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A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE
WORK OF THE
PEACE COMMITTEE OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN

1916 Peace Committee

FANCETT COLLECTION

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PAMPHLET

Compiled at the request of
ISHBEL, MARCHIONESS OF ABERDEEN AND TEMAIR,
President of the International Council of Women,
for inclusion with the reports
of all the Affiliated National Councils.

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THE WORK OF THE PEACE COMMITTEE
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Compiled at the request of ISHBEL, MARCHIONESS
OF ABERDEEN AND TEMAIR, President of the In-
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Although the Peace Committee of the National Council of Women of Great Britain was only formed shortly before the outbreak of the Great War, that does not mean that prior to this date the Council took no interest in questions affecting the maintenance of peace and friendly international relations. Already in 1898 Mrs. Alfred Booth, in her Presidential Address to the Annual Council, forecast the future ideals and work of a Peace Committee, when, speaking of the Jubilee Celebrations of 1897, she mentioned the display of military power then shown and asked if it were militarism alone which made England great. Begging men and women to have a vision of the time when war should no longer be the accepted method of settling disputes, she forecast the possibility of future disarmament by international agreement.

Again, Mrs. George Cadbury, in her Presidential Address to the N.C.W. in 1906, said:—

“Women must welcome any movement that makes for Peace, and we surely read with joy the high-toned and courageous speech of the Prime Minister (Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman). ‘It is only a few short years since Peace was a wanderer on the face of the earth,’ he said, ‘but a better day is dawning.’ ‘The bonds of mutual understanding and esteem are strengthening between the peoples’. ‘Urge your Governments in the name of humanity to go to the Hague Congress, as we ourselves hope to go, pledged to diminished charges in respect of armaments.’ ‘Entreat them to go there with a belief in the good disposition of nations to one another.’ ”

In June, 1914, just a few months before the outbreak of war it was decided to form a Peace Committee of the N.C.W. (or of the National Union of Women Workers as it was then called): and it was inaugurated immediately following the Quinquennial Conference of the International Council of Women held in Rome during

CITY OF LONDON POLYTECHNIC
FAWCETT COLLECTION

Calcutta House
Old Castle Street
London E1 7NT

May, when Mrs. Cadbury had been elected Convener of the Peace Commission.

The actual Terms of Reference of the new N.C.W. Committee were as follows:—

“To collect information from all sources; to suggest to the various affiliated Societies and Branches of the National Union of Women Workers the inclusion of the questions of Peace and Arbitration in their programme, to supply speakers and literature when required, and to keep in touch with the Standing Committee on Peace and Arbitration of the I.C.W.”

Mrs. George Cadbury (now Dame Elizabeth Cadbury) was elected Convener of this Peace Committee, and has remained in office up to the present day, save for a short interval when her place was taken by Mrs. Creighton. Owing to the fact that for a great part of the time Dame Elizabeth has also acted as Convener of the I.C.W. Peace Committee, she has been able to keep the N.C.W. in close touch with movements in other countries.

The first meeting of the new Committee was not held until October, 1914, after the outbreak of war, and it was then resolved that it should devote its energies “to the preparation of the atmosphere in which a just and lasting peace may be concluded.” To further this object, and in accordance with the general policy of the N.C.W., the Committee co-operated with many other organisations working for the same ideals, and already in 1914 the following Peace Societies had appointed representatives to serve on it:—

National Peace Council.
The Peace Union.
Peace Committee of the Society of Friends.
Jewish Peace Society.
International Arbitration and Peace Association.
Church of England Peace League.
Peace Literature Society.

At an early stage letters were written to the National Councils of the various Nations engaged in the War and to the members of the I.C.W. Peace Committee asking “What can women do to mitigate the horrors of war?”; and two letters, one written by representative women in Germany to the women of Holland, and the other, Holland’s reply to Germany, were circulated.

During the four years of the war the Committee did what it could to promote intelligent opinion, right judgment and an atmosphere of goodwill, and to this end a number of informative talks were given on various subjects. Interest was also taken in the conditions prevailing in the Concentration Camps in England, in which aliens were confined.

In 1915 an open conference was held, when the Rt. Hon. Sir Willoughby H. Dickinson (now Lord Dickinson) gave an address on “The Peace Party in Time of War.”

A resolution was also passed by the Executive that year:—

“That we express our appreciation and sympathy to Lady Aberdeen, who, as President of the I.C.W., is endeavouring in every way that seems to her possible to keep alive international relations with other countries.”

In April, 1915, an International Women’s Peace Congress, convened by neutral nations, was held at the Hague; and it was attended, in spite of many obstacles, by 1,500 representatives from twelve different countries, including Germany. The British Government at the last minute refused to give permits, so that Great Britain would have been unrepresented but for the fact that two English ladies, who happened to be in Holland, were able to attend the Conference and report. Several resolutions were framed and afterwards a number of women visited some of the Capitals of Europe, and presented the views considered by the Conference, to the Governments of the various countries. This Hague Congress was followed with great interest by the N.C.W.

By 1917 the possibility of a League of Nations was being freely discussed, particularly in the United States; the Committee devoted a good deal of time to this project, and speakers were invited to explain its probable constitution. Mrs. Creighton gave an address on “The Objects of a British League of Nations Society,” and Miss Stawell on “The Economic Aspects of the proposed League;” and again, a little later, Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., spoke on “The Machinery of the proposed League of Nations.”

At the Annual Conference in October the following resolution was discussed:—

“That the N.C.W. is of opinion that it is expedient in the interest of mankind that some machinery should be set up after the present war for the purpose of maintaining International Right and general Peace, and approves the proposed formation of a Union of Free Nations for the preservation of a permanent peace.”

123 votes were cast in favour, and 83 against; the requisite two-thirds majority was not obtained, and the resolution, therefore, was not adopted. The discussion, however, did much to rouse people to the possibilities of such a scheme, and in 1918 at the Harrogate Conference, a similar resolution was accepted warmly supporting such a movement towards the maintenance of International Peace.

During the early months of 1919 when the framework of the

League of Nations as outlined by President Wilson was under discussion; Lady Aberdeen, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Fawcett, and, for a short time, Mrs. George Cadbury, remained in Paris to ensure that the appointment of women should be included in the personnel of the machinery necessary for carrying out the provisions of the Covenant.

When the League was fully established and the Assembly meeting in Geneva, the Peace Committee followed its work closely, members carefully studying its various activities and deliberations.

In September that same year a representative Conference was held, to which a hundred leading Women's Organisations were invited to send delegates. The result was the formation of a permanent Council for the Representation of Women on the League of Nations, with Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, then President of the N.C.W. as its Chairman, and Miss Norah Green, General Secretary of the N.C.W. as Secretary. At the first Assembly of the League, Sir Eric Drummond received a Deputation, urging the appointment of women as delegates and members of various Commissions. This Advisory Committee, of which Mrs. Gordon is still Chairman, remains active to this day.

As early as 1920 when a number of International Members met at the I.C.W. Conference in Norway, the future work of the League was discussed, and the hope expressed that the day would soon come when all countries would be included. From then onwards resolutions in support of the League were brought before the British Conferences and forwarded to the Prime Minister and other members of the Government.

That same year the Committee changed its name from "The Peace and Arbitration Committee" to "The Peace and League of Nations Committee."

As the Terms of Reference indicate, the main purposes of the Committee are informative and educational, rather than executive, and the Committee has always endeavoured to keep in touch with other Societies working for the same objects, in the hope of strengthening the volume of public opinion. Through the anxious period since the war the Committee has striven to allay nervous apprehension, and to work for the removal of any irritants which might threaten the peace of the world. The growth of public interest in international peace has been very rapid, and the committee has endeavoured to keep the whole field surveyed as carefully as possible. This work has been greatly helped by the close touch which has always existed with the I.C.W., and with other Peace organisations in Great Britain.

As a strong supporter of the League of Nations the Committee

has worked in close touch with the League of Nations Union, and is represented on its Council. The Union has frequently supplied speakers for the Committee meetings, and in 1923 when the National Council of Ukrainian Women wrote to the Peace Committee complaining of the injustice incident to the handing over of Eastern Galicia to Poland, the Committee were able to bring this letter to the notice of the L.N.U. Later the Convener, Mrs. Cadbury, by the courtesy of the Secretariat at Geneva, was granted facilities for studying the correspondence between the Ukraine and the League, and noting the attention given by the League to the difficulties of Minorities.

Mention must be made of the Conference organised by the I.C.W., with the co-operation of the British N.C., which was held in the Lecture Hall of the Wembley Exhibition during the Summer of 1924. A series of discussions took place on almost every subject which directly affects women, including wider subjects such as the League of Nations, an all-inclusive Peace Treaty and Intellectual Co-operation. The British N.C.W. took their full share in this Conference and the Peace Committee was represented by its Convener's presence at most of the Sessions.

In 1925 Mrs. Cadbury, as Convener of the I.C.W. Peace Committee, presented to the Conference at Washington resolutions previously discussed by the National Committee, such as:—the urging of the ratification of the Optional Clause by the different Governments concerned: the just treatment of Minorities: the encouraging of the right attitude between differing nationalities—namely, as natural friends rather than possible enemies: the general desire for the inclusion of all nations within the League: and the urging of Councils to give definite support to the League's highest ideals.

In 1926 a large meeting was held at Caxton Hall, when Mrs. Swanwick gave an account of the present position of the League, which was then passing through an anxious and critical time in its history.

That same year an *ad hoc* committee, under the Chairmanship of the late Lady Acland, organised the Peacemakers Pilgrimage, in which 28 National Societies co-operated, including the N.C.W. Pilgrimages set out from all parts of the country, finally concentrating on London, and a very successful Mass Meeting was held in Hyde Park, a member of the N.C.W. chairing one of the platforms. The Demonstration was followed by a deputation to Sir Austen Chamberlain, then Foreign Secretary. The N.C.W. had two representatives on the Executive Committee responsible for organising the Pilgrimage, and many of the Branches co-operated locally.

In 1927 the Peace Committee sponsored four resolutions for the consideration of the I.C.W. Meetings held in Geneva that year.

In 1928 the League of National Disarmament Campaign was supported by the National Council.

In May, 1929, in connection with the I.C.W. Meetings being held in London, a Public Meeting was arranged by the N.C.W.'s Peace Committee in the Rudolf Steiner Hall, and presided over by Mrs. George Cadbury. Addresses were given by Admiral Allen, C.B., on "International Peace," by Princess Radziwill, of the L. of N. Information Bureau, Madame Dreyfus Barney, Dr. Gertrud Baumer and other distinguished International Members.

It was in this year also that the Women's Peace Crusade organised an Anglo-American Crusade to urge the signing of the American Pact for the Renunciation of War (afterwards called the Kellogg Pact). The Council decided to co-operate in this Crusade together with 29 other nationally organised Societies. Under its auspices a successful meeting was held in the Queen's Hall, when a resolution was passed unanimously rejoicing in the acceptance of the Treaty, and trusting that all nations would accept it, and that it would facilitate the removal of all causes of conflict.

In 1930 the National Council was largely represented at an I.C.W. Conference at Vienna. A resolution presented by the Peace Committee was adopted by the whole Conference expressing deep satisfaction at the ratification of the Optional Clause by 27 States (this course had been urged upon our own Government several times by our Committee). Amongst other resolutions which received especial notice was the necessity of the training of children in the right educational and social environment to ensure their friendly attitude towards other nationalities.

In connection with the Naval Disarmament Conference which met in London in 1930 the Committee again co-operated with the Women's Peace Crusade, as it had done from time to time since the Queen's Hall Meeting, by taking part in a deputation organised by the Crusade. The deputation represented a number of British, American, French and Japanese Women's Organisations desirous of pressing for a reduction in naval armaments. A draft resolution on this subject was circulated to the Council's branches to act as a basis of discussion.

Mrs. Cadbury was also present on a deputation to Mr. Arthur Henderson in London previous to the International Disarmament Conference of 1932, with a number of other representatives, of Women's Organisations, to assure him of their wholehearted support.

In preparation for the Disarmament Conference, a Committee was formed in Geneva representing 14 Women's International

Organisations. This Committee was responsible for presenting to the first Plenary Session of the Conference a Petition with signatures from all parts of the world. The Petition claimed to represent 45 million people and the rolls of the signatures are housed with the archives of the League in the Secretariat at Geneva where they are to be viewed.

The chief work of the Committee during the last few years has been to urge whole-hearted support of the League and the reduction of armaments by international agreement, and to this end it has passed Urgency Resolutions at almost every annual conference for the last eight years. Resolutions have also been passed pressing for the abolition of aggressive weapons—including the air weapon—and the suppression of the private manufacture of arms, and urging "the setting up of a permanent organisation to exercise a strict supervision over existing armaments, including their manufacture and sale, and to prevent re-armament by any State."

In May, 1934, the N.C.W. organised a Mass Demonstration in support of the Disarmament Conference at the Central Hall, Westminster, the Dowager Lady Nunburnholme presiding. The Prime Minister sent a letter setting forth the Government's policy, and the Speakers included the Viscountess Astor, M.P., Mr. Vernon Bartlett, Miss Horsbrugh (Conservative Member for Dundee), Miss Winifred Kydd (President of the N.C.W. of Canada), Mrs. Corbett Ashby and others. At this meeting the following resolution was passed and forwarded to the members of the Disarmament Conference:—

"This meeting convened by the National Council of Women of Great Britain and supported by a large number of widely representative Societies, recognises that a fresh competition in armaments with the inevitable suggestion of war, can only be averted by the conclusion of an International Disarmament Convention. This meeting, therefore, urges the Government at this critical moment to do all in its power at the forthcoming meeting of the Disarmament Conference to secure agreement to such a Convention."

At the end of 1934, the Council decided to support the National Declaration on the League of Nations and Armaments which is being organised by an *ad hoc* Committee at the present moment. It is hoped to visit every household in the country in an endeavour to obtain answers from all residents over 18 years of age to the five questions set out. Many Branches of the N.C.W. are actively co-operating in this work.

In view of the fact that the I.C.W. now holds its meetings Triennially instead of Quinquennially, thereby much increasing the work in connection with it, it was decided in 1934 that it would be

necessary to have a Committee entirely devoted to the consideration of the subjects which would come up at these Conferences, in addition to the Peace Committee. There are now, therefore, two separate Committees of the British National Council:—"The Sectional Committee on International Affairs and for the Promotion of Peace," and "The International Council of Women Sectional Committee."

A perusal of the record of the work and resolutions of this Peace Committee form an instructive commentary on the growth of interest in international affairs.

SPEAKERS AT THE MEETINGS OF THE PEACE COMMITTEE.

Year	Speaker.	Subject.
1914	Mr. Percy Alden, M.P.	"The Council for the Study of International Relations."
	Miss Marian E. Ellis	"The Fellowship of Reconciliation."
1915	Mr. Alfred Lynn	"Work done in Concentration Camps by the Emergency Relief Committee."
	Miss MacMillan	"International Women's Suffrage Association."
	Dr. Ethel Knight	"Work of Y.W.C.A. for Foreign Girls."
	Dr. Henrietta Thomas (U.S.A.)	"Parties of Women conducted to and from Germany."
	Rt. Hon. Sir Willoughby Dickinson	<i>Open Conference</i> "The Peace Party in Time of War."
	Mr. Arthur Greenwood	"The Historical Background of the War."
1916	Mr. J. A. Hobson	"Conditions of Lasting Peace."
	Mrs. Swanwick	"Work of Women's International League."
	Miss S. Sanger	"International Association for Labour Legislation."
	The Hon. Meriel Talbot	"The Victoria League."
1917	Mrs. Creighton	"Objects of British League of Nations Society."
	Miss Stawell	"Economic Aspects of the proposed League"
1918	Miss Playne	"Peace Movement since 1915."
	Miss Ruth Fry	"The Work of the Friends' War Victims Relief Committee in France, Russia, Holland and Serbia."
	Mr. Richard Lambert, M.P.	"Alsace-Lorraine."
	Dr. Richter	"German Missions."
	Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P.	"Machinery of the Proposed League of Nations."
1919	Dr. C. P. Gooch	"Some Problems of the World Settlement."
	Mr. Carl Heath	"The Uses of International Arbitration."
1921	Sir George Paish	"The Present Financial Crisis."
	Dr. Harold Williams (Russian Correspondent to <i>Daily Chronicle</i>)	"The Hope of Russia."
	Professor Gardner	"The Hope of Russia."
	Mr. Frederick Wheelan	"The League of Nations."
	Madame Rieder	"The Hope of the World."
1922	Miss Bosanquet	"Work of the International Federation of University Women."
	Mr. Wilson Harris (Geneva Correspondent of <i>Daily News</i>)	"League of Nations."

Year	Speaker.	Subject.
1923	Mr. Wilson Harris	"Recent Work and Policy of the League of Nations."
	Mrs. Alys Russell	"The Crosby Hall Scheme—as an International Settlement."
	Mr. John Sharman	"High Schools of Denmark."
	Mrs. Keynes	"The Present Situation in the Ruhr."
	Lady Gladstone	"7th Assembly of League of Nations."
1924	Dr. Caroline Maule	"Laws affecting Women in U.S.A."
1925	Mrs. Carmallt-Jones	"New Zealand N.C.W."
	Mrs. McCallum	"New South Wales N.C.W."
	Mr. Laurence Cadbury	"A Visit to Russia."
1926	Miss Kell	"Oil Pollution of Seas."
	Mrs. Swanwick	"Present Position of League of Nations."
1927	Mrs. Rheinalt-Jones	"Some interacial problems." (S. Africa.)
	Mr. Rennie Smith, M.P.	"National Council for the Prevention of War."
	Frau Dr. Marczali-Gal	"The Present Position of Women in Hungary."
1928	Mr. Wilson Harris	"Recent Work of the League of Nations."
	Lady Cassillis	"Impressions of 3 months tour through America and Canada."
	Mrs. Sen	"Mother India."
	Miss Gertrude Eaton	"International Charter for Prisoners."
	Mr. Alec Wilson	"Kellogg Pact."
1929	Mrs. George Cadbury	"9th Assembly of the League of Nations."
	Mr. Alec Wilson	"Pacts of Paris and Freedom of Seas."
	Mr. Wickham Steed	"Anglo-American Relationships."
1930	Mr. S. H. Baily (London School of Economics)	"Economic Work of the League of Nations."
	Admiral Allen	"Various Hindrances to the Progress of Peace."
	Mr. Davis (late Principal of College of Laws, Madras)	"India—Her place in world affairs."
	Mrs. Puffer Morgan (distinguished U.S.A. journalist)	"Peace Opinion in America."
1931	Mr. Gerald Bailey	"Problems of Disarmament."
	Sir Albion Banerji	"Indian's Point of View of the Round Table Conference."
	Mr. Aldous	"Disarmament."
	Mrs. Sorojini Naidu	"Indian Round Table Conference and the Nationalist Movement in India."
1932	Mr. J. A. Spender	"International Debts and Reparations."
	Miss K. D. Courtney	"Prospects of the Disarmament Conference."
1932	Sir George Paish	"The Lausanne Conference."
	Mr. Gerald Bailey (Secretary of National Peace Council)	"The Lytton Report."
1933	Miss Currey	"Italy's International Outlook."
	Lt.-Col. Sinclair Smallwood	"The Far Eastern Situation with special reference to Manchuria."
	Mr. James Hodson	"International Unemployment."
	Mr. Norman Bentwich	"The Situation in Palestine to-day."
1934	Miss Freda White	"Traffic in Arms."
	Miss Bertha Bracey	"Work of Friends' Emergency Committee among the Pacifists in Germany."
	Miss Freda White	"The Assembly of the League of Nations."
	Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon	"The Forthcoming Meetings of the I.C.W. in Paris."
1935	Mr. Arnold Forster	"Five Questions of the National Ballot."

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT COUNCIL MEETINGS.

1918. Harrogate.

The National Council of Women desires heartily to support the leading statesmen of all nations in the efforts they propose to make during the peace negotiations to establish a League of Nations for the prevention of war and for the settlement of international disputes and differences.

1919. Leicester.

Recognising the high purposes and supreme promise of the League of Nations and keenly desirous that its aims should be achieved through the full and frank co-operation of men and women, the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, met in annual conference in the City of Leicester, hereby resolves to press for the inclusion of women on the Commissions that may be established under the control of the League, and to urge that one of the three representatives to be appointed by the British Government to serve on the Assembly of Delegates shall be a woman.

The National Council of Women further urges that one of the two representatives to be appointed by the British Government to attend the Labour Conference at Washington shall be a woman.

1920. Bristol.

(a) That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland urges upon the British Government and the British Delegation to the First Assembly of the League of Nations the great importance of extending the membership of the League as soon as possible to all self-governing States.

(b) Seeing that all positions within the League of Nations or in connection with it, are proclaimed open to women equally with men and that the whole-hearted co-operation of men and women is required in international work, the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland urges all States-Members of the League:

- (1) to send forward a woman as one of the three delegates to the First Assembly of the League, 1920.
- (2) to select suitable women as well as men to assist the delegates in the advisory and consultative capacities designated under the League;
- (3) to recommend to the First Assembly that in the case of the International Health Organisations to be established under the League, and in any other Commissions or Organisations formed to deal with the concerns of men and women

and the well-being of the family, the States-Members shall appoint at least two delegates, one of whom shall be a woman.

1921. Sheffield.

(a) That the National Council of Women strongly urges His Majesty's Government to do everything in its power to achieve a reduction of armaments throughout the world, in the conviction that great armies and navies and other weapons of warfare are a direct menace to the peace of the world, and that their upkeep imposes an unwarrantable and intolerable burden upon the taxpayer.

(b) That the National Council of Women urges British Women to work with renewed enthusiasm for the peaceful ideals of the League of Nations, and welcomes all efforts for the fulfilment of these ideals by whomsoever proposed.

1922. Cambridge.

That the National Council of Women continues an active propaganda that shall keep before the people a broad outlook over the complicated problems in the existing world relations, shall explain the various aspects as affecting its own and other countries, and shall emphasise the all-important power of public opinion and the responsibility of the people themselves for the open conduct of international affairs and the maintenance of a peace policy by its Government.

Also:—That this Council, believing that the Settlement of the Near East is a matter of world-wide importance, welcomes the decision of the Allied Governments that the neutrality of the Straits shall be under the guardianship of the League of Nations, and calls upon the British Government to do all that is possible to secure that the machinery of the League is utilised in the settlement of the present dispute.

Also:—That the National Council of Women urges on the Government and Education Authorities the need for an organised system of teaching, whereby during the years of school attendance the young citizens may acquire a knowledge of facts—geographical, economic and social—and an attitude of mind that shall enable them to realise the dependence of nations one upon another, and the vital necessity of the maintenance of peaceful relations between nations for the future well-being and prosperity of the world.

1927. Bournemouth.

Convinced that all progress in social reform depends on the maintenance of peace, and realising that under existing conditions any outbreak of war may lead to a general war; the National Council of Women desires to see effect given to the principles of Disarma-

ment, Security and Arbitration already accepted by all States Members of the League of Nations.

To that end the Council would impress upon its members the supreme importance of an active and well-informed public opinion to secure the success of the forthcoming World Conference on Disarmament, and urges H.M. Government, in common with all States Members of the League, and in conformity with the decisions of the Eighth Assembly.

- (a) To make every effort to reconcile points of divergence, so that a draft treaty of disarmament may be unanimously adopted;
- (b) To organise and apportion their responsibilities under the Covenant, so as to enable the League of Nations to guarantee security as the guardian of the common peace; and
- (c) To enter forthwith into such systematic arbitration agreements as may be possible.

1928. York.

Believing that the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy in favour of the pacific Settlement of international disputes is an indispensable condition of all social progress, and believing that such renunciation is only possible if adequate alternative machinery is provided and used, the National Council of Women in Annual Council assembled urges H.M. Government to make clear to the world that Great Britain refuses to use war or the threat of war in international negotiations:

- (a) By signing the Optional Clause of Art. 36 of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice and thus undertaking to refer all international disputes of a legal character to a competent legal tribunal;
- (b) By entering into Treaties of Arbitration providing for the peaceful settlement of all other disputes;
- (c) By taking the lead in bringing before the League of Nations all disputes to which it is a party and which are not likely to be settled without difficulty and delay by usual methods of diplomacy.
- (d) By doing all in its power to secure a general reduction of armaments and pressing for the speedy summoning of the International Disarmament Conference.

1929. Manchester.

That the National Council of Women, believing that the entry into force of the Pact for the Renunciation of War should be supplemented by the creation of effective machinery for the settlement of all disputes that may arise between its signatories:

- (1) Expresses its deep satisfaction at the signature by His Majesty's Government of the Optional Clause of the Statutes of the Permanent Court of International Justice;

- (2) Welcomes the proposal to amend the League of Nations' Covenant, so as to pledge its signatories to the same complete renunciation of war as the Paris Pact;

- (3) Urges the Government to complete its examination of the General Act drafted by the ninth Assembly of the League of Nations, so that a way may be found at the earliest possible moment to ensure that all disputes between nations shall be submitted to arbitration, if not settled by conciliation or by reference to the Permanent Court;

- (4) Regards with deep satisfaction the results of the conversation relating to naval reduction which have recently taken place between Great Britain and the United States of America, in the removal of the obstacles in previous Conferences arising from Anglo-American disagreement; and expresses the earnest hope that the forthcoming Five Power Naval Conference may produce a large decrease in the naval equipment of the world, and that the British Government will further use all its efforts at Geneva to see that this is supplemented by equally satisfactory agreements on the Limitations of the Land and Air Armaments of all Nations.

1930. Portsmouth.

That the National Council of Women urge His Majesty's Government to make every effort to ensure the completion of the work of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission at its forthcoming meetings in November, so as to enable the proposed World Disarmament Conference to be held at the earliest practicable moment.

1931. Aberdeen.

The National Council of Women, realising that all-round reduction of armaments is an essential condition of permanent peace, and that the future of international co-operation through the League of Nations largely depends upon the success of the first World Disarmament Conference convened for February, 1932, urges that a concentrated national effort be made to ensure that the Conference shall result in immediate reductions of the Army, Navy and Air Forces of the World, and that the expenditure on armaments in those countries upon whom reductions were not imposed by the Peace Treaties shall be substantially reduced, and trusts that His Majesty's Government will spare no effort to attain this result.

1932. Norwich.

That whilst expressing its appreciation of the efforts made by the British Government towards the limitation of armaments and in the Cause of Peace, the National Council of Women profoundly regrets that the resolution summarising the measures of agreement reached in the first period of the Disarmament Conference and adopted by it on July 22nd, does not envisage adequate decisions

on major issues and does not provide for that large and immediate reduction in world armaments which was foreshadowed in President Hoover's proposals and which represents the insistent demand of the peoples of the world.

It believes that the continued failure to fulfil the pledges given to the nations disarmed under the Peace Treaties of 1919 is creating a situation of grave menace, both to peace and to economic recovery, and strongly urges the British Government to accept substantially the United States' proposal and to announce its support for (a) the general abolition of the weapons forbidden to four countries under the Peace Treaties (military aircraft, submarines, warships above certain tonnages, tanks and heavy guns, preparation for chemical war); (b) comprehensive limitation and reduction of other armaments and expenditure thereon; and (c) the suppression of the private manufacture of arms.

1933. Torquay.

This meeting of the National Council of Women expresses its earnest desire for the successful issue of the World Disarmament Conference and the conclusion of a Convention, recognising equality of status and embodying at least the following points:

- (1) An immediate beginning in reduction of armaments.
- (2) The abolition within a specified period of 'aggressive' weapons, including the air weapon.
- (3) Limitation of expenditure.
- (4) A permanent organisation to exercise a strict supervision of existing armaments, including their manufacture and sale and to prevent re-armament by any State.

1934. Edinburgh.

The National Council of Women urges the Government to introduce measures which will take the manufacture and sale of armaments out of private hands and place them under national control.

Also:—The National Council of Women is convinced:

- (a) That only by maintaining and strengthening the collective system based on the Covenant of the League of Nations and the Briand-Kellogg Pact can war be averted and civilisation saved, and
- (b) That a general limitation of armaments by international agreement is absolutely essential to peace and economic recovery. It welcomes the action of the British Government in continuing to give wholehearted support to the League and urges it to persist in every endeavour to reach an International agreement, limiting the armaments of all nations.

Further,

(c) The Council supports the following resolution passed by the International Council of Women in Paris: 'which welcomes the proposals for the drastic control of the manufacture and trade in arms recently adopted by the Committee for the Regulation of the Trade in and Manufacture of Arms and implements of War of the Disarmament Conference.'

It urges the acceptance of these proposals by H.M. Government so that they may be included in a General Disarmament Convention; the conclusion of which is indispensable, if the race in armaments is to be stopped.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

1926 That the National Council of Women of Great Britain deplors the failure of the League of Nations to carry through successfully at Geneva the business relating to the admission of Germany to the League, and urges His Majesty's Government to do its utmost to ensure that, at the next Session in September, the matter shall be decided by the open and constitutional methods provided under the Covenant.

1932 **April.** Noting with satisfaction that the discussions at the Disarmament Conference have shown considerable agreement on the proposed abolition of the primarily "aggressive" weapons, the National Council of Women urges the British Government to associate itself explicitly with this proposal, and to add to its announced policy for the abolition of mobile land guns, large tanks, and submarines, its readiness to support also the general abolition of the big battleships and of naval and military bombing aircraft.

1933 That the National Council of Women has noted with dismay that agreement at Geneva in favour of the complete prohibition of bombing from the air, is being obstructed by the British Government's desire to retain 'bombing for police purposes in certain outlying regions.' It believes that, whatever may be the advantages of the use of this weapon in such circumstances, its retention should not be permitted to prejudice an agreement in favour of unqualified prohibition of the act of bombing. It strongly urges the Government to reconsider its policy and to accept the political and economic consequences of the abandonment of this instrument.

PAMPHLET