During the 1920s the Woman Worker joined a number of new Canadian peace and disarmament groups in voicing a commitment to world peace. Drawing inspiration and ideas from socialist, and to a lesser extent feminist, traditions, the Women's Labor Leagues promoted a distinctive analysis of peace and war that was influential in shaping the politics of later generations of socialist feminists.

The pacifist tradition in Canada extends back to the 19th century and includes individuals and organizations with widely divergent viewpoints. Women's most visible peace work in the pre-war years was undertaken in the context of the middle-class women's movement, where pacifism was often promoted hand-in-hand with the demand for the vote and a host of other social reforms. Prominent Canadian suffragists like Nellie McClung assumed that once women won the right to vote they would use it to clean up the corruption and the warfare that men had historically created. Men and women were fundamentally different, feminists argued, usually linking those differences to a combination of biology and socialization. As mothers who gave life and nurtured children (and husbands), women were believed to be "natural" peacemakers.

If pacifism was not an exceptional stance in the decades before World War I, to call oneself a pacifist in the midst of the patriotic fervour of war was risky business. Anti-war activists in Canada, as elsewhere, experienced harassment, intimidation, and threats of physical violence from intolerant pro-war zealots. In addition, Canadian governments and law enforcers anxious to stifle dissent shut down radical and pacifist presses, raided the offices of left-wing organizations, and jailed many socialists and pacifists, especially non-British immigrants, under the charge of sedition.
Many prominent feminists in North America and Europe, including Canada's Nellie McClung, became leaders in the movement for war preparedness, often taking the "maternal" ideology of their former pacifism and re-directing it to justify women's support for war. Labour's initial opposition to the war was undermined as workers enlisted in greater numbers. Even the established socialist parties were seriously divided by the war. Opposition to conscription generated more unity in left and labour circles, despite the Trades and Labour Congress's eventual support for the government's conscription bill.

A small minority of Canadian women held strong to their pacifist principles during World War I, and most still held some "maternalist" ideas about women's special connection to peace, despite the highly visible female role in war support activities. But wartime feminist pacifists also made a variety of socialist or social democratic economic critiques of war as a capitalist and imperialist venture. One concrete result of their efforts was the establishment in 1915 of the first all women's peace group in Canada, the Canadian Women's Peace Party, later known as the Canadian branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).

After the war, pacifism, and the new talk of internationalism among peace activists, still raised hackles for several years. The peace movement would regain something of its pre-war stature and a new respectability, but not until the mid-1920s when eyes were lifted from the immediate demands of personal recovery and economic, social, and political reconstruction. The peace movement, however, lost the radical edge it had developed during the war. Socialists and feminists still offered their economic and gender analyses, but they were overshadowed in the 1920s and 1930s by new coalitions of liberal and conservative men and women focused on achieving peace and disarmament through new post-war institutional channels such as the League of Nations. As in the pre-war years, women were prominent contributors defining a new role for Canada in international peace politics through such groups as the WILPF, the National Council of Women of Canada, the League of Nations Society, and the United Church.

The Communist Women's Labor Leagues were set apart ideologically from this new coalition and they had no patience with the new star on the international block, the League of Nations. The articles reprinted here on peace and war from the Woman Worker reveal an analysis indebted first and foremost to a Marxist and Leninist critique of imperialism. Warfare had not ended with the armistice; it had merely taken new forms as the "new master class" trampled on
The Woman Worker, 1926-1929

workers at home and seized upon new imperialist ventures abroad. American and European aggression in China was particularly disturbing to Communists and the WLL paper continually applauded the fight of millions of workers and peasants for independence in the 1925-27 Chinese revolution. The League of Nations was accused of being a "League of favoured nations" that turned a blind eye to imperialist encroachments. It was established as a ploy of the rulers intended to distract workers everywhere from their fight for freedom from wage slavery. The Woman Worker demanded an end to the economic root of all conflict: the capitalist drive for profit. Only when socialism replaced capitalism, and international cooperation replaced nationalism, was peace possible. In the meantime, WLLers put their faith in "fighting" for peace through the organization and resistance of working class men and women who bore the fullest brunt of capitalist wars. State-initiated violence was condemned, but violence used by workers to resist capitalist oppression and pursue the revolutionary dream was never ruled out as a necessary part of revolutionary struggle. After all, the Russian Revolution, a tremendous inspiration to Communists everywhere, had been accomplished through violent class conflict. The absolute pacifism and non-resistance advocated by some in the peace movement found no sympathy among Communist women.

If these views in many ways isolated the WLLs from the mainstream peace workers, Communist directives for a united front strategy encouraged some attempts at forging alliances during much of the 1920s. There was some basis for unity, especially with some of the more progressive left-leaning women peace activists. Pacifist groups since the pre-war years had opposed the militarization of children in the schools through cadet training and the glorification of war in the curriculum. The WLLs stood solidly behind this de-militarization campaign and gave it high visibility from the start. The first full issue of the paper featured several slams to the IODE (especially for their donation of military pictures to schools), and a contribution by Agnes Macphail explaining the extent of the military presence in the schools and appealing to women to tell the Department of National Defence to get out of their children's schools. (See reprint of July/August 1926 issue.) Macphail's call to women as mothers, "Where are you mothers? This is your great task," was sometimes echoed by Communist women and their sympathizers. Indeed, the criticism of "parents" for indifference was aimed most pointedly at women, and the paper featured a long "Open Letter" to working-class mothers, written by Custance on behalf of the Canadian Federation of WLLs, and urging women to
oppose cadet training, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Guides, and to provide children at home with “the correct viewpoint on War.” The mothers in the WLL imagery, however, were class-conscious militant working-class mothers, not the generic and “naturally pacifist” mothers of the pre-war maternal liberal feminist rhetoric.

By the late 1920s the Canadian Communist Party and its WLLs were affected by changes taking place in Russian communism. As Stalin took power in 1928 the united front approach was discredited and the WLLs, already under suspicion for their housewife composition and for cozying up to bourgeois pacifists, were pressured to take a harder line. Although Canadian Party officials complained that the WLLs were not fully embracing the changed politics, the paper did increasingly adopt a more critical assessment of feminist pacifists. In 1927, for example, the paper printed approvingly parts of the Toronto WILPF pamphlet on cadet training; it had worked cooperatively with that organization on more than one occasion. But one year later the editor ripped into the American founder of the WILPF, Jane Addams, criticizing her belief in human nature and her calls for peace as naive at best and dangerously supportive of capitalism at worst. In the spring of 1929 the Canadian feminist pacifist Alice Chown was subjected to similar criticism for her “prayers and good will bunk,” after Chown spoke at a meeting of the WLL in Toronto. Distancing the Leagues from even the label “pacifist” the Federation’s “Open Letter” to mothers warned working class women against the increasing popularity of pacifists, those “Non-Resisters” and supporters of the League of Nations. Macphail herself, however, seems to have escaped their fire, suggesting perhaps that her political value as an ally was still recognized.

A good example of the shift taken by the WLLs as communism entered its “third period” occurred in Toronto in the winter of 1928-29. The Toronto WLL had been represented at a reformist peace meeting organized by the Women’s Church Committee of the League of Nations in November 1928, but early in the new year they had withdrawn their involvement. Apparently feeling the need to justify their actions to readers and respond to critics who thought they could have stayed for some of the educational work, Custance explained they had learned that “there is a big difference between wishing for Peace and getting Peace; wishing—only requires feeling; getting—requires action.” An important part of the action missing in this and other peace meetings was a commitment to fighting imperialism, and of particular concern among Communists by 1929 was a belief that the imperialist nations were actively conspiring in war plans against Russia. Consequently, more attention was given in
the paper to shoring up support for a beleaguered Soviet Union. (See "Women and the Next War" and "Ourselves and the War Danger.")

Through the pages of the Woman Worker, the Women's Labor Leagues promoted an analysis of war and peace that drew primarily upon the pre-war socialist critique of war as driven by the forces of capitalism and imperialism. Feminist influences played a role in shaping some of the appeal to women as mothers, but contributors to the paper never lost sight of their belief that women's perspectives were defined more by their class than their gender. While allying themselves selectively with pacifists throughout much of the 1920s, especially on educational issues such as the militarization of schools, total non-violence was seen as an untenable position for the working class. Absolute pacifism was associated by the end of the decade rather dismissively with the lofty idealism of middle-class pacifist reformers and feminists who were by then lumped together as empty talkers and pawns of big finance. The class-first analysis of the WLLs provided a much needed corrective to the mainstream women's peace movement in the 1920s, with its wide-eyed hope for the League of Nations and its historical blindness to women's potential as aggressors. But the narrowness of their class consciousness also limited their ability to develop a more complex understanding of war as a phenomenon that is structured by class, race, and gender interests.

Further Reading:

- Barbara Roberts, "Women's Peace Activism in Canada," in Linda Kealey and Joan Sangster, eds., Beyond the Vote: Canadian Women and Politics (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1989), 276-308.


NOVEMBER 11th, Armistice Day, will recall the four years of the Great War. It will recall the anguish and suffering those four years brought to many millions of people. It will recall promises made and broken. It will recall the dreams that many had of happy families, home fires, and the gratitude of a grateful country to those who sacrificed their lives to make "the world safe for democracy."

Casting our minds back over the years which have followed Armistice Day, we are forced to the conclusion that this day did not usher in PEACE; instead, it was the day on which was declared the collapse of the war conducted by the militarists.

But War did not cease with the signing of the Armistice. The only thing that happened was a change in the methods of warfare. What machine guns, bombs, poison gas, and trained soldiers did not succeed in doing, financial trickery, cunning, and starvation accomplished. Victors and Vanquished alike have gone down, and a newer master class force has come out on top. The American Dollar is the new god and the new force.

Since Armistice Day thousands have lost their lives. The victims have been workers. These were bound to feel the pinch of the new warfare, even as they were made the food for the guns. Those who protested against starvation were shot in cold blood. Those who endured starvation became its victims. To-day, there is mingled with the hatred of nations towards each other, that of the more bitter hatred of the classes within the nations. The struggle of the miners in Great Britain is proving how bitter this hatred can become. Armistice could be arranged between rival commercial nations, but no truce is allowed the miners, who ask that their wages shall not be decreased. And these miners are the men who fought to protect the soil of the landowners from which they draw their royalties from the coal the miners dig.

We ask for Peace, but upon what does Peace depend? Surely it is the end of conflicts. The conflicts which make for WAR are those connected with acquiring wealth. These conflicts must end before we can expect war to end.

The horrors of the GREAT "MILITARY" WAR were not terrible enough to frighten people from another. Greater and more fearful preparations are being made for the next war. This preparation is going on under the very nose of the League of Nations, which body claims it is striving to bring peace to the world through disarmament. At the same time this League of Nations wipes its hands off China. It refuses to interfere in the civil war go-
ing on in that country—a war whose real, but hidden aggressors, are the imperialists of Britain, France, United States and Japan.

Many and various ways are suggested for the ending of WAR, but there is one force alone capable of dealing with WAR—and that force is the WORKERS OF ALL LANDS. This force alone can end the conflicts over wealth-getting for the sake of profits; first, by refusing to fight for master class interests; second, by substituting the system of co-operation for the present system of competition. This road will not be an easy road, but it is the only road to take if we are really sincere in wanting peace.

WAR CLOUDS

[Editorial]
February 1927, pp. 2-3.

HAS WAR been declared on China? While no formal notice has been given to this effect it would seem that such is the case. Else why send warships, regiments of soldiers? Why should some of the newspapers do all in their power to inflame the minds of their readers against China? If war machinery is being sent by Great Britain to China to protect the British residents in China, why should not China send warships to protect Chinese residents, let us say in Canada, where many Chinese reside, if war machinery is a sign of peace?

Those who have followed events in China know well enough that the British Government has allowed all kinds of acts which were intended to provoke the Chinese people. Workers and students have been shot down, the city of Wanshien bombarded for three hours killing over 500 civilian Chinese, wounding 1,000, destroying nearly 2,000 houses, and damaging property to the extent of ten million dollars. Many more things could be cited.

China is no longer a backward country. She is no longer self-contained. She wants to enter into world affairs as an equal and not a subject nation. For one hundred years after a British robber trading company broke through her walls she has been the prey of Western exploiters. Now, she refuses to sign unfair treaties which would sell her people into slavery, and place her natural wealth in the control of foreign hands. THIS IS THE REASON FOR THE WAR ON CHINA. Ships, guns, and armies are for the purpose of forcing concessions and trading privileges from the Chinese.

China has pleaded for her independence. Now she is prepared to fight for it. The Nationalist Government of China desires to deal fairly with those who will trade with her, but it must be on equal terms, and not as a slave colony. The new national spirit of China refuses to be degraded. It will not give
in to the greed of financial interests of Great Britain or any other country. It will not stand for Imperialism, the power of great nations.

Working women more than any others know the misery that war brings. We hold out our hands in sisterly greetings to our sisters in China. We will aid them to the best of our ability. At all times and in all places we will demand "Hands off China."

WE CAN HAVE NO FAITH IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

By Mrs. Burt, President Toronto Women’s Labor League.

March 1927, p. 9.

Is it not strange that some people have an unquestioning faith in the League of Nations? Stranger still is the fact that a great number of people, even those who call themselves good socialists, should have faith in the state of the capitalists and its powers of coercion?

From what angle shall we discuss this monster that has stood quietly by and allowed Europe to drift into further economic chaos and war?

Ostensibly the League was formed to make war impossible, or at least that is what the founders pretended, and yet we have the glaring inconsistency of allowing each nation to build or make armaments. Further, they believed in national sovereignty. That alone doomed or damned the League. A society of supreme nations is as impossible as a society of supreme individuals if we wish peace in the world. We wish our humbugging, hypocritical diplomats and statesmen would cease trying to make us believe we can have peace based on their nationalist principle.

Some time ago one of the delegates to the League told the truth when he said: "National sovereignty means war." Fifty-one governments have joined themselves together with the avowed object of abolishing war, and apparently they have agreed not to touch or deal with the causes of war. Do they presume to tell us that the causes of war are ETERNAL? The causes of all wars are economic. Thus the founders of the League (if they are sincere) should have aimed at the prohibition of economic frontiers.

Therefore let us have no illusions about what the League can do. Let us understand instead that it is a dangerous organization, where scheming politicians vie with each other at the game of international intrigue.

The so-called League of Nations is not a League of Nations, it is only a League of favored Nations. One thing is certain, they never intended it to be a League of Nations in the fullest sense, or they would have allowed every nation to join it. Some one may ask: Is it possible to reform the League of
Nations? No, because article 26 of the covenant makes any amendment in practice impossible. Besides, how could those tricky, anaemic old-world diplomats do anything? The only thing accomplished by the League is to expose to public gaze the depravity and bankruptcy of the old traditional diplomatic abuses.

What has the League of Nations done for China? China is part of the problem of the Far East and cannot be studied in isolation. The foreign powers control so much of China that it is impossible for the Chinese to free themselves except by revolting against their oppressors. It is said by competent writers that if China controlled her customs, her treaty ports, had financial control of her railways and mines that China could soon be master of her own house.

The League of Nations is bankrupt. International Unity of the Workers is what is wanted to end misery and bring World Peace.

WORKING WOMEN! FIGHT THE WAR MENACE

[Editorial]
July/August 1927, pp. 1-2.

ON August 4th, 1914, the Great War broke out. In four years over ten millions of men lost their lives and millions are living who are disabled for life. The war was a trade war, but it was called the war to “Save Democracy” and the “War to End War.”

It is now 1927 and the germs of war are more vicious and more widespread than in 1914.

In 1914 Germany and the Kaiser were the foes. In 1927 war forces are being organized for action against the United Socialist Soviet Republics.

The promises made by those in authority during the Great War fell flat as we all know. The workers everywhere suffered the most, women were deprived of their husbands and sons, children of their fathers. Breadwinners were slaughtered, while the war-lords and the bankers received the gains.

The fearful sufferings of the workers and peasants of Russia during the first two years of the war, sufferings caused by the loss of seven millions of men, caused them to make the first break in the war, they refused to be used simply as cannon fodder. Later, they showed the rest of the workers of the world how “Real Peace” and “True Freedom” for those most enslaved could be obtained. They took power into their own hands. For this act the war-lords and banking profiteers have never forgiven the workers and peasants of Russia. They see in this act their own power over the wage-workers, the wage slaves they exploit, threatened. This is why they have declared that the U.S.S.R. is the world menace of to-day.
We know, however, that the U.S.S.R. has proved itself, and is still proving itself, the great peace force of the world. It has successfully resisted being drawn into wars in spite of the insults and outrages that have been inflicted on those who represented its government.

We must know, too, that British, French, Japanese, and United States troops are now in China not only to fight the Chinese Freedom Movement, but to gain a ground in the East from which to attack the U.S.S.R. Plans have been laid already by these powers for attack in the West. The governments of Poland, Bulgaria, and Roumania are only the tools of the great powers for this end.

So the plan of war is prepared already by the war makers. They have now one task left, that is to prepare the minds of the workers for this new world war in which the power of the workers and peasants of the U.S.S.R. is to be crushed.

But the workers must not allow themselves to fall into the trap of the war makers.

We of the working class must not allow ourselves to be led by the nose by the profiteers who use our class for their own ends, then, when that end is served, cast us on one side like dogs.

We, as workers, have no quarrel with the workers and peasants of the U.S.S.R., they are our brothers—the working women and the farm women are our sisters—they feel as we feel—they suffer as we suffer. They call to the workers and farmers everywhere—Help us to maintain Peace.

It is our duty to reply—We will combat the War Cry by demanding Peace. We have nothing to gain by aiding the war makers. We will fight war by refusing to aid the war makers. We have everything to gain by uniting for Peace.

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**OUR BOYS FOR “SOLDIERS”**

October 1927, pp. 11-12.

It is well to know that Dr. Hardy, the secretary of the Canadian Teachers’ Federation, is “whole-heartedly for cadet training.” To what extent he will try to influence the few teachers in Canada who do not approve the training remains to be seen.

It is evident that our public schools, the schools to which the workers’ children are sent, are becoming more and more the instruments through which the militaristic spirit is being developed.

So far the parents seem to be quite indifferent to this. The parents are leaving their children’s education entirely to outside forces. Presently they will receive the “shock of their lives.” They will wake up to find a war upon
them. The shock will not be overwhelming until they find that their sons are called to the colors. Then these good fathers and mothers will begin to squirm and fret, to plead and cry that their sons should be excused from military duties. Of course the war should be fought, but their sons, oh, no! Never mind the sons of other parents! And, of course, they will make promises to give other service for the good of the country. Who can recall the “pleadings” of parents before the military tribunals during the last war?

The school boys of to-day will be the conscripts of to-morrow; just a few years separates the school boy from his youth, and now is the time to think of these things. And, especially now, when war clouds are hanging heavily over the world. Now is the time for every parent to ask himself or herself. “Do I want my boy to be a soldier?” and “Am I doing what is right to my boy by letting him be trained for WAR?”

If the answers are “No,” then now is the time to act. Start right away by telling your boy the purpose of the Cadets. Then you must protest against your boy being forced into the Cadet Corps. Then you must lend your aid to fight against Cadet Training during school hours. And, to make your protest more effective, you should join the Home and School Association of your district, and there use your influence to combat the supporters of War and Cadet Training. Start now, don’t wait and then cry later after the milk has been spilt.

—A Taxpayer.

MY COUNTRY
By Robert Whitaker.

December 1927, p. 8.

My country is the world; I count
   No son of man my foe,
Whether the warm life-currents mount
   And mantle brows like snow
Or red or yellow, brown or black,
The face that into mine looks back.

My birthplace is no spot apart,
   I claim no town nor State;
Love hath a shrine in every heart,
   And whereso’er men mate
To do the right and say the truth,
Love evermore renews her youth.
My party is all human-kind,
My platform brotherhood;
I count all men of honest mind
Who work for human good,
And for the hope that gleams afar,
My comrades in this holy war.

My heroes are the great and good
Of every age and clime,
Too often mocked, misunderstood,
And murdered in their time,
But spite of ignorance and hate
Known and exalted soon or late.

My country is the world; I scorn
No lesser love than mine,
But calmly wait that happy morn
When all shall own this sign,
And love of country as of clan,
Shall yield to world-wide love of man.

THIS WOULD KILL SENATOR BEAUBIEN

April 1928, p. 5.

We are trying to get a picture for the cover of The Woman Worker. Our regular readers know this, of course.

Recently we received two fine drawings, one of which will, no doubt, be chosen.

I cannot begin to imagine what poor old Senator Beaubien would say were he to see one of the drawings. For sure he would have forty fits. He is nearly beside himself now over what he calls the “menace of communism in the schools.” But this drawing would finish him.

The drawing shows a working woman dressed as a soldier—with gun in hand—ready for action.

Of course, our Rebel Woman sent it to us, just to show us how she feels about things and what she is ready for apparently.

But since we are not allowed to send pictures which depict violence through the mail, we shall be compelled to keep the picture in storage for the time being. It is far too good to be destroyed.
It should be stated, though, that while pictures depicting violence cannot be sent through His Majesty's Mail Service, our children are allowed to gaze every day at the horrible war pictures which hang on the walls of the school rooms. However, we know it is a question of circumstances altering cases.

THE WAR DANGER

An Open Letter Addressed to Working-class Mothers.

[Editorial]
July/August 1928, pp. 2-5.

WORKING-CLASS MOTHERS:

Are we merely bringing children into the world to be slaughtered when they grow older in wars that are waged in the interests of the privileged few? Or—

Are we going to prepare the children we bring into the world to struggle against such wars and to struggle in the interests of their class and for the Freedom and Peace which will come out of this struggle? It is the one thing or the other, and it is for you, working-class mothers, to decide.

The Last War

The months of July and August recall to many of us the events which led to the World War of 1914-18.

We can recall the loud cry that was made when an Austrian prince was killed in Serbia; then followed quickly the declaration of war by the Allies and Central Powers against each other; then the excitement of the call to arms of fighting men; then the recruiting of new fighters; then the campaigns in the interests of Democracy, and so on.

The years that have followed the World War have been years of enlightenment. We have had time to read, to learn, to think.

We have learned that the killing of an Austrian prince was but the match which set fire to and brought to a head the quarrels of rival nations that had been brewing for many years. And this war, we have learned, was not a surprise war; it had been planned for many years; armies had been trained, navies had been brought up to date, and many new war devices prepared for its coming. And the reason for the war was to decide who should have the remaining world markets and spheres of influence (territory) to exploit.

We know that the people who were not prepared for the war were the working class. Not knowing of the things that were going on behind the scenes of government, most of them really thought the war was for a right-
eous cause; that it was to save Democracy—if they were of the Allied
nations, or it was to save the Fatherland—if they were of the opposite camp.

All thought it was going to be the very last war of civilization—the war to
end war.

We know now that we of the working-class were deliberately fooled, and
perhaps we women of the working-class were fooled the most. While it may
be true we parted with our fathers, husbands, and sons in tears and with fear
in our hearts, we did, however, permit our men to go without protest on our
side, because we were frightened into thinking that very terrible things
would happen to us if we refused. And, when fear was not enough, bribery
played its part; we were promised food, clothing and shelter all the time our
men were at the war, and afterwards, if they did not return.

And we have had time to ponder over the results of the war, to ask our­selves who suffered, and who profited, and if the profits which fell into the
hands of a few were worth the sacrifice of the lives of over ten millions of
working-class men.

We know as workers we are in the same position as we were before the
war—but with the feeling of greater insecurity—we do not know what is
going to happen next.

Security Impossible

Europe has not recovered from the shock of the War. To-day nation is set
against nation more bitterly than ever before. The conditions of life for the
workers are so insecure and wretched that they are forced to protest against
their misery by demonstrations, by strikes, and even by revolts. The govern­ments keep the workers down by special laws and the use of terror, as well
as by buying over the leaders of workers’ organizations.

Even America, which was supposed to have profited most by the War, is
not unaffected. The American Dollars which were loaned the governments
of Europe to help them re-establish themselves and to reconstruct their in­dustry, etc., have to be repaid. This means that European goods must be sold
in the United States and in Canada. So European cheap goods are throwing
hundreds of thousands of workers out of work even in the Land of the Al­mighty Dollar.

Those who profited by the War, and who at this time hold nearly the
whole world in their hands, are the Big Financiers—the Banking Interests.
These control both nations and governments, and this for the purpose of ex­ploiting both the natural resources and the energy of the workers of these
countries.

Can such a condition produce Peace, Security, Contentment?

The truth is that to-day there is more jealousy, rivalry and discord be­tween nations than there was in 1914. And also there is a greater preparation
for war than there was before 1914; more men are being trained to kill; more
men are actually under arms; more and very modern and dreadful war de­
vices are invented and made.

There is to be another war, working-class mothers, that is certain—other­
wise these costly preparations would not be made!

This Next War

And you may be wondering why the Big Financiers do not make war now
since there are more conflicts than ever before. Actually war has never
ceased. There have been wars ever since 1918, the only difference being
that these were not between civilized Christian nations themselves. Only a
few months ago United States gunboats fired upon the peaceful people of
Nicaragua. And the gunboats of all the Christian civilized nations were
sent up the rivers of China to fire on the Chinese people in the interests of
Big Finance.

But the thing that holds the greed and mastery of the Big Financiers in
check is the fact that they are uncertain as to the outcome of another war.
The last war saw the workers and peasants of Russia revolt against the war
that was forced upon them; they refused to fight; then later they took up
arms in their own defence and as masters of Soviet Russia.

Now the Big Capitalists find themselves up against another menace to
their power, so, while struggling amongst themselves for power they are
faced with a new government, a government of the workers and peasants
which has set an example to the workers of the world and has shown them
how to end the War Danger.

So the thing that makes the Capitalists fear another war is the fact that the
workers of the other countries may do as the workers of Russia did in 1917.
We can be sure they will not start another World War until they are some­
what sure of their ground.

Even at this time they are asking themselves: Which is the greater menace
to ourselves, the one among us who is striving to be all-powerful, or this
anti-capitalist country, the Soviet Union?

And we can see that while these Big Financial Interests are watching and
preparing war upon one another, at the same time they are all directing their
war plans against the Soviet Union and its Workers' and Peasants' Govern­
ment.

Not Enough to Preach Peace

Only a few were brave enough during the War to raise their voices against
it, and most of them were punished for their pains.

But the awfulness of the War has increased the forces of those who want
Peace. Peace Movements and Societies are becoming more popular as a re­
result. The Non-Resisters or Pacifists place their faith in the League of
Nations, and are the strongest supporters of the League. How they can con-
to have this faith in an organization that has proven itself useless and incapable of bringing peace is a puzzle to one who is able to reason. While the great struggle was going on in China the League of Nations refused to interfere. And at the Disarmament Conference held recently at Geneva the Disarmament Proposals of Soviet Russia were turned down with ridicule by this same League of Nations.

To-day the League of Nations stands openly as the tool of Big Finance, the instrument that was erected for the purpose of turning the revolutionary thoughts of the workers into other channels.

The League of Nations is the bluff of Big Finance calling Peace! Peace! while the munition makers, etc., are working top speed preparing for war.

Peace Societies talk of the horrors of War and the stupidity of people in killing those they have never seen before. But shock and appealing to reason will not solve the problems bound up with War. At the root of War is the possession of the means of life, the sources of wealth, and all that these things mean in terms of power, pleasure and the fullness of life. These things will never be given up without a struggle by the class owning them. In face of this the workers, the exploited class, cannot afford to be non-resisters. Working-class mothers cannot and must not be pacifists. Instead we must be militants, active fighters against the war danger in all its aspects.

**Our Preparation**

While the forces of Big Finance (Imperialism) are preparing for War, we working-class mothers must prepare, too. Right at home our duty faces us. Our first steps must be taken with our children. Our children must know of the War Danger. They must understand why wars are fought and who are forced to fight in these wars. And they must know who profits by War. The correct information they will not get from the teaching they receive in the schools, because here War is glorified, war heroes are the best heroes, and patriotism is the only virtue. So it becomes the duty of every working-class mother to give her children the correct viewpoint on War. After all the experiences we have gone through for fourteen years it must not be said that it was through ignorance our sons and our husbands entered the wars that are to come, and unknowingly to preserve for the privileged few the wealth that has been taken by stealth or force from the working masses of the world.

War does indeed face the workers. And they will be forced to choose between two sets of interests when issues reach a breaking point and War starts in all its awfulness. These interests will be those of the Banking Interests (Imperialism) on the one hand, and those of the working-class who want Class Emancipation (Freedom from Exploitation) on the other hand. The first means a continuation of the Old Order of things. The second means the beginning of a New Order.
The issues before us are clear. Thoughtful mothers must take heed. Now is the time to prepare. To wait until the Dogs of War break loose will be too late. Many things can be done right now. What are these? We must combat the false teaching of history which our children receive in the schools.

We must oppose the Cadets, the Boy Scouts and Girl Guide Movements and refuse to let our children take part in them, because they are the tools of Big Business and Big Finance and are organized in the name of Patriotism to serve their ends.

We must expose the fallacy called the League of Nations and denounce it for what it is—the League of Big Finance. And we must instruct our children how to oppose it in the schools.

This is work that can be done right now. And in doing this a working-class mother is doing her bit to fight the Imperialist War Danger and helping to serve the best interests of her children and her class.

Oppose Imperialist Wars, as these serve but the interests of the few and crush and annihilate the best of the working-class masses.

Support and Help forward the Struggle for the Freedom of the Workers and All Oppressed People, for this means the end of War and the oppression of men by men.

—Issued by Executive Committee, Canadian Federation of Women's Labor Leagues.

JANE ADDAMS, PACIFIST, SUPPORTS LAW-MAKERS

September 1928, pp. 9-11.

Jane Addams, the well-known pacifist, did not get entirely away with the "peace talk" she delivered in Los Angeles a few weeks ago. Her support of the United States Government and the Kellogg treaty brought her audience to their feet and she was showered with questions to which she gave answers that showed either how little she knew or understood of the forces at work in this age of Giant Capital, or that she was not inclined to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about King Capital. The following questions and Jane Addams' answers to the same gives one an idea how the president of the world organization known as the Women's International League of Peace views most important political issues:

"How many wars were caused by selfish capitalism?" Some, perhaps, but not many. There are many causes of war. So replied Miss Addams.

"Would the Kellogg treaty lead to total disarmament?" Not for some time to come. But it provides a sense of security, after which armaments will gradually be dispensed with, and other methods of settling disputes will be devised.
"What of Russia’s offer of disarmament and the abolition of war materials?" The nations felt that to accept it would have been a “mere gesture” that could not be put into effect.

"What of military training in the schools?" This is gradually passing. Miss Addams named colleges that are dropping it.

"What about American Marines in China and Nicaragua?" Our marines are legally in China to protect American citizens. As for Nicaragua, the administration said that the Nicaragua government had asked the United States to send marines to supervise the election. The United States tried to disarm both sides, but Sandino resisted disarmament. It would now be necessary for the marines to remain until after the election in October and perhaps afterwards to sustain the election. Miss Addams felt the government is acting in all sincerity.

"Are patriotism and nationalism detrimental to world peace?" They should not be. Men find it possible to be loyal to their families, to organizations, to many interests, as well as to their country. She felt the loyalty of patriotism can include all loyalties.

"Can there be peace without political equality among nations?" Oh, yes, she felt so. She cited the instance of a small central African nation bringing a complaint against Britain at the League of Nations. Three English statesmen, including Lord Balfour, rose to agree with the small nation, to explain the circumstances and promise the desired improvement.

"Do not surplus wealth and foreign investment incite war?" No, it need not lead to war. Other methods are being found. A measure is already suggested in Congress declaring that no citizen could call upon the United States Army to defend his investments in foreign countries.

—Taken from Alma Whitaker’s Report.

It can be seen from the answers Jane Addams gave to the questions put to her that she has founded her understanding merely on faith and belief in human nature. One would certainly think the world is growing better and better every day if one were to believe what the Pacifist leader has to say. We have good reasons to know that it is not so. And how can it when there exists a social system based upon wage-slavery, when there exists exploitation of the weak by the strong, when there is competition of every kind among the most powerful for world supremacy?

Something more than faith and belief in capitalist governments are necessary if exploitation is to be overcome: something more than calling “peace, peace,” will have to be done. Since we have nothing to lose and everything to gain by telling the truth, we say that we know that the oppressed and the exploited, upon whose backs rest the powerful exploiters—that these will have to throw the capitalist parasites from their backs and erect a new system based upon co-operative effort. With the incentive to amass pri-
vate wealth gone, man will organize and work for the common good. Thus, and thus only, will peace be made possible. Then, and then only, will “mediation and persuasion” enter into the settlement of human disputes as useful tools.

But how would you answer the questions put to Jane Addams, our reader may ask? These, then, are the answers. For the last four hundred years all wars have been trade wars, that is, war either for the conquest of lands and peoples, for markets for products, or for investments, or for obtaining raw materials.

The Kellogg treaty is another “peace bluff.” It happened that the other United States piece of bluff, the League of Nations, fell under the control of the British, and this was not to the liking of the new world power, the United States. So the United States boycotts the League of Nations and sets up her own demands, which are called “peace” demands. The real motive behind the Kellogg Treaty is to give power to the United States to determine who shall be the aggressor in the next war, and where and when the next war shall be. Such is “diplomacy.”

Soviet Russia, knowing only too well the nature of the nations of to-day, presented her peace proposals for a number of reasons, first of all because she really wants peace; secondly, because she wanted to test the sincerity of those who were always talking peace; and thirdly, to show the workers of the world that capitalist interests are bound up with “war,” and all the “peace talk” of capitalist nations is but “bluff” after all.

And, too, Militarism is extending itself more and more into the ranks of the youth. Cadet training is increasing, not diminishing, even though a few colleges may have banished it from their midst. Armies and navies will have to be maintained to do the kind of work the United States marines are doing in China and Nicaragua. The Cadets pave the way for the building of these as necessity arises. At this time American marines are in China and Nicaragua for the purpose of protecting the investments and the interests of U.S. investors. Our own commonsense will tell us that the natives of Nicaragua did not request the U.S. Government to send marines to help them with their elections. Those who asked for this were investors and exploiters of the natives of Nicaragua. Would not Sandino, the native leader, be a downright fool to lay down his arms under such a condition?

And as for “patriotism and nationalism,” these are but means to an end, and this end is the protection of the interests of the wealthy of each and every capitalist country. And, of course, political equality is necessary between nations; this is so in the Union of Socialist Soviets Republics. But this can be built only upon economic co-operation between nations, and the Soviet Union is the only place where such a condition prevails.

The last question is answered by the first.
A CALL FOR PEACE

[Editorial]

November 1928, pp. 2-3.

A MASS meeting, to urge the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy will be held in Convocation Hall on November 22 under the auspices of several Toronto societies working for the Women's Church Committee of the League of Nations Society. Delegates Mrs. Morton and Mrs. Campbell attended this meeting to find out if the Women's Labor League could participate in this effort of the women of Toronto to urge peace. Discussion was shut off several times as our delegates attempted to ask if a speaker could be had who would be courageous enough to condemn military training in the schools (which, after all, is a kindergarten for future soldiers). Mrs. J.H. Wickett, who was acting secretary of the meeting, made a splendid plea on behalf of the boys and said that they were even debarred from rugby and other sports as a means to force them into military training. The speaker stated that boys were attracted by brass buttons, uniforms and trumpets and were all primed ready for bloodshed when war came. The chairman said that, while we all knew wars were fought for economic reasons, the question of military training could not be discussed at the mass meeting, at least it would not be wise. The Women's Labor League delegate pointed out that if they were sincere in their call for peace, they must have a speaker who would tell the truth about causes of war, that raw materials and control of world markets were responsible, that it was the working class who had to fight the battles and the same working class who had to pay for the war after we had won it. Needless to say, this will not be done at the coming mass meeting. Women's church committees do not speak in our language, and once again the people of Toronto will listen to the warbling and prattling of the "Peace Doves." They will ask us to pray for world disarmament, and while the ever-trusting workers are praying, the War Lords or (Defence Ministers) shall have declared war, and once more our youth shall be demanded for a bloody sacrifice to the God of Capitalism. Wake up women of Canada, the time for praying is long past, this is the time to organize and act, there can be no peace under this cursed system of degradation and poverty for the working class and ease and luxury for the idle rich. Educate your fellow worker, abolish capitalism and wage slavery and fight to
make the world safe for the workers. The Women’s Church Committee do not seem to realize that in spite of “League of Nations Societies,” “Peace Pacts” and all the other National Banquets, that preparation for war is going on and is greater today than it was in 1913. The Women’s Labor Leagues must continue to enlighten working class women and girls. If the Women’s Church Committee is decided on praying for unity and peace, the Women’s Labor League is more determined than ever to carry on the great struggle of educating and organizing the workers, and with a loud voice we shout: “Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains and a world to gain.”

A.C.

“PEACE, PEACE, WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE”
(JEREMIAH)

November 1928, pp. 7-9.

There never was a time when Pacifists were more active or when peace plans were more varied and fantastic than right now, and so, while it is our business as workers to make war at least difficult, if not impossible for the Imperialists, still we must keep in mind that there are no grounds for the hopes that are held out by the Pacifists, that if we are safe from wars we are also safe from other dangers that are equally threatening to the lives and comfort of most people.

Apart from the well known fact that more workers are killed and maimed every year in industry than have ever been destroyed by war, let us look for a moment at the ghastly farce of a peace without justice.

Do we not remember the years between 1911 and 1914? when we were soaked in peace movements—fairly drenched and dripping with peace! even the munition makers offering peace prizes and giving them to the Czar of Russia, the German Kaiser and Theodore Roosevelt!! Yes—they all got peace prizes—then we got war. Now we seen an even more dangerous array of peace-making agencies—the League of Nations and the Kellogg peace pact. Both are so full of “reservations” that whenever it suits any of the powers to bring on a war, they have all sorts of excuses, explanations, and other devices, handy and ready for use.

Mr. Kellogg took his precious peace pact to Europe in a battleship! and actually cabled the U.S. Government to hurry up their program of fifteen battleships. Incidentally—the amount now spent yearly by the U.S.A. for militarism is seven hundred million dollars—it makes the Kellogg pact look very like a smoke screen for war.
But, suppose that by a miracle we could bring an end of war under capitalism—suppose the Imperialists of Asia, Europe and America were able to arrange their interests without bloodshed—would that mean peace on earth? Every worker who has a grain of spirit or an atom of pride left must answer NO.

Man has always refused to accept his fate—he has always reached out determined to conquer conditions. This fight for a "square deal," which intelligent men and women recognize as the class struggle, has gone on for uncounted years, and must go on until there is freedom and possibilities of happiness for all.

That is—unless we are willing to accept charity and become mere "beings"—there is plenty of charity if you are willing to "trade in" your self-respect for a "hand-out."

No—the struggling and cheated farmers and the exploited men, women and children in the towns do not want war—nor have they ever caused a war—but neither can they any longer have faith in or patience with peace talk which brings with it no assurance of security or comfort for those who produce the world's wealth.

Because the workers of this continent have been so exploited, we have now the richest land on earth—but our people grow old long before middle age because of the everlasting struggle against that three-headed monster, unemployment, sickness, old age.

And we cannot kill this monster by hoping—or praying—or wishing—our Pacifists and our Social Democrats to the contrary notwithstanding.

These misleaders of the workers would have us believe that industry may be "humanized" under capitalism, that capital and labor may be "harmonized" under a system that gives us child labor and constant unemployment—that it is only a matter of "better understanding," etc., etc. Surely we have had enough of these false arguments and this doubly false leadership!

Surely we are ready to fight for ourselves—first for our immediate demands, that our homes may be saved to us and the children fed, and always with the knowledge that the only hope for civilization is complete working class control—and this excludes no human being who is willing to give service of hand or brain.

As one has said elsewhere, it is possible now for us all to know a good deal about the rest of the world, and there is one spot that should stir the curiosity and interest of every worker at this time—we should be asking why is it that in Russia—a country that is poor, compared with us, because it is lacking, as yet, in machinery and equipment for producing wealth and comforts—why is it that Russia can and does care for her old, her unemployed, her expectant mothers and her little children? Why is she the only nation that dares to tell her soldiers the truth about war? Why is everything so different with us. Is it not that here we have a country ruled by organized
wealth, and there is a land ruled by organized workers. What these workers have done under unfavorable and often terrible conditions should help us all to think straight—and act accordingly, by organizing in trade unions and labor leagues—especially by helping the young workers to see and understand the splendid task before them—the task that only they can perform—to help them to know the value and the need of discipline.

And all this, in order that we may develop a true working class democracy of farmers and city workers.

Then only will peace really mean freedom from war or strife.

H.D.P.

WOMEN AND THE NEXT WAR


The war danger and the organized attack on the U.S.S.R. is only obvious to class conscious workers. In Canada, the official labor movement refuses to recognize the immediate war danger and its consequences to the working class, while champions of the League of Nations and Pacifists content themselves with pious denunciations.

Canada has definitely committed herself on the question of the coming war against the U.S.S.R. Premier King has signed two documents: 1, The famous Peace Pact, to outlaw War; and, 2, to build two cruisers. Canada, a partner to British Imperialism, will see to it when the war signal is sounded, that the Canadian workers will be plunged into another war.

Despite the fact that war preparations are going on at full speed, despite the fact that the capitalist class are creating a war psychology while talking peace, the misleaders of labor, the officialdom, are also talking about peace and co-operation with the capitalist class. In the coming war the Social democracy of Canada will act in the same way as did their colleagues when they committed the workers the world over to be slaughtered for the profit system. Prior to the World War, the social democrats talked about a general strike in the event of a war, but no sooner was war declared, when they acted like Judas. While eleven years in history is a very short time, nevertheless, the working class have learned a great deal as a result of struggles, defeats and betrayals. In brief, I want to deal with woman’s role in the coming war. As far back as 1916, Lenin said: “Today the Imperialistic bourgeoisie is not only mobilizing the whole of the nation, but also the youth of the nation. Tomorrow, it will also take in hand the militarizing of the women.” The above quotation is timely, as we see that the capitalist class believe and are definitely working towards the militarization of women.
We see that as far back as 1925, the American ministry of war devised a plan to mobilize the women, not only for the factories, but also for active service. In France there is a law for arming the nation, including the women. We can cite practically every capitalist country as conclusive proof of the systematic work that is being carried on to mobilize the women in the coming war. Athletic clubs are organized where shooting is considered as a sport, yet in time of war, these organizations serve as a recruiting ground. There is a "League of Defense" in Finland, which embraces 45,000 women ready for active service. In Latvia, there is a defense organization that trains women for auxiliary service in the army. Every capitalist country is definitely preparing and mobilizing women for the coming war. Aviation in the past was not practised by women; today women have entered that field for the purpose of being able to serve on all fronts when war breaks out. Women of the working class are today occupying a strategic position as they are engaged in industrial establishments, that in time of war will be turned into ammunition factories, such as the automobile industry, aluminum factories, chemical factories, etc. In view of the fact that only one per cent of women workers in Canada are organized in trade unions, the task of organizing the unorganized women falls on the militant section of the labor movement. We find where working women are organized that they are co-workers with their men comrades, and partake in the struggle that confronts our class. The class-conscious women recognize but one enemy, and that is the Capitalist class.

The heroic deeds of our women comrades and the part they played in the French Revolution, in the Russian Revolution of 1905 and 1917, and in the Chinese Revolution just recently is an inspiration to the workers the world over. The women of the working class have gladly given their lives so that a great cause may live. The duty of our working women in Canada is to defend the Workers' Republic, the only fatherland that the workers have. Soviet Russia is the only country where women have gained their freedom and are today the builders of a new social order. The Russian Revolution has been the means of emancipating the women, and gave them that long sought-for freedom. The working class of Canada must do their class duty and stand shoulder to shoulder with the Russian workers and peasants. So long as the Capitalist system lasts there can be no peace. The contradictions of the present social order make war inevitable. Since 1918, when war was officially called off, unofficial wars have been going on. In 1919-21 Poland against Soviet Russia; 1920, Greek-Turkish war, the Spanish war in the Rif, war on China, war in Nicaragua. And throughout all this endless chain of war social democracy did not raise its voice against war and intervention. The workers must not allow the betrayers of Labor to once more defeat our cause. The defence of the Soviet Union expressed in the struggle against the
war plans of the Imperialists and their agents in the ranks of the working class will mean the ultimate victory for the working class.

Annie Buller.

OURSELVES AND THE WAR DANGER

February 1929, pp. 2-3.

FROM several sources criticisms have come concerning the attitude of the Toronto Women’s Labor League toward the Peace Conference recently organized in Toronto.

The November issue of The Woman Worker contained an article which stated very clearly the position of the Labor League delegates who attended the first meeting of the conference.

If the women of the Labor League Movement are choosing more carefully the organizations with which they are willing to associate for the purpose of fighting for Peace, it is because they have learned that there is a big difference between wishing for Peace and getting Peace; wishing—only requires feeling; getting—requires action.

But on no account can our Labor League women be charged with “insincerity” in their strivings for Peace. We can recall that it was the co-operation of the Women’s Labor League with the League for Peace and Freedom, a few years ago, that helped to make the only real public demonstration in Toronto against war a big success. We know, also, that the Women’s Labor League did its part in welcoming the “unpopular Pax Special” delegates to Toronto. And, too, it can be stated, that the meeting arranged by the Women’s Labor League was the only meeting of working women addressed by delegates of the Pax Special during the whole of their tour throughout the United States and Canada. There are those who still remember the delight of some of the Pax Special delegates in finding that at least they had come in contact with the “real stuff” that was to be found in the ranks of working women.

Every effort that was worth while has not been turned down by the women of the Labor League Movement. But a line must be drawn when it comes to co-operating with those who will not face facts. And this was the case when the Labor League could not continue to work with the Peace Conference organized by the Women’s Church Committees of the League of Nations.

It may be argued by some that our women should have stayed to have helped along the educational work that the Conference is organizing. But when we know that the educators they will bring to their meetings are of the Norman Angell type, what good can come out of such education?
Even the more thinking who went to hear Norman Angell's address on January 22nd, left the meeting disappointed, for in his address no mention was made of the great role played by Soviet Russia in world affairs today. In just such a manner he left out of his calculation, when writing his book, "The Great Illusion," the significance of the great struggles between capitalist nations and the role of the workers in capitalist wars. He built all his arguments upon the dependence of capitalist nations upon each other and that this dependence made "War" an illusion as a method of settling their disputes. He went so far, then stopped. No, Norman Angell cannot be taken as an expert on the question of Peace. He cannot be followed.

The women of the Labor League Movement take a very definite stand on the question of Peace. This stand is, that if we want Peace we must look the facts of War right in the face since the two are bound together, for only in this way will the right path for our efforts be found.

And when we examine all the factors of War existing right in our midst what do we find we must do if we want Peace? We find that we must wage a struggle against those who provoke War—these are the Imperialists and War-mongers. We find we must support the cause of the victims of the designs of the Imperialists and the War-mongers, and this means we must support Soviet Russia in her struggle against her imperialist foes, as well as support the Freedom Movements of the colonial peoples, such as those of India and China. We find we must expose the character of the so-called instruments of Peace, such as the League of Nations and the score of Peace Pacts and Treaties. This, too, means denouncing those who support such means while knowing them to be but "Red Herrings," intended to keep people talking Peace while the imperialists and war-mongers further their plans for war.

We know that to do these things requires courage, because they are among the most unpopular actions of today. But since facing facts brings these duties to the front, the women of the Labor League Movement will not shirk their tasks, and they will, on all occasions, make their position clear on the question of Peace and show its relation to the ever-present War Danger.

WAR—SHAM AND REAL

February 1929, pp. 15-16.

To the Woman Worker,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Comrade:

Often do I wonder, looking at the pictures on the screen, that "Why always war!" Certainly, war pictures are thrilling, particularly war in the air,
as we mostly see it screened now. But isn’t there some other meaning? Do not the capitalists mean to fill the hearts of the workers with patriotism? Do they not, with these heroic war-pictures, make the Canadian youth look forward to war as a step-ladder to fame, glory? They know that a great war-time is drawing near, therefore, they must prepare the workers to meet it as they wish workers to meet it. Isn’t that really the reason why theatre after theatre screens pictures of war?

But, workers! When seeing those pictures, the uniformed officers, the delicate ladies who give their all and win the victory for the whole army—does it really convince you that war can be only that. Of course, it does not! On the screen you never witness the stark cruelty to workers that war can be. No, because that wouldn’t be romantic! It would be too true to be alluring. In screen-war we only see officers and lovely ladies who always escape death and bombs.

And to think that any young worker dreams of climbing to such heights! Futile hopes! Workers’ parts in wars are to kill and get killed—to suffer—but not to enjoy fame.

Yet how many young workers dream of being an air-hero in the coming war. How many forget that while they could achieve heroism, millions of helpless children would die—millions of happy homes be wrecked. O, young worker, stay your mind from imagination and realize that war is not only an adventurous game.

Yet, to the movies we flock, to get more patriotism into us? And I think that at last we will have enough of it—at least, when another mighty imperialistic war has rocked the earth.

With Comradely greetings,
ALI MALM
Sointula, B.C.

MISS CHOWN AND THE WAR DANGER

April 1929, pp. 11-12.

Is there a War Danger? This was the subject of the February educational meeting of the Toronto League, which, by the way, is an open meeting. Miss Alice Chown was the speaker.

President B. MacDonald in her opening remarks called the attention of the audience to the great preparations for war that were going on to-day all over the world, and urged working class women to take heed of these things and to help educate workers against helping capitalist wars.

Miss Chown started off by stating that she had regretted ever having accepted the invitation to speak to the League, because she thought it would be
difficult to tell the women of the League anything about War and its Dangers.

As the speaker proceeded, the talk developed into a history of the League of Nations Society and some of the things it had accomplished. To show how difficult it was to do anything among uneducated people she referred to the word 'evolution' and said that how, after sixty years, this conflict in thought was still going on, which showed the very slow progress of the world. The League of Nations we were told was the miracle of the ages. (Perhaps it would have been better to have termed it the MUDDLE of the ages). It had now fifty-five nations on the roll and all these agreed on this miracle. One of the great things it had done was to put Austria on a sound economic basis (for capitalism of course). Another great miracle was a demand introduced by the Italian delegate to curtail the growing of opium. (One can see the logic in this request since there is enough dope created in Rome to chloroform millions of minds the world over). Miss Chown also told that the League of Nations was slowly but surely gaining the confidence of the people and she still had hopes of the League of Nations creating the spirit among nations that would make war impossible. The abolition of War depended on how quickly we could educate the people to this feeling of love and goodwill.

During the discussion, Comrade Florence Custance showed that the League never was and never could be an instrument of Peace, that it was formed in those days of bitter class conflict to offset the revolutionary wave that was sweeping across Europe after the war and when the workers of the whole world were in ferment. She pointed out that the spirit of domination was still rife and warned the speaker that it was something more than goodwill that was needed to ensure peace. To prove that the Imperialists use other means than words for their purpose, our comrade referred to America's contribution to the Peace Pact—namely 15 cruisers. She said that war would only be postponed until the powers could mobilise enough force.

Referring to Canada's position in the next war she said that there was the likelihood of Canada being another Belgium—that is—in the event of the war being between United States and Great Britain.

Other comrades voiced their opinion in this matter. It was made very clear to Miss Chown that the Labor League women could not be fooled by prayers and goodwill bunk, and that we were more determined than ever to carry our message of organization to working women.

This meeting was well attended. It is the intention of our League to carry on with this propaganda on the War Danger.

A. CAMPBELL, Secretary.
Toronto League