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THE B.B.C. AND HUNTING

Sir John Reith Urged to Permit Talks Against Blood-Sports

In a memorial to Sir John Reith, Director General of the B.B.C., the council of the National Society for the Abolition of Cruel Sports, the executive committees of the National Council for Animals' Welfare and Our Dumb Friends League, and a number of other signatories, including well-known authors and broadcasters, draw his attention "to the partial attitude adopted by the British Broadcasting Corporation in regard to blood-sports."

The letter says:

During the past two years the B.B.C. has on several occasions given broadcasts of scenes and reminiscences of hunting, and even one extolling fox-hunting from the economic point of view. Though these aroused many protests throughout the country, and though the B.B.C. received a deputation of humane societies on the subject, it has steadfastly refused all requests for some representative broadcast giving the case against cruel sports, its only move in this direction being a debate, "Should blood-sports be abolished?" broadcast on May 19, 1937, in which both points of view were represented.

Further, we would point out that there is a large and widespread body of opinion which regards present-day hunting as a cruel practice opposed to the whole trend of modern cultural progress and respect for wild life. May we therefore urge the B.B.C. to give opportunities for broadcast

talks against hunting from the economic and social standpoint?

The signatories are—

Lady Clare Annesley, George Arliss,
The Rev. James Barr, M.P., H. E. Bates, Dr. A. D. Belden, S. L. Bensusan, Edmund C. Blunden, Professor A. E. Boycott, F.R.S., H. N. Brailsford, Miss Vera Brittain, Gerald Bullett,
G. D. H. Cole, Harper Cory,
Mrs. K. A. Dickin,
J. Foster Forbes, Peter Freeman, Miss Ruth Fry, Hamilton Pyfe,
Victor Gollancz, G. P. Gooch,
Miss Cecily Hamilton, J. L. Hammond, Miss Louise Hampton, T. Edmund Harvey, M.P., E. Heron-Allen, F.R.S., Laurence Housman,
Miss Naomi Jacob, A. Creech-Jones, M.P., the Very Rev. Hewlett Johnson,
Mrs. Andrew Knowles,
George Lanabury, M.P., T. A. Leonard, Bertram Lloyd (hon. secretary, National Society for the Abolition of Cruel Sports), Canon T. L. Lomax, Mrs. Sylvia Lynd.

A. G. Macdonell, William McDougall, F.R.S., Miss G. V. McFadden, Professor John Macmurray, M.A., Mrs. Ruth Manning Sanders, George Mathers, M.P., Miss Ethel Colburn Mayne, Mrs. Naomi Mitchison, T. Sturge Moore, Professor Gilbert Murray,
Lord Noel-Buxton,
Lord Olivier,
Sir Ralph Paget, F. W. Pethick-Lawrence, M.P., Llewelyn Powys, Miss Nancy Price.

Professor Charles Raven, the Rev. Canon Hunter Robertson, E. Keith Robinson (secretary, Our Dumb Friends' League), Dr. Maude Royden, Bertrand Russell.

Miss V. Sackville-West, Arthur L. Salmon, Henry S. Salt, Mrs. Beatrice Kean Seymour, William Kean Seymour, Miss Evelyn Sharp, G. Bernard Shaw, W. A. Sibly, Miss Doble Smith, the Rev. Donald Soper, R. H. Spurrer (chairman, National Council for Animals' Welfare), Mrs. H. M. Swanwick,
Lord and Lady Tankerville, Arthur R. Thompson, Edward Thompson, Miss Sybil Thorndike.

Miss Evelyn Underhill, Sir Raymond Unwin,
Sir Hugh Walpole; Frances Lady Warwick; F. C. Watkins, M.P.; Sir Harold Webbe, Professor F. E. Weiss, F.R.S.; Miss M. P. Willcocks,
Andrew Young.