

Our Monthly Log

Thorney House, August 1936

A New Member for the International Executive

Few people have a more intimate or extensive knowledge of foreign politics than Sir Arthur Willert, K.B.E., who has recently accepted an invitation to become a member of the Executive Committee of the International Section. As Press Officer and Head of the News Department of the British Foreign Office for many years, Sir Arthur has been brought into the closest touch with the practical working of diplomacy and the complex problems of international relationships, which makes it all the more gratifying that he is now prepared to co-operate actively in the work of an organisation which exists to advocate a system that many of the diplomatists probably regard with a certain amount of cynicism. There can be no doubt that his unique experience and expert advice will be of the greatest value in the work of the International Committee.

Many of our members will remember Sir Arthur's brilliant book, *The Frontiers of England*, reviewed in this journal a few months ago.

British Section's Latest Vice-President

The British Section report yet another addition to their lengthy list of Vice-Presidents, Sir Charles Sykes, Bart., K.B.E., having expressed his willingness to associate himself with the activities of the Section in this capacity. Sir Charles, who is well known in Yorkshire and throughout the north of England, was at one time the Member for the Huddersfield Division in the House of Commons. For many years past he has been one of the leading figures in the textile industry, and during the war he acted as Chairman of the Worsted and Woollen Trades Board of Control. We congratulate the British Section upon having secured Sir Charles' support, which will be of considerable assistance in furthering the work of the Society in industrial circles.

A Representative Meeting

A particularly fruitful meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Section took place at Headquarters on July 16th, when representatives of some of the Sections of the Society outside Great Britain attended for the first time. Major K. A. Bratt, Hon. Representative for Scandinavia, and Dr. P. J. de Kanter, Hon. Secretary of our Group in Holland, kindly undertook the long journey to London, and advantage was taken of their presence to discuss fully the possibilities of intensifying our work in the countries which they represent. Unfortunately, Prof. Georges Scelle, President of the French Section, was prevented from being present, although he hopes to attend a meeting of the Committee when he visits London in October.

Translation of Publications

With the object of providing explanatory literature dealing with the Society's programme for the use of our Sections abroad and at the various international conferences which are attended by our representatives, certain of our pamphlets have now been translated and published in languages other than English. *The Way to Peace* and *Why a World Police is Inevitable* are now available in German and French in addition to *The Aims and Objects of The New Commonwealth* which, of course, was issued in these languages some time ago. A Swedish translation of *The Way to Peace* is also in course of production by Mr. Neumann of Gothenburg in co-operation with Major Bratt, whilst the recent pamphlet *Allenby's Last Message* has been published in French at the request of our collaborators in Paris.

"Propaganda" in Holland

Our Dutch Section are to be warmly congratulated upon having made arrangements for the publication of a Dutch edition of the

late Dr. van der Leeuw's pamphlet, *Why a World Police is Inevitable*, and particularly upon having secured the co-operation of Mr. Viruly, who has undertaken to write a preface and to perform the work of translation personally. Mr. Viruly, one of Europe's most famous aviators, who pioneered the East Indies route of the Royal Dutch Air Line, has already established an enviable reputation in Holland as an author and publicist, and the fact that his name is to be associated with the forthcoming publication will ensure its widespread circulation and consequently the extensive dissemination of THE NEW COMMONWEALTH programme.

British Section's Parliamentary Group

On Tuesday, July 14th, Mr. Winston Churchill fulfilled the first of what we hope will be a long series of engagements as President of the British Section, when he addressed a meeting of the Parliamentary Group in a committee room of the House of Commons. Nearly fifty members were present to listen to an arresting speech, in which Mr. Churchill affirmed his whole-hearted approval of THE NEW COMMONWEALTH programme and dealt generally with the complexities of the international situation. The discussion which followed and in which the majority of those present took part was a clear indication of the remarkable degree to which the Society's principles have won acceptance among British parliamentarians. It must have created a deep impression on those who were able to recall the early meetings only a few short years ago, when the Group consisted of no more than a handful of members and the ideas which it had been formed to discuss were still regarded as too visionary and idealistic to merit serious attention. It is therefore particularly encouraging to record that the Group now numbers no less than eighty-seven members of all parties who, if they are not all definitely committed to the details of our case, are keenly interested in its study, and are prepared to lend their co-operation in ventilating it in parliamentary debates.

Making a Start in Canada

As the result of the recent visit to Headquarters of Mr. L. L. Eke, one of our Canadian Associate Members, it is hoped that we may shortly be in a position to form the nucleus of a NEW COMMONWEALTH Group in the Dominion. Mr. Eke has kindly offered his services in endeavouring to arrange a series of meetings in some of the principal centres with the object of explaining THE NEW COMMONWEALTH programme and of investigating the possibility of setting up an organisation comparable with those already existing in some of the European countries. Whatever the outcome of his efforts may be, we take this opportunity of recording our grateful thanks to Mr. Eke for tackling a job which is certainly by no means easy.

How Members Can Help

OUR plans for the organisation of the "World Shilling Fund" have already been referred to in both the Annual Report and in this journal. There is therefore no necessity to dwell upon the vital need for establishing THE NEW COMMONWEALTH movement on a permanent basis by the creation of an adequate endowment. For some months past steps have been taken to obtain the support and interest of influential and wealthy friends of the Society, and we are glad to report that upwards of £4,000 has already been collected. This, of course, is but a small beginning, but it may nevertheless be regarded as a harbinger of things to come, and we are now in a position to invite the co-operation and assistance of our Associate Members and other friends in the collection of donations.

An attractive brochure explaining briefly the objects of the appeal is now in course of preparation, copies of which will gladly be forwarded upon request. The success of the campaign must depend in the main upon our ability to enrol a determined and devoted corps of voluntary collectors, and we appeal with confidence to those who already assist us so materially to give us their help in this way.

Members who are prepared to enrol as collectors are requested to communicate direct with the Chairman, Lord Davies, who has undertaken the supervision of the campaign.