

Dhananjayrao Gadgil Library



GIPE-PUNE-007341

7341



CARD OF MEMBERSHIP.

(Designed by Muirhead Bone.)

The Women's Co-operative Guild is a self-governing organisation, numbering at December, 1926, **57,874 members**, who work through Co-operation for the welfare of the people.

12 OCT 1928

THE WOMAN *with* THE BASKET

THE HISTORY OF THE WOMEN'S
CO-OPERATIVE GUILD

1883—1927

"Of Whole Heart Cometh Hope"

dep

By

CATHERINE WEBB

MANCHESTER :

Co-operative Wholesale Society's Printing Works.

1927.

XM:(Y15).3

F7

9341

Published by
THE WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD,
29, Winchester Road, Hampstead,
London, N.W.3.

May be also obtained from
THE CO-OPERATIVE PRESS AGENCY,
118, Corporation Street,
Manchester.

12 OCT 1928

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
FOREWORD.—By Margaret Llewelyn Davies.....	9
INTRODUCTION.—By the Author	15
CHAPTER I.—The Beginnings.....	17
Mrs. Acland's first appeal—Letter of "M.L.," Woolwich—Seven Pioneers—First Circular—First Branches—Edward Vansittart Neale's support—Early Minutes—Mrs. Lawrenson appointed Secretary—Mrs. Acland retires from the Presidency, 1886—Mrs. B. Jones elected—First recorded appearance of Miss Llewelyn Davies—First Winter Circular—First Conference in North-Western Section—Organiser's Fund—Festival at Manchester.	
CHAPTER II.—Principles and Organisation.....	36
The Root Principle—Democratic Self-Government—Individual Responsibility—Success of one Branch Cheering on all the Others—No Fear of Unpopular Subjects—25th Annual Report, Re-statement of Principles, 1907—Card of Membership Adopted—Trend towards Specialising as "Married Working Women's Organisation"—Hammering out a Constitution—Time-limit for Committee—Principles of Voluntary Service—Revision of Rules—Plan of Organisation.	
CHAPTER III.—Education	52
Mothers' Meetings—Earliest Text Book, "The Women's Corner"—Mrs. B. Jones on the Study of Balance Sheets—Qualifications for Management Committees—Popular Papers—Citizenship Lectures—Reforms in Co-operative Education—J. C. Gray's approval—Good Seed Sowing—Examination "Twisters"—Studies in the Poor Law, Public Health, and Housing—Systems of Training—Educational Activities during the War—Schools and Classes—Marked effect of System—Growing Roses in the Mind Gardens of the Home-makers.	

	PAGE
CHAPTER IV.—Opening Doors	69
<p>Equality in Theory—The first Step for Freedom—Public Speaking—Mrs. Jones, the Pioneer—Early Orators—First Campaign for Open Membership—Status in the Movement—Guild “Duties”—Door of Service hard to open—Mrs. Lawrenson elected to the Southern Sectional Board of the Co-operative Union, 1893—Small Headway—Despondent Regrets, 1919—Great Advances towards Real Equality, 1921—Present Position in the Movement.</p>	
CHAPTER V.—Some Co-operative Activities	79
<p>Early Sympathies for Co-partnership forms of Production—Tour of Inquiry—Federal System supported—Active Propaganda and “Push the Sales Campaigns”—Anti-Credit Campaign—Hire Systems—Reaching the Poor.</p>	
CHAPTER VI.—Co-operation in Poor Neighbourhoods	88
<p>A Challenge from Congress—Bringing the Store to the People—The United Board grant £50 for Inquiry by the Guild—Paper entitled “The Open Door”—Sunderland Society’s Response—A Red-Letter Day in Sunderland—Opening of the Settlement in Coronation Street—The “Store Ladies” Kitchen—Little Visitors become real Friends—Financial Success of the Scheme—Settlement given up—How to reach the Poor still a Problem.</p>	
CHAPTER VII.—Citizenship Campaigns.....	96
<p>Citizenship for women in 1883 dream of the few—First Joint Excursion to the House of Commons—Indignation with Anti-Suffrage M.P.’s—Yorkshire and Cheshire Suffrage Petition—Bill of 1904—People’s Suffrage Federation—Cause Won in 1917—Married Women’s Savings—Economic Status of Wife—Health of School Children—School Leaving Age—Free Trade Campaign—Old Age Pensions.</p>	

Contents.

5

	PAGE
CHAPTER VIII.—Interest in Industry	105
Trade Unionism—"Can Women Raise their Husband's Wages?"—Trade Union Label—Miss Clara Collet and Labour Department Inquiries—Coal War of 1894—Mrs. Dickenson's Work—Cabmen's Strike—New Factory Bill—Half-timers—Concern for Co-operative Employees—Early Closing Bill—Trade Boards Bill—Constant Advocacy of Co-operative Productions as chief defence against Sweating.	
CHAPTER IX.—The Minimum Wage Campaign ...	115
Mr. Maxwell's Challenge—Working out a Co-operative Standard—The Scale for Women—The Great Petition—Hostile Arguments—The Scale adopted by the C.W.S.—Support from Societies—The Standard accepted as "National Co-operative Policy."	
CHAPTER X.—National Care of Maternity	123
The Guild's Second Object, the Improvement of Domestic Life—Interest in Midwives' Registration Bill, 1898—Medical Aid Schemes—Schools for Mothers and Dispensaries for Babies—Study of Infant Mortality—Position of Married Women under the National Health Insurance Bill—Maternity Benefits advocated before the Bill was printed—Included in the Bill, 1911—Work for Amendment, 1913—Rapid Campaign and Memorial to House of Commons—Points Won—Publication of "Maternity," 1915—Campaign in the House of Lords for Amendment, 1917—Checks—Hopes—Present Demands.	
CHAPTER XI.—The War Years and After.....	134
First Effects, decrease of Branches and Membership—Remarkable Revival from 1917—Ordinary Activities continued—Work for Women's Industrial Problems—Maintaining the Standard of Wages—Rise in Food Prices—Joint Work with Scottish and Irish Guilds—Danger of Underconsumption—Effect on Nursing Mothers—Maternity Welfare urged upon Lord Rhondda, 1917—Food Control Committees—Guild Help sought by Many Bodies—A Call to Concentration.	

6 *History of the Women's Guild.*

	PAGE
CHAPTER XII.—Finance and Festivals.....	144
<p>Making both ends meet—Annual Subscriptions —Various Funds—Grants from the Co-operative Union—and the C.W.S.—The Coming of Age— Guild Banner Unfurled—The Guild's Expenses— Description of Congress—The President's Chain of Office.</p>	
CHAPTER XIII.—The Stand for Self-Government...	152
<p>The Royal Commission on Divorce Law Reform, 1909—Evidence of Guild Members—Report issued, 1912—Recommendations endorsed by Congress, 1912 and 1913—Opposition from Outside—Pressure from United Board to cease agitation—Grant offered on condition—Guild resolve not to accept Grant under conditions which check Self-Government—Grant lost for four years—Subscription raised to meet loss of Income—Societies support Guild Stand—Re- consideration by Board in 1918—Better under- standing and Grant renewed.</p>	
CHAPTER XIV.—Politics in the Guild Room	160
<p>Laws govern Home Life—Rise of Labour Party —Confusion of Mind as to "Party" Questions— A Working Basis with the Labour Party Advoc- ated—The Co-operative Party formed, 1918— Mrs. Barton for King's Norton—Disappointing Actions—Schools for Study of Co-operative Politics—No Running Away.</p>	
CHAPTER XV.—World-Wide Co-operation	166
<p>The First Foreign Visitors—Growing Inter- national Friendships—International Demonstra- tion at Coming-of-Age Congress, 1904—The Guild Motto "Of Whole Heart Cometh Hope" adopted—Visits to Other Lands—The 500th Branch established in South Africa—Interesting Visitors from Russia and Austria—Work for Peace—War Emergency Work—The Inter- national Co-operative Women's Guild—Frau Emmy Freundlich, President; Miss A. Honora Enfield, Secretary—Bonds of Hope for the Future.</p>	

Contents.

7

	PAGE
CHAPTER XVI.—The Written Word.....	175
<i>The Co-operative News</i> — <i>The Women's Corner</i> — Samuel Bamford's Sympathy—Mrs. Acland first Editor; Successive Editors, Miss Amy Sharp and Mrs. Vaughan Nash; Present Editor, Mrs. Bamford Tomlinson—Pamphlets, Memor- anda, and Leaflets—List of Current Publications.	
CHAPTER XVII.—The Convalescent Fund	181
A Memorial to Mrs. Benjamin Jones and other Good Workers—Its Finances.	
CHAPTER XVIII.—A Summary of Recent History.	184
APPENDIX.	
I. Guildswomen on Boards and Associa- tions	193
II. Guildswomen on Public Bodies in March, 1927	194
III. Expenses of Representation	195
IV. Maternity	196
V. Employment in the Movement.....	196
VI. Grants	197
VII. List of Branches Tabulated in Report for 1890 still in the List for 1926.....	198
VIII. Members of Central Committee	200
IX. Annual Meetings and Congresses	202
X. Note on the Co-operative Movement...	205

ILLUSTRATIONS.

	Facing Title Page
	<i>Facing page</i>
Card of Membership	Facing Title Page
Acland, Alice S., First President	16
Lawrenson, Mary, Co-Founder	17
First Central Committee.....	32
Davies, Margaret Llewelyn, General Secretary, 1889-1921	33
Harris, Lilian, Cashier 1893 and Asst. Sec. 1901-1921...	48
Webb, Catherine (Author of <i>History of the Women's Co-operative Guild</i>)	49
Barton, Eleanor, J.P., General Secretary	64
Sharp, Amy } Past editors of <i>Co-operative News</i>	
Nash, Rosalind } Women's Pages	65
Tomlinson, Annie Bamford, Editor <i>Woman's Outlook</i> and Women's Pages <i>Co-operative News</i>	65
Group of Members of Northern Guild Branch, about 1889	80
Enfield, A. Honora, Secretary, International Women's Co-operative Guild.....	81
Freundlich, Emmy, President, International Women's Co-operative Guild.....	81
Cottrell, Mary E., a Director of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited	81
Men who have helped the Guild	112
Portsmouth Congress, 1922	113
Guild London Office	128
Guild Office, Kirkby Lonsdale.....	128
Guild Chain of Office.....	128
Guild's Sunderland Effort.....	129
Past Presidents of the Guild.....	160, 161, 176
Sectional Secretaries of the Guild, Past and Present	177

FOREWORD.

IT is a great pleasure to respond to the kind wish of the Central Committee of the Women's Co-operative Guild that, as their former General Secretary for thirty-two years, I should send a greeting to the 57,825 Guildswomen of to-day. And associated with me in writing these words, as all Guildswomen would rightly expect, is the former Assistant Secretary, Miss Lilian Harris. For very many years she has contributed to Guild work, whether concerned with the policy or administration, to an extent known fully only to myself.

The Guild has been fortunate in having for its historian one who was among the earliest members to be enrolled. Ever since 1883, Miss Catherine Webb has never ceased to give valuable service to the Guild, and in writing this book has added yet another claim to the gratitude of Guildswomen. Out of a mass of details, she has skilfully drawn a picture of the life of the Guild which will be an abiding stimulus to further adventure on the part of present and future members, and an encouragement to all reformers.

When I think of this republic of women I find myself thinking first, of all those individual heroines of the home whose friendship and hospitality I have had for so many years—mill workers in Lancashire and Yorkshire, teachers, wives of engineers, miners, railwaymen, Store employees, agricultural and general labourers. What poignant, pithy, spirited letters they wrote! How vividly they expressed experiences which sometimes dated back to the bad old times, when the lowness of adult wages and the conditions of wage-earning children were almost at their worst! No characteristic of Guildswomen has been more general than their determination

that their children should have chances denied to themselves.

Then I am led on to think of a Guild Congress, with its amazing sea of faces marked by hard work and responsibility, but full of vitality and humour as their delight in a joke or a racy dialect speech showed. Here was a company of women whose words embodied a knowledge of life to the bone, giving reality and weight to everything they said. "It seemed," wrote a visitor in 1916, "as if the working-women of England were gathered together and become articulate. Working-women were addressing working-women about the questions which interest them, and not to have shared their experiences seemed for the first time, perhaps, to set a woman, or even a man, apart in a way that was curiously humiliating. Certainly no middle-class woman could speak with anything like the knowledge and conviction with which these women spoke on one subject after another." It was at these ever-memorable Congresses that the spirit, strength, and unity of the Guild made themselves felt, calling out hitherto only half-conscious powers, heartening all for the difficulties ahead, making individuals proud of the results of their united action. A leading Guildswoman wrote: "It was a revelation. My spirit felt here is the opportunity I had always been seeking but never put into words. I had longings and aspirations and a vague idea of power within myself which had never had an opportunity of realisation. I felt as I imagine a war-horse must feel when he hears the beat of the drums."

It is natural to ask, in looking back, what is the outstanding fact which will be associated with a movement meaning so much to so many women. Clearly it is the emergence of the married working-woman from national obscurity into a position of national importance.

In the past, a heavy curtain had, on marriage, fallen on the woman's life, and the nation felt no responsibility

for her personal welfare or for the conditions under which she performed her great tasks. Without money of her own, with no right even to her housekeeping savings, without adequate protection against a husband's possible cruelty, with no legal position as a mother, with the conditions of maternity totally neglected, married women in the home had existed apart, voiceless and unseen.

It might well have been thought a hopeless task for a class of women who "never know when their day's work's done," and on whom personal claims are insistent, ceaseless, and irresistible, to organise and educate themselves and undertake public work and responsibilities. But the miracle has been accomplished, and who can say that the Guild has not justified its existence, and that a great and hitherto untapped source of strength has not been added to national life?

And the significant point is that the married woman first emerged and joined hands with her sisters as a *Co-operator*. Co-operation provided her, as the *wage-spender*, with a common economic basis for organisation, just as Trade Unionism united men because of their common interest of *wage-earning*. Within the Co-operative Movement the women have gradually built up their own organisation, and, in doing so, they not only faced the prejudices which confront all pioneers, but overcame their inexperience of working democratically together. From early days the Guild had to meet many of the problems common to all democracies. Perhaps the chief of these in any large body is how to keep the rank and file alert and interested, and not a mere flock of unthinking sheep. The training given by the Guild starts from the point of view that Guildswomen have common interests as *members of a Movement*, and that the education needed is in the ideas and facts which will make their movement most effective; while the success in arousing enthusiasm and energy is due to combining appropriate action with education.

How working-women made their voices heard and with what results is shown in this book. The principal contribution of the Guild to the life of married women has been in changing the whole attitude of the nation towards Maternity. Sentimental expressions of admiration, jocose remarks, and want of care and research by the medical profession are giving place to a recognition of the needs of mothers. Though much remains to be done, the foundations have been laid of a dignified and comprehensive national service of help, which is alleviating the sufferings and privations of women and making the lives of children healthier and happier.

Naturally, too, seeing that the Guild consisted almost entirely of married working-women, it was the first to put forward a practical demand for their own enfranchisement, and, in spite of the view that to ask for votes for wives would wreck the suffrage cause, the Guild's proposal for including them was the one to be finally adopted though the Guild by then was advocating adult suffrage.

In the Co-operative Movement, the effect of the Guild has been to give women their right place in the picture. The power of their revolutionary weapon—the market basket—has been made clear. Women have been transformed from buyers, ignorant of the economic results of their acts, into intelligent Co-operators, conscious that they can undermine Capitalism, and making good their right to share in the control of the Movement.

Undoubtedly, the recognition of the woman's part as the typical consumer has helped to give the Movement a deeper consciousness of its vital function as representing the consumers of the nation. It is from this standpoint that Co-operators have begun to take part in politics. Every other interest, including that of the producers, is represented in Parliament; with the appearance of the Co-operative Party, the interests of the public as consumers are at last beginning to receive

fuller national consideration. The Guild strongly supported Co-operative politics, and saw that it was through the Co-operative Party, in close alliance with Trade Union and Labour forces, that working-women could get the best value for their votes.

In looking ahead, we see that the future holds both obvious pitfalls and inspiring opportunities. Age, size, and success produce many dangers and make a severe strain on those qualities which should be the essence of a society built on fellowship. While maintaining its place as a married women's movement, the Guild will have to guard against becoming conservative and getting into grooves. It will surmount these dangers if Guildswomen choose for responsible posts those who are alive to present-day problems and hopes, who welcome and seek to apply new ideas, and who have given evidence of solid work. Nor must it be forgotten that leaders can be only the reflection of the rank and file, and that the people, as is often said, get the leaders they deserve. So what is needed is open-mindedness everywhere, the "whole heart whence cometh hope," and the finest individual action directed, not to personal ends, but to the welfare of the Guild.

Stamped with these characteristics, the Guild will remain a pioneer force, pregnant with possibilities, proof against stagnation, capable of rising to the work before it. Reforms in married women's lives are still far from complete, and the part women must play in Co-operation and in the new social order is not yet fully worked out or assured. They are more and more being relied on to further Co-operative progress, and through the Guild they have the power to propose and press for new developments and to make their contribution to the solution of the new and urgent Co-operative problems.

It is through the Guild, also, that Co-operative women can take their place as an organised force in the whole Labour Movement, thus helping to establish the Co-

operative Commonwealth, where there will be "equal fellowship for women and men in the Home, the Store, the Workshop, and the State."

And the future is not concerned only with national problems. The causes of International Co-operation and Peace are causes which will call forth the highest endeavour of the Guild. A strong international spirit is showing itself amongst Guildswomen. They have supported with enthusiasm the formation of the International Co-operative Women's Guild, to which response has already been made by women from over 20 countries, with the result that, throughout the world, women's importance in Co-operation is being more widely understood. At the same time the English Guild has taken a keen interest in forwarding international co-operative trade, destined in time to lead to an Economic League of Peoples, and making commerce a bond of friendship instead of a cause of jealous rivalry.

To Co-operators, looking forward to the creation of a family of nations, War is a denial of their faith, a condition of the past which must be abolished like slavery. Guildswomen have taken their stand. Before them lies the magnificent task of stimulating the growing conviction that we must turn our backs completely on War, and devote our whole energies to making Peace a reality and Co-operation the rule of life.

MARGARET LLEWELYN DAVIES.

August, 1927.

AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION.

"In Books lies the soul of the whole Past Time : the articulate audible voice of the Past, when the body and material substance of it has altogether vanished like a dream."

—CARLYLE, *Heroes and Hero-worship*.

THIS little book is destined to contain as much of the story of the English Women's Co-operative Guild as can be compressed into its all too few pages. Over forty years of active social organisation are here recorded.

The task is no light one for the writer, or for the reader. The writer has had to sort out, and try to present in right perspective, an overwhelming mass of material, all in some degree interesting and important ; to select, therefrom, the threads with which to weave a coherent picture of past endeavour, in order that a later generation of guildswomen may learn how the organisation they love so well came into being ; how it grew, and towards what goal its pioneer workers aimed.

The readers' task will be to forgive the many omissions which the smallness of my compass demanded, and the severe condensation of detail which could not be avoided. If these may be forgiven, the reader will, I hope, find the golden threads in the pattern which carry forward the spirit and ideals of Guild life throughout the years—"the articulate audible voice of the Past."

The story of the Guild has been twice told up to a certain date. In a "*Short History*" of the first ten years, written by myself, and published in 1895, and again in a longer volume, *The Women's Co-operative Guild*, written by Miss Llewelyn Davies, and published in 1904. Some extracts from these two records, which tell of the birth, childhood, and youth of the Guild, will help to introduce the story of rapid expansion in numbers, service, and responsibility which followed the "Coming of Age" in 1904.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

Mrs. Nevitt was elected on to the North-Western Sectional Board in 1923, and Mrs. Corrie on to the Midland Board in 1924, Mrs. Cottrell having retired on her election to the C.W.S. Board.

Mrs. Bain was added to the strength of the Southern Sectional Board in 1925, and on being appointed Assistant Secretary of the Guild in 1921, Mrs. Barton retired from the Newspaper Board, and Mrs. Dewsbury succeeded her in that important office.

In March, 1927, the representation of women in the Movement was as follows:—

ON BOARDS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

Co-operative Wholesale Society.—Mrs. Cottrell.

Central Board.—Mrs. Gasson and Mrs. Bain (Southern Section), Mrs. Nevitt (N.W. Section), Mrs. Corrie (Midland Section).

National Co-operative Publishing Society.—Mrs. Dewsbury.

Educational Committee, Co-operative Union.—Miss Symes (representing the Guild).

Co-operative Party Executive.—Mrs. Bedhall (representing the Guild).

Sectional Propaganda Committees.—Midland, 1 ; North-Western, 2.

District Associations.—Guild members sit on the Bristol and Somerset, Surrey, and Gloucester Co-operative Union District Associations.

National Co-operative Publishing Society Advisory Committees.—Midland, 1 ; Northern, 2 ; Southern, 2.

Educational Committees' Associations.—Women members sit on the Executives of all the Educational Committees' Associations.

Convalescent Fund Committees.—Miss Webb (Secretary, Southern), Miss Gration and Mrs. Bamford Tomlinson (North-Western), Mrs. Found (South-Western).

Three hundred and thirty-seven women sat on the Management Committees of 194 Societies, and 626 women sat on Educational Committees, while two Guilds act as Education Committees for their respective Societies.

APPENDIX II.

GUILDSWOMEN ON PUBLIC BODIES IN MARCH, 1927.

One Guildswoman is Mayor.

On County and Municipal Boroughs, 69.

English and Welsh Consultative Councils of the Ministry of Health, 3.

One on Milk Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health.

Magistrates, 72.

Sixty-nine sit on Municipal Maternity Committees.

About 63 sit on Housing Committees.

About 74 on local Insurance Committees.

About 77 on Urban District Councils.

About 60 on Local Education Committees.

About 186 on Boards of Guardians.

Guildswomen also sit on Trades Councils or Labour Representative Committees, Venereal Diseases Committees, Labour Advisory Committees, and Housing Advisory Committees, Police Court Rota, Old Age or War Pensions, Rural and District Councils.

APPENDIX III.

MATERNITY.

EXPENSES OF REPRESENTATIVES ON INSURANCE
AND OTHER COMMITTEES.

The following are quotations from letters, illustrating first hand personal experience :

" I missed two meetings on account of expense. I had not the money to spare, it being the end of the week (Thursday), my husband's wage being only 26s. weekly, and have 8s. 6d. rent to pay."

" Railway fares are 4s. 8d. ; if able to attend on market day, 3s. 5d. We were paid up during February, after having attended since July. I should like to state here that I missed several times during December and January, not having the wherewithal to travel. . . . As regards cost of meals while away from home, I go without, taking a bit of something in my pocket to eat on the quiet. I get forward with my work the day before, and pay a neighbour 1s. to look after my little boy. Usual time away from home on committee, from 12 noon, getting back about 7 in the evening."

" As you know, it is much more economical for a mother to make the tea and cut up the bread and butter rather than leave it to the husband and children to do. It is really in these little ways we have to be careful, or else the money does not last out. My car fare is not so heavy as some, but when one, after paying all household expenses on Saturday, has about 2s. or 3s. to last from Monday to Friday, even 4d., or 6d., out of this has to be considered, and I know there are some women like myself who cannot afford to ride—we walk."

APPENDIX IV.

MATERNITY.

Grants in aid of the Maternity and Child Welfare service, to the amount of 50 per cent of their approved net expenditure, are distributed, under regulations approved by the Treasury, to Local Authorities and voluntary societies carrying out arrangements within the scope of the regulations, and duly sanctioned by the Minister of Health.

In 1925-26 the total amount disbursed was £850,173, local authorities claiming £651,022, and voluntary societies £199,151. The total net expenditure of local authorities on these services was £1,242,817 in 1924-25.

The total number of persons acting as health visitors, on March 31st, 1926, was 3,878. Of these, 919 were employed wholly on Maternity and Child Welfare work. On March 31st, 1926, there were 2,195 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in England, as compared with 2,122 on March 31st, 1925—1,422 were conducted by local authorities, and 773 by voluntary agencies.

The net expenditure of local authorities in 1924-25 on the supply of milk at less than cost price to expectant and nursing mothers, and young children, was £182,000.

APPENDIX V.

EMPLOYMENT.

In 1897 the number of persons employed in the movement was 67,381, and in 1925 the number had increased to about 200,000.

The wages of girls and women workers have increased since 1914 from 78·6 per cent to 120 per cent above the minimum rates adopted in that year.

Conciliation Boards, consisting of representatives of the Co-operative Union and the A.U.C.E., were set up in

1916 to deal with the labour troubles within the movement. A National Board, with District Boards, covered the whole of the organisation. In 1917 Hours and Wages Boards were set up in all the districts. These Boards were designed to prevent disputes, rather than to function as arbitrators in settling disputes after they had arisen, as was the purpose of the Conciliation Boards. A Labour Adviser has now been appointed, and new machinery for settling disputes which went beyond the powers of the Boards already in operation adopted at the Congress in 1926, in a resolution which "Urges all co-operative societies in membership with the Co-operative Union to use the new machinery in a sincere spirit of conciliation in order that disputes arising in the co-operative movement may be settled without resort to strikes or lockouts."

APPENDIX VI.

GRANTS.

Year.	Co-operative Union.			Co-operative Wholesale.		
	Per annum.			£	s.	d.
	£	s.	d.			
1886 to 1892	10	0	0	...	—	—
1893 to 1894	50	0	0	...	—	—
1895 to 1898	100	0	0	...	—	—
1899 to 1905	200	0	0	...	—	—
1906 to 1912	300	0	0	...	—	—
1913	400	0	0	...	—	—
1914 to 1917—						
Grant withheld.	—	—	—	...	—	—
1918 to 1919	400	0	0	...	—	—
1920 to 1926	500	0	0	...	—	—
1908	—	—	—	...	100	0 0
1909	—	—	—	...	50	0 0
1910 to 1913	—	—	—	...	75	0 0
1914	—	—	—	...	125	0 0
1915 to 1917	—	—	—	...	150	0 0
1918 to 1920	—	—	—	...	300	0 0
1921 to 1924	—	—	—	...	400	0 0
1925 to 1926	—	—	—	...	500	0 0
1917 Donations from Societies	...	...	...	...	181	0 6

GRANTS FROM SOCIETIES TO BRANCHES.

Grants from Societies to Branches have gradually increased in number and amount. In the year ending December, 1925, they were as follows:—

SECTION.	Under £5.	£5 and under £10.	£10 and under £20.	£30.	£40.	£40 and upwards.	Totals.
Midland ...	71	60	13	1	...	...	145
Northern ...	25	11	5	...	...	...	41
Lancashire ..	18	37	75	31	1	2	164
Yorkshire ...	53	45	12	5	...	1	116
South							
Eastern	59	17	6	11	1	...	94
Southern....	61	58	11	1	...	...	131
Western	10	25	7	...	...	...	42
Totals ...	303	254	129	49	2	3	740
1927	324	256	142	43	1	3	769

APPENDIX VII.

LIST OF BRANCHES TABULATED IN REPORT FOR 1890
STILL IN LIST FOR 1926.

Name.	1890. No. of Members.	1926. No. of Members.	Daughter Branches.	Total Membership.
Manchester	43	102	12	1,394
Wallsend.....	35	296	...	...
Cricklewood	17	27*†	...	...
Dover	38	244	...	...
Wimbledon.....	16	28*†	...	...
Battersea	46	91*†	...	...
Carlisle	15	75	1	95
Sheffield	47	51	9	369
Marylebone	74	14*†	...	...
Caterham	8	17*†	...	...
Ashford.....	19	46	2	79
Brighton.....	30	136	10	444

Name.	1890. No. of Members.	1926. No. of Members.	Daughter Branches.	Total Membership.
Burnley	60	100	1	150
Rugby	38	74	...	...
Rochester	16	105	2	155
Banbury	54	68	1	114
Rochdale	22	30	2	66
Reading	24	100	1	120
Woolwich	15	50*†	...	...
Leeds	120	26	37	1,368
Bolton	80	250	...	...
Kentish Town	20	92*†	...	...
Bermondsey	29	75*†	...	...
Erith	18	30*†	...	...
Coventry	31	150	3	259
Bristol	20	58	16	673
New Brompton‡	50	52	...	...
Plymouth	56	204	7	481
Peckham	12	112*†	...	...
Ipswich	34	103	7	360
Hackney	13	38*†	...	...
Norwich	30	150	...	...
Charlton	12	40*†	...	...
Ely .....	...	60	...	...
Exeter .....	...	30	...	...
Penge .....	...	37*†	...	...
Peterborough .....	...	128	6	404
Plumstead .....	...	88	...	...
Portsea Island .....	...	146	11	478
Ripley	17	76	3	127

*These branches have many of them not had a continued existence, but have followed the fortunes of their Societies; but the spirit of the Guild remained, and revived when opportunity occurred.

‡ Now Gillingham.

† These branches belong to one or other of the three great amalgamated Societies—the London, Royal Arsenal, and South Suburban, which have daughter branches as follows:—

London—88 Branches, 3,773 Members.

Woolwich (Royal Arsenal Society)—36 Branches, 2,069 Members.

South Suburban Society—29 Branches, 712 Members.

APPENDIX VIII.

MEMBERS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Name.	Date, Years of Service.	Offices held.
Mrs. Acland	1883	... Secretary, 1883. Pres., 1884-6.
Mrs. Lawrenson	... 1884-1892	... Gen. Sec., 1885-9.
Miss Allen (Mrs. Redfern)	1884-88	... Gen. Sec., 1884.
Miss Greenwood	1884-86; 1888	...
Mrs. Halliwell	... 1884	...
Mrs. B. Jones	... 1884-92; 1893	... Pres., 1886-1892
Miss Shufflebotham (Mrs. Trotman)	... 1884-91	...
Miss Catherine Webb	... 1885-88; 1892-4...	V.-Pres., 1893
Mrs. Hill ...	... 1885-86.	...
Miss Sharp	... 1886-91	... V. Pres., 1891
Mrs. Carter	... 1887-90	...
Miss Ll. Davies	... 1888	... Gen. Sec. 1889-1921
Miss Holyoake (Mrs. Holyoake Marsh)	... 1888-91; 1893	...
Miss Reddish	... 1889-91; 1895-98..	Pres., 1897
Miss E. A. Tournier	... 1890-92; 1894-98..	Pres., 1892
Miss M. Spooner	... 1891-93; 1896	V.-Pres., 1896
Mrs. Knott	... 1892-3	...
Mrs. Adams	... 1894-6	... Pres., 1895
Mrs. Ashworth	... 1892-6; 1897-8	... Pres., 1893-94.
Mrs. Bury	... 1894-6; 1898-90; 1902-4; 1906-8	Pres., 1896, 1904, 1908
Mrs. Spence	... 1894-5	...
Mrs. Hodgett	... 1895-7; 1899-1901, 1905-7	... Pres., 1900, 1907
Mrs. Carr	... 1896-8; 1904-6	... Pres., 1898, 1906
Mrs. Deans	... 1897-9	... Pres., 1899
Mrs. Widlake	... 1897-9	...
Mrs. Dring	... 1898	...
Mrs. Potter	... 1899	...
Mrs. Boothman	... 1899-1901	... Pres., 1901
Mrs. Green	... 1900-03; 1919-22..	Pres., 1902
Mrs. McBlain	.. 1900-3; 1907-9 ..	Pres., 1903
Mrs. Bentley	... 1900-1	..
Mrs. Bentley	... 1900-1	...
Mrs. Butterfield	... 1901-3	...
Mrs. Fidkin	.. 1902-4	... V.-Pres., 1904
Mrs. Nightingale	... 1902-4	...
Mrs. Gasson	... 1904-6	... Pres., 1905
Miss Goodall	... 1904-6	...

Appendices.

201

Name.	Years of Service on Committee.	
Mrs. Eddie	... 1905; 1912-5	... V.-Pres., 1914
Mrs. Warren	... 1905-7	... V.-Pres., 1907
Mrs. Brown	... 1907-9	... V.-Pres., 1909
Miss Gratton	... 1907-9	... Pres., 1909
Mrs. Harris	... 1908-10	... Pres., 1910
Mrs. Treble	... 1908-10	... V.-Pres., 1910
Mrs. Blair	... 1909-11; 1919-21..	Pres., 1911
Mrs. Wilkins	... 1909-11; 1915-17	Pres., 1916
Mrs. Jacques	... 1910-11	
Mrs. Wimhurst	... 1910-12	... Pres., 1912
Mrs. Booth	... 1911-13; 1916-18	Pres., 1917
Mrs. Essery	... 1911-13	... Pres., 1913
Mrs. Barton	... 1912-14; 1920	... Pres., 1914 Asst. Sec., 1921 Gen. Sec., 1925
Mrs. Coffey	... 1912-14	...
Miss Allen	... 1913-15	... V.-Pres., 1915
Mrs. Cottrell	... 1914-15	...
Mrs. Found	... 1914-15	... Pres., 1915
Mrs. Butler	... 1915-17	...
Mrs. Daymond	... 1915-17	...
Mrs. Nevitt	... 1915-17	... V.-Pres., 1916-17
Mrs. Hood	... 1916-18	... Pres., 1918
Mrs. Williams	... 1917-19	... Pres., 1919
Mrs. Ferguson	... 1918-20	... Pres., 1920
Mrs. Hutchings	... 1918-20	...
Mrs. Lawton	... 1918	...
Mrs. Layton	... 1919-21	... V.-Pres., 1921
Mrs. Dewsbury	... 1919-21	... Pres., 1921
Mrs. Prosser	... 1920-22	... Pres., 1922
Mrs. Close	... 1921-24	...
Mrs. Penny	... 1921 and 1923	...
Mrs. Millman	... 1921-23	... V.-Pres., 1922-23
Mrs. Allen	... 1922-23	... Pres., 1923
Mrs. Andrews	... 1922-24	...
Mrs. Bain	... 1922-24	... V.-Pres., 1924
Mrs. Matthews	... 1922-24	... Pres., 1924
Mrs. Whitehead	... 1922	...
Mrs. Matt. Lewis	... 1923-25	...
Mrs. Campbell	... 1924 to present	...
Miss Symes	... 1924	... V.-Pres., 1925
Mrs. Webster	... 1924-26	... Pres., 1925
Mrs. Bedhall	... 1925	...
Mrs. Mc.Ard	... 1925	...
Mrs. Tucker	... 1925	...
Mrs. Bird	... 1925	... Pres., 1926

NOTE.—The year stated is that of election to the C.C. or other office. The Guild year running from June to June. Thus, Mrs. Bird was elected President in June, 1926, and concluded her year of office at Leicester Congress, June, 1927.

APPENDIX IX.

ANNUAL MEETINGS AND CONGRESSES.

YEAR.	PLACE OF MEETING.	SUBJECT.	READER OF PAPER.
1885...	A.M. Oldham	1. Guild Children	... Mrs. B. Jones
	Union Congress.	2. Representation of Guild at Congress	Discussion
1886...	A.M. Plymouth	1. Guild Organisation	... Mrs. Acland
		2. Drapery Departments	... Mrs. Jones
1887...	A.M. Carlisle	1. Formation of Southern District	... Mrs. Jones
		2. Co-operative Association for Needle-women and Work Girls	... Miss Sharp
		3. Guild Dividends	... Miss Webb
1888...	A.M. Dewsbury	1. Branch Work	... Mrs. Wood
		2. Branch Work	... Miss Llewelyn Davies
1889...	A.M. Ipswich	1. Guild Work	... Miss Shore Smith (Mrs. Nash)
1890...	A.M. Glasgow	Addresses by	... Mr. W. Maxwell (S.C.W.S.) Mrs. Lindsey (Glasgow)
1891...	A.M. Lincoln	Addresses by	... Mrs. Cracroft (Lincoln) Mr. Scotton (Derby)
1892...	A.M. Rochdale	Addresses by	... Miss C. E. Wilson (Manchester) Mr. Young (Plymouth)
1893...	A.M. Leicester	1. Women as Shareholders and Officials	Mrs. Woodward
	First separate Annual Meeting.	2. Co-operation and Domestic Life	... Miss Webb
1894...	A.M. Doncaster	1. The Guild and Local Government	... Mrs. Abbott
1895...	A.M. London	1. The Half-time System	... Mrs. Rigby
		2. Reforms in Co-operative Education	Miss Llewelyn Davies
1896...	A.M. Burnley	1. Surplus Capital	... Miss Reddish
1897...	A.M. Sunderland	1. Compensation Act	... Mrs. V. Nash (Miss Shore Smith)
		2. High Dividends	... Miss Webb

ANNUAL MEETINGS AND CONGRESSES.—*continued.*

YEAR.	PLACE OF MEETING.	SUBJECT.	READER OF PAPER.
1898...	A.M. Derby	1. Co-operative Housebuilding	... Miss Mayo
		2. Co-operative Productions	... Mrs. Slack
1899...	A.M. Plymouth	1. Women on Management Committees	... Mrs. Day (Stockton)
		2. Women on Educational Committees	... Mrs. Marshall (Huddersfield)
	First Congress	3. Childhood	... Miss McMillan
1900...	Woolwich	1. A Co-operative Relief Column	... Miss Llewelyn Davies
1901...	Blackpool	1. Temperance Reform	... Mrs. Bury
		2. Co-operative Life Insurance	... Mrs. Eddie
1902...	Newcastle	1. Report of Inquiry Committee on Co-operation and the Poor.	
		2. Open Membership	... Mrs. Owen
1903...	Lincoln	1. The Co-operative Wholesale Society.	... Discussion
		2. Women on Borough Councils	... Miss Reddish
1904...	Gloucester	1. Citizenship	... Discussion opened by Miss Reddish.
	Coming of Age.	2. Credit Trading	... Mr. J. C. Gray
		3. The Licensing Bill	... Mr. Seebohm Rowntree
1905...	Sheffield	1. Health of School Children	... Miss Walker (Dundee)
		2. Feeding of School Children in Paris	... Mlle. Bonneval (Paris)
1906...	Ipswich	1. The Co-operative Store Abroad	... Miss Llewelyn Davies
		2. Co-operators and the Labour Party	... Mrs. Abbott
1907...	Darlington	1. Health Departments	... Miss Llewelyn Davies
		2. Position of Married Women	... Mrs. V. Nash
1908...	Burton-on-Trent	1. A Co-operative Standard for Women Workers	... Paper prepared by C.C.
1909...	Oldham	1. Half-time System	... Paper prepared by C.C.
		2. What is a Good Dividend?	... Paper prepared by C.C.
1910...	Oxford	1. School Clinics	... Mrs. Harris
1911...	Bristol	1. Women and Government Insurance Schemes	... Paper prepared by C.C.

ANNUAL MEETINGS AND CONGRESSES.—*continued.*

YEAR.	PLACE OF MEETING.	SUBJECT.	READER OF PAPER.
1911...	Bristol ...	... 2. Co-operative Comrades-in-Arms ...	... Paper prepared by C.C.
1912...	Hull ...	... 1. Co-operation and Labour Uprisings...	... Mrs. Eddie
1913...	Newcastle ...	... 1. Education of Guildswomen ...	... Miss Llewelyn Davies
1914...	Birmingham	... 1. Report of Inquiry on Co-operative Dressmaking ...	... Discussion
1915...	Liverpool ...	... No papers read. Principal Resolutions on (1) Self-Government; (2) Education; (3) National Care of Maternity; (4) Peace.	
1916...	London ...	... Resolutions on (1) Taxation; (2) International Trade; (3) Peace.	
1917...	Torquay ...	... Chief Event: News of Enfranchisement of Women. (1) Maternity; (2) Survey Committee's Report; (3) Political Action.	
1918...	Bradford ...	... (1) The Political Party; (2) The Union Grant; (3) A People's Peace; (4) Voluntary Work.	
1919...	Middlesbrough	... (1) The Co-operative Commonwealth; (2) International Co-operation; (3) Voluntary Work.	
1920...	Derby ...	... (1) Voluntary Work; (2) High Prices; (3) Co-operative and Labour Alliance; (4) Housing.	
1921...	Manchester ...	... (1) Joint Capital Campaign; (2) Housing; (3) Representation at Congress; (4) A Salaried Official; (5) Old-Age Pensions at 60.	
1922...	Portsmouth...	... Chief Event: Retirement of Miss Llewelyn Davies and Miss Harris, and presentation to them of the Freedom of the Guild. (1) International Co-operative Women's Committee; (2) Disarmament; (3) Education; (4) Unemployment.	
1923...	Cardiff ...	... (1) Amendment to Rules; (2) Co-operative Party and Women Candidates; (3) International Co-operative Trade; (4) Peace; (5) Pensions' Bill.	
1924...	Leeds ...	... (1) Co-operative Production; (2) Juvenile Employment; (3) Cost of Living; (4) Abolition of all Food Taxes.	
1926...	Cambridge ...	... (1) National Milk Supply; (2) Politics; (3) Family Allowances; (4) Pensions.	

APPENDIX X.

NOTE ON THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

The Co-operative Movement is an association of Self-governed Co-operative Societies, originating in Rochdale in 1844. The membership is open to men and women on equal terms, shares being of the value of £1 each with limited liability. Retail Distributive Societies numbered in 1925 (latest figures available) 1,289, with a membership of 4,910,983; share and loan capital amounting to £100,683,815, and a trade for that year of £183,584,049. The Individual Societies are affiliated to the Co-operative Union for purposes of legal guidance, propaganda, and education. They are federated for mutual Trade and Production in the English and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies Ltd.

The English Women's Co-operative Guild is an auxiliary, through its Branches, of the Societies in England and Wales. The Scottish Women's Co-operative Guild and the Irish Women's Co-operative Guild are auxiliaries to the Societies in Scotland and Ireland respectively.



-3493 (2)-