

ALL-INDIA Women's Conference

13th session waiting

TENTH SESSION



TRIVANDRUM

December 25, 1935 to January 4, 1936



H. H. MAHARANI SETU PARVATI BAYI OF TRAVANCORE.
President, All-India Women's Conference, 1935-36

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

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TRIVANDRUM: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS, 1936.

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Patronesses
OF THE
ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Her Excellency the Lady Irwin.
Her Highness the Maharani of Baroda.
Her Highness Maimuna Sultana, the Begum of Bhopal.
The Consort of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin.
Maharani Sucharu Devi of Mayurbhanj.
The Rani of Vizianagram.
Her Highness the Dowager Rani of Mandi.
Mrs. Sorojini Naidu.
Dr. Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi.
Mrs. P. K. Roy.
Lady Ramanbhai Neelkanth.
Lady Abdul Qadir.
Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji.

**OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE
ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, 1936**

President

H.H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi Saheba of Travancore, Trivandrum.

Vice-Presidents

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I.

Mrs. Hansa Metha, 16, Altmont Road, Bombay.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City, Punjab, (Summer—
Manorville, Simla. W. I.)

Begum Hamid Ali, The Residency, Satara.

Mrs. M. E. Cousins, Madanapalle, Madras Presidency.

Mrs. N. Kunjan Pillai, Park View, Trivandrum.

Chairwoman

Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee, 9, Lower Rawdon Street, Calcutta.

Hon. Organising Secretary

Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan, Gilchrist Gardens, Chetput, Madras.

Educational Section Secretary

Miss R. Reuben, Chembur, Bombay (Suburban District).

Social Section Secretary

Mrs. J. R. Doctor, Hirjee Mansion, 93, Gowalia Tank Road, Malabar
Hill, Bombay

Hon. Treasurer

Miss G. J. Bahadurji, Thoburn House, Apollo Bunder, Bombay,

Liaison Officer

Begum Hamid Ali, The Residency, Satara.

Conveners of Sub-Committees

Finance:—Miss G. J. Bahadurji, Thoburn House, Apollo Bunder,
Bombay.

Constitution:—Miss L. M. Naidu, Hyderabad (Deccan).

Common Language:—Miss Justin, 7, Bonlevard Road, Delhi.

Literacy:—Miss Lazarus, Tumkur, Mysore State.

Health:—Dr. Mrs. Sukthankar, Shantaram House, Malabar Hill,
Bombay.

Labour:—Mrs. A. Chatterjee, 43, Wellesley Street, Calcutta.

Rural Reconstruction:—Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City.

Indigenous Industries:—Mrs. Hansa Mehta, 16, Altmont Road,
Bombay.

Harijan:—Mrs. Brijlal Nehru, 11, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi.

Opium:—Begum Hamid Ali, The Residency, Satara.

Anti-Child-Marriage:—Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, 1, Badsha Bagh,
Lucknow.

Special Committee for:

Legal Disabilities:—Mrs. S. N. Ray, C/o. The District Magistrate,
Comilla, Bengal.

Legislation:—Mrs. Asaf Ali, Cucha Chelan, Daryagunj, Delhi.

Franchise:—Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I.

The Education Fund Association:—Secretary, Sardani Sewa Singh
Gill, 6, Jantar Mantar Road, New Delhi.

MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, 1936

- Ajmer*—Mrs. L. F. Massey, C/o. F. Massey, Esq., Asst. Engineer,
B. B. & C. I. Ry., Ajmer.
- Andhra*—Mrs. M. Kamamma, Masulipatam, Kristna District.
- Assam*—Mrs. Rajbala Das, C/o. Dr. J. Das, M. B., Panbazar, Gauhati.
- Bengal East*—Mrs. Sujata Roy, The Chummery, Ramna, Dacca.
- Bengal West*—Mrs. R. N. Tagore, Santiniketan, District Birbhum.
- Berar*—Mrs. V. Pradhan, C/o. Mr. Pradhan, Pleader, Jalai Peth,
Akola.
- Bihar*—Mrs. A. T. Sen, C/o. A. Sen, Esq., Bar-at-Law, Patna.
- Bombay*—Mrs. N. M. Raiji, 68, Napean Sea Road, Bombay.
- Calcutta*—Mrs. M. A. Momin, 53/2, Hazra Road, Ballygunge P. O.,
Calcutta.
- C. P. North*—Mrs. John Masiah, Burhanpur, C. P.
- C. P. South*—Mrs. Sushila Kothiwan, Tulsibagh Road, Mahal,
Nagpur City.
- Delhi*—Mrs. Asaf Ali, Cucha Chelan, Daryaganje, Delhi.
- Gujarat*—Mrs. J. R. Vakharia, Belle Viue, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad.
- Konkan*—Mrs. S. B. Bhasvare, Mission Bungalow, Alibagh, Dt.
Kolaba.
- Madras*—Mrs. A. Kuriyan, Water Works, Kilpauk, Madras.
- Maharashtra*—Mrs. Yesubai Kulkarni, 536, Shanwar, Poona.
- Malabar*—Mrs. G. C. Baratan, The Retreat, Calicut.
- N. W. F. P.*—Mrs. Kazi Mir Ahmed, C/o. K. B. Kazi Mir Ahmed,
J. C., Peshawar.
- Orissa*—Miss S. B. Das, Madhu-Smriti, Cuttack.
- Punjab, Central*—Miss Premwati Thapor, Golf Road, Lahore.
- Punjab, East*—Miss D. B. Hassan, Panipat, Punjab.
- Sind*—Dr. Mrs. K. Tarabai, Bunder Road, Karachi.
- Tamil Nadu*—Mrs. A. G. Gomatinathan, C/o. S. Gomatinathan, Esq.,
Advocate, Ganapathi-Vilas, Koilpatti, S. I. Ry.
- U. P. Agra*—Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Anand Bhavan, Allahabad.
- U. P. Oudh*—Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, 1, Badsha Bagh, Lucknow,

INDIAN STATES

- Baroda*—Mrs. Goolbai Wadia, Gulshan, Alkapuri, Baroda.
- Bikaner*—
- Cochin*—Sri. P. Meenakshikutty Amma, M. I. C. Eranaculam,
Cochin State.
- Gwalior*—Mrs. Chandrakala Sahai, 10, J. A. Hospital, Lashkar,
Gwalior, C. I.
- Hyderabad (Deccan)*—Mrs. C. Cornelius, City Road, Hyderabad
(Deccan).
- Indore*—Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta, 19, Yashvant Nivas Road, Indore, C. I.
- Jaipur*—
- Kolhapur*—Mrs. Shamabai Moruse, Sahupuri, Kolhapur State.
- Kashmer*—
- Kotah*—
- Mysore*—Mrs. Janaki Ammal, 114, Visweswarapuram, Bangalore
City.
- Sangli*—Mrs. Sumatibai Gokhale, New Extension, Sangli, S. M. C.
- Travancore*—Mrs. K. Easwari Amma, English Tutor, Arts College,
Trivandrum.

— — — —

- N. C. W. I. Co-opted Member*—Mrs. Keron Bose, 4, Sambhunath Nath
Pandit Street, Calcutta.
- W. I. A. Co-opted Member*—Dr. Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi, Everest,
Mylapore, Madras.
- Liaison officer for British Women's organisations*—Mrs. Lankester,
62, Plough Lane, Purley, Surrey, England.

**List of Delegates to the Tenth Session of
the All-India Women's Conference,
Trivandrum, 1935-36**

Andhra

1. Mrs. J. Kamakshamma.
2. Mrs. M. Kamalamma.
3. Mrs. B. Kamakshamma.
4. Mrs. T. Rajeshwaramma.
5. Mrs. Subbarayaudu.
6. Mrs. A. V. Seetamma.
7. Mrs. A. Bhaskaramma.
8. Mrs. D. B. Krishnamma.
9. Mrs. J. Kamakshamma.
10. Mrs. M. U. Devi.
11. Mrs. D. Rajalakshmi
12. Mrs. Myskens.

Bengal East

1. Miss Monorama Bose.

Bombay

1. Mrs. J. R. Doctor.
2. Mrs. N. M. Raiji
3. Mrs. Bachoobai
D. Thacker.
4. Mrs. B. K. Daphtary.
5. Miss Nivedita Mehta.
6. Mrs. Manglaben Mehta.
7. Miss K. J. Bharda.
8. Dr. Miss Jarbanoo
E. Mistri.
9. Dr. Mrs. Malini
B. Sukthankar.
10. Miss Shantabai
Dondekar.
11. Miss R. Reuben,
(Office-bearer.)
12. Miss G. J. Bahadurji Do.
13. Mrs. Hansa Mehta Do.

Calcutta

1. Mrs. M. A. Momin.
2. Mrs. Niouta Ghosh.
3. Mrs. Sarala Bala Mitter.
4. Mrs. K. C. Roy.
5. Mrs. S. C. Mazumder.
6. Mrs. T. Ahmed.
7. Mrs. D. Basu.
8. Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee,
(Office-bearer.)
9. Mrs. S. N. Ray Do.
10. Miss Wingate.

Central Provinces South

1. Miss A. B. Van Doren.
2. Mrs. Anasuya Kale.
3. Mrs. Durgabai Gokhale.
4. Mrs. Durgabai
Manjrekar.

Cochin

1. Miss V. K. Droupathy
Amma.
2. Miss V. K. Parwathi.
3. Miss T. Lakshmikutty
Warasiar.
4. Miss P. Kochammu
Amma.
5. Mrs. C. Kuttan Nair.
6. Mrs. T. Bharati Amma.
7. Mrs. E. V. Mathew.
8. Mrs. M. Lakshmikutty
Amma.

Delhi

1. Mrs. Asaf Ali.
2. Dr. Miss B. Natarajan.
3. Miss F. A. Clerk.
4. Miss Justin.
5. Miss Copeland.

Gujerat

1. Mrs. J. R. Vakharia.
2. Miss M. G. Medivala.

Hyderabad (Deccan)

1. Mrs. C. Cornelius.
2. Mrs. R. V. Pillai.
3. Miss L. M. Naidu.
4. Mrs. Engler.
5. Mrs. Mahomed Taki.
6. Miss Khurshed Taki.
7. Mrs. Ali Akbar.
8. Miss Ali Akbar.
9. Miss Munir Ali Raza.
10. Miss Fyzeb Ali Raza.
11. Mrs. Rustomji
Faridoonji.

Indore

1. Mrs. Bhanumati
Turkud.
2. Miss R. Kirpalani.
3. Dr. M. F. Thanevala.
4. Mrs. Khan Bahadur
Ahmed Bux.

Konkan

1. Dr. A. R. Athavle.
2. Miss K. R. Athavle.
3. Mrs. M. Solomon.

Madras

1. Mrs. Kamala
Damodaran.
2. Mrs. Rahmatunnissa
Begum.

3. Mrs. Ammu
Swaminadhan.
4. Mrs. Dorothy
Jinarajadasa.
5. Mrs. C. T. Alwar Chetty.
6. Mrs K. Kunjitapadam.
7. Mrs. Decaness Beaver.
8. Mrs. Paul Appaswamy.
9. Rani Saheba of
Munagala.
10. Mrs. M. E. Cousins.

Maharashtra

1. Mrs. V. Ajrikar.
2. Mrs. V. Bakhale.
3. Mrs. Yesubai Kulkarni.
4. Mrs. Tarabai
Patwardhan.
5. Miss B. Shahazadi.
6. Miss B. Mustaffa Khan.
7. Mrs. T. B. Tarkunde.

Malabar

1. Mrs. G. C. Bharatan.
2. Mrs. Manjeri Kamalam.
3. Miss M. N. Sreedevi.
4. Mrs. O. C. Nambiar.
5. Mrs. T. P. Janaki Amma.
6. Miss M. Janaki.
7. Mrs. Subramanya Iyer.
8. Mrs. A. V. Kuttimalu
Amma.
9. Miss T. M. Narayani
Kovilamma.
10. Miss S. Paul.

Mysore

1. Mrs. Janakamma.
2. Mrs. R. A. Srinivasa
Iyengar.
3. Mrs. K. D. Rukmini
Amma.

4. Mrs. A. T. Lakshmiamma
5. Mrs. A. N. Kalappa.
6. Dr. M. Ratnamma Issac.
7. Mrs. Govind Pillai.
8. Miss Z. Lazarus.

Orissa

1. Miss S. B. Das.
2. Miss S. B. Hazra.
3. Miss S. B. Banerjee.
4. Miss B. Sarangi.
5. Mrs. S. Choudhury.

Punjab Central

1. Miss P. Thapar.
2. Miss W. N. Cocks.

Punjab East

1. Miss D. B. Hassan.

Sangli

1. Mrs. Sumatibai Gokhale.
2. Miss Manutai Podalker.
3. Mrs. Yesubai Barve.

Sind

1. Dr. K. Tarabai.
2. Miss Lakhani.
3. Miss G. Chandurbhan.

Tamil Nadu

1. Mrs. C. V. Narasiah.
2. Mrs. K. G. Gopal Pillai.
3. Mrs. V. K. Johns.
4. Mrs. Shenbagam.
5. Mrs. A. G. Gomathi-nathan.

Travancore

1. Mrs. P. R. Parukutty
Amma.
2. Mrs. B. Anandavalli
Amma.
3. Miss K. C. Annamma.
4. Mrs. P. Thanu Pillai.
5. Miss L. C. M. Ouwerkirk.
6. Mrs. Aley S. Cherian.
7. Miss D. H. Watts.
8. Miss M. I. Rosemeyer.
9. Mrs. M. Thanu Pillai.
10. Miss K. Saradamma.
11. Miss K. Easwari Amma.
12. Miss E. Gomez.
13. Mrs. Lakshmi N. Nair.
14. Mrs. Rugmani R. Kurup.
15. Miss Janet Joshwa.
16. Miss Mary John.
17. Mrs. Anna Chandy.
18. Miss Aisha Bibi.
19. Mrs. Poonen Lukose.

U. P. (Agra)

1. Mrs. Purnima Banerjee.
2. Mrs. A Shaw.
3. Mrs. A. S. Nath.

U P. (Oudh)

1. Miss Martha Malthé.
2. Miss Seeta Lakshmi.
3. Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon.

Special Delegate

1. Mrs. Jan Huidekoper.

PROGRAMME

OF THE

Tenth All-India Women's Conference on Educational and Social Reform—1935-36, Trivandrum

DATE	EVENT	TIME
<i>Wednesday, Dec. 25th, 1935</i>	.. Arrival of Standing Committee and Subjects Committee Members	
<i>Thursday, Dec. 26th, 1935</i>	.. Standing Committee and Subjects Committee Meeting at the Women's College Assembly Hall ..	9 a. m.—12 noon.
	Do. Do. ..	1-30—4-30 p. m.
	Picnic at the Golf Links by Hindu Vanita Sangham and Hindu Mahila Mandiram Association	5-30 p. m.
<i>Friday, Dec. 27th, 1935</i>	.. Standing Committee and Subjects Committee Meeting at the Women's College Assembly Hall ..	9 a. m.—12 noon.
	Standing Committee Meeting	1-30—4 p. m.
	Opening of Exhibition at the Training College by Mrs. Garstin	4-30 p. m.
	Arrival of Delegates ..	
<i>Saturday, Dec. 28th, 1935</i>	.. Registration of Delegates, Distribution of Conference papers at the Training College	9 a. m.—1 p. m.
	Governing Body Meeting of the A. I. W. E. Fund	

DATE	EVENT	TIME
	Association at Women's College Assembly Hall ..	10—11-30 a. m.
	Opening Session at the "New Hall" Thampanur ..	4-30 p. m.
	Y. W. C. A. Party at the Town Hall	8-30 p. m.
<i>Sunday,</i> <i>Dec. 29th, 1935</i>	Excursion to Cape Comorin .. and Padmanabhapuram ..	
<i>Monday,</i> <i>Dec. 30th, 1935</i>	First Sitting of the Conference—Reading and Ratification of Reports of Work during the past year ..	9 a. m.—12 noon.
	Second Sitting of the Conference (Educational Resolutions)	1—3-15 p. m.
	Garden Party — Kaudiar Palace	4-15 p. m.
<i>Tuesday,</i> <i>Dec. 31st, 1935</i>	Third Sitting of the Conference (Educational and Social Resolutions) ..	9 a. m.—12 noon.
	Fourth Sitting of the Conference (Social Resolutions)..	1—4 p. m.
	S.N.V. Samajam—At Home..	5 p. m.
	A. I. W. C. Entertainment—(New Hall) ..	9 p. m.
<i>Wednesday,</i> <i>Jan. 1st, 1936</i>	Fifth Sitting of the Conference (Social and Labour Resolutions) ..	9 a. m.—12 noon.
	Polling of Office bearers ..	1—3 p. m.
	Palace Art Gallery open to delegates ..	1—5 p. m.
	Entertainment — Women's Club	6—7-30 p. m.
	Kathakali	9 p. m.

DATE	EVENT	TIME
<i>Thursday,</i> <i>Jan. 2nd, 1936</i>	Group Photo—Town Hall ..	8-30 a. m.
	.. Final Sitting of the Conference—Work for the ensuing year—Election Results..	9 a. m.—12 noon.
	Standing Committee Meeting ..	1-30—3-30 p. m.
	Drive to Kovalam ..	4 p. m.
	Dinner at Beach Hall ..	8-30 p. m.
<i>Friday,</i> <i>Jan. 3rd, 1936</i>	.. Departure of Delegates ..	Morning.
	Standing Committee Meeting ..	9 a. m.—12 noon.
	Do. Do. ..	1-30—4 p. m.
<i>Saturday,</i> <i>Jan. 4th, 1936</i>	.. Departure of Standing Committee Members ..	

All Standing Committee Meetings will be held at the Women's College Assembly Hall and the Conference Sessions in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall.

All Delegates, Standing Committee Members and Visitors will be admitted by Badge.

Visitors' Badges will be available at Re. 1 each for all the sittings from after the opening Session.

Primary School Teachers and College Students will be admitted on tickets at half that rate.

Children will not be admitted.

The All-India Women's Conference Exhibition will be open from 8 A. M. to 6 P. M. daily.

To Women only on the 28th December and to the public from 29th December 1935 to 3rd January 1936.

There will be Exhibits from Constituencies.

ALL WOMEN ARE URGED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE

Translation of the Boat Song at an Entertainment at Trivandrum

1. On behalf of the Muse of Kerala, and on behalf of this ancient land, Respectful welcome to you who have gathered here.
2. The cool breeze surcharged with the smell of sandal, slowly glides along from the high hills of the East, to meet the breezy call of welcome wafting from the deep blue on the West. These do offer their hearty welcome to you.
3. The green wealth and the beautiful splendour of Hemantha—the jasmine, the lotus, the heavenly Parijatha, the golden champaka, the whole host of Nature's beauty sparkling in the sun-shine, dances in the wind on this day of joy in this garden of the South.
4. The palmy lands of the coconut plants under whose shade we live our lives welcome you with all their heart by nodding their heads. Come, come to the shade of these inspiring palms.

Ye flowers of Bharatha Varsha,
 Ye lovely fragrant stars,
 Hail! all hail! to you
 Ye gentle ladies, ever in quest of progress,
 Ye who have assembled in this garden of Kerala,
 To think out the lofty problems of Bharatha Varsha,
 Hail to you! all hail
 May Victory be yours for ever and ever.

Opening Day's Proceedings

The Tenth Session of the All-India Women's Conference opened in the after-noon of the 28th December 1935, at the New Hall, Thampanur, Trivandrum. Every year the opening ceremony of the Conference to which men and women are both invited is an impressive and stately affair, but this year, in the atmosphere of an Indian State with all the splendour of its indigenous art so well shown in its floral decorations of an austere design, the function was unique in its impressiveness. A ceiling of white linen stretched beneath the roof, from which hung ropes and lanterns of white jasmine and crimson roses. The enthusiasm of the delegates and visitors who had come from all over India was intensified by the fact that it was the first Session in an Indian State.

Long before the appointed time the Hall was filled to overflowing, including the most prominent men and women of the State. Among them were, Mr. and Mrs. Garstin, Princess Lakshmi Bayi, Dr. and Mrs. Kunjan Pillai, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Sadasya Tirlakan T. K. Velu Pillai, Mr. and Mrs. K. P. S. Menon, Mr. and Mrs. G.K. Pillai, Mr. and Mrs. A. Verghese, Miss D. H. Watts, Mrs. Lukose, Mrs. Gopala Menon, Miss Grose, and others, also members of the Reception Committee and Office-bearers of the Conference.

The distinguished visitors from overseas were, Mrs. Margaret Sanger, well-known as the President of the International Birth-Control Information Centre (U. S. A.), Miss Solomon, representing women's organisations in England, Miss Muriel Lester, and Miss Owen both well-known for their work in England.

The President-Elect, H. H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi Saheba of Travancore was received at the entrance and led to the dais by Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji, Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee, Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan, Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, Mrs. S. N. Ray, Miss Reuben, Miss Bahadurji, and the Chairwoman and members of the Reception Committee, while the State Band struck the strains of the Travancore National Anthem.

The proceedings commenced with a Sanskrit Hymn.

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji, in formally proposing the President to the Chair, said:—

“LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is my proud privilege to ask Her Highness to take the Chair. This seems to me to be a superfluous formality to introduce Her Highness to you who know her and all her work so well.

We, of the Women's Conference, have for many years wanted Her Highness to be our President and we consider this a very lucky day for us that on the tenth birthday of the Conference we have got a lady of Her Highness's enlightened spirit, culture and intellect, to preside over and lead us, women, through this Conference this year.

It is very difficult for me, a stranger, to address you, men and women of Travancore who know your own Maharani and her good qualities. You know what she has done for you. You know the spirit that she has put into the women of your State. All I can say is that Her Highness is considered all over India as one of the most cultured and enlightened daughters of our country. I think Travancore and Kerala may be called the Women's Empire. With its matriarchal system, I feel women here are far better off than in any other part of India. I would like the men to see and realise how this matriarchal system has worked for their good because with all the power that they have in their hands, I have found that the women of the South are the most cultured and intelligent and yet the most simple in their lives and habits and most self-sacrificing. It is a great hope and lesson for us women in other parts of India that when we get what we are asking for we will always follow the example of those women who have had their own rights for centuries together.

“I do not want to take up your time any more. I request Her Highness to be so good as to take the Presidential Chair.”

In seconding the proposal, Mrs. Ammu Swaminathan spoke as follows:—

“Friends, it is a very great happiness to me to be present among you all and to ask Her Highness to take the Chair as our President. It is in keeping with the traditions of Kerala that the first Indian State to invite the All-India Women's Conference to hold its annual

meeting in Travancore which along with other parts of Kerala has always held women in honour. We are indeed very fortunate to have Her Highness to preside over our annual meeting. You in Travancore are particularly lucky in having such an enlightened and cultured woman to be your leader and guide, in all matters concerning the State. I know Her Highness has not only taken interest in the affairs of this State but she has taken interest in all matters concerning the welfare and advancement of the whole of India. I am today speaking of her as a woman of India and not merely as Her Highness the Maharani of Travancore. I think we are all very proud to have such a woman among us all. It is with sadness that I say that we could not have her to preside over our meetings all these years. I am sure she will be an inspiration to us all and this Conference in Travancore will be a great success and we will go back to our different places with inspiration from Her Highness to help us in our work in the future."

Her Highness then took the Chair, and was garlanded amidst cheers.

Welcome Address

BY

Mrs. N. KUNJAN PILLAI

Chairwoman, Reception Committee

Mrs. N. Kunjan Pillai, Chairwoman, Reception Committee, in welcoming the Delegates said:—

YOUR HIGHNESSES, DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

On behalf of the Reception Committee of the All-India Women's Conference I welcome you to this august assemblage, and I do so with considerable pride and pleasure, with sincere hopes and joyous expectations. During the nine years of its progressive existence the All-India Women's Conference held all its sessions in British India only. We in Travancore feel gratified that it has been our privilege to invite the Conference to meet for the first time in an Indian State, and we hope that the holding of the Conference in Travancore will dispel the imaginary barriers which superficial observers conjure up in the path of our steady endeavour towards national solidarity. Trivandrum is one of the ancient seats of Indian royalty. The Chera Kings, the progenitors of the illustrious rulers of Travancore, were celebrated for their patronage of learning and culture as well as for their military prowess and universal sympathy. Valmiki, the father of Indian poetry, noticed the greatness of the Cheras while in later days Kalidasa bore eloquent testimony to the accomplishments of the women of Kerala. Other cities there are in India which can boast of greater riches and a larger share of the embellishments of art. But Trivandrum excels most of them in its natural beauty of hill and dale, its perpetual verdure and the landmarks of a continuous civilisation. Here is a land in which women have always been regarded with respect. The resolutions passed at the All-India Women's Conference in previous years emphasise the necessity of effecting such changes in the laws of inheritance and succession as to make the lot of our sisters in other parts of India



MRS. N. KUNJAN PILLAI,
Chairwoman
Reception Committee

endurable. But here in Malabar the woman has from time immemorial been invested with independent rights of property and a well-recognised social status. She forms the stock of descent in Matriarchal families, her children and the children of her daughters succeeding to the ancestral estate. If in the days of old there were in Kerala women poets and women scholars, today there are large numbers of them playing a prominent part in the various departments of public usefulness.

Travancore and Cochin are the best educated areas in the whole of India. In Travancore the foundations of modern education were laid broad and deep by a woman, Her Highness Rani Gouri Parvati Bayi who so early as in 1817 commanded that the State should defray the cost of education in order that there might be no lukewarmness in the spread of enlightenment. By the diffusion of education Her Highness wanted the people to become better subjects and more efficient public servants. The liberal policy then inaugurated by Her Highness was amplified and extended by the Government and various private agencies. The results are visible now in the base as well as in the apex. A few facts relating to the progress of female education in the State will, I hope, be interesting to you. His Highness the Maharaja's Government is maintaining a First Grade College for women in this very city. This institution grew into its present dimension from a small English School for girls started in 1864 which later developed into a Second Grade College and ultimately into a First Grade College. 235 women students are now receiving instruction in this College, but as co-education is permitted in Travancore women resort in considerable numbers to men's colleges as well. The attendance of girls in High Schools throughout the State is equally creditable. The demand for accommodation continues to grow. During the last ten years there has been an average annual increase of nearly ten thousand, and a total increase of over 63 per cent in the number of girls brought under instruction. The percentage of literacy among women in Travancore is 16·8 while it is only 2·9 in British India.

The Purdah system is unknown in Malabar except among a small section of the Mahommedans and the Nambudiri Brahmins,

Child marriage is very rare. According to the last census only 42 girls out of 1,000 between the ages of five and fifteen were either married or widowed in this State as against 221 in India. But there are instances in which people from adjacent British districts come to Travancore in order to have child marriages celebrated in evasion of the Sarda Act. A lady member of the local Legislature has now secured permission to introduce the necessary legislation on the subject.

The progress of civilisation in the State is all-round. Life is made safe and secure. The material and spiritual needs of the people are attended to. Free medical aid is made available to women in all parts of the State without offending against social custom and habits. The well-equipped Women and Children's Hospitals at Trivandrum and Quilon deserve particular mention. Child-welfare Centres are being worked by some of the Municipal Councils as well as by philanthropic bodies like the Hindu Vanitha Sangam and the Y. W. C. A. The co-operative movement is becoming more and more popular among women. They join the societies in large numbers, speak on the benefits of co-operation on public platforms and serve as members of the Boards of Management. Women are enjoying complete equality with men in the amenities and opportunities of civic and political life.

From the foregoing facts it may be seen that the women's cause is making rapid strides in Travancore. As I mentioned at the outset we have had in Kerala a continuity of culture. Men of light and leading in Travancore have recognised by deed as well as by word that the women's cause is men's and that they rise or fall together. The Sahyadri does not any more separate Travancore from the aims and concerns of our sisters in British India and Indian States. The political and social environment is becoming more and more favourable for our advancement and for a steadier participation in the larger life of the nation, no longer a congeries of races, creeds and divergent interests but a happy family united together by the silken bonds of mutual respect and affection. We must realise that India is one, undivided and indivisible. Her problems are the same despite the variety of dress and of language. The women of Travancore have made progress in several directions and yet here also we are face to

face with many problems which are more or less common to the whole of India. Our system of education is materialistic in its tendency and has no tinge of any religious instruction which is essential for the training of useful citizens. Nor does this education provide sufficient opportunity or convenience to our girls to acquire knowledge suited to their requirements. The kind of education they now receive throws all considerations of the home or family into the shade and merely makes them fit to knock at the doors of offices and institutions for employment. The fate of unemployed men is bad enough and that of unemployed women is threatening to become worse. The economic condition of the people and their low standard of living seem to defy all attempts at amelioration. Child marriage, the dowry system and the prohibition of widow re-marriage, though unknown among some communities in Travancore, are prevalent among others. Depressed classes remain depressed and communal squabbles persist in spite of our strenuous efforts to quell them. These are some of the problems staring us in the face here in Travancore as in other parts of India and we look forward to your assistance in tackling them. India is now passing through momentous constitutional changes and we see in the horizon glimmerings of an All-India Federation. But there must be a federation of hearts if political federation should ever become possible in spirit apart from names and forms.

This conference envisages a great future for our country. Local areas and sectional opinions are well represented in this imposing gathering. Women from far and near have come here in large numbers impelled by a high sense of duty. The same enthusiasm is seen among the rank and file as among those who take the lead in this mission of self-improvement. It is our good fortune that Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi who takes great interest in all movements to advance the cause of women has been graciously pleased to preside over this conference. Her Highness' extensive travels in India and in Europe have enriched Travancore and created in us visions of a richer, larger and fuller national life. We are deeply grateful to Your Highness for the advice and guidance Your Highness has given us in holding the conference here. We also tender to Your Highness our profound feelings of gratitude for having kindly accepted our invitation to preside over this conference and guide its

deliberations. We are sure that the light which proceeds from the presidential chair will illuminate the hitherto neglected parts in a growing India.

Sisters, this city is situated in the southernmost corner of the Empire, far away from the larger centres of social and political activity and you have come here after a long and fatiguing journey. I am not sure that the arrangements made for your stay here are as good as we wish them to be. But I hope that the shortcomings, if any, will meet with your generous forgiveness. We have spared no pains to make your stay here as comfortable as possible and in this we have had the co-operation of many of our sisters in Trivandrum and in the mofussil, without distinction of caste, colour or creed. We have also had the unstinted support of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja and more than all the kind patronage and the warm sympathy of His Highness himself.

Before I conclude let me once again, on behalf of the Reception Committee, extend a hearty welcome to the delegates and visitors and pray for the success of our deliberations under the guidance of the Royal President.

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, TRIVANDRUM



DELEGATES TO THE TENTH SESSION, 1935

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

BY

HER HIGHNESS MAHARANI SETU PARVATI BAYI

FELLOW-DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The immediate object of this Conference is to create a wider scope for the powers and responsibilities of Indian women and to emphasise the value of women's work in every well-ordered State. The methods of this Conference lie in persuading and justifying; the goal of this Conference must be to create absolute equality of opportunities and position as between the two sexes in all branches of activity. With this feeling, and convinced as I am of the importance of this gathering, I approach my task as President of this year's session of the All-India Women's Conference with mixed feelings. The first, in which, I am sure, you will all share, is regret for the unavoidable absence of the original President-Designate, Her Highness the Yuvarani of Mysore, whose absence we all feel very keenly, and not the less because she represents a State and a Royal House, which have been amongst the pioneers of women's education and uplift in our country. I am also acutely conscious of the magnitude of my task and its heavy responsibility. At the same time, I am very thankful to those who have, by inviting me to preside on this occasion, signalled their confidence in me—a confidence which I am sure is much less a personal tribute than a symbol of the recognition on your part of the position achieved and maintained by women in this land. This is the first Conference held in an Indian State and it cannot be denied that it is among States that the biggest efforts have been made to remove some of the social and legal disabilities of women.

The country of Kerala, of which Travancore is an important unit, has earned from our brothers across the ghauts the name of "Penmalayalam" or "Women's Malayalam". The appellation is not a conventional compliment. Our laws and social customs based on the matriarchal system followed by us for millennia have given to

women a conspicuous place in our polity. The woman is here recognised as the head of the family, and succession is traced through her. No restrictions on the holding and disposition of property and no inequalities regarding education, social life and cultural growth have hampered our sex. Not only has our history afforded instances of queens who have stamped their individuality on the chronicles of their country, but in the fine arts and philosophy, women have played a notable part. The equality of women with men in the matter of political as well as property rights is today an established fact. Co-education in primary institutions and in the higher classes and forms in many schools and colleges is a feature of Travancore and girls, and women have so fully taken advantage of the educational facilities that it has been found possible without interfering with the number of admissions to levy full rates of fees from girl students in colleges and $\frac{3}{4}$ rates in schools. There is practically one literate woman to every two literate males and women are now applying freely for admission to various services and other avenues of employment. They are also alive to their wider civic responsibilities as is shown by the circumstance that in co-operative societies, the number of women members is 28,000, a not inconsiderable proportion of the total strength. We are thus, in the main, unaffected by many problems which engross the attention of thoughtful and patriotic persons in other parts of India. We have abolished Devadasi service in our temples and such problems as the purdah, the conditions which have led to the passing of the Sarda Act and to the laws relating to the traffic in women are not present among us. It is therefore not perhaps inappropriate that a conference designed to co-ordinate the activities of women in various departments and to review and consolidate their status and position should hold its sitting in Travancore.

With the utmost pleasure I welcome in our midst representatives from all parts of India and many well-known friends from abroad. Hospitality has been accounted the prominent trait of this country and I am proud to say that not only in the material sphere but in the realm of ideas, we have given and received freely. It is my hope and trust that on this occasion we shall be equal to our reputation and that you will retain pleasant memories of your sojourn amongst us.

It is a matter for profound gratification that the history of women's movement in India, at least in its political aspect has been one of unhindered progress and has not been marked by those violent struggles which were the precursors of reform elsewhere. The Joint Parliamentary Committee in 1917 felt very nervous of interfering with what was conceived to be the invincible prejudice against the political enfranchisement of women and they left the question to the elected Legislatures of each Province to be settled by their own resolution according to the wishes of the people concerned. Owing to the devoted and strenuous labours of a number of eminent women some of whom I see before me and thanks also to the innate chivalry of our country-men, which we must ungrudgingly recognise, practically every Province removed all political restrictions on account of sex; and even before England took the step in 1918 and 1919 of equalising the sexes in politics and in various professions, the battle had been won in India. Further, the admission of women into the legal and other professions was never attended with any difficulty here. To say this is, however, not to underestimate the magnitude and complexity of the work ahead of us. In practically every part of India except to some extent in Malabar, women still suffer under marked disabilities as to the holding and the disposal of property. Even though some of the old Lawgivers were fairly liberal as to the position of Hindu women and in Bengal and Bombay their rights were safeguarded up to a point, later authorities and the growth of custom have seriously curtailed their rights. Old doctrines which originated in unsettled and warlike or nomadic times have persisted to the detriment of the peace of many families. It is interesting to remember that until quite recently in England it was impossible for a woman to hold property in her own right or to recover money from her debtor or even to buy things for house-hold use except as the implied agent of the husband. Fortunately these legal anomalies have found a place in the dust-heap of ideas. In India the right to inherit irrespective of sex and according to the nearness of natural relationship and the right of unfettered enjoyment and alienation of property have still to be recognised and the idea that a woman is only a trustee for distant kinsmen or unborn children must become obsolete. Fortunately, in Malabar, we did not

suffer from the medieval heresy that the woman was the source of all evil nor did we succumb to the doctrine lately resuscitated in Germany and Italy that her main or sole function was to be a mother. With regard to marriage, amongst most of the communities in this part of India, equality, freedom of choice and adult marriage have been taken for granted, although quite recently there has arisen a curious tendency to adopt disabilities that are prevalent elsewhere. It is obvious that in the Vedic times, marriage was taken to be a Voluntary sharing of a common life. The fear of what was called Varnasankara or the confusion of races, a fear which even now has re-asserted itself violently in such widely differing countries as Germany, South Africa and the United States was responsible for many changes in this system including child marriage, the purdah system and the perpetual tutelage of women. Notwithstanding the efforts of pioneers like Pandit Isvar Chander Vidyasagar, the prejudices of ages are dying very slowly and much work is necessary before a wise reconciliation of the old and new ideals takes place.

Closely connected with the topic of marriage is that of child widowhood. It must be admitted that, quite irrespective of the fundamental question of eugenics and without trespassing into the region of religion or revelation, there must be something radically wrong in a system which permits of child widows to the appalling extent of seven for every 10,000 between the ages of 1 and 5 and 45 for every 10,000 between the ages of 5 and 10. No scriptures can have sanctioned or encouraged such a state of things and one of the welcome signs of the times is that enlightened opinion both amongst Hindus and Muhammadans is declaring itself forcibly in favour of later marriages and of remarriage of widows, especially of child widows.

It is observable that though under the Muhammadan law the proprietary and marital relations of women are to some extent safeguarded, yet the seclusion of women has led to serious difficulties, which have to be surmounted and overcome. Indeed, in many regions, the strictness of purdah is regarded as proportionate to the status of the family and much patient work is needed to eradicate such ideas.

This Conference which started nine years ago has now become the foremost representative body of the women of India and it has

contributed in no small measure to the awakening which has surpassed the expectations of its founders. It has helped to arouse the social conscience in many matters relating to women and their advancement. One of its first items of business was to voice dissatisfaction with the present educational system and it was instrumental in starting the Education Fund, the proceeds of which have been utilised amongst other things, for establishing and maintaining the Lady Irwin College in Delhi, for home science, the training of teachers and psychological research. The Conference played an important part in the establishment of the claim of women to the franchise in British India. It has worked for the adequate education of future mothers, for medical inspection in schools and factories and for the removal of many social and legal disabilities. A glance at the summary of the important resolutions passed in previous sessions would prove that a well-considered programme of rural reconstruction and educational and civic training has been emphasised, and that the Conference has set before itself the important task of rousing public opinion so as to enable all concerned to realise the mistake of segregation of women and of allowing immature girls to become wives and mothers. A great deal has been done though much has yet to be achieved in the matter of the amelioration of the lot of women labourers and the propagation of public health programmes, in which women are vitally interested.

In common with women elsewhere, Indian women have been stirred by a new thought and a new life and the ideal of self-reliance has been fast evolving amongst them, and it is a matter for sincere gratification that practically all the women's organisations in the country have taken a unanimous stand against communal and provincial differences and distinctions in the matter of the franchise and that this has been done at a time when such divergences are tending to be accentuated amongst men. In truth, it may be asserted that one of the biggest successes of the conference lies in the promotion of the ideal of unity of Indian women, and we can well claim that we have successfully fought against the communal and provincial outlook, which has been a disquieting feature of public life in India. The attitude of the women's associations and resolutions passed by them cannot but strengthen the hands of those who seek to attain a complete

understanding and the co-operation amongst the many races and communities of India. Our work lies mainly in the direction of the formation of public opinion.

The great upheaval produced by the late war revolutionised thought and made Europe and America realise the value of women's contribution to the national cause. Work had to be done and women had to do it and the principle of equal pay for equal work was soon recognised and the legend of the comparative ineffectiveness and the innate timidity of women was undermined. The coolness and discipline of women in every branch of activity obtained their reward, so that one of the great opponents of the cause, Mr. Asquith, speaking about Edith Cavell, declared in October 1915; "There are thousands of such women, but a year ago, we did not know it." By 1918, the political disabilities of women were removed in England and in 1919, their rights to hold public and professional positions pertaining to civil life came to be recognised. It is remarkable that as soon as these steps were taken the Parliamentary atmosphere completely changed. Measures for which women's societies had been working unsuccessfully for years, such as the Nurses' Registration Bill and an amended Midwives' Bill were taken up as Government measures and passed through all their stages without difficulty. Women began to sit in Parliament and to occupy various responsible positions and in 1920 the Report of the Lambeth Conference stated the belief of the Conference that the Anglican church would be strengthened by making freer use of the spiritual gifts of women. It took 70 years of ceaseless propaganda for America to amend its constitution by providing that the rights of the citizens of the United States shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex. It would, however, be correct to say that this great development for which groups of women had worked in many countries took place mainly because of national crises on the issue of which the fates of nations depended. But it will be remembered that as soon as the women's claims were recognised, it was found that they were justified. Women very soon attained the highest learned and academical distinctions. The Presidentship of the Botanical section of the British Association was awarded to a woman in 1918. In 1920, the gold medal of the

Royal Geographical Society was bestowed upon a woman. The Parliamentary work of woman has been recognised to be of indubitable value. Women during the war and thereafter held responsible posts in the civil service of various countries. In the United States, there are 6,000 women physicians and 1,600 practising lawyers and amongst them assistant attorneys-general provincial, and central. 300 American cities employ Police Women in duties relating to the welfare of women and children. In journalism, and banking, they have played an important part. It was not many weeks ago that the award of the Nobel Prize to Madame Jolliot, the worthy daughter of a celebrated mother Madame Curie, demonstrated the capacities of women in the domain of recondite science.

In spite of all these advances, it still remains true that even in the West there are many directions in which women's progress is still limited. Fundamentally, the problem is not political or even social—it is economic. In the last resort, the solution of women's problems depends on securing for them, in marriage and out of it, economic independence. Freedom to work outside the home is one of the ideals which cannot be kept outside the range of discussion and decision, as well as the recognition of her claims to economic partnership in the home.

Thus, although the legal emancipation of women may have taken place in many countries, the full recognition and the securing of the individual position of women in domestic relationship are yet insecure because of the survival of the old doctrine of tutelage.

It is a commonplace that woman's cause is man's and that men and women sink or swim together, but experience has taught us that self-help and organisation are the only methods to secure success as distinguished from mere reliance on generosity or patronage; and this Conference exists for implementing such methods. This is its legitimate function and its *raison-d'être*.

The clouds are lifting and the dawn is breaking; may it be given to us to see the sunrise!

The President then asked Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee, Hon. Organising Secretary to read her Annual Report.

Annual Report
OF THE
HON. ORGANISING SECRETARY

Today we meet to celebrate the Tenth Year of the All-India Women's Conference. It marks a great event in the history of the Conference as it is the first time that we are holding the Session in an Indian State. Those who pioneered the cause—and some of them are with us today—must feel proud that this Conference has survived the most difficult period of its existence. The activities of the Conference now extend from Abbottabad to Assam on the one hand, and from Kashmere to Cape Comorin on the other. It is striking to note the keen desire manifesting itself everywhere among our women to take their legitimate share of responsibilities in the advancement of their country, and this, surely, is a sign that it will not be long before some of their efforts are crowned with success. The representative nature of this Body makes it one of great strength and, as such, it has great potentialities. That the All-India Women's Conference has gained recognition as the foremost women's organisation in India is largely due to the fact that it reflects the united efforts of some of our ablest and most distinguished women towards the educational advancement and social progress of the country. There can be no doubt that a woman's first duty is to her home. But, it is only by a widening of mental outlook and expansion of civic activities that women are the better able to fulfil their obligations towards their home and be worthy mothers to a nation of noble sons and daughters. In so doing let us not, however, deny the heritage of our past but let its noble traditions inspire us to work for a greater and happier future. It may be pertinent to point out here that the Conference is not a feminist institution, aggressively reiterating its rights. The sympathy and co-operation of our men have undeniably been one of our greatest assets.

WORK OF THE CONSTITUENCIES DURING THE YEAR

I. EDUCATIONAL

Compulsory Medical Examination

In reporting the year's work we find that the scope of the Conference is increasing every year, and that much practical work is being done. The various reports received from our Constituencies and Sub-Constituencies show that the resolutions passed at the last Session have not merely remained as such. At our Karachi Session stress was laid on the necessity of providing adequate facilities for play ground, and physical culture for school children. Some of our Constituencies were able to introduce Compulsory Medical Inspection, and arrange for games and play grounds in several of their schools. Simla, Delhi, Konkan, Hyderabad (Deccan), and C. P. North have done very good work and Simla had as many as 2,000 children medically examined.

Compulsory Primary Education

The necessity of introducing Compulsory Primary Education has always been very keenly felt, as all our claims to citizenship will fail to receive recognition so long as our masses remain illiterate. Our Constituencies at Bombay, Gujerat, U. P. Oudh, U. P. Agra, Moradabad, Hyderabad (Deccan), Bihar, East Bengal, Calcutta, Madras, Kolhapur and others have started Primary Schools and are trying to spread mass education, on their own, as far as possible.

Mysore's Five Year Plan to remove illiteracy deserves special mention and it is hoped that the Mysore Government will soon be in a position to help the Constituency to carry out the Scheme.

Debating Societies

The importance of starting Debating Societies in our Constituencies was emphasised at the last Session in view of the fact that more women would now be entering legislatures and taking an active part in the administration of the country. Some Constituencies were able to arrange Debates on matters of public interest and they were well-attended.

Hostels for Students

The lack of well-supervised Hostels for our students in big educational centres was more and more keenly felt with the spread of higher education among our women—and the matter was discussed at the last Session. I am glad to note that our Constituency at Baroda has started a Women's Hostel, and Hyderabad (Deccan) a Hostel and a Women's Employment Bureau. Adult Education classes have been opened in Bombay, Gujerat, U. P. Oudh, and Central Punjab Constituencies, and one of them alone has made as many as 237 women literate during the year.

Music classes have been started in four Constituencies.

Appointment on the Central Advisory Board of Education

It is with pride that we note the appointment of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur on the newly constituted Educational Advisory Board.

Lady Irwin College for Home Science

The Lady Irwin College for Home Science at Delhi, started under the auspices of the Conference, has maintained the same progress. The first batch of students was sent up for their final examination this year. The question of affiliation to the Federated Delhi University is under consideration. For want of funds the Research work regarding child-education has not been taken up yet. We are grateful to the Government of India for considering our proposal regarding the acquisition of the Flag Staff-House for the permanent housing of the College. Sites for the College, which the Federated Delhi University proposes to offer, were visited by some of the members of the Governing Body early in the year after the Annual Meeting at Delhi. Those who are not satisfied with the present system of education for our girls must give their support to the Home Science College which was started with the idea of giving the right kind of education to them. The Conference is indeed grateful to those whose selfless devotion has made possible the successful working of the Institution, even when the staff was inadequate and funds were low.

II. SOCIAL WORK

The Child Marriage Restraint Act

Regarding Social Reform, the Conference, from the very beginning, has strongly been urging that measures be adopted to put an effective stop to child marriage. A resolution was passed last year urging the members of the Legislative Assembly to amend the Sarda Act.

We have a special Sub-Committee to deal with this matter. The Sub-Committee has published two bulletins—one giving the figures of child marriages from the Census Report of 1931 and the other pointing out the defects of the existing Act. Circular letters were issued to the public through the Press appealing to them to form Sarda Act Enforcement Committees and to agitate for amendments to the Act. Letters volunteering co-operation were received from the Punjab, Central India, Berar, Benares, Cawnpore, Sitapur and Moradabad, and from our Constituencies at Jullundur, Bombay, Baroda, Calcutta, U. P. Agra, Delhi, and Sind. We are glad to note that Mr. B. Das is given permission to introduce a Bill in the Legislative Assembly to amend the Sarda Act on the lines suggested by the Conference during its various Sessions. The Travancore Durbar has also given permission to introduce a similar Bill.

Legal Disabilities of Women

Whole-hearted support was given by the Conference to all Bills introduced in the Provincial and Central Legislatures which sought to remove the Legal Disabilities of women, such as the Bill in connection with the Hindu Women's Inheritance Rights and the Bills passed by the Mysore and Sangli Durbars. Our request to Government for the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the whole question was turned down. We have nevertheless continued to work hard to create an effective public opinion and large numbers of signatures have been collected to support our demand. We approached the Assembly, and have obtained the sympathy of many of its prominent members. At our Half-yearly meeting, at Poona, a Sub-Committee was formed to consult lawyers about drafting resolutions—demanding specific remedies against disabilities of women regarding inheritance.

The attempt of the Bombay women in preventing the introduction of Mr. Desai's Bill on adoption reversing the Privy Council ruling on the subject, was greeted with joy by all who are interested in the removal of legal disabilities of women.

A note on the political and economic disabilities of Indian women has been prepared by Mrs. Hansa Mehta on behalf of the Conference and forwarded to the Women's Consultative Committee of the League of Nations.

The Conference has also been endeavouring to get the Central and Provincial Governments to recognise our Constituent Committees as Bodies to which all Bills affecting the welfare of women and children are sent by their respective Governments for opinion. As a result of our efforts our Constituencies in the Provinces of Bombay, Bengal, United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, the Punjab, and Assam have been recognised as organisations to which such Bills are referred.

Appointment of women Factory Inspectors

The Government of both Bihar and Orissa and the United Provinces have accepted the recommendations of the local Conference Committees for the appointment of Women Factory Inspectors in their recent Factory Regulations.

Rural Re-construction

The Conference has welcomed the formation of the All-India Village Industries Association and resolved to co-operate wholeheartedly in this work. It has appealed to all Local Self-Governing Bodies to form Training Centres for social workers. A sub-committee was formed last year to initiate this work, and a scheme was prepared by the Committee and circulated to all our Constituencies to help them to start some constructive work in the rural areas.

It is a matter of pride that quite a number of our Constituencies have general classes in the rural areas to teach villagers weaving, knitting, embroidery and other cottage industries, as well as typing, book-binding, painting, music, and instruction is also given in cleanliness, personal hygiene, sanitation, food-values, first-aid, nursing and midwifery. Municipal authorities have been approached with success to clean up slum areas. In some village schools arrangements have

also been made for games. Some have even tried to persuade the villagers to give up all kinds of unnecessary expenditure that they incur on religious and festive occasions. Our Constituencies in C. P. South, Satara, Bengal West, Gujerat, Konkan, Kolhapur, U. P. Oudh, C.P. North, Delhi, N.W.F. P., Bengal East, Indore, Moradabad, Calcutta and Madras have taken up this work.

Harijan Work

Members of our Constituencies have also done some work for the Harijans—visiting and teaching at the Centres themselves and also opening schools there. Such Centres have been formed in several of our Constituencies. Konkan, Indore, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Satara have such centres. A special Sub-Committee was formed last year to help this work and the Committee made several suggestions which our Constituencies were recommended to take up according to their local conditions. At the suggestion of Mahatma Gandhi many of our Constituencies are also subscribing to “the Harijan,” published by the All-India Village Industries Association, as that contains much valuable information and instruction. The Convener of our Harijan Committee, who is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Harijan Sewak Sangh, toured different parts in Southern India, addressing meetings and appealing to the people to remove untouchability.

Indigenous Industries

Exhibitions of Indigenous Industries were held during the Constituent Conferences at Simla, Bombay, Orissa, Konkhan, U.P. Oudh, and Delhi. The Convener of our Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee has drawn up a scheme to organise Local Stores for these industries on a co-operative basis and this was circulated to our Constituencies in several of which attempts are being made to introduce such stores.

Temperance

Temperance work has also been undertaken. Besides this, propaganda for censorship of undesirable films and film-posters and also other activities such as Jail-visiting, starting homes for the destitute women and children are being carried out according to local needs and conditions.

Traffic in Women and Children

All Bills and amendments in every Province for the prevention of traffic in women and children were strongly supported by the Conference. The Constituencies were urged to study local conditions in connection with cases of trafficking and segregated brothel areas and to make a vigorous protest against such crimes. Where legislation did not exist the same was to be promoted. In Hyderabad (Deccan) the Municipality has been informed that the Constituency is willing to help in the vigilance work for the suppression of Immoral Traffic. Homes have been started in some parts for women rescued under the Act. Funds have been collected in U. P. Oudh to open a Rescue Home for 'Naikin' girls. The Home in Madras has been opened only this year. A regional conference was also arranged in Madras to study the problem of traffic in women and children and the working of the Act.

Child Welfare and Maternity

A good deal of Child Welfare and Maternity work has been done. Baby Clinics have been started, monthly meetings for mothers have been held, Child Welfare Exhibitions organised, scholarships given for training in maternity and child welfare. Also, parks have been laid out for women.

Birth Control

The Conference, in its anxiety to relieve the sufferings of women, to prevent the increasing rate of maternal and infant mortality, would leave no problem untouched, however controversial it might be. The low physique of women and high death rate caused by early marriage, early mother-hood and inadequate provision for welfare work, have been a cause of anxiety to all those who are interested in the welfare of the country. That explains our interest in the problem of Birth Control in India. Mrs. How Martyn's presence in India last winter has been of immense help in creating a scientific outlook on the subject. Group and public meetings were held in the various Constituencies explaining how the appalling conditions in India can be changed and a higher standard of living assured by a scientific public health policy.

SPECIAL WORK OF THE YEAR.**Quetta Relief**

The Executive Committee decided to request the Constituencies to help in raising funds for Quetta Earthquake Relief. Some funds were collected and contributions were sent to the Viceroy's and to the Central Fund.

Organised help that was given by members of our Constituencies in Central Punjab, Sind, and N. W. F. P., deserves special mention—large sums were raised for supplying clothes and provisions for refugees in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, and other places. A regular attendance in Refugee Camps and Hospitals was arranged—Bandages and medicines were supplied.

Franchise

At different stages of the framing of the New Constitution for India the Conference, in collaboration with other leading All-India Organisations, has issued statements giving suggestions to extend women's franchise and assure them a place in the new Constitution. Our repeated demands, representations and statements met with but little success. We are glad, however, that the literacy qualification is recognised and that women are allotted seats in the Federal Legislatures. The statement that was submitted jointly with the National Council of Women in India and the Women's Indian Association at the beginning of this year protested strongly against the wife-hood qualification, application conditions, Indirect Election and reservation of seats, and copies of it were sent to the Prime Minister, the Viceroy, the Reforms Officer and also the Liaison Group of the British Women's Organisations in England. A second statement, passed at the Half-Yearly meeting at Poona in July last, again recorded our deep disappointment that our united demands had not been accepted and this was submitted to the authorities.

We are requesting the British Parliament to safeguard the interest of women by making provision in the Instruments of Instruction to give women a chance in the administration of every Province as well as in the Central Government, specially in the departments of Health, Education, and Labour. The Conference refrained from sending witnesses to appear before the Indian Delimitation Committee as it was felt that the matters which the Conference

considered to be detrimental to the women's cause in the New Constitution were beyond the powers of the Delimitation Committee to alter. But the Constituencies were free to send witnesses to represent local conditions so long as their demands were in consonance with the ideals of the Conference regarding joint and mixed electorate.

Liaison Work

The appointment of the Liaison Officer representing the All-India Women's Conference to keep the corresponding officer appointed by the British Women's Organisations in England in touch with all our activities, has been instrumental in bringing to us the sympathy and co-operation of women workers abroad, and this has been of great service to the Conference. A Bulletin containing news of the Indian Women's Movement is published quarterly by the Liaison Group in London, which has helped immensely to spread information regarding the work of the Conference to a great many of the organisations there. Our thanks are due to them all for their unstinted help and sympathy, and their unceasing work to press our demands concerning Franchise and our status in the new Constitution, while the India Bill was being discussed in the Houses of Parliament. Members of the Liaison Group have addressed large meetings and did their best to educate public opinion in our favour as well as win over individual members of Parliament. It also arranged a programme for two of our Office-bearers during their visits to England, and facilities were given to them to place the Conference view-point before the British Public.

Affiliation to the International Alliance

At the suggestion of our Special Visitors, Dr. Maude Royden, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby last year, the Conference decided to get itself affiliated to the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. This gave us an opportunity to send delegates to Istanbul to represent Indian women at the International Alliance Congress held this year. Our Hon. Treasurer, Begum Hamid Ali, attended the Conference and placed before it our special problems, and a resolution on Franchise was passed affecting conditions here.

The Conference has always upheld the ideal of International Co-operation and friendship as an indispensable factor in the ultimate unity of all women in the service of humanity.

Before concluding, it is my pleasant duty also on behalf of the All-India Women's Conference, to extend a cordial welcome to our Special Visitors from the West—Miss Solomon, Miss Muriel Lester from England and Mrs. Margaret Sanger from the United States. They are all World-famous, distinguished personalities devoting their time and talents to the cause. The presence of such splendid, sincere and indefatigable workers will prove a fresh inspiration to our own, who have all, each in her own way, contributed so much to the success of the Conference.

This is the record of our achievements for the year. Our Conference has been given the opportunity to visit the Indian States, which are the true interpreters of ancient culture, the custodians of our civilisations, the inmost shrines that guard and keep unsullied the spirit of real India. It is fitting that, as a Body of Indian Women, our first welcome should be to the land of matriarchal sway, whose delegates, these many years, have added to the practical and intellectual advancement of the Conference. We are profoundly aware of the honour that has been accorded by this invitation to hold our Tenth Session in one of the most progressive States of India and offer particularly to its enlightened Maharani, for her gracious sympathy and interest in our cause, our sincerest tribute of thanks.

It is a matter of great sorrow to us that our Chairwoman, Rani Rajwade, and some of our Vice-Presidents, Patrons, and prominent workers—Mrs. Naidu, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Begum Hamid Ali, Dr. Reddi, Mrs. Brijlal Nehru, Begum Shah Nawaz—who have done so much for the cause of our Conference, are unable to be with us during the Session due to unavoidable reasons. They have sent us messages and we know their hearts are with us in our work today.

MESSAGES FROM FAR AND NEAR.

The *messages from the following persons and Associations wishing success to the Conference, were announced:—

- Mrs. Sorojini Naidu.
 H. H. Maharani Sucharu Devi of Mayurbhanj.
 Dowager Rani Saheba of Mandi.
 Lady Vidyagouri Nilkanth.
 H. H. Rani Saheba of Sangli.
 Mrs. Corbett Ashby.
 Dr. Maude Royden.
 Dr. Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi.
 Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.
 Begum Hamid Ali.
 Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade.
 Lady Mirza Ismail.
 Begum Shah Nawaz.
 Miss Agatha Harrison.
 Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.
 Mrs. Brijlal Nehru.
 Mrs. M. E. Cousins.
 Rai Saheb Har Bilash Sarda.
 Mrs. Lankester, Liaison Officer of British Women's Associations.
 Women's International League (British Section).
 The Six Point Group.
 Oxford High School.
 National Y. W. C. A. of India, Burma and Ceylon.
 Bishops and Representatives of Methodist Episcopal Church, Jubbulpore.
 National Council of Women in India.
 Miss K. B. Ferozuddin.
 Miss M. Shephard.
 Miss A. Khemchand.
 Begum Iqbalunnisa.
 Mrs. P. K. Kunju, Alleppey.
 Miss Frager, Madras.
 Mrs. Sapru, Allahabad.
 Lady Halifax (received since).
 Women's Freedom League (received since).

*Text of the messages will be found in the Appendix.

Other Addresses

Miss D. D. Solomon

Miss D. D. Solomon then spoke as follows:—

YOUR HIGHNESS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I feel much honoured by the kind invitation of the All-India Women's Conference to attend their annual session as a special visitor and it is a great privilege to me to be at this inspiring assembly.

I have been asked to represent the Liaison group of women's societies at this gathering and I feel somewhat diffident about it and wish a worthier representative could have been here. My only recommendation is that ever since I left school I have been a worker in the women's movement. However, I am closely in touch with your activities for I am Honorary Secretary of the British Commonwealth League to which the Women's Indian Association is affiliated and I am on the committee of the Liaison group of British societies which works in co-operation with the All-India Women's Conference.

With your permission, Your Highness, I will read a few messages.

From the Liaison group:—

“The Liaison group which consists of the following societies—The British Common Wealth League, The Women's International League, The Women's Freedom League and the Six Point Group—sends its heartfelt greetings to the All-India Women's Conference and their cordial wishes for the success of its deliberations which they will follow with the keenest interest. They sympathise with the aspirations of the All-India Women's Conference and trust that these will be realised.”

From the British Common Wealth League:—“The Standing Committee and members of the British Common Wealth League send warmest greetings to the All-India Women's Conference. They wish them all success in their fight for equality of status for women and for the uplift of all those who are suffering under disabilities. They desire once more to assure them that they will do all in their power to assist them by making known their point of view in England and the Dominions.”

I have recently come from South Africa and have the following message from that country: "The South African League of Women Voters send to the All-India Women's Conference their greetings and best wishes and watch its work with sympathetic interest."

This Conference meets at a time when the women of India are entering on a new era. The Government of India Act is now passed and although I fully realise that the new constitution is a keen disappointment to the organised women of this country, I feel confident, however, that they will make the best use of the new powers which have been granted them, although they are inadequate, and that they will take their responsibilities in a serious spirit and will use their energies to educate the women electors so that they exercise their votes in the best interests of their country.

I trust that the bond of one common womanhood will bind the women of the East and the West more firmly together, that we will overcome all difficulties of our belief in the strength of moral power and that we will realise afresh the unity of the Women's movement all the world over.

Miss Muriel Lester

Miss Muriel Lester offered to the Conference the greetings of the Women of East London and said that they will never forget the high honour they had when they entertained Mahatma Ghandi. During the eight months of her stay in Japan and China, Miss Muriel Lester continued, she had been studying the social and educational conditions of the women of those countries. She added, she expected to bring one of their leading women to this Conference but unfortunately she could not arrive here in time. Another lady, Dr. Kara of Japan who was interpreter to Rabindranath Tagore during his sojourn there, had arrived at Calcutta and was probably on her way here.

Mrs. Margaret Sanger

Rising amidst loud cheers, Mrs. Margaret Sanger, President of the International Birth Control Information Centre spoke as follows:—

I wish, first of all to say that as an American woman I come to India in the spirit of atonement and I come to learn. I have come

to know your leaders and to learn something of your dreams and aspirations, so that I may in a small way on my return to America, in my work on the platform, undo some of the mischief and false impressions that were created through a book on India written by an American woman. I hope that this will be the first step towards undoing the great spiritual wrong that has been done to the people of India.

I speak now as a representative of the Birth Control Movement in America. My work in America for the last 21 years has been a question of education, and at last after this long time I am able to say that we have awakened public opinion in our endeavour to reduce infant and maternal mortality and to raise to a higher level the standard of living and general intelligence—we have the endorsement of over 1,000 organisations, social, religious, and educational, which represent more than eleven million people. These eleven million people are men and women of all walks of life. They send to you their greetings.

As the President of the International Birth Control Information Centre, representing 26 national groups throughout the world, I have the following greetings for this Conference:—

“The Birth Control International Information Centre sends homage and greetings in its heroic efforts to secure political, economic and biological emancipation for Indian women—to make them conscious of their irresistible creative powers and the right to control their social and personal destiny—the Conference is in the forefront of the international movement to liberate women for the task of building, as devoted workers and joyful healthy mothers, the brave new world of tomorrow.”

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar

Sir Ramaswami Aiyar, rising amidst cheers, delivered the following speech:—

Friends, it appears that there is a chivalrous custom appertaining to this organisation of asking a few “mere males” to address the Conference on the occasion of its annual sessions.

Let me first commence by recalling to the memory of those present here the somewhat satirical saying of a great English writer. Speaking of the women's movement about 20 years ago, he said that mankind had crossed Point Seraglio but had not rounded Cape Turk, meaning thereby that whilst the seclusion of women had been to a large extent overcome, nevertheless the attitude of superiority of one sex and the subordination of the other sex had not been eliminated. That particular sentence is specially inappropriate today having regard to what is taking place in Turkey. Turkey has found its place in the world largely because Gazi Kemal Pasha has realised that uplift of women and eradication of their disabilities are one of the prime essentials of a national renaissance. Those who have visited Turkey and studied things about the revival of Turkey know what wonderful work has been done there.

To come back to my subject, the main requisite in India today is the elimination of the many disabilities which have been inherited through long ages of petrified custom. In saying this let me emphasise one point which is not frequently borne in mind. And that is this. Even 1,700 or 1,800 years ago the reform of the laws regarding women had started and was proceeding slowly but inevitably. There was a great law-giver who wrote a treatise called the Mitakshara which is the basis for the Hindu Law of today in many parts of India. The old law vested all property and all dominion in men just as the Roman and Hebrew laws did. But Mitakshara in fact tried to get round that difficulty by laying the convention that women's acquisitions were hers and gradually the definition of acquisition was widened. As lawyers do, he thought that the imperceptible growth of such a legal fiction would bring about the recognition of women's rights. In Bengal the Dayabhaga laws was an attempt, an indigenous attempt, to give women, rights over property. But this slow growth whilst curtailing alienation came to a stop a few hundred years ago for the reason that men were not keen in unsettled times not to extend rights to women. After the European domination started the English judges especially were afraid of infringing the religious and social customs and the Privy Council rather tried to stereotype the older law with the result that the spontaneous development that was taking place then was arrested and even the rights that Indian women

had were taken away. But in Malabar where the system developed spontaneously she had complete rights. As was observed in that most thoughtful address of the President, in Malabar the fetters imposed on women in other parts were to a large extent non-existent or disappearing.

In practically the whole of India under the strict joint family law the thirteenth agnate or the great great grand-father's great great grand-son was entitled to more substantial rights than a widow or daughter. Except in Bombay and some parts of Bengal, the right of alienation of women is practically nil. The right of maintenance, the custody and guardianship of children and *a fortiori* the right to choose one's partner in life and to dissolve the bond when it becomes impossible and to remarriage on the death of the partner are at present either truncated or non-existent. Although during the life time of a man who was supporting the whole family, the wife lived in affluent circumstances, after his death she has to depend upon a distant cousin for bare maintenance. The right of disposition and alienation of property and maintenance have to be recognised and implemented.

It is a fortunate circumstance that leaders all over the country are walking up to the signs of the times and are sympathetic to all legitimate claims of women.

Under the Mahomedan Law things were very much better. She had rights of inheritance although her sex diminished her share to half that of a man. She had absolute rights over property. And she had adequate protection in the matter of dower and divorce. But in India the Purdah system practically nullified the results of the Mahomedan Law with the result that the disabilities of Mahomedan women are in practice very real. I am glad to notice from the report that has been just read that you rely, and very rightly, on the comradeship and co-operation of men legislators. In so co-operating, let us all realise that this work of the uplift of women, equalisation of women's opportunities and rights, has been a very difficult business in all countries. The work of equalisation of man and woman is an uphill task. It has taken generations of endeavour in other countries. Women had even to court physical risks to vindicate their rights. You know how women chained themselves

to pillars, how they committed acts of sabotage, how they went out of their way to make themselves nuisances before men would recognise their claims.

I must say to the credit of the men of India that it did not need so very unpleasant reminders for them to recognise the rights of women. In 1917 as soon as the movement started in India the claims of women were allowed. Let us hope that the process of equalisation will be as peaceful hereafter as in the past. Let us hope that women would soon acquire equal rights of property with men. Let us hope that women would be an effective economic as well as social entity in the home and that she would be recognised as an economic factor in the State. Let us hope that she will work as she has been working in the company of men for the all-round advancement of the country, for the achievement of the goal for which patriotic men and women are striving and yearning.

Sadasya Tilakan T. K. Velu Pillai

Sadasya Tilakan T. K. Velu Pillai, Deputy President of the Travancore Assembly, then made the following speech:—

YOUR HIGHNESS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful to the Reception Committee of the All-India Women's Conference for having invited me to address this distinguished Assembly. It is in the fitness of things that this Conference held in this land of women's rights in Travancore which is the land of culture and of charity has been opened by the enlightened mother of the enlightened Ruler of a great Indian State, one who represents the commingled culture of the East and the West set to advantage by extensive foreign travel and liberal sympathies. You have come here to consider the means and methods of improving the position of women. I may assure you that men are as much interested in this question as you are.

Sisters of all India, you have come from far and near to advance the cause of women and to advance the cause of the human race. British women and American women have also come here not merely to give their blessings but also to participate with you in your legitimate and honourable endeavour for the uplift

of the sex. I may assure you, ladies, that every reasonable man in India takes the view that the women's movement should be encouraged and all legitimate help accorded to that movement. The contributions made to civilisation by women are not small. Civilisation is the standing monument of her nobility of soul and perennial spirit of self-sacrifice.

The Homeric women were healthy and strong and of cultivated taste, soundness of mind, and sweetness of temper. The Spartan women, it is said, ruled the men who ruled the State.

Manu says, "where women are honoured there the gods rejoice, and where they are not honoured, there, all rites are useless."

The vast majority of Indian women live a contented and tranquil life devoting their time and attention mainly to their children and sharing the responsibilities of their husbands and other male relations.

However, we have fallen from that high pedestal and today we find women labouring under serious social and political disabilities. The situation must change. It is our duty to give all help to this movement. The West has given you valuable lessons in organising your forces.

The Women's movement for the protection of their rights is not a new one. It is an old one. It was there in ancient Rome. On many an occasion the Senators were obliged to yield to the wishes and importunities of women. In ancient Rome there was once an attempt made to pass sumptuary laws against women, by enacting that no woman should be allowed to possess more than a prescribed quantity of gold. They were also to submit statements of their wealth. The women of Rome organised themselves, argued with the legislators, way-laid them and made them yield. On another occasion a Senator proposed that provincial officers should not take their wives to the spheres of their authority. It was argued that women would be a bad influence to the men. But the Senate said that the influence of the woman was good and legitimate. If men realise that the service of women is necessary to keep the world in order, larger rights should be given to them. No stigma should

attach to matrimony. It should not be argued either on first principles of equity or through disappointment or failure in life that marriage is a bad institution.

The All-India Women's Conference is following a substantive programme of constructive work. Women must surely have social and political equality with men. Women will surely do well to be proficient even in these days of talkies.

I once more congratulate the Women's Conference in that it is presided over by the mother of His Highness the Maharaja, whose name is a household word in Travancore, and I am very happy to hear from the distinguished ladies who came from far-off places in India that Her Highness is very popular and held in high esteem throughout the country.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta

Mrs. Hansa Mehta said:—

I am privileged to move a vote of thanks to all those who have honoured us with their presence.

Our thanks are due first of all to our distinguished Visitors from across the seas who have brought us not only greetings but a message of hope which will encourage us in our fight for progress.

Sir C. P. Ramaswami has told us about the legal disabilities of the Hindu women. I would request him, the great lawyer that he is, to find us ways and means of amending the Hindu Law in order to improve the status of Indian women.

Our thanks are due to the Spokeswoman of this Matriarchal City for her Welcome Address and to the members of the Reception Committee for their splendid hospitality.

Last but not the least our thanks are to the President who graciously came to our rescue when the President-elect failed us at the last minute. We are honoured in having a member of the matriarchal family as our President. Matriarchal system at least in theory stands for the honour of women and where women are honoured the gods rejoice.

Those who have seen Travancore can say that even gods smile upon this beautiful land. May they always smile.

The function terminated at 6-40 P. M.

All-India Women's Conference

FIRST SITTING—30th December 1935

The first sitting of the Conference was held at 9-30 A. M. at the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum. **Her Highness Maha Rani Setu Parvati Bayi**, the President, was in the Chair. The proceedings commenced with a two minutes' silent prayer, all standing.

Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee, the Hon. Organising Secretary, then read out some more messages received since, wishing success to the Conference.

Before the Annual Report of the Hon. Organising Secretary, read on the Opening Day, was formally adopted, Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji pointed out that the Hon. Organising Secretary had not mentioned the work done by Mrs. S. N. Ray in the interest of the Conference, during her visits to Far East, America and England. So, it was decided to include this. Proposed by Mrs. Kale and seconded by Mrs. Kamakshamma, the Report was adopted.

The President then asked Miss R. Reuben, the Educational Section Secretary and Mrs. S. N. Ray, Social Section Secretary to read their respective Reports. In the absence of Begum Hamid Ali, Hon. Treasurer, the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st October 1935, was read by Mrs. Cousins. In the absence of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the Liaison Officer, the Report of Liaison work done during the year, was read by Miss Naidu. Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, Convener of the Sarda Act Sub-Committee and Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Convener of the Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee were asked by the President to read their Reports. In the absence of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Convener of the Rural Re-construction Sub-Committee, Mrs. Brijlal Nehru, Convener of the Harijan Sub-Committee, Mrs. A. Chatterjee, Convener of the Labour Sub-Committee, and Miss G. J. Bahadurji, Convener of the Constitution Sub-Committee who had to leave that morning, their Reports were read by Mrs. S. N. Ray, Mrs. Asaf Ali, Miss Wingate, and Miss Naidu, respectively.

All these reports were duly proposed, seconded and adopted.

With regard to the Labour Report, one of the Delegates pointed out that it referred to only one item of work. Miss Wingate explained that this was all that had been given to her by Mrs. Chatterjee and said that the matter could be further discussed when resolutions were moved.

EDUCATIONAL SECTION REPORT

Miss R. Reuben

While presenting my report on the work done during the year, I must begin with an apology. If you are expecting a report on the actual educational work done in the Constituencies, you will be disappointed. Mine is not a report so much of facts and figures as a report of ideas suggested by my experience of the working of the Educational Section during the year.

A general survey of the work done in the Educational Section, giving the salient points, has already been placed before you by the Hon. Organising Secretary and important work done in this field has received honourable mention in her report. The details of the work done will be presented by the Constituencies themselves when their reports are read to you by their representatives. It will, therefore, be easier for you to forgive me, I hope, for omitting all reference to them in my report.

In the course of my work this year, I found that there are several Constituencies that are not at all as well organised as they should be, while some are more or less defunct. I, therefore, welcome the suggestion that when Office-bearers of the Conference or Standing Committee members find themselves in these Constituencies, they should take the opportunity to help to re-organise these Constituencies and to put them on a sound basis. I would go further, at least as regards the Education Section. Among the Delegates here present, I am sure there are several educationists, keen and enthusiastic,

and in close touch with living educational problems of the day. To such Delegates I appeal for help in re-organising the Education Sub-committees in their Constituencies or in Constituencies they happen to visit, and to put them on a sound footing. I appeal to them for active co-operation, and shall be glad to hear from those among you who feel that they would like to help.

As regards Constituencies that are well-organised and are doing good work and showing progressive development, while paying my tribute of admiration for the splendid work in the field of education undertaken in and done by some Constituencies, I cannot but feel that Education is a subject that does not seem to appeal to our Constituencies.

This may be because Education is such a highly technical matter, or because it is dull, as one Delegate remarked, or because it is considered unimportant as compared with the burning social problems of the day.

My personal view is that to understand the importance of right education wants vision and imagination. A boy begging in the streets makes his presence felt whether you will or no. A blind child or a cripple touches the deepest core of your heart. A child mother suffering the pangs of child-birth rouses our indignation against the inhumanity of child-marriages. But what is there to disturb our complacency in the sight of a child playing in the streets when he should be learning to read and write in a school? What is there to touch our hearts in the sullen and obstinate child that does not fit into our educational systems? What is there reprehensible in the army of children who leave our schools branded for life as failures? Education is obviously not a thing that appeals to our imagination. The only thing that seems to have roused our interest in education is Unemployment, which is so obvious, but which is perhaps the least important of the problems created by a wrong system of education.

It is evident, then, that if our Conference is to do any good work in the Educational section, a great deal of propaganda is necessary, not only among the women of the Constituency, but also among leaders and workers.

Year after year we pass Educational Resolutions more or less on the same subjects, more or less in the same words, and support them by speeches of more or less the same type. This was essential, perhaps, in the beginning. Perhaps it is considered necessary, even now, in order to keep burning problems constantly before the public. Perhaps we hope, by continuous dinning, to make people sit up and take notice. I am sure, however, that we have done this long enough, and we must now turn our minds to other ways and other methods.

In order to be able to do anything at all, it will be necessary for us to select two or three subjects for special work during the year, so that at the end of the year when women from all over India come together and pool experiences and exchange thought we should be able to present a report on the subject worthy of public attention.

That work in the Constituencies may be carried on on the right lines, local Education Sub-committees must be re-organised in such a way as to be able to work undisturbed by the recurring annual shocks of annual conferences and echo meetings. I say this because I find that a great deal of the work of the Constituencies (at least of some of the Constituencies) is disorganised completely by our annual local conferences, annual All-India Conferences, and echo meeting. It takes time to settle down after each of these events, and before they have composed themselves, there is another rumble and another shock.

To avoid this, we must have our Sub-committees appointed earlier in the year and constitute them in such a way that the personnel of these committees does not undergo too drastic a change. These committees must be more or less semi-permanent in character.

There are one or two points in the work to be undertaken by the Constituencies that I wish to stress.

Every Education Sub-committee must make it a point to collect detailed facts and figures as regards matters educational in that particular constituent area. This will help the Committee in its own work; besides, if there is a demand for information on any point, our Constituencies will be able to supply it as promptly as possible.

Besides undertaking such a local survey, each Constituency might concentrate on one or two subjects, as for example, Baroda could be our guide in all matters pertaining to libraries for women and children, Delhi, our centre of information on Home Science, Mysore on Vocational training.

The local Education Sub-committees would also concern themselves with the problems selected for special study and work by the All-India Women's Conference at its annual sessions.

It is necessary that local Sub-committees should keep the Education Section Secretary informed as regards matters of educational interest happening in their Constituencies; and if there are any problems of local interests that want the backing of the Conference, detailed information concerning these should be submitted to the Education Section Secretary in time, so that a statement could be drawn up to enable the Conference to come to a decision in the matter.

Before I close, I appeal once again to all delegates interested in education, whether as teachers, heads of schools, inspectresses, members of school boards and school committees or as mothers, or in any way interested in or connected with education to communicate with the Education Section Secretary and say in what way they are prepared to help in the cause of education. We want conveners of sub-committees, we want members to work on sub-committees, we want workers for the local sub-committees. I appeal to you, fellow-delegates, to come forward with your service to advance the cause of education in the land.

SOCIAL SECTION REPORT

Mrs. S. N. Ray

The year under review has been a year of real progress in regard to the work of this Section. The disadvantages and handicap which confront social work of any description in our country are still relentlessly there, and until a true spirit of social service and

a practical ideal of citizenship is imbued amongst a much larger section of our women, we can never hope to achieve anything like measure of success that we desire. Still with the limited number of workers and the scanty funds at our disposal, I think, we are progressing much quicker than we dared anticipate, and every year brings a larger number of enthusiastic women in the Constituencies, who are willing to undertake practical social work.

A very distinctive feature of work this year is the tremendous increase in the number of Constituencies who have taken up village up-lift work in earnest and who have already achieved considerable progress considering how recently a programme of constructive practical work has been launched by them. Jullundur and Konkan are concentrating on intensive work each in one village and Delhi has also started similar work. In West Bengal Constituency an intensive campaign for the improvement of surrounding villages is being undertaken and a systematic scheme of all-round village improvement has been adopted. The professional and the business women's Club in the Oudh Constituency is also doing village work, and many of the Ranis and Begums of this area are doing individual work in their villages. Satara continues to do admirable work in this direction and has a net-work of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the surrounding areas and has also started Dai training centres. Other Constituencies such as C. P. South C. P. North, Bengal East, and Moradabad have also started village work.

Calcutta is doing Busti work and a systematic course of lectures on sanitation and Health are being given among the poorer class in Konkan, Baroda and Satara Constituencies. Some constituencies have been successful in inducing Municipal authorities to improve sanitary conditions in the cities, and providing public parks and play-grounds for children.

Madras has started a home for poor girls to train them for social work, and considering the need for trained social workers I would recommend other Constituencies to start similar training centres if possible.

Certain Constituencies are concentrating on Harijan Uplift work, Delhi has been very zealous in this respect and has obtained

actions against landlords of Harijan colonies so as to force them to improve living condition. They have also provided a well in Wazirbagh for sweepers by their own efforts. Andhra and Calcutta both continue to run successful Harijan Schools, and Allahabad has started two night schools for Harijans.

Maternity and child welfare work including Baby-clinics which are run by Constituencies themselves, is making considerable progress. Classes for teaching industrial arts and the encouragement of the sale of home-products continues. Lucknow had a very successful women's handicraft Exhibition, and Exhibitions of swadeshi articles have been held along with the Annual Conferences in some of the Constituencies.

There is an increase in propaganda work for the establishment of recognised Birth-Control Clinics. But so far except for Bombay and Gujerat other Constituencies have not yet been successful in establishing clinics. As we are having Mrs. Sanger with us and she will be touring different parts, we hope to report greater success next year. The Conference feels that the need for birth-spacing in the interests of the health of the mother and children cannot be overstressed. Definite steps should also be taken to stop the spread of quack remedies and medicines which are now widely advertised and used and have such harmful and detrimental effects on health, and this cannot be done unless the right type of knowledge is given to those who are in real need. Some Constituencies have been holding meetings for this purpose.

As regards the prevention of immoral traffic in women, the work started is being continued successfully. An Act to this effect has recently passed through the Punjab Council, where our Constituency worked hard for its introduction. Rescue homes started in various places continue to be run well and the newly formed Cawnpore Sub-Constituency has recently started one.

Mrs. Menon, the Convener of the Anti-Child-Marriage Sub-Committee, has issued an admirable bulletin giving the statistics of child-marriage in our country. The alarming number of cases of breach of the Sarda Act show how little effective the Act has been so far and that we must redouble our efforts.

Lucknow Constituency has been carrying on temperance work with success. In some Constituencies women have been appointed on the Board of Film Censors and propaganda is being done for the censorship of unsuitable films and an agitation started against the production of anti-Indian films which have been recently shown in foreign countries for propaganda purposes.

A notable achievement which is the direct result of the activities of our Constituencies particularly of Bombay, Maharashtra and Gujerat, is the defeat in the Bombay Legislative Council of the retrograde Adoption Bill brought forward by Mr. Desai. This is a clear indication of the value of propaganda work and should be a direct inducement to us to always be wide awake and do concentrated work when occasions of this nature arise. Copies of Bills to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act by Mr. B. Das, and to amend the law on Hindu Women's rights to property by Dr. Deshmukh which will be shortly coming up before the Assembly, have been circulated to all Constituencies for information and consideration, and it is hoped that all our members will take an active interest when these bills come up for discussion.

This year for the first time the Conference sent a letter of appeal to all members of the Legislative Assembly along with the N. C. W. I. and W. I. A., asking them to take an active interest and help forward measures which affect vitally the interest of women and children. In future we hope to do consistent lobbying in regard to such measures.

We have continued unabating to lay special stress on the need for the appointment of a Commission to enquire and suggest remedies on the legal disabilities of women and the Constituencies have done admirable propaganda work. We approached the Assembly to bring up a resolution giving us their support and both Dr. Deshmukh and Mr. Akhil Chandra Dutt tabled resolutions similar to ours; but unfortunately these did not come up in the ballot for private bills. Several Assembly Leaders and members of all parties have shown sympathy with our request but so far Government has not thought fit to concede to our request on the ground that the demand for the Commission is not widespread enough. Yet during the last two

years we have created a demand voiced in the Press, on the public platform, and by the collection of hundreds of signatures throughout the country. We still hope that Government will even now grant our request as the Commission method is undoubtedly the best. In case, however, we fail, the Conference has already approached lawyers and experts to take up the question of suggesting remedies. Certain Constituencies in Indian States are also moving their Governments to amend the Hindu Law in regard to the disabilities of women. It is hoped that a Bill to this effect will soon come up in the Indore Legislative Council and our Constituency there is working hard for its successful passage through the Council.

That the conditions of women's franchise in the New Constitution is a deep disappointment to us, is only too evident. At the same time the Conference thinks that it is best that women should take the advantage of opportunities, however unsatisfactory, as it will be a great education to fit them for public life, and so our Constituencies particularly, Bombay, Madras, Karachi, Delhi and Cownpore have been encouraging women to enroll themselves as voters. We hope that those women, who represent our aims and ideas will come forward to contest seats in the legislatures as we shall need their help in the future.

Mrs. J. R. Doctor, S. C. Member for Bombay, has kindly carried on the work of the Social Section while I was away abroad for part of this year, and the gratitude of the Conference is due to her efficient work during this period.

Last, but not least, there is a notable increase in the propaganda and publicity work in the Constituencies undertaken in the interest of social reform. We cannot over-emphasise this. To break down the prejudices, and ignorance which envelopes us and to rid our country of retrograde social customs, which are barriers in the path of national re-generation, it is essential to continue systematic and continuous propaganda—for it is only thus that we can bring a real change of heart a far more powerful weapon than the strictest and most stringent laws that we may ever hope to get through the Legislatures.

REPORT OF THE LIAISON WORK, 1935

(Between the A. I. W. C. and British Women's Organisations.)

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.

The work of the Liaison Group has gone unremittingly during the whole of the year. The Group, as a whole, and individual members thereof—in particular, Mrs. Lankester and Miss Agatha Harrison—worked unceasingly to press our demands concerning Franchise and our status in the New Constitution while the India Bill was in process of being argued in the Houses of Parliament. Dr. Maude Royden and Mrs. Corbett Ashby addressed large public meetings and did their best to educate public opinion in our favour as well as win our individual members of Parliament to our way of thinking. As is known to us, most of the amendments to the Act that were tabled by our friends, to ameliorate our position on the lines suggested by us, were defeated, and we have gained a very little only. This little we may certainly attribute to the help rendered to us by our friends of the Liaison Group in England.

The quarterly bulletin has been continued to be published regularly and its circulation has increased. It not only publishes news of our activities but is useful in as much as it gives publicity to all activities carried on by those who are working for India's welfare.

Mrs. Lankester and Miss Harrison arranged a busy programme for Begum Hamid Ali when she was in England, of which she took full advantage. There was ample publicity given in English newspapers to all she said and did on our behalf, and she was able to establish many useful contacts.

Mrs. S. N. Ray arrived in England in August. In spite of the fact that it was a holiday month she, too, was given as much opportunity as was possible in the way of interviews with persons of standing and public speaking on our behalf.

Contracts with Geneva have also been maintained. Mr. Ekstraand, the Social Section Secretary of the League of Nations, Mr. Butler of the Labour Section and Dr. Ghosh of the Publicity

Bureau (Indian Section) are all always appreciative of the news sent to them from here of our work.

As is known to our members it was through our contact with Mrs. Corbett Ashby that we were induced to join the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship and send Begum Hamid Ali as our representative to its Congress at Istambul last April.

There is no denying the fact that this contact with British Women's Organisations and Geneva is of benefit and interest to us and although our Liaison Group was started at a time when we were in need of their help, primarily perhaps, for our domestic concern, I am convinced that we should ask for these contacts to remain unimpaired. If we want to extend our horizon, if we want unity and peace not only within our own borders, if we believe in the common humanity of all people, no matter to what race or clime they belong then the more contacts of fellowship we have with the outside world the better it will be for our own growth.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mrs. Lankester for the unstinted help and sympathy I have received from her and I hope she will continue to act as Liaison Officer. I am sure, my successor can have no better friend to work with than her. I would not ask to be relieved of this interesting and delightful work if it were not for the fact that my hands are now too full with Rural Reconstruction which needs whole time devotion.

It is a matter of regret that none of the friends invited from England this year have been able to come to us but we are glad to have Miss Solomon, Secretary of the British Commonwealth League to represent our Group. We also accord a very hearty welcome to Miss Muriel Lester who is no stranger to India. The fact that this year we are to have Mrs. Sanger from America and two friends from China and Japan have also come with Miss Lester makes me feel that perhaps our Liaison Group may be even further extended.

REPORT OF LIAISON GROUP OF BRITISH WOMEN'S SOCIETIES**(British Commonwealth League)****(Six Point Group)****(St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance)****(Women's Freedom League)****(Women's International League)****(Working in co-operation with the All-India Women's Conference)**

The Liaison Group of British Women's Societies who act in co-operation with the All-India Women's Conference, have been carrying on their work throughout the year. Although they are disappointed that their efforts to secure measures in the Government of India Act more in accordance with the wishes of the organised women of India failed, yet the Group feel that there is a steadily growing interest in the Indian Women's Movement, a greater appreciation of its work, and a more understanding sympathy with its outlook, and that this is in some measure due to the efforts of the Liaison Group.

On the arrival back from India of Dr. Maude Royden and Mrs. Corbett Ashby after their visit to the annual session of the A. I. W. C. as 'honoured guests' a large meeting of welcome was arranged in London by the British Commonwealth League, with the co-operation of other societies. This meeting was held in the large hall of Friends' House and was crowded with a keenly interested audience. It gave an opportunity for both speakers to give their impression of the work of women in India and to put forward the wishes of the organised women as regards the new constitution. It has been invaluable to our work at this end for these two British women leaders to have come into contact with leaders in India.

These links have been still further strengthened by the visits to this country of two office-bearers of the A. I. W. C.,—Begum Hamid Ali, and Mrs. S. N. Ray.

The former came over to England by invitation of the Liaison Group after her visit to Istanbul, where she acted as leader of the Indian delegation to the International Women's Suffrage Alliance

Conference. It was extremely valuable to have her here while the Government of India Bill was in the later stages of discussion, and she was able to have interviews with political leaders in all parties, and with representatives of the press, and to attend debates in the House of Commons on several occasions. Though her visit could only be of short duration, Begum Hamid Ali spoke on 17 different occasions. These included meetings arranged for her at three large centres in the Provinces, at Receptions given in her honour by our own Liaison Group, by the London Committee of the Women's Indian Association, by Lady Abdul Qadir and by Dr. Royden. Begum Hamid Ali was also one of the guests and speakers at a Jubilee dinner organised by the Women's Freedom League, and at a dinner given in honour of the Prime Minister of Australia by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Begum Hamid Ali charmed everyone by her personality, her vigour and ability.

It was unfortunate that Mrs. Ray's visit came at a time when everyone in England goes away on holiday, but in spite of this she was able to do some extremely useful work, and we were all impressed by her broad outlook, widened still further by her tour in Japan, China and U. S. A., and she presented the views of Indian women in a very able way. An interview was arranged for her at the India Office and she spoke at meetings arranged for her by the Women's International League and the International Birth Control Information Centre.

Both Mrs. Ray and Begum Hamid Ali have been the best possible ambassadors to this country, and they have given a real insight into the thoughts and ideals of the progressive women of India on many points, and particularly on their attitude to the new constitution.

The Liaison Group did what it could to keep the point of view of the organised women of India before politicians and the public during the passage of the India Bill through both Houses of Parliament, and gave publicity to resolutions and statements passed by the A. I. W. C. and its Standing Committee. While they were glad that through the efforts of Miss Rathbone and Miss Ward an amendment was accepted, giving six seats to women on the Council of State,

they deeply regretted that amendments put forward by the Labour Party and women members of Parliament designed to give further representation to women in other Legislatures were lost. They also deplore the fact that it has not been possible to obtain the system of joint electorates for women, or adult franchise in urban areas, and that a wife's qualification for franchise on the property of her husband still stands. The Liaison Group fully realise the deep disappointment of the organised Indian women that their wishes have not been met in so many directions, and they recognise the difficulties that will arise in working the constitution, and they wish to express their warm sympathy. At the same time they earnestly hope that the influence of women through the increased franchise may make itself felt and help towards the general, social and political progress of the country, and that women may be given opportunities for association in the administration of the Provinces and in the Central Government of India.

The Liaison Group gave an At Home in honour of Mr. Joshi, member of the Indian Legislative Assembly, in November, when he had the opportunity of explaining the grave disappointment of the A. I. W. C. with the new constitution and the reaction in India as a whole. We are indebted to Mr. Joshi for giving us these views in his own statesman-like way.

The Bulletin in connection with the Liaison work has been issued five times during the year, and is distributed to 33 organisations (including some in Australia, U. S. A. and Geneva), 50 individuals and the Press. The societies in the Liaison Group have also made use of material for insertion in their organs.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mrs. Lankester and Miss Agatha Harrison all felt greatly honoured by the kind invitation of the Standing Committee of the A. I. W. C. to attend the annual session of the Conference as their guests. To their intense regret, circumstances most unfortunately make it impossible for any of them to accept. They earnestly hope that the Conference will not infer any lack of appreciation; on the contrary all three were deeply touched by having been asked, and they only wish it were possible for them to come. They send their greetings and their best wishes for a very

successful conference, reports of which they will follow with the greatest interest.

We regret that St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance resigned from the Group in November, but we hope that their Committee will continue to co-operate with us in other ways. We are grateful to them for their help and interest.

We are grateful to our Chairman, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, to members of our Committee, especially Miss Agatha Harrison and Miss Todhunter for their help. Our association with the Liaison Officer of the A. I. W. C. in India has been a very happy one and we deeply appreciate the unstinted work she has given to keep us so closely in touch with our Indian sisters.

In conclusion, the Liaison Group consider that their work should not come to an end with the passing of the Government of India Act. We feel that the links that have been formed through co-operation in work for the status and franchise of women in the new constitution are too valuable to be lightly broken, and if the Conference decides to re-appoint their Liaison Officer, we at our end will do what we can to strengthen those links, and to give all possible support and sympathy in the difficult years that lie ahead for the Indian women's movement. We realise that there is not much that we can do, as the decisions and the work must lie in the hands of Indian women; we know the many obstacles that will have to be faced, and that pulling down will be needed as well as the constructive work of building up, but we believe that the courage and vision of the leaders and the faith and enthusiasm of the rank and file will enable them to win through and that women everywhere will nobly play their part in creating the new India. We confidently look forward to the time when India will take its due place in the comity of nations and believe that it is capable of becoming, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi himself, 'the greatest moral force in the world'.

GRACE LANKESTER,
Liaison Officer.

REPORT OF THE ALL-INDIA SARDA ACT SUB-COMMITTEE**Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon**

During the year under review the Sub-Committee did the following things:—

I. Circular letters were issued,

(1) to the public through the press asking the public to help the Conference in forming Sarda Act Enforcement Committees, to agitate for amendments to the existing Act;

(2) to the Standing Committee Members, Patrons and Vice-Presidents of the Conference and a large number of women in different parts of India.

The response from the latter was not satisfactory. The Press published the letter and commented favourably. Letters volunteering co-operation were received from the Punjab, Central India, Berar, Benares, Cawnpore, Sitapur and Moradabad.

The following Constituencies responded to the appeal:—

Jullundur, Bombay, Baroda, Calcutta, Agra, Delhi and Sind.

II. Two Bulletins were issued,

(1) giving the figures of child marriage collected from the Census Report of 1931 and giving reasons why child marriage should be abolished—most of the newspapers, English and Vernacular published this bulletin and made their own appeal;

(2) The second bulletin explained the important provisions of the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929 and pointed out the defects of the Act.

The Social Section Secretary in the mean time very kindly circulated Mr. B. Das's Bill to the Standing Committee Members inviting their opinion. The Bill is drafted on the lines suggested by the Conference in its various sessions.

The Convener received letters from certain people in the Central India Agency requesting her to approach the A. G. G. to enforce the Act in the Cantonment areas of the Central India Agency. The Convener wrote to the A. G. G. at Indore placing before him

the principle of the Conference regarding social reform and requesting him to help us by declaring the Act applicable to those areas as well.

It was unfortunate that a progressive State like Mysore should have refused to give permission to introduce a Bill in the local Legislative Council. The Conference view was expressed by Mrs. Brijlal Nehru and Dr. Reddi who addressed meetings in the different parts of Mysore. An article was also written on behalf of the Conference in answer to the very reactionary views expressed by Raja Bahadur Krishnamachari in a Madras Paper. An attempt was made to collect published reports of prosecutions under the Child Marriage Restraint Act. Most of the published reports dealt with prosecutions in Andhra, and French-pet afforded a place of refuge to those who wished to break the law. From the letters received from private agencies doing social reform work, it was evident that the security demanded under Section 11 of the Act has been a great handicap to those who are keenly interested in the prevention of child marriage. We hope that the modification suggested under the New Bill to amend the Act will make it more workable. The Conference is also in touch with the local member who is given leave to introduce the bill to restrain child marriages in India. A cable was also sent to the Secretary of State for India to support Miss Rathbone's amendment which made the breach of any law which is penalised in British India punishable although it was done outside the jurisdiction of British courts.

It is said that wisdom is in knowing what to do next, skill in knowing how to do it and virtue in doing it. As far as the Subcommittee's work is concerned, we have shown our wisdom and skill, and now let us show our virtue and do it.

REPORT OF THE INDIGENOUS INDUSTRIES SUB-COMMITTEE**Mrs. Hansa Mehta**

At the last Half-yearly meeting of the Standing Committee, I had made several suggestions—one of them was to have exhibitions held during the Session of the All-India Women's Conference to be better organised. I suggested that the industries exhibited should be properly classified. A statement to be prepared as to whether the Industries are State-aided or not, what help they require, how many people are engaged in it and what wages they received. I am glad to report that the exhibition organised by the Travancore Constituency is well-organised. One thing, however, I wish to say in this connection. It is with great sorrow that I saw some of the foreign things in it. The exhibition is meant for indigenous industries. Things exhibited there should be of local industry or at least of Indian make. I hope these things will be removed by the order of the President as it is not consistent with the spirit and ideals of the All-India Women's Conference. With regard to the Statistics, I have not yet received any.

My other suggestion was to organise Swadeshi shops wherever necessary. I was asked to prepare a Scheme to organise Swadeshi shops either on co-operative basis or as private proprietary concern. I have prepared the Scheme which was circulated to the members of the Standing Committee. I have received replies from Mrs. Hamid Ali who has promised to work it in her district, from Mrs. Barkat Rai—a member of my Sub-Committee who has promised to try it, and from Rajkumari Amrit Kaur who hopes to organise a shop in Simla next March. I have not heard from others but then some of the Constituencies have already such shops.

The Travancore Constituency has passed a resolution in their Constituent Conference regarding the organising of Swadeshi Stores on a co-operative basis.

This is all the report I have to submit for this year.

THE RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur

I regret to say that there has been no response from the constituencies or even all the members of the Rural Reconstruction Sub-Committee regarding work for village uplift. I can, therefore, submit no report this year.

I should like to bring a few notes before the Standing Committee in the hope that the Chairwoman and members may be drawn to directing that work on the lines suggested therein may be undertaken in the coming year.

If our desire to bring about better conditions of life for our villagers is genuine we must not be content with passing pious resolutions at our annual Sessions.

There are, doubtless, difficulties in the way of most of us for we live in towns and are wholly oblivious as well as ignorant of village life and village conditions. Inasmuch, however, as there are villages within easy access of every town it should not be impossible for every Constituency and Sub-Constituency of ours to adopt *one* village—preferably a small one—and try and bring about reform there on the right lines.

Sanitation and the simple laws of health and hygiene are unknown in most of our villages. This knowledge can be imparted by our workers and practical demonstrations of cleaning of the lanes, and dwellings and scavenging, scientific and orderly storing of manure, washing of babies etc., etc., can be undertaken with the help of voluntary workers, male and female. If sufficient money can be raised it may be possible to maintain a village worker who would live in the village as a villager—*i. e.* some one who is fired with a spirit of service and willing to take a living wage only and one who believes in the removal of untouchability and will be able to help the villagers to get rid of this sin by doing Harijan work himself in order to prove to them the dignity of all human labour. If a paid worker is maintained great care must be taken that he (or she) is the right type with a personality that will be able in time to win the respect and confidence of the villagers.

The doctrine of self-help must be inculcated in the villager. They must no longer be content to live in the conditions in which they live and from which they are too apathetic to extricate themselves. To this end, as much economic relief, as is possible, must be sought to be brought to them as well as health and vigour without which they are unable to take any interest in their surroundings.

For the latter, food values are of the utmost importance to them. Where whole masses of our population live on only bread or only rice with a little pickle to make it somewhat palatable it is essential that we must teach them to eat bread made from whole meal flour and rice that is hand-pounded and unpolished also raw sugar. Cleanliness of person and clothes, of inculcating clean and sanitary habits in children, in particular, the dangers of an impure water supply, how to avoid a pest of flies and mosquitoes, the value of proper ventilation at night etc., etc., are all matters in which the villager is wholly ignorant and in which the women, specially, need constant instruction.

Thrift, by means of the cutting down of all unnecessary and unproductive expenditure such as on jewellery and ceremonial occasions, particularly also on litigation and factious quarrels, on drink, on gambling etc., etc., can certainly bring him economic relief. But if we can instill into their minds the doctrine of self-sufficiency *i. e.* that they should feed and clothe themselves without having to buy their food or cloth from outside we shall indeed be rendering them a service. The lure of foreign articles—sometimes wholly unnecessary—of foreign cloth, in particular, is penetrating even to our villages. To encourage our village sisters to spin enough yarn for their personal wants and the wants of the family is of the utmost importance. Once they realise that cleanliness, proper diet, thrift and self-sufficiency are going to give them better health and put some money in their pockets the villagers will certainly respond.

The task is immense but if we love one land we must not be over-awed with its magnitude. Rather should it stir us to put forth redoubled energy and zeal into it. A reversion to a simpler form of life ourselves will greatly help us in our work for we cannot preach what we do not practice. If there is any information that is required

I will gladly try and furnish members with such if it is in my power to do so. If good voluntary work is shown anywhere I am sure the local authorities as well as local friends will help both with money and in other ways. I would again appeal to all members to take in "Harijan" which always contains valuable suggestions for work in villages. Finally—if I am asked to take up the Convenership of this Committee again and I am always willing to serve the best interests of the Conference—I do sincerely ask for the whole hearted and active co-operation of the members of the Sub-Committee as well as of the entire Standing Committee in this extremely important avenue of service which is open to women and in which we can contribute much if we so wish.

REPORT OF THE HARIJAN SUB-COMMITTEE

Mrs. Brijlal Nehru

In the month of May a Circular letter was issued by the Convener to all the Constituencies, suggesting various items of work for the promotion of the Harijan cause which could be taken up by the Constituencies. Especial stress was laid in this letter on the collection of money for the Harijan Pani Fund which has been organised by the Harijan Sewak Sangh. Later on another circular was issued under the signature of the members of the Harijan Sub-Committee emphasizing the need for the taking up of the programme of work as laid down in the Convener's circular.

In answer to this, the following 10 Constituencies in their Annual reports have given an account of the Harijan work done in their areas:—

Delhi, Indore, Mysore, Bihar, Calcutta, Konkan, Madras, Satara, Hyderabad (Deccan) and Moradabad.

I am glad to give below a consolidated report of all these Constituencies:—

Delhi collected money to pay part expenses of a well made for sweepers in a village near Delhi. No other Constituency took up

the work of collection. But some have mentioned that they may take up this work later on.

Four Constituencies, Delhi, Calcutta, Satara and Konkan visited the Harijan Bastis but only Delhi has reported having brought about some improvements in the living conditions of the Harijans with the co-operation of the Health Officer.

Indore has started four centres of work with vernacular classes under Mrs. Kibe and Mrs. Annapurnabayi Bhandarkar.

Delhi and Calcutta have given financial aid of Rs. 15 a month each to Harijan Schools run by other organisations.

Free medicines have been distributed by the Moradabad Sub-Constituency to patients suffering from Malaria.

The President of the Mysore State Women's Conference urged the Municipal Committees to give maternity benefits to the women sweepers under their employ and it is hoped that this necessary concession will be granted by most of the Municipal Committees in the State of Mysore.

The Bihar Constituency has started three Primary mixed schools with 22 Harijan boys.

In Madras, Shrimati Vishalakshi, the Social Section Secretary is devoting a great deal of her time to Harijan work and has started an Ashram for poor girls to give them training for social service work.

I am glad that the above Constituencies have taken up the work and hope that others will follow their example.

Harijan work is vast and is specially a women's work. I hope and trust that the A. I. W. C. will contribute its due share to this great work of reconstruction.

REPORT OF THE LABOUR SUB-COMMITTEE

Mrs. A. Chatterjee

This year the Labour Sub-Committee was to follow up the work of Investigation in the Mining Area at Jharia. At our last Session at Karachi it was suggested that we should support a women Organiser in the mining area to look after the welfare of the women eliminated from underground work. In order to carry this out, funds are necessary and so in June an appeal was issued to the Public for contributions. Unfortunately no response was received and it has not yet been possible to appoint an Organiser. It is vitally necessary that we should have somebody to help these poor women out of work. We were told that it would not be possible to obtain any useful results unless the Managers of the mines co-operate with us. We were informed that it should be possible to introduce basket-making in the mining area immediately, and if basket-weaving or any cottage industry is introduced among these mining women, we might be helped by an expert lent by the Department of Industries.

The conditions were found to be almost the same as last year of these dismissed women, on another visit to the mining area this year. The actual percentage of women working in the mines was almost the same but the wages of these women are halved now. This is because they are going down in turns, *i. e.*, one lot going down today and making room for another to-morrow—hence it was yet possible for almost everyone to earn a little and for nobody to earn the full wages. This system was however temporary arrangement and by now a large number of them have been dismissed definitely. From Kustore alone 900 women have been dismissed recently. Besides this, owing to severe floods many mines have been forced to close down and that also has increased unemployment and suffering among these people. It was found that the Kustore was the only mine which was trying to help the dismissed workers.

They had a large shed to hold 300 to 400 workers built round a big sunny courtyard. Groups of workers were sitting with their particular work in different parts of this shed. Weaving was being taught in one part in large looms and different kinds of marketable articles are produced here. Articles were produced at a lower cost

and sent out into the local Bazar, cheaper than the Bazar articles. There should be no difficulty in arranging for small cottage industries which could employ even a very small number of women.

We should start social organisations to help these women and raise enough funds to support an Organiser for a year at least.

Most of the women seemed to be unaware of the fact that they were to be soon sent out of employment and when they were told they said that it would be ruinous for them to be sent out of work in this way, and that they would be sent home if there was no employment for them, and there would be no sobering influence left in the mining areas. The wife of the Sirdar, a very intelligent woman said that it would only increase immorality among the women and this view was supported by the Secretary of the Miner's Association who gave me as examples, detailed cases of distress that had increased noticeably within the year. It is certainly too late now to weigh reasons for and against elimination, but it is time we realised that something practical should be done to help them.

In this connection I should like to make a special appeal to our sisters from Bihar, who would render a great service to the country if they could persuade people in authoritative positions in their Province, to take a keener interest in this question.

Coupled with the effects of this elimination, the effects of the Outstill system, are still more apparent. On this subject, I recommended to everybody interested in this question, to read Miss Copeland's most admirable and useful report that has recently been printed.

After going through the pages of this little book anybody will see how very necessary it is to agitate for the abolition of this system in Bihar.

In conclusion I should like to point out that the whole idea of elimination was based on a better life for the miners. It is useless to bring about one particular reform if we do not have the complementary ones to support it, and as the elimination of the women is an established fact now and since our Conference had advocated that principle, we should help them now in whatever way possible to tide over the difficult times.

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION SUB-COMMITTEE

Miss G. J. Bahadurji

At Karachi last January six members were appointed to the Constitution Sub-Committee of the A. I. W. C., for 1935, with Miss G. Bahadurji, as convener.

The main function of the Sub-Committee, during the year, has been to scrutinize—with a view to final ratification by the Standing Committee, the Local Constitutions drafted on the lines of the Model which was issued on behalf of the Conference two years ago. 14 Local Constitutions were received and examined by the Sub-Committee, at its two sittings held, one in Poona last July, and the other this month in Trivandrum.

The Constitution Sub-Committee regrets that of these 14 Constitutions, only 4 are found, after minor alterations, to be acceptable. These are from the Constituencies of Delhi, Baroda, Indore and Oudh. One, from Satara, had to be rejected in toto on the ground that Sub-Constituencies are not entitled to have individual Constitutions apart from such local rules and regulations as they may require and which must be incorporated in the Constitutions of their main Constituencies.

In each of the other drafts there are grave defects pointing to either a violation of the fundamental principles of constitution-building, or a breach of the particular principles upon which the local Constitutions are required to be based.

The drafts are being returned to the Constituencies with detailed notes of criticism. It has been decided to hold a meeting of the Standing Committee Members of the following Constituencies before their departure from Travancore to enable them to return to the task of re-drafting their Constitutions with a clear conception of what is demanded of them:—

Nagpur.	Maharashtra.
Madras.	Lahore.
Andhra.	U. P. Agra.
Travancore.	Sind.
Konkan.	
Mysore.	

Members of the Standing Committee representing the following constituencies then read their Annual Reports in the following order by ballot:—

C. P. South	..	..	Mrs. Kale.
Agra (U. P.)	..	..	Mrs. Banerjee.
Bengal East	..	..	Miss Bose.
Hyderabad (Deccan)	..	..	Mrs. Cornelius.
Tamil Nadu	..	..	Mrs. Gomathinathan.
Calcutta	..	..	Mrs. Momin.
Indore	..	..	Mrs. Bhanumati G. Turkhind.
Mysore	..	..	Mrs. Janaki Ammal.
Utkal (Orissa)	..	..	Miss S. Das.
Maharashtra	..	..	Mrs. Yasubai Kulkarni.
Madras	..	..	Mrs. K. Damodaran
Sangli	..	..	Mrs. S. Gokhale.
Delhi	..	..	Mrs. Asaf Ali.
Konkan	..	..	Mrs. Athavley.
Punjab Central	..	..	Miss Thapor.
Travancore	..	..	Sry. P. R. Parukutty Amma.

The Conference adjourned at 12 noon.

SECOND SITTING—30th December 1935

The second sitting of the Conference commenced at 1-15 P. M. In the absence of the President Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji was in the Chair. The Annual Reports of the following constituencies were then read by the respective members representing them:—

Gujerat	..	..	Mrs. Vakharia.
Bombay	..	..	Mrs. J. R. Doctor.
Sind	..	..	Dr. K. Tarabai.

EDUCATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

(1) Common Language.

Miss Justin (Delhi): "Chairman, and ladies, the resolution I have been asked to move runs as follows:—

"Recognising the urgent need of a universal language for India, this Conference appoints a Sub-Committee

- (a) to report on means and methods that could be adopted for the realisation of this ideal;
- (b) to compile a comprehensive vocabulary of words commonly used in India in order of frequency of use;
- (c) to co-operate with other associations engaged in similar work."

In moving the resolution, she said that there were over a hundred languages in India. The only language that might be said to be common all over India, was English. It might be said that Hindustani might be called as a common language. But one would be astounded to see the number of Arabic and Parsian words added on to it. In the case of English, a vocabulary of about a hundred and fifty words was enough for every day use. In this Conference, representatives from Bengal, North India and Rajputana had come. They all used the English language as the common medium. It was entirely different in the case of South India. Tamil was being used in South India. There were several words which were common to Tamil, Hindustani, Hindi and Urdu.

In the Central Province, Hindi in Nagari characters were insisted on. They could not understand the Urdu script. There was some idea that a common language meant a common script. In the opinion of the speaker this was not entirely true. What did it matter if a person wrote in Roman or Persian or Nagari? Let every one think of emphasising their likenesses and not their differences. Among the English people about 800 words was quite sufficient vocabulary for every day life. Among the Chinese it was limited to 200 words. Could it not be the same with India? It was sometimes said that Sanskrit roots should be adopted. What did it matter if it was of Sanskrit origin? That did not make the word more

popular. To those who sought a united India these were non-essentials. Being women and more practical she asked the Conference to pass the resolution for a common language.

Mrs. Asaf Ali (Delhi) in seconding the resolution said:—
“It goes without saying that when there is intercommunication between Province and Province there must be a common language for all India. It is with this object in view that the Women's Conference has now for years together passed a resolution of this kind. We must have a common language so that the people of this House may understand and realise the aspirations of the people of the North and *vice versa*. There are several difficulties in the way of having a common language. We realise that there is a great deal in common among the various sects, castes, and communities that reside in this country. But the difficulty is so great that it must be tackled by experts who must go into the question and build a vocabulary in simple language which can be put in the form of text books for school children. There is an argument that it is a very difficult task to learn so many languages and that we have all our own mother tongues. At the same time I would like to point out to you that Hindustani, that is a combination of Hindi and Persian words that is prevalent in the north of India and in many other Provinces, is more or less becoming the common medium of expression in India. In the South also they have started a movement for a common language.

Again, the radio and the cinema can become a medium for the popularisation of a common language. In the Delhi Broadcasting Station it has been settled that the broadcasting will be only in simple Hindustani. Every one has accepted that. In this way there will always be an impetus, to those who want to see the cinema, to learn Hindustani.

The other argument, namely, that we cannot learn so many languages is the argument of lazy people. After all, we have learnt English which is a foreign language. There are several sisters who have also learnt French. Surely if we want to see India united as a nation, it is not too much to ask of every Indian man and woman to devote some part of their time to learn this national language, that is Hindustani. With these few words, I second the resolution.”

Mrs. Kuttan Nair (Cochin) in supporting the resolution said:—

“We have to confess to our great shame that we have not yet developed our national consciousness. It is high time to develop a common language for India. This fact was impressed upon us in our recent European tour. We were twenty and we had to talk in English. This was adversely commented upon in the West. Even if you have got hundred dialects of Vernaculars in your country it is up to you to develop a common language for the whole of India. Apart from the fact that English can never be the language of the masses, it is a matter of self-respect to us that we should have a common language whatever it be. I strongly support the resolution.”

This was further supported by other speakers.

Miss. Reuben (Bombay) in explaining the necessity for the resolution said that though the Conference had always passed resolutions urging the necessity for a common language nothing practical was done. Now a Sub-Committee was proposed to be appointed in which various members knowing the various Vernaculars of India could be put in. The idea was to draw up a list of words common to all languages in the order of frequency so that the words that are most needed might be picked out. It was intended to make such a list ready for the next Conference.

The resolution was put to vote and carried unanimously.

(2) Resolution on Literacy

Miss Z. Lazarus (Mysore) moved the following resolution:—

“This Conference reiterates its former resolutions deploring the appalling illiteracy in the land, and, believing that unless a concerted and intensive campaign is organised the moral and material progress of the land is bound to be hampered, appoints a sub-committee

- (a) to study the question in all its bearings;
- (b) to keep in touch and co-operate with all work in the cause of literacy amongst adults;
- (c) to initiate practical schemes of work;
- (d) to report on all work done in this direction to the next Conference.”

In doing so, she said:—

“We have made very slow progress in removing illiteracy. Therefore, ladies, let us suggest ways and means of pushing through this work. If you are illiterate you have to keep quiet. Coming to the State of Travancore, we must congratulate the Travancoreans in abolishing the 2 per cent. literacy of British India; you have gone up to 17 per cent. In the State of Cochin, I am glad to say that it is more.

We have drawn up a small scheme for the working of the future sub-committee. The first point of the scheme is that each constituency must make itself responsible for enforcing primary education at least in one division of the constituency beginning as soon as it can. If each member of that constituency makes herself responsible for making literate one child, man or woman, then so much of illiteracy will be abolished. I am told that there are about 40 constituencies in all. Supposing there are 100 members in each constituency and each member is responsible for educating one person there will be 40,000 educated persons. That is one practical method. In Madras only boys are given compulsory education. Girls have been neglected, especially Muslim girls. It is, therefore, up to every Province and State to see that in the scheme of compulsory education girls also are included. Girls are one half of the population and the better half. Therefore they should not be neglected.

The next part of the scheme requires that a report should be obtained from each constituency comparing the expenditure on university and primary education. I feel that we are spending too much on University education. University education is top-heavy. Men and women are becoming discontented. What are you going to do with these discontented members of society? Therefore I suggest that the expenditure on University education should be reduced.

The next point is that we have Samajas in all parts of the country. In these Samajas we must introduce music and other attractive methods so as to make adult women become keen on education. It is very important that mothers and grand-mothers should first be looked after. Fifty or sixty years ago when I was young, mothers did not learn anything. But now when the whole of India must join in a united federation, women and mothers must vote in

a sensible way. Therefore let the Samajas introduce a scheme of education. There are more schools started in Mysore every year and the adult women there are very much interested and ready to take advantage of the facilities for education. There is a school in Mysore City which is run entirely by the Mysore Constituency. Sry. Rukmani Ammal is in charge of it. There babies are not only given milk but also cod-liver oil. In Dodballapur there is a school where bee-keeping and poultry farming are taught. There is also a co-operative society where women can buy grain at a very cheap rate. That is about Mysore. I do not see why other Provinces could not follow the example of Mysore.

Lastly an appeal should be made to the Municipalities and other local educational authorities to set apart one half of their expenditure on adult education. Quarterly reports should be sent to the conveners so that they will pass it on to Miss Reuben."

Mrs. Anandavalli Amma, **Mrs. P. Thanu Pillai** (Travancore), **Mrs Ali Akbar** (Hyderabad Deccan), and **Miss Van Doren** (C. P. South), also spoke in support of the resolution.

In further supporting the resolution, **Dr. Suktankar** (Bombay), opined that compulsory education should be introduced in all places. Even in the Bombay City where a sum of 30 lakhs of rupees was spent on education there was no compulsory primary education. The Conference must concentrate on the best methods of spending the money so as to teach more children. Along with that, the curriculam also must be more simplified. In Bombay there were two thousand teachers in primary schools. If in such a City the teachers can come on Saturdays and teach adult persons then the problem of adult education would have been solved. Mrs. Suktankar also referred to the aid of radio for the removal of illiteracy, and concluded that every effort should be made to remove illiteracy so that in the new India women's right to vote would be properly exercised.

Mrs. Rukmani Ammal (Mysore), also supported the resolution and referred to the five year plan adopted in Mysore.

Mrs. Raiji (Bombay), **Mrs. Bharda** (Bombay), **Miss Malthe** (U. P. Oudh), and **Mrs. Huidekoper** (Ajmer) also supported the resolution.

The resolution was put to vote and carried unanimously.

Resolution on Health

Miss Cocks (Lahore) then moved the following resolution:—

“This Conference is emphatically of opinion that the health of children, and specially of school children and college students, is of vital importance to the well-being of the country. It therefore considers it essential that matters connected with

- (a) School hygiene and sanitation,
- (b) Medical Inspection of school children,
- (c) School Clinics and Care-committees,
- (d) Health education in schools,
- (e) Physical Culture,
- (f) Adult classes for the study of Child Welfare and Child Hygiene,
- (g) Dietetics, with special reference to children's food, do receive special attention, and appoints a Sub-Committee to study the questions and to report to the Conference at its next session.”

She said that a central committee was necessary to collect information and find out various defects. When the defects were known some scheme could be evolved by this conference for the guidance of the various Constituencies.

Mrs. Aley Cherian (Travancore) in supporting the resolution said that there were various difficulties in working it. Firstly they must get the co-operation of the parents. Another difficulty was the lack of equipment and organisation. She said that the girl guide movement was a practical way of inculcating knowledge of health and hygiene.

Miss Muriel Lester speaking of her experience thought that if the medical examination could be carried on continuously for two or three years the health of the pupils will certainly be better safeguarded.

Mrs. Parukutty Amma (Travancore) also supported the resolution.

Miss Paul (Malabar) said that she was a teacher in a school where several poor girls attended. They were too weak to take

physical exercise. So they gave the girls *kanji* and were now trying to give cod-liver oil also.

The Chairwoman remarked that the question of giving a little nourishment in the middle of the day was a very important point. In the best schools in England they gave a glass of milk and biscuit two hours after breakfast. All those who can afford it must give some little nourishment in the middle of the day.

This was further supported by a Madras representative. The resolution was then put to vote and carried unanimously.

Message

The Chairwoman announced that she had received a message from Mrs. Thurman of the Negro Delegation wishing the Conference every *success*.

The late G. K. Devadhar

The Chairwoman moved the following resolution which was passed in silence all standing:—

“This Conference places on record its sense of deep loss sustained by the people of India by the passing away of Mr. Devadhar of Poona, especially by women for whose interests he was an untiring champion, and this Conference conveys its condolences to his family and to the Poona Seva Sadan.”

The Conference adjourned at 3 P. M.

THIRD SITTING—31st December 1935

The Third Sitting of the Conference commenced at 9 A. M. In the absence of the President, **Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji** was in the Chair.

Discussion on the Educational Resolutions was resumed.

(5) Resolution on Hostels for Girls

Mrs. M. A. Momin (Calcutta): Madam President and Fellow Delegates, I have much pleasure in proposing the resolution which runs as follows:—

“In view of the fact that the demand for higher education amongst girls is increasing rapidly, this Conference urges the Government and Universities to take steps for the establishment of properly supervised Hostels for women students.”

Higher education amongst women though of recent growth is increasing rapidly and the demand is great. The few women's college in Calcutta are unable to cope with it and women students are taking admission in other colleges open to them but these latter do not provide any hostel accommodation.

In 1933 there were about 797 women students in Calcutta. Of these about two-thirds were residing with their parents and guardians and one-third in hostels. There are about 30 hostels that can be called such, but even of these only 5 are worth the name and the rest are poorly organised and slovenly kept boarding houses. Calculating from the figure of 1933 about 40 students on an average can be accommodated in these five hostels and the remainder have to stay in unsupervised hostels or messes. This latter number will go on increasing with the advance of higher education of women.

Our girls generally enter colleges at the age of 16, having just left the guidance and discipline of parents or the school, and on entering college they suddenly find themselves endowed with liberty and freedom which is quite new to them. It is at this stage that parental or tutorial guidance play so great a part in the moulding of character. A high standard of character is expected in a woman and if in the pursuit of higher education she fails to attain this or strays



RANI LAKSHMIBAI RAJWADE,
Chairwoman, Standing Committee

from it in the slightest degree, she does not only injure herself but gives a set back to the advancement of women's education. This is a serious position to which every parent and guardian should give due thought.

The existing hostels of women students in Calcutta, with the exception of five mentioned previously, do not fulfill the conditions required for a hostel for women students. They are more like messes or boarding houses than students' hostels. They simply provide boarding and lodging for a certain sum of money. No thought is given to make these hostels — the next best to home — genial and comfortable, to provide that parental or tutorial friend and guide, which is so essential at this age. There is no control or supervision worth the name. The consequence is that the young students very often unwittingly fall into evils against which they have nobody to warn or protect them.

It is therefore incumbent on parents and guardians, Government and College authorities to see that due control is exercised over women students during their college career.

To obtain this end, no college should admit women students unless they reside in properly licensed and supervised hostels or with suitable guardians. The suitability of guardians in every case should be carefully investigated as it is well known that very often women students live with people who have only a meagre relationship with them and can have therefore very little control over them.

The essence of all higher education is the formation of character and deportment, bereft of these mere academic qualification is of very little value to any one, either to the individual or to the community”.

Miss D. H. Watts (Travancore) in seconding the resolution said:

“I have very great pleasure in seconding the resolution which has been put before you. I feel I have to say something on the subject of establishment of hostels for girls because I have been in charge of the Women's College in Trivandrum for 28 years. Travancore is a land where women have more freedom than in other places. But the new freedom is something very different from the old freedom.

In the olden days though girls were not held back by legal disabilities, though there was not child marriage, their lives were still entirely domestic. Now with the advancement of education and with the adoption of profession, girls are coming out more and more into public life. But it has happened that, without any training, they are coming out of the colleges straight to public life. The gap between public life and social life has not been bridged. Girls do not get accustomed to face situations they come across when they enter public life. I consider that the hostel is the place from where they can get this knowledge. They cannot get it either in their homes or anywhere else. It is true that they learn all that by experience. But if they do not know what influence will bear upon others they cannot be expected to take their proper position in public life. So what I wish to say is that hostel life must be considerably extended. Hostels must give a more universal life as in the West. There must be social gatherings, there must be meetings under the guidance of women who understand such things and who are able to teach social laws which girls cannot get elsewhere. At present there is really no social life in India between the two sexes. You cannot acquire that without experience. Girls must be taught what they should do before they enter into public life. I feel that hostels in India must be brought more into line with the hostels in the West."

Mrs. Mitter also supported the resolution.

The resolution was put to vote and carried unanimously.

4) Resolution re : Education Reorganisation Scheme and Vocational Training

Mrs. Hansa Mehta (Bombay) moved the following resolution:

"This Conference welcomes the united efforts of leading educationists to create a new attitude towards educational problems in this country and hopes that in the ultimate emergence of the Re-organisation scheme, particular stress will be laid on the need of Vocational institutions."

She said: "I have much pleasure in moving this resolution. For the last few months, those who are in touch with the newspapers know that there is a hue and cry against the present system of education. Educationists find it most defective and the reason is that the present education is too academic in its nature. Secondary schools prepare students only for universities. They prepare students for Matriculation examination. That seems to be their goal and end all with the result that the students who are not really fit go to universities still. Thousands of graduates are turned out by these human factories and there is a lot of unemployment among the educated people. In order to improve this condition it is very essential that vocational training should be started in the secondary schools. In order to make the education in the secondary schools complete, students should be diverted to some vocational training. And for this reason we should suggest to the Central Advisory Board that the secondary training which is now commenced by the Government should be improved. I have much pleasure in moving this resolution."

Miss K. Sarada Amma (Travancore) in seconding the resolution said:

"Madam President and sisters, I regard it a great privilege to second this all important resolution. The present educational system falls short of satisfying the present day needs of the country. Indian boys and girls should be trained to be useful citizens. They should be enabled to secure the economic independence for themselves and for their country. Unemployment among men has become an economic danger and that among women a menace to domestic and social life. The need for reform in education and vocational training has been long felt and the present condition is such that the application of effective remedies cannot be long delayed. The allusion in the resolution is for a Central Educational Advisory Board. The need for a Central Clearing House of ideas on education is essential with the delegation of education as a transferred subject now and hereafter as a non-federal subject. But it has to be confessed that the proceedings of the First Meeting of the first Advisory Board has been disappointing. There is no original suggestion for the radical reconstruction of education. But the recommendation of the Board

that the high school course should prepare students not only for university but also for agricultural and vocational training in technical subjects is welcome, for it does not intend to exclude the study of cultural and knowledge giving subjects, provided steps are taken to prevent the creation of unemployment among the technically qualified men and women. If even the industrially advanced and economically prosperous nations as England propose to spend 12 million pounds on a three year plan for the improvement of technical education, the importance of this education in this country cannot be exaggerated. With these words, I commend this resolution to your acceptance."

Mrs. T. B. Tarkunde (Maharashtra), in supporting the resolution, said:

"Madam President and Fellow Delegates, I wish only to confine myself to one aspect of the question. Economic compulsory education is both attractive and popular among all and especially among those who live from hand to mouth. A labourer feels that there is no use to send his child to school. Educationists at the present day have agreed that any education which does not solve food problem is not of any use and if India wants to keep pace with the modern civilisation of the world vocational training must be introduced in the curriculum. Of course, the difficulties in the way are many. But we have only to stand erect and face them to be solved. With these words, I support the resolution."

Mrs. V. Bakhale (Satara) in supporting the resolution, emphasised the need for vocational training. She said that it should be introduced in secondary schools and that a habit of practical life should be cultivated with the child even when they are young. She thought that it was better to begin early considering the enormous waste of energy in education. She concluded by saying that as India is an agricultural country in every secondary schools an agricultural bias should be given.

Miss K. Easwari Amma (Travancore) in supporting the resolution said that year after year hundreds of graduates are being turned out thus swelling the number of unemployed. She was of opinion that vocational training should be started from the secondary course onwards at the same time making provision for those who were thus turned out.

Dr. Mrs. Jarbanoo E. Mistri (Bombay) while supporting the resolution, urged the need for the inclusion of domestic science in the educational curriculum for girls.

Miss Shantabai Dondekar (Bombay) in supporting the resolution said that vocational training should be started even from the primary schools.

Mrs K. C. Roy (Calcutta) said that of all problems the educational problem was the most vital of all. She continued "Education is a preparation for active useful service and I say that so far we have rendered little help to those who come to us and look for our guidance along these lines. We are too busy teaching text books and often forget that we are dealing with women and children who look to us and want our guidance on those matters." She was of opinion that girls who are mentally and intellectually unfit should be discouraged from having higher education. Teaching was the only profession left to them because they were unfit for any other profession. She was of opinion that vocational training should be started even from the primary schools. She concluded that children must be taught the value and responsibility of useful work in order to build up a better and more progressive nation.

Miss R. Rouben also spoke in support of the resolution.

The resolution was put to vote and carried unanimously.

(6) **Resolution on Compulsory Education**

The following resolution was moved from the Chair and carried unanimously:—

"This Conference is of opinion that girls should be included in all schemes of Compulsory Primary Education and particularly supports the resolution of the constituencies of the Madras Presidency that the new committee formed by the Madras Government to draft a scheme of compulsory elementary education should do so not only for all boys as are in the present terms of reference but for all girls and boys of elementary school-going age."

The Chairwoman then announced that a few more constituency reports which had not been read will be taken up in the afternoon when Her Highness Sethu Parvathi Bayi will preside.

SOCIAL RESOLUTIONS

(4) Resolution on Birth Control

The Chairwoman (Mrs. Faridoonji) asked the Press to leave the Hall.

Mrs. Anna Chandi (Travancore) moved the following resolution:

“This Conference reiterates its former resolutions supporting the necessity for instruction in methods of Birth-Control through recognised clinics and calls upon all the Constituencies to make a special effort to induce Municipalities and other organisations for maternity and child welfare to open centres to impart such knowledge to those who stand in need of it.”

She said that this resolution had been passed at three consecutive sessions of the Conference. The Travancore Constituency at its last meeting passed a resolution saying that clinics are undesirable since very little was known on this subject. Mrs. Chandi said that although she moved the resolution she wanted to make clear the fact that the Travancore Constituency passed this resolution only after a strong protest.

She continued that while everyone was agreed about the necessity for the control of births, there was difference only about the methods to be used. Mahatma Gandhi and certain religious leaders advocated continence. But several persons felt that this was impossible of application by ordinary people.

Among the arguments urged against birth control the first one was that it would spread immorality among unmarried women. She said that birth control was never intended for unmarried women and

clinics could refuse to give information to them. Travancoreans had so much confidence in the morality of their unmarried women that they do not think that it would fall at the sight of a birth control clinic. But even if it came to that the nation at large must have the benefits of this knowledge.

Again it was stated that birth control was unnatural and sinful. She refuted this argument by saying that our whole civilization was a revolt against nature. People used medicines and many other things which were unnatural. Birth control must be considered only as medical treatment for those who stood in need of it and it would be given only in hospitals and clinics.

The third argument against birth control was that it was harmful to health. She thought that it was certainly not so harmful as annual births.

Lastly it was said that the result of birth control would be under-population. The Census Report proved that there was really over-population in the country. Therefore there was very great need for the birth control.

Mrs. S. N. Ray (Calcutta) seconded the resolution. She was of opinion that the question to be considered was not whether this knowledge should be given or not. For, knowledge about birth control was now being diffused widely in newspapers and by advertisement. Middle classes are also adopting methods of control. The question to be considered is whether scientific knowledge should be given through medical clinics or whether people were to use devices which would be detrimental and injurious to health.

A popular misconception is made that what was advocated was absolute birth prevention. It was not so, what was wanted was spacing of birth amongst those who needed it either on the grounds of health or poverty. Again it was said that India should not decrease her population while Europe was trying to increase hers. The question to be considered is whether the increase in the productivity of the country can keep pace with the increase of the population. When that is considered it would be seen that birth control is imperative at present. From the point of view of the health of the mother,

this, most of all, was necessary. She made a fervent appeal to the audience to brush aside antiquated customs and religious superstitions and to do only what was best for the nation.

Miss Watts (Travancore) in opposing the resolution said, that while India was on the threshold of a new life it was harmful for the country to start extreme measures. She advised the Conference which was only nine years old and had plenty of work to do, not to risk its stability and its very existence by taking extreme steps. She said that no one was against control. The objection was to prevention. The Brahmins of ancient India and even to-day knew how to limit their families, and they did not use artificial methods. The objection was only to the use of artificial methods of birth control. If the methods were good why should there be so much propaganda. The Conference condemned traffic in women but at the same time it was trying to introduce by this resolution slavery into the home. Spiritual strength was acquired by self-control and not by indulgence. As head of a college for 28 years Miss Watts said that she always upheld discipline. If self-indulgence was permitted how could national discipline be maintained. If this resolution were passed it would revolutionise married and unmarried life and break up the family.

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon (Lucknow) said that the objection came chiefly from people who were unmarried. If population was not limited there was no hope of improving the lives of the people. By 1941 if the present growth of population continues the resources would be halved in proportion to the population even after allowing for possible improvements. Propaganda for birth control was necessary even as all good causes needed propaganda. Education was a good thing yet the Conference was agitating for compulsory education. That contraception did not lead to sterility was the opinion of doctors. Only by controlling birth could we get the best.

Miss Rosemeyer (Travancore) opposed the resolution and said that contraception was used as a method to escape control. If anybody wanted deliberately to escape from the normal results of a natural function, it was bad. President Roosevelt called this practice racial suicide. The only kind of birth control permitted was continence. There were recognised periods when conception was not

likely to take place. She quoted the examples of Greece and Rome; also France and Great Britain where the population was decreasing as the result of birth control.

Dr. Sukthankar (Bombay) said that the resolution was so innocent that no one need oppose it. It only wanted centres to be opened to give information to those who stood in need of it. The doctors who would be in charge of such centres were responsible persons and should be trusted. The most important point in the opposition was that birth control will lead to immorality. Those who want knowledge for this purpose will get it any way. She said that if a wife was forced into motherhood how could the children be a blessing to the home? Those who talked of self-control did not know what they were talking about. The Bombay Municipality had failed to pass the resolution for the establishment of clinics. Those who were responsible for that failure were men, while those who suffered were women.

Mrs. Kamala Damodaran (Madras) went so far to say that even if unmarried girls adopted these methods, such methods were better than those resorted to by them at present to avoid unwanted babies.

Mrs. Kuttan Nair (Cochin) supporting the resolution, emphasised that advocates of birth control supported it only as the next best to self-control.

Dr. Mistri (Bombay) thought that moderation in propaganda was necessary. She said that she did not believe in broad-casting information or in encouraging married people enjoying pleasure without responsibilities. This advice should only be given by doctors on medical grounds. And they should be free to refuse information if they thought fit.

Miss L. C. M. Ouwerkerk (Travancore) said that this question affected the unmarried in two ways. They had first to decide about the size of their future family and secondly students in the West said that if these methods were all right for the married why not for those who could not afford to marry. She quoted the statistics compiled by Dr. P. J. Thomas to show that there was no indication

that population had outstripped the means of production. If birth control was accepted there was the danger of race suicide. Birth control was not accepted by the whole civilized world. The West was divided on the point. It was therefore advisable to use the ancient methods of India.

Dr. Natarajan (Delhi) supported the resolution.

Mrs. Thanu Pillai (Travancore) opposed it on the ground that it will lead to immorality.

Mrs. Kale (C. P. South) quoting the opinion of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, who was brought up in an orthodox family, stated that birth control was the only means of staying the increase of population. Those who advocated continence advised by Mahatma Gandhi should also be willing to follow his advice in other matters.

Dr. Ratnamma Isaa: (Mysore) said that she was in charge of a birth control clinic. There were two clinics in Bangalore and one in Mysore where information was now given to all those who came into the maternity wards. The appliances were expensive, but recently Mrs. How-Martyn gave information regarding a cheap method.

Miss E. Gomez (Travancore) said that she was a member belonging to a family of doctors. She had an open mind until two days ago. When she heard speeches on the subject she had been convinced that birth control was wrong. It was the opinion of doctors that contraception led to sterility. Birth control was only the second best.

Mrs. Cheriyan (Travancore) belonging to a family of fifteen said that large families were not necessarily bad. The methods of birth control advocated were expensive. Money should be spent on educating the masses and raising the standard of life.

Mrs. Margaret Sanger congratulated the Conference on the spirit in which the discussion was carried on. She asked the opposers how many children they have. Most of them had none. Mrs. Sanger said that she was a trained nurse who had worked for 21 years, for birth control and was the mother of three children and one of eleven children. Those who opposed the resolution were mostly Christians. They usually brought up the argument of immorality. Christianity

which had been in the world for 2000 years and Christian nations had had almost complete power. If after all this women could not be trusted with knowledge it meant that their teaching had failed.

In India, she said, population had increased faster than any other country in the world. Where there is over population there is widespread misery and lack of food. It was not only food that was needed. There were spiritual values as well. Infant mortality had three factors, fathers' wages, spacing of family and place of child in the family. In India 22 per cent. of the first born died, 23 per cent. of the fourth child in the family died, 33 per cent. of the 7th child, 41·3 per cent. of the tenth, 51·4 per cent. of the 11th and 59·7 per cent. of the 12th child died. The birth and death rates in India were the highest in the world. While longevity was rising in European countries, it was decreasing in India.

Birth control had reduced infant and maternal mortality. Continence should not be imposed on those who were not ready for it. She quoted from a book published with the approval of the Roman Catholic Church, to illustrate the necessity of birth control.

The resolution was put and carried, 83 voting for and 25 against.
The meeting adjourned at 12·45 P. M.

FOURTH SITTING—31st December, 1935

The Fourth Sitting of the Conference commenced at 2-30 P. M., with Her Highness Maha Rani Setu Parvati Bayi President, in the Chair.

REPORT OF CONSTITUENCIES—(contd.)

Mrs. M. Kamamma (Andhra), and Mrs. Kuttan Nair (Cochin) were asked to read their Constituency Reports.

SOCIAL RESOLUTIONS—(contd.)

2 Resolution on Child Marriage Restraint Act.

Mrs. T. B. Garkunde (Maharashtra): Your Highness and friends, the resolution that I have been asked to move runs thus:

This Conference views with dismay the frequent violation of the Sarda Act. It calls upon the Constituencies to educate public opinion against the custom of child-marriage.

- (i) by holding public meetings denouncing the evil results of child-marriage,
 - (ii) by distributing leaflets containing information about the existing legislation and the necessity of drastic measures and effective amendments to the Act,
- and (iii) by supporting Bills in the Legislatures amending the Sarda Child Marriage Restraint Act., *e. g.*, Mr. B. Das's Bill before the Legislative Assembly and the Bill before the Travancore Legislative Assembly.

There are certain defects in the Act itself which make its application null and void.

The first defect is that the Act punishes the offenders only by fining them. Thus the people make bold to break the law because they know that there is very little chance of detection and that even if they are detected they are sure to be let off with a paltry fine.

The second defect is that this law is applicable only in British India. The people of British India go away to Indian States and celebrate marriages. In such cases the law is quite helpless and no punishment could be meted out to the parties.

In order to remedy these defects we must take a very serious view of the whole problem. We must do propaganda work and impress upon the people the evils arising out of child marriages. We must educate public opinion by organising and holding public meetings. We should report to the Government every case of breach of the law that comes to our notice.

For this purpose the Sarda Act has to be amended in two respects. The first is that the Act should provide some substantial punishment, like imprisonment, to the persons who break the law in order that they may not easily dare to break it. Secondly, the law must punish persons who, being residents of British India, go to Indian States and celebrate marriages there. The Indian States should also pass a similar law in their respective domains. I may here mention with pleasure that Baroda has taken the lead in the matter by passing a law. I hope other States will also follow in its footsteps soon. I know that Her Highness, our worthy President, takes keen interest in this matter and desires to have a law passed in her very progressive domain.

The Bill of Mr. Das is very useful because it goes a long way to make the Sarda Act effective. The Bill provides for a person who hears that a certain marriage offending the Sarda Act is going to take place, to go to a court of law for obtaining an injunction order to stop the marriage pending enquiry. So, that is a very useful Bill and we should accord our hearty support to it. With these words I commend the resolution to your acceptance.

Mrs. N. M. Raiji (Bombay) The present Act is unfortunately only a punitive measure and not a preventive one. It only provides for punishment after the marriages have been performed. In the whole Act one looks in vain for any provision to restrain or prevent child marriages before they are performed and become irrevocable. Against this, Mr. B. Das has provided a remedy by the insertion of a section by which the court can issue injunction against any of the persons mentioned in Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this Act prohibiting such marriage. The Bill also adds a special provision in the law by which the court will be empowered to declare certain marriages null and void, such as marriages in which the bride is less than ten years

of age or the bridegroom is less than 12 years of age. This is not a new suggestion because a similar provision has been enacted in the Infant Marriage Prevention Act in force in the Baroda State.

It is a common practice for persons living in British India to evade successfully the provisions of this Act by temporarily shifting to the territory of some Indian State and there performing the marriage in contravention of the provisions of this Act. In order to bring such offenders to book, a provision should be added to the Act to the effect that whatever the place of offence may be, the offenders, that is those who perform or promote such marriages, may be prosecuted at the place where they generally reside or work for gain or where they last resided or worked for gain.

Marriage expenses are as a matter of fact one of the chief causes of the prevailing custom of early marriages. A man who has two daughters, one above the age of fourteen and another below that age, naturally gets them married on the same day in order to save the extra marriage expenses which to a large number of persons mean life-long indebtedness. Caste associations can, if they are serious about it, help greatly in raising the age of marriage if they can secure a reduction of the marriage expenses to a minimum. In the Bombay Presidency, the Youth League Movement has been doing a good deal of propaganda to prevent such marriages."

Mrs. Anna Chandi (Travancore) in supporting the resolution, said that though the evil was not prominent in Travancore, yet in order to help those in British India who celebrated marriages here in order to escape from the clutches of the law, an attempt was made in 1927 to pass a similar law in this State. She said that she was also a member of the Council where a resolution was brought forward by Mr. Rama Varma Raja. The Government Benches, who were given freedom to vote as they liked, also supported that.

Mrs. Chandi then referred to the amendments proposed by Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, which were published in Bulletin No. 2, and explained the meaning of the term 'cognizable offence'. She said that a child marriage was a triple murder, as it was the murder of the child, murder of the mother and ultimately murder of the nation.

It was therefore necessary to make it a cognizable offence, and the State should take up the responsibility for the prosecution. Even the theft of a bunch of cocoanuts was a cognizable offence; it was therefore ridiculous that such a serious offence as child marriage should be non-cognizable. The depositing of Rs. 100 according to the Sarda Act was an impediment in the way of effectively carrying out the provisions of the law. If there was any malicious prosecution, the court could award compensation after the case was decided.

Finally, she requested the member in charge of the Bill in the Travancore Assembly to keep in mind the suggestions contained in the Bulletin of Mrs. Menon.

Miss Z. Lazarus (Mysore), in further supporting the resolution, apologised on behalf of the women of Mysore for not passing a law on the lines of the Sarda Act. Although the Assembly which had a few women members on it passed a Bill, the Upper House which had no woman member vetoed it. She stated that the women of Mysore were determined to see that the Legislative Council at least next year agreed to pass such a law.

Dr. K Tarabai (Sind); moved the amendment that the following be added as clause (*iv*) to the resolution:

“(iv) By appealing to the Indian States to introduce as early as possible similar measures for restraining child marriages.”

She quoted the instance of the State of Khairpur where a fine of Rs. 100 or Rs. 150 was levied on each child marriage. The State received on the whole a sum of Rs. 12,000 in this way. She interviewed the Prime Minister to ask him to raise the fine so that the marriages would be prohibitive.

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji opposed the idea of increasing the fine as that meant that, if a fine of Rs. 1,000 was paid, child marriages would be allowed. She was for the complete prohibition of child marriages.

Dr Tarabai said that she suggested the idea of the fine only as an instance. Her amendment did not contain that.

Mrs. S. N. Ray seconded the amendment.

Dr. A. R. Athavle (Konkan), also supported the resolution.

Mrs. T. Narayani Amma, as the sponsor of the Travancore Child Marriage Restraint Bill, explained the provisions contained in her Bill. She said that she had raised the marriageable age from 14 to 15. Another change made was that in exceptional cases, such as when either of the parents of a girl may be held responsible for seeing her married during their life time, marriage at an earlier age was permitted.

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, Convener of the All-India Sarda Act Sub-Committee, explained the provisions of Mr. Das's Bill in the Legislative Assembly. She said that the Bill in the Travancore Assembly, which was framed on the lines of the Sarda Act should also include the provisions contained in Mr. Das's Bill. Otherwise it would also be a dead letter. In a vehement appeal she asked women to start a crusade against child marriages.

Mrs. Chandur Bhan also supported the resolution.

The resolution, as amended, was then put to vote and carried.

3. Resolution re Legal Disabilities of Women

Mrs B. Anandavalli Amma: "Your Highness and sister Delegates, the resolution I am asked to move runs as follows:—

- " (a) This Conference resolves that a Special Committee with power to co-opt. lawyers and experts should be appointed to enquire into and suggest adequate remedies for the legal disabilities of women; the Special Committee to appoint Branch Sub-Committees in the different provinces and Indian States to consider questions of local interest.
- (b) This Conference records its sense of gratitude to the movers of the Bills in the Central and Provincial Legislatures which aim at improving the legal and economic status of women. Further it congratulates the Bombay Legislative Council for having rejected Mr. Desai's Adoption Bill,

- (c) This Conference urges the early enactment of legislation penalising the practice of polygamy. It recommends to our Special Committee to draw up a rational system of marriage laws which will include divorce."

Belonging as I am to a race of women who have known but very few legal or social disabilities, I cannot but express my deep sympathy for my sisters elsewhere, who have to suffer various disabilities, legal and social.

The first two clauses are to ensure the economic and legal status of women by getting the laws of inheritance regulated and re-enacted. The third clause expresses the feeling of the Conference that there should be a modification of the marriage laws, allowing divorce and penalising polygamy.

The legal disabilities of women have been a great drawback in our land. Unless and until these disabilities are removed, the women of India can have no economic and political standing, and unless and until her economic status is raised, and unless and until she has a full unlimited command of purse and property, her voice will be unheard, and her position in society will be unsafe.

The evils of polygamy are felt more by women. The argument that since there are more women than men, polygamy is a means of getting husbands for the surplus women, is fallacious and ineffectual, since we find that an unmarried woman too has a place in modern society. The Hindu law places no restriction as to the number of wives, though a woman can have only one husband at a time. Among the Mahomedans too, polyandry is prohibited but a man may have at least 4 wives at a time. The Nairs among whom both polygamy and polyandry were current, have given up both and now both are illegal.

There are other defects too to be removed. Child marriage is allowed and the husband is given the guardianship of the wife and he can force her to live with him against her will. And, among the Mahomedans, the woman can never marry outside the community, though a man may marry any one who is not an idolatress.

Though under the Christian law and the Nair law divorce is allowed on various grounds, it is not a universal right improperly manipulated. Divorce is unknown to the general Hindu law though sanctioned by custom under change of religion, loss of caste, adultery or desertion by the wife, though each does not operate by itself. Among the Mahomedans, free divorce is allowed to men. They can divorce as they please, without any cause, and, what is more, the husband can even delegate the power of repudiating the wife to a third party. But, a wife can get divorce only through a judicial decree and that on restricted grounds by paying money or when she is charged with adultery. Even if the husband fails to perform the marital obligations, she is not allowed to separate from her husband on any other ground.

Considering all these, it is extremely necessary that an intensive propaganda should be carried on to get rid of the disabilities of women with regard to inheritance and property qualification and with regard to marriage and divorce.

The main purport of the present resolution is to urge the need for a special committee of experts to look into the question and to devise ways and means to modify the existing unjust laws with regard to inheritance and marriage by which Indian women are governed. It is only by the sympathy of such men and expert lawyers we can have any hope of overhauling the laws by which Indian women are governed and of removing their legal disabilities. With these few words, I commend the resolution to your acceptance."

Mrs. S. N Ray: "Your Highness and sister Delegates, I just want to say a few words in seconding the resolution. We have been dealing with this question of legal disabilities for the past three years. The disabilities have been explained many a time. We are now concerned only with the remedial measures. We asked for a commission of enquiry. But the Government of India told us that there was not sufficient demand in the country. So we were trying to create this demand. We had an All-India Day celebrated in every constituency when meetings were held and when this resolution was passed in every part of India. Thousands of signatures were collected to support the demand. But we have still been told that there is not sufficient demand in the country. So the Standing Committee of the

Conference thought this year that it would be best if we take the matter into our own hands and appoint a committee ourselves to suggest remedies. It is with that view that part (a) of the resolution has been drawn up. In every Province special Sub-Committees will have to be appointed as the laws differ in various places. After these sub-committees go into the matter, the Conference could at its next session consider the subject again and approach the Government and Assembly.

Mrs. P. Thanu Pillai (Travancore) suggested that the law applicable to Nairs in respect of inheritance and holding of property may with advantage be followed by others also. The Nair women at present enjoyed rights of inheritance similar to men. The sons and daughters of a deceased man or woman inherited the property of the deceased in equal shares. A more equitable system could not be easily conceived of. As regards divorce too, she said that the Nair Regulation could be followed by others. The Regulation provided for divorce only for special reasons such as incurable diseases.

Mrs. M. Kamamma (Andhra) said that the law of inheritance applied at present by the courts, especially in relation to Stridhana, was not exactly the law provided in the ancient Sanskrit Codes. She referred to the Smriti Chandrika which was an earlier commentary than the Mitakshara, and contained no shackles on women. She, therefore, moved the following amendment to the resolution:—

“Add the following after the words ‘legal disabilities of women’ occurring in the third line of part (a) of the resolution. ‘And also to concentrate upon the correct interpretation of the existing Sutras and Smrities as well as to secure new legislation.’”

Mrs. Cousins seconded the amendment.

Mrs. Kale and **Mrs. Ray** stated that the resolution which was already very long need not be amended for this purpose as the suggestion made by the member could be considered by this special committee.

The amendment was withdrawn.

Mrs. E. B. Mathew (Cochin) deplored the custom of dowry among the Christians of Malabar and asked every body to fight for equality of rights.

Mrs. Manjeri Kamalam speaking in Malayalam said that Stridhanam was like a demon and that equal right of inheritance should be given to women.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta: "Your Highness and sister Delegates, I have really no desire to speak on this resolution because there is no one who has come forward to oppose it and there is no need for any more speeches. We are all in agreement with part (a). We know what our disabilities are. On the first day of the Conference, Sir Ramaswami Aiyar told us what our disabilities are. So what we want to do now is to find out ways and means of remedying those disabilities.

The second part of the resolution is also noncontroversial.

But on the third part of this resolution, I was expecting some controversy. I know there are many orthodox women who are afraid of the word 'divorce', and I felt that they would come forward to oppose this part of the resolution. I am very glad to note that every one seems to be in favour of it. But whenever we say that we are against polygamy, the men tell us that we are taking away a right that belongs to them. They say that if they are not satisfied with their wives, they can marry again. But we want equality of rights. And that is the reason that we also want divorce. If either of the party is dissatisfied with the marriage they can divorce. Therefore, I recommend this resolution for your acceptance."

The resolution was then put to vote and carried unanimously.

4. Resolution re Rural Reconstruction

Begum Rahmath Unissa Sahiba (Madras): "Your Highness and friends, I move the following resolution:

- (a) While we are glad that some of our Constituencies have taken practical steps for the amelioration of the condition of the rural population, we feel strongly that our efforts should be redoubled in this direction. We exhort every Constituency to carry out a constructive programme of village re-construction in one of its villages at least during the year.

- (b) Industrial development of the country is an essential factor in relieving the great problem of unemployment. It is necessary, therefore, for the Government as well as the people to help in every way to develop the indigenous industries in the country. With this end in view, the Conference urges the women in India to encourage Swadeshi by using articles made in the country as far as possible.

India stands today in need of social work of the very highest order. Eighty-four per cent. of the people live in villages under very unhealthy conditions. The houses are ill-ventilated and over-crowded. The village sites are kept dirty. The village tanks which are the only sources of drinking water are used indiscriminately for all purposes. There is no wonder therefore that cholera breaks out every now and then and sweeps away large numbers of people. Deaths from other diseases are also high. Infantile mortality is alarmingly enormous. Medical facilities are extremely meagre and in many cases there is absolutely none. Early marriages with all the attendant evils of unhealthy mothers and immature children, still continue in spite of the passing of the Sarda Act. The old village industries have entirely decayed or are decaying. Agriculture gives only a poor income. Improved methods of cultivation such as will bring a better return remain unknown. For half the year the farmer has no work to do and does not know how to spend that valuable time to his advantage and to the advantage of the community. He is badly in need of some supplementary occupation which will not only increase his income but which will also benefit the whole community. So there are plenty of evils. The only panacea for all these evils is education. It is the one mantram which will remove the curse that is upon the country. The abysmal ignorance in which the women of our land are steeped should be removed. It is these women that are in charge of the homes and the children. They are, or are to be, the mothers of the future generations. As the best lessons in life are learned by children before their tenth year, it is essential that women who are in charge of children should thoroughly know the best methods of developing them to their fullest capacity, physical, mental and spiritual. This can be done only if the mothers themselves are properly educated. For this purpose classes for adult education and free libraries should be started in every village for the

benefit of women. Child Study Societies should be started wherever possible so as to find out the best ways of bringing about the harmonious development of children and for making a practical application of the knowledge thus gained. With these words, I move the resolution."

Mrs. Asaf Ali: "Your Highness and sister Delegates, I thought I would bring to your notice that, although this work of village reconstruction was started only a year ago, it has been recognised as a necessity not only by the people of the country but also by the Government of India. In their last budget the Government have set apart a crore of rupees for village reconstruction. I admit that it is a very small sum. It is only a drop in the ocean. You are all aware of the All-India Village Re-Construction Movement started by Mahatma Gandhi. It was perhaps after realising his hold on the country that Government set apart this sum. My suggestion is that all of you should get into touch with the departments of your Governments that deal with this subject, present your schemes and ask the Government to allot money for carrying out those schemes. I was asked by one of the Government officers in the Punjab whether the Conference could suggest schemes which may be worked by them. We cannot live in beautiful houses and think of the villages. If we mean real business we must go and show them what we can do. So I would suggest that you get into touch with your local governments and ask them to co-operate with you in giving practical effect to this part of the resolution."

Miss Muriel Lester said that it would have been impossible for her to talk about rural re-construction in her country. She was a Londoner who knew nothing about the country. She was a slum dweller. She had no access to the soil. She was even cut off from mother earth as the streets and roads of London were all paved. She humorously mentioned the instance of a friend who presented her some plants to beautify her house. He had to go miles and miles in a car just to get a few potfulls of earth in order to enable the plants to take root. But after visiting China and Japan during the last two years she was struck by the great steps taken in this direction. Several co-operative societies had been formed for the purpose of village re-construction. In Japan by means of these co-operative societies they were able to bring whole villages out of the

clutches of the money lenders in a short space of time. In China at the beginning they had very great difficulties. The Chinese were individualists. It was difficult for them to grasp the importance of working together. But within the last two years the old idea has broken down—the old idea that people should not work with their hands—and several centres of work were springing up all over the country. The Government are themselves working in this matter. Though much about the failures of the Chinese Government was heard, nothing about its successes was published. They were doing very good work for the country in this direction. Again leading philosophers of China were showing the way to the poor people as to how they can get out of the clutches of the money lenders. She referred to a village in China which was in an impoverished condition 18 years ago. Two ordinary people, a man and his wife, had the goodness to give themselves up,—not money, but themselves—and little by little they improved the condition of the village. They taught the people first reading and writing. From that humble beginning the village had three schools. Then they had a library, then a clinic, and then they had agricultural exhibitions to which the people in the neighbourhood went. They improved their live-stock and seed. Formerly during the new year they used to spend the time gambling. But there was a renaissance. The people got together an entertainment to which people from the neighbouring villages came. They had classical dancing and singing. In conclusion, Miss Lester hoped that China would be a source of inspiration to India.

Mrs. S. C. Mazumdar (Calcutta) also supported the resolution and gave her experience about baby shows and health week. She said that every endeavour should be made to make these shows popular.

Mrs. M. E. Cousins put up a strong plea for the use of Swadeshi textiles. She said that by her work in the Andhra Constituency thirty per cent. of the people were now wearing khadar. By bringing good designs and beautiful colours the people could be made to buy more Swadeshi. The revival of this industry was really connected with the prosperity of the rural parts. One cannot be Indian unless one buys Indian and buys khadar.

Mrs. T. B. Tarkunde supported the resolution.

Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan, while supporting the resolution, deplored the fact that, although a resolution of this kind was passed at every session, not even those persons who were responsible for the passing of it carried it out. In regard to textiles especially, women still went in for foreign clothes although more beautiful articles were manufactured in India. She asked how unemployment could be removed if indigenous industries were not encouraged. If the indigenous articles manufactured here are not purchased, how could the industry be encouraged? She appealed to all to use only Swadeshi textiles.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta: "Your Highness and sister Delegates, I had the honour to move this resolution at Bombay. I wish to give a few statistics on the subject so that you can form your own opinion. We have not got correct statistics as far as unemployment in the country is concerned. But the statement that I am giving you comes from a good economist. He says that 30 per cent. of the population are unemployed. When we know that only 50 per cent. of the total population is adult and fit for employment, you will understand what an appalling figure 30 per cent. is. It is therefore essential for the Government as well as the people to help the industrial development of this country. One of the speakers pointed out to you that the pressure on land is tremendous. So we cannot take to agriculture any more. The industrial development of the country is our only goal. We are relying too much upon Government for industrial development. But the Government is not anxious on industrial development. Therefore it rests entirely on the men and women of India to help our industries. Mrs. Swaminadhan spoke on textiles. Crores of rupees go out of this country for the importation of textiles. That money can very well be utilised in this country. Therefore as far as textiles are concerned, we should be very particular in using only Indian cloth."

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji: "Your Highness and friends, as Mrs. Swaminadhan put it, it really makes one ashamed that a resolution of this sort has to be brought forward to the Conference year after year. It hurts and pains one. It stabs one with a knife when you see people professing one thing and doing another. I have been told

that one of the reasons why people do not buy Swadeshi is that it is expensive. We are told that a Japanese Sari can be had for Rs. 8. Why then purchase a Swadeshi article for Rs. 15? My answer is that if Japanese Saris of Indian quality can be had for Rs. 8, you may purchase them. I do not want to detain you much more, as time is getting late. There is not a single thing needed for your household which you cannot get from a Swadeshi shop. Three or four years ago when I spoke at this conference I stated that we should make an effort for the establishment of Swadeshi shops. If you only tell your shop-keeper that you want such and such Swadeshi article, as otherwise you will not purchase from him, he will certainly get it for you. That is my personal experience. And I have been insisting upon shop keepers to keep Swadeshi articles in Hyderabad. My advice to you is, think twice before you buy a foreign article. If it is a foreign sari, you can have it redyed. But if it is Indian you can have it dyed four times. At the next Conference let us not see a single foreign sari. I am told that lovely Bikaner Saris have been brought specially to Trivandrum for the exhibition. Go and see them at the Exhibition."

President : "As an amendment is being brought forward to this resolution, we will continue the discussion tomorrow morning."

The Conference adjourned at 4.45 P. M.

FIFTH SITTING—1st January, 1936

The Fifth Sitting of the Conference commenced at 9-10 A. M., with Her Highness Maha Rani Setu Parvati Bayi of Travancore in the Chair.

The President wished a happy New Year to the Delegates.

SOCIAL RESOLUTIONS (*contd.*)

Resolution re Rural Reconstruction—(contd.)

President : We will take up the resolution on Rural Re-construction which was discussed yesterday.

Mrs. S. N. Ray : "Your Highness and sister Delegates, it is imperative for us to realise the importance of this resolution which was moved yesterday afternoon. If we stand for progress and equality of opportunity for all, and if we want the true regeneration of our country, it is essential that we should work for village uplift.

This resolution is essentially a practical one. It requires every one to take certain action. Mere lip-sympathy is not enough. By this resolution we are asking every Constituency to carry out a constructive programme of village reconstruction. Therefore I ask you to refrain from voting if you do not propose to do any work for village re-construction. Only those who are willing to do work should put up their hands in favour of the resolutions.

Yesterday Miss Lester quoted an example from China to show how we can work in the villages. There is dearth of ideas. You have to teach them sanitation. You have to educate them.

Mrs. Raiji asked the speaker whether those who lived in cities and had no opportunity of working in villages should refrain from voting.

Mrs. Ray replied that those who cannot work in the villages could work in the *busties*.

Dr. Sukthankar asked whether city dwellers could not work in the slums.

Mrs. Ray : "This resolution relates to villages and not to slums, but of course that should be done.

Those who have contact with the villages will know that there is very great need for work there. There is ignorance, and prejudice born of ignorance. There is need for education. But one thing I have found in the villages is that there is great willingness among them to work if they are given a lead. There are the hide-bound prejudices find among those who know, and should know better and yet do not give up their reactionary customs, as amongst some of the middle classes.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur has made very helpful suggestions on rural re-construction. One suggestion relates to the relief of indebtedness in rural areas. The number of villagers who go to law courts for petty quarrels is alarming. When we work in the villages we

must see that they do not go to law courts induced by village touts for trivial matters. Then there is the question of expense on festivals and ceremonies. We spend out of all proportion on ceremonials, on marriages and deaths. I would just like to tell you what China is doing in this connection. A new custom is being introduced there. There is the custom of having common marriage feasts. They have the same festival for about 100 married couples. Therefore, the actual expenditure is about one hundredth of what it would be otherwise. I think that would be a very good custom to be introduced into India. If we have common marriage ceremonies we will decrease the expenditure on each marriage. I have seen photographs of common marriage ceremonies celebrated in China. It is a very good idea although it might sound rather new to us at first. We can, by educating the villagers, stop child marriages, make women realise their duties as mothers, teach methods of birth control among those who need it and generally have a proper rural re-construction. It is the women of the villages that are the back-bone of the country. Thus only can we create an India based on democratic ideas, but at the same time, in consonance with all that is true and inherent in our own culture and tradition."

Mrs. Asaf Ali raised a point of order. She said that parts (a) and (b) of the resolution were being discussed together. The first part related to rural re-construction while the second part related to development of the indigenous industries in the country. She said that these two parts were distinct from one another and that it would be better if they are put to vote separately.

The President pointed out that as a part of village re-construction, machinery for indigenous industries might be provided.

Mrs. Ray said that it would have been better if the Standing Committee members brought up such points of order at the Standing Committee meeting and not at the open conference.

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji expressed surprise that a point like that was raised by Mrs. Asaf Ali. She said that both the parts were related to each other and the Standing Committee had decided that.

President: "I personally think that they are really the same. The main question is that of rural re-construction. It does not matter

very much whether you introduce a little bit of machinery in furtherance of village re-construction. The main question is still the same. Therefore let us take the resolution as a whole."

Dr. Miss B. Natarajan (Delhi) moved an amendment to the resolution. She said that the word 'available' be substituted for the word 'possible' occurring at the end of clause (b) of the resolution, and the following sentence be added at the end:

"It further resolves that every member of the Conference shall strictly adhere to this resolution."

She said that 'possible' was a relative term while 'available' was quite different. What was possible for one might not be possible for another. She said that the number of people using Swadeshi products was less than the number of literates. Only if all the delegates who have come to the Conference used Swadeshi and asked their friends also to use Swadeshi, would it be possible to solve the problem of unemployment.

Mrs. Kale (C. P. South) seconded the amendment. She asked all the members to adhere strictly to the resolution. If the villager was asked to produce something, a market has to be created for the product. Unless that is done there is no use of asking the villagers to produce Swadeshi. Therefore if any use was to be derived by passing the resolution then every one should strictly follow a policy of Swadeshi.

President : "We have heard several speakers on this subject of popularisation of Swadeshi goods. They have stated that they were not successful in popularising the use of Swadeshi articles. Instead of deploring this fact year after year, I think it will be better if we find out the reasons for the failure and suggest practical remedies for the same. It appears to me that one reason why there has been failure is that there has not been intimate touch with the Central Committee on Indigenous Industries. For instance, unless the people of Travancore know what is produced, say in Gwalior, it will not be possible to go in for those articles. Similarly, unless the producer in Travancore knows what is wanted by the customer in another place it will not be possible to produce what is wanted. We have our own likes and dislikes. One person wants a little bit of design; another person

wants a little bit of colour. If the Central Committee could inform the various constituencies what exactly is wanted it would have been possible to produce the necessary articles. I would suggest therefore that there should be correspondence between the Central Committee and the various constituencies on this subject."

Mrs. Cousins suggested that an amendment might be made to the resolution to the effect that towards the popularisation of the Swadeshi articles each constituency should be requested to be in correspondence with each of the other constituencies and with the Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee about the articles manufactured in each constituency.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta Convener of the Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee, stated that there was no need for this amendment, as there were two good directories on the subject and as each constituency was supposed to supply information to the Convener of the Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee.

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji was of opinion that a Circular should be issued at the end of each month showing the articles available in each locality. She said that the shops never answered the letters sent to them.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta said that she had already prepared a scheme for the organisation of Swadeshi shops wherever they did not exist. She had already drawn the attention of the Standing Committee members to the latest Directory prepared by the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce. She was always willing to give information to those who wanted it.

Mrs. Swaminadhan informed the Delegates that there was a Swadeshi shop in Madras called "The Madras Swadeshi Emporium" and that if anybody wanted any information about any article, the Emporium was ready to give such information. She requested the members of the Constituencies to take the trouble of getting such information and not to wait for information to come to them.

Mrs. Cousins moved the following amendment to be added at the end of the resolution:—

"As a means of implementing the popularisation of the Swadeshi articles, each Constituency shall appoint one member

on its permanent Committee, who shall be in communication with the Secretary of the Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee and with the similar member of the Committee in each Constituency to make a report every three months as to the Swadeshi articles available in each Constituency."

She stated the instance of a prize giving ceremony in a very patriotically inclined college. The prizes that were given out were all Japanese articles. She again quoted the instance of a ceremony in the Andhra Constituency where all the badges were made of foreign ribbon. The President refused to wear her badge because it was of foreign articles. The next day Swadeshi badges were made. She suggested that if each Constituency were in touch with Mrs. Mehta, it would be very helpful to her.

In seconding the amendment, Mrs. Faridoonji said that Her Highness had made another very good suggestion. That was that a traveller should go round with samples, his expenses being met out of the profits of the sales. Mrs. Faridoonji strongly opposed the second part of the amendment moved by Miss Natarajan as it was no good accepting a thing and not doing it.

President : I will now put the first amendment, which runs as follows:—

"Substitute the words 'as far as they are available' for the words 'as far as possible' occurring in clause (b)."

The amendment was carried.

President : The next amendment is about the addition of the following words at the end of clause (b) of the resolution:

"It further resolves that every member of the Constituencies shall strictly adhere to this resolution."

The amendment was lost, 27 voting for and 52 against.

President : The third amendment is for the addition of the following as clause (c) of the resolution:

"As a means of implementing the popularisation of Swadeshi articles, each Constituency shall appoint one member on its permanent Committee who shall be in communication with the Secretary of the Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee

and with the similar member of the Committee in each constituency and who shall make a report every three months as to the Swadeshi articles available in each Constituency.”

The amendment was put to vote and carried.

The resolution as amended was then passed unanimously.

At this stage the President was garlanded with an indigenous garland made by the Poona Seva Sadan.

The following two resolutions Nos. 5 and 6 were moved from the Chair and passed unanimously:

5. Resolution on Harijan Work

“This Conference notes with profound sorrow that in spite of active propaganda, the treatment meted out to Harijans continues to be so inhuman, and calls upon its Constituencies to co-operate with all agencies striving for the abolition of untouchability within the country.”

Mrs. Raiji suggested that next year the Conference should have at least one Harijan Delegate.

6. Resolution on Prevention of Traffic in Women and Children and Abduction of Women

- (a) “This Conference requests the authorities to take more rigid steps towards the prevention of traffic in women and children and urges the necessity of a much larger number of rescue homes.
- (b) This Conference views with grave concern the increased number of cases of abduction of women, and as a practical measure to check this evil, urges the Railway authorities to appoint women officers at Railway Stations who may render assistance to women travellers.”

Miss Martha Malthe: “Your Highness and sister Delegates, after having had the privilege of being a member of the Committee of the League of Nations on this question I want just to say a word on this subject. The League of Nations is looking with the keenest interest what the East is doing on the report on traffic in women and children. It has been a great joy to me to see that women are really

taking up this matter. I heard with pride when it was mentioned that a Maharani of Travancore had done away with the Devadasi system in her State. From what we have seen in this State we have come to love and to respect the women of this place. I feel quite sure that the women of India will be the first to sympathise with all those women who, for no fault of their own, have come into the greatest degradation that a woman can have."

Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee: "I wish to bring to your notice that with regard to this important question of traffic in women and children there is going to be a League of Nations Conference at Singapore in 1937, and Delegates will be invited to this Conference. The Government of India have decided to nominate Delegates officially. If we are to send delegates, our Constituencies should study the question in their areas. A regional Conference, I believe, has been organised in Madras and the other Constituencies should hold such Conferences. We all know how attempts have been made to get Bills introduced and existing Acts amended in some Provincial Councils to suppress effectively traffic in women and children, and how members of our Constituencies have tried to help in the matter and also that Rescue Homes have been started in one or two places.

FRANCHISE RESOLUTIONS

Dr Malinibal Sukthankar: "Your Highness and sister Delegates, the resolution which I am going to move runs thus:—

"This Conference reiterates its disapproval of the following franchise qualifications for women provided under the Government of India Act and urges their modification in accordance with its previous memorandum at an early date:—

- (a) Wifehood qualification;
- (b) Application condition.'

I find that women do not take much interest on this question of franchise. I shall tell you my experience in the City of Bombay when I stood as a candidate for the Municipality. When I went about

I found that women did not know anything about the subject. Even teachers and qualified nurses did not think of registering their names as voters. When I asked them they replied, 'what have we to do with it? Men are hooting us.' We must therefore see that in each constituency women exercise their right in the proper way.

Before explaining to you what is meant by 'wifehood qualification', I want to tell you that we strongly disapprove of this condition. We want only one qualification and that is literacy. I have already spoken about it on the educational resolutions. It is up to us to see that women come forward to vote on the qualification of literacy and not as the wife of so and so. The only way of showing our disapproval is by getting ourselves registered as literates and not as the wives of men with property qualification. In that case we will lose our own civic rights. That is a condition which each one of us ought to object to. We must try to make more and more women literate before the Act comes into force.

The second condition is the application condition. Men need not worry about their votes. The candidates will come to their houses, ask them whether they are voters and the name would be registered automatically. But in the case of women it is not so. In the first place we have to get a form and write on that, 'I am the wife of so and so'. If you are a Matriculate, you are asked to go to the University and get a certificate to the effect that you are a Matriculate. Some of them might have passed through the University several years ago and it may not be possible to get the certificates. Some people may be teachers in schools. But that is not enough. They have to get a certificate that they have passed an examination. I ask, why should there be such a condition to restrict women alone? Therefore this application condition ought to be done away with. I am glad that this resolution has been split up into three parts. There has been a belief among women that their field is the home and that they should not take any part in what concerns the country at large. There is great apathy among them on this question. It is up to us to see that women take interest in this matter. Your Highness, I move the resolution for the acceptance of the Conference."

Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee: "Your Highness and sister Delegates, there is not very much for me to say after what Dr. Sukthankar has told us. We all are thoroughly dissatisfied with the two conditions. It is against our self-respect to give our vote as the wife of so and so. Many of us will keep away than vote under the wifehood qualification and the "Application condition" will prevent many of our women from voting. I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution."

The resolution was then put to vote and carried.

Mrs. Asaf Ali: "Your Highness and sister Delegates, I stand up to move the following resolution:

'In recording once again its sense of disappointment at the electoral proposals, this Conference continues to stand by its former demands for—

- (a) Direct Election;
- (b) No separate electorates for women;
- (c) Non-reservation of seats on a communal basis.

It further notes with regret the discrimination made between the different Provinces as regard the literacy qualification, *e. g.*, Bengal, N. W. F. P. and Orissa.'

I should like to explain in a few words what we mean by direct election. As you are well aware, men and women elect at present direct to the Central Legislature. The voter votes direct to the Central Legislature. But in future only members of the Provincial Legislatures will be entitled to go into the Central Legislature. Direct election also means that women will have a separate electorate for themselves. That means that the forty or forty-five women who will be in the Provincial Legislatures will have the right to elect to the Central Assembly. We protest against the partiality shown to women under the new constitution.

As regards non-reservation of seats on a communal basis, you will agree with me that so far women have kept themselves out of communalism. But if our seats are also reserved on a communal basis, the havoc that is being wrought by the communal feeling will enter into our ranks, and all chances of unity will disappear. The following resolution passed at the Karachi Session will be of interest

in this connection. Because public memory is very short, I may be permitted to read it:

‘We feel that the Joint Parliamentary Committee was animated by a genuine desire to bring women in greater numbers on the electoral roll and give them a definite place in the legislatures of the new Constitution. For this spirit of sympathy with us, as also for their unqualified recognition of the part that women must play in the public life of the country, we place on record our sincere appreciation. At the same time, however, we feel constrained to express in no uncertain terms our inability to accept the recommendations as they stand, for the following reasons:

1. We claim that there should be a declaration of rights in which the removal of sex disabilities should be clearly stated. We draw attention to the fact that the word “Sex” has been omitted from the “Eligibility for holding Public Office, etc.,” *vide* para 367 Vol. I (Part I). While feeling keenly this omission as a grave injustice to us in spite of our repeated demands in this connection, we hope that the same may even now be rectified.
2. The greater number of women enfranchised under the recommendations are going to be the wives and widows of property holders and to this number have also been added the wives of men with the military service qualifications of the vote and the pensioned widows and mothers of military officials and soldiers. Our reasons for our strong objection to this method of enfranchisement have been stated in clear language on more than one occasion. They still hold good and we regret that, in spite of our protests, the qualification wholly unacceptable to us is being sought to be imposed on us. We reiterate our belief in equitable methods of elections and attach equal importance to the quality as well as the quantity of the women’s vote. We object strongly to the doubling of the vote for any vested interests as being against all canons of justice for the poor who constitute India’s main population and against all democratic principles. We again urge the acceptance of our proposals for the introduction of adult suffrage in urban areas for the purpose of increasing our electoral members.

3. In our opinion far too much weight has, from the outset, been laid on administrative difficulties where women are concerned. This opinion is practically strengthened by the numbers of "Pardah" women who went to the polls in the recent Legislative Assembly Elections. We protest strongly against the invidious differentiations that have been made between the provinces in regard to literacy and property qualifications, "Application conditions" and other details including the omission of the wives and widows of those holding the educational qualification if the "Wifehood qualification" is unreasonably persisted in.
4. We have not swerved from our conviction that we do not, on principle, approve of reservation of seats in legislatures for ourselves or for any particular interest. Nevertheless, seeing that this expedient may unfortunately be imposed on us during the transition period, we deplore the entire omission of women from the assemblies of several Provinces and the total exclusion for whatever reason, of women of the North-West Frontier Province, from all citizenship rights including Franchise. We feel very strongly, that in the case of these provinces where women may be said to be less vocal, the exclusion of their representatives from the Legislatures constitutes a grave omission and neglect of the very causes for which we stand. We also claim that no disabilities shall be attached to women in any province that may be newly created.
5. If certain selected Provinces are definitely to be burdened with Second Chambers, we see no reason whatsoever why women should not be accorded a *definite* place in all these as well as in the Council of State. We regard such as our inherent right and must, therefore, protest against this omission.
6. With Lord Lothian we are "unrepentant believers in a system of direct election," and we, therefore, object with all possible emphasis to indirect election at any time and for any one. We refuse, likewise, to accept nomination for the Legislatures for ourselves, knowing by bitter experience that the "safeguards of nomination" has been ineffective and useless in the Legislative Assembly.'

This was the statement made at the All-India Women's Conference at Karachi. The reservation of seats on a communal basis is greatly to be deplored.

In conclusion, I would just like to say that our constituency have a double duty. We know that the constitution is being imposed on us whether we like it or not. The British Government have rejected most of our demands as idealistic and impracticable. They feel that women are not in a position to be given adult suffrage. A great deal of work has to be done in educating the women of our country on their duties connected with the vote. At the last election I had a lot of work in asking the women voters to give their vote. The women do not know how to vote and why they should vote for a particular persons. So I hope that our constituencies will carry on a vigorous propaganda among women as to their electoral rights and duties."

Miss Monorama Bose, in seconding the resolution, spoke as follows:—

"Your Highness and sister Delegates, this is a subject which we have been dealing with ever since the new constitution has been in the making. The India Reforms Act has now been passed but many of our demands have been ignored. This is the reason why we have had to table such a resolution. We strongly feel that nothing short of direct electorates and non-communal representation will satisfy us. Times out of number we had laid stress on these two points and yet indirect election is being thrust upon us. If indirect election is accepted we will have no voice in sending our representatives to the Central Legislature. It is only our representatives to the Provincial Legislatures who will vote for us and elect our representatives to the Central Legislature. We all know the evil effects of indirect election. It is unnecessary for me to lay further stress on that. Every country having experimented with the system is now giving it up in favour of direct election. Why can we not learn from the experience of other countries? We want direct election and there can be no two views on the matter.

Regarding separate electorates for women, this Conference has always been against it. It is a matter of deep regret that the system is being introduced in some constituencies. In Bengal, for

instance, the Mahomedan women will form an electorate by themselves and the men will not be able to vote with them in their constituencies. We know how detrimental this will be to our cause and we therefore record our strong protest against that. It is a matter of pride however that this system of separate electorates has not been introduced in all our constituencies. This is the result of what propaganda and agitation can do. I therefore appeal to all constituencies where separate electorate have been introduced to work against that and not to rest satisfied with passing this resolution here to-day. We must go on creating public opinion and agitating till we get what we want.

Now I come to the third part of the resolution, namely, reservation of seats on a communal basis. Such reservation goes completely against our principle and we cannot but protest against that. We do not want to be divided into water-tight compartments. We have come to a stage when we must forget all communal differences. India is a vast country with a large population speaking different languages, having different religions, and belonging to different communities. But we must remember that, unless we are able to sink these differences, there is no salvation for us. Our interests surely are common and for the sake of a common cause we must forget the fact that we belong to different communities.

The last paragraph of the resolution refers to the difference that has been made in the different provinces with regard to literacy qualification. In Bengal, in the Frontier Province and in Orissa, a higher educational test has been introduced. Why this difference should be made is more than what we can understand. The literacy figures are not particularly high in these provinces, and the argument of administrative difficulties put forward by our authorities whenever we have asked for anything, surely could not have been the reason. Whatever be the reason, the difference is there. In our Province we took up the matter and worked for it. I am glad to be able to say that after the first election we have been told that the Matriculation standard will be done away with and the literacy qualification will be introduced instead. But as it is, we cannot but record our protest. I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution."

The resolution was then put to vote and carried.

Mrs. J. R. Doctor: “Your Highness and ladies, I have great pleasure in moving the following resolution:

‘While we are convinced that the new powers given to women by the India Act are not adequate, this Conference exhorts all women to make the fullest use for the present of such powers as they have obtained. In particular we call upon all educated women to see that all women qualified for the vote should apply for registration of their names on the electoral rolls and should use their votes to the best advantage.’

As you all know the proposals of Government regarding the electoral rolls have been now published. The question before us is whether we can work them or not. I think that it will be better if we work them and show to the people that women can exercise their vote judiciously and intelligently.

We have always felt the want of women members in the Legislatures. As for instance when Mr. Dasai’s Bill for adoption came into the Bombay Legislative Council, if there were women members in the Council they would have put the view point of women before the Council. It is therefore necessary that arrangements should be made for enrolling women in the electoral rolls. Forms should be got printed and arrangements should be made to have the votes recorded before a Justice of the Peace. The constituencies should teach the women voters how to exercise their votes judiciously. With these words I request you all to pass this resolution.

Mrs. Cousins, in seconding the resolution, gave her experience of 20 years’ work in India in the cause of women. She said that she was not at all satisfied with the way in which the franchise was being extended to women. For instance, marriage was one of the qualifications. In Great Britain there were as many as five million voters, but there was no such qualification. Women must therefore continue to ask for votes for all women. At the same time they must actually work what has been given to them and thereby consolidate their position. There were fifty-five seats for women under the new India Act. They must organise in the different Provinces and see that fifty-five members were available. They were not interested about wives. Their husbands would see to them. What they were interested in was

that all women who could read and write do get the vote. It was appalling to see how few women could read and write. It was the duty of every women worker to see that all educated women had her name in the electoral rolls.

She referred to a valuable brochure containing extracts from the new India Act and other papers relating to the rights of women. She said that this pamphlet was available as a supplement to the magazine called *Stri Dharma*. It could be had from Mrs. Swaminadhan.

Mrs. Cousins then referred to Miss M. Janaki who had a right to vote because she was a Tiya. Every one had a spiritual responsibility in seeing that every woman voter was registered in the electoral rolls and her vote given. She regretted that because of her white face she could not vote for any Indian. She exhorted the audience to fight against the demon of communalism.

Miss Janaki said that she had suggested to the Delimitation Committee that a non-official committee should be formed in all constituencies with a lady in each committee to advise women on their rights.

Mrs. Doctor informed the Conference that in Bombay such a committee had been formed.

Dr. Sukthankar: "I am sorry I have to move an amendment to this resolution. We do not want to put down on paper, after having passed resolution No. I, that all the women should get themselves registered by application forms. So I would propose that the resolution be worded as follows:—

"While we are convinced that the new powers given to women by the India Act are not adequate, this Conference exhorts all women to use to the fullest advantage such powers as they have obtained at present."

The rest of the resolution should be deleted.

After having passed only just now a resolution against the application condition, it is not proper that we should by another resolution ask all women to go and register themselves by application. Hence my amendment."

Dr. Mistril "I have great pleasure in seconding that amendment,"

Mrs. Cousins announced that the mover and the seconder of the original resolution were willing to accept the amendment.

The resolution as amended was then put to vote and carried unanimously.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were moved from **the Chair** and carried unanimously:

1. **International Peace**

In the name of humanity the All-India Women's Conference hopes earnestly for the establishment of a permanent World-Peace by the speedy restoration of international relations based on mutual tolerance and harmony.

2. **Franchise**

This Conference requests the British Parliament to safeguard the interest of women by making provision in the Instruments of Instructions that are to be framed for the Governor General and the Governors, that women should be given chances of association in the administration of every province as well as in the Central Government, especially in the departments of Health, Education and Labour. Provisions should also be made for at least one woman to be appointed to each Provincial Public Service Commission. It calls upon the Government to establish Women and Children's Bureaus in every province.

3. **Istambul Resolutions**

The Conference supports whole-heartedly the following resolutions passed at the Congress of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship at Istambul 1935:—

(a) **Legal Rights**

That a Woman unmarried or married should have full personal and civil rights, including the right to the use and disposal of her property; that she should not be under the tutelage

of her husband and should have the same rights over her children as the father; that she should have the same right as a man to retain or to change her nationality.

(b) East and West Co-operation

Whereas this Congress believes in the interest of true progress, the women of every country must advance on the lines of equality and justice, it pledges its hearty support to all the women of the West as well as of the East whether they struggle for the eradication of their special legal, social and economic disabilities and for the recognition of their rights to equal citizenship in their respective national units or whether they are in danger of losing these legal political, and economic rights which they have achieved.

Welcoming the co-operation of the women of all parts of the world, the value of which has been strongly emphasised by this Congress, it expresses the wish that the women of the East and of the West be linked by ties which will grow closer and consequently serve the interests of Universal peace.

LABOUR RESOLUTIONS

No. 1. Resolution on All-India Maternity Benefit Act

Mrs. S. N. Ray: "Your Highness and sister Delegates, I rise to move the following resolution:

"This Conference is of opinion that an All-India Maternity Benefit Bill on the line of those passed in Bombay, C. P., and Madras be introduced in the Legislative Assembly. It further recommends that the Constituencies in the different Provinces work for the passage of such a Bill."

I am sure that every one of you will support this resolution. The necessity for obtaining maternity benefit for the women of the labouring classes cannot be overemphasised. There is no controversy

on this subject. I will therefore just tell you some of the provisions contained in the Acts passed in Bombay, C. P., and Madras. One of the provisions is that women should be given leave for six weeks before and six weeks after confinement and during that period they should be given their wages also. In Bombay, Factory Inspectors, are specially empowered to see that the provisions of this Act are enforced strictly. Unfortunately apart from the provinces mentioned, there is no such Act in force and maternity benefit is not given to women labourers. We have been told by the Government of India that in order to obtain the passage of an All-India Maternity Benefit Act it was necessary that one or two more major Provinces like Bengal should pass a similar Act.

Few of us know the conditions under which the labouring classes are living. We know generally that things are not what they should be. Unless we take a real and active interest in this matter it will not be possible for us to do anything for the women labourers.

Dr. Sukthankar seconded the resolution. She described the conditions of the women labourers in the Bombay Mills. Women, who ought to have been in bed, were working on, because they were afraid that if they absented themselves they would lose their jobs. It was therefore necessary that there should be a law enjoining the mill owners to give full pay to these women for six weeks before and after delivery.

Miss B. Mustafa Khan : “I strongly support this resolution. The passing of such an All-India Act is very necessary. Poor women have to go on working till their confinement because if they absent themselves they will have to lose their jobs. I strongly support the resolution and ask every one present to agitate for the passing of such a Bill.”

The resolution was put to vote and carried unanimously.

No. 2. Resolution on Factory Inspectors

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon : “Your Highness and sister delegates, I beg to move the following resolution:

“This Conference calls upon the Government to appoint Factory Inspectresses throughout India as recommended by the Whitely Commission.”

At present there are over three hundred thousand women employed in the textile industry alone, and this happens to be 27 per cent. of the total industrial population. With the increase in the age of children employed in factories, there has also been an increase in the number of women employed. We should have some arrangement by which these women who are ignorant and unused to the surroundings should be taught some of those welfare laws. They should be looked after by some person who is not an employee of the mill owners. Many of these women are recruited from rural areas where they get plenty of fresh air and enough space to live in. When they go for work in these mills they are made to live in small congested areas. This affects their health very much. We must have some responsible officers to look after the comforts of these women. Then there are other points also which have to be looked into. There are the Workmen's Compensation Act and Health and Sanitary Acts, and clauses of the Factory Act. Employers usually try to get round these Acts. They are more keen on their dividends than on the health of the labourers. These Inspectors are empowered to prosecute those employers who transgress the law. But there are very few Factory Inspectresses in those areas. Bombay has a few of them. But in Northern India there are no Inspectresses. Even where there are Inspectresses they are not working on the lines recommended by the Whitley Commission. Sometimes they may be women of position who do the work as hobby. What this Conference demands is that trained and qualified Inspectresses should be appointed and they should be paid for their services so that they may be conscientious in their work."

Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan : "I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution. After all we cannot expect women working in factories to place all their grievances before men Inspectors. We have been asking for women Inspectresses at all our Conferences and I hope we will soon have them appointed."

Miss Muriel Lester : "Your Highness and sister delegates, I would like to suggest that so long as industrialism has profit for its main motive, we must concentrate on the appointment of women Inspectresses. We want them not only for the care of women.

The men Inspectors have fallen into the habit of informing the management when they will arrive. They do not pay surprise visits. But the women Inspectresses in our country are in the habit of paying surprise visits especially in those areas where the conditions of the labourers are not all right. I support this resolution.”

The resolution was then put to vote and carried.

**No. 3. Resolution on Recommendations of Mining
Enquiry Committee**

Mrs Kale : “Your Highness and ladies, the resolution I am going to move is this:

- (a) “We note with great regret that no action has been taken by the authorities in the mining area regarding recommendations made by the Investigation Commission of the All-India Women’s Conference which visited the mines last year.
- (b) We regret that no action has been taken to discontinue the Outstill System in Bihar and urge that this system be abolished as soon as possible.
- (c) In continuation of the resolutions passed last year regarding the women in the mines we recommend that the Conference should support a woman organiser for one year to study the situation caused by the elimination of women from underground work, and the possibilities of alternative employment.”

I will just confine my remarks to part (c) of the resolution and I hope the other ladies who follow me will speak on the other two parts.

We all know that a Royal Commission on labour was appointed known as the Whitley Commission and a lot of money was wasted. I know this because I happened to be one of the Assistant Commissioners from the Central Provinces. We have a long report covering five hundred pages thrust on us. But not a single recommendation has been carried out.

When I was on the Labour Commission, I tried to find out the condition of women in the mines. It was with the greatest difficulty

that I was permitted to visit one of the mines. There also all the officers accompanied me so that I could not find out the real condition of the mine. Anyhow I was able to note that no welfare work was done in that mine. Now they are gradually eliminating all women. And these women are not able to get employment. It is our duty as social workers to see that the women that are unemployed are given some sort of alternative employment. It is for this purpose that we are thinking of having a woman organiser for one year in Bihar. A woman who resides near the mining area will be chosen. She must be in a position to teach the labourers so that they may take to some other profession. It is with this idea that clause (c) of the resolution has been proposed. I think there would be no objection to this clause."

Miss Iris Wingate (Calcutta) seconded the resolution. Referring to coal mines, she described the condition of the men and women who went underground and took out the coal. The committee that was appointed to report on the conditions of women working in mines underground submitted its report last year at Karachi. The policy now was to remove women working underground. When the women are eliminated they have to depend on the earnings of the men. Because of the depression they were not able to earn enough and there was great suffering for the families. In order to provide for this situation cottage industries had to be established in mining areas for the women. Unless there was some one who would find out what industries could be started in specified areas and organise those industries, nothing would happen. Government were merely interested in enforcing the law. The Labour Sub-Committee decided to appoint a representative of this Conference to do this work. The committee had drawn up a moderate estimate of Rs. 1,200 for her.

Part (a) of the resolution, stated Miss Wingate, was merely a record of the regret of the Conference that no action had been taken by the authorities on the recommendations made by the Investigation Commission. She said that the speaker who would be following her would speak on the outstill system in Bihar.

Miss Copeland (Delhi), further supporting the resolution said, "First, let me remove what may have been a false impression left on the minds of the Conference by a previous speaker. Among Royal

Commissions to India, the Whitley Commission is pre-eminent for the large amount of actual achievement that has followed its work. Since the Whitley Commission issued its Report, many of its recommendations have been brought into effect. In the Central Legislature no less than 13 Acts have been passed, in Provincial Legislatures 6, and the Indian States 8. Of Bills pending, there are three in the Central Legislature, 4 in the Provincial Councils and 6 in Indian States. Doubtless, there are more reforms that we are eager to see brought into force but the above constitutes no mean record of work done to implement the findings of the Labour Commission.

Turning now to the Resolution under discussion, I have been asked to explain in a few words what is meant by the Outstill system. The Outstill system is a system of licensing the sale and manufacture of liquor. It has to do, not with any merely fermented liquor, such as toddy or rice-beer, but with distilled spirits, or what is known as country liquor. The word "outstill" is used in contrast with the word "distillery". Under the distillery system, country spirit is made in Government or Government-controlled distilleries, where patent stills are used to obviate any danger of copper poisoning, where the strength of the liquor is limited and the price is controlled. This system is the one in use in most parts of India and was introduced into Bihar and Orissa about 26 years ago when the old outstill system, being condemned as thoroughly bad, was abandoned.

This outstill system was re-introduced 3 years ago and, briefly, the change means that now primitive stills are used in which there is always a danger of poisonous by-products being formed, there is no effective supervision, the strength is not limited, nor is the price controlled. The result has been very largely increased drunkenness. Children are also being given this strong liquor. A few weeks ago I was in Dhanbad, which you know, is the centre of the coal-fields; a meeting of the citizens, including some of the most influential and authoritative people of the district, passed a resolution condemning the outstill system as debauching the men, women and children of the district, and urging the Government to do something to remedy the deplorable state of affairs. It is therefore evident that the protest against the outstill system comes, not only from enthusiasts for temperance, but from all who know the facts of the situation.

The Barakar river flows between Bengal and Bihar. At a certain point there is a bridge. On one side is Bengal where the liquor is still dear, on the other is Bihar where it is now very cheap. Miners from Bengal side come pouring over the bridge every week-end after pay-day, to the outstill on the Bihar side. Last rains, when the river was in flood, no fewer than 14 men from one colliery alone, lost their lives by drowning in the Barakar river, when they were returning home drunk.

The coal trade is going through a period of deep depression and the miners have terribly low wages. Boys under 15 are no longer allowed in the mines, the women will soon be all out, very probably they will be withdrawn from July of this year—the men often earn only something like Rs. 1-8-0 per week. How can a family live on that? They do not have even that, for many of the miners spend half of even their meagre earnings on drink. They have no ambition, they have no strong attraction or strong inducement offered to them to improve their way of living.

In Part (c) of this resolution the proposal is made that our Conference should make itself responsible for a lady organiser to enquire into and initiate schemes of welfare work and alternative industries amongst the women withdrawn from mine employment. The citizens of Dhanbad are considering a scheme for a Welfare Worker to organise counter-attractions to the drink-shops and to teach and encourage temperance among the miners. I would suggest that we should co-operate with the scheme and, if possible, secure a man and wife who could work together for the welfare of the miners and their families."

She asked permission to move the following amendment:

"The following be added as sub-clause (d):—

(d) 'This Conference urges the Bihar and Orissa Government to introduce compulsory education in the coal mining areas.'

Mrs. Mitter seconded the amendment.

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji requested the Conference to find out the ways and means of raising funds for the social worker in the coal fields.

The amendment was then put to vote and carried.

The resolution as amended was then accepted unanimously.

THANKS TO MRS. SANGER

Mrs. S. N. Ray : “I propose a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Sanger who has come here all the way from America. She is a woman who has sacrificed her life to the cause which is bringing hope to thousands of women all over the world. When the need for birth-control devices is understood, people will appreciate the work of Mrs. Sanger. I think it is ridiculous to say that immorality will increase if birth-control devices are adopted. We had a full discussion on the matter and I do not want to go into that now. I can assure Mrs. Sanger that the Conference as a whole and all the workers will stand behind her in her work in India and that we much appreciate her efforts.”

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon : “Madam President and fellow delegates, I deem it a great privilege to second the vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. Ray. Mrs. Sanger had been with us only for a short time but we have grown to love her for the great mission she represents. Her mission in India has only just been begun and we hope that she will have the necessary response from all the places she visits. She is a pioneer, and, as pioneers usually are, she has been subjected to all the tribulations of a martyr. When I think of her I am reminded of the words describing another martyr, who believed that happiness is the only good reason, the only torch, justice the only worship and humanity the only religion.

It is the religion of humanity to break away those barriers which shut out women from their legitimate activities by subjecting them to such annual sufferings. On behalf of the Conference let me assure her our support in her attempt to clear away all misconceptions and to bring a new scientific attitude towards a subject which is of great importance. Mrs. Sanger, we wish you God-speed.”

Mrs. Margaret Sanger : “Your Highness and friends, I deeply appreciate the beautiful words of thanks that have been said about me

and I also appreciate the honour that you have conferred upon me by inviting me to come to this country. It has done a great deal of good not only to the cause which I represent in America, but it has done a great deal of good to the women of America because they know now that women here have already awakened to the necessity of birth control. You must excuse the women in a far off land for not knowing more about you. When it was known that I was coming out to India and had been invited to your Conference and that you had already endorsed the principles of birth control, it gave inspiration to our women and put them to shame. So the women of our country have gone ahead and asked me to come here. And I want to tell those of you who may come to America that we will open our arms to you as you have done to me."

The Conference adjourned at 12-30 P. M.

SIXTH SITTING—2nd January, 1936

The Sixth Sitting of the Conference commenced at 9-45 A. M. with Her Highness the Maharani of Travancore in the Chair.

LABOUR RESOLUTIONS—(contd)

No. 4. Resolution on Minimum Age and Hours of Work

Mrs. N. M. Raji: "Your Highness and Sister Delegates, I beg to move the following resolution:

"This Conference whole-heartedly supports Mr. Bakhale's Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council to prohibit the employment of children under 12 in shops and urges that All-India legislation on similar lines limiting the hours of work and fixing a minimum age of employment of children in non-industrial undertakings be introduced."

I would like to point out that my predecessor who spoke on the resolution relating to the Mining Enquiry Committee informed us that there was already legislation for children. I would like to say

that that legislation is only for those children who are employed in industrial labour. There is no legislation at present to safeguard the interests of children under 12 who are employed in shops, restaurants, *visrantigrahas* and similar places. These Children have to work from early morning till late in the night. Thousands of them are being employed in these shops. There is no minimum time fixed for their work. The Bill of Mr. Bakhale aims at fixing an age-limit for the children who are employed in such shops and also fixes a minimum time for every day. If the provisions of the law are violated a penalty of Rs. 100 has been fixed. The Bill has also fixed a fifty-four hour week. The children should be given one full day's holiday and part of another day during the week. There is another provision that these shops should be closed at 8 O'clock in the evening. At present parents are tempted to send their children because they bring some earnings and because they cannot send them to schools. After this Act is passed the parents will be compelled to send their children to school. Thus this Bill will serve two purposes. It will safeguard the interests of children as well as their education. Mr. Bakhale has brought forward this Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council. We request this Conference to agitate for All-India Legislation on similar lines."

Mrs. Dorathy Jinarajadasa, seconding the resolution, gave her experience in the juvenile courts in Madras. If the conditions of the boys were enquired into it would be seen that they were the victims of bad conditions of labour and want of opportunities for education. She gave a vivid description of the Beedi boys who worked from morning till night in verandahs of shops. They were mostly between the ages of five and fifteen and earned from half an anna to five annas a day. The parents of these boys did not send them to schools because they earned a few annas a day. She said that a Bill was brought up in the Madras Legislative Council some years ago dealing with these boys; but that was thrown out. Another Bill was now under contemplation.

From the point of view of unemployment too, said Mrs. Jinarajadasa, it was necessary to keep away children from labour. So much of the adult population would get employment.

Miss Copeland, in supporting the Resolution said:—

“In India, legislation to safeguard children in industry has lagged behind general labour legislation, thus reversing the order that has been the usual rule in other countries. No doubt children and young people have benefited from the improvement in general labour conditions, but so far there has been only one Act specifically relating to child labour, namely, “The Pledging of Child Labour Act of 1933.”

“I have much pleasure in supporting this resolution calling for an India-wide statute to safeguard Child Labour.

“There is certainly need for legislation. Dr. Pillai has described the Indian child labourer as a “veritable poem of pity”. It has been found that the age at which children go to work is from 6 to 10 years in the mica factories of Bihar, about 8 years in wool-clearing establishments in the Punjab, under 12 years in shellac factories in Bihar and the Central Provinces, as low as 5 years in the ‘*bidi*’ (cigarette) factories in Madras and the Central Provinces, from 6 to 9 years in carpet factories in the Punjab, and from 8 to 12 years in tanneries in Madras”. So the evil of child labour is wide-spread over India. About 14,000 children, 6,000 of them under 12, were employed in the ‘*bidi*’ factories in Madras City alone and 16,500 in other places in the Presidency. Of the need and urgency of reform there can be no doubt. Let us press for legislation and at the same time let us see what we ourselves can do. I would suggest three ways in which we can prepare ourselves to help.

- (i) Let us get information on the subject by finding out facts relating to child workers in unregulated industries, in agriculture, or in domestic or other service, in the locality in which we live.
- (ii) Let us get information from books and study the question for other parts of India than our own. I would suggest that each year our Labour Sub-Committee Convener should arrange for a book-stall from which we may purchase up-to-date and authoritative books on the subject. Meantime I shall show you now some of the books I happen to have with me here. (Here followed a description of several books).

- (iii) The third suggestion I would make is that the Labour Sub-Committee Convener or some other competent person should conduct a Correspondence Course on the conditions of Child Labour. Many of us are too busy to attend a regular school or Course of Instruction on Labour questions or join a Travelling Tour of industrial areas, although each of these would be very beneficial, but most of us could give up one hour a week to take up a correspondence course.

In these ways we can make ourselves well-informed on the subject and therefore able intelligently to press forward necessary reforms.

She suggested further that if a fifty-four hour week was fixed the children would have to work for ten hours a day. There would be no time for their education and for recreation. She suggested that these children should be treated as part-timers.

Miss A. V. Van Doren (C. P. South) referred to the condition of the small boys employed by darzis. Boys of nine and ten had to sit doubled up on the floor from morning till night. Their condition deplorable.

The resolution was then put to vote and carried unanimously.

Resolution re Central Office

Mrs. Hansa Mehta: "Your Highness and friends, I am asked to move the following resolution:

"This Conference is of opinion that it is essential to have a Central Office and appeals for funds towards it."

It has been felt by all the members that it is very essential to have a Central Office. Our Conference has been in existence for a decade and we have come to a stage when its importance is increasing not only in this country but also abroad. If a Central Office is formed we can get literature from other countries and from the several constituencies on various subjects. At present it is very difficult for a person to get information about other constituencies. We do not

know whom to write and whom to approach. If a Central Office is formed it will be easy for the people to get information and literature on all subjects. I therefore strongly urge that this resolution be passed by this Conference."

Mrs. Cousins, in seconding the resolution, said that every organisation should have a Central Office with an Assistant Secretary or Head Clerk who would give continuity of work. He would not be an elected office bearer but a permanent man who knew what had been going on from year to year. Each constituency should pay something towards the expenses of that Central Office, either as a centage of the membership fee of each member or as an annual subscription. She suggested that a portion of the collections made by the Reception Committees should be ear-marked for the Central Office, at least fifty-five should be given to the Conference. She said that the local constituencies where the Conference was held were very much richer as a result of holding the Conference in their centres. They could therefore make a contribution to the Central Office.

Miss Martha Malthe (U. P. Oudh) supported the resolution and said that there were several publications by the league of Nations on the subject of traffic in women and children. There was particularly an important book costing fifty shillings. It would not be possible for every one to purchase those books. If a Central Office could be formed, these books could be purchased for the Central Library.

Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee: "Your Highness and sister delegates, the proposal to have a Central Office for the Conference has been considered by the Standing Committee since last year. We have felt that it is very necessary to have such an office where all our literature could be kept. When any reference is made by any constituency the Central Office could reply to that. As Hon. Organising Secretary I have boxes and boxes of books and files with me in Calcutta. Every time there is a change of office, these boxes will have to be removed to that place.

We will have to consider the question of funds also in this connection. It has always been the custom to raise funds in the locality, where the Conference is held by the members of the Reception Committee and other prominent people of the locality. The Reception

Committees at Calcutta and at Bombay raised over Rs. 10,000. And at Lucknow I believe they raised about Rs. 5,000. It was found that there was a balance of about Rs. 3,000 after meeting the expenses of the Conference. I understand that the Reception Committee here have raised over Rs. 10,000. Of course they have been entertaining us in a most lavish way. But all the same I think that the whole amount will not be spent for the entertainment of the Delegates and for the holding of the Conference. We want that a portion of the sum should remain for the work of the local Constituency, and a portion should be given for the carrying on of the work of the Central Office. I do hope they will be in a position to contribute something to the Central fund of the Conference. I appeal to you all to find out ways and means of raising such a central fund so that we can become a permanent and healthy body."

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji : "One point I want the members of the Conference to be clear about is whether our expenses should be met out of capital investments or should we always go about for subscriptions towards our expenses. Having had this trouble over the Lady Irwin College, I have to be doubly careful. I know how hard it is to get money and beg for it from people. I would like you to see in what way this work should be carried on."

Miss Copeland suggested that a budget should be prepared by the Standing Committee and presented at the next Conference, as to the probable expenditure of running such a Central Office.

Mrs P. R. Parukutty Amma : "Your Highness and sister Delegates, the Travancore constituency as any other constituency, hopes to contribute a decent sum to the Central Fund. We were not aware that we will have to announce to-day what we will be able to contribute. Otherwise we would have prepared our balance sheet and total you definitely what we could contribute. We hope to contribute a decent sum towards the Central Fund."

The resolution was then put to vote and carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The following results of the polling for the Office Bearers of the Conference for 1936 were then announced:

Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee, Chairwoman,

Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan, Honorary Organising Secretary.
 Miss G. J. Bahadurji, Hon. Treasurer.
 Miss R. Reuben, Educational Section Secretary.
 Mrs. J. R. Doctor, Social Section Secretary.

<p>Rani Lakshmbhai Rajwade, Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Begum Hamid Ali, Mrs. M. E. Cousins, Mrs. N. Kunjan Pillai,</p>	}	Vice-Presidents.
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PRESIDENT'S CONCLUDING REMARKS

“We have now come to the end of our labours, and looking back, on this week of discussion, we may well claim that a remarkable unanimity of thought and programme has manifested itself. As in the past conferences, so in this, we have debated and passed resolutions regarding most of the urgent problems that confront us. The fashioning of united India through the medium of a common language, the creation of an effective womanhood by means of a re-organised education, physical, mental and vocational, the removal of the legal and social obstacles that detract from our status and hamper the growth of personality and the formation of a policy designed to resuscitate rural life, have occupied our attention. As to the methods of reconstruction, we have made practical suggestions to ensure the diffusion of information, so that the use of indigenous manufactures may be actively encouraged. We have also dealt with questions of wider import like the position of women in the world of labour and finally, we have emphasised the paramount need of co-operation between the women of the East and West and of that peace and world-harmony without which no advance is possible. Differences of opinion have arisen on a very few topics, like birth-control, but I venture to hope that such divergences of view, inevitable in an all-India organisation

like ours, will not weaken our cause but will call forth a tolerance of other points of view and a recognition that methods may differ but that the end is the same. We have expressed our views on the political position accorded to women under the new constitution and while we reiterated our demand for fair play and our disapproval of separate and communal electorates, we have evinced a practical determination to make the most of what has been obtained.

Useful as all this work has been, the value of this conference consists as much in the establishment of contacts between women from all parts of India and the revelation of their oneness of ultimate purpose, based on the fundamental unity of our heritage.

The members of this conference have not only met for work but also in many social gatherings and I trust that our guests have seen something of this country and have found that our welcome has been warm, whatever may have been our shortcomings in expressing it in terms of convenience and comfort.

This conference has literally assembled women from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. May it not be regarded as a symbol and a precursor of the outer and inner union of India? It is with that thought and that aspiration that I conclude this conference and bid you all goodbye, while thanking you for that mutual co-operation and spirit of give and take, without which the success of this gathering would have been impossible.

Mrs. Mukerjee has spared herself no pains to ensure the success of this conference. She came here in advance and much of the spade-work has fallen to her. To her, to the indefatigable chairwoman of the Reception Committee and to Miss Watts and their colleagues, whose untiring exertions are well known to me, to Mrs. Faridoonji, whose advice and guidance have been of inestimable value and to the members of the Standing Committee, our debt and my personal thankfulness must be acknowledged with gratitude."

Dr. Kara (Japan) spoke as follows:—

“Your Highness and sisters, I have come from Japan last night. I bring with me a message of love to all the sisters of India. When one of your leading women, Mrs. Ray, came to Tokyo last May, she asked us to come to India. India sounded to us like a far away land of dreams. We were not sure whether any of us could go. But I accepted her invitation and decided to come here. Our friends were surprised that I was going. They said, ‘Oh, it is just like going into heaven.’ I replied that it was a heavenly country. India has given us Buddhism, literature, architecture and all beauty of art. So everybody is thinking of India as a land of dream and of spiritual culture. You have all come here and discussed social and educational problems. I pray that your desires come true.

When I arrived here last night I felt that I was in a dream land. Because a Queen, a Maharani, is ruling the land I thought I was in my dream. I hope that all our dreams will come true.

May I bring you a message? We are going to have an International Women's Conference in Tokyo. I request that many of your leaders will attend it. I bring with me a coloured flag in the shape of a fish which symbolises the uprising spirit of sympathy. (*The flag was presented to the Conference.*) I also bring with me some buttons as a symbol of the movement for the protection of mothers. There is a green cross in it with the letters ‘protect mothers’. (*The buttons were presented to the President.*) I bring these to you as a message from our country to stand by the side of women.”

Miss D. D. Soloman: “Your Highness and friends, I am very glad to have this last opportunity of thanking you all for the great kindness I have received whilst amidst you. Your Highness, I would like to thank you for the kind hospitality you have given me in your State. I can assure you that it will live in my memory always. I would like to thank the Reception Committee for all that they have done for my comfort and entertainment here. I also thank the All-India Women's Conference for allowing me to come into closer touch with them. I think that those of you who are here will return to your work with renewed strength and encouragement. When I get back to England I very much hope that women's societies will be enabled to be

more in touch with your work. I can assure you that we, on our side, will do all we can to co-operate with the All-India Women's Conference. Thank you, one and all."

Miss Muriel Lester: "Your Highness and sisters, as Miss Solomon has done, I would like to express my great gratitude to Your Highness and to the Reception Committee for the wonderful hospitality shown to me. I have never stayed in an Indian State. It has been such a very great joy to be here. The great natural beauty of Travancore is a thing which one can never forget. But greater than that is the wonderful hospitality and friendliness which I have received all over India. It has been such a joy to come into closer contact with every one in India that it will always remain in my memory. I thank you once more."

Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee: "Your Highness and dear sisters; Today, before we all disperse, I should like to express my cordial thanks to all those who have helped to make our Tenth Session a happy and a successful one. When we leave we will carry away with us memories of the splendid reception we have been given during our first visit to an Indian State. All the hopes and expectations with which we one and all, came to this Session have been more than amply fulfilled. I feel sure, that I am only voicing the sentiment of all our delegates, when I say, that the contact which we have had with the women of the State has been a source of inspiration to us. The dignity of their bearing, their inherent charm and simplicity, their innate and courteous hospitality which we have received from them, have been once a revelation. Their geniality has touched our hearts and it is difficult to put into words adequately all that we feel. I know how arduous the task of the Reception Committee is at times, and what an amount of work and sacrifice is involved. In spite of it all, they have done so much for our comfort. Their programme of entertainment for us during our stay here has been rich and varied. We shall always recall the day we spent at Cape and the drive through the beautiful scenery as one of the most pleasant days in our lives. The memory of the gracious hospitality of Her Highness whom we have been so fortunate as to have as our own President, will always remain with us. I must also mention the Kathakali we saw at Her Highness the Maharani's Garden Party which to many of us was a new and an

unique display of one of the oldest arts. The party given by the S. N. V. Samajam was very much appreciated by us all. We owe our special thanks to the Chairwoman of our Reception Committee, Mrs. Kunjan Pillai, and Miss Watts and our Standing Committee Member, Mrs. Parukutty Amma, and Mrs. Rajammal, and all the other Conveners of Committees who have worked so hard for the success of the Session.

We have been much impressed by the able and willing service of the young volunteers, both boys and girls, on whose untiring efforts and cheerful help, ungrudgingly rendered, the success of the Conference depends so greatly and I am sure, that all of you will extend a hearty vote of thanks to them. In the absence of our Chairwoman, Mrs. Faridoonji, our Ex-President, has so ably and so patiently guided the proceedings. We all know how much she has contributed from the beginning to the cause of our Conference; and it has been a matter of great happiness to us all that we had her with us to help us. I know that you will join with me in expressing our deep sense of gratitude to her. I want to express my sincere thanks to all the Conveners, Sectional Secretaries and Standing Committee members who have worked hard throughout the year and have given ungrudging service during the Annual Session. We feel deeply the absence of our popular and beloved Chairwoman, Rani Rajwade, who is not present with us today, but who has guided our work throughout the year. Last, but not least, I want to thank every delegate for their contribution to the success of this Conference. I know what sacrifice it has been for many of you to come so great a distance.

We have passed resolutions of varied nature on subjects we consider to be of the utmost importance. May I appeal to you on behalf of the Conference to work in your Constituencies on the lines of the resolutions we have passed this year, according to your own local needs and conditions.

To Her Highness the Maharani, who is our President to-day, we owe deep gratitude. She has not only welcomed us as befitting the traditions of Her Royal House but as our President she has evinced a keen interest and desire for the furtherance of our cause. We are indeed fortunate to have her to lead and guide us during the coming year.

Before I relinquish my office I want to express my gratitude to you for the signal honour you have done to me during the last two years by placing the responsibility of this organisation in my hands. Before I take leave of you, may I also add, that when we meet again we will surely be able to bring more substantial contribution of work and achievement to the cause which we shall hold so dear.

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji, speaking next, said: "Your Highness and sister Delegates: I only want to add a few words to what our late organising Secretary has just expressed. We all join in thanking the Travancore ladies who have been working so hard for us and have given us such a lovely time here which we will not forget for many years to come. On behalf of the Conference, I want to thank all those sisters who have come from long distances to be with us to-day, to know us, and to realise our needs and aspirations. Aspirations which are merely put on paper do not half express the feelings which are behind them. To our latest arrival, the Japanese Delegate, I extend a hearty welcome. I am sorry that she could not be with us all these days to hear our discussions. I also thank our Special Delegate and our old and trusted friend, Mrs. Huidekoper. Last year has been a year of great sorrow and trouble for her. Her indomitable spirit, her love for the Conference, of which she was one of the earliest promoters, and her great sense of duty to the sisters of India, has brought her here. She has put great control over her own personal feelings and has responded to the call of duty. We are most deeply grateful to her. I need not say how much we appreciate her coming this long distance in spite of her poor health. I want to thank Her Highness once again for all the trouble she has taken. We all realise the keen interest she is taking in all problems connected with women. I hope that the time and energy she has spent on us will be well-rewarded in the future. We wish Her Highness every success in the life that lies before her."

After cheers to Her Highness the Maharani the Conference came to a close at 11-30 A. M.

Reception Committee

Chairwoman: Mrs. N. Kunjan Pillai

Treasurer: Miss F. E. Grose

Secretary: Sry. S. Rajammal

Reception Committee Members

Lady Donors and

1. Sry. T. Narayani Amma
2. Mrs. P. Vasudeva Kurup
3. Mrs. N. Krishnan Tampi
4. Miss Mary John
5. Mrs. R. Srinivasan
6. Sry. S. Rajammal
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**RESOLUTIONS ON EDUCATIONAL REFORM PASSED AT
TRIVANDRUM****1. Common Language.**

Recognising the urgent need of a universal language for India, this Conference appoints a sub-committee

- (a) to report on means and methods that could be adopted for the realisation of this ideal;
- (b) to compile a comprehensive vocabulary of words commonly used in India in order of frequency of use;
- (c) to co-operate with other associations engaged in similar work.

2. Literacy.

This Conference reiterates its former resolutions deploring the appalling illiteracy in the land, and, believing that unless a concerted and intensive campaign is organised the moral and material progress of the land is bound to be hampered, appoints a sub-committee

- (a) to study the question in all its bearings;
- (b) to keep in touch and co-operate with all work in the cause of literacy amongst adults;
- (c) to initiate practical schemes of work;
- (d) to report on all work done in this direction to the next Conference.

3. Health.

This Conference is emphatically of opinion that the health of children, and specially of school children and college students, is of vital importance to the well-being of the country. It therefore considers it essential that matters connected with

- (a) School hygiene and sanitation,
- (b) Medical Inspection of school children,
- (c) School Clinics and Care-committees,
- (d) Health education in Schools,
- (e) Physical Culture,
- (f) Adult Classes for the study of Child Welfare and Child Hygiene,

(g) Dietetics, with special reference to children's food, do receive special attention, and appoints a Sub-committee to study the questions and to report to the Conference at its next session.

4. *Education Re-organisation Scheme and Vocational Training.*

This Conference welcomes the united efforts of leading Educationists to create a new attitude towards educational problems in this country and hopes that, in the ultimate emergence of the Reorganisation scheme, particular stress will be laid on the need of Vocational institutions.

5. *Hostels for girls.*

In view of the fact that the demand for higher education amongst girls is increasing rapidly, this Conference urges the Government and Universities to take steps for the establishment of properly supervised Hostels for women students.

6. *Compulsory Education.*

This Conference is of opinion that girls should be included in all schemes of Compulsory Primary Education, and particularly supports the resolutions of Constituencies of Madras Presidency that the new Committee formed by the Madras Government to draft a Scheme of Compulsory Elementary Education should do so not only for all boys, as are its terms of reference, but for all girls and boys of elementary school-going age.

RESOLUTIONS ON SOCIAL REFORM PASSED AT TRIVANDRUM

1. *Legal Disabilities of Women.*

(a) This Conference resolves that a Special Committee with power to co-opt lawyers and experts should be appointed to enquire into and suggest adequate remedies for the legal disabilities of women, the Special Committee to appoint Branch Sub-committees in the different Provinces and Indian States to consider questions of local interests.

(b) This Conference records its sense of gratitude to the movers of the Bills in the Central and Provincial Legislatures which aim at improving the legal and economic status of women. Further it congratulates the Bombay Legislative Council for having rejected Mr. Desai's Adoption Bill.

(c) This Conference urges the early enactment of legislation penalising the practice of polygamy. It recommends to our Special Committee to draw up a rational system of marriage laws which will include divorce.

2. *Child-Marriage Restraint Act.*

This Conference views with dismay the frequent violation of the Sarda Act. It calls upon the Constituencies to educate public opinion against the custom of child-marriage

- (i) by holding public meetings denouncing the evil results of child-marriage;
- (ii) by distributing leaflets containing information about the existing legislation and the necessity of drastic measures and effective amendments to the Act;
- (iii) by supporting Bills in the Legislatures amending the Sarda Child Marriage Restraint Act., e. g., Mr. B. Das's Bill before the Legislative Assembly and the Bill before the Travancore Legislative Assembly.
- (iv) by appealing to the Indian States to introduce similar measures for the restraint of Child Marriage as soon as possible.

3. *Rural Re-construction.*

(a) While we are glad that some of our Constituencies have taken practical steps for the amelioration of the condition of the rural population we feel strongly that our efforts should be redoubled in this direction. We exhort every Constituency to carry out a constructive programme of village re-construction in one of its villages at least during the year.

(b) Industrial development of the country is an essential factor in relieving the great problem of unemployment. It is necessary, therefore for the Government as well as the people to help in every way to develop the indigenous industries in the country. With this

end in view, the Conference urges the women in India to encourage Swadeshi by using articles made in the country as far as they are available.

(c) As a means of implementing the popularisation of Swadeshi articles, each constituency shall appoint one member on its permanent committee who shall be in communication with the Secretary of the Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee and with the similar member of the Committee in each constituency to make a report every three months as to the Swadeshi articles available in each Constituency.

4. *Birth Control.*

This Conference reiterates its former resolutions supporting the necessity for instruction in methods of Birth-Control through recognised clinics and calls upon all the Constituencies to make a special effort to induce Municipalities and other organisations for maternity and child welfare to open centres to impart such knowledge to those who stand in need of it.

5. *Harijan Work.*

This Conference notes with profound sorrow that in spite of active propaganda, the treatment meted out to Harijans continues to be so inhuman, and calls upon its Constituencies to co-operate with all agencies striving for the abolition of untouchability within the country.

(Chair.)

6. *Prevention of Traffic in Women and Children and Abduction of Women.*

(a) This Conference requests the authorities to take more rigid steps towards the prevention of traffic in women and children and urges the necessity of a much larger number of rescue homes.

(b) This Conference views with grave concern the increased number of cases of abduction of women, and as a practical measure to check this evil urges the Railway authorities to appoint women officers at Railway Stations who may render assistance to women travellers.

(Chair.)

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT TRIVANDRUM**1. *International Peace.***

In the name of humanity the All-India Women's Conference hopes earnestly for the establishment of a permanent World-Peace by the speedy restoration of international relations based on mutual tolerance and harmony.

2. *Representation of Women.*

This Conference requests the British Parliament to safeguard the interest of women by making provision in the Instruments of Instructions that are to be framed for the Governor General and the Governors, that women should be given chances of association in the administration of every province as well as in the Central Government, especially in the departments of Health, Education and Labour. Provisions should also be made for at least one woman to be appointed to each Provincial Public Service Commission. It calls upon the Government to establish Women and Children's Bureaus in every province.

3. *Istambul Resolutions.*

The Conference supports whole-heartedly the following resolutions passed at the Congress of the International Alliance of Women for suffrage and Equal Citizenship at Istambul 1935:—

(a) *Legal Rights.*

That a Women unmarried or married should have full personal and civil rights, including the right to the use and disposal of her property; that she should not be under the tutelage of her husband and should have the same rights over her children as the father; that she should have the same right as a man to retain or to change her nationality.

(b) *East and West Co-operation.*

Whereas this Congress believes in the interest of true progress, the women of every country must advance on the lines of equality and justice, it pledges its hearty support to all the women of the West as well as of the East whether they struggle for the eradication of their special legal, social and economic disabilities and for the recognition of their rights to equal citizenship in their respective national units

or whether they are in danger of losing these legal, political, and economic rights which they have achieved.

Welcoming the co-operation of the women of all parts of the world, the value of which has been strongly emphasised by this Congress, it expresses the wish that the women of the East and of the West be linked by ties which will grow closer and consequently serve the interests of Universal peace.

4. This Conference is of opinion that it is essential to have a Central Office, and appeals for funds towards it .

FRANCHISE RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT TRIVANDRUM

1. This Conference reiterates its disapproval of the following franchise qualifications for women provided under the Government of India Act and urges their modification in accordance with its previous memorandum at an early date:—

- (a) Wife-hood qualification;
- (b) Application condition.

2. In recording once again its sense of disappointment at the electoral proposals, this Conference continues to stand by its former demands for:—

- (a) Direct Election;
- (b) No separate electorates for women;
- (c) Non-reservation of seats on a communal basis.

It further notes with regret the discrimination made between the different Provinces as regards the literacy qualification, *e. g.*, Bengal, N. W. F. P., and Orissa.

3. While we are convinced that the new powers given to women by the India Act are not adequate, this Conference exhorts all women to use the fullest advantage such powers as they have obtained at present.

LABOUR RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT TRIVANDRUM

1. *All-India Maternity Benefit Act.*

This Conference is of opinion that an All-India Maternity Benefit Bill on the line of those passed in Bombay, C. P., and Madras be introduced in the Legislative Assembly. It further recommends that the Constituencies in the different Provinces work for the passage of such a Bill.

2. *Factory Inspectresses.*

This Conference calls upon the Government to appoint Factory Inspectresses throughout India as recommended by the Whitley Commission.

3. *Recommendations of Mining Enquiry Committee.*

(a) We note with great regret that no action has been taken by the authorities in the mining area regarding recommendations made by the Investigation Commission of the All-India Women's Conference which visited the mines last year.

(b) We regret that no action has been taken to discontinue the Outstill System in Bihar and urge that this system be abolished as soon as possible.

(c) In continuation of the resolutions passed last year regarding the women in the mines we recommend that the Conference should support a woman organiser for one year to study the situation caused by the elimination of women from underground work, and the possibilities of alternative employment.

(d) We urge the Bihar and Orissa Government to introduce compulsory Education in the coal-mining area.

4. *Minimum age and hours of work.*

This Conference whole-heartedly supports Mr. Bakhale's Bill introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council to prohibit the employment of children under 12 in shops and urges that All-India legislation on similar lines limiting the hours of work and fixing a minimum age of employment of children in non-industrial undertakings be introduced.

Important Resolutions passed at Previous Sessions

I. EDUCATIONAL

A. General

1. This Conference defines Education as training which will enable the child or the individual to develop his or her latent capacities to the fullest extent for the service of humanity. It must, therefore, include elements for physical, mental, emotional, civic and spiritual development. The course of study arranged for this purpose must be so flexible as to allow of adaptation to the conditions of the individual, the locality and the community.

2. At every stage of education the spirit of social service should be inculcated.

3. Moral training, based on spiritual ideals, should be made compulsory for all schools and colleges.

4. In all education of girls, teaching in the ideals of motherhood, and in making the home beautiful and attractive, should be kept uppermost.

5. Agriculture should be included in the curriculum as a compulsory subject in schools in rural areas and as an optional subject in all other schools and colleges.

6. A complete course of physical training should be made compulsory in all boys' and girls' schools and should include as much cheerful recreation out of doors as possible; Eurhythmics and Girl-Guiding on Indian lines should be included.

7. Systematic medical inspection should be made compulsory in all schools and colleges; and, in the case of girls, the inspection should be carried out by medical women. Where possible, school clinics should be started and arrangements made to deal with cases of malnutrition.

8. Girls' schools should be inspected both by women having general and also by those having technical qualifications.

9. This Conference is of opinion that the undue importance given to examinations has greatly hindered the educational progress of pupils, and it recommends that investigation be made into the problem of testing progress.

10. This Conference approves of Cinema Films being used for educational purposes in schools generally and in rural schools in particular.

11. The Conference in its Memorandum has emphasised the necessity of reforming and enlarging the conception of education in Universities, training colleges and schools. It views with interest the progress that has been made and joins with the Constituent Conference in reiterating the importance of the inclusion in the curricula of study of:

- (a) Sociology, Home and Domestic Science in all its branches.
- (b) Fine Arts. (Music, Painting, etc.)
- (c) Specifically Indian Culture, including the Vernaculars and Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian.
- (d) Physical Culture.

(i) This Conference reiterates the vital necessity for public parks and playgrounds for children in cities, and gives its whole-hearted support to all schemes for the extension of physical education in schools and colleges.

It hopes that the example of Bengal in the formation of a 'Fresh Air League' will be followed by other Constituencies.

(ii) This Conference strongly protests against the recent cuts in grants-in-aid to educational institutions, particularly primary schools, and urges the educational authorities to see that all such grants are immediately restored.

12. This Conference demands that the new Constitution of India should guarantee to every child within the country, free instruction in reading and writing up to a prescribed minimum standard, as a fundamental right of Indian citizenship.

13. This Conference reiterates its former Resolutions—

- (a) that in all educational institutions there should be compulsory physical training for children from the primary stages by qualified physical instructors;
- (b) and compulsory medical inspection with after-care treatment;
- (c) and also calls upon Municipalities and Local Boards to provide an adequate number of public parks and playgrounds for women and children.

14. This Conference requests the authorities of the Allahabad and Benares Hindu Universities to remove the bar against co-education and urges those schools and Universities where co-education does not exist to introduce and encourage the same.

15. This Conference feels that the early removal of illiteracy is essential to India's progress and calls upon all its Constituencies to redouble their efforts in this direction, in particular as literacy may be one of the qualifications for franchise in the new Constitution.

16. This Conference feels that there ought to be a re-orientation of the entire system of education in this country and is of opinion that Government and private institutions should introduce vocational training immediately in schools and colleges.

17. This Conference, mindful of the interests of the youth of this country, appeals to the Government of India to exercise rigid control over all cinema films and posters and requests it to appoint women on every Board of Censorship.

18. *Welfare.*

In the opinion of this Conference, Education is incomplete without due regard to the *Physical fitness* of the women and children of India; it therefore:—

- (a) requests Government and all Local Bodies to provide adequate provision in schools and colleges for playgrounds and physical culture;
- (b) reiterates its demand for Compulsory Medical Inspection, under supervision of qualified doctors with adequate provision for necessary treatment,

19. *Mass-education.*

As all claims to democracy and citizenship will fail to receive recognition so long as the masses of India remain illiterate, this Conference emphatically repeats its demand for:—

- (a) the efficient introduction of *compulsory education* throughout India;
- (b) the extension of *adult education*, especially with a view to the expansion of vocational training and the general uplift of the masses.

B Primary Education

1. This Conference is strongly in favour of compulsory primary education for girls as well as for boys; it recommends all Local Governments and Local Bodies to take immediate steps to introduce compulsory education in urban, suburban and rural districts in such a way that at all district headquarters and towns the scheme shall be in full working order within five years and shall be universal within twenty years. This Conference is of opinion that this compulsory education should be made free in all schools provided by public authorities to all those unable to pay for it.

2. In order to carry out Compulsory Primary Education efficiently this Conference is of opinion that:

- (a) More Rural Training Centres should be opened where teachers drawn from rural areas should be trained under conditions such as they will meet in their work. These teachers should, in every case possible, be of secondary grade, and the employment of all teachers of lower grade should ultimately cease.
- (b) Residential quarters for women teachers should be provided in all teaching centres.
- (c) In order to assist poor parents in compulsory areas creches and nursery schools for the care of children under school-going age should be established near schools.
- (d) Only clean, dry, airy, and well-ventilated buildings with adequate playgrounds should be used as schools.
- (e) The sanitary code for secondary schools should be extended to elementary schools and rigidly enforced in view of

the high percentage of diseases borne by contaminated water.

- (f) School texts should be related to the psychology and environment of the child.
- (g) More women should be trained as specialist teachers in domestic science so that the teaching of the subject may be progressive and efficient. It is essential that the foundation of such teaching should be firmly laid in the elementary schools.
- (h) Nutrition Bureaus should be established in every Province where the much needed research work on the value of the food-stuffs available in the Province should be carried out and where all information regarding suitable dietaries could be obtained.
- (i) The health claims of both teachers and pupils and evils of overcrowding should not be overlooked.

3. One of the first essentials for improving primary education is that the scale of salary for primary school teachers be raised. The standard required for the entrance examination for training institutions should also be raised and a better training should be provided. Well-educated men and women should be invited and given opportunities to act as honorary teachers while the supply of trained teachers is inadequate.

4. As far as possible women teachers should be engaged in the earlier stages of education, both of boys and girls; these early stages should in fact be wholly the concern of women.

5. Every educational institution for young children should make full provision for Kindergarten, Montessori or other similar classes.

6. Special schools for defectives (whether physical, mental or moral) should be established and private enterprise in this direction should be encouraged and aided by the Government.

7. This Conference calls upon the Government to withhold its grant from any school which excludes any particular community from it, in all cases where no other provision for that community already exists.

8. This Conference feels that in the poorer districts a mid-day meal should be provided in the schools for those pupils who would otherwise have nothing to eat, and that the Government should be asked to make a special grant to such schools for this purpose. In these poorer districts ladies should come forward and by their own work and money organize the provision of meals.

9. This Conference is of opinion that:

- (a) priority should be given to the claims of girls' education in every scheme of educational expansion,
- (b) primary education should be made compulsory for girls as well as for boys,
- (c) it protests against the omission of girls from schemes of compulsory education,
- (d) it urges that compulsory education should be enforced wherever it has been established, and that public co-operation should be secured to ensure the regular attendance of pupils until their 12th year,

because it realises that educated mothers are a sure guarantee of the education of the coming generation and an essential factor in the advance of a nation.

C. Secondary Education

1. The Vernacular should be the medium of instruction, English being a compulsory second subject; Hindi or Urdu should be included in the curriculum as an alternative to the classical languages, one of which should be compulsory.

2. Alternative courses should be established to suit the needs of girls who do not intend to take up college education. These should include Domestic Science, Fine Arts, Handicrafts and Industries.

3. It is desirable that Sex Hygiene be taught in all Secondary schools and colleges, by competent teachers.

4. Separate Middle Schools and High Schools for girls should be established in places where a demand for them exists and where there are no such schools.

5. Whereas in many parts of India the problem of obtaining suitable buildings for girls' schools is becoming more and more acute, the Conference calls upon its Standing Committee to consider:

- (a) the advisability of launching a propoganda campaign in its many Constituent Areas in order that companies may be formed on the lines of the Girls' Public Day School Company in England whereby in that country a sufficiency of Girls' High Schools was established;
- (b) the recommending of such a campaign to the All-India Women's Educational Fund Association as part of its work in the coming year.

6. This Conference recommends that the Inspecting staff of girls' schools should consist of women only, and that the Chief Inspectress should be considered as Deputy-Directress of Instruction.

7. This Conference supports the Resolution of Central Punjab Constituent Conference and draws the attention of the Government to the condition of women's education in the North-West Frontier Province and requests that a High School for girls be opened there at the earliest possible date.

D. College Education

1. The following subjects should be added as optionals to the present curricula: Fine Arts, advanced Domestic Science, Journalism, Social Science, Architecture.

2. Special encouragement in the way of Scholarships should be offered to women students to attract them, to take their Degrees in Laws, Medicine, Fine Arts and Social Science.

3. Residential colleges for women students should be established in connection with the Universities and Hostels for women teachers and students should be aided by the Government.

4. Lady professors should be appointed (to act as advisers) in all colleges where there are women students.

5. This Conference recommends to the University of Bombay and to other Universities where such facilities do not exist—

- (i) that vernaculars should be allowed, optionally with classical languages, in the curricula at *every stage* in the University course.

(ii) that Domestic Science, optionally with Physics, should be allowed in the First Year in the Arts Examination.

6. This Conference regrets that the condition of affiliation of colleges to Universities regarding the provision of lodging accommodation of students has in some instances remained a dead letter, so far as women students are concerned, and it requests the Senates to see that all colleges affiliated to their respective Universities are suitably provided with hostels or approved lodging accommodation of their women students, and to direct their Syndicates to ask the inspecting committees of the affiliated colleges to report as to whether this condition has been fulfilled.

7. This Conference is of opinion that, in view of the long hours and strenuous nature of the work which the Medical Course entail, hostels for women students in the *immediate* vicinity of the Medical Colleges are a necessity and this Conference recommends that such provision should be made by college authorities.

8. This Conference is of opinion that like the Matriculation Examination of other Universities, the Entrance or Matriculation Examination of the Indian Women's University of Poona should be recognized by Government and Public Bodies.

9. This Conference congratulates the A. I. W. E. F. Association for having established in Delhi a Central College (Lady Irwin College for Women) to teach Home Science in all its branches. It calls upon all its Constituencies to collect funds for the creation of at least two local scholarships for girls who, after completing the Home Science Course at the Lady Irwin College, would be expected to teach that subject for a stated number of years. It also requests the public to extend financial aid towards this most useful and unique institution.

(a) And further urges that Home Science be introduced as a compulsory subject in high schools and as an optional course in colleges for women.

10. This Conference appreciates the work done by the Indian Women's University in pursuance of its special aims and cordially endorses Prof. Karve's appeal to the public for greater moral and material support,

E. Training

1. This Conference recognizes the imperative need of a greater number of Training Schools and urges upon the Government and the Local Bodies to take immediate steps to start such schools in every centre where they do not exist.

2. This Conference is of opinion that centres for special courses to train teachers for rural areas should be opened, and that courses should be arranged for teachers already working in rural areas.

3. This Conference recommends that branch committees similar to the Bengal Branch of the Indian Women's Education Society be formed in the different provinces of India to help the Bengal Committee in the selection of a scholar to undergo training abroad.

4. This Conference recommends that immediate steps be taken to carry into effect the repeated Resolution that a Central College be founded to train graduates and matriculates in order to secure a higher standard of Kindergarten and secondary teachers and that the Fund Association be requested to allot money for founding and endowing such a college.

5. This Conference places on record its dissatisfaction with the policy of the Government in reducing the number of students admitted to the Training Colleges and strongly desires that their numbers should be increased.

6. This Conference regards the standard accepted by the Government of 50 p. c. of trained teachers in primary schools as a very low one, and suggests to all Municipalities and Local Boards to engage only trained teachers.

7. This Conference considers that the present course of training for Matriculate and non-Matriculate teachers is very unsatisfactory, and that the standard of examination should be raised, and better provision made for the actual training.

8. This Conference welcomes the scheme advocated in the report of the Special Committee as expressing its ideals and hopes and calls upon every member to do all she can to make the scheme a reality both by her influence and by securing interest and financial support.

F. Adult Education

1. University Extension Lecture Scheme should include special courses for women.

2. This Conference recommends that Industrial Homes for Women be established where possible and that Provincial Governments be approached to give sufficient grants to run such institutions in an efficient manner.

3. This Conference reiterates the importance of tackling the problem of Adult Education in every way possible and urges the Government, Municipal Councils, Local Bodies and Women's Associations to organise classes and centres for the promotion of literacy and general education among adult women and suggests the establishment of Cinemas, moving libraries and publication of suitable books and magazines in the vernaculars.

4. (a) This Conference, realizing the vital need of educating the masses of the country, urges that the speediest possible measures be adopted for the spread of adult education and suggests the use of the Radio and Broadcasting as one of the means to achieve this object.

(b) In view of the fact that literacy is one of the franchise qualifications, the Conference feels that immediate steps should be taken to remove illiteracy from among the masses.

G. Miscellaneous

1. This Conference recommends that Government recognition should be given to successful educational institutions which have been working on experimental lines advocated by this Conference (such as the Indian Women's University and other) and which deserve such recognition.

2. This Conference recommends that women should be given adequate representation on all Educational Boards which control Primary, Secondary, and University Education and all Text-Book Committees.

3. This Conference is of opinion that efforts should be made for a better understanding, and for co-operation between parents and teachers.

4. This Conference reiterates the importance of educating girls of all communities in the same schools in order to promote mutual understanding and a common cultural unity.

5. This Conference is totally opposed to the infliction of corporal punishment in schools and institutions for boys and girls and it calls on every one to report instances to the authorities concerned and on the latter to see that the laws forbidding such acts are strictly enforced.

6. *Non-communal Schools.*

This Conference, believing in the ideal of unity, desires to take active and practical measures to achieve the same. It therefore proposes:

- (a) That no educational institutions should be based on communal lines.
- (b) That, as a common language is necessary for intercourse between different communities, every effort should be made to adopt one which is spoken over the greater part of India.

7. This Conference is strongly of opinion that there should everywhere be proper hostel arrangements for women students going in for higher education and these should be under proper supervision and conform to the usual rules regulating the management of residential halls attached to educational institutions.

8. *Language.*

As a practical measure for the realisation of its idea of a universal language for India, the All-India Women's Conference hopes to conduct as soon as possible its proceedings in Hindustani and invites the immediate and full co-operation of the Constituencies in this endeavour.

9. *Co-education.*

In the opinion of this Conference, the proper encouragement of *co-education* would help greatly towards the solution of various social and economic problems confronting the country. The Conference therefore urges strongly that:—

- (i) Co-education be introduced in primary schools and colleges;

- (ii) A large proportion of women teachers be always appointed on the staffs of Co-educational Institutions, particularly those of primary schools.
- (iii) At least one of the supervisors employed by the Local Self-governing Bodies be a woman.

10. *Parental co-operation.*

Realizing how gravely the progress of Education in the country is hampered by the lack of *co-operation* between teachers and parents, this organisation of women appeals to all parents and guardians to help in this direction.

11. *Debating society.*

In support of the recommendation of the Educational Committee, this Conference advises the immediate formation in each Constituency of a *debating society* to serve as a training ground for:—

- (a) the stimulation of discussion on matters of public interest;
- (b) the efficient expression of thought and speech.

II. SOCIAL

A. Marriage

1. This Conference emphatically condemns the unnatural and devitalising custom of allowing immature girls to become wives and mothers, as it robs them of their right to education and freedom and arrests their mental, moral and physical growth. This meeting demands that the legal age of marriage be fixed at 16 and 21 for girls and boys, respectively.

2. This Conference supports Sir Hari Singh Gour's Age of Consent Bill and demands that the age be raised to 16 and 18 for married and unmarried girls, respectively.

3. (a) This Conference expresses its satisfaction at the passing of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, and congratulates Rai Saheb Harbilas Sarda and those who helped in making it the law of the land on their achievements.

- (b) It further urges that,
- (i) In order to make this Act effective, it is necessary to form Sarda Committees to prevent, and to bring to light, breaches of the Law.
 - (ii) In order to give effect to the Child Marriage Restraint Act, it is imperative to take immediate steps to provide adequate machinery for the registration of marriages and to ensure the correct registration of births, in accordance with the recommendations of the Age of Consent Committee.
 - (iii) In order to prevent evasion of the Law, Indian States, not yet having a similar Act, be requested to come in line with British India in this matter.
- (c) It condemns the agitation started by certain classes against the Child Marriage Restraint Act and condemns the proposed Bills asking for exemptions from the operation of this Law.

4. This Conference strongly condemns polygamy and urges parents not to give their daughters in marriage to men who already have wives. It is also of opinion that girls of mature age and judgment who marry men with wives should be boycotted.

5. This Conference recommends that unequal marriages of old men to minor girls should be forbidden by Law.

6. This Conference gives its support to the "Bill to further amend the Special Marriage Act of 1872."

7. This Conference is of opinion that marriage should not be made compulsory for every girl and urges upon parents the necessity of recognising the rights of sons and daughters to decide their own career in life.

8. This Conference calls upon His Excellency the Viceroy, the Central Legislatures and the Local Governments to keep the Sarda Act intact and strictly to enforce the provisions of the Act and urges all its Constituencies, the youth, the women, other social societies and social reform associations in the country to educate public opinion and persuade individuals to obey the law and to report cases of violation of the Act.

9. In view of the fact that the Sarda Act is so flagrantly violated, this Conference strongly recommends that it be so amended, as to make it really effective.

10. (a) This Conference is grateful to Sir Hari Singh Gour for having taken up the question of Hindu marriage and recommends that his Marriage Dissolution Bill may be amended on the lines of the Baroda Hindu Divorce Act.

(b) This Conference is of opinion that the prevalent practice of divorce among Mohammedans, in so far as it allows an arbitrary power to the husband to divorce his wife at his mere caprice, is not in accord with the true interpretation of Islamic teaching, and places on record its considered opinion that the right to divorce as conceded by the Islamic Law to Moslem women be recognized by the British Courts.

11. *Child Marriage Restraint Act.*

This Conference once again condemns all attempts to repeal the Child Marriage Restraint Act and is opposed to the exemption of any section or community from its provisions.

It urges upon the Government not only to enforce the Act more stringently but also to amend it so as to make child marriage impossible.

12. *Sarda Act.*

(a) The All-India Women's Conference urges the members of the Legislative Assembly to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act in such a manner as to empower every First Class Stipendiary Magistrate in British India to issue injunctions for stopping child marriages and also to make provision for the care and custody of child bride or bridegroom on the lines of the provisions in the Children's Act.

(b) We appeal to all foreign authorities and Indian States where the Sarda Act does not apply, not to furnish any facilities for child marriages in their areas.

13. *Polygamy.*

This Conference strongly disapproves of Polygamy and appeals to women not to marry, and to parents, not to give their daughters in marriage to any man who has a wife living.

B. Purdah

1. This Conference condemns the custom of enforced seclusion of women and entreats all Hindus, Muslims and other communities which observe this custom, to take practical steps to educate public opinion towards abolishing it as soon as possible.

C. Inheritance

1. (a) This Conference places on record its opinion that there should be complete equality between the sexes in the matter of inheritance and control of property.

(b) As a step towards this goal the Conference supports the following measures which are pending in the Legislative Assembly:

(i) "A Bill to declare gains of learning by a Hindu to be his separate property." (Mr. Jayakar.)

(ii) "A Bill to make better provision for certain heirs under Hindu Law especially with regard to women regarding their rights of inheritance." (Mr. Jogiah.)

(iii) "A Bill to secure share for Hindu Widows in their husbands' family property." (Rai Saheb Harbilas Sarda.)

(iv) "A Bill to remove certain existing disabilities in respect of powers of adoption among Hindus." (Mr. Jayakar.)

(c) In order to ensure the rights of inheritance to Muslim women, in accordance with the laws laid down in the Koran, the current customary law as practised in some parts of India be not recognised by the Courts.

(d) The Conference further extends its cordial support to the Committees, appointed in Mysore and Baroda, for investigating the Hindu Laws of Inheritance with a view to making them more equitable to women.

2. This Conference is of opinion that members of the Central Legislature be urged to take early steps to amend the present state of Hindu Law relating to women in order to make it more equitable.

3. This Conference is of opinion that the laws in regard to the rights of Muslim women as laid down in the Koran should be substituted for the current customary law.

4. (a) This Conference strongly urges the early abolition of all legal disabilities affecting the rights of Inheritance of women. It places on record its high appreciation of Sardarji's efforts in this direction.

(b) It also urges that Mohammedan women should be given that right of Inheritance which Mohammedan Law allows in those parts of India where it has been curtailed.

(c) That a deputation do wait on His Excellency the Viceroy and to request him to appoint a Commission to enquire into the legal disabilities of Indian women.

5. *Legal disabilities of women.*

(i) This Conference strongly protests against the existing discriminations in Hindu Law against the rights of women; it demands that existing laws should be so amended as to make them just and equitable and that an All-India Non-official Commission be appointed to consider the removal of the legal disabilities of women as regards inheritance and marriage.

(ii) *Legal disabilities.*

(a) We give our whole-hearted support to all the bills introduced into the Provincial and Central Legislatures, such as the Bill on the Hindu Women's Inheritance Rights (by Hon. Mr. P. C. D. Charry, before the Council of State) and welcomes the bills passed by the Sangli and Mysore Darbars on Hindu Widows' Property Rights, which seek to remove the legal disabilities of women in so far as they are in accord with our principles. We further support Rao Bahadur Kale's Bill in the Bombay Council, on the Hindu Widows' Property rights.

(b) We record our strong protest against Mr. Desai's Bill to amend the Laws of Adoption before the Bombay Council, as it is a decidedly retrograde measure.

(c) We urge once more on Government the necessity of appointing a Commission with an adequate number of

women on its personnel to enquire into the whole question of the legal disabilities of women. We regret that Government has so far not acceded to a demand in which we have been united from the very beginning. The recent public meetings all over India are conclusive proof that we have a large backing amongst our men and we confidently hope therefore, that the Government will accede to our request.

D. Health

1. This Conference realises with great concern that drugs and medicines sold in India are generally impure and of inferior quality as disclosed by the evidence of eminent doctors and chemists before the Drugs Enquiry Committee.

- (a) It, therefore, supports the proposition that an All-India Drug Act be enacted for the proper control and check over the import, sale and manufacture of all drugs and chemicals.
- (b) It urges all Constituencies to use every means in their power to discourage and prevent the indiscriminate use of opium and other detrimental drugs.

2. This Conference strongly recommends to Municipalities the need for the strict enforcement of the Food Adulteration Act.

3. (a) This Conference feels that on account of the low physique of women, high infant mortality and increasing poverty of the country, married men and women should be instructed in methods of birth-control in recognised clinics. It calls upon all Municipalities and Local Bodies to open such centres and invites the special help of the medical authorities towards the solution of this important problem.

(b) *Birth-control.*

This Conference is more than ever convinced that on account of the low standard of physique of women, high infant mortality, and increasing poverty of the country, instruction in methods of Birth-control through recognised clinics is a necessity.

4. *Compulsory Registration of Dais and Midwives.*

With a view to check the inordinately high rate of Infant and Maternal Mortality in India, this Conference urges the need of Legislative measures for compulsory registration of dais and midwives and periodic supervision by qualified supervisors.

E. Indigenous Industries

1. This Conference urges that in view of the poverty of the country the public be requested to encourage and support indigenous industries and calls upon the Government to open industrial centres and to give special grants to such institutions as provide industrial training for girls and women.

2. This Conference while reiterating all its former Resolutions on Indigenous Industries, is firmly of opinion that the encouragement of such is essential for the industrial and economic development of the country and appeals to the public to use *Swadeshi*.

3. *Swadeshi.*

This Conference is strongly of opinion that it is essential for the industrial and economic development of the country to encourage indigenous industries and appeals to the public to use swadeshi articles in particular Khaddar (hand spun and hand woven fabrics).

F. Women and Government

1. This Conference reiterates its firm conviction that women should be adequately represented:

- (a) on the Central and Provincial Legislatures;
- (b) on District, Municipal and other local bodies;
- (c) on Commission and Committees affecting women and children;
- (d) In the interest of women and children this Conference recommends to the Government of India to include women in their delegations to the League of Nations and to other International Assemblies.

2. This Conference fully adheres to the stand it has taken in regard to the question of Franchise in all its bearings as pertaining to the status of women in the future Constitution of India. It expresses its firm belief in perfect sex equality and demands that

women shall possess equal citizen rights with men. No disability either legal or social shall be attached to women on account of sex, or in regard to public employment, office, power or honour and in the exercise of any trade or calling.

This Conference stands united:

- (i) in its protest against the Communal Award as touching the womanhood of India, and
 - (ii) in its demand for a system of Joint-Electorates,
- and further resolves

- (a) that a representative Committee of ten persons including the Chairwoman and the Organizing Secretary of 1932 be appointed and authorized to formulate detailed proposals in regard to the enfranchisement of women and their representation in the future Constitution of the country;
- (b) that the above-mentioned Committee of ten or a lesser number chosen from amongst themselves shall be its representatives at the joint meetings of the three Women's Organizations (A. I. W. C., N. C. W. I., and W. I. A.);
- (c) that the National Council of Women in India and the Women's Indian Association be requested to appoint their similar Committees, and that the Joint Franchise Meeting be postponed until after the return of the members of the Round Table Conference and publication of the decisions of His Majesty's Government on the subject.

3. *Franchise.*

- (a) This Conference reiterates its demands regarding franchise and the status of women in the future Constitution of India as placed before the Joint Parliamentary Committee in London by our elected representatives, and fully endorses the statements made by them before the same Committee.
- (b) A cable to the above effect be sent to the Secretary, Joint Select Committee, and the Secretary of State for India.

(c) A special Session of the Conference to which representatives of the National Council of Women in India and the Women's Indian Association be invited shall be called after the publication of the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to determine what the attitude of the representative womenhood of India should be in case their repeated demands are ignored.

4. This Conference expresses its profound indignation and disappointment at the omission of the right of Franchise or of candidature for election to the Legislatures of the following Provinces:

Bengal, Assam, North-West Frontier Province, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara,
and strongly recommends that these qualifications be removed forthwith.

5. *J. P. C. Report.* Whereas the Joint Parliamentary Committee's Report on the White Paper, as a whole, and in particular where its recommendations concern the status of women in the new Constitution, fall far short of our demands, we do hereby state in unequivocal language our strong disapproval of and inability to accept the same. We give reasons for our dissatisfaction in the appended statement.

STATEMENT

We feel that the Joint Parliamentary Committee was animated by a genuine desire to bring women in greater numbers on the electoral roll and give them a definite place in the legislatures of the new Constitution. For this spirit of sympathy with us, as also for their unqualified recognition of the part that women must play in the public life of the Country, we place on record our sincere appreciation. At the same time, however, we feel constrained to express in no uncertain terms our inability to accept the recommendations, as they stand, for the following reasons:

1. We claim that there should be a declaration of rights in which the removal of sex disabilities should be clearly stated. We draw attention to the fact that the word "Sex" has been omitted from the "Eligibility for holding Public Office, etc.," *vide* para 367 Vol. I (Part 1). While feeling keenly this omission as a grave injustice to

us in spite of our repeated demands in this connection, we hope that the same may even now be rectified.

2. The greater number of women enfranchised under the recommendations are going to be the wives and widows of property holders and to this number have also been added the wives of men with the military service qualifications of the vote and the pensioned widows and mothers of military officials and soldiers. Our reasons for our strong objection to this method of enfranchisement have been stated in clear language on more than one occasion. They still hold good and we regret that, inspite of our protests the qualification wholly unacceptable to us is being sought to be imposed on us. We reiterate our belief in equitable methods of elections and attach equal importance to the quality as well as the quantity of the women's vote. We object strongly to the doubling of the vote for any vested interests as being against all canons of justice for the poor who constitute India's main population and against all democratic principles. We again urge the acceptance of our proposals for the introduction of adult suffrage in urban areas for the purpose of increasing our electoral members.

3. In our opinion far too much weight has, from the outset, been laid on administrative difficulties where women are concerned. This opinion is practically strengthened by the numbers of "Pardah" women who went to the polls in the recent Legislative Assembly Elections. We protest strongly against the invidious differentiations that have been made between the provinces in regard to literacy and property qualifications, "Application" conditions and other details including the omission of the wives and widows of those holding the educational qualification if the "Wifehood qualification" is unreasonably persisted in.

4. We have not swerved from our conviction that we do not, on principle, approve of reservation of seats in Legislatures for ourselves or for any particular interest. Nevertheless, seeing that this expedient may unfortunately be imposed on us during the transition period, we deplore the entire omission of women from the assemblies of several Provinces and the total exclusion for whatever reason, of women of the North-West Frontier Province, from all citizenship

rights including Franchise. We feel very strongly that in the case of these provinces where women may be said to be less vocal, the exclusion of their representatives from the Legislatures constitutes a grave omission and neglect of the very causes for which we stand. We also claim that no disabilities shall be attached to women in any province that may be newly created.

5. If certain selected Provinces are definitely to be burdened with Second Chambers we see no reason whatsoever why women should not be accorded a *definite* place in all these as well as in the Council of State. We regard such as our inherent right and must, therefore, protest against this omission.

6. With Lord Lothian we are "Unrepentant believers in a system of direct election," and we, therefore, object with all possible emphasis to indirect election at any time and for any one. We refuse, likewise, to accept nomination for the Legislatures for ourselves, knowing by bitter experience that the "safeguards of nomination" has been ineffective and useless in the Legislative Assembly.

Conclusion

While mentioning the above details we wish to make it quite clear that even if we had secured or secure for ourselves all that we had wished or wish to secure and if, at the same time, we felt that the recommendations, as a whole, were not in the true interests of India, we would, as women, the natural guardians of future generations, feel it our bounden duty to deny all special privileges for ourselves for the sake of the common good. In the light of general criticism of the Report we know that the recommendations are not acceptable to all shades of representative opinion in the country. We, therefore, join in this widespread protest and still hope against hope that a new Constitution may eventually be created such as will meet with general approbation.

G. Miscellaneous

1. In view of the legislation pending and affecting the education of girls—such as Child-marriage and Devadasis—this Conference urges the Government to nominate without delay at least two women to the Central Legislature.

2. This Conference demands that in future all Conferences and Commissions appointed to deal with questions of the national welfare of India should include women representatives well-acquainted with Indian conditions.

3. This Conference calls on the organised political parties to put up women candidates at each election.

4. This Conference supports all efforts that are being made in the country:

- (a) To remove Untouchability, and supports Mr. Jayakar's Bill "to remove disabilities affecting the untouchable classes of Hindus" pending in the Assembly.
- (b) To remove the evils of intemperance.
- (c) To suppress immoral traffic in women and children, and in particular it supports the Madras Brothels Bill and Prevention of Devadasi Dedication Bill and all other Bills on similar lines. It is also of opinion that women should be equally penalised with men for keeping brothels.

5. This Conference strongly urges that a mother should have equal rights of guardianships with the father over her children and that a widow should have preferential right of guardianship over them.

6. This Conference requests the Government to pass Children's Protection Acts and to establish Courts for Juvenile offenders in all Provinces and to ensure that at least one woman Magistrate should be present at each sitting of such Courts.

7. In view of the widespread awakening in the outlook of women this Conference considers it imperative to form:

- (a) Centres for the practical training of Social Workers in both rural and urban areas.
- (b) Centres for Social work.

8. This Conference urges that separate Children's Courts should be established for trying Juvenile offenders and in these Courts at least one Magistrate should be a woman.

- (a) This Conference urges women to come forward to undertake this work,

- (b) It recommends that special provision be made for children sentenced for short periods.
- (c) This Conference is of opinion that an All-India Children's Act on the lines of the Bombay and Calcutta Acts is necessary to give protection to all children under the age of 18 and it further urges upon all women to study the question of Juvenile Delinquency in all its aspects and co-operate in establishing clubs, shelters and Homes for the reformation of these delinquent and destitute children.
- (d) This Conference expresses its keen regret at the attitude of the U. P., the Mysore, and the Frontier Councils towards the Bills for the suppression of Immoral Traffic in women and children and urges upon the members of those Councils to promulgate such legislation as will punish traffickers in vice and rescue minor girls from houses of ill-fame.
- (e) It congratulates Madras and Bombay Councils for having passed and enforced the Act for the closure of houses of ill-fame and the Calcutta Council for having appointed a Select Committee to consider further amendments to the Bill in order to make it more effective.

9. This Conference congratulates the States of Travancore and Cochin on the abolition of *Devadasi* service in temples and gives its wholehearted support to Mr. R. K. Shunmukham Chetty's Bill for the prevention of dedication of women and girls to service in Hindu temples. It calls upon all Constituencies where this practice exists to educate public opinion against it.

- (a) This Conference congratulates Portuguese Government on passing a law forbidding *Shesh Vidhi* (i. e., a mock marriage which initiates girls into an immoral life) and urges the Government of India and all Provincial Governments to take similar steps immediately.
- (b) This Conference appeals to its own members and to the public to aid in every way in establishing—
 - (i) Rescue Homes for each Province;

- (ii) in educating public opinion against traffic in women and children;
- (iii) in taking steps to bring in legislation where necessary for the closing of brothels and in asking Government to appoint women officers for the proper enforcement of the Acts already in existence.

10. This Conference gives its wholehearted support to Mr. R. K. Shunmukham Chetty's Bill to remove disabilities affecting the untouchable caste of the Hindu community, and calls upon—

- (a) the members of each Constituency to educate public opinion in favour of the removal of Untouchability;
- (b) the Local and Central Governments to help the cause of the untouchables in their efforts to secure citizen rights.
- (c) This Conference strongly condemns the practice of Untouchability and calls upon the public and upon women in particular to work wholeheartedly for the abolition of this evil, and strongly supports the demand for the opening of temples, the common usage of wells and roads and equal admittance to schools and other public institutions for the so-called untouchables.
- (d) This Conference congratulates all the States that have opened their temples to the so-called untouchables and makes a special appeal to Travancore to follow their good example and thus give the lead to South India.
- (e) This Conference requests the Zamorin to open the temple of Guruvayur to the so-called untouchables.
- (b) This Conference recommends to its Standing Committee Untouchability Bill to be introduced in the Assembly and Madras Council by Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer and Dr. Subbarayan respectively, and appeals to His Excellency the Viceroy and the Government of India to give their immediate assent to the same.

(g) This Conference further resolves that a deputation be sent to His Excellency the Viceroy to request him to give his consent to the Bills before the Assembly.

11. This Conference, realising the vital importance of Disarmament for the peace and the happiness of the world, urges the women of India to give their wholehearted support and sympathy to the World Disarmament Conference to be held in Geneva in February, 1932, and calls upon all Governments to reduce their Army and Navy.

12. This Conference calls upon all communities in India to live together in amity and work in harmony with one another for the common welfare of the country and appeals to all women to make special endeavours to achieve this object.

13. This Conference, while strongly disapproving of the prevalence of professional begging, urges legislation for its prevention, and calls upon:

- (a) the public to co-operate by diverting their charities in this sphere towards the creation and support of institutions and for the provision of Beggar Homes, Work Houses, Infirmaries and Leper Asylums;
- (b) the local bodies to provide such Homes where they do not exist and to enforce any legislation for the eradication of this evil.

14. Believing as we do that unity and an atmosphere of peace and goodwill are essential to India's progress in every sphere, this Conference welcomes all honest endeavours that are being made to achieve this end and prays that such may be crowned with success.

15. This Conference calls upon all Women's Organizations and all individual workers to take up in earnest constructive work in the villages.

16. *Beggar Problem—*

This Conference reiterates its former resolution on the beggar problem and calls upon the Government and local bodies to establish poor houses for beggars and to introduce legislation to prevent begging in public places.

17. *Immoral Traffic*—

This Conference whilst appreciating the efforts already made to suppress the traffic in women and children in India, calls upon its Constituencies—

- (i) to study the legal, moral, educational, and rescue questions concerned, in their local areas.
- (ii) to promote, where necessary, adequate and effective legal penalties against brothel-keeping and procuration and legal protection for women and children. Where the local bills are not satisfactory, to introduce and secure wide support for the needed amendments.
- (iii) to urge upon parents the duty of giving graded instruction as to the moral and social uses of the creative instinct, so that boys as well as girls may be adequately taught and thus helped to make right choices in life.
- (iv) That where rescue work has not yet been started, a real attempt should be made to secure and train workers and start homes, using the help of experienced women already serving in the moral and social hygiene field for such training.
- (v) The urgent need of women to offer for service as probation officers, moral welfare workers and magistrates is also emphasized by Conference.

18. *Untouchability*—

This Conference appeals to all Indian men and women to eradicate the evil of untouchability from society and heartily supports all endeavours that are being made to remove legal and social disabilities of the submerged classes including the principle of the Temple Entry Bills now before the Legislative Assembly.

19. *Abolition of Capital Punishment*—

This Conference whole-heartedly supports Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's Bill now before the Assembly for the abolition of Capital Punishment.

20. *Rural Reconstruction*—

This Conference views with grave concern the conditions of life in general in Indian villages particularly in regard to education and sanitation and exhorts its Constituencies and other Women's Organizations throughout India to form Local Committees to consider practical projects for rural reconstruction.

21. *Rural Uplift*—

- (a) In as much as on the economic, hygienic and moral uplift of the villagers of India depends the real progress and prosperity of our Country, this Conference welcomes the formation of the All-India Village Industries Association and resolves to co-operate wholeheartedly in this work. We call upon all, and in particular women, to devote as much time and energy as lie in their power, to the work of this Association and we confidently hope that the Government will also do everything possible to further a cause which all well-wishers of India have at heart.
- (b) Realising that our work in general suffers greatly owing to a lack of wholetime workers, we appeal to local self-governing bodies as also public spirited persons to form and maintain Training Centres in every Province for social workers and thereby recognise social service as a definite branch of work for the uplift of the masses.

22. *Cinema Films*—

- (a) This Conference reiterates the urgent necessity of a far more rigorous censorship of films and Posters.
- (b) It resolves that it is essential to have rigid censorship of films relating to India manufactured in India or outside India and shown abroad in as much as some of these create a wholly wrong impression on foreigners of our civilisation, and are detrimental to the interests of our Country.
- (c) It calls upon Local Governments to appoint at least one woman as member of every Board of Censors.

23. *Abduction of Women—*

In view of the appalling number of cases of abduction of women and children, this Conference strongly urges the Government and the general public to take vigorous steps to eradicate this evil.

(a) *Legislation.* This Conference supports all bills and amendments which, in every Province of India, aim at the prevention of immoral traffic in women and children. It strongly urges upon its Constituencies.

(b) the study of local conditions in connection with cases of trafficking, and segregated brothel areas;

(c) when facts have been obtained, a vigorous protest against such crimes, by approach with the facts to the Governments, Municipal or Local Government Authorities, or persons concerned in responsible positions. Where Legislation does not exist, the same to be promoted, with adequate punishments effectively enforced.

(d) *Moral Education.* Realising that the survey above suggested and adequate legislation against trafficking in women and children will not, of themselves, effectively remove the danger to health and morals arising from commercialised vice, this Conference stresses that the education of individuals in their moral and social responsibility is essential.

(e) This Conference urges that in each Constituency a co-operative attempt shall be made during the coming year, to secure such progressive health and moral welfare education, as shall tend to a higher standard of personal conduct as well as a high standard of public opinion in these matters.

24. *Restriction of Sale of Opium*

This Conference strongly protests against indiscriminate sale of opium and suggests a register should be kept of addicts to opium, and opium supplied only on medical certificate—as it is done in other countries.

25. This meeting of the All-India Women's Conference records its vehement protest against the tyranny perpetrated on their Beluchi sisters through various horrible customs as "Bhajai" (*i. e.*, giving away wife of a deceased to his heirs), "Khoon-beha" (*i. e.*, taking away by force the sisters and daughters of a murderer by the

aggrieved party), "Tavadula" (*i. e.*, interchange of children in marriage even before they are born), "Dukhter feroshi" (*i. e.*, selling away women for marriage), and also protests against such similar customs wherever they exist.

This Conference deplores the condition of their Beluchi sisters and appeals to the Government of Beluchistan and the educated men to take measures for their protection and uplift. It further demands that all impediments in the way of social workers and educationists be removed.

This Conference ardently hopes that the Beluchi sisters would be given the same social, economic and civic rights and privileges as enjoyed by the womanhood of other parts of the country.

26. This Conference wishes to record its great appreciation of the munificent donation made by H. H. The Maharajah of Travancore, from his privy purse, towards the foundation of a home for the destitutes in Travancore.

III. LABOUR

1. This Conference is of opinion that an adequate number of Factory Inspectresses should be appointed to look after the welfare and requirements of all women and children employees in all industrial areas.

2. (a) This Conference recommends to its Standing Committee Members to enquire into the agricultural and indigenous industries of their areas and to get into touch with Co-operative Societies and in other ways to foster such industries and report to the Sub-committee appointed by the Conference to deal with this question.

(b) This Conference recommends to its standing Committee to enquire into the conditions of women and children employed in organized labour areas and report to the Sub-committee appointed by the Conference to deal with this question.

3. In all factories where there are a considerable number of women employed this Conference resolves that the following are essential:

- (a) The employment of a woman doctor to ensure ante and post-natal care and attention during child-birth for the mother and medical care of the children.
- (b) The establishment of Maternity Homes and an adequate supply of trained help.
- (c) The establishment of creches and nursery schools.

4. This Conference urges the early passing of a Maternity Benefits Act for the whole of India.

5. (a) This Conference reiterates the need for the immediate appointment of at least one Women Factory Inspector for every large Industrial area, with full powers under the Act.

(b) This Conference considers that these Inspectors need not necessarily be doctors, but should have a thorough knowledge of workers and requests agencies engaged in the training of social workers to consider the question of providing special training, at least until there is a body of experienced women Inspectors available.

6. Since the whole standard of family life is dependent to so large an extent on housing conditions, mill-owners and local bodies in co-operation are urged to see that the workers are housed with adequate regard to health and decency. This Conference considers that a separate cooking place and a verandah or courtyard besides the living room are minimum necessities and anything falling below this standard does not fulfil the above conditions.

7. In view of the urgent necessity of removing illiteracy from the industrial population in the shortest possible time this Conference urges:

- (a) That part-time education be made compulsory for all half-timers up to the age of 15 years, and where conditions make it desirable mill owners should co-operate with the local authorities in the provision of such education.
- (b) Mill-owners are urged to give greater attention to adult education which should be specially suited to adults and

need not necessarily follow the curriculum of ordinary schools.

(c) Local authorities are urged to provide playgrounds in all industrial areas.

8. Since the States have often led the way in matters of social reform, the Princes and their Councils are urged to enforce in their territories at least as high a standard of factory conditions and legislation as that obtaining in British India.

9. This Conference desires that a thorough enquiry should be made into the condition of women mine-workers and urges the Standing Committee to take early steps in the matter.

10. This Conference calls upon the Government of India to take necessary steps immediately to implement the Report of the Whitely Commission with regard to labour conditions of women and children in India.

11. This Conference calls upon its Local Committees and upon all women in industrial areas to do whatever voluntary work that may be possible to help women and child labourers so as to improve their conditions.

12. This Conference expresses its regret that the Assembly had failed to ratify the International Labour Convention to fix the minimum age of Indian children in non-industrial occupations and urges on the Government of India and the Assembly the need in India to legislate against the employment of Indian children under 12 in regulated non-industrial occupation.

13. This Conference fully supports the Bill prohibiting the pledging of child labour in regulated and unregulated industries and requests that persons besides guardians and parents who pledge child labour or act in collusion with parents and guardians be penalised.

14. The All-India Women's Conference approves of the provisions of the Bill introduced by the Government of India in the Legislative Assembly to regulate the payment of wages to classes of persons employed in industry.

15. This Conference approves of the provisions of the Bill to amend the workmen's Compensation Act subject to the following modification that to the list of the dependents of a workman entitled

to claim compensation be added widowed daughter-in-law and brother's widow.

16. This Conference is emphatically of opinion that a woman representative on behalf of the women workers in factories, mines, plantations and other industries be deputed by the Government of India as a delegate or an adviser to the International Labour Conference to be held at Geneva.

17. This Conference draws the attention of the Government of India to the following recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour and urges for early legislative measures.

- (a) Rigorous action should be taken against those factories where conditions in regard to humidification are worst.
- (b) First-aid boxes should be provided in all the factories using power and in departments of factories employing over 250 persons.
- (c) Comprehensive Public Health Acts should be passed in all Provinces.
 - (i) Where pipe-water supplies are not available special precautions as to purity should be taken.
 - (ii) Where industry begins to develop in a new area, it should be the duty of employers to provide suitable water to their workers.
- (d) Naikins (women jobbers) should be excluded from the engagement and dismissal of labour.
- (e) Every factory should be compelled to maintain separate and sufficient latrine accommodation for males and females and an adequate staff to keep them clean.
- (f) Creches should be provided for children up to the age of six years where considerable number of women are employed. This requirement should be statutory for places employing 250 women or more. The Factories Act should embody this with discretionary power to Local Governments in regard to factories with fewer women. The organization of factory creches should be the duty of the women-inspectors.

- (g) Women factory inspectors should be appointed in every province. They should be of Indian domicile and not less than 25 years of age, and their pay should be adequate to attract the right type.
- (h) Maternity benefit legislation should be enacted throughout India on the lines of the schemes operating in Bombay and Central Provinces.
 - (i) The scheme should be non-contributory.
 - (ii) In the first instance, the entire cost of the benefit should be borne by the employer.
 - (iii) The rate of benefit given by the Central Provinces Act is suitable for general application.
 - (iv) The maximum benefit period should be 4 weeks before and 4 weeks after the child-birth.
 - (v) Administration of the Act should be entrusted to the factory inspection staff and wherever possible to women factory inspectors.
- (i) Maximum daily hours of work for children should be five hours.
- (j) Employers should arrange to give children at least one rest interval.
- (k) No child who has been employed full time in a factory should be allowed to work overtime or to take work at home after factory hours.
- (l) No child under the age of 14 years should be permitted to work in or about the mines.

18. This Conference strongly supports the Minority view of the Royal Commission on Labour in India as regards raising the minimum age of employment in factories from 12 to 13 years for a period of 5 years and thereafter to 14 in conformity with the standard laid down in Article II of the International Convention.

19. Owing to the increase of unemployment by the closing down of several mills and factories, this Conference feels the necessity of appointing a Committee to look into the hardships suffered by women and children in these areas and enquire and report as to what

measures are advisable for relief especially in the case of children of unemployed labourers.

20. We recommend that the Outstill system in Behar be discontinued as it is detrimental to the health and efficiency of the miners.

21. (a) We agree with the recommendations of the investigation committee that it would be retrograde step to go back to employing women underground and as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour this process of elimination be completed by 1939.

(b) We also urge that simultaneously, the women who are being deprived of work be found other employment on the surface, on the lines suggested in the report of the committee.

22. We regret that the recommendation of the League of Nations regarding the minimum age of child labourers has not been acted upon by the Government of India in the new Factories Act, and record that in our opinion no child under 14 years should be employed as a labourer.

23. As the newly amended Factories Act does not make the provision of creches compulsory for employers of woman labour and as it is now believed by authorities that much of the infant mortality in India is due to the neglect of children of working mothers, we strongly urge the Government to remove this important defect, so that creches are made compulsory throughout India.

24. As women are sometimes forced to carry heavy loads which is detrimental to their health, it is desirable that a maximum load should be fixed for them by the Government. We therefore recommend that investigations should be made regarding this maximum weight and legislation enacted accordingly.

IV. GENERAL

1. This Conference expresses its profound grief at the demise of Lady Dorab Tata, Lady Sadasiva Aiyar, Miss Susie Sorabji of Poona and Miss Mona Bose of Lahore and places on record its high appreciation of their valuable services to the cause of Indian womanhood.

2. This Conference places on record its grateful appreciation of the glorious service that has been rendered to the whole world and particularly to India's Womanhood by the late Dr. Annie Besant and expresses its feeling of profound sorrow at the irreparable loss to the country by her demise.

3. This Conference places on record its deep sense of grief at the loss of Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta and Mr. Vithalbai Patel—two of India's distinguished leaders.

4. This Conference places on record its deep sense of grief at the loss of Mrs. Kamini Roy, one of the eminent daughters of Bengal.

5. On the occasion of the Centenary of Raja Rommohun Roy this Conference places on record its grateful appreciation of his magnificent services to the Motherland and in particular to the cause of Indian Womanhood and offers homage to the memory of the illustrious son of India.

6. Believing that the welfare of nations and classes depends on the building up of a new order:

- (a) We lend full support to all efforts that are being made and will be made in the future for the surmounting of barriers of race, creed, caste and nationality, and promoting the spirit of international reconciliation and good-will.
- (b) We desire to express once more our condemnation of war as a crime against humanity and our whole-hearted sympathy with all those men and women who are striving honestly for world disarmament.
- (c) We dedicate ourselves in our own homeland to the supreme task of creating around us and in us a spirit of true patriotism and love of humanity so that rising above the narrow confines of communities and provinces we may see fulfilled the vision of a larger India ready to take her rightful place in the world comity of nations.

7. This Conference places on record its deep appreciation of the splendid work done in the cause of Indian womanhood by Mrs. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, and Mrs. Hamid Ali in Europe last year.

8. This Conference expresses its sincere gratitude to the women of the West for their interest in and sympathy with the women of India, in particular to those progressive Women's Organizations in England which have given whole-hearted support to our demands as placed before the Joint Select Committee by our elected representatives in the matter of franchise and our status in the proposed new constitution.

9. This Conference reiterates its demand for an Indian woman elected by the principal Indian Women's Organizations to be included in the Government of India Delegation to Geneva.

10. In view of the fact that the Council of the League of Nations has decided to invite the Government of India to be represented on the Advisory Committee for the protection and Welfare of Children and Young People for a period of five years and as this is pre-eminently a sphere where women can make a valuable contribution, the Government of India should be approached by the A. I. W. C., the N. C. W. I., and the W. I. A., jointly with a view to the appointment of an Indian woman of our choice on this Commission.

11. This Conference places on record its high appreciation of the truly enlightened action taken by H. H. the Gaekwad of Baroda in passing Hindu Women's Divorce Act and also for legislating for the removal of the Legal Disabilities of Hindu Women.

12. This Conference places on records its sense of profound sorrow at the irreparable loss caused to the public in general and women in particular by the passing away of Her Highness the Vani Bilaw Sannidhana, C. I. Dowager Maharani of Mysore.

13. Firm in our belief that war is a crime against humanity, we once more publicly record our abhorrence to this evil and reaffirm that we are heart and soul with those organisations and individuals in every country who are striving for World-Peace through the promotion of international good-will and disarmament.

14. While dedicating ourselves afresh to the supreme task of bringing about unity within our own borders, we appeal to all in India to sink individual, sectarian, and class difference for the common good and moral regeneration of our beloved land.

15. This Conference accords a warm welcome to Dr. Maude Royden and Mrs. Corbett Ashby and in thanking them for their presence at Karachi, ask them to convey our greetings and gratitude to all those British Women's organisations who sent us messages of good-will and stood loyally by us in our demands regarding Franchise and our status in the new constitution.

16. *Railway and steamer Concession.*

This Conference records its thanks to the Railway Board and those Railway authorities and the steamer companies who granted concessions this year to our delegates and members.

This Conference appeals to the Railway Board and all Indian Railway Authorities as well as the Steam Navigation companies to grant permanent concession rates for members, delegates and visitors attending the Annual or other sessions of the All-India Women's Conference, so that the same may always be well attended. We urge that the concessions should be extended to Inter and Third class passengers.

LINES OF WORK OF THE ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

1. The All-India Women's Conference instructs its Standing Committee to continue the work inaugurated at its All-India Sessions, namely:—

- (a) To collect and deal with suggestions on educational matters sent from the Constituent Conferences and States represented at the Conference.
- (b) To make known to each other the work done in other parts.
- (c) To bring public opinion to bear on matters of general educational and social principle, or policy, where necessary.
- (d) To arrange the Annual Sessions of the Conference.

2. In consideration of the widespread awakening of interest amongst the women of India in all questions affecting their welfare,

this Conference is of opinion that while continuing its policy, it should widen its scope and have two Sections,—*viz.*, one dealing exclusively with Educational matters and another dealing with matters of Social Reform, each section having its own Sectional Committee and Secretary under the Organizing Secretary.

3. The Social Reform Sectional Committee has working under it the following Sub-committees:

(a) Labour

(b) Indigenous Industries

4. The All-India Women's Conference recommends that each of its Constituent Conferences should have a Local Committee to carry on the work of the All-India Conference in its locality and to co-operate with all Educational Institutions and to report regularly to the Standing Committee of the Conference.

5. This Conference requests its delegates to visit the schools in their locality; to investigate cases of differential treatment of Depressed Class children and to report to the authorities concerned. It urges that Provincial Governments and the Governments of Indian States be requested to enforce the laws already existing for the admission of Depressed Class children to schools.

6. The All-India Women's Conference is strongly represented on the Governing Body of the All-India Women's Education Fund Association, which came into existence through the Conference after its Delhi Session. It recommends this Fund to all those interested in the development of girls' education along the lines of its Memorandum.

Constitution of the All-India Women's Conference

ARTICLE I

Name —

1. The name of the Conference shall be "The All-India Women's Conference" hereafter to be called "The Conference."

ARTICLE II

Policy, Aims and Objects—

1. The Conference shall not engage in party politics, but shall unite on such points as affect women and children.
2. The objects of the Conference shall be—
 - (a) To promote in India the education of both sexes at all stages.
 - (b) To deal with all questions affecting the welfare of women and children.

ARTICLE III

Composition —

1. The Conference shall consist of—
 - (a) Patrons,
 - (b) Office-bearers, and
 - (c) Delegates.

Patrons—Past Presidents of the Conference and any other who may be appointed by the Conference.

Office-bearers—

President,
Six Vice-Presidents,
Hon. Organizing Secretary,
Two Sectional Secretaries,
Hon. Treasurer, and
Chairwoman of the Standing Committee.

Delegates —as duly elected by Constituent Conferences which may be convened in the following Constituent Areas and in such other Areas as the Standing Committee may decide from time to time.

Also special Delegates as provided for in the Regulations and Bye-Laws.

British India— —Agra, Ajmer-Merwara, Andhra, Assam, Bengal—East, Bengal—North, Bengal—West, Berar, Bombay, Calcutta, Central Provinces—North, Central Provinces—South, Coorg, Delhi, Gujerat, Madras, Karnatak, Maharashtra, Malabar, Oudh, Punjab—East, Punjab—Central, Punjab—West, Sind, Tamil Nadu, Utkal.

Indian States —Baroda, Bhopal, Cochin, Dhar, Gwalior, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kashmir, Mysore, Travancore.

2. The number of delegates from each Constituent Area shall not exceed ten.
3. The Reception Committee convened for the purpose of holding the Annual Session of the Conference shall be deemed to be a Constituent Area and as such shall have the power to elect ten delegates including its Office-bearers.

ARTICLE IV

Agencies of Work—

1. The work of the Conference shall be accomplished by—
 - (a) The All-India Conference.
 - (b) The Standing Committee, Sectional Committees, and their Sub-committees.
 - (c) The Constituent Conferences, their Local Committees or such other agencies as the Conference may decide from time to time.

The All-India Conference —There shall be an Annual Session of the Conference at a place and time fixed by the Committee.

The Standing Committee —The Standing Committee shall consist of—

- (a) The President of the Conference for the current year,
- (b) Six Vice-Presidents,
- (c) Office-bearers.
 - (i) The Chairwoman
 - (ii) The Organizing, Sectional and Assistant Secretaries
 - (iii) The Treasurer or Treasurers.
- (d) Elected Members: one representative elected by each Constituent Conference.
- (e) Conveners of the Sub-committees.

- (f) There shall be a Finance Sub-committee and any other Special Sub-committees as directed from time to time by the Conference.

Constituent Conferences—A Constituent Conference is a public meeting of women in a Constituent Area from which delegates are elected to represent that Area at the All-India Women's Conference.

Each Constituent Conference shall have power to frame and amend its own Bye-Laws in conformity with the Articles and Bye-Laws of the Conference and to regulate among other matters the election of delegates, and of Local Committees, and the holding of Sub-constituent Conferences. Such Bye-Laws and Regulations shall be subject to the approval of the Standing Committee.

Sub-constituent Conferences—if any, in different parts of the Area, shall send representatives to their Constituent Conference.

Local Committees—Each Constituent Conference shall elect a Local Committee to act as its Executive.

ARTICLE V

Power to make Bye-Laws—

1. The Standing Committee shall have power to make Bye-Laws and Regulations for the carrying on of the work of the Conference and to alter them and add to them, from time to time, as occasion may require. (Ref. Section 55 Bye-laws and Regulations.)

ARTICLE VI

Alteration of Constitution—

1. The Constitution may not be altered except at an Annual Session by a four-fifths majority of the Delegates present, and provided that a notice of such proposed alteration shall have been sent in writing by registered post to every Local Committee of the Constituent Conferences three months before the Annual Session.
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Bye-Laws and Regulations

CONFERENCE

Delegates

1. Each Constituent Conference shall send, through its Liaison Officer, the names of the Delegates it has elected to represent it at the All-India Conference. These must include the Standing Committee Member for the current year. It shall also clearly indicate which of the Delegates has been elected as its Standing Committee Member for the next year, and in order of preference give the names of two Delegates to act in her stead at the Annual Session, if necessary. It shall also send the names of two Delegates for the Subjects-Committee. These lists must reach the Organising Secretary a month before the Annual Session. Alterations, if any, should be sent without delay.
2. A Standing Committee Member shall be one of the Delegates to attend the All-India Conference and shall be chosen according to the local Constitution of each Area. During her term of office she should be resident in the Area she represents. She shall hold office from the date of the first sitting of the new Standing Committee held after the final Session of the Annual Conference.
3. The Delegates from each Constituent Conference shall include representatives from the Sub-constituent Conference, if any. At least three Delegates may be elected from the headquarters of the Constituent Area.
4. No Societies or Bodies may independently send Delegates to the Conference.

5. The Sub-executive Committee shall be empowered to invite Special Delegates under exceptional circumstances. Local Committees through their Standing Committee Members may recommend such names to the Sub-executive Committee. **Special Delegates**
6. Any Constituent Conference wishing to invite the All-India Women's Conference to meet within its Constituent Area, shall pass a Resolution to that effect and authorise its delegates to give the invitation at the forthcoming Annual Session for the following Session. **Invitation**
7. The election of Office-bearers of the Conference, other than the President, shall take place annually.
8. The Vice-Presidents shall be nominated by the Standing Committee and elected by the Conference at the Annual Sessions.
9. The election of the Organising Secretary and of the Treasurer shall be by ballot at the Annual Conference.
10. Any vacancy among Office-bearers of the Standing Committee which may occur between Annual Sessions shall be filled up and any similar vacancy among Vice-Presidents may be filled up by the Standing Committee from amongst: **Vacancies**
 - (a) its own members,
 - (b) its past members, and
 - (c) in exceptional cases from among names suggested by the Sub-executive Committee three names being submitted to the Standing Committee by the Organising Secretary or Chairwoman, and the person so elected to hold office only till the next Annual Sessions.

- Business** 11. At the Annual Session shall be presented:
- (a) The Annual Report by the Organising Secretary.
 - (b) A duly audited Balance Sheet by the Treasurer.
 - (c) Reports of Sectional and of Sub-committees, and
 - (d) Brief Reports of their year's work by Standing Committee Members.
 - (e) Brief Report of the Honorary Secretary of All-India Women's Educational Fund Association.
- } for adoption
- } for information
- Resolutions** 12. Resolutions, and any other items for the Agenda of the Annual Session must reach the Organising and Sectional Secretaries six weeks before the Conference.
- Language** 13. At the meetings of the Conference itself the speeches shall be as far as possible in the language of the place where the Conference is being held, arrangements shall be made to have any speeches in other languages translated.
14. The Subjects-Committee and the Standing Committee meetings shall be conducted in English.
- Railway Concession** 15. The Organising Secretary shall arrange for railway concessions for delegates and visitors to and from the Conference.
- Fees** 16. Delegates to the Conference shall pay a fee of rupees ten.
17. The Delegates' fees shall be equally divided between the Conference and the Reception Committee.*

*The amount paid to the Reception Committee is intended to allow Delegates to have free board and lodging during the Annual Session.

18. There shall be published annually a Report of the Conference with a statement of accounts duly audited by a Chartered or Government Accountant; this Report shall be published in English, Hindi and Urdu and it shall be issued within three months after the Annual Session. **reports**
19. The Local Committee of each Constituent Area shall send as soon as possible a Report to the Organising Secretary, giving an account of the Educational and Social Institutions and the educational and social conditions of the women and girls within its Area, and shall keep this information up-to-date by further Reports from time to time. **Local Conferences after Annual Session**
20. The Reports thus received by the Organising Secretary shall be kept to form the nucleus of a Reference Library.
21. The Local Committee of every Constituent Area shall, as soon as possible after the Annual Conference, hold a public meeting in its Area in order to give an exposition of the Conference.
22. All money received on behalf of the Conference shall be paid into an account, or Bank accounts, in the name of the All-India Women's Conference and all cheques issued, shall be signed by the Organising Secretary and the Treasurer. **Moneys**

STANDING COMMITTEE

23. The President of the Conference shall be during her term of office, a member *ex-officio* of the Standing Committee. **Officers**
24. The Organising Secretary and the Treasurer of the Conference shall have the same *ex-officio* offices in the Standing Committee.
25. The Chairwoman and two Sectional Secretaries shall be elected by ballot by the Standing Committee at the Annual Session,

- Duties** 26. The Standing Committee shall administer the affairs of the Conference subject to the Constitution and to any general or special instructions issued at the Annual Session.
- Sub-executive Committee** 27. The Standing Committee shall appoint a Sub-executive Committee to administer urgent affairs subject to the Constitution and in consonance with the Resolutions already passed at the Annual Sessions. The transaction of this Committee shall be duly recorded and laid before the Standing Committee at its next meeting for information or confirmation. This Sub-executive Committee shall consist of the Chairwoman, the Organising Secretary, the two Sectional Secretaries, the Treasurer and three elected Standing Committee members [see Art IV (d)] appointed annually by the Standing Committee (resident as far as possible within a convenient distance of the Organising Secretary). The quorum shall consist of five.
- Conduct of Business** 28. The business of the Standing Committee shall be carried out by—
 (a) Meeting
 (b) Circulation
 (c) Sub-executive Committee (see Bye-Law No. 27).
29. Meetings of the Standing Committee shall be convened by the Organising Secretary, or, if she is unable to do so, by a member deputed by her. The Organising Secretary shall also call a meeting on the requisition of two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
30. Important proposals for decision by circulation shall be sent by registered post to each member and the decision shall be made according to the majority of replies received. The accidental failure to receive any proposal does not invalidate the decision arrived at. If, however, the majority of

replies received shows an objection to the matter being decided by circulation then the question shall be laid before the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

31. Any members wishing to bring forward subjects for discussion at a meeting, shall give four weeks' notice to the Organising Secretary, who shall then insert the same on the Agenda. **Agenda**
32. The Agenda shall be sent by registered post to all members at least two weeks before the meetings.
33. The Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting shall be kept by the Organising Secretary and shall be accessible to members of the Standing Committee. A copy of the Minutes of Standing Committee meetings shall be sent by registered post to all members, whether present at the meeting or not. **Minutes**
34. The quorum for Standing Committee meeting shall be one-sixth of the total number of the Standing Committee of which at least four shall be elected Standing Committee members. [See Article IV (d)]. **Quorum**
35. Vacancies on the Standing Committee occurring among representatives of Constituent Areas shall be filled up by the Local Committee of the Area concerned electing a new representative. **Vacancies**
36. A substitute for the Standing Committee member of any Constituent Area may, in the unavoidable absence of the regular member, be appointed by the Local Committee of that Area, to attend and vote at any Standing Committee meeting. **Substitutes**
37. The standing Committee shall have the power to send one or more of its members as representative of the All-India Conference to any other body, or meeting, inviting it to do so. **Deputations**

38. The Standing Committee shall have power to co-opt whenever necessary, one woman doctor, one woman lawyer, and on the recommendation of the Sectional Committees, experts on any required subject. These Co-opted Members shall not have the power of voting.
39. The Secretary of the All-India Women's Fund Association shall be co-opted annually as a Member of the Standing Committee during her term of office and shall have the power of voting.
- Election of President of Conference** 40A. Each Constituency is to send in one nomination for the President within three months after the Annual Session. The names are then to be circulated to the Constituencies in order of preference (according to number of nominations received); and the Constituencies to register their votes by post. All Members of the Standing Committee, whether representing Constituencies or not, shall have the right to nominate and vote.
- Election of the Chairwoman, Treasurer and the Organising Secretary** 40B. That every Constituency shall be asked to submit names of those who are suitable for the offices of the Chairwoman, Treasurer and the Organising Secretary, and are likely to accept these offices. These names shall then be circulated again to all Constituencies by the Organising Secretary, so that the Delegates attending the Annual Session will have had ample time to find out all about the possible office-holders.
- Sectional Committees** 41. There shall be two Sectional Committees, one for Educational Reform and one for Social Reform. Each Committee shall include the Sectional Secretary; Conveners of the Sub-committees of that Section, if any; two members elected by the Standing Committee; representatives of those whom the year's programme of work will chiefly affect and experts competent to deal with the work in view.

The latter shall be co-opted by Sectional Committee. In Constituent Areas the Sectional Committees shall work through, or with the consent of the Local Committees.

42. The Standing Committee and Sectional Committees shall have the power to appoint such Sub-committees and their Conveners as shall be required to carry on the work of the Conference.
43. The Chairwoman and the Organising Secretary shall have the right to attend as ordinary members any of the Sub-committee meetings, if they wish to do so.
44. Conveners of Sub-committees shall have power to fill vacancies on the Sub-committees and to obtain the co-operation of experts.
45. Conveners of Sub-committees shall send a report of their Sub-committees' work to the Organising and Sectional Secretaries twice within the year, *i. e.*, once five months after the Annual Session and again one month before the next Annual Session.
46. The Convener of each Sub-committee shall be allotted a certain sum for the expenses of the Sub-committee; any further expenditure shall be considered by the Standing Committee, who shall decide whether to allot further sums or not.
- 46A. When appointing any Committee or Sub-committee the appointing Committee shall clearly define the powers of, and the work to be done by, such Committee.

**Sub-
committees**

DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Liaison Officer**
47. The Standing Committee Member of each Constituent Area shall be the Liaison Officer between that Area and the Organising Secretary of the Conference.
- In case of emergency she may delegate her duties as Liaison Officer to a member of the Local Committee approved by that Committee.
48. Where there is no member to represent a Constituent Area, the Organising Secretary of the All-India Conference shall deal directly with the Secretary of the Local Committee of that Area.
49. The Standing Committee Member of any Constituent Area shall, as its Liaison Officer, be *ex-officio* member of the Local Committee of that Area, and of the Reception Committee of her Area, when such exists.
- Resolutions**
50. Each Standing Committee Member shall be responsible for forwarding to the Organising and Sectional Secretaries the Resolutions passed in her Constituent Conference. She shall also send to the Organising Secretary the number present at the Constituent Conference, and the names and addresses of the delegates elected thereat to attend the All-India Women's Conference. This information must reach the Secretaries six weeks before the Annual Session.
- Report**
51. Each Standing Committee Member shall submit a report of the work done in her Constituent Area to the Organising Secretary five months after each Annual Conference, and another one month before the next one. She shall also submit for adoption at the Conference a brief report of the year's work in her Constituent Area.

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, TRIVANDRUM



MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, 1935

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 52. | Each Standing Committee Member, acting on behalf of the Local Committee of the Constituent Area in which the Conference is to be held, shall convene a public meeting at which arrangements for a Reception Committee of women shall be made. | Reception
Committee |
| 53. | The Standing Committee Member shall put the Conveners of the Sub-committees of the All-India Women's Conference in touch with the Conveners of similar Sub-committees of her Constituent Conference when such exist. | Conveners of
Committee |
| 54. | The Standing Committee Members shall arrive (designate members also if possible) at the place where the Annual Conference meets two days before the Conference, and the new Standing Committee members shall remain for two days after its close. | Attendance
at Annual
Session |
| 55. | These Bye-laws and Regulations may not be altered, or added to except by the Standing Committee at one of its meetings, held at the time of an Annual Session, by a two-thirds majority of the members present; and provided that a notice of such proposed alteration or addition, shall have been sent in writing by registered post to every member of the Standing Committee three months before the Annual Session. | Alterations
and
Additions
to Bye-Laws
and Regula-
tions |
| 56. | After formal discussion at the Half-Yearly Meeting of the Provisional Programme, the Hon. Organising Secretary should be empowered to fix the programme finally in consultation with the Standing Committee Member of the place where the Annual Session is to be held. | Provisional
Programme |
| 57. | The Educational and Social Section Secretaries and the Hon. Treasurer shall be present at the Standing Committee Meeting, and failing to attend the meeting personally, they shall send their own representatives and preferably from the Sectional Committee. | Attendance
of the Sec-
tional
Secretaries
and
Treasurer at
the Standing
Committee
Meeting |

**Circulars
received
from the
A. I. W. C.**

58. Except when personal opinion is solicited, the Standing Committee Member should without delay inform the local Chairwoman and the local Secretary of the Circulars received from the A. I. W. C.

**Past
Presidents**

59. Past Presidents shall have the right to come to any Conference as Special Delegates and shall exercise the rights of Special Delegates.

**Ex-Office-
Bearers**

60. Ex-Office-Bearers of the Conference may be supplied with Circulars, Minutes and Reports, on payment of Rs. 10 annually and may in that case attend Standing Committee meetings as advisers without vote.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Resolution

1. All Resolutions concerning changes of (a) Constitution, (b) Bye-Laws and Regulations, must reach the Organising Secretary four months before the date of the Annual Conference. (See Constitution Art. 6 and Bye-Law 55.)
2. Attention is drawn to Rule 12 which reads:

“Resolutions, and any other items for the Agenda of the Annual Session, must reach the Organising and Sectional Secretaries six weeks before the Conference.”
3. Only Resolutions sent in by the Constituent Conference can be placed on the Agenda of the Annual Session, but exceptions may be made in the case of urgent and important matters at the discretion of the Sub-executive Committee.
4. Each Standing Committee Member shall send a copy of all the Resolutions her Constituency wishes to have placed on the Agenda to each of the following:
 - (a) The Organising Secretary,
 - (b) The Educational Section Secretary,

(c) The Social Section Secretary.
not later than six weeks before the Annual Session.

5. Each Constituent Conference shall send in its Resolutions classified as follows:

I. Educational.

II. Social.

These to be further classified as—

(a) Urgent. Resolutions urgent because of pending legislation, etc.

(b) Starred Resolutions are considered as of first class importance because of their All-India application.

(c) Local, for which the backing of the Conference is desired.

(d) Local Resolutions of only local importance for information.

6. The Resolutions sent up which cover alterations of Resolutions already embodied in the Memorandum should be so worded as to ask for the addition or deletion of certain clauses in definite paragraphs of the Memorandum.

7. As soon as possible after receiving these Resolutions, each Sectional Secretary shall issue copies of all the Resolutions received concerning her section, classified in a similar way. These lists shall be issued to each Standing Committee Member who will be supplied with copies for distribution among the delegates of her Constituency, and amendments invited. Such amendments shall reach the Organising Secretary and the Sectional Secretaries at least two weeks before the Annual Session.

8. Each Sectional Secretary shall prepare copies including these amendments for members of the Subjects-Committee.

**Re : Subjects-
Committee**

9. The Subjects-Committee consists of:
 - (a) all the Standing Committee Members;
 - (b) two additional members appointed for the purpose by each Local Committee, who shall be known as the Subjects-Committee Members.
 - (c) The same rule as to substitute for the Subjects-Committee Member shall be in force as for Standing Committee Member. (See Bye-Law 1.)
10. The Subjects-Committee shall go through the classified copies including the amendments and shall determine the number and order of Resolutions to be taken up at the open Conference.
11. Copies of Resolutions as prepared by the Subjects-Committee shall be given to each Delegate at the time of registration (if possible). They will also be obtainable at the Enquiry Office.
12. Any Delegate wishing to make further amendments should give them in writing at the Enquiry Office before noon on the day previous to the Sectional Sitting dealing with the subject. During the Sectional Sitting any Delegate wishing to propose an amendment should send it in writing to the Chair.
13. Urgent Resolutions.
 - (a) From the Chair,
 - (b) Proposed and seconded in the usual way.

Time allowed,—Proposer 5 minutes
 Seconded 3 ,,
 Supporter 3 ,,

Order.—As determined by the Subjects-Committee.
 Language.—The first three speakers shall as far as possible speak in different languages.

The Resolution shall then be thrown open to general discussion; each speaker being allowed not more

**Procedure
for Sectional
Sittings**

than three minutes except with the consent of the President. After half an hour the President shall inform the House and take its sense as to further discussion. The amount of time devoted to general discussion is also left to the discretion of the President.

14. Voting shall be, in the first instance, by show of hands. **Voting**
15. If a count is called for, Delegates shall be asked to stand, and may not sit until their vote has been taken.
16. The Standing Committee shall appoint four or six tellers, to count voters.
17. Visitors and Reception Committee Members who are not Delegates shall be seated apart from the Delegates; and shall, if possible, have a separate entrance to the Hall. **Visitors**
18. Volunteers shall be responsible for the proper sittings of Delegates, Visitors, etc.
19. Gentlemen-Visitors shall be admitted only to the Opening Ceremony.
20. Men Reporters, if present, shall be so seated as not to prevent Purdah ladies from taking part in the proceedings.
21. There shall be an Enquiry Office in working order from the time the Standing Committee Members arrive until they leave. **Enquiry Office**
22. It shall keep a Register for the Delegates to sign on arrival.
23. Delegate's fees to Conference, if not already sent, shall be paid on signing the Register.
24. Nomination Forms, Telegraph and Money Order Forms should be obtainable at the Enquiry Office.
25. Stamps can be had on payment.
Railway Time Tables shall also be available and Railway timings will be found in the Guide Book.
A supply of stationery on sale will be found at the Enquiry Office.

- Miscellaneous**
26. A list of important Educational and Social Institutions of the place where the Conference is held will be found in the Guide (if prepared). If no Guide is available a list of such institutions shall be posted in the Enquiry Office.
Sight-seeing parties may be arranged at the Office.
27. The number of Resolutions for open discussion at the Annual Conference, including both social and educational, shall be restricted, so that more time should be allocated for fuller discussion and suggestion of practical schemes. If time allows other Resolutions (from those to be passed from the Chair) to be taken up for discussion in order of preference as fixed by the Subjects-Committee.
28. The Conference should give more practical shape to the Resolutions through the Executive of the Standing Committee.
- History of the Conference**
29. A short sketch of the history of the Conference together with a succession list of the Presidents and Chairwomen shall be prepared from time to time and published in the Annual Report as a permanent feature for information and guidance for propaganda.
- Rules of the A. I. W. E. Fund Asson.**
30. The Rules for election to the Governing Body of the All-India Women's Education Fund Association from the A. I. W. C. are to be incorporated in the Annual Report.
- Constituency annual Reports**
31. Whereas owing to lack of time certain Constituencies are unable to read their annual reports at the All-India Women's Conference, the time allowed for each report should be 3 minutes only, and if even then some are left out, these latter should automatically take precedence in the following year without being balloted.
- Patrons**
32. Those who pay Rs. 500 or over to the Conference shall be Patrons—men or women.

33. Those who pay Rs. 100 or over shall be Life-Associates—men or women. **Life-Associates**
 34. Money received from the Patrons and Life-Associates shall be put into the Reserve Fund. **Reserve Fund**
 35. Only Women Patrons and Life Associates shall be entitled to attend and vote at the open Conference.
 36. Names of all Donors paying Rs. 10 or more for the current year shall be printed in the Annual Report. **Donors**
 37. Rs. 10 per annum shall be the minimum subscription for every Vice-President. **Vice Presidents**
 38. The year for the Affiliation fee shall be from the 1st November to the 31st October next, every year. **Affiliation Fee**
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RULES FOR GUIDANCE FOR THE STARTING OF NEW CONSTITUENCIES

1. The Organising Secretary or a responsible officer of the A. I. W. C. should be present at the place to be organised.
2. Failing an officer of the A. I. W. C., a responsible person who is fully acquainted with the aims and objects and the facts relating to the A. I. W. C. may be deputed by the Chairwoman or Organising Secretary to organise the new Centre.
3. The organiser must enlist the sympathy of the women of the place and acquaint them with the aims and objects of the A. I. W. C. and try to hold small meetings before the public meeting.
4. Propaganda work may be done by distributing Reports of the A. I. W. C.
5. A public meeting should be organised by one or two leading women of the place, a hall or some suitable place being engaged.
6. All communities and classes of women should be invited to attend the meeting.
7. A popular and capable woman should be proposed and seconded to the Chair to preside over the meeting.
8. The organiser should give a short history of the A. I. W. C. in the language which would be understood by most of the women attending.
9. Reference should be made to the past Annual Sitzings of the A. I. W. C. at Poona, Delhi, Patna, Bombay, Lahore, Madras, Lucknows, Calcutta and Karachi.
10. Resolutions passed at the last Annual Conference should be read and explained.
11. The policy, aims and objects as laid down in Article II of the Constitution of the A. I. W. C. should be read and explained. Further explanations should be based on the Memorandum.

12. A Resolution should be duly moved and seconded—that the place or area forms itself into a new Centre and becomes a Constituent Area of the A. I. W. C.

13. The duties of the Standing Committee Member should be read from the Constitution of A. I. W. C. and explained.

14. The meeting should elect a capable woman as its Standing Committee Member of A. I. W. C.

15. A Local Committee should be elected to act as the Executive of the Constituent Area formed.

16. A Chairwoman should be elected who will preside over the meetings of the Local Committee.

16. (a) A Secretary and a Treasurer should also be appointed.

17. The Local Committee should be representative, consisting of at least one member of every community living in that Area.

18. Rules for guidance of the Local Committee should be framed or the meeting can delegate the Local Committee to frame the Rules.

19. The meeting should proceed to discuss any important question of that Area affecting women and children, and ask the Local Committee to take such steps as are necessary.

20. With a vote of thanks to the Chair the meeting disperses.

21. After the preliminary meeting described above is held at the head-quarters, the Standing Committee Member in consultation with the Local Committee should organise similar meetings in the district which will establish branches of the Constituent Area, and appoint a local Chairwoman, a Secretary and a Treasurer, if necessary.

22. The following Rules with necessary alterations to suit the conditions of the place should be adopted by the Local Committee who shall place these Rules at the Annual Constituent Conference of that Area for adopting, and sending to the Annual Session of the A. I. W. C. for its approval.

Constitution for the Constituent Areas

The name of the organisation will be 'The (name of the place) Women's Conference Committee on Educational and Social Reforms'.

Aims and Objects

1. To carry out the directions and ideals of the All-India Women's Conference.
2. To promote education in all stages.
3. To deal with questions affecting the welfare of women and children.

Subscription

Membership subscription should be in accordance with local conditions.

Committee

Standing Committee Member (*ex-officio*), should, if possible, be the Secretary.

President (*ex-officio*). One who presides at the Annual Constituent Conference.

Chairwoman. To preside over the Local Committee meetings.

Secretary. Who should, if possible, be the Standing Committee Member.

Joint Secretary (if necessary).

Treasurer.

Representative members not exceeding twenty.

Liaison officers representing districts.

Chairwoman, Secretary and all Office-bearers of the A. I. W. C.

Constituent Conference

A Constituent Conference is a public meeting of women in a Constituent Area from which 10 delegates are elected to represent that Area at the All-India Women's Conference. The Constituent Conference should elect at least 10 more to be on the waiting list in order of preference to be sent to the Annual Sessions of the A. I. W. C. if the first 10 elected delegates fail to go.

A meeting shall fix the headquarters of the Constituent Conference. Sub-conferences may then be started at various localities in that unit which will send delegates to the Constituent Conference.

Affiliation Fee

Each Constituent Area shall send a minimum affiliation fee of Rs. 30 as soon as possible after the Annual Session of the All-India Women's Conference and before the half-yearly meeting of the standing Committee. The fee must be sent to the Honorary Treasurer before the names of the delegates are sent in.

The minimum affiliation Fee etc.

The minimum Affiliation Fee for a Constituency will be Rs. 25 with effect from the year beginning on the 1st November 1936.

Sub-Constituencies on payment of Rs. 10 annually direct to the Hon. Treasurer and informing the same to the Hon. Organising Secretary, shall be entitled to receive the usual circulars and two copies of the Annual Report.

Rules

1. The Local Committee shall meet once a month.
2. In case of the Chairwoman's absence, the members present shall elect one from among the members to act as Chairwoman for that meeting.
3. Five members to form a quorum.
4. The Chairwoman and Secretaries to prepare an Agenda for such meeting.
5. Subjects on the Agenda shall only be discussed and voted on.
6. Any member wishing to bring forward a subject shall give a fortnight's notice to the Secretary.
7. Subjects under discussion to be decided by votes.
8. The Chairwoman has the casting vote.
9. Any member absenting herself for three consecutive meetings, without showing good reason, shall be deemed to have vacated her appointment and the Committee shall duly elect another in her place.
10. Rule 9 shall not apply to co-opted or district members.
11. Sub-committee shall be formed with Conveners in charge of each section.

12. The Local Committee shall arrange to hold the Annual Constituent Conference at least seven weeks before the All-India Women's Conference.
 13. Sub-constituent Committees to be informed by the Constituent Conference Committee to hold their meetings, about a fortnight before the Constituent Conference.
 14. The new Standing Committee Member, soon after her return from the A. I. W. C., shall call a meeting in her area to elect the Local (organizing) Committee.
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STATEMENT REGARDING REGISTRATION

The All-India Women's Conference has been duly registered under the Government of India Act XXI of 1860 on the 18th July, 1930.

Memorandum of Association of the All-India Women's Conference

1. The name of the Conference shall be "The All-India Women's Conference."
2. The Conference shall not engage in party politics but unite on such points as affect women and children.
3. The objects of the Conference shall be—
 - (a) To promote in India the education of both sexes at all stages;
 - (b) To deal with all questions affecting the welfare of women and children.

SIGNATURES OF WITNESSES.

(Sd.) Sarojini Naidu
„ Sushama Sen
„ Margaret Cousins
„ Rameshwari Nehru
„ A. L. Huidekoper
„ Sharifah Hamid Ali
„ Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya.

4. The Standing Committee Members become the Governing Body of the Association.
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THE ALL-INDI

Receipts and payments account

RECEIPTS.

	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
<i>To Balance on 1st November, 1934:</i>						
Fixed deposit in the Bank of India Ltd. ..	2,639	6	0			
Balance in the National Bank of India Ltd. ..	1,223	14	3			
Balance with the former Organising Secretary ..	100	15	3			
" present " " ..	105	2	9	4,069	6	0
Registration Fee of Delegates ..				1,310	0	0
<i>Donations:</i>						
Mrs. Thappar, Calcutta ..	200	0	0			
Lady Manubhai Mehta ..	400	0	0			
Reception Committee, Karachi ..	1,000	0	0			
H. H. The Maharaja of Kapurthala ..	250	0	0			
Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji ..	100	0	0			
Delhi Constituency, through Mrs. Asaf Ali ..	100	4	0			
Khan Bahadur D. B. Cooper ..	50	0	0			
Mr. Sikandar Mirza ..	10	0	0			
Mr. Shiwraj Shiwram ..	10	0	0			
Mr. Perambdas Khemchand ..	2	0	0			
Rajkumari Amrit Kaur ..	40	0	0			
Delhi Constituency—Donation to the Central Fund ..	200	0	0	2,382	4	0
<i>Subscription of Life Associates:</i>						
H. H. The Maharaja of Sangli ..	100	0	0			
Mr. A. Hamid Ali ..	100	0	0			
Col. Kunwar Shamser Singh ..	100	4	0			
Sir K. N. Haksar ..	100	0	0			
Sir G. D. Madgaonkar ..	100	0	0	500	4	0

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

of the year ending 31st October 1935

PAYMENTS.

	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
By adjustment of Reception Committee expenses (Half the Delegates' Fees)	..	..		655	0	0
*Organising Secretary's Office expenses .. .. .	..	..	..	1,760	0	9
Printing and Stationery .. .. .	..	..	..	1,298	12	0
Social Section Secretary's expenses .. .. .	..	..	..	60	0	0
Constitution Sub-committee's expenses .. .. .	..	..	..	15	0	0
Expenses of English Visitors .. .. .	..	..	..	100	0	0
Earthquake Relief Fund Receipts sent to Mr. Jamnalal Bazaz .. .. .	..	..	..	181	0	0
Mr. Kaula, Hon. Treasurer, A. I. W. E. Fund Association—Delhi Constituency Entertainment money (out of Rs. 200 given as donation to the Central Fund) .. .. .	..	..	..	100	0	0
Refund of excess paid into the Bank .. .. .	..	..	..	20	0	0
Bank charges .. .. .	..	..	..	7	2	0
Transferred to Fixed Deposit .. .. .	..	..	..	600	0	0
Affiliation fee to the International Alliance of Women .. .. .	..	..	..	27	15	0
				<hr/>		
Total Expenditure .. .. .	..	..	..	4,824	13	9
				<hr/>		
<i>Balance:</i>						
Fixed deposit in the Bank of India Ltd. ..	2,639	6	0			
„ „ National Bank of India Ltd. ..	600	0	0			
‡With the National Bank of India Ltd. ..	1,421	7	3			
With the former Organising Secretary, Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, in suspense ..	100	15	3			
With the present Organising Secretary ..	132	11	0	4,894	7	6
				<hr/>		
TOTAL				9,719	5	3
				<hr/>		

Receipts and payments account

R E C E I P T S.—(Contd.)

	Rs.	As. P.	Rs.	As. P.
<i>Affiliation fees</i>	270	0 0
<i>Other Subscriptions</i>	45	0 0
<i>Sale proceeds of Reports</i>	74	4 0
<i>Earthquake Relief Fund:</i>				
<i>Calcutta Constituency</i>	100	0 0
<i>Baroda</i> „	31	0 0
<i>Bengal East</i> „	50	0 0
<i>Proceeds from Mrs. Sarojini Naidu's Lecture</i>	241	0 0
<i>Interest Account</i>	26	3 0
<i>Excess amount wrongly paid into Bank</i>	20	0 0
<i>Fixed deposit with the National Bank of India Ltd.</i>	600	0 0
TOTAL	9,719	5 3

Examined and found correct.

M. S. WAGLE,

Head Accountant,

Satara, 5th December, 1935.

of the year ending 31st October 1935—(contd.)

PAYMENTS.—(Contd.)

*Details of the Office expenses of the
Hon. Organising Secretary:

	Rs.	As.	P.
Pay of Clerk	770	0	0
T. A. of Clerk	288	1	0
Stationery	194	14	9
Postage	332	7	3
Telegrams	83	5	0
Registration	31	7	9
Railway freight, etc. ..	32	1	0
Repairs to Typewriter ..	2	8	0
Postal bearing charges ..	0	10	3
Price of Books	4	8	0
Bank Commission	6	2	3
Miscellaneous	13	15	6
TOTAL ..	1,760	0	9
‡Balance as per Pass Book ..	1,446	7	3
Amount of uncashed cheques	25	0	0
TOTAL ..	1,421	7	3

SHAREEFAH HAMID ALI,
Honorary Treasurer,
All-India Women's Conference.

DRAFT BUDGET

Estimated Income	Rs. As. P.		Estimated Expenditure.	Rs. As. P.	
Fixed Deposit in the Bank of India Ltd. ..	2,639	6 0	Organising Secretary's Office Clerks Salary and Travelling Expenses	1,200	0 0
Fixed Deposit in the National Bank of India Ltd. ..	600	0 0	Stationery	200	0 0
With the National Bank of India Ltd. ..	1,421	7 3	Postage	500	0 0
Balance with the Hon. Organising Secretary.	132	11 0	Expenses for shifting the office	100	0 0
Balance with Previous Organising Secretary, Rani Rajwade ..	100	15 3	Difference of price of Typewriter	150	0 0
Delegates' Fees (Half the amount) ..	765	0 0	Chairwoman's Expenses	250	0 0
Estimated proceeds from the Entertainments ..	1,000	0 0	Two Sectional Secretaries	300	0 0
Donation from Mrs. Salammat, Oudh Constituency ..	100	0 0	Treasurer's Expenses..	100	0 0
Other Donations ..	1,000	0 0	Sub-Committees ..	300	0 0
Affiliation fees ..	900	0 0	Printing of Conference Resolutions ..	300	0 0
Vice-Presidents' Subscription	60	0 0	Printing of Annual Reports	1,000	0 0
Collections for Mining Organiser	1,200	0 0	Contingencies ..	400	0 0
Bank's Interest ..	80	0 0	Expenses incurred by Rani Rajwade, Previous Organising Secretary ..	100	15 3
TOTAL ..	9,999	7 6	Mining Organiser's Salary	1,200	0 0
			Extra for one month and working expenses	100	0 0
			Extra Allowance for Office Clerk ..	360	0 0
			Extra for extra Sub-Committees ..	150	0 0
			TOTAL ..	6,710	15 3

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Provisional Timetable for 1936.

January and February.

"Echo Meeting" for explaining the work of the Conference to be held as early as possible within the first two months (By-Law No. 21.)

March 31st.

One nomination from each Constituency and from other Standing Committee members not representing Constituencies, for the Presidentship of the Annual Session of the Conference to be held in 1936 (Bye-Law No. 40 A), to reach Hon. Organising Secretary before 31st March.

June 8th.

Items for the Agenda of the Half-yearly meeting to be sent by the Standing Committee Members to the Hon. Organising Secretary (Bye-Law No. 31) before the end of June.

Half-yearly Reports to reach the Hon. Organising Secretary before the end of June (Bye-Law No. 51).

3rd week in July (Provisional)

Half Yearly meeting of the Standing Committee in the Andhra Constituency.

25th August.

Alterations and amendments to the Constitution and Bye-Laws and Regulations of the Conference, if any, suggested by the Standing Committee Members to be sent to the Hon. Organising Secretary before the 25th August (Article VI, Bye-Law No. 55, Rules of Procedure No. 1).

September 15th to November 8th.

Constituent and Sub-Constituent Conferences to be held.

November 15th.

Resolutions passed at the Constituent and Sub-Constituent Conferences to be sent to the Hon. Organising Secretary and Sectional Secretaries before the 15th November at the latest (Bye-Law No. 12, and Rules of Procedure Nos. 1 and 2).

November 15th.

Names of Delegates and Substitutes, names of Standing Committee Members and names of two members for the Subjects Committee to be sent to the Hon. Organising Secretary before the 15th November (Bye-Law No. 1, Rules of Procedure Nos. 3, 4, and 5).

Items for the Agenda of the Standing Committee Meeting to be held in December to be sent to the Hon. Organising Secretary before the 15th November (Bye-Law No. 31).

Constituent Conference Reports to be sent before the 15th November.

December 1936 to January 1937.

The All-India Women's Conference Session possibly at Ahmedabad.

N. B.—The final list of delegates for the Annual Session should reach the Hon. Organising Secretary and the Reception Committee 15 days before the Conference at the latest.

Any change in the above will be notified in time.

SECTIONAL AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-Executive Committee

Chairwoman. (Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee, 9, Lower Rawdon St. Calcutta.)

Hon. Organising Secretary. (Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan, Gilchrist Gardens, Chetput, Madras.)

Hon. Treasurer. (Miss G. J. Bahadurji, Thoburn House, Apollo Bunder, Bombay.)

Educational Section Secretary. (Miss R. Reuben, Chembur, Bombay—Suburban Dt.)

Social Section Secretary, (Mrs. J. R. Doctor, Hirjee Mansion, 93, Gowalia Tank Road, P. O. Malabar Hill, Bombay, 6).

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, 1, Badsha Bagh, Lucknow.

Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I.

Mrs. Asaf Ali, Cucha Chelan, Daryagan, Delhi.

Constitution Sub-Committee

Miss L. M. Naidu (Convener), Hyderabad, (Deccan).

Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I.

Miss G. J. Bahadurji, Thoburn House, Apollo Bunder, Bombay.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City, Punjab.

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, 1, Badsha Bagh, Lucknow.

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji, Saifabad, Hyderabad (Deccan)

Mrs. Asaf Ali, Cucha Chelan, Daryagung, Delhi.

Mrs. Anasuya Kale, Dhantali, Nagpur.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta, 16, Altmont Road, Bombay 6, (since co-opted).

Educational Section Committee

Miss R. Reuben (Sectional Secretary), Chembur, Bombay (Suburban District).

Miss Leilamani Naidu, Hyderabad (Deccan).

Miss S. Agha, Katra Road, Allahabad.

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, 1, Badsha Bagh, Lucknow.

Mrs. Hannah Sen, Lady Irwin College, 1, Sikandra Road, New Delhi.

Miss K. B. Ferozuddin, Inspectress of Girls' Schools, Lahore.

Mrs. Rukminiamma, Santivilas, Lakshmpuram, Mysore.

Miss A. Khemchand, Kundanmall Girls' School, Hyderabad (Sind).

Miss Z. Lazarus, Tumkur, Mysore State.

Miss C. L. Justin, 7, Bonlevard Road, Delhi.

Dr. Mrs. Malini B. Sukthankar, Shantaram House, Malabar Hill, Bombay.

Mrs. P. R. Parukutty Amma, Girls' English High School, Trivandrum.

Common Language Sub-Committee

Miss C. L. Justin (Convener), 7, Bonlevard Road, Delhi.

Miss D. B. Hassan, "Latif Manzil", Panipat.

Mrs. Hossain Ali Khan, Umeed Manzil, Khairtabad, Hyderabad (Deccan).

Miss Copeland, 24, Rajpore Road, Delhi.

Literacy Sub-Committee

Miss Z. Lazarus (Convener), Tumkur, Mysore.

Mrs. S. C. Roy, 36, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

Mrs. M. Kamalamma, Frenchpet, Masulipatam, M. S. M. Ry, Miss Shantabai Dondekar, 17, Bhajivanji Lane, Thakurdwar, Bombay.

Miss D. B. Hassan, 'Latif Manzil,' Panipat, Punjab.

Miss M. Bose, 15, Municipal Office Street, Dacca, Bengal.

Health Sub-Committee

Dr. Mrs. Malini B. Sukthankar, (Convener), Shantaram, House, Malabar Hill, Bombay.

Mrs. Yesubai Kulkarani, 536, Shanwar, Poona.

Mrs. N. M. Raiji, 68, Nepean Sea Road, Bombay.

Miss W. N. Cocks, Queen Mary College, Lahore.

Miss A. B. Vun Doren, Byramji Road, Nagpur.

Dr. Miss B. Natarajan, Farhat Manzil, Nicholson Road, Delhi.

Dr. Miss J. E. Mistri, Banno Mansions, Cumballa High School, Bombay 6.

Miss D. B. Hassan, Latif Manzil, Panipat, Punjab.

Mrs. N. Ghosh, 1, Federation Road, P. O. Amherst Street, Calcutta.

The Social Selection Committee consists of the Conveners of the Sub-Committees under the Section (according to By-Law No. 41, page 149, Karachi Report.)

Social Section Committee

Mrs. J. R. Doctor (Sectional Secretary) Hirjee Mansion, 93, Gowalia Tank Road, P. O. Malabar Hill, Bombay.

Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade (Franchise).

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Rural Reconstruction).

Mrs. Brijlal Nehru (Harijan).
 Begum Hamid Ali (Opium).
 Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon (Anti
 Child-Marriage).
 Mrs. S. N. Ray (Legal Disabili-
 ties Special Committee).
 Mrs. A. Chatterjee (Labour).
 Mrs. Asaf Ali (Legislation).
 Mrs. Hansa Mehta (Indigenous
 Industries).
 Mrs. Sarda Mehta, Ellis Bridge,
 Ahmedabad (Since-co-opted).
 Mrs. C. Cornelius, City Road,
 Hyderabad (Deccan), (Since-
 co-opted).

Labour Sub-Committee

Mrs. A. Chatterjee (Convener),
 43, Wellesley Street, Calcutta.
 Miss Copeland, 24, Rajpore
 Road, Delhi.
 Mrs. N. M. Raiji, 68, Napean
 Sea Road, Bombay.
 Mrs. Anasuya Kale, Dhantali,
 Nagpur.
 Mrs. R. V. Pillai, Malekpet,
 Hyderabad, (Deccan).

Anti-child-Marriage Sub- Committee

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon (Con-
 vener), 1, Badsha Bagh,
 Lucknow.
 Mrs. A. Khemchand, Kundan-
 mall Girls' School, Hyderabad
 (Sind).
 Miss Shyam Kumari Nehru, 1,
 Prayag Street, Allahabad.

Mrs. Brijlal Nehru, 11, Bara-
 khamba Road, New Delhi.
 Begum Hamid Ali, The Resi-
 dency, Satara.
 Dr. Mrs. K. Tarabai, Bunder
 Road, Karachi, Sind.
 Mrs. Tyabji, Sunnyside Karachi.
 Mrs. Visalakshi, "Sudharma."
 Lloyd Road, Cathedral P. O.
 Madras.
 Mrs. Hossain Ali Khan, Umeed
 Manzil, Khairtabad Hydera-
 bad (Deccan).
 Mrs. Janakamma, Srinivasam,
 Basavangudi, Bangalore City.
 Mrs. N. M. Raiji, 68, Napean
 Sea Road, Bombay.
 Mrs. Narayani Thanu Pillai,
 M. L. A. Trivandrum,

Indigenous Industries Sub- Committee

Mrs. Hansa Mehta, (Convener),
 16, Altmont Road, Bombay, 6.
 Begum Hamid Ali, The Resi-
 dency, Satara.
 Miss. A. Khemchand, Kundan-
 mall Girls' School, Hyderabad,
 (Sind).
 Mrs. Barkat Rai, C/o. Rai
 Barkat Rai, Esq., Collector of
 Beed, Ahmednagar, (G.I.P.R.Y.)
 Mrs. Kamalamma Dassappa,
 P. O. Basavangudi, Bangalore
 City
 Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, (Con-
 vener) Jullundur City, Punjab.

Rural Re-construction Sub-Committee

- Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, (Convener) Jullundur City, Punjab.
 Miss Easwari Amma, Ganes Vilas, Travandrum.
 Mrs. S. N. Ray, C/o. Dist. Magistrate, Comilla, Bengal.
 Dr. K. Tarabai, Bunder Road, Karachi.
 Mrs. Purnima Banerjee, 41, George Town, Allahabad.
 Mrs. Rukminiamma, Santivilas, Lakshmipuram, Mysore.
 Rani Saheba of Sherkote, Dhampur, U. P.
 Mrs. Hansa Mehta, 16, Altmont Road, Bombay, 6.

Harijan Sub-Committee

- Mrs. Brijlal Nehru (Convener), 11, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi.
 Mrs. S. C. Roy, 36, Willington Street, Calcutta.
 Mrs. M. E. Cousins, Madanapalle, Madras Presidency.
 Mrs. S. Chenchiah, 35, Lloyd's Road, Royapetta, Madras.
 Mrs. K. Madhava Menon, Chalapuram, Calicut, (Malabar).
 Mrs. S. Rajammal, Opposite Y. M. C. A., Trivandrum.
 Mrs. C. Kutten Nair, Hospital Road, Trichur, Cochin State.
 Begum Hamid Ali, (Convener) The Residency, Satara.

Oplum Sub-Committee

- Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I.
 Miss Piggott, C. E. Z. M, House, Hyderabad, (Sind).
 Dr. Mrs. K. Khadye, 204/2, Sadasiv, Poona City.
 Miss Copeland, 24, Rajpur Road, Delli.

Special Committee on Legal Disabilities

- Mrs. S. N. Ray (Convener), C/o, District Magistrate, Commilla, Bengal.
 Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I.
 Begum Shah Nawaz, 5, Lawrence Road, Lahore.
 Dr. Mrs. Malini B. Sukthankar, Shantaram House, Malabar Hill, Bombay.
 Begum Hamid Ali, The Residency, Satara.
 Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, 1, Badshabagh, Lucknow.
 Mrs. T. B. Tarkunde, 597, Budhwar, Poona.
 Mrs. Anna Chandy, Hight Court Vakil, Trivandrum.
 Miss Shyam Kumary Nehru, 1, Prayag Street, Allahabad.
 Mrs. Manjeri Kamalam, Rajagriha, Chalapuram, Calicut, (Malabar).

Mrs. Sharda Mehta, Ellis Bridge,
Ahmedabad.

Miss H. Sethna, Preedy Street,
Karachi.

Legislation Sub-Committee

Mrs. Asaf Ali (Convener), Cucha
Chelan Daryagunj, Delhi.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta, 16, Altmont
Road, Bombay, 6.

Mrs. S. N. Ray, C/o. District
Magistrate, Comilla, Bengal.

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, 1,
Badsha Bagh, Lucknow.

Lady Shrivastava, Lucknow.

Franchise Sub-Committee

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade (Con-
vener), Gwalior, C. I.

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji,
Saifabad, Hyderabad (Deccan)

Mrs. Hansa Mehta, 16, Altmont
Road, Bombay, 6.

Miss M. Bose, 15, Municipal
Office Street, Dacca, Bengal.

Mrs. A. Kale, Dhantali, Nagpur.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur,
Jullundur City, Punjab.

Mrs. M. E. Cousins,
Madanapalle, Madras Presi-
dency.

Dr. Mrs. Sukthankar, Shantaram
House, Malabar Hill, Bombay.

The Finance Sub-Committee
consists of the following mem-
bers:—

Finance Sub-Committee

Miss G. J. Bahadurji (Conven-
er), Thoburn House, Apollo
Bunder, Bombay.

Begum Hamid Ali, The Resi-
dency, Satara.

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji
Saifabad, Hyderabad (Deccan)

Mrs. Maneklal Premchand,
Premodyan, 184, Love Lane,
Bombay.

Begum Aizaz Rasul, Jalalpur
Estate, Sandila, U. P.

Begum Habibullah, 11, Mall
Road Lucknow.

Dr. Mrs. Malini B. Sukthankar,
Shantaram House, Malabar
Hill, Bombay.

Mrs. U. N. Sapru, Allahabad. . .

STATEMENT

**OF THE ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, THE WOMEN'S INDIAN
ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING WOMEN IN THE JOINT
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE
WHITE PAPER;**

**AND THE RESOLUTION AS PASSED BY THE ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
AT KARACHI AND ENDORSED BY THE WOMEN'S INDIAN ASSOCIATION.**

Resolution :

“Whereas the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report on the White Paper as a whole, and in particular where its recommendations concern the status of women in the new Constitution, falls far short of our demands, we do hereby state in unequivocal language our strong disapproval of and inability to accept the same. We give reasons for our dissatisfaction in the appended statement.

Statement :

We feel that the Joint Parliamentary Committee was animated by a genuine desire to bring women in greater numbers on the electoral roll and give them a definite place in the legislatures of the new Constitution. For this spirit of sympathy with us, as also for their unqualified recognition of the part that women must play in the public life of the country, we place on record our sincere appreciation. At the same time, however, we feel constrained to express in no uncertain terms our inability to accept the recommendations as they stand, for the following reasons:

1. We claim that there should be a declaration of Rights in which the removal of sex disabilities should be clearly stated. We draw attention to the fact that the “Eligibility for holding public Office, etc.,” *vide* para 367, Vol. I (Part 1). While feeling keenly this omission as a grave injustice to us in spite of our repeated demands in this connection, we hope that the same may even now be rectified.

2. The greater number of women enfranchised under the recommendations are going to be the wives and widows of property holders and to this number have also been added the wives of men with the military service qualifications of the vote and the pensioned widows and mothers of military officials and soldiers. Our reasons for our strong objection to this method of enfranchisement have been stated in clear language on more than one occasion. They still hold good and we regret that, inspite of our protests the qualification wholly unacceptable to us is being sought to be imposed on us. We reiterate our belief in equitable methods of elections and attach equal importance to the quality as well as the quantity of the women's vote. We object strongly to the doubling of the vote for any vested interests as being against all canons of justice for the poor who constitute India's main population and against all democratic principles. We again urge the acceptance of our proposals for the introduction of adult suffrage in urban areas to begin with for the purpose of increasing our electoral numbers.

3. In our opinion far too much weight has, from the outset, been laid on administrative difficulties where women are concerned. This opinion is practically strengthened by the numbers of "purdah" women who went to the polls in the recent Legislative Assembly elections. We protest strongly against the invidious differentiations that have been made between the provinces in regard to literacy and property qualification, "Application" conditions and other details including the omission of the wives and widows of those holding the educational qualification if the "wifhood qualification" is unreasonably persisted in.

4. We have not swerved from our conviction that we do not, on principle, approve of reservation of seats in Legislatures for ourselves or for any particular interest. Nevertheless, seeing that this expedient may unfortunately be imposed on us during the transition period, we deplore the entire omission of women from the Assemblies of several provinces and the total exclusion for whatever reason, of women of the North-West Frontier Province, from general citizenship rights. We feel very strongly that in the case of these provinces where women may be said to be less vocal, the exclusion of their representatives from Legislatures constitutes a grave omission and

neglect of the very causes for which we stand. We also claim that no disabilities shall attach to women in any provinces that may be newly created.

5. If certain selected provinces are definitely to be burdened with Second Chambers we see no reason whatsoever why women should not be accorded a *definite* place in all these as well as in the Council of State. We regard such as our inherent right and must, therefore, protest against this omission.

6. With Lord Lothian we are "Unrepentant believes in a system of direct election," and we, therefore, object with all possible emphasis to indirect elections at any time and for any one. We refuse likewise, to accept nomination for the Legislatures.

7. We urge that "disqualification for candidature should not follow on conviction of a criminal offence involving a sentence of imprisonment exceeding one year," where such offence involves no moral turpitude. (Page 77, para 188, J. P. C. Report.)

Conclusion :

While mentioning the above details we wish to make it quite clear that even if we had secured or secure for ourselves all that we had wished or wish to secure and if, at the same time, we felt that the recommendations, as a whole, were not in the true interest of India, we would, as women, the natural guardians of future generations, feel it our bounden duty to deny all special privileges for ourselves for the sake of the common good. In the light of general criticism of the Report we know that the recommendations are not acceptable to all shades of representative opinion in the country. We therefore, join in this widespread protest and still hope against hope that a new Constitution may eventually be created such as will meet with general approbation.

APPENDIX D.

LIST OF CONSTITUENT AND SUB-CONSTITUENT
CONFERENCES

Name.	Constituency.	President.	Secretary	Date.
Merere	Ajmere-Merwara	—	Mrs. L. F. Massey	—
Jalhmundry	Andhra	—	Mrs. B. Kamakshamma	10-11-35
More	"	—	Mrs. Zairuddin	16-11-35
Madadavolu	"	Mrs. D. Satyavatiamma	Mrs. Dayamani	8-11-35
Manur	"	Mrs. Hayagriva Rao	Mrs. K. Rahman	23-11-35
Champore	"	—	Mrs. T. Seethabai	15-11-35
Madappah	"	—	Mrs. Kotividir	8-11-35
Madigram	"	Mrs. B. Seetabayamma	Mrs. T. Rajeswaramma	13-11-35
Madanapalle	"	Sri G. Durgabai	Miss C. Royab	12-11-35
Mahati	Assam	—	Mrs. Rajabala Das	—
Mocca	Bengal East	—	Mrs. Nag	—
Antini-kefan	Bengal West	Mrs. Protima Tagore	Mrs. Sudhamayee Mukerjee	25-9-35
Arati	Berar	Dr. Malinibai Sukthekar	Mrs. Nalinibai Sathe	19 & 20-10-35
Bola	"	Mrs. Yesutai Oka	Mrs. Yatsalabai	8-10-35
Braoti	"	Mrs. Ubugade	Mrs. Sarojinibai Inamdar	15-9-35
Btmal	"	Mrs. Shautabai Gokhale	Mrs. Mayawatibai Bhalchandra	14-9-35
Bdan	"	Mrs. Kamalabai Rege	Mrs. Indirabai Garde	8-10-35
Bina	Bihar	Rani Saheba of Anawan	Mrs. A. T. Sen	7-12-35
Bmbay	Bombay	Mrs. Sarda Mehta	Mrs. B. K. Daphtory	12-10-35
Bcutta	Calcutta	Rani of Santosh	Mrs. S. N. Gupta	15-11-35
Bulpore	C. P., North	Mrs. G. P. Burton	Mrs. Srivastava	1-11-35
Baspur	"	Mrs. Agnihorti	Mrs. Hussain	1-11-35
Budwa	"	Mrs. D. R. Rutnam	Miss Pool	1-11-35
Bsinghpur	"	Miss Hulasi Bai	—	—
Bndwara	C. P. South	Rani Rajwade	Mrs. Sushila Kothiwan	13-11-35
Bhi	Delhi	Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade	Mrs. Asaf Ali	14-11-35
Bnedabad	Gujerat	Lady Neelkanth	Mrs. J. R. Vakharia	—
Bnag'l	Konkan	Mrs. Papia	Mrs. Gorde	16-11-35
Bdras	Inadras	—	Mrs. K. Damodaran	—
Bara	Maharashtra	Mrs. Hamid Ali	Mrs. Bakhale	3-10-35
Bar	"	Mrs. Modak	Mrs. Kanitkar	6-11-35
Bna	"	Miss M. J. Wadia	Dr. Mrs. K. Khadye	11-11-35
Bcut	Malabar	Mrs. M. V. Subramaniam	Miss. M. Janaki	9-12-35
Bnanore	"	Mrs. Kunhikannan	Mrs. M. Kamalam	7-12-35
Bnicherry	"	Mrs. Ramalingam	Mrs. Janaki Amma	14-12-35
Bpottabad	N. W. F. P.	Mrs. K. Paramanand	Mrs. S. Raghavan	—
Bnawar	"	Mrs. Saaduddin Khan	Mrs. Saslam Khan	—
Bore	Punjab Central	Lady Shafi	Miss Sushila Sethi	9-11-35
Bla	"	Begum Shah Nawaz	Mrs. B. Pal	21-9-35
Bbala	Punjab East	—	Sardarni Pritam Singh	—
Bunder	"	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	—	—
Bachi	Sind	Mrs. Homi Mehta	Mrs. H. Tyabji	—
Bderabad	"	Mrs. R. E. Piggott	Miss A. Khemchand	15-11-35
Bker	"	Mrs. Bhoj Singh	Miss S. Jagumal	13-11-35
Bkarpur	"	Gangadevi	—	—
Bkaran	"	—	—	—
Bkaran	Tamil Nadu	Mrs. Maruthnayagam	Mrs. Shenbagam	17-11-35
Bkovil	"	Lady Sulaiman	Mrs. Purnima Banerjee	15-11-35
Bhababad	U. P. Agra	Rani Parvati Bai Feshwa	Mrs. G. Chandra	13-11-35
Baily	"	Mrs. Banarsi Das	Mrs. Shyama Charan	15-11-35
Ba	"	Mrs. Bankey Behari	Mrs. Sushila Srivastava	15-11-35
Bnpure	"	—	—	—

Name.	Constituency.	President.	Secretary,	Date.
Benares ..	U. P. Agra ..	Mrs. Sanjiva Rao	—	—
Lucknow ..	U. P. Oudh ..	Mrs. A. T. Naqvi	Mrs. Ali Zaheer	—
Moradabad ..	" ..	Mrs. B. R. Jama	Mrs. Jordan	—
Cuttack ..	Orissa ..	Mrs. Sarojini Chowdhury	Miss S. B. Das	9-11-
Baroda ..	Baroda ..	Dr. Bana	Mrs. Wadia	19-10-
—	Bikanir ..	—	—	—
Trichur ..	Cochin ..	Mrs. I. N. Menon TO	Mrs. K. W. N. Marar	17-11-
Ernaculam ..	" ..	—	Mrs. E. V. Mathew	—
Thrippunnithura	" ..	Sri V. K. Lakshmikutty Naitharamma, Consort of the Elayaraja	Mrs. T. Bharathyamma	—
Kunnankulam .	" ..	—	Mrs. Phillips	—
Gwalior ..	Gwalior ..	Mrs. Kamalabai Deshpande	Mrs. Chandrakala Sahai	19-10-
Hyderabad ..	Hyderabad ..	Rani Saheba of Wanaparthy	Mrs. C. Cornelius	1 11-
Indore ..	Indore ..	Lady Hukumchand	Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta	2-11-
—	Jaipur ..	—	—	—
—	Kashmir ..	—	—	—
Kolhapur ..	Kolhapur ..	Mrs. Janakibai Sabnis	Mrs. Anantiamati Kamate	15-11-
—	Kotah ..	—	—	—
Bangalore ..	Mysore ..	Mrs. H. V. Ramasw	—	—
Mysore ..	" ..	Mrs. K. D. Rukminiammal	—	—
Kolar ..	" ..	Mrs. T. G. Rama Iyer	—	—
Hassan ..	" ..	Mrs. B. Nanjamma	—	—
Tumkur ..	" ..	Mrs. Venkataramiah	—	—
Shimoga ..	" ..	Mrs. S. Narayana Rao	—	—
Chichmagalur..	" ..	Mrs. H. V. Ramaswami	—	—
Chitaldrug ..	" ..	Mrs. G. Chennappa	—	—
Davanagere ..	" ..	Mrs. Shadaksharappa	—	—
Sangli ..	Sangli ..	H. H. the Rani Saheba of Sangli	Mrs. Sumati Gokhale	18-10-
Shahapur ..	" ..	Mrs. Saraswatibai Jog	Mrs. Lakshuibai Talwalkar	5-9-
Terdal ..	" ..	Mrs. Hangandikar	Mrs. Kashibai Gokhale	30-9-
Shirhatti ..	" ..	Mrs. Bithnur	Mrs. S. Powar	30-9-
Mangalwedha .	" ..	Mrs. Nargunde	Mrs. L. Waikar	17-9-
Kawathe ..	" ..	Mrs. Kulkarni	Mrs. A. Godbole	29-9-
Trivandrum ..	Travancore ..	Miss. S. M. Boey	Mrs. Anna Chandy	19-10-

APPENDIX E.

LIST OF PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES OF CONSTITUENT COMMITTEES

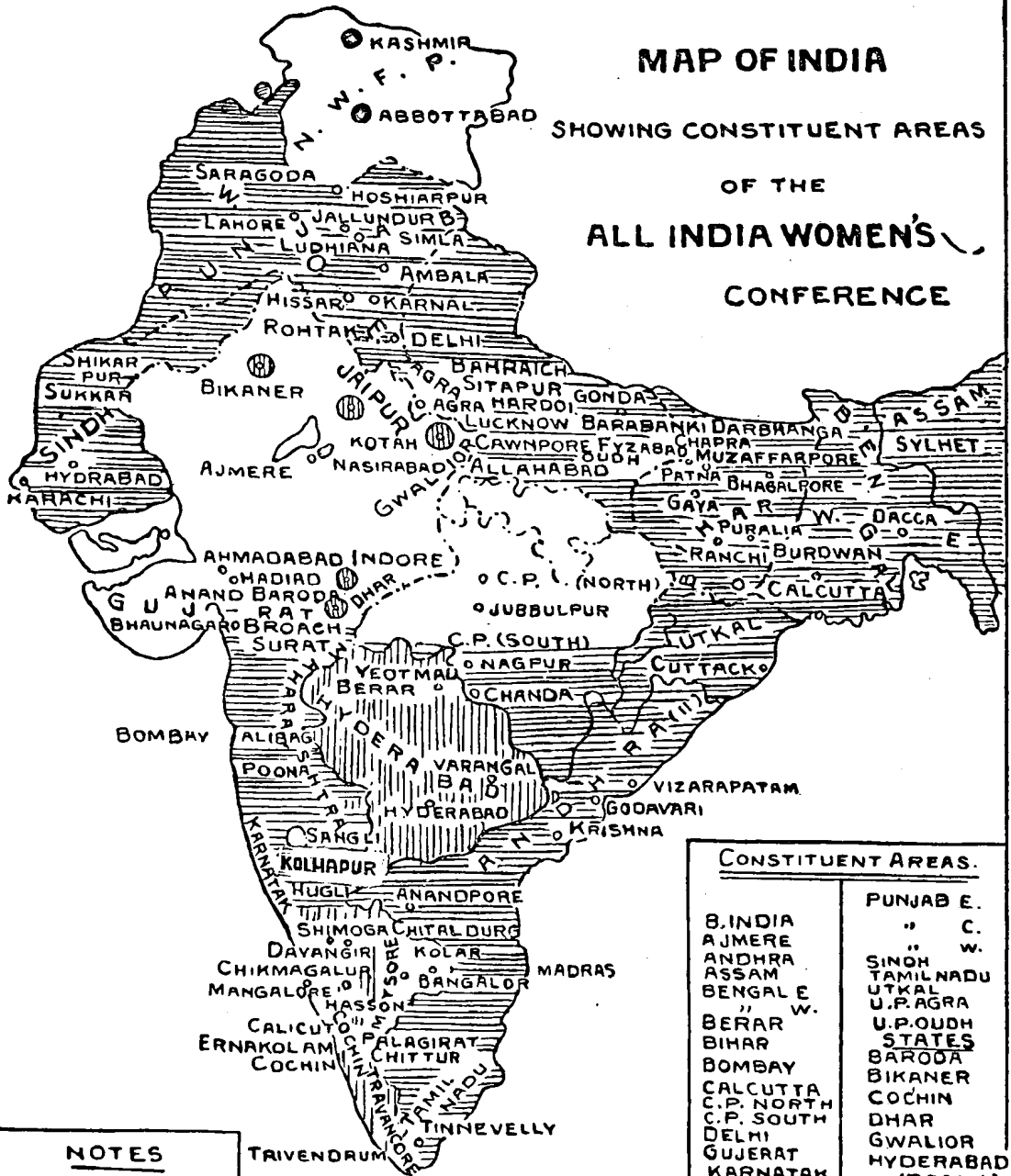
Constituency.	President.	Secretary.
Ajmer—Merwara ...	—	Mrs. L. F. Massey
Andhra ...	Mrs. M. E. Cousins	Mrs. M. Kamalamma
Assam ...	Mrs. Higgins	Mrs. Rajabala Das
Bengal West ...	Mrs. Protima Tagore	Mrs. Sudhamayee Mukerjee
Bengal East ...	Mrs. Sahabuddin	Mrs. Protiva Nag
Berar ...	Mrs. Saraswatibai Bhat	Mrs. V. Pra'han
Bihar ...	Mrs. Jayaswal	Mrs. A. T. Sen
Bombay ...	Mrs. J. R. Doctor	Mrs. B. K. Daphtary
Calcutta ...	Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee	Mrs. S. N. Gupta
C. P. North ...	Miss E. J. Ennis	Mrs. Srivastava
C. P. South ...	Mrs. Ramabai Tambe	Mrs. Sushila Kothiwan
Delhi ...	Lady Sircar	Mrs. Asaf Ali
Gujerat ...	Lady Nilkanth	Mrs. J. R. Vakharia
Konkan ...	Mrs. Parpia	Mrs. Gorde
Madras ...	—	Mrs. K. Damodaran
Maharashtra ...	Miss M. J. Wadia	Dr. Mrs. K. Khadye
Malabar ...	Mrs. M. V. Subramaniam	Miss M. Janaki
		Mrs. M. Kamalam
N. W. F. P. ...	Mrs. Saaduddin Khan	Mrs. Saslam Khan
Punjab Central ...	Mrs. Bhola Nath Begum Shah Nawaz	Mrs. K. Kaul Miss Sushila Sethi
Punjab East ...	—	Sardarni Pritam Singh
Sind ...	Mrs. Homi Mehta	Mrs. H. Tyabji
Tamil Nadu ...	Mrs. Maruthnayagam	Mrs. E. Shenbagam
U. P. Agra ...	Mrs. Sulaiman	Mrs. Purnima Banarjee
U. P. Oudh ...	Mrs. Sarojini Chowdhury	Miss S. B. Das
Baroda ...	Dr. Bana	Mrs. Wadia
Cochin ...	Mrs. I. N. Menon	Mrs. C. Kuttan Nair
Gwalior ...	Lady Raja Bai Phalke	Mrs. Chandrakal Sahai
Hyderabad (Deccan) ...	Begum Wali-ud-dowlah Saheba	Mrs. C. Cornelius
Indore ...	Princess Savitribai Saheba	Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta Mrs. Turkhand Miss Rukmini Kirpalani
Kolhapur ...	Mrs. Janakibai	Mrs. Anantiamati Kamate
Mysore ...	Mrs. H. V. Ramaswami	Mrs. S. Nanjamma
Sangli ...	H. H. The Rani Saheba of Sangli.	Mrs. Sumati Gokhale
Travancore ...	Miss D. H. Watts	Miss K. Easwariamma

LIST OF CONSTITUENT AND SUB-CONSTITUENT AREAS

Ajmer-Merwara	Ajmer	C. P. North	Jubbulpore
	Beawar		Bilashpur
	Kekri		Khendra
Andhra	Godavari		Jagdapur
	Bellary	C. P. South	Narshingpur
	Krishna		Bhandara
	Vizag		Balaghat
	Ganjam		Betul
	Guntur		Chindwara
Assam	Gauhati		Chanda
	Sylhet		Nagpur
	Shillong		Wardha
Berar	Akola	Delhi	Delhi
	Amraoti	Gujerat	Ahmedabad
	Buldana		Ananda
	Daryapore		Baroda
	Yotmal		Bhavnagar
Bengal East	Dacca		Broach
Bengal West	Bogra		Nadiad
	Chinsurah		Surat
	Shantiniketan		Umreth
Bihar	Bihar Shariff	Konkan	Alibagh
	Bhagalpore		Thana
	Chapra		Ratnagiri
	Darbhanga	Madras	Madras
	Muzaffarpore	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar
	Patna		Nagar
	Purulia		Nasik
	Purneah		Poona
	Ranchi		Satara
Bombay	Baudia		Solapur
	Bombay	Malabar	Calicut
	Khar		Cannanore
Calcutta	Calcutta		Tellichery

MAP OF INDIA

SHOWING CONSTITUENT AREAS OF THE ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



NOTES

- B.I. AREAS.
- INDIAN STATES-AREAS.

CONSTITUENT AREAS.

B. INDIA	PUNJAB E.
AJMERE	" C.
ANDHRA	" W.
ASSAM	SINOH
BENGAL E.	TAMILNADU
" W.	UTKAL
BERAR	U.P. AGRA
BIHAR	U.P. OUDH
BOMBAY	STATES
CALCUTTA	BARODA
C.P. NORTH	BIKANER
C.P. SOUTH	COCHIN
DELHI	DHAR
GUJERAT	GWALIOR
KARNATAK	HYDERABAD
KONKAN	(DECAN)
MADRAS	INDORE.
MAHARASHTRA	JAIPUR
MALABAR	KASHMIR
N.W.F.P.	KOTAH
KOLHAPUR	MYSORE
	SANGLI
	TRAVANCORE

A. D. P., GWALIOR.

W. F. P.	Abbottabad	U. P. (Agra)	Agra
	Peshawar		Aliahabad
Punjab Central	Amritsar		Benares
	Lahore		Cawnpore
Punjab East	Simla	U. P. (Oudh)	Meerut
	Ambala		Bahraich
	Gurgaon		Barabanki
	Hissar		Fyzabad
	Hoshiarpur		Gonda
	Jullunder		Hardoi
	Ludhiana		Kheri
	Rohtak		Lakhimpur
Sind	Hyderabad		Lucknow
	Karachi		Moradabad
	Larkana		Onao
	Shikarpur		Partabgarh
	Sukkur		Rai Berelli
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore		Sitapur
	Madura	Utkal	Balasore
	Salem		Puri
	Tanjore		Cuttack
	Trichinopoly		
	Tinnevelly		

INDIAN STATES.

Baroda	Baroda	Gwalior	Bhind
Bikanir	Bikanir		Gwalior
Cochin	Adoor		Ujjain
	Chittor	Hyderabad	Bir
	Cranganore	(Deccan)	Hanamkondha
	Ernaculam		Hyderabad
	Iringa Kuladah		Warangal
	Kunnankulam	Indore	Indore
	Trichur	Kashmere	Srinagar
	Tripunithura		Jammu
	Vadakancheri	Kolhapur	Kolhapur

Mysore**Bangalore**
Chikamagalur
Chitaldrug
Davangiri
Hassan
Kolar
Mysore
Shimoga
Tumkur**Sangli****Travancore****Kawathe**
Mangalwedha
Sangli
Shahapur
Shirhatti
Terdal
Trivandrum

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S EDUCATION FUND ASSOCIATION
MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION

The objects for which the Association is established are:

1. The management of the Fund known as "The All-India Women's Education Fund."

2. The promotion of the education of the women and girls of India including—

- (i) the aid of any schemes for the furtherance of the education in all its branches, of the women and girls of India as may, from time to time, be recommended by the Conference known as the All-India Women's Conference or under such other name as the Conference may hereafter be registered (hereinafter and in the Rules and Regulations of the Association referred to as the All-India Women's Conference);
- (ii) the institution of propaganda for the education of the women and girls of India;
- (iii) the increase of the supply of better trained teachers, having particular regard to the inclusion of training in domestic subjects;
- (iv) the encouragement of the production of better text-books and attractive and suitable literature in the vernacular;
- (v) the exploration and initiation of schemes for the education of children of Kindergarten age, for the extension of suitable education amongst children in rural areas, for the support where possible of approved schemes which already exist, and for the provision of suitable housing accommodation for women teachers, especially in rural areas; and
- (vi) the extension of facilities in existing educational institutions for courses of training in home craft, fine arts, domestic science, physical culture and other suitable subjects.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

CHAPTER I.—MEMBERSHIP

1. There shall be the following grades of members of the Association:

President
Patrons
Vice-Patrons
Life Fellows
Life Members
Fellows
Members

2. The President of the Association until its Annual General Meeting in 1931 shall be Her Excellency The Lady Irwin. Thereafter the President shall be elected at a General Meeting for a period of three years.

3. The Patrons of the Association shall be Her Excellency The Lady Irwin, Her Highness Chimnabai Gaekwar the Maharani of Baroda, and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and donors of sums amounting in the aggregate to not less than Rs. 20,000, and such other distinguished persons as the Governing Body may think proper to appoint. Every Patron shall be at liberty to appoint a representative to attend and vote at the General Meetings of the Association on his or her behalf.

4. Vice-Patrons shall be donors of sums amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 10,000. Life Fellows shall be donors of sums amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 500. Life Members shall be donors of sums of not less than Rs. 100.

5. Fellows shall be persons who pay an annual subscription of not less than Rs. 25; and Members shall be persons who pay an annual subscription of not less than Rs. 5. The annual subscription shall be due on the 1st of November in every year; save only that no person becoming a member between the 1st August and the 31st October in any year shall be required to pay any subscription for the ensuing year.

6. The Governing Body may elect any person to Honorary Membership of any grade in recognition of services rendered in the Association.

7. The Honorary Secretary of the Association shall maintain a register of Members of the Association and this register shall be open to inspection.

CHAPTER II.—GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held once a year at an interval of not less than 10 and not more than 15 months either at the place and time where the All-India women's Conference is held or at some other place and date to be fixed by the Executive Committee. Notices of such Annual General Meetings shall be given if possible six weeks or at least one month before the date fixed, and such notice shall specify the business to be transacted. Members of all grades shall be entitled to attend and to vote on any question that may be submitted to the meeting for determination.

CHAPTER III.—GOVERNING BODY

1. From and after the first Annual General Meeting the Governing Body shall consist of:

- (i) the President, the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Assistant Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Assistant Secretary, if Honorary Assistant Secretary and Honorary Assistant Treasurer are required;
- (ii) nine members elected by the Association from amongst the members of the Association in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (4) below;
- (iii) fifteen members elected by the Standing Committee of the All-India Women's Conference in accordance with paragraph (3) below. These members will be elected by the Standing Committee before the Annual General Meeting of the Association but will not join the Governing Body until after the Annual General Meeting.

2. Of the nine members elected by the Association, one shall if possible be a woman M. L. A., one shall be a woman connected with University work, one shall be a woman connected with Secondary Schools, one shall be a woman connected with Primary Schools, one shall be a woman connected with Training Colleges and Classes and

four shall represent the general body of the members of the Association. Should it not be possible to elect a member from the class of women M. L. A. then, until it is so possible, there shall be five members on the Governing Body representing the general body of members of the Association.

3. Of the fifteen members elected by the Standing Committee, at least three must be from the Indian States.

4. All members will be elected for three years subject to one-third retiring by rotation each year but being eligible for re-election. The members to retire after the first and second year shall be determined by lot. In every subsequent year those who have been longest in office shall retire. The vacancies thus created each year shall be filled, in the case of those elected by the Association, by election, by nomination and postal ballot in such manner as the Governing Body shall prescribe by Bye-laws from time to time and in the case of those elected by the Standing Committee by election in such a manner as the Standing Committee shall arrange. Such election shall be held prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

NOTE:—The following resolution was passed at the last Annual Meeting of the All-India Women's Education Fund Association, held in Delhi, on the 15th of March 1935:—

“Resolved that the present method of election to the Governing Body be so altered that from 1936, instead of election by rotation, the entire Governing Body shall be elected every three years. The procedure of nomination and election shall remain the same as heretofore. Retiring members of the Governing Body shall be eligible for re-election.”

5. The Governing Body shall have power to co-opt persons having expert knowledge in some branch of the Association's work *ad hoc* for the consideration of some particular matter specially affecting the Association's work. The number of persons so co-opted shall not at any one time exceed five. Any co-option shall cease at the will of the Governing Body.

6. Casual vacancies among members of the Governing Body occurring between any two annual elections shall be filled by the Governing Body; and any person so chosen shall retain her office so long

as the vacating member would have retained the same if no vacancy had occurred. Similar vacancies occurring among the members elected through the Standing Committee of the All-India Women's Conference shall be filled by the Standing Committee. But no action of the Governing Body which may be otherwise valid shall be rendered invalid by reason of any such vacancy remaining unfilled, provided however that the number of vacancies so remaining unfilled shall not at any time exceed three. An absence of twelve months out of India shall constitute a vacancy.

7. The Governing Body shall hold its Annual Meeting on the same day and at the same place and immediately after the Annual General Meeting of the Association, or at such other place and time as the Executive Committee may decide. The Governing Body shall, at the Annual Meeting, elect from among themselves a Chairwoman who will preside in the absence of the President and Vice-Chairwoman who in the absence of the Chairwoman shall conduct the duties of the Chairwoman and exercise her powers. In the absence of both at any meeting such meeting may elect its own Chairwoman from those present. Any vacancies in these offices occurring during the year shall be filled up by the Governing Body.

CHAPTER IV.—COMMITTEES

1. The Governing Body shall at its annual meeting elect an Executive Committee of eight members besides the office-bearers from among the members of the Association, of whom at least four shall be members appointed to the Governing Body as aforesaid in Clause 1, paragraph (iii), of Chapter III. Any vacancies in the elected members of the Executive Committee occurring during the year shall be filled up by the Executive Committee.

(a) This Executive Committee will perform the current duties of the Association and such other duties as the Governing Body may prescribe. The transactions of the Executive Committee shall be duly recorded and laid before the Governing Body at its next meeting for information or confirmation. In case of emergency the Executive Committee may perform any duty and exercise any power of the Governing Body. The Executive Committee may appoint any Sub-committee and delegate to it any powers which may be necessary,

but the proceedings of such Sub-committees shall in every case be reported for information or confirmation to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall meet at such time and in such places as they think proper and at all their meetings four shall form a quorum.

2. The President, Chairwoman, Vice-Chairwoman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Assistant Treasurer shall be *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee, and the Honorary Secretaries shall be *ex-officio* members of all Sub-committees.

HISTORY OF THE ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

1. Origin of the All-India Women's Conference—

The All-India Women's Conference owes its origin to a circular letter from Mrs. Margaret E. Cousins, who, in the autumn of 1926, as Secretary of the Women's Indian Association, Adyar, Madras, addressed an appeal to women all over the country to form local committees and hold Constituent Conference in each of the Provinces and in certain other clearly defined districts and Indian States, for the purpose of declaring their views on problems of education.

The original stimulus which gave rise to Mrs. Cousins's letter was an appeal made by the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, at the Prize-Giving function of the Bethune College, Calcutta, in which he called on Indian Women to "*tell us with one voice what they want, and keep on telling us till they get it.*" Mrs. A. L. Huidekoper, an ex-Principal of Bethune College (who, I am glad to say is still one of our very active members), made use of this appeal as the basis of two articles which were published in *Stri Dharma*, the monthly magazine of the Women's Indian Association, and it was after this that Mrs. Cousins took up the matter in the way I have just described. Her appeal met with a wide and enthusiastic response, and Constituent Conferences were held in 22 places during the months of September to December, 1926, and the First All-India Women's Conference was organized to take place at Poona, where it was duly held from January 5th to 8th, 1927, under the distinguished Presidentship of Her Highness the Maharani Chimnabai Saheb Gaekwad of Baroda,—Mrs. Cousins being the first Honorary Organizing Secretary. The Resolutions passed at that Conference related almost without exception to education, ranging from matters concerning Primary Schools up to those relating to College and Adult Education. The sole exception was a Resolution condemning the practice of early marriage, as it interfered with education and supporting Sir Hari Singh Gour's Age-of-Consent Bill, which was then about to come before the Legislative Assembly.

2. The Second Conference—

In 1928, the Second Conference was held in Delhi under the Presidentship of Her Highness the Begum Mother of Bhopal, the proceedings being opened by Her Excellency the Lady Irwin. In addition to re-affirming most of the Resolutions of the First Conference, notable Resolutions were passed relating to Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda's Bill for the restraint of Early Marriage, which was at that time under consideration, as well as urging the Government to give representation to women in the Central Legislature, so that they might be able to express their views on pending measures affecting the interests of women and girls. The Second Conference was noteworthy also as the origin of the All-India Fund for Women's Education.

3. The Third Conference—

The Third Conference, that of 1929, was held at Patna, with Her Highness the Dowager Rani of Mandi as President. It was on this occasion that the scope of the Conference was definitely widened to include Social Reform, and a separate Section for Social Reform was created to work on lines parallel to those of the Section concerned with Educational Reform. Three Sub-Committees of the Educational Reform Section were appointed to carry on work throughout the year in the following directions:

- (a) The drafting of a special curriculum for schools, based on the ideals underlying the Resolutions passed by the Conference,
- (b) The revising and creating of new text-books,
- (c) The investigation of the conditions of the training of teachers in all parts of India. Under the Social Reform Section also a Sub-committee was appointed to carry on the campaign to raise the age of marriage.

4. The Fourth Conference—

By 1930, when the Fourth Conference was held in Bombay under the Presidentship of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the increased efficiency of the organization had become very noticeable: and the

Honorary Organizing Secretary (Mrs. Kamladevi Chattopadhyaya) was able to report the accomplishment of a large amount of very effective work done by the Constituent bodies in many parts of India. Prominent among the list of reforms effected through the support of the Conference and its members was the passing of the Sarda Act, which, (while in the opinion of the Conference the age-limits specified in the Act were much too low, and the Act possessed some other obvious defects) was yet a bold step in the right direction. Following up that success the Social Reform Section of the Conference took a very active part in the agitation for reform of the Laws of Inheritance as affecting women, while on the educational side an immense amount of useful constructive work, in addition to propaganda, was done by local members and committees of the Conference and its Constituencies, in such directions as the opening of new Girls' Schools, Industrial Schools, schools for children of the Depressed Classes, Adult Education, Prison Visiting, Relief to Women-passengers on the Railways, and Child Welfare and Maternity work. A new field of work, that in connection with female labour, was opened up through the opportunity of giving evidence before the Labour Commissions, while, by the delegation of distinguished members to International Conferences, such as the Berlin International Congress of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, the work of the Conference became known to women of other countries and *vice versa*.

It was in 1930 that the Committee of the Education Fund which had been registered the year before as "The All-India Women's Education Fund Association," decided to make a full enquiry about a suitable education for girls. An All-India Committee was appointed to investigate this matter. The members of the Committee made enquiries in their own provinces at first, and then met together at Panchmarhi, C. P., in July and made their Report.

5. The Fifth Conference -

The Fifth Conference was held at Lahore, in 1931, with Dr. (Mrs.) Muthulakshmi Reddi as President. Although the year 1930-31 had been one of great difficulties owing to the pre-occupation of the country with political matters, it was nevertheless a year in which the work of the Conference made great forward strides. The number

of Constituencies had by this time risen to 33, and many more schools, hostels and centres for adult education were reported as having been started through the efforts of members. The institution of the observance of March 1st as 'Women's Day,' and the holding of meetings in almost all the Constituencies on that day, to popularise and explain the work of the Conference, was another noteworthy innovation. Vigorous and well-timed propaganda was carried on with a view to safeguarding the Sarda Act from amendments designed to nullify its usefulness; work was continued in the direction of getting the laws of inheritance amended, and new work was undertaken in Baroda towards getting the State to lead the way in putting on the Statute Book a Divorce Act for Hindus. There were increasing signs all over the country that the propaganda of the members of the Conference in their various Constituencies was beginning to bear fruit in the changed attitude of the public towards the amelioration of the conditions of women in general, their better education, their proper representation in legislative and administrative bodies, and in the judiciary as Honorary Magistrates. The question of the abolition of untouchability began to be tackled, too, in some Constituencies, notably in Madras, and while the attempt to deal with Labour questions (for which the formation of a special Conference had been contemplated) suffered a temporary set back owing to the disturbed conditions of the times, the keenness of members to tackle that among the other many difficult problems of the day, was intensified rather than diminished.

6. The Sixth Conference—

It was in 1932, when the Conference had Madras as its venue, and its President was Mrs. P. K. Ray, that it was clearly seen that although the constitution of the Conference debarred it from taking part in *party* politics, it could not, if it were to perform its function of establishing women in their rightful position in the state and in society, avoid concerning itself with politics in the widest sense of the term. The status of women in the new constitution of India, particularly in relation to their fundamental rights, their representation in the various bodies and the conditions of their enfranchisement, was a matter of vital importance not only to politicians, but to the

whole country; and it was overwhelmingly felt that every opportunity must be taken, before the constitution was actually drawn up in details, to impress upon those concerned in framing it, the views of nearly half of those who would have to abide by it when framed. To this end, in April 1931, a representative meeting was held in Bombay, under the Presidentship of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the outcome of which was that the All-India Women's Conference, the Women's Indian Association, and the National Council of Women in India, conjointly drew up a Memorandum to be placed before the Franchise Sub-Committee of the Round Table Conference. In May this Memorandum was submitted to all the Constituencies, with an invitation to them to give their considered opinion upon the views stated therein, and again in its final form, before it was actually submitted to the Franchise Committee, the Memorandum was circulated to the Constituencies, from which no dissentient opinion was received. I need hardly remind you that the essential points which were decided to press in the Memorandum were as follows:

- (1) Equal rights and obligations of all citizens without any bar on account of sex.
- (2) No disability to attach to any citizen by reason of his or her religion, castes, creed or sex, in regard to public employment, office of power or honour, and in the exercise of any trade or calling.
- (3) Adult suffrage.
- (4) Women to fight elections on equal terms with men, in mixed general electorates.
- (5) No reservation of seats for women as such, nor special nomination or co-option.

A deputation of ladies belonging to the All-India Women's Conference also waited on His Excellency the Viceroy, in May, and presented a Memorial asking for women to be represented on the Round Table Conference.

The Social Reforms Section was kept busy again this year in agitating against the attempts to amend the Sarda Act. Rai Saheb Harbilasji Sarda's Bill to secure a share for Hindu Widows in their

husbands' family property was very widely supported in the Constituencies. The year was also noteworthy for the number of laws passed in Indian States, safeguarding women's rights, or enhancing their status.

The work of the Education Section went forward with unabated vigour on the usual lines, progress being made with the scheme for opening a Women's College for Home Science, Educational Research, and Training of Teachers. The Text book Sub-committee made considerable progress with its arduous labour, as did also the Sub-committees on Labour, and Indigenous Industries.

7. The Seventh Conference—

The Seventh Conference met at Lucknow in 1933 under the Presidentship of Lady Ramanbhai Neelkanth. In the work of the preceding year, that of representing the viewpoint of Indian Womanhood on the constitutional question had remained uppermost, owing to the fact that the Indian Franchise Committee was occupied with its labours in India during the cold season of that year, and the Standing Committee of the Conference felt it obligatory that it should continue to press the views laid down in the Memorandum presented the year before to the Round Table Conference. Nine members of the All-India Women's Conference gave evidence at various centres, that of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Chairwoman of the Standing Committee) being specially noteworthy for the firm stand which she made upon the principles laid down in the Memorandum in spite of the fire of searching cross-examination. From the point of view of immediate results, however, those efforts were, alas! in vain, and the publication of the Communal Award was the signal for an outburst of protests from our Constituencies.

The work of the Social Section went forward apace; in many Constituencies the earnest practical efforts towards the removal of untouchability and caste restrictions proved conclusively, to those who have eyes to see, that women are not—as they are usually supposed to be—the custodians of orthodoxy and conservatism. In many of the States Constituencies as well as those of British India there was a strong movement in favour of providing for divorce in Hindu society, and its equalisation for men and women among Muslims.

The promotion of the cause of Swadeshi and of indigenous industries was also a very important feature of the year's work, as was also the number of instances in which members of the Conference were successful in contesting, on terms of equality with men, elections for seats on Municipal Corporations and academic bodies of Universities.

The opening of the Lady Irwin College for women, at Delhi, on November 10, 1932, was the event of the year in the Educational Section,—concrete evidence of the value of the work which had quietly and steadily been proceeding since the starting of the Education Fund four years ago. Important as was that event, however one must not allow it to overshadow all the other less spectacular day-to-day work of members in the Constituencies, for without that real underlying zeal for the educational uplift of women, throughout the land, in villages as well as in towns, in quite devoted care and service, as well as in laying of foundation-stones and presiding over public meetings, our Conference would have never grown into the solid organization that it now is.

8. The Eighth Conference—

Our Eighth Session, was held at Calcutta, Lady Abdūl Quadir being the President on that occasion. The most prominent feature of the work of 1933 had again been the political one, owing to the publication of the White Paper, in which it was seen that the attempt made by our representatives in 1931 and 1932, to gain the equal status, had completely failed. It became necessary therefore to frame a second Memorandum, in which, while it was reiterated that the proposals contained in the first Memorandum provided the only satisfactory solution, the White Paper proposals were examined and a clear statement made as to how far they could be regarded as even an adequate 'second best' or not. This Memorandum was submitted to the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the British Parliament, and later, three elected members representing our Conference, as also the National Council of Women in India, and the Women's Indian Association, were invited to London to give evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Suffice it to say here that through Memorandum II and the firm stand taken by our delegates in giving their evidence, we showed that, while willing to adopt an accommodating attitude in regard to details during the

period of transition, we stood immovably for the principle of equal status, and against that of communal and special representation.

One very useful outcome of the political work outside India has been the many contacts that our delegates made with women's organization of other countries and with institutions of international scope including the various organizations connected with the League of Nations.

Wider and wider though the scope of our activities has become, it must not be thought that this had the effect of making the current of local work flow more sluggishly. On the contrary, the work of the Educational and Social Reform Sections grows ever more intensive as it grows extensive. As a whole our Movement gathers force every day from new streams of local enterprise.

6. The Ninth Conference—

The Ninth Session of the All-India Women's Conference held its sittings in December 1934 at Karachi under the Presidentship of Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji. Practical achievement was the key-note of the Conference in the year 1934—for, in spite of many handicaps particularly of funds and workers the reports of work in the various Constituencies showed that a distinct advance was being made due to the unbounded enthusiasm of the members. For Bihar Earthquake relief the Constituencies of the Conference itself raised over thirty-thousand rupees, apart from the fact that they helped in the collection of other Central Funds.

The extracts relating to women in the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee were studied in detail by the Conference, and deep disappointment was felt that the clear demands of Indian women were being ignored and it was decided that even at that eleventh hour efforts should again be made to impress on the British Parliament the united desire of Indian women for a noncommunal electorate for women at least—and their dislike of the wife-hood qualification which was being imposed on them. A resolution to this effect was forwarded to the Secretary of the Joint Select Committee and to the Secretary of State for India through the Liaison Officer, and this resolution was re-iterated unanimously at the Half-yearly meeting.

A successful effort was made during the course of the year to create a widespread demand for the appointment of a Commission on the Legal Disabilities of Indian Women, which would suggest reforms in the light of modern conditions. An All-India Day was held on November 24th, 1934 when meetings were held in every Constituency, and thousands of signatures were collected to support this demand. Until there is success in obtaining a more equitable system of laws, this work will be continued, as the members of the Conference feel that they cannot carry out their duties as citizens until they are hampered by legal restrictions both personal and civic.

The interesting report of the Committee appointed by the Conference to investigate the conditions in mines, and its suggestions regarding the women eliminated from underground work, aroused great interest in the Conference, and the desire there evinced to help the unfortunate women miners showed clearly how real was the claim that the Conference aimed at improving the condition of women of all classes.

A notable feature of this year was that for the first time a permanent contact was made with the British Women's Organisations. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur was appointed as the Liaison Officer for the Conference to keep in touch with Mrs. Lankester the Liaison Officer of the British Women's Organisations appointed for the same purpose. The presence of distinguished Special Visitors like Dr. Maude Royden and Mrs. Corbett Ashby during the Conference Session was a proof of the great interest evinced by women in each others' ideals and problems.

Year by year the activities of the Conference are increasing, and the success with which it is tackling every new problem is abundant, proof that the women of India are not only conscious of their duties but intend to contribute their due share in the task of Nation-building.

MESSAGES.

BOMBAY.

To wish the Conference courage, wisdom, vision, unity in all its deliberations and decisions.

SAROJINI NAIDU.

CALCUTTA.

Regret much owing to indifferent health am unable to join you all but my heart is with you. Wishing you, dear sisters, every success in our endeavours.

DOWAGER MAHARANI MOURBHANJ.

LUCKNOW.

Deeply regret my health prevents attendance. Kindly convey my heartiest good wishes for the success of the Conference.

DOWAGER RANI MANDI.

AHMEDABAD.

I very much regret my inability to attend this Session of the All-India Women's Conference. I wish to convey to it my sincere wish for its success. May it increase its usefulness and attain unique position in our national uplift.

(LADY) VIDYAGOURI RAMANBHAI NILKANTH.

SANGLI.

My deep regret for inability to avail myself of valued honour. Women's cause is bound to receive great impetus under enlightened auspices of Her Highness. Pray accept best wishes for successful Session.

RANI.

LONDON.

Will you kindly convey our greetings to the All-India Women's Conference? At this time last year we were ourselves looking forward to our visit to Karachi as the guests of the Conference, and it is with the loveliest feelings of gratitude for all the kindness shown to us, and of admiration for the work of Indian women and their distinguished leaders, that we send to you our salutations.

Success to the Women's Movement everywhere, and especially to the All-India Women's Conference at Travancore.

MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY,
33, Upper Richmond Road, London, S. W. 15
A. MAUDE ROYDEN.
The guildhouse, Eccleston Square, London, S. W. 1.

MADRAS.

Keenly regret inability to attend-wishing Conference success.

MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI.

WARDHAGANJ

Deeply regret absence, pray divine guidance deliberations and send best wishes sustained work in every Constituency during the coming year.

AMRIT KAUR.

SATARA

I wish the Conference every success and pray that every question should be considered and decided with one idea at the back of every member's mind—the strength that comes to us through an United Womanhood of India,

SHAREEFAH HAMID ALI.

GWALIOR

Hope Conference will record strong united protest against women's franchise and method of representation under new Constitution. Greatly regret unavoidable absence—am confident that under the able guidance and leadership of the President, Conference will achieve great success.

LAKSHMIBAI RAJWADE

BANGALORE

Best wishes for success of Conference

LADY MIRZA ISMAIL

LAHORE

Extremely disappointed unable leave Lahore. Please convey regrets and apologies to all—wish Conference every success.

BEGUM SHAHNAWAZ

LONDON

Will you please convey my deep regrets to the Conference and my very warm wishes for a successful gathering. We shall await news about it with eagerness.

AGATHA HARRISON

LONDON

Please give my tribute of profound admiration and love to my Indian sisters gathered together at the All-India Women's Conference; my spirit is with you. Your Conference is a profound significance for the world; because India, your mother country, has a profound significance for the world. Can anything in the realm of historical imagination be more moving than the renaissance of an ancient civilization whose fundamental ideas have been the foundation of the philosophy, morality and religion of the Western world?

After the long meditation of ages, for India to rouse herself, to adjust her life to modern conditions, and again to take the lead in the advance of the

human race, is a colossal undertaking. The women of India to-day, are playing the eternal role of bringing to birth the new life of India and of nurturing those ideas which will recreate the human race.

As one who throughout a long life has cherished the faith that an awakened womanhood could lead this tortured world into the realm of peace, I rejoice in you—you glorious women of India—I rejoice in your movement so full of powers of regeneration for your own country, and I rejoice in your moral leadership of the women's movement to the world. I pray that your deliberations and resolutions will be charged with the power of the creative spirit and will give rise to new forms of life in your country, in your continent and in all the ends of the earth.

EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE

NEW DELHI

I am very sorry I am not able to be with you on the Tenth Session of A. I. W. C. I send my greetings to all the co-workers assembled and wish the Conference all success.

RAMESHWARI NEHRU

MADRAS

Congratulations on decade of good work and best wishes for second decade.

MARGARET COUSINS

AJMER

Women of India greetings from devoted worker in your cause—you made men heroes—awake, realise your strength.

HAR BILAS SARDA

SURREY, ENGLAND

May I give you a personal message from myself for the Conference? I want to send through you my greetings to all your members and my very best wishes for a happy and successful session.

GRACE LANKESTER

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE,
LONDON

The British Section of the Women's International League send greetings to members of the All-India Women's Conference assembled at Trivandrum, and best wishes for a successful session.

They believe that the work of the All-India Women's Conference will overcome all obstacles, and will promote the Indian women's movement and the cause of women's freedom throughout the world.

BARBARA DUNCAN HAINS

Chairman, Executive Committee,

MILLIE GRAHAM POLAK

Chairman, India Sub-Committee.

THE SIX POINT GROUP, LONDON

On behalf of the Six Point Group, one of the leading feminist organisations in this country, I have been asked to send you a message of good will to your Conference.

We feel that there has never been a time when it has been more important for women to organise. Attacks on the status of women are taking place all over the world. Unemployment in many countries is being made the excuse to deprive woman of her rights as a wage-earner. Women are being called on to give their husbands, lovers and sons to take part in wars while denied the right to control the Governments, who by their actions, make war inevitable.

That the women of India may unite to free themselves, and so help with the freeing of their sex throughout the world, is the most earnest hope of the members of the Six Point Group.

MONICA WHATELY,
Honorary Secretary.

NATIONAL Y. W. C. A. OF INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

Greetings and all good wishes for the success of the Conference.

JUBBULPORE.

Bishops and Representatives of Methodist Episcopal Church assembled in Jubbulpore send you greetings and pray blessings on your efforts for India's uplift.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN IN INDIA.

Greetings from National Council of Women. Wish your Conference all success.

LAHORE.

Wish Conference success greetings to delegates regret inability to attend.

MISS FROZUDDIN.

NEW DEHI.

Cordial greetings please urge Conference members concentrate on moral leadership next year.

MELISCENT SHEPHARD.

HYDERABAD (SIND).

Success to Conference Deliberations.

MISS KHEMCHAND.

BANGALORE

Regret inability attending Conference wish success.

IQBALUNNISA,

 ALLEPPEY

Her Highness in Chair is grace and success. Regret my absence being ramzan promise hearty co-operation Muslim ladies.

MRS. P. K. KUNJU.

 MADRAS

I convey to you my congratulations on its organisation. I know it will be a huge success and I know that there will be a vital message for the women of India—a message of renewed solidarity of position and aim, to re-establish their plan and purpose and build a woman's world and monument that will carry progress still further ahead. So many cheers and good luck.

M. FRAGER.

 ALLAHABAD

Regret cannot come. Wish Conference all success.

JANAKDULARI SAPRU,
Chairwoman, Agra Constituency.

 GARROWBY, YORK

I only wish I could have been present myself or that I might at any rate have sent you my very best wishes for your deliberations while you were all sitting at Trivandrum.

I do hope that all will have gone well, and that you will have had a very interesting and helpful Session.

D. HALIFAX.
