International Bureau of Peace.

BERNE, 8th April 1893.

FRIENDS,

We the undersigned, members of the Commission of the International Bureau of Peace, assembled at this, their second General meeting, earnestly desire to call the attention of all friends of Peace, whether Individuals or Societies, to the Report and Balance Sheet of the Bureau.

We consider that the expectations entertained by those who first suggested the creation of the Bureau have been fully realised. It had, for many years past, been felt that the work of educating public opinion on the subject of international arbitration and peace would be greatly strengthened if all Societies and persons working for that great Reform were to cooperate through some central organisation. Their ignorance of each others proceedings, and their separate action have necessarily been a source of weakness.

Since the institution of the Annual Congress, this need of a central and representative Body, to prepare the programme of each forthcoming Congress, and to execute the Resolutions of preceding Congresses, has become apparent to all.

The services which could be rendered by the Bureau,—immediately on its creation by the last Congress,—were fully recognised by the latter, in as much as it at once committed to the Bureau the duty of preparing Reports on several important Questions which could not be fully dealt with in Congress.

The undersigned hereby desire to record their strong conviction that the objects for which the Bureau was constituted have been admirably carried out by the permanent Executive at Berne, consisting of Dr Gobat (National Councillor), Professor Marcusen, and M. Elie Ducommun, the Hon. Secretary. Indeed, as regards the last of these three gentlemen, the Commission think that it would be difficult to over-estimate his practical ability and unselfish devotion. The amount of work done, the admirable arrangement of the Office Records, and the promptness and clearness with which the Correspondence has been conducted, are remarkable; and it is satisfactory to learn that many Societies have amply availed themselves of the services of the Bureau. Its fortnightly News-Sheet is of great use in collecting and recording items of information and suggestions sent by any one Society, and in communicating them to all the others, as well as to the newspaper Press. This publication must help all workers for the Cause and serve as a valuable method of propaganda among the public at large.
As another illustration of the efficiency of this Office, we may refer to the admirable manner in which M. Ducommun has prepared the business of the present meeting, in drafting Reports and Circulars with great clearness and conciseness.

For the above reasons we venture to invite all the friends of our movement to consider whether it is not their duty to join the Bureau, to strengthen it, morally, by their cooperation, and, materially, by giving it an income adequate to its needs. We observe that the support as yet afforded by Societies is not as complete and universal as is necessary, if the permanent existence of the Bureau is to be assured; and if it is to meet the increasing demands for its services. In such matters as clerkage, translations, printing, and postage, in addition to office rent, an adequate income should be permanently provided. Considering the labour and anxiety devoting upon the Hon. Secretary, it would be unjust and ungenerous to leave him in uncertainty as to the amount of income on which the Bureau may rely.

We feel that we have only to mention these facts and bring them to the notice of our fellow-workers in Europe and America,—in order to obtain that united support and cooperation for the Bureau which the cause requires at your hands.

SIGNED BY THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF PEACE:

Fréd. Bajer, Copenhagen.
D’A. Gobat, Berne.
Baronin Bertha von Suttner, Vienna.
Belva Lockwood, Washington.
D’B. Trueblood, Boston.
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