. Stalin gained strategical positions that are chiefly valuable to him because they would help him to fend off any possible German invasion. This was the third phase of Russian policy. Stalin feared that Hitler's armies might march eastwards by one or both routes:

- (1) The Southern road through Lemberg into the Ukraine.
- (2) The Northern road by land, sea and air along the Baltic shores to Leningrad. Exceedingly vulnerable. If Finns or other Baltic peoples were to assist a German plan of conquest, defence of this City was very difficult.

The Southern road was closed in the division of Poland. The Northern road is open so long as Finland is unconquered. Stalin perhaps fears that the war he precipitated may end before the belligerents are exhausted. Or that the Allies will patch up some kind of peace with Hitler, or with Goering and a restored Monarchy

Germany with her military power intact would then march Eastwards. Afraid too, that Gt. Britain might in that event, assist Germany with munitions.

That may be the reason why he is determined to acquire the port of Petsame. It could be used by the Western Powers to help the Finns even if the Baltic were closed. He probably remembers that Finland has made use of German troops before, against Russia. He seeks therefore, to strengthen his defences, not against the Finns, but against Germany.

There is reason to believe that Germany and Russia have some plan to bring the whole of Scandinavia within their orbit.

Sweden is now in a terrible dilemma. She fears Russia if Finland should be conquered, and fears aggression by Germany. Germany and Russia are now playing in Scandinavia the same game that Germany and Italy played in Spain. Role of one to hold off the Western Powers while the other destroys the victim.

One section of French opinion now demands full help for the Finns, on the ground that it is now impossible to draw any distinction between the Nazis and the Soviet. Small amount of French, British and Italian help has already gone to the Finns. Germany is now threatening to end Swedish neutrality if she co-operates in this help.

The phrase in Roosevelt's speech was very significant when he said that he now regards the U.S.S.R. as a Totalitarian State in the same category as Nazi Germany.

The Russian attack has widened the breach with the Democracies, and Germany is striving to widen it still further. It has been suggested to Stalin by Germany that he might emulate the feats of Alexander the Great. His chief exploits were in the countries we call Turkey, Iran, Irak and Syria. The Russian press then immediately began to threaten the Turks, and it appears that Stalin has fallen into the trap.

Germany is trying to bring Russia into the war as an active belligerent, not only in Scandinavia, but in the Middle East. Certain forces in London, New York and Paris are playing into German hands. For there is an Anglo-French alliance with Turkey, and we have given guarantees to Greece and Roumania.

Before Stalin aggressed into Finland, the situation was that Germany, instead of having a weak state like Poland on her

(3)

frontier, was faced with Russia. Both likely to compete for influence in the Balkans. Britain and France might have seen Russia compelled to guarantee the Balkans against German aggression, leaving the balance of power in the hands of Great Britain and France, with Germany bottled up on the Western front.

But now, Italy is working hard to form a bloc against Russia. Forces are also at work trying to patch up a peace with Hitler, and then to fight an "Anti-Bolshevik Crusade." The trend in the Pope's speech was very plain to see, and in the King's speech on Christmas day, emphasis was laid on the conflict as being between "Christian civilisation and the Totalitarian States." This phrase repeated in Lord Halifax's speech on 20th January, 1940.

There are two possible dangers now facing us:-

- (1) Extension of conflict to Middle East.
- (2) Extension of conflict into an Anti-Bolshevik Crusade.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, Tuesday, 13th February, 1940, at 55 Gower Street, London, W.C. 1. 11 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

PRESENT. Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Miss Dickinson, Miss Baker, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Huxley, Miss Anderson. Visitors: Miss Sheepshanks, Frau Rudinger, Frau Olga Misar, Frau Hertzka.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Dr. Clark, Miss Pye (who was in France) Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Thornycroft, Mrs. Garside, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Lankester, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Longson (most of these were absent on account of illness).

MINUTES of Meeting on 9th January were confirmed, having previously been circulated.

823. BUSINESS ARISING. Reported (1) an acknowledgment of letter from the Women's Freedom League re the late Mrs. Despard.

(2) that Miss Woodman would raise the question of some kind of permanent memorial to Mrs. Swanwick at the next Executive Committee of the Union of Democratic Control.

(3) that Mrs. Brayshaw had written a new pamphlet "Armed Truce 1919-1939" which the Manchester W.I.L. had published. It was an up-to-date edition of "The Background of Munich." It was agreed to order copies for sale in the Office and to make it known to Branches through the News Sheet.

(4) that Mrs. Christie had been unable to accept our invitation to speak at a Sandwich Luncheon Meeting on the Foreign Policy of the U.S.S.R. owing to living in Liverpool. Mr. Victor Gordon Lennox, of the Daily Telegraph, had been written to but no reply had been received to date.

(5) that the proposed Slogans for special posters for Women's Peace Day on 17th February had been considered by the Officers. No action had been taken. Several of the W.I.L. Branches were taking part in Peace Meetings on the 16th or 17th February.

824. FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts was presented and approved. The Bank statement on the 12th February showed a balance in hand of £238. 3. 4. This, together with the sum of £78.15.0 loaned to International House made a balance in hand of £316.18.4d.

825. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE. Reported a letter from Miss Brownsmith, joint tenant with Miss Murray, of the second and third floor premises at 55 Gower Street, saying that they had lent the third floor rooms to two person^{al}/friends who are contributing enough to cover the rent of these rooms and so they hope "to pay this quarter in full at the end of March." The Solicitor had been consulted and had said the next instalment of rent should be appropriated to the arrears and not to the current rent. The Committee agreed that a letter be sent to the Tenants to say that the next payment of rent will be for rent up to the December 1939 quarter.

826. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. There was a general discussion on the international situation, including possible action in connection with the forthcoming visit of Mr. Sumner Welles from the U.S.A. It was agreed to send him a letter of welcome on his arrival, and to suggest to the National Peace Council that it should invite him to meet (possibly at tea) a small but representative delegation to put forward the point of view of those who are thinking of possible terms of peace in this country. Agreed to say that if a W.I.L. representative attended she would be willing to take up any of the points to which the W.I.L. has already agreed in the N.P.C. Declaration, or to deal with terms of settlement in relation to India.

Reported that the N.P.C. hoped shortly to complete its work of getting signatures to the Appeal for a Declaration of Peace Aims and Intentions.

Reported that our Manchester Branch is in touch with the N.P.C. concerning the proposed series of Conferences among experts to consider possible Peace Terms. London Meetings had been arranged on January 29th, February 7th and the 20th.

Reported the following telegram had been sent to Mrs. Schain of the Cause and Cure of War Conference, Washington, by the Officers on behalf of the British Section.

"Look world peace opinion urge neutral governments seek openings negotiation between belligerents for just peace. Restore belief in reasonable methods."

827. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, March 5th, 6th and 7th. Reported on arrangements for the meetings, which included the following speakers:- Mrs. Honor Croome on "Essential Controls."

Miss Irene Cooper Willis on "Essential Freedom."

Mr. Gerald Bailey on "World Government."

An article by Mrs. Innes on the Council arrangements and subject would appear in the March News Sheet.

With regard to the discussions it was agreed to let the Branches know that there would be a certain amount of elasticity in the form of debate, and to urge them to ask their delegates to come prepared to speak on one or more of the subjects.

It was agreed to appoint a Findings Committee for drafting a Statement from the Council.

International Social. Arrangements were reported. Miss Baker was asked to act as Hostess and Miss Sheepshanks was to be asked to say a few words during the Social in English and German. Miss Dickinson was arranging a programme of music. Tickets 1/- each. Agreed that the Social should be held in Rooms 7, 8 & 9 after refreshments in the Restaurant below. Mrs. Wood's suggestion of a "Silver Shower" was accepted, details to be left to the Agenda Committee, which was also arranging the Social.

828. W.I.L. CZECH REFUGEES. Miss Baker reported a balance in hand of £191.7.10d. She said there was a strong tendency of late for our women to go into Factories. Several had already gone, while others were awaiting openings and she would be glad to have information regarding suitable Factories.

Miss Baker was in correspondence with Sir Henry Bunbury of the Czech Trust Fund, who thought that the W.I.L. were guarantors for our Czech Refugee Members. It had been pointed out to him that the W.I.L. had not assumed and could not assume their whole responsibility but could only look after them as long as our Funds permitted.

It was agreed that our refugees should remain Hon. Associate Members as long as they are living, as refugees, in this country on the lines already adopted.

829. CORRESPONDENCE:

Women's Peace Crusade. Reported that the W.P.C. Council was meeting on 22nd February to discuss the future of the W.P.C. and the possibilities of work during war-time.

International Peace Campaign. Reported that at a meeting of the British National Committee on 18th January, it was "Resolved that the active operation of the British I.P.C. should be suspended and the Office should be wound up."

W.I.L.P.F. New Zealand. Reported greetings from Mrs. Gibson, the Hon. Secretary.

Embassies of Reconciliation. After considering a letter re the nomination of Mr. George Lansbury for the Nobel Peace Prize, the Committee felt that it would not be helpful to Mr. Lansbury to have the support of the W.I.L. For this reason it was agreed not to support it. The Committee were united in their apprecia-

tion of the services which Mr. Lansbury has rendered to the cause of peace.

Miss Bremner, W.I.L. Member from Windsor, in a letter to Mrs. Innes, had expressed her very interesting views on the subject of the attainment of a durable peace at the conclusion of the present war; she suggested a study of the fate of previous attempts at peace before putting forward proposals for the Next Peace, and she found the cause of wars to be deep in men's psychology and only to be remedied by the co-operation of women in public affairs. The letter was read and the Committee agreed to recommend to the newly elected Committee after the Council, the holding of an afternoon discussion meeting and the getting of a good psychologist to open it.

Date of next meeting, March 5th, 11.30 at 55 Gower Street.

This concluded the business.

*Endorsed by new Committee
B. Duncan Harris
3.11.40*

W.I.L. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR January, 1940.

<u>RECEIPTS.</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	
Balance on Jan. 1st.	181.8.4 $\frac{3}{4}$	Salaries.....	19. 7. 6
Subscriptions	71. 5. 6	Wages.....	2. - -
Donations.....	4. 5. -	Office Expenses.....	2. 9. 3
News Sheets...	2.12.11	Insurances.....	10.11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Literature....	1. 2. 6	Postage.....	5. 9. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Affil. Fees....	10. 2. 9	Lighting & Heating.....	1. 1. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Geneva Pax....	2. 6	News Sheets.....	3.17. 6
	89.11.2	Fares.....	2.17. -
		Telephone.....	2.13. -
		Literature.....	2. 5. -
		Stationery.....	12. 6
			<u>43. 3. 1$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
		Balance at Bank	112.19.11
		Loan to Interna-	
		tional House...	78.15. -
		Petty Cash in	
		hand.....	7. 1. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
		C.P.B.Society....	29. - -
			<u>227.16. 5$\frac{1}{4}$</u>
	<u>£270.19.6$\frac{3}{4}$</u>		<u>£270.19. 6$\frac{3}{4}$</u>

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, 3rd April, 1940, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. from 11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Innes in the Chair prior to the Election of Chairman, Miss Pye, Miss Harrison, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Huxley, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Garside, Dr. Clark, Miss Haughton, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Miss Baker, Miss Rinder. Visitors: Miss Sheepshanks, Frau Olga Misar, Frau Hertzka, Frau Tutschova.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs. Lankester, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Longson.

830. DEATH OF MISS GERTRUDE EATON. Mrs. Duncan Harris spoke of the recent death of Miss Eaton. Dr. Clark said she had a strong sense of admiration and affection for the spirit in which Miss Eaton always carried on her work for penal reform at Geneva and for her persistence in overcoming obstacles. Delegates at Geneva must often have been impressed by her passionate plea for prison reform. Miss Mosa Anderson had attended the Memorial Service on behalf of the W.I.L.

831. DEATH OF FRAU SCHMOLKOVA. Mrs. Harris reported the sudden death of Frau Schmolkova on March 27th. She well remembered the warm welcome that was given her by our Czech friends when she arrived in this country. The News Sheet had had a short paragraph in it.

Miss Edith Pye said Frau Schmolkova came into the W.I.L. at the beginning. At the International Committees she represented the Jewish Group in the Czecho-Slovakian Section and at first was one of the quiet, shy people who said nothing. As years went by she began to show qualities of vision and statesmanship, which showed themselves specially when the Czech-Slovakian Section was rent with difficulties and divisions. She supported Fraulein Heymann in her work for making a united Czech Section and her conciliatory spirit had a great deal to do with the formation of that Section consisting of German, Jewish and Czech Groups, the only combination in Czecho-Slovakia working together for political aims. Later, when the terrible events in Germany led to the refugee problem Marie Schmolkova started her work for her Jewish compatriots in distress and misery and never spared herself. At the age of 47 she died, suddenly. She had been given a friendly home by Mary Sheepshanks where, as she had said herself, she "became alive." She told Miss Sheepshanks just before she died that in spite of the tragedy of her work for refugees in this country she was happy in it. At the Service at Golders Green on the Sunday her great soul, with its tremendous personality, seemed to dominate. Everyone who spoke there of her, spoke of her devotion, love and humility. Those with whom she worked cannot bear to think of the sense of loss to them. She has left a great mark. She was a great woman.

Frau Tutschova also paid a moving tribute to the life and work of Frau Schmolkova. When she heard of her death she felt that something terrible had happened. She realised what an irreparable loss the Jewish refugees had suffered. During 1933 she over-worked for the refugees from Germany. She remembered that at Committee Meetings no difficult problems were considered without first consulting her, for she had a rare gift of taking in the whole situation quickly, and when she was unable to attend meetings she continued to maintain her interest in the W.I.L. The last time she met her was in Prague when she was very occupied with the question of settling Jewish refugees in countries abroad, and her advice concerning refugee children in Great Britain was sought. She said she believed that it would be better for Jewish children to learn some handicrafts because the future of the Jewish race will be dependent on the generation which is able to work.

Other members of the Committee, who had attended the funeral service, voiced their testimony to a great woman.

Miss Sheepshanks said that Frau Schmolkova was greatly worried over the anti-semitism in Great Britain and she wondered if anything could be done by the W.I.L. to counteract it. It was agreed that those members who had read Norman Angell's article in the Picture Post dealing with the refugee question, should send letters of thanks to the Editor for printing it. Miss Rinder promised to get a set of leaflets on what Jews had done to benefit Great Britain, for the Officers, who were left to see what action could best be taken.

Flowers had been sent for the funeral.

831. DEATH OF MR. J. A. HOBSON. Mrs. Innes was asked to send a letter of sympathy to Mrs. Hobson, and express appreciation for the unfailing help given to the W.I.L. by Mr. Hobson.

832. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN. Miss Harrison proposed and Mrs. Greenwood seconded that Mrs. Duncan Harris be re-elected Chairman.

Mrs. Harris said how much she appreciated the privilege but she did not want to hold the Chairmanship under any false pretences. Before accepting nomination she would like to clarify her position. She was not prepared to wait for the banishment of Hitler before pressing for negotiations.

Mrs. Innes asked if Mrs. Harris meant pressing direct or through neutrals.

Mrs. Harris replied that she entirely agreed with the principle of finding a way through the neutrals but she did not want to limit ourselves for pressing through other ways. We must try every avenue as it opens.

Dr. Clark asked Mrs. Harris if she thought there were any practical, political way of negotiating peace in the present situation, and would she support the kind of resolution that is being passed by various organisations that the war ought to be stopped and that peace can be made now.

Mrs. Harris thought a Stop the War Campaign first was unreal but she was not prepared to rule out the possibility of finding means of negotiation. She would trust Chamberlain almost as much as she would Hitler. She referred to the press cuttings relating to the Annual Council Meetings which had not given a fair representation of the meetings, and we are now being questioned as to what is our policy. She would not support the view that we could not find some basis on which negotiations could be made.

Dr. Clark said there could be no negotiations with Hitler, except on the lines of Munich.

Mrs. Brayshaw asked if it were beyond the best brains of the neutrals to evolve some terms which would even bind Hitler. She thought the alternative was to continue the war until Hitler died or loses his hold on the German people.

Miss Pye said the W.I.L. is a democratic body and we did not elect our Chairman on the basis of her individual opinions. She recognises the difficult position we are in because it is hard for a pacifist to see the next step, but she felt we were all agreed on a continual search, and the only thing which differentiates us and makes us more useful is that we have always been willing to try to see the next step and we must continue to do this together. Any Chairman of our Executive Committee would accept the ruling of the vote, as hitherto.

Mrs. Garside thought we all had the same ultimate aim and she did not think it affected the election of the Chairman.

Dr. Clark thought the actual desire to keep trying to find the right way out is one on which we are all agreed. Some are

anxious not to be grouped with the people who are saying that peace negotiations ought to be entered upon now, which she believes, would be another Munich. If the proposed Chairman thought that we ought to be entering upon peace negotiations in the way suggested by some organisations, she for one, would have difficulty in belonging to the Executive, but if it were the case of Mrs. Harris having a little more hope than some, she would agree.

Miss Sheepshanks agreed with Dr. Clark's sentiments.

Miss Harrison said she knew there were some of the Committee who felt as Mrs. Harris felt, but to her mind the value of the W.I.L. was in the recognition of different methods and the need, if necessary, for compromise. She hoped Mrs. Harris would accept the Chairmanship.

Mrs. Harris said she believed in the method of the Executive of pooling intelligence and getting the sense of a concerned group at the moment, but she is not reckoning that we are not prepared to explore peace, even with Hitler now.

Miss Pye said she felt we must all say what we feel; it is useless to appeal to Hitler.

Mrs. Harris believed Hitler was shrinking in the picture.

Miss Sheepshanks thought we should be condoning evil if we appeared to join those people who say that we are as much to blame as the Germans.

Dr. Clark spoke of the effect of the Hitler poison. The serious difficulty rests in what guarantees we should require in the peace terms. People are not sufficiently alive to the French position and the difficulty of getting such confidence as would make good faith possible ever to work on peace terms based on good faith between our two countries. We shall be faced with the problem of how far to support guarantees.

The discussion was then closed and Mrs. Harris unanimously elected Chairman.

Mrs. Harris then took the Chair.

833. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMEN. Mrs. Greenwood agreed to act until the end of June, when Miss Jowitt would return from abroad, and would be asked to take her place. Miss Sheepshanks, as a Vice-President, agreed to act as Vice-Chairman.

It was agreed that the Chairman should be free to consult other members of the Committee between meetings, on urgent matters.

834. MINUTES OF MEETING ON 13th February were signed.

835. BUSINESS ARISING. Reported that nothing further had been done in the matter of a proposed Memorial to Mrs. H.M. Swanwick. No news has been received from the Union of Democratic Control and the National Council for Equal Citizenship had sent a contribution of 10/- towards a Memorial. Agreed to leave it over until there is a piece of work the Committee wants to do which would appear a suitable Memorial to Mrs. Swanwick.

Reported Mrs. McGregor Ross's letter of thanks for the W.I.L. message of sympathy on the death of her husband. Agreed to ask Mrs. Ross if she would serve on the Executive and on the Colonial Problems Committee.

Reported letter of thanks for cable of good wishes from the National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War, U.S.A.

836. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS. Reported (1) informal acknowledgments of resolutions; (2) letters of thanks from Madame Ragaz, Fraulein Heymann and Dr. Augspurg, (3) notices of the meetings had appeared in 35 newspapers. By a misunderstanding, the B.B.C. had not been asked to receive a deputation of Mrs. Lankester, Mrs. Harris and Miss Agatha Harrison, to discuss the need for a more balanced statement giving information on the Indian situation from the

B.B.C. Agreed to ask Mr. Ogilvie of the B.B.C. to receive a deputation.

837. DATE OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS. Agreed to try the first Wednesday in the month for three months.

838. ELECTION OF SUB-COMMITTEES.

House: The Officers and Miss Dickinson.

Publicity: The Officers, Dr. Clark, Miss Baker, Mrs. Kinnish, Miss Jowitt, Miss Haughton, Miss Harrison.

Colonial Problems. Miss Anderson, Miss Sheepshanks, Dr. Clark, Mrs. McGregor Ross and Miss Jowitt, subject to their consent.

Agreed that if the above members were unable to serve on this Committee the question of a new Committee should be brought to the May Executive.

India. not formed.

839. REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

British Commonwealth League. Mrs. Lankester and Miss Sheepshanks, deputy. Miss Sheepshanks to serve on their Native Races Committee.

National Council of Women, Moral and Social Welfare Committee.

Reported that Miss Houghton who had been our representative for several years, was unable to continue to serve. Agreed not to appoint another representative.

League of Nations Union, Women's Advisory Council. Dr. Clark.

Women's Peace Crusade. It was reported that the W.P.C. had suspended action. Dr. Clark reported that at a meeting of the W.P.C. Council recently it was voted to support an active study group within the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union, and members of the W.P.C. who were not members of the Women's Advisory Council were asked to let Miss Courtney know if they would like to join the W.A.C. study group.

It was agreed that as our representative on the Women's Advisory Council Dr. Clark should be asked to represent us on the Study Group, and to this she consented.

It was also further agreed that the memoranda which the Women's Peace Crusade had issued from time to time, should be continued, and those wishing to receive copies should send 3/6d to Dr. Hilda Clark at 44 Upper Park Road, London, N.W. 3. who would send out the memoranda as they came out, letting the subscribers know when their subscriptions are exhausted. Agreed to subscribe to these memoranda.

It was also reported that the Officers had expressed their willingness for the Women's Peace Crusade to store their papers, etc. in the front room basement, with the right of access to them, by arrangement, in return for a contribution of two pounds per annum. This action was approved.

840. FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts was adopted. The Treasurer drew attention to the need of £65 to £70 pounds every month for the work. The need for new subscribers was urged.

841. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE. Reported that Miss Murray, joint tenant with Miss Brownsmith, of the second and third floor premises at 55 Gower Street, had died. Agreed to send a message of sympathy and suggest that, though now legally responsible for the whole rent, Miss Brownsmith might make a claim for a portion of the rent to Miss Murray's Executor.

842. INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

India. Reported a letter of thanks for our message of greeting and good wishes for the All India Women's Conference (The

report of this Conference is included in the Bulletin brought out by Mrs. Lankester). Miss Harrison said that since Mrs. Hamid Ali had written her letter, in which she expressed anxiety concerning the illness of her mother, her mother, Mrs. Tyabji, had died. Agreed to send her a letter of sympathy - to be drafted by Miss Harrison and signed by Mrs. Innes.

The present situation in India was considered. There had been cables and correspondence for some weeks' past between Mr. Carl Heath, Mr. Gandhi and Miss Harrison, the result of which was a confidential letter to Mr. Gandhi. Mr. Carl Heath is meeting the Secretary of State for Indian Affairs this week. It was agreed that after this meeting the Chairman should be empowered to take up and press forward as from the Executive anything Mr. Heath felt it would be wise to do in the light of the conversations. It was also agreed that through Dr. Clark and Miss Sheepshanks, Chatham House should be asked to have a meeting on India as soon as possible with Edward Thompson or Sir Stafford Cripps as speaker.

843. COLONIAL POLICY. Miss Sheepshanks reported on a Conference held the previous day, organised by the Royal Empire Society. She was asked to write an article on the subject for the May News Sheet and paragraphs for Pax and the Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee at Geneva.

841. W.I.L. ORGANISATION. Mrs. Wood urged the need for getting inside our Women's Colleges, but it was agreed that this could best be done by personal touch, and our Branches in Manchester, Leicester, Cambridge, etc. might find means of getting links through the Students' Debating Society.

842. W.I.L. CZECH REFUGEES. Miss Baker reported that the drift of our members towards factory life was continuing. Frau Rudinger's daughter had got a scholarship to Oxford and Mrs. Duncan Harris had been able to obtain sufficient supplementary money to enable her to take it up. Frau Rotter's daughter is entering Badminton School but a grant of £30 is needed for her.

843. NEWS SHEET. Agreed that a note should be inserted in the News Sheet to the effect that signed articles must not be taken as expressing the agreed policy of the W.I.L. or the Executive.

844. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL. Agreed to appoint delegates to the N.P.C. Congress (June 22-23rd in London) at the May Executive.

845. WOMEN'S PEACE CAMPAIGN. Reported the Women's Peace Campaign were canvassing for signatures of women to an appeal to the Governments of the Nations to stop the war and meet together to discuss peace. Decided, though the appeal was not worded in a way such as the W.I.L. could sponsor, ~~it was agreed~~ to watch for ways of co-operating with the Women's Peace Campaign as we ought to be mobilising women's desire for peace.

846. STUDY CONFERENCE IN HOLLAND ON THE BUILDING UP OF PEACE. Agreed that particulars should be printed in the News Sheet.

847. MASS WOMEN'S MEETING IN STOCKHOLM, February 12th. Reported a resolution had been adopted against the total war - for peace and reconciliation, and signed by 24 women's organisations, including the W.I.L.P.F. An extract of this appeared in the April News Sheet.

848. BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE. Miss Sheepshanks drew attention to the B.B.C. Conference on the Recommendations of the

West Indies Royal Commission, April 4th. She would be attending on behalf of the W.I.L. Other members were invited to attend.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. 1st May, 1940.

B. Truman Harris

1. V. 20

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, March 1940.

<u>RECEIPTS.</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>
Balance, 29th Feb.....356.7.10 $\frac{3}{4}$	Salaries..... 30. 0. 0
Subscriptions 26.14. 2	Wages..... 2. 9. 6
Donations.... 1. 6. 6	Postage & telephone.... 4. 9.10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Council Meeting	Insurances..... 13.11 $\frac{1}{2}$
"Shower".....5. 4. 0	Travelling Expenses.... 4. 6.11
Social.....3.10. 0	News Sheet & Literature 8.11. 4
News Sheets &	Stationery..... 1. 5. 3
Literature... 8. 0. 1	Office Expenses..... 1. 0. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Affiliation	Rent..... 18.15. 0
Fees..... 1.15. 0	Meetings..... 18. 8. 0
Geneva:	<hr/>
Subscriptions.9. 1. 0	90. 1. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pax..... 9. 6	
W.P.C. Office	<u>Balances:-</u>
Expenses re-	Bank.....220.4.10
funded..... 3.10. 0	Loan to Inter-
H.M. Swanwick	national
Memorial..... 10. 0	House..... 62.2. 0
60.0.3	C.P.B.S..... 31.0. 0
<hr/>	Petty Cash.... 13.0. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
£416.8.1 $\frac{3}{4}$	326. 7. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
<hr/>	<hr/>
	£416. 8. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$
	<hr/>

Geneva Subscriptions and Pax Subscriptions £9. 10. 6 have to be passed on to Geneva in due course.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, May 1st, 1940, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Miss Dickinson, Miss Pye, Dr. Hilda Clark, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Sheepshanks, Miss Baker, Miss Harrison, Miss Rinder, Mrs. Longdon, Mrs. Innes, Miss Anderson, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Huxley, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Lankester, Visitors: Frau Tutschova, Frau Rudinger, Frau Hertzka.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs. Kinnish and Mrs. Greenwood. Agreed to send a letter of sympathy and good wishes to Mrs. Greenwood in her illness.

MINUTES OF APRIL 3rd were signed. From discussion arising on Minute 832 it was apparent that there had been some misunderstanding of the Chairman's reference to Mr. Chamberlain. She therefore wished to make it clear that the words were not intended to cast any reflection whatever on the personal integrity of the Prime Minister. They were a hastily phrased expression of a deep-seated anxiety as to the desire or intention of either the Prime Minister or those immediately associated with him to accept those fundamental changes of policy which the W.I.L. has always believed to be essential as a basis of just or lasting peace, in the same way that they believe that the abandonment of an aggressive policy and temper by Germany is also essential.

831. BUSINESS ARISING. Minute 831. Reported letter of thanks from Mrs. Hobson.

Minute 835. Reported letter from Mrs. McGregor Ross regretting that owing to living in the Lake District she was unable to accept the invitation to serve on the Executive Committee. Neither could she attend meetings of the Colonial Problems Committee, but she offered to let the Committee know when she was likely to be in London so that she could attend meetings of the Committee then. Also she offered to write about problems she came across. She asked if it would be possible to get more information about the shooting of "rioters" in Northern Rhodesia.

Agreed to accept Mrs. Ross's offer of help, and to ask Miss Anderson if she could get from Miss Standley of the National Missionary Indian Council more information about N. Rhodesia. Miss Solomon of the British Commonwealth League was suggested for consultation and also Prof. Macmillan.

Minute 836. Reported that owing to pressure of work Mr. Ogilvie of the B.B.C. had been unable to meet a W.I.L. deputation, but he asked for a short memorandum setting out the case, after the studying of which he would consider whether a personal discussion would help to amplify the case we wished to present, providing his war-time work permitted of its being arranged. Miss Harrison said that before drafting the memorandum requested she wanted to discuss the matter with the late Director of Indian Broadcasting who was now in London. She would be seeing him the following day.

Minute 839. Reported that a copy of Lady Gladstone's letter to Organisations within the Women's Advisory Council of the L.N.U. had been received, giving particulars of the proposed Group to study questions of world settlement after the War. An extract of the Minutes of the W.A.C.'s meeting on March 14th had also been received. At this meeting Miss Courtney had made the suggestion that Study Group should be formed to do active work in studying the conditions required for a real world settlement after the war.

Miss Sheepshanks was asked to act as the W.I.L. representative on the Study Group but before consenting she would like to know what work was involved.

A letter from Gertrud B. in response to ours from the Council was read. Miss Sheepshanks thought that there was much in it that would serve as an introduction of fruitful lines of work now. The points were later considered.

831. W.I.L. REPRESENTATIVES ON THE N.P.C. Miss Harrison and Mrs. Harris were nominated and consented to serve for the ensuing year. Agreed to appoint Mrs. Kinnish and Miss Hayler, subject to their consent. The 16 nominations required for the N.P.C. Executive were left to Mrs. Innes and Mrs. Harris.

832. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL Reported that Sir Stafford Cripps was addressing a private meeting on May 9th at 4 p.m. at the Baptist Church House, Southampton Row. Agreed to ask that invitation be sent to Miss Haughton, Mrs. Lankester, Miss Pye and Miss Dickinson.

833. NEWS FROM W.I.L.P.F. SECTIONS AND GENEVA OFFICE.

Mrs. Innes reported on (1) news she had received from Norway and Sweden. (Agreed to send greetings to the Swedish Section and to say that news of other friends would be welcomed).

(2) a letter from G.B. to Mrs. Hommell (U.S.A.) This was given to Dr. Clark to see if extracts could be made for the News Sheet;

(3) an article from the Geneva Office dealing with Federalist Germany in a Federated Europe. This had appeared over the initials "A.S." but Mrs. Innes had written for the name of the Author as she thought extracts might go into the News Sheet;

(4) a legacy of about 2,500 dollars for the W.I.L.P.F., which had been invested in America and from which money could be drawn if needed by the Geneva Office;

(5) the difficulties in issuing "Pax" which Madame Ragaz was experiencing.

834. LITERATURE OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. Mrs. Brayshaw said she was much disturbed on getting information that a circular letter sent from the Director of Education, instructed heads of teachers in an area where a friend of hers was in a Junior Elementary School, to teach the information contained in pamphlets issued by the Ministry of Information, one of which "Noteworthy" No. 19, April 12, 1940, had been lent to her. It could do nothing but inflame bad feeling between British and German peoples and she deplored this method of teaching our children. She asked if any action could be taken by the W.I.L.

After discussion it was agreed that the following members of the Executive should seek further information in their own areas, after which Teachers' Organisations should be consulted before any approach was made to other bodies: Mrs. Harris, Miss Rinder, Mrs. Lankester, Mrs. Huxley, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Innes, Miss Haughton.

835. PRESENT SITUATION. Miss Sheepshanks supported G. Baer's letter and thought it would be useful if the W.I.L. would study the economic conditions of Europe and try to educate public opinion on the lines suggested. She thought we should stress far more than part of our programme for "social, political and economic equality for all, without distinction of sex, race, class or creed" which was adopted at the Washington Congress in 1924. Chatham House issued publications on peace aims, though she thought they were too advanced for W.I.L. study groups but they would probably be willing to draw up schemes for study on more simple lines. A bibliography of useful books could be prepared and our members could make themselves informed on the many problems facing us.

Mrs. Innes reported that the Branches had already been urged to form study groups in private houses in order to prepare for the kind of peace the world wanted. The Report of the Central Hall Meeting recently held, when H.G. Wells, S. de Madariaga, J. Middleton Murry and C.E.M. Joad had spoke on "The New World Order" had been recommended as a basis of study at four meetings as a starting point, and Mrs. Brayshaw had been asked to make study notes on it.

Miss Sheepshanks said she would be willing to get out a few alternative schemes with syllabus and bibliography and Mrs. Brayshaw thought Miss Sheepshanks would be the right person to do the notes along the lines she had outlined. They were asked to consult together and a copy of the Report of Conferences recently organised by the N.P.C. was to be sent to Mrs. Brayshaw.

After discussion of the whole subject the following resolution was adopted:-

"That in the present crisis the Women's International League should devote special attention to working out Object III of the W.I.L.P.F. adopted at Washington Congress in 1924, namely: to work for social, political and economic equality for all without distinction of sex, race, class and creed."

Agreed to develop this at the June Executive.

Mrs. Innes reported on pamphlets she had read dealing with the contribution Jews have made to the national life of Great Britain. Picture Post had received 1,000 letters congratulating them on printing Norman Angell's article on the subject. Agreed to get a copy of Miss Royden's leaflet on anti-Semitism, and to put a list of the pamphlets in the June News Sheet.

Referring to the N.P.C. letter and memorandum on the Scandinavian crisis Dr. Clark asked if it was thought the Branches would take it that the Executive were endorsing the memo. but Mrs. Innes explained that her letter to the Branches of 12th April endorsed only the N.P.C. letter and the memorandum. ~~had been sent as it was referred to in the letter~~ After discussion it was agreed to inform the N.P.C. that the Committee thought that deductions which would be made were not in accordance with facts. They felt that such memos. should only be issued after careful supervision.

836 INDIA. Miss Harrison said that the current News Sheet had full details of the situation. The News Chronicle had cabled Mr. Gandhi for his reaction to Wedgwood Benn's suggestion in the recent debate and the former had replied that he found it "attractive." This, taken in conjunction with Mr. Gandhi's challenge at the time of C.F. Andrews' death to Indian and British people, provided an opportunity for a new approach. She suggested it would help if members approached their respective M.P's urging them to see the opportunity did not slip. Miss Harrison was asked to draft something that could be circulated with the Minutes.

Miss Sheepshanks reported that she was present at the Chatham House meeting on India and learned that an Indian Group was to be formed. It was hoped Miss Sheepshanks and Miss Harrison would join this group.

837. FINANCE. Mrs. McGregor Wood presented the Statement of Accounts for April and reported that the Cambridge Branch had sent a donation of £10 to Headquarters Fund. She asked if a money raising effort was to be made this summer. After discussion Miss Baker was asked to explore the possibility of having a social gathering, with music, in a garden in Golders Green in June or July. It was also suggested that Branches be asked to organise an effort and give half the proceeds to Headquarters.

The Chairman said that it might be possible to have the use of a large room at 115 Gower Street where there was a piano.

838. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE. Reported that Mr. Barrs Davies, our Solicitor, had advised us not to suggest to Miss Brownsmith that she should claim from Miss Murray's Executor the full amount of rent due under the lease. A letter had therefore been sent asking for the March Quarter's rent. This letter had not been acknowledged and the rent had not been paid. Mrs. Wood agreed to try to meet Miss Brownsmith. Reported an increase in the rates for the half year.

839. W.I.L.CZECH GROUP. Owing to information received of political discussion by some members of our Group it was agreed that a letter in English and German should be sent to every member in the Group putting them before them the seriousness of the position which would arise from any lack of discretion on their part while in this country.

840. PUBLICITY COMMITTEE. Dr. Clark reported that the Publicity Committee recommended that the minimum annual subscription of members who receive the News Sheet should be 4/6d to cover the increased postage.

The cost of printing had not yet gone up but if and when it did, the Committee would make further recommendations to the Executive. Agreed News Sheet subscription should be 2/- and members in future should subscription 4/6d per annum.

841. LUNCHES. Reported that the Officers had agreed to plan a short series of lunch hour meetings on the general topic of World Reconstruction for Peace and that Sir Richard Acland had been invited to speak at one of them on "Unser Kampf." He had regretted being unable to do so owing to being overwhelmed with meetings and interviews, but suggested that Mr. Kenneth Ingram should speak in his place. Mr. Ingram is on the Committee of Sir Richard Acland's group "Our Struggle" and is speaking at meetings throughout the country popularising the idea. Agreed to invite Mr. Ingram for a meeting on June 12th.

Professor C.E.M. Joad had been unable to accept our invitation to address a meeting, owing to pressure of work.

Miss Harrison had been asked if she could find someone to speak on India in relation to world reconstruction, and she was trying to do so.

The Committee agreed that Mrs. Honor Croome and Mrs. Wootton should be asked to speak and if both accepted arrangements were to be made to put them in touch with each other to plan the two talks.

842. WOMEN'S PEACE PROCESSION, Amsterdam, 18th May. Agreed to send a message of good wishes.

843. WARRINGTON BRANCH. Reported that this Branch had re-formed itself with a membership of 50. A letter of good wishes had been sent to the Secretary.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING, Wednesday, 5th June.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS.

B. Brunage Harris
5. VI. 40

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS up to 29th April.

<u>INCOME.</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	
Balance on 30th March.....	326. 7.1 $\frac{1}{4}$	Salaries.....	24. 0. 0
Subs.....	17. 7. 0	Wages.....	2. 0. 9
Dons.....	13. 0	Insurances.....	11. 2
News Sheets & Literature.....	7 5. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Office Expenses.....	2.13. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Affil. Fees.....	17. 6	Postage.....	3. 0. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Geneva Subs.....	2. 0. 0	Telephone.....	4.10. 0
Geneva Pax.....	7. 6	Lighting & Heating.....	3.14. 5
Council Fares... 3. 0. 1		Stationery.....	2. 1. 4
" Social.... 2. 6		Literature.....	15.12. 6
	31.13.1 $\frac{1}{2}$	News Sheets.....	3.17. 6
		Fares.....	7. 3.10
		Affiliation Fees.....	4.17.10
		Geneva subscriptions...	13. 3. 0
		Geneva Pax.....	3.10. 0
			<u>90.16. 0</u>
		Balances:-	
		Bank.....	164. 5. 7
		P.Cash.....	8.16. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$
		Loan to In- ternational	
		House.....	62. 2. 0
		C.P.B.S.....	32. 0. 0
			<u>267. 4.2$\frac{3}{4}$</u>
	<u>£358. 0. 2$\frac{3}{4}$</u>		<u>£358. 0. 2$\frac{3}{4}$</u>

Suggested draft of letter to M.P.'s.

for the use of W.I.L. Branches.

Dear Sir,

In the debate on India on April 18th, Mr. Wedgwood Benn made a valuable suggestion for ending the Indian impasse by suggesting that Indian leaders should be asked to form a small body to examine the question of constitutional advance, and, that if a scheme were produced carrying substantial agreement, the British Government should take it as the basis of an Act to be passed by the House after the termination of war. I note this suggestion won the approval of the House at the time, and that Mr. Gandhi subsequently cabled to the News Chronicle that he found the idea "attractive provided the leaders are elected and not nominated". Mr. Gandhi has also said recently "It is possible, quite possible, for the best Englishmen and the best Indians to meet together and never to separate till they have evolved a formula acceptable to both".

As one of the voters in your constituency I am deeply concerned to see that this opportunity is not allowed to slip. I would urge you to do all in your power to see at the earliest possible moment the Government makes a substantial advance towards an agreed settlement of the Indian problems.

Yours faithfully,

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday 5th June 1940, 11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes Miss Baker, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Dr. Clark, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Longson, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Richenda Scott, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Huxley, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Anderson, Miss Sheepshanks.
Visitors: Frau Hertzka and Frau Misar.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs. Lankester, Miss Rinder, Mrs. Brayshaw and Miss Pye. Miss Lettice Jowitt was expected home from abroad by the beginning of July.

844. VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Harris reported that Miss Agatha Harrison had consented to allow herself to be nominated as a Vice-Chairman. She was unanimously appointed.

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

846. BUSINESS ARISING. Miss Anderson said she had met Mrs. McGregor Ross recently in London, but had nothing to report on Northern Rhodesia. She hoped to bring information to the July Committee.

Mrs. Harris said that Mrs. McGregor Ross would be glad to attend meetings of the Executive when in London, as an observer.

In view of the fact that schools in Breconshire, Leicester, Hampshire and Croydon, where inquiries had been made by various members of the Committee, had not received pamphlets from the Ministry of Information, it was agreed to ask Mrs. Brayshaw to deal with the matter locally and to ask if she wanted the support of the Committee in any action she took.

Minute 835. Reported a letter from Mr. Bailey of the N.P.C. expressing agreement as to the desirability of ensuring that documents issued should be carefully considered in advance. The document in question had been prepared within a day or two of Mr. Donington's arrival at the Office and there had been little opportunity for consultation about its terms.

Minute 836. Reported that a memorandum expressing the need for a more balanced statement on the wireless giving information of the Indian situation had been sent to Sir Stephen Tallents, who had replied that he was asking the Division at the B.B.C which deals with talks directed to the United Kingdom to consider it. Agreed to leave the matter for the time being.

Minute 835. Reported that Mrs. Brayshaw had found herself unable to write anything in the way of useful notes on the "New World Order" booklet. She thought it was a valuable introduction to the kind of Course Miss Sheepshanks had outlined. It laid down general principles but gave no help to the application of them. For that she recommended the study of Wells's "Rights of Man" and Acland's "Unser Kampf", which books she hoped would be included in Miss Sheepshanks' bibliography.

Miss Sheepshanks said she had got from Chatham House a very useful syllabus and another from the Labour Research Bureau. She agreed to prepare a resumé of both courses and to write to the Branches asking them to express their preference, and telling them that only one copy could be sent to each Branch. Agreed to send £1-1-0 to the Labour Research Department.

Dr. Clark reported that the Study Group of the W.A.C. is preparing a study outline on France. It was agreed that this should also be made known to our Branches.

Reported that a number of Branches had ordered copies of "The New World Order" and were starting Study Circles.

Minute 837. Reported it had been found inadvisable to try to arrange a social gathering in Hampstead, and arrangements had, therefore, been made

to hold it in the Office on June 19th 5 - 7p.m. Mrs. Goodrich and Miss Ruth Harrison were undertaking the catering for teas which would be 1/- each. Miss Vera Brittain had agreed to give an informal talk on her recent visit to America.

It was hoped that several Branches near London would combine in collecting goods for one Stall and arranging for one or two sellers. It was doubtful if Frau Hertzka would be able to arrange any music. It was agreed that music should be dispensed with. The wish was expressed that Mrs. Duncan Harris would be chief hostess and Chairman. Agreed.

Minute 841. Reported that Mrs. Honor Croome had addressed a meeting in the Office on May 22nd, a report of which had appeared in the June News Sheet. Mr. Kenneth Ingram was speaking on June 12th. Mr. Geoffrey Wilson had been fixed for the 26th June but owing to his having to go abroad he would be unable to keep the engagement. Agreed to ask Miss Lucy Burtt, who had recently returned from China, to speak instead.

Minute 838. Mrs. Wood reported that owing to a postal delay, she had not been able to see Miss Brownsmith about the rent arrears, but a telephonic talk had been very unsatisfactory ending in a threat to give notice to vacate the premises. She mentioned, however, that she was seeing Miss Murray's solicitors about the arrears. Agreed to take no action until next Quarter Day, June 25th.

847. FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts for May was adopted. Donation from Liverpool Branch was greatly appreciated. Reported the late Golders Green Branch had sent us the balance of their funds- £1.4.11d.

848. INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. The following message to Mrs. Harris & Miss Pye from Denmark through the Red Cross was reported:

"Dear Friends, 10th May, 1940.
Keeping up in spite of our old mothers trials.
Thora on duty."

Mrs. Harris had sent back an appropriate message.

Mrs. Innes reported on (1) letters from the Geneva office about the possibility of a move to America; (2) messages sent to Sections, and a reply from U.S.A., (3) a letter from the Australian Section, which is carrying on actively. A message from the Chairman in Switzerland contained the assurance to members in overseas countries that they will, faithful to their basic principles, hold up to the very last the torch of Peace, Reason and human Dignity, strengthened by the loyalty and full support of their membership throughout the world. Mrs. Innes reported also on the Headquarters finances.

Owing to a new regulation regarding the printing of new papers, "Pax" is still in suspension as a printed paper.

A message of good wishes to Dutch, Belgian and British friends and colleagues was reported from Fraulein Heymann and Dr. Augspurg, who are now staying at Maison Internationale. Agreed to send them love and greetings, and tell them that we are carrying on our work.

Reported an offer from Miss Ellen Starr Brinton, W.I.L.P.F. Pennsylvania, to take charge of any records or documents we care to send over for safe keeping - to be addressed c/o Jane Addams Peace Collection, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

Agreed to thank her but to say it was not felt necessary to accept the very kind offer.

Mrs. Harris reported loving greetings from Miss Balch.

Mrs. Innes reported a letter from Gertrud Baer informing us that she may be going to the U.S.A. In this event she asks for suggestions as to what action the British Section thinks America could take in the present situation.

Agreed to reply that we feel it is impossible to judge what is the right attitude for America to take. As a non-citizen of America she should exercise great caution in embarking on political discussions when there, but steeped as she is in W.I.L.P.F. principles the Committee trusted her to say what we would like said, and to act in accordance with

those principles in her contacts with Americans. We would suggest one point she could raise - the giving of increased help to refugees, possibly by coming and fetching them, as American citizens were fetched.

Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations.

Miss Harrison reported on a telegram from the Liaison Committee, in Geneva, which was being considered by a Liaison Committee that afternoon, urging the League of Nations to act immediately to appeal for help to all countries co-operating in League's technical and social services for relief of millions of refugees. Miss Harrison thought the views of national sections in the Liaison would be valuable. The Committee were in agreement that we should wholeheartedly press for the services of the League to be used as far as practicable.

Wireless news from Holland.

Miss Harrison reported that a friend's mother regularly listens in to the Dutch news which is broadcast by the same announcer as before the invasion. It appears to be of great interest in connection with immediate reconstruction and reports efforts of the Germans to act with goodwill towards the people. She suggested a paragraph in the News Sheet of what is happening in Holland. It was agreed that such information must be checked carefully because the wireless is under German control. The Committee felt that to stem the tide of bitterness it would be glad to make use of any reliable information obtained.

Reconstruction. Mrs. Scott opened a discussion on planning for a new way of living. She said she had found up to recently a broad-mindedness regarding Germany and the war situation, but suspicion and bitterness were taking its place and people were becoming convinced that the war could not end until every German had been slain. It was important that we should prepare now the ordinary man's mind for the sort of peace and life we wanted. She believed that under Central authority, regional authorities could be working out plans for the bettering of conditions regarding housing, food growing and distribution, national health services, industry, and social and cultural welfare. People outside party politics should be thinking out plans in their own communities.

After discussion it was suggested that a series of articles should appear in the News Sheet on "How can we lay the foundations of a New International Order in our own locality", the first to be written by Mrs. Scott along the lines she had set forth.

INDIA.849. Miss Harrison reported:-

- (1) Two pamphlets - one prepared by the India Conciliation Group "Facts about India You Should Know" - and "India and the War" prepared for the Peace Committee of the Society of Friends by Carl Heath. She suggested that copies should be sent to the Branches with the Minutes and attention should be drawn to them in the News Sheet. Agreed.
- (2) Mrs. Kamaladevi - the Indian woman leader now in U.S.A. writes that she is in touch with Miss Detzer and our section in Canada.
- (3) That a "goodwill delegation" of Indian women from the A.I.W.C. will shortly be sent to Chungking. This is the follow up of the action taken at the Conference in December. No details are available as the news of this mission came through a report in the "Times". It was decided to send a letter of congratulation to the A.I.W.C.
- (4) Action taken by the Manchester Branch. Twenty eight M.P's in that area had received a letter on the lines of the one sent out in the last minutes urging the need for a new approach being made on India. This information together with a copy of the letter was published in the M.G. of May 25th signed by Mrs. Vipont Brown.
- (5) Present Situation. Since the last meeting a new Secretary of State had been appointed and important statements made by Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Nehru. Miss Harrison reported the gist of her talk with Mr. Amery and said that she felt hopeful that in the near future some move might now be expected. It was decided to send a letter to Mr. Amery.

850. W.I.L. CZECH REFUGEES. Miss Baker reported that Mrs. Harris had invited our Czech members to a social gathering at her house on June 2nd

to give an opportunity of meeting together before the new regulations regarding aliens came into force. About fifteen had accepted.

There was a Bank balance in the W.I.L. Czech Refugee Fund of £219-4-0. Correspondence was still going on with Sir Henry Bunbury regarding the ultimate responsibility for our group by the Czech Trust Fund.

851. CORRESPONDENCE.

(1) Reported a letter from the Edinburgh W.I.L. asking for permission to affiliate to the Scottish Peace Council. Agreed to ask the Branch to send us the Constitution and Rules of the S.P.C. before taking any action.

(2) A request from the Birmingham Branch for permission to affiliate to the National Council for Civil Liberties. Agreed to reply that the Committee thought it would be best for our Branch to work on their own lines and not to affiliate with Societies over whose policy we have no control.

It was urged that it be suggested to Branches that in their work they should follow the policy of the W.I.L. and if in doubt about co-operating with other organisations they should be advised to consult the Officers. Miss Sheepshanks agreed to add a paragraph on this in her letter to Branches.

(3) Acknowledgment of Council meeting resolution from the Viceroy of India, Delhi.

(4) Request from the National Book Council inviting the W.I.L. to make representations to the proper quarter urging that books of whatever nature should be exempted from the tax. Agreed to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer as requested.

(5) National Peace Council asked for four delegates to be appointed to Conference on June 29th, Friends House. The following agreed to act as delegates:-

Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Sheepshanks, Mrs. Kinnish, Frau Tutschova.

Agreed that the N.P.C. should be asked to send tickets and particulars direct to each.

(6) Letter from N.P.C. enclosing copy of letter to Sir John Anderson regarding the new Defence Regulations. Noted.

(7) Correspondence between Miss Courtney and Mrs. Innes on W.I.L. policy.

This concluded the business.

B. Duncan Harris
2. VII. 40.

W.I.L. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, May 1940.

Balance on 30th April	262.6.2 $\frac{3}{4}$	Salaries.....	30. 0. 0
Subs.....	24. 8. 6	Wages.....	2.12.11
Dona.....	21. 2.11	Postage.....	3.17. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
News Sheet.	1. 0. 7	Office Expenses.....	2.11. 2
Literature.	2. 3. 8	Insurances.....	8.11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Affil. Fees.	2. 5. 6	Coal.....	1. 7. 5
Meeting....	1. 4. 6	Literature.....	5. 9. 1
	52.5.8	News Sheets.....	3.17. 6
		Stationery.....	7. 1. 0
		Fares.....	4. 1. 5
		Meeting.....	13. 1
		Geneva subs. & Pax.....	2.10. 0
		Balances:	64. 9. 7
		Bank.....	147. 5. 6
		Petty Cash....	7.14.9 $\frac{3}{4}$
		Loan to House	62. 2. 0
		C.B.P.Society	33. 0. 0
			250. 2. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
	£314.11.10 $\frac{3}{4}$		£314.11.10 $\frac{3}{4}$

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Meeting of Executive Committee, July 3rd, 1940, at 55 Gower Street, London, W.C. 1. (11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.)

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Huxley, Miss Haughton, Miss Pye, Miss Rinder, Dr. Clark, Miss Sheepshanks, Miss Baker, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Wood, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Longson, and two visitors.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs. Garside, Mrs. Brayshaw, and Mrs. Lankester.

MINUTES OF MEETING on 5th June were signed, having been previously circulated.

was

LADY UNWIN: Mrs. Innes/asked to send the Committee's love and sympathy to Lady Unwin on the death of Sir Raymond Unwin.

853. BUSINESS ARISING. Reports of meetings on June 12th, 19th and 26th were given. Nearly £5 had been obtained through the Social Gathering on the 19th.

Reported (1) that our letter of 21st June regarding the organisation of relief and assistance for refugees through the League of Nations was receiving the attention of the Government.

(2) Mr. Amery had sent thanks for our letter of 10th June wishing him success in his work at the India Office.

(3) A formal acknowledgment from the Chancellor of the Exchequer of our letter of 7th June re the proposed Purchase Tax on Books. On the information from the National Book Council that the Chancellor had agreed to receive a deputation on the subject, and at the request of the N.B.C. a second letter had been sent to the Chancellor confirming our previous letter and supporting the deputation.

(4) the receipt of the Scottish Peace Council Constitution from the Secretary of our Edinburgh Branch. This was carefully considered by the Executive who agreed to inform our Branch that it would be better for it to work on its own lines rather than to affiliate with a Society over whose policy the W.I.L. had no control.

(5) a letter of thanks for the donation sent to the Labour Research Department.

854. MRS. LANKESTER. Mrs. Innes reported an offer from Mrs. Lankester to resign from the Executive as she was unable to attend meetings owing to domestic duties which were heavy just now in a Doctor's house, and she was anxious not to keep anyone more active out of the Committee. At the same time Mrs. Lankester expressed her views concerning the W.I.L. and her present attitude to the situation. AGREED to reply that the Committee hoped she would allow herself to remain a member of the Executive and would attend when possible.

855. INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. Referring to the article in the July News Sheet "Ourselves and our Critics" by Mrs. Innes, Dr. Clark asked the Committee to consider the attitude of the W.I.L. to the present international situation. She had added a paragraph "The Issue to-day" to the News Sheet without consulting Mrs. Innes, as there had not been time to do so.

Dr. Clark said the international situation was so critical and insistent and so devastating to our ordinary work that we are forced to make clear on what basis we are carrying on what we feel to be the greatest contribution the W.I.L. can make in helping to rebuild a new world order when the chance comes. To her

it seemd no longer possible to evade an attitude to the resistance of the German attack. She believed a world settlement in our day was dependent on defeating the German armed forces and the possibility of that defeat rested now on the general morale of the people. In any work we do we cannot afford not to strengthen that resistance - we must help or hinder - we cannot remain neutral. Our lead and help among our fellow citizens are needed to make people understand what will happen if they fail now. Only by helping people along lines they understand can the W.I.L. have any influence in the eventual development of a new world order. Absolute pacifism, she said, was never the basis of the W.I.L. If that were the position, and unless we made clear our position with regard to the support of the resistance to the German attack she could not continue her membership. Dr. Clark proposed the following resolution:-

"The Executive Committee of the W.I.L. recognising that there can be no hope of a just and durable world settlement after the war unless the German armed forces are defeated, holds that, in preparing for the use of victory to bring about such a settlement, we should help our fellow citizens to understand the appalling consequences of a German victory and to maintain their resolute determination to prevent such victory."

This would not restrict our work but would emphasise the importance of preparing to bring about such a settlement after victory, but a German victory would make a just and enduring settlement impossible.

The Chairman asked if the words "prevent such victory" meant "prevent by armed force." Dr. Clark said that was the intention.

Mrs. Harris read the Objects on which the W.I.L. is based:-

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

She said we have always welcomed people who, while holding widely divergent personal views yet wanted to work within the W.I.L. for the attainment of its Objects. These are our common basis and a deviation could only be effected by the whole Section. Therefore she ruled the resolution out of order as it did not conform to the basis of the W.I.L.

Dr. Clark said she considered the W.I.L. had failed for a long time to distinguish between the crime of an aggressor entering into war and the crime of defence. She believed the original members of the W.I.L. regarded war as a crime when it was used as a means of gaining power and she considered the question of fighting in self-defence rests on something different.

During the discussion which followed

Mrs. Rinder said she believed England would not survive the domination of Germany. In her own area she would not be able to defend refugees if she did not say we must win the war. She felt the ordinary person had no conception of the meaning of German domination and they ought not to be allowed to remain under any delusion. They must be made to realise what the Nazi menace means.

Miss Sheepshanks did not agree with Mrs. Innes's statement that our ideals are finer than those of Nazism, since finer implies comparison. We had internationally committed crimes but in her opinion oppression and tyranny were worse than war. In the last war there was not this fundamental divergence of the whole character of the opposing sides. Then we worked for conciliation and we did not feel it would be a great misfortune or a moral catastrophe if Germany won, but now, if Germany and Italy win it would make any spiritual life impossible for this country. Children would be degraded. We, in this country, have failed to recognise the horrible moral evil of the Nazi regime. When Hitler marched into the Rhineland we failed then (in spite of warnings from our friends on the Continent) to realise the evil of the man, and even now the British people do not realise the appalling evil they are up against. She thought we were evading the issue if we hoped in our hearts that we should win, and yet would not admit that we could only win by armaments. Our freedom is as important as peace. Nazism is a menace of evil corruption and lying and of all the forces of evil, and its triumph will be the triumph of evil.

Miss Pye hoped people would work according to their consciences. She did not believe it was the function of the W.I.L. to make propaganda to continue the fighting. It is the duty of the W.I.L. to strengthen the morale of our people but this will not be done by getting them to accept a lower standard of morality. We must win by our determination to uphold our ideals whatever happens. We cannot ask our Organisation to act in any other way, although we recognise the immense forces of evil with which we are faced. She would rather see the W.I.L. dissolved altogether than have it preach the ideals which would be a lowering of all that we have hitherto stood for. Nevertheless, she had to admit, that she was convinced that this war had to be fought out. She was particularly anxious that by no word or action of our League should the growing tide of anti-German feeling be increased.

Mrs. Innes said she was not evading the issue. She never could support war. She could, however, see more right on one side than the other and she thought if our Government which believes in war just gave in now it would be wicked and mean, but it is not our task to support and to press for war to be carried on. Individuals may think it their main task to spread an understanding of the awful consequences of a Germany victory but nothing could convince her that it was the task of the W.I.L. as a whole. People forget that we may not get what we are fighting for, if we win, for we may lose the war even if we have won it on the field of battle unless if, in the process, we became totalitarian and believers in force. We must go on working now for a reconstructed world based on justice and goodwill between the peoples.

Miss Haughton said there was division in her Branch but all recognised the need to work together wherever possible. As a Society we have a responsibility to young girls and we must hold the Pass for them. It would be a great error if the League were not kept alive for them to turn to after the war.

Mrs H (one of the visitors present) declared that the domination of her country had saddened her many times, but her saddest hour was this one in which she was listening to this debate. With passion she said "if you want to continue, change your name. Call yourselves 'The British Legion for Armaments' and fight. This war is not only Hitler's war. It is a war between fascism, communism and socialism. It was this that caused France to lay down her arms; it could not be attributed only to the fifth columnists. Pacifism in Great Britain was a great achievement. It was an honourable thing and this will be proved 100 years hence. You pacifist workers have changed your mind and convictions in such a way that you now believe in armed force and want to further it. You are not

content that the W.I.L. should be silent as a minority has to be in these times in order not to arouse feelings with the majority of the population. How can you believe that forceful means will be the only means of a real solution? How can you believe that these people will stand for Nazism or Communism for ever? How can you make yourselves believe it? You want to leave the most advanced Society of Women that ever was. Read the resolutions of the W.I.L. again. Had they been followed we should not have had this war. Why blame your own people? No one can make you responsible for what has happened now, but when you leave your convictions you make yourself weak and will become influenced by fear. Alas! It is a very sad hour for me."

Miss Harrison said the discussion reflected what our Branches were going through. She felt that if Dr. Clark and other members who associated themselves with her views, resigned, it would be a very serious thing for the whole of the W.I.L.

A letter from Mrs. Greenwood in support of Mrs. Innes's views was read.

The debate was then closed.

France. Miss Pye, who had been in France when it capitulated, gave a brief account of the situation up to that time. Unfortunately, she had not been able to get in touch with any of our Branch members and she had had no news of them. Miss Pye consented to speak at a Luncheon Meeting on the 10th July on her impressions of the situation in France.

Mrs. Innes reported that the Officers had sent a letter to the Press on 19th June saying that while awaiting the announcement of the terms to be proposed to the French Government by the German and Italian Governments, it would be an act of effective and imaginative statesmanship if the Government of this country would make known the principles of the new world order which it would seek to construct at the conclusion of peace. As far as we knew no paper had printed the letter.

856. W.I.L.P.F. NEWS. Reported

(1) letters of love and affectionate greetings from Dorothy Detzer and Emily Balch, U.S.A. and asking if the Section could help us in any way;

(2) Gertrud Baer had arrived in America;

(3) Louisa Jaques might possibly go to America if she could get out of Switzerland but Lotti Birch did not wish to go. It was proposed that the U.S. Section should take temporarily the lead of W.I.L. affairs. No monies should be sent to the Geneva Office.

(4) A cable from our Canadian Section asking "are there very urgent cases among our friends intensely interested refugee problem."

AGREED to ask the U.S.A. Section if it could do anything more to facilitate the entrance of Central European refugees, and the Canadian Section to give special care to any of our W.I.L. children who may be going overseas, and to make contact with the Czech refugees.

It was also agreed to leave it to Miss Harrison to write personally to Mrs. Hamid Ali to make tentative inquiries about British child evacuees being taken into Indian homes, and to report later.

A letter from Stockholm was read. Their Peace Day Flower had been a great success this year and fifty per. cent. of the proceeds would be spent on refugee work. They had made contact with

Norwegian friends and received a copy of the Danish W.I.L. News Sheet.

857. INDIA. Miss Harrison reported on the passing of the India and Burma (Emergency Provisions) for the expansion of India's war effort. The Bill also confers considerable powers on the Viceroy in the event of communications with this country being cut off. Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah had had further talks with the Viceroy. About these little information is available, but the fact that Mr. Gandhi left Simla directly after the 'friendly' interview would seem to show that no settlement resulted. At the moment the Congress Working Committee was in session at Delhi considering the situation in the light of Mr. Gandhi's talk.

858. PETITION TO THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD. Reported that Miss K. Bourne had asked for the W.I.L. support of the following Petition:-

To the Women of the world.

"We, the undersigned, women of Great Britain, send this message to the women of the world, and especially to those in belligerent countries.

We send our heart-felt sympathy to all those who have lost those they love in this war. We also have suffered. We are united with you in sorrow.

Because we believe it is better to struggle for the welfare of our fellow-beings than to fight in order to crush down those of other races, we condemn the method of physical violence as a means of settling international affairs and we reject with ridicule the theory that "war is the expression of the highest and the best and the noblest manhood." Physical violence is the method whereby animals settle their differences. Men have intelligence. They can rise above such methods.

We ask women of all nations to join with us in expressing their condemnation of the method of violence. If news of this message reaches you, remember that whatever may be the result of this wanton slaughter, we are looking to you to bring the message of love to all nations."

We, as women, must work in order to persuade our leaders to negotiate just terms of peace. You also can do the same. We are all needed to build a kindlier world."

It was agreed to support this and to say that we would, if wished, send it to our Sections in the Dominions and the U.S.A.

859. INTERNEES. Following on the announcement that the husband and son-in-law of one of our associate members had been interned, the plight of many internees was considered. It was thought that Miss Rathbone might be strengthened in her work in connection with internees by evidence that public opinion was behind her. Miss Baker agreed to draft a letter to her and Mrs. Innes agreed on the basis of Miss Baker's letter to draft one to the Press on the matter, a copy of which should be sent to the Branches for their local press.

860. OFFICE FILES. In view of the present situation it was agreed to ask one of our country members if she would house our historic documents until after the war, and in the case of occupation to take steps to destroy them, particularly those containing foreign names. It was agreed that the Branches should, as a matter of routine, be asked to take steps to see that a list of their members is placed in safe keeping in case of aerial attack or occupation, and to destroy letters, Minutes, etc. containing foreign names.

861. OFFICE STAFF. The Officers had agreed that the services of Miss Abbatt must be dispensed with as the daily correspondence was

so small that there was not sufficient work to occupy her. She was, therefore, leaving on the 6th, and a week's money would be given her in lieu of a holiday. Miss Horscroft is to commence her holiday on the 19th July and will be away a month, during which time Miss Agatha Harrison has offered to come in each day to forward letters to Mrs. Innes and to keep an eye on the house generally.

Miss Horscroft reported that, with the consent of the Officers, she had volunteered to act as an escort to children going overseas. If her offer were accepted she would be glad if the Committee would grant her six months' leave, to include her summer holiday. The Committee agreed to this, the Officers being left to make arrangements for the carrying on of the Office, should Miss Horscroft be absent for any length of time.

862. W.I.L. CZECH REFUGEES. Miss Baker reported that the Czech Trust Committee has now taken over the responsibility of our Group. She gave an account of the movements of several of our women, including one wedding. One had been interned owing to a mistake on her registration papers.

863. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL. Agreed to send the attached Statement adopted at the N.P.C. Conference on June 29th at Friends House with the Minutes of our own Committee. Miss Sheepshanks suggested that the Branch Committee might invite their M.Ps to talk the Statement over with them. Agreed. Mrs. Kinnish and Miss Sheepshanks reported on the Conference generally.

864. FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts was adopted.

865. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE. Reported that Miss Brownsmith had given provisional notice to vacate the second and third floors of 55 Gower Street on December 25th, 1940. Mr. Barrs Davies had informed us that she was within her rights in doing so,

866. CORRESPONDENCE. Reported a letter from a member asking if the W.I.L. could take any action to prevent Holloway Prison being used as a place of internment for many alien women and young children, and especially expectant mothers. Agreed to reply that the Committee thought it was better to leave representations to Societies specially concerned with internees, and that we were given to understand that Holloway Prison was being used as a transition place only for the Isle of Man where conditions are better, and that the whole position is being carefully watched.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS.

B. Duncan Harris
4. IX. 40

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, June 1940

Balance on 30th May:-			
Bank.....	147. 5. 6	Salaries.....	24. 0. 0
Petty Cash.....	7.14.9 $\frac{3}{4}$	Literature.....	1.11. 0
Loan to Inter.House.....	62. 2. 0	Office Expenses.....	8. 1. 1
C.P.Bldg. Society.....	33. 0. 0	Postage.....	6. 2. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<u>£250. 2.3$\frac{3}{4}$</u>	Wages.....	1.15. 6
Subscriptions..	16. 3. 6	Insurances.....	11. 2
Donations.....	10. 0	Fares.....	4. 7. 5
News Sheets....	4.15. 8	Telephone.....	6
Literature.....	19. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lighting (lamps).....	6. 6
Meetings.....	8. 9. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Meetings.....	2. 1.10 $\frac{3}{4}$
	<u>30.18.7</u>	Rent (to end of year).....	56. 5. 0
			<u>97. 9. 3$\frac{1}{4}$</u>
		Balances:	
(Outstanding accounts		Bank.....	142.15. 4
£13. 4. 4.)		Petty Cash... ..	6.16. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<u>£281.0.10$\frac{3}{4}$</u>	C.P.Bld.Soc.: ..	34. 0. 0
			<u>183.11. 7$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
			<u>£281. 0.10$\frac{3}{4}$</u>

P E A C E A I M S .

A Special Conference attended by representatives of thirty national and seventy local organisations associated with the National Peace Council and held in London on June 29th, 1940, adopted the following Statement:-

The Conference believes it to be of urgent importance from the point of view of the possibilities of realising a just and secure peace at the earliest moment, that Great Britain should make a new and fuller statement of peace aims in such a way as to make clear to all nations, including the German and Italian peoples, that the countries of the British Commonwealth seek a co-operative settlement taking into account the rights and interests of all parties and not a peace designed merely to safeguard their own material interests.

The Conference urges the Government to seek an early opportunity of making such a declaration and to ensure that the declaration indicates in concrete terms the contributions which it is prepared to make to the achievement of economic security and free institutions for all people and to the establishment of an effective co-operation between states on the basis of the federal principle.

N.C. 3974.

1. 7. 40.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Wednesday, 4th September, 1940,
11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 55 Gower Street, London, W.C. 1.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Thornycroft, Mrs. Scott, Miss Pye, Miss Dickinson, Dr. Clark, Miss Marshall, Miss Baker, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Grindley, Miss Haughton, Miss Anderson, Miss Sheepshanks.
Visitors: Frau Misar, Frau Tutschova.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Miss Rinder, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Huxley, Mrs. Garside and Mrs. Lankester.

Mrs. Lankester's resignation. A letter was read from Mrs. Lankester, in which she once more pressed for the acceptance of her resignation from the Executive. Mrs. Innes was asked to write accepting the resignation, with very real regret, and expressing the hope that one day she will be able to work with the Committee again.

DEATH OF MISS FRIEDA MAYNARD, London W.I.L. member. Mrs. Innes reported that, on behalf of the Committee, she had sent a letter of sympathy to Mrs. Maynard on the death of her daughter, who had been a member of the W.I.L. for many years. An acknowledgment had been received.

MINUTES of meeting on 4th July were signed, having previously been circulated.

BUSINESS ARISING. Mrs. Innes reported that the following message would be put at the head of the Petition to the Women of the World:-

"The purpose of this message is to challenge the philosophy of domination in all relations of life by the preservation of co-operation as an alternative."

The Women's Co-operative Guilds would associate themselves with the message thus worded. An explanation would follow the message to the effect that the Petition has not been sponsored by any particular set of people.

FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts was accepted. It was agreed to defer consideration of an Autumn money-raising effort till next month.

DR. CLARK'S CHALLENGE OF CHAIRMAN'S DECISION OF 4th July. At the July meeting of the Executive the Chairman ruled the following resolution out of order as, in her opinion, it contravenes the Statement of Objects in the Constitution:-

"The Executive Committee of the W.I.L. recognising that there can be no hope of a just and durable world settlement after the war unless the German armed forces are defeated, holds that, in preparing for the use of victory to bring about such a settlement, we should help our fellow citizens to understand the appalling consequences of a German victory and to maintain their resolute determination to prevent such a victory."

A full discussion, however, took place on the matter of the resolution and a second opportunity for discussion was given after lunch, no one challenging the Chairman's ruling. At the July meeting it had been AGREED not to meet in August and the Officers had not felt able to reverse that decision, in response to a suggestion from Dr. Clark that an August meeting should be called to reconsider the question of upholding the Chairman's ruling. Dr. Clark had been asked to send in to the Office any material for circulation to the Committee before 23rd August. The correspondence between Dr. Clark and herself had therefore been circulated with the Agenda calling the September meeting. Since that date,

Dr. Clark had informed Mrs. Harris that she wished to put forward the following resolution, which she would circulate personally:-

"The discussion of measures to defeat aggression, including in the last resort the use of armed force, is not outside the scope of the W.I.L."

For convenience, this resolution should be called the September resolution. It is not out of order and is open to discussion. The Chairman said she believed the Committee was one of the few bodies which could discuss a principle without allowing personalities to come into it.

Dr. Clark said if the September resolution did not meet the point of objection there was no object in moving it. She did not challenge the Chairman's ruling on the ground of it being outside the scope of the W.I.L., if it is agreed that it is, but she challenged the judgment that the July resolution fell outside the scope of the W.I.L. principles. She therefore moved:-

"That the Chairman's ruling at the July Committee that Dr. Clark's resolution was out of order, is not upheld."

Miss Marshall seconded this resolution. She asked on which definition of our aims was the July resolution ruled out of order as being outside the scope of the W.I.L. Various positions have been taken up at different times in International Committees and at Congresses. The Chairman made it clear that her ruling was based on the objects of the British Section, especially 2 and 3. Any resolution coming outside these objects would have to be referred to a general meeting of the Section. She was not ruling on interpretation of International resolutions. That would be involved at a later stage if the Executive passed a resolution outside the scope of the British Section's Constitution.

Dr. Clark said that the W.I.L. has never taken the absolute pacifist position. Our best way of working out our belief that war is a crime is to admit that the kind of aggression that Hitler has led the world into has to be stopped before any progress can be made. Spiritual progress will be hampered and thrown back by the success of the Nazi method unless the difference between defence of our material interests and of the physical basis on which civilisation is built, is appreciated. Because of this she, with other members of the Committee, believes that the July resolution does not contravene the real objects of the W.I.L. She feels that if the Executive agreed otherwise it would be necessary to ascertain the views of the Branches and membership. She believes our work is to prepare for the right use of victory and for a reconstruction which would bring lasting peace within the life time of the next generation.

Miss Marshall believed there were three courses open to the W.I.L.:-

- (1) to express no view at all about the war;
- (2) to adhere to the British Section's point of view, which has not been the absolute pacifist point of view;
- (3) to adhere to W.I.L.P.F. aims adopted by the Zurich Congress.

Mrs. Brayshaw asked what would be the specific advantage of passing such a resolution at this time. She did not think it would strengthen the hands of our members who want to help the country in its hour of emergency and it makes a bitter division between the pacifist side and the other side.

Dr. Clark felt strongly that the most helpful and effective work for peace which we can do is of a political character. The danger and difficulty of the absolute pacifist position applied to politics has been seen; the sloppy sentimentality in some people and the selfishness in others has built up the appeasement front. We cannot, however, do effective work unless we define now what our attitude is to the Nazi aggression. She would like to see the W.I.L. ready with reconstruction plans, which will need most careful and informed consideration, when the time for negotiations for peace comes.

Mrs. Brayshaw said that Manchester Branch considers its work as much educational as political.

Mrs. Innes asked Dr. Clark to give evidence of what the W.I.L. had done to support fighting. She thought the proposed resolution was a contradiction of our aims and objects. We could not advocate the belief that war is a crime and at the same time support it. To understand what an organisation stands for its history, aims and membership must be looked at. We have many members who want to work for the objects we are working for but do not quite take our point of view. Part of our difficulty today is because so many joined on these grounds.

Mrs. Innes quoted many passages from Congress Reports to illustrate that the main body of opinion in and the principles of the W.I.L.P.F. had always been pacifist. We record some of these passages as follows:-

1. The Hague, 1915. "War, the ultima ratio of the statesmanship of men, we women declare to be a madness...."
2. Vienna, 1921. Referring to the leaders: "convinced pacifists, they found themselves in complete accord."

Jane Addams said "Our object is to make women realise fully that war destroys everything that mothers have begun" and so to "unloose a tremendous force against war."

A Committee was set up to study "pacifism in action" and a sub-Committee on passive resistance - to guide the W.I.L.

A discussion took place on "how our relations with League of Nations can be used to further pacifist and true internationalist aims."

3. Washington, 1924. "This Conferenceexpresses the hope that in the future the Churches will oppose all war."
4. Ireland, 1926. "One of the biggest problems which pacifists have to face is how to deal with the passion of patriotism which, in a nation's emergency, overwhelms reason and principles."

Statement of Object. The W.I.L.P.F. aims at binding together women in every country who oppose all war."

In a resolution: "All Sections are united as to the necessity of individual opposition against war."

5. Prague, 1929. Aims: "The Women's International League aims at uniting women in all countries who are opposed to every kind of war"...."and who work for universal disarmament and for the solution of conflicts by the

recognition of human solidarity, by conciliation and arbitration, by world co-operation, and by the establishment of social, political and economic justice for all, without distinction of sex, race, class or creed."

"Every member of the League must support the Statement of Aims."

6. Luhacovice, 1937. Miss Balch's Message:-

...."In part, at least, owing to our work and that of innumerable other peace organisations, there is to-day widespread in the world....a powerful organised effort not to restrict war but to make it as absolute as slavery, or cannibalism. This effort has not been successful but this does not mean that it may not yet achieve success....This is.... a time to maintain our principles and to endeavour....to make them understood and accepted."

If the British Section adopted Dr. Clark's resolution it would be against the principles of the W.I.L.P.F. and the International Headquarters would have to consider whether it could remain a Section.

Miss Anderson regretted Dr. Clark had moved the resolution. She believed the W.I.L. could work effectively without pressing a definition of the immediate issue.

Miss Harrison said the strength of our movement rests with the Branches. Had we evidence that they felt the W.I.L. must come to an issue of this kind? She believed that their main work at this time was educational and that Miss Sheepshanks' study syllabuses were being enthusiastically taken up.

Miss Baker queried whether two people holding fundamentally different views could work together.

Mrs. Scott said she was of Miss Baker's views. She feels that the conceptions of the pacifist and of the pacifist movement have led us to the impasse to-day. Pacifism is a whole way of life, and involves willingness to surrender to privileges which she is not prepared to surrender. She, therefore, cannot take the absolutist position.

Mrs. Thornycroft thought that the rise of Fascism and Nazism has made an enormous difference. It is a negation of everything we stand for.

Miss Pye asked whether, in the event of a British defeat, the people sitting round the table would support fighting with all their might.

Dr. Clark felt she could not agree to continue to work through an organisation whose position is not clear and who goes against the working for armed force. After the last war there came a point when work for peace and the building up of practical measures of disarmament and mutual co-operation through collective security, would have prevented the rise of Fascism. Now it is unwise and ineffective to do political work on a basis that is not clear and is liable to misunderstanding, and which would result in the strengthening of the appeasement policy.

Mrs. Brayshaw asked Dr. Clark if she thought the founders of the W.I.L.P.F. were wise at the Hague to agree not to discuss the conduct of the present war while it was on, but to declare a moratorium and to hang on and work together after the war?

Mrs. Scott said she was of Miss Baker's views. She feels that the conceptions of the pacifist and of the pacifist movement have led us to the impasse to-day. Pacifism is a whole way of life, and involves willingness to surrender to privileges which

Dr. Clark replied that the position was radically different. Miss Marshall proposed the limiting of our work for the duration of the war.

Mrs. Duncan Harris said that the acceptance of support of armed force would mean the end of the W.I.L. She referred movingly to the tragedy in terms of human suffering and civil destruction which had occurred in Croydon in a German raid on a perfectly legitimate military objective,

Letters on the subject were read from:

(1) Mrs. Huxley, who would support the discussion of Dr. Clark's September resolution since she believed that, in a free association, every thing should be discussed. But, while the W.I.L. does not identify itself with the struggle, she believes it fulfils its mission more truly for peace and freedom than if it openly and publicly joins in the melée. Our task is to hang on and not become more involved in the war machine than we can help - while opposing Nazism wherever we find it.

(2) Mrs. Garside, who supported Mrs. Duncan Harris's view as expressed in the closing paragraph of her letter of 26th August.

(3) Mrs. Kinnish, who regretted that Dr. Clark had felt obliged to re-open the matter of her former resolution. She is convinced that the W.I.L. has a role to play in keeping women's minds set upon the constructive tasks of the post-war era. Other women's organisations are active on the lines proposed by Dr. Clark.

(4) The Croydon Branch Chairman forwarded a resolution from the Branch in which the Branch expressed its opinion that the discussion of such a resolution as Dr. Clark proposed is a waste of the National Executive's time, and hoped that all W.I.L. energies may be spent on a forward move in plans for the future.

Mrs. Brayshaw suggested a vote on the issue "that the Chairman's ruling be upheld that Dr. Clark's resolution of July was out of order because it cannot be made to square with the British Section's Constitution.

The Chairman then put to the vote Dr. Clark's resolution as follows:-

"The discussion of measures to defeat aggression, including in the last resort the use of armed force, is not outside the scope of the W.I.L."

Voting was as follows:-

five in favour of resolution.

eight against resolution.

The Chairman not voting.

The Committee AGREED that any further resolutions on the subject should be sent out with the Minutes. Mrs. Innes moved that after lunch the Committee pass on to the next item on the Agenda. AGREED.

CO-OPTION TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. On the proposal of Mrs. Duncan Harris, supported by Miss Harrison, Mrs. Lord, late of Manchester Branch and now attached to London Headquarters, was unanimously co-opted on to the Committee.

On the proposal of our North Wales Branch, Mrs. Lloyd Pritchard, was also co-opted to the Committee.

Mrs. Innes was asked to write to both of them welcoming them to the meetings of the Committee.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES Miss Harrison reported that she had attended the N.C.C.L. Conference on Saturday, August 31st, as a representative of the W.I.L.

READING W.I.L. Reported that the Police had returned all letters, Minute book, etc. and the whole thing was evidently going to be allowed to drop.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

BURMA ROAD: Mrs. Innes reported that the Officers drafted the attached Statement on the Closing of the Burma Road to which the following signatories had been obtained:-

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Chairman, Women's Liberal Federation.
Margaret G. Bondfield.J.P., LL.D.
Harriette Chick, Dr.Sc., M
Margery Fry.
K.E. Innes, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,
Barbara Duncan Harris, Women's International League, British
Section.
Anna L. Littleboy,
Bessie M. Rischbieth, O.B.E., J.P. (Porth, Western Australia).
Maude Royden, C.H.,
Effie Ryle, M.A.
Mary Sheepshanks.
Sybil Thorndike.
Margaret Wingringham.

Mrs. Innes said that the Officers agreed that the closing of the Burma Road was not decided upon as part of a policy of appeasement but because Japan threatened to make war if Gt. Britain opposed it. The W.I.L. is opposed to the decision under threat of force.

The Statement was endorsed and it was AGREED that it should be sent to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to the Press and to the Branches asking them to try to get local press publicity for it, and to bring it to the notice of their M.Ps.

On the proposal of Miss Harrison it was agreed to try to arrange a women's deputation to the Japanese Ambassador on humanitarian grounds, backing up the widespread demand from the Red Cross for the opening of the Burma Road. Miss Harrison undertook to draft a letter, after seeking Mr. Tinperley's advice on the matter.

The following were suggested for the deputation:

Mrs. Rischbieth, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Harrison, Miss Pye.

Miss Sheepshanks and Miss Harrison agreed to make arrangements for the deputation.

INDIA. Miss Harrison said that much had happened since the last Executive. Mr. Gandhi had made his "Appeal" for non-violent resistance to every Briton. She detailed the work done by a small Committee that had been instrumental in obtaining the fuller text of the Statement from India. The White Paper issued on August 8th had been summarised in the News Sheet. The Congress Party had rejected the proposals; the Liberal Party while seeking further clarification, will probably accept them, and the Moslem League has raised some formidable conditions of acceptance. The intention of the Government is to "proceed."

The situation is critical; unless some final attempt is made to find a working agreement, it is regarded as inevitable that the Congress, at its meeting in the middle of September, will launch a civil disobedience campaign. Once again Mr. Gandhi seems to be

at the /helm and rumour has it that he will seek another interview with the Viceroy.

Miss Harrison urged everyone to obtain a copy of Edward Thomposon's book "Enlist India for Freedom" (2/6d Gollancz Victory Books, No. 5). This summarised in an able manner the present situation.

FOOD BLOCKADE. Miss Pye reported on efforts being made to get food into unoccupied France. She did not feel there was anything the W.I.L. could do at the moment, but the situation must be watched and pressure must be brought to bear to see that food is preserved.

On the recommendation of Dr. Clark it was AGREED to try to arrange an invitation meeting and to ask Miss McGeachey to talk on the food situation.

INTERNEES. AGREED that a letter should be sent to the appropriate quarters dealing with refugee women in this country whose husbands had been sent overseas, urging that they should be given free cable facilities for communicating with their husbands before deciding whether they would join them overseas, or await their return to this country.

AGREED also to ask our Australian Section to take up the question of internees in Australia and to ask the German Emergency Committee for names of people in Australia with whom our Australian Section could be put in touch.

Miss Marshall AGREED to write a letter for Mrs. Innes to send to the Home Office to urge that when a refugee has been granted a visa and has been released for the purpose of going to another country, he should be as free as before his internment and pass back to his former condition of supervision and report pending his embarkation. Miss Marshall reported the setting up of a new Committee to watch over the interests of internees.

(Note: The following paragraph was not reported by an oversight but we insert it for record:-

A letter from the Officers to the Press had been sent out on 19th July expressing (1) humiliation by the abandonment of the traditional British policy of hospitality to aliens taking refuge on our shores; (2) concern over the apparent discrepancies in the action of local police when carrying out the internment instructions, and the more favourable provisions that were laid down by the Home Office; (3) concern to find that "friendly" C. Refugees have been deported to Canada, without their families being notified; (4) the hope that the causes of bitterness felt by a great many of the refugees in this country, will be investigated and just grievances speedily remedied. The Branches had been asked to send a similar letter to their local press.

The Officers had also sent a letter to Lord Lytton expressing pleasure at his appointment as Chairman of the Committee to deal with refugee problems in this country. Lord Lytton had replied thanking the Committee for its letter, but saying that his Committee had no actual powers and improvement will only take place if and when the Government Departments concerned are willing to act on the advice of his Committee. It will, however, do everything possible to wipe out the bad effect of the policy which was started in a moment of panic last May. The Lytton Committee will visit all the

internment camps and try to get the conditions in them radically changed for the better.

NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL. Reported that the N.P.C. Executive on 15th August had approved a Manifesto which re-newed and re-stated the appeal for a more positive declaration of British peace aims. This had been sent to our W.I.L. Executive and Branches, with a covering letter from the N.P.C. appealing for its widest distribution.

W.I.L.P.F. NEWS. Reported a circular letter dated August 14th (No. 4/1940) from the Geneva Office, in which it stated that news had been received from members in occupied and unoccupied France, that members in Holland are well, and that the Danish Section continues to print its monthly news bulletin. At the end of the Bulletin there was printed the following greetings from the Chairman of the Danish Section:-

"Without being specially commissioned to do so, I send to all readers a deep-felt greeting from the Board, asking that it be passed on to as many as possible. Whatever the future may bring, the knowledge that so many co-workers and like-minded friends are with us throughout the country gives us great comfort and encouragement."

This Swiss Section was holding, on August 24th and 25th, a week-end study course on "The Peace Problem from the religious, political and economic point of view."

Some rooms at the Maison Internationale are being let at a moderate fee to the Association of the Swiss returned from Abroad.

With the Geneva Circular came an "Appeal to Argentine Women" urging them to unite for the defence of democracy and freedom. This appeal was published in the "Vida Femenina" (Buenos Aires).

Mrs. Harris reported that Myrtle Wright, a member of the Society of Friends, was living with Marie Mohr in Norway.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE. Reported that Dr. Clark had resigned from the Editorship of the News Sheet and that Mrs. Innes had been asked to become its editor. The Officers had agreed, after the last Publicity Committee that a combined August/September News Sheet should be issued, and Dr. Clark had very kindly put this through.

Mrs. Brayshaw moved that a resolution expressing our great appreciation of the work Dr. Clark had done in editing the News Sheet with such brilliance should be recorded. This was unanimously agreed to.

It was reported that Mrs. Innes said she had waited until the Executive before taking up the editorship.

W.I.L. Czech Refugees. Miss Baker reported on the present situation regarding our Czech refugees, and also that £5 for refugees had been received from our Canadian Section.

(15th August)

S.W. LONDON W.I.L. Reported a letter from Mrs. Savage/saying that for various reasons the activities of the Branch were very much restricted. They were however helping the local branch of the L.C.C. Care Committee which is equipping children with clothing necessary for evacuation. In advertising in their local press for contributions from the public towards buying material, they asked permission to use the name of the W.I.L. Mrs. Innes had replied that this would be in order, especially as it had been explained that the W.I.L. did not as a matter of course do relief work, but had broken its rule on one or two occasions when the urgent need demanded it.

PLACE OF NEXT MEETING. The proposal from Mrs. Innes that the next Executive should be held in Oxford was considered, but the Committee AGREED that this would not be practicable as many London members might be prevented by raids from getting out of London, and country people will be prevented from getting in - or out again if they get in!

B. I. mean Harris
6.XI.40

W. I. L. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, August, 1940.

Receipts.

Expenditure.

Balance on July 30th.....	135. 6. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Salaries.....	9. 0. 0
Subscriptions.....	14. 4	Wages.....	1. 1. 0
Donations.....	10. 0	Telephone.....	4.19. 5
Literature.....	6. 3	Stationery.....	17. 4
	1.10. 7	Postage.....	1.10. 0
		Insurances.....	5. 7
		Office Expenses.....	1. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
			<u>£17.14. 9$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
		Balances:	
		Bank.....	71. -. 4
		Cash.....	12. 2. 3
		C.P.B.S.....	36. 0. 0
			<u>119. 2. 7</u>
	<u>£136. 17. 4$\frac{1}{2}$</u>		<u>£ 136.17. 4$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

B. D.H.

This is a copy of unsigned Minutes which has come from Westmorland. The signed Minutes are not with the other copies. Could you sign these so that they can complete the year?

I am not prepared to
sign this. It is too
long ago to remember.
B. D. H.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

FOR INFORMATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Minutes of Officers' Meeting held on Monday, October 7th, 1940,
at the Institute, Friends' Meeting House, Reading.

PRESENT. Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Lord (member of Executive), Miss Stansfield, Mrs. Castle and Mrs. Kirk, members of Reading Branch. Frau Hertzka.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Mrs. McGregor Wood.

In the name of the Officers and Executive, Mrs. Duncan Harris expressed thanks and gratitude to our Reading Branch for making it possible to hold the meeting at Reading. She welcomed to the meeting the three Branch Officers who were able to attend, and Mrs. Lord, as a new member of the Executive.

20. OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS. The Chairman explained that owing to the continuous raids on London, particularly around the West Central district, during which some of our own windows at 55 Gower Street were broken, the Officers had felt that they must no longer allow the work to be carried on in the office, and with the consent of Miss Horscroft, she and the necessary equipment had been moved to St. Mary Bourne, Nr. Andover, Hants, where Mrs. Innes had found accommodation for both, the office in her own home, while lodgings had been obtained for Miss Horscroft nearby.

The Committee AGREED to an expenditure of 30/- per week for these office and staff arrangements and Mrs. Innes was warmly thanked for all she had done to make it possible to have the work carried on at such a reasonable cost in a safer area.

Mrs. Innes pointed out that the 30/- would be partially met by a considerable reduction of expenses which would have been incurred in Gower Street, including the wages hitherto paid to the charwoman, Mrs. Andrews, whose services had once more to be dispensed with, and the lighting and heating of the premises.

It was reported that a month's wages had been given to Mrs. Andrews in lieu of notice.

The appended finance statement, showing a balance of £85.16.3 was approved. The balance included £36 deposited with the Co-operative Permanent Building Society in readiness for the next W.I.L.P.F. Congress.

Reported that arrangements were being made with the Andover Branch of the Midland Bank for paying in and drawing out monies on the general account and the International House Account.

Agreed to ask Mrs. Wood if she would kindly draft a letter to Subscribers telling them of present arrangements and explaining the special need for the keeping up of subscriptions, and for giving any extra assistance possible in view of the fact that we cannot, under present circumstances, have our special money-raising Autumn effort. Branches should be asked if any special effort were possible locally to help Headquarters to carry on.

21. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE. It was reported that owing to the air-raids the Japan Evangelistic Band had also felt obliged to remove their Staff from 55 Gower Street for the time being. Their rent for the September quarter had been paid and there had been no suggestion of their giving up the premises entirely. They intended to pay periodic visits to their office for the necessary office equipment.

Reported a letter from Miss Brownsmith, the tenant of the five rooms on the second and third floors at 55 Gower Street, suggesting a renewal of her tenancy (instead of relinquishing it at the December quarter in accordance with her provisional notice received last June) on the following terms:-

Women's International League

BRITISH SECTION OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM.

National Sections or Correspondents in 39 countries.

International Headquarters: 12 Rue du Vieux Collège, Geneva.

Vice-Presidents: Miss VERA BRITAIN, Mrs. DE BUNSEN, The Hon. Mrs. FRANKLIN, Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE, Dr. MAUDE ROYDEN, Miss MARY SHEEPHANKS, Lady UNWIN.

Chairman: Mrs. DUNCAN HARRIS, J.P.
Vice-Chairman: Miss MARY SHEEPHANKS.

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. MCGREGOR WOOD.

Hon. Secretary:
Mrs. K. E. INNES.

Executive Committee:

Miss MOSA ANDERSON.
Miss KARLEEN BAKER.
Mrs. BRAYSHAW.
Dr. HILDA CLARK.
Miss MAUD DICKINSON.

Mrs. GARSIDE.
Mrs. GREENWOOD.
Mrs. GRINDLEY.
Miss AGATHA HARRISON.
Miss AMY HAUGHTON.

Mrs. L. G. H. HUXLEY.
Miss LETTICE JOWITT.
Mrs. KINNISH.
Mrs. LANKESTER.
Mrs. LONGSON.

Miss C. E. MARSHALL.
Miss EDITH PYE.
Miss W. G. RINDER.
Mrs. RICHENDA SCOTT.
Mrs. THORNYCROFT.

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: MUSEUM 3179.

INQUIRIES: 11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

Office Secretary: Miss E. HORSCROFT,
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE,
55 GOWER STREET, LONDON, W.C.1.

-2-

- (1) an agreement for a monthly tenancy, or at any rate some short term;
- (2) no compulsion to re-decorate, etc.
- (3) a reduction of £28 per annum for rent.

Miss Brownsmith was letting two friends, Miss Robinson and Miss Swainson, have the use of the three rooms at the top of the house, but she would remain responsible for the payment of the rent to the W.I.L.

Mr. Barrs Davies, our Solicitor, had been consulted over these terms. In his reply he had stated that the clause in Miss Brownsmith's lease in regard to repairs allows for fair wear and tear. This, he said, is not an onerous covenant and it is unlikely that any substantial sum could be recovered from Miss Brownsmith at this date under the covenant for repairs. There is also a covenant to paint inside in 1941, but as Miss Brownsmith has exercised her right to determine the lease before that time this covenant could not be enforced against her and she is in a position to make new terms.

Mr. Barrs Davies pointed out that the reduction is probably larger than the proposed reduction of £28 because the landlords have to pay the rates, but as it is very difficult to let property now he did not think the terms proposed were unreasonable.

After discussion it was agreed to ask Miss Brownsmith for a quarterly tenancy (a proposal made by letter by Mrs. McGregor Wood) ~~and to accept the proposed reduction of rent per annum for duration of war only (i.e. not after the war).~~ Mrs. Innes and Miss Harrison were left to make the necessary negotiations.

A further letter dated 28th September had been received from Miss Brownsmith, enclosing £40 for the September quarter's rent, informing us that she was considering removing all her furniture to Wiltshire and would let us know if and when this was done. It was explained by Miss Horscroft that the furniture referred to was the contents of the rooms on the second floor.

A letter had been sent to Miss Brownsmith asking if Mr. Boyce Coombes, who shared the Flat with her, had already vacated the Flat, and whether Miss Robinson and Miss Swainson had moved into the top Flat. There had not been time for a reply.

It was agreed that in the event of the complete evacuation of the premises, application should be made for a reduction of rent and rates; and in the event of an agreement for lower rent from Miss Brownsmith to apply for a reduction of rates.

The rent to Bedford Estate for the September Quarter £56.5.0 had been paid.

22. STATEMENT OF AIMS. The Chairman reported that she had felt the time had come to put forth a Statement to Members and Branches, and had therefore sent a draft round to the other Officers for their consideration. Miss Sheepshanks, in response, put forward an amended Statement, embodying the main points in Mrs. Harris's Statement. This had also been sent round to the Officers for consideration. Both drafts were now before the Committee. After consideration it was

unanimously agreed to accept Miss Sheepshanks' Statement and to send it out over the names of the Officers. The Statement is as follows:

"In the grave times we are passing through the Women's International League wishes to draw closer the bonds of sympathy and a common purpose which unite its members, and to include in this fellowship all like-minded peace-loving women wherever they may be.

This is a time of testing and one to spur us to fresh efforts. We must devote ourselves anew to the task of helping to create a new and better life for humanity. To do this we must be prepared for sacrifice, for the abolition of privilege whether of class or of race or nation. We must face and condemn the injustices which in the past have thwarted the efforts and stunted the lives of men and women. We must combine with all like-minded people of every class, creed and country to work for world wide co-operation and mutual help. In this way we may hope to get rid of the envies, ambitions and rivalries which lead to war and in this way only we can prepare for a new era of peace. For the moment direct action may not be possible but we can get together and prepare. This is the more needful as no one knows when there may be a chance to put forward or to support new policies. We must be on the alert and seize the moment when it comes."

(Signed) B. Duncan Harris, Chairman, Mary Sheepshanks, Agatha Harrison, Vice-Chairmen, K.E. Innes, Hon. Secretary, G.R. McGregor Wood, Hon. Treasurer.

Agreed to print this Statement in the October/November issue of the News Sheet and to ask the Branches what use they could make of it and what number of copies they could use. In the meantime the printer was to be asked to keep the type standing.

23. LETTERS FROM A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR AWAITING HIS APPELLATE TRIBUNAL. The Chairman read letters given her by one of our members which exposed the treatment of many C.O.'s in military camps while awaiting their Court Martial. She had been appointed Court Martial Friend, and had official status for going in and out of military camps at Great Yarmouth and elsewhere. From evidence obtained it was obvious that the Commandants of the Camps were determined by every means in their power, to break the spirit and determination of the C.O.s so that they would give in before being called up for their Court Martial. Undoubtedly the cruel and wicked methods of the Nazi system were being used for this purpose.

The Committee felt strongly that action must be taken to bring before the public the methods used in the treatment of C.O.s - methods that were opposed to the principles of democracy and freedom, for which the country was so desperately fighting in its war against Nazism and Fascism.

After discussion Mrs. Innes was asked to send copies of letters from the C.O. with a covering letter appealing that attention should be drawn to the present plight of many C.O.s to the following:-

Dr. Gilbert Murray, Ellen Wilkinson, Sir William Jowitt, the Archbishop of York, the Manchester Guardian, Lord Leinster (the latter to be approached by Mrs. Kirk).

24. NEWS SHEET. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Innes for taking over the editing of the News Sheet. Mrs. Innes said that as the Office had now settled in St. Mary Bourne it would perhaps be the best plan for her to edit the News Sheet, though she had thought Miss Haughton might have been invited to act as Editor. She would, however, undertake the editorship for the time being.

Items for the December issue were suggested as follows:-

1. Mrs. Rischbieth on the Pan-Pacific Women's Association.
2. Mrs. Grindley on C.O.s - Democracy or - ?
3. Evacuation problems by Mrs. Castle of Reading.

Reported that an old publication of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance was being brought out under the title "The International Women's News" under the management of the Women's Publicity Planning Association of which Mrs. Corbett Ashby was a Vice-Chairman. Agreed to send paragraphs on articles and to propose that the paper be sent to the W.I.L. in exchange for our News Sheet.

25. DEPUTATION TO JAPANESE EMBASSY. Miss Harrison reported that following on the submission to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Office on September 10th, of the memorandum on the Closing of the Burma Road, an important member of the Staff of the Japanese Embassy had received on 2nd October, Mrs. Duncan Harris, Mrs. Rischbieth, Mrs. Corbett Ashby and herself. Starting from the effect on humanitarian and Red Cross work produced by the closing of the Burma Road, they discussed with him the concern of women in many countries for the maintenance of human standards of conduct. A promise was given that the matter should be reported faithfully to the Japanese Ambassador.

26. INDIA. Miss Harrison reported on (1) an acknowledgment from Mrs. Hamid Ali of the Executive Committee's letter of 10th June with regard to the propose deputation of Indian women to Chinese women. The deputation had been postponed on account of ^{recent} developments in China, but it was hoped ^{it} would take place shortly. We would be kept informed of further developments; (2) the recent interview between the Viceroy of India and Mr. Gandhi; (3) the Appeal from Indian women to women of the world to realise the utter futility of trying to settle disputes and grievances by means of war and to throw their whole weight into the cause of peace. This was being printed in the News Sheet; (4) A letter of thanks from Mrs. Hamid Ali on receipt of our message of sympathy on the death of her mother.

27. INTERNEES. Reported that Lord Lytton had replied to our letter of the 10th September concerning refugee women in this country, saying that he did not think that the wives of internees who have been sent overseas have the choice we suggest. None of them will be allowed to go to Canada and Australia and live their ^{wives} in freedom. Their choice is only between sharing their husband's internment overseas or waiting for their return. Our suggestion re a free cable would be brought before the sub-Committee on Welfare in Internment Camps. The Officers noted that our letter had not intended to suggest that the wives had the choice of living in freedom overseas.

Reported also a letter from the Home Office on the above subject, in response to our letter of 10th September. This dealt with the possibility of women being given free cable communication facilities with their husbands before making their decision to join them, or to await their return to this country. The Home Office gave the information that cables to internees in Australia and Canada should be addressed C/o The Prisoners of War Information Bureau, Melbourne, and the Director of Internment Operations, Ottawa; that internees in Australia are permitted to cable; the question of authorising internees in Canada to do so is at present under examination, but in the meantime the Director of Internment Operations, Ottawa, has undertaken to answer any reply-paid telegrams regarding the welfare of internees addressed to him by relatives.

28. W.I.L. CZECH REFUGEES. Mrs. Harris reported that one of our number, Mary Munich, had been killed in a London air raid. Frau Rudinger was working in a cheese making factory about 80 hours a week, but this was a seasonal occupation and would soon come to an end. It was agreed to ask Mrs. Scott Blair if she could do anything in Reading to help Frau Rudinger to obtain other work. Joseph Rudinger was doing exceptionally well at his studies. Chitra Rudinger was just going to St. Hilda's, Oxford. Agreed to send her the Officer's good wishes. Badminton had taken Djina Rotter at nominal fees.

CORRESPONDENCE.

22. Reported an invitation from the National Council for Civil Liberties for the W.I.L. to affiliate to the Council. In view of the fact that recently several Branches had been advised not to affiliate with the Council but rather to co-operate wherever possible, it was agreed that the Executive could not accept the invitation to affiliate. A donation of £1.1.0 with an expression of appreciation of the help given recently by the Council to the Reading Branch, and of their work, was to be sent.

31. Reported (1) that sufficient copies of the National Peace Council Memorandum setting forth the latest activities of organisations affiliated to or associated with the N.P.C. had been obtained for the Executive Committee Members; (2) the Council is printing a leaflet of Mr. Gandhi's speech to the Bombay Conference and the resolution of that Congress on World Disarmament.

31. Peace Pledge Union is printing a leaflet on the blockade. Agreed to ask for copies for circulation to the Officers, and perhaps to members of the Executive.

32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF EXECUTIVE, Wednesday, November 6th, at the Friends Institute, Church Street, Reading, 11 to 3 p.m.

W.I.L. General Account up to September 30th, 1940.

<u>Receipts.</u>	<u>Expenditure.</u>
Bal. on 30th August....119. 2. 7	Salaries.....18. -. -
Subscriptions 4. 6	Wages..... 4. 2. -
Donations..... 10. -	Postage..... 2. 7. 1½
News Sheet.... 16. 2	Insurances..... 11. 9
Literature.... 15. 4½	Office Expenses..... 7.11
2. 6. -½	Travelling Expenses..... 6. 1. 4
	News Sheets..... 4. 2. 3
	35.12. 4½
	Balances:
	Bank.....40. 7. 5
	P.Cash..... 8.11. 5½
	Cash not
	banked..... 17. 4½
	C.P.B.Soc.. 36. -. -
£121. 8. 7½	85.16. 3
	£121. 8. 7½

W.I.L. International House Statement up to October 4th, 1940.

<u>Receipts.</u>	<u>Expenditure.</u>
Balance on Dec. 31st, 1939:	Audit Fee.....2. 2. -
463.11.10	Repairs.....9.13. -
Rents:	Land Tax.....2.16. 3
J.E.Band...62.10.-	General Rate.....76. 8. 1
W.I.L.....75. -.-	Water Rate..... 6.14. -
Brownsmith120. -.-	Rent (3 quarters).....168.15. -
Insurance	266. 8. 4
refund.... 1.14.-	Balances:
	Bank.....102. 9. 1.
£722.15.10	C.P.B.Soc. 353.18. 5
	456. 7. 6
	£722.15.10

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Minutes of Executive Committee, Tuesday, December 10th, 1940, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Institute, Church Street, Reading.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Miss Sheepshanks, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Castle Mrs. Lord. Miss Stansfield from Reading Branch.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs. Grindley, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Kinnish, Miss Dickinson, Miss Baker, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Lloyd Prichard, Miss Harrison, Miss Pye, Mrs. Greenwood.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 6th November were signed, having previously been circulated.

35. BUSINESS ARISING:

(a) Mrs. Innes reported that on receiving information from Miss Bourne as to what action she had already taken to get publicity for the Petition to the Women of the World, she had felt that it was not possible for her to take any further steps.

(b) Internees. Reported The Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison had not acknowledged our letter of 27th November re the internment of refugees. Miss Sheepshanks said she had seen Miss Catherine Marshall recently in Oxford. Miss Marshall was doing considerable work in bringing to the notice of the authorities concerned the importance of the internee problem. Since our last Executive a good deal had been done. The Daily Herald had informed us of the release of Mr. Scheu and of his employment with the firm, Odhams Press Ltd.

(c) Office Arrangements. Mrs. Harris said that the house was now empty. Miss Harrison had been asked to get into touch with the charwoman of the Japen Evangelistic Band as Mrs. Andrews had obtained work elsewhere. Instructions had been given to have two extension lines of the telephone taken away as well as the two gas fires in the basement rooms.

Mrs. Innes reported that Miss Horscroft would be going home for Christmas from December 20th to the 30th.

(d) International House. Reported Miss Brownsmith had now had all the furniture removed from her rooms and had paid £20 for half the Quarter's rent to 25th December, expressing the hope that the Committee would have no objection to her non-payment of the final half-quarter. Since the last Executive the builder had gone over the premises, with Miss Harrison, and had reported that the house was not uninhabitable at any time. A letter from Mrs. Wood was reported and suggestions from Miss Dickinson.

After consideration it was agreed to write to Miss Brownsmith saying that the house has not been uninhabitable and was not so when her friend decided not to move in after arranging to do so, but that, appreciating all her difficulties, the Committee would be prepared to accept half the remaining quarter's rent due on 25th December, i.e. £10, making a total rent of £30 instead of £40.

It was agreed (1) to inform the Holborn Town Clerk of the available accommodation as he might know of people whose houses had been made uninhabitable who might be seeking other premises, explaining that we could not spend money on adapting the basement as a shelter; (2) to advertise in likely places; (3) to ask permission from the Bedford Office to sub-let our own rooms.

With regard to the rates, the pronouncement of the Minister of Health (Mr. Malcolm Macdonald) on the question of Rates on Bombed property, was read. Agreed that we had no claim for asking fore exemption of the whole or part of the rates. Instructions were given for the Rates to be paid.

It was also agreed to send in a provisional claim for War Damage.

(e) Reported Mrs. Innes hoped to attend the Conference at Oxford of the National Peace Council as a representative of the W.I.L. Mrs. Castle and Mrs. Scott thought they might be able to attend. Mrs. Scott would inform Miss Horscroft if she were able. Mrs. Castle would make her own arrangements.

36. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS. Miss Sheepshanks reported that she had seen the Bursar of St. Hilda's College, Oxford, who had said that accommodation would be available from March 21st to 24th, or April 16th to 19th, at a charge of 11/6d per day each person, to include board and lodging, tips to maids and use of Meeting Hall, Common Room and Office. The dates would be reserved until after the December 10th, when formal application should be made to the Bursar.

Agreed (1) to make a provisional booking from April 16th to 18th and to ask for conditions, including the last date for confirmation of such booking; (2) to ask Branches to inform us immediately how many delegates they hoped to send.

Agreed that the subject of the Council should be "The Organisation of the World after the War," including what women specially wish to ask of it. The headings suggested were:-

Regional Post-War Planning, in connection with which Dr. Scott hopes to be able to report on the interesting local experiment in Wales.

National Post-War Planning, on which Miss Colman, B.A., J.P. Lecturer for W.E.A. etc.) should be asked to contribute.

International Post-War Planning, including the British Commonwealth's position in a possible (a) European Federation; (b) World Federation.

Possible speakers mentioned were:-

R.H. Crossman, Sir William Beveridge, Arnold Toynbee, Lord Halifax of Burleigh. Dr. Scott to suggest speaker on Regional Planning, in view of initiative taken in S. Wales.

Agreed to ask Oxford W.I.L. members if they could suggest any speakers on the subjects indicated.

37. DR. CLARK. Reported a letter of thanks from Dr. Clark for the Executive letter of 19th November, accepting her resignation.

38. RESIGNATION OF MRS. THORNYCROFT. Reported a letter dated 19th November from Mrs. Thornycroft resigning from the Committee for similar reasons to Dr. Clark's. Mrs. Innes had replied and had said that she thought the difficulties of the W.I.L. largely arose from the fact that it did not adopt the - in a sense - easier, and strictly logical path of complete non-resistance, but sought ways of overcoming evil and ending the war method by a positive policy. Agreed that no further reply need be sent.

39. FINANCE. The Statement of Accounts was presented and passed. Miss Clugston could audit the accounts for the year as she was now living near Reading.

40. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. Reported Federal Union had replied to our letter of the 7th November saying that it has no definite views as yet on the position of Great Britain and the Empire in any kind of federation covering Europe. In general, it feels that if a federation could be arranged in Western Europe, then Great Britain and the Dominions should come into it.

Agreed to follow up with a letter Miss Sheepshanks' inquiry at The Royal Institute for International Affairs, asking if they would consider publishing a study in their World Order Series on "Britain's place in a possible (a) European Federation, (b) World Federation.

4 Food Blockade. Reported in a letter Miss Dickinson asked if the W.I.L. could not do its share in promoting publicity as to the storing of food-stuffs (a) by writing to the Prime Minister expressing concern in the whole question and our desire for world-wide propaganda on this issue, (b) by writing to the B.B.C. on the same lines and inquiring what has been said in our foreign broadcasts on the subject. Mrs. Duncan Harris reported that she has been in touch with Miss Pye, who is working on the question particularly in connection with France and Spain. It was not thought advisable to take action at the moment.

Miss Sheepshanks referred to the Glasgow protest to the Prime Minister against the starving of children by our blockade, and wondered if a warning ought to be given to Branches in these very difficult times not to write to the Government on subjects on which the Executive has not adopted a policy. Mrs. Innes was asked to send a letter to Branches urging them only to write to the Government on subjects on which the W.I.L. has a settled policy and on which they feel sure there would be agreement of the W.I.L. as a whole.

W.I.L. International policy. Reported a request from the Liverpool Branch for a direct lead on Policy as several members wondered just where politics can enter into the W.I.L. sufficiently to mean Dr. Clark's resignation. Mrs. Innes was asked to explain that the Committee felt that Minutes and recent articles in the News Sheet explained the reason for Dr. Clark's resignation. They felt that a direct lead on policy had been given in Minutes, letters to Branches, News Sheet and, recently, the Officers' Statement.

41. LETTERS TO EDITORS. In response to a suggestion from Mrs. Wood Branch ^{members} were to be urged to watch for opportunities for sending letters to the local press, as individuals.

42. INDIA. Mrs. Harris said that Miss Harrison's engagements made it impossible for her to be present. Miss Harrison feels that the Indian situation is a most critical one. There is too much publicity about India's war effort and too little is being put out on the other issues. This country is getting distorted and unfair publicity as to Indian opinion. Many thousands of Indians are in prison, including Mrs. Pandit, India's first woman Minister. People in Great Britain should be made to understand why these people are ready to go to prison. Miss Pye's letter of 12th November was reported dealing with Mr. Nehru's imprisonment. She hoped that a protest would be made and sent to Governments, but thought it would come best from a non-pacifist Society.

After discussion it was agreed to ask Miss Harrison to draft a letter for prominent women to sign, pressing for the liberation of prisoners and for the adoption of a more generous policy and a fresh start.

It was reported that in response to Miss Harrison's letter to Branches after the November Committee, several had written reporting action. Miss Sheepshanks asked if it would be possible to get speakers on India into Women's Institutes. Agreed to ask Miss Harrison for names.

43. W.I.L.P.F. Mrs. Innes reported a letter from Frau Ragaz, giving news of some of our friends; a letter from Sweden and apostcard from Louise Jaques. A "News from Abroad" paragraph would be in the January News Sheet.

44. CORRESPONDENCE. Reported the British Commonwealth League appealed to the W.I.L. to bring pressure to bear on the British Govt. to induce the War Authorities to put all brothels out of bounds to every man of the Empire Forces; agreed we should press for a campaign among the Forces to educate them in the futility and ugliness of this system, and for an increase in the facilities for social centres for the Forces. Mrs. Innes was asked to write as requested.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: January 27th, 11 a.m. The Institute, Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Reading.

B. Duncan Harris
27.1.41

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

MINUTES of Executive Committee, Wednesday, November 6th, 1940, at The Institute, Friends' Meeting House, Church Street, Reading, 11 a.m. to 2.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. Duncan Harris in the Chair, Mrs. Innes, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Lord, Miss Sheepshanks, Frau Hertzka; Branch representatives: Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Scott Blair and Miss Stansfield from Reading.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were reported from: Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Brayshaw, Mrs. Wood, Miss Baker, Miss Pye, Mrs. Kinnish, Mrs. Grindley, Mrs. Pritchard and Mrs. Longson.

20. A letter was read from Mrs. Huxley resigning from the Committee, with regret, as she is now lecturing in History at the Derby Diocesan Training College and will be unable to attend meetings. She hoped that Leicester Branch might see its way to sending a representative. Mrs. Huxley said she had always found keen mental stimulus and goodwill at the Executive.

21. Dr. Clark's letter of 2nd November resigning from the Committee was also reported. Dr. Clark thought that political work for the objects of the W.I.L. must be based on agreement on such an essential and vital issue as that of resistance to the Nazi aggression. Failing this agreement, she felt we can neither influence our fellow men and women to maintain the ideals of democracy nor take our share in any positive policy for the reconstruction which we hope to see.

After consideration, it was felt that the resignation must be accepted, with regret. Mrs. Innes was asked to express to Dr. Clark the keen sense of the great value of the work she had put into the W.I.L. for so many years; appreciation of the rare gifts she brought to it; the knowledge and accuracy which could always be relied on, and the special application of which she brought to bear in editing the News Sheet, and of her friendship and co-operation in spite of increasing differences over the last months. Members of the Committee were to be asked to add their signature to the letter.

22. MINUTES OF MEETING on 4th September were confirmed, having previously been circulated.

23. BUSINESS ARISING: Petition to the Women of the World. Agreed to ask Miss Bourne, the author of the Petition, if she would allow us to try to get publicity for it, possibly after seeing if more organisations would sign it.

Reported that Mrs. Lord and Mrs. Pritchard have both accepted co-optation to the Executive Committee.

Reported a letter of thanks from the National Council for Civil Liberties for donation of £1.1.0

Reported acknowledgments from the Foreign Office and the Prime Minister of the Memorandum signed by representative women re the Opening of the Burma Road. A report of the deputation to the Japanese Embassy appeared in the October/November News Sheet.

Reported that as the Office had evacuated from Gower Street Miss McGeachey had not been asked to speak at a meeting on the Food Situation in Europe. Miss Pye was watching the position and would let us know if ^{she felt} there were anything we could do.

Reported a Memorandum on Britain's Policy issued by the N.P.C. as a report of a discussion at a Council Meeting on October 17th. A further meeting is to be held later.

Reported also a Statement by four American Relief Organisations on the food problem in Europe.

AGREED to ask for 24 copies of the N.P.C. Memorandum and for 24 copies of the American Statement from the Embassies of Reconciliation.

AGREED also to ask our American Section for their opinion on the subject, and in particular Miss Balch and Miss Baer for their views.

24. INTERNEES. Attention was drawn to the recommendations from the Friendly Aliens' Protection Committee to the Lytton Committee regarding the treatment of internees.

After discussion it AGREED (1) to write to the Chairman of

the Joint Committee of Organisations dealing with internees at Bloomsbury House to ask if the Friendly Aliens' Protection Committee was affiliated to the Joint Committee, and if they had any comments to make on support of the recommendations to the Lytton Committee; (2) as a means of collaboration with these other organisations to write to Mr. Morrison urging a review of the present policy as regards internment and asking for drastic revision of the treatment, especially of women; (3) to ask the Friends Germany Emergency Committee for names of internees who have been sent to Australia, and to ask our Australian Section to interest themselves in the whole question of transported internees, to follow their treatment and be concerned for their welfare.

The continued internment of Mr. Scheu, the former Correspondent of the Daily Herald, and son of our member, Mrs. Scheu Riesz, was also felt to be a concern of the Executive, and it was AGREED that the Daily Herald should be asked what their officials are doing to secure his release and to say that we would like to support any action they are taking, if they care to make suggestions to us on the matter.

25. FINANCE. The appended Statement of Accounts was adopted. The balance on November 5th was £93.3.4½, subscriptions and donations having been received in response to Mrs. Wood's financial appeal, which was sent to Members at the beginning of November.

Office Arrangements. Reported that it would only be necessary now for the W.I.L. to pay 15/- per week for Office expenses instead of the 30/- originally allowed.

AGREED that Mrs. Andrews, the Charwoman, should be asked to clean and dust one day a month at 55 Gower Street, and that two of the three telephones should be cancelled and the two gas fires in the basement removed.

The netting of the W.I.L. windows at Gower Street was left to the discretion of Mrs. Harris and Miss Harrison.

With regard to the audit of accounts for the year, it was felt that it might be advisable to get an auditor nearer, or the Bank to audit them, but before taking any steps, it was AGREED to inform Miss Clugston of the Office removal from London, and to explain the difficulties of getting the books to her, and to ask if she had any suggestions to make.

26. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE. Reported a letter from Miss Brownsmith thanking the Committee for their offer of a quarterly tenancy at a reduced rent, but explaining that all prospect of accepting it was now extinguished as she had heard from Miss Robinson, who was going to take over the top rooms, that when she arrived with her furniture, she found the rooms uninhabitable owing to damage to roof and no water available, and had, therefore, had the furniture taken away again. Miss Brownsmith was, therefore, having all her furniture removed from both floors and telephone, water-heaters, etc. were being collected. In these circumstances, she hoped the Committee would release her from the half-quarter's rent. Mrs. Harris explained that on receiving a copy of Miss Brownsmith's letter she and Miss Ruth Harrison had gone to 55 to examine the reported damage and found no such damage to the roof, and the water was still running. They considered therefore that Miss Brownsmith was responsible for the full amount of rent to quarter day. Before writing to Miss Brownsmith in this sense it was AGREED that Miss Harrison should meet the builder on the premises to get his expert opinion on the condition of the roof.

AGREED to apply to the Holborn Council for a reduction of rates, and to Bedford Estate for a reduction of rent.

27. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL PEACE AIMS CONFERENCE, November 28th. 2 p.m. at Caxton Hall. Miss Harrison and Mrs. Harris hoped to be present. The W.I.L. were to be asked to emphasise:-

(1) the importance of knowing what position Great Britain will hold in any form of federation in Europe;

(2) the insistence of the rights of individuals as human beings regardless of race, class or creed.

AGREED to ask Federal Union for information as to its atti-

tude to the position of Great Britain and the Empire in any kind of federation covering Europe.

Miss Sheepshanks was asked if she could get Chatham House to make a study of the subject.

28. NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL WEEK-END CONFERENCE IN NEW YEAR. Reported the purpose of the Conference will be to give leading members of the various peace and progressive organisations an opportunity for fresh consideration of all the problems involved in the making of a right peace settlement and a desirable social and international order when hostilities cease. Should the Conference be held in Oxford Miss Sheepshanks would hope to attend and Mrs. Innes thought she might be able to get to at least part of it. If, however, Cambridge is chosen, it was AGREED to ask our Branch if it could send representatives.

29. INDIA. Miss Harrison reported on the grave turn events had taken in India and to the likely effect on world opinion and reaction in India of the sentence of Mr. Nehru. She was asked to draft a letter to the Branches on the subject.

30. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS. Reported on correspondence received in response to our appeal for help in connection with the ill-treatment of C.Os. The publicity from a number of quarters of the treatment meted out to them had resulted in the Secretary of State for War ordering a Court of Inquiry to be held to investigate the allegations made.

AGREED that a letter be sent to Mrs. Grindley expressing the Committee's great appreciation of her work in connection with the C.Os in military camps, and the hope that the success of her efforts will prevent a repetition of such brutalities.

31. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, 1941. AGREED to try to arrange these at Oxford during the Easter Vacation. Miss Sheepshanks was asked to find out what dates would be possible at a women's college, if any, two nights board and lodging being required.

32. CO-OPTION TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Mrs. Castle accepted co-option.

33. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Dec. 10th, 11.a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Institute, Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Reading.

B. Bourne & Davis

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR OCTOBER, 1940.		10.XII.40
Balance on Sept. 30th...85.16. 3 Subscriptions 2.17.6 News Sheets and Litera- ture..... 4.4	Salaries.....9. 0. 0 Postage.....5. 8. 1½ N.H.& U.Insurances..... 2.10 Office expenses at St. Mary Bourne..... 7. 3.11 Sun Insurance Workmen's Compensation, etc..... 5.13. 7 Window Cleaning at 55 G.St. 8. 6 Travelling Expenses..... 1.13. 7 Lighting at 55 G. St..... 12. 8 Grant (N.C.L.)..... 1. 1. - Literature..... 1. - Stationery..... 6	31. 5. 8½
3. 1.10	Balances: Bank.....16. 7. 3 Petty Cash 1.13. 5 Cash not banked 16.10½ C.P.B.Soc. 38. " -	
	Loan to Interna- tional House for Repairs..... 14.10	57.12. 4½
£88.18. 1		£88.18. 1