

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

THIRTEENTH SESSION



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DELHI
December 28, 1938 to January 1, 1939

All-India Women's Conference

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THIRTEENTH SESSION

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Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade,
President, All-India Women's Conference, 1938.

CONTENTS

Patronesses of the All-India Women's Conference	III
List of Names of Chairwomen and Hon. Organising Secretaries from 1926 to 1937.	IV
Office-bearers of the All-India Women's Conference	V
Members of the Standing Committee 1939	VI
Life Associates, Liaison officer, International Alliance; League of Nations	VII
List of Delegates to the Thirteenth Session of the A. I. W. C. 1938	VIII
List of Delegates in different Groups	XI
Programme of the Thirteenth Session of the A. I. W. C.	XIV
Opening Day's Proceedings	1
Welcome Address by Mrs. Sultan Singh	4
Messages from Far and Near	7
Annual Report of the Hon. Organising Secretary	8
Presidential Address of Rani Lakshimbai Rajwade	16
Other Addresses:—	26
Lala Shriram, Mrs. Brijlal Nehru, Khwaja Hassan Nizam, Miss Agatha Harrison, Miss Mary Dingman, Miss P. Hage, Mrs. Kunoo A. Ali, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.	
First Sitting of the A. I. W. C.	35
Second Sitting of the A. I. W. C.	38
Groups Meetings	40
Third Sitzings of the A. I. W. C.	44
Election of Office-bearers	64
Fourth Sitting of the A. I. W. C.	65
Report of the Findings Committee	66
Thanksgivings	77
Resolutions passed at Delhi	80
Sectional and Sub-Committee Reports 1938:	
Report of the Educational Section	81
Report of the Social Section	85
Report of the Liaison Officer (England)	88
Report of the Health Sub-Committee	91
Report of the Harijan Sub-Committee	94
Report of the Opium, etc. Sub-Committee	96
Report of the Legislation Sub-Committee	99
Report of the Labour Sub-Committee	101

Report of the Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee	..	102
Report of the Suppression of Traffic Sub-Committee	..	103
Report of the A. I. W. E. Fund Association	..	106
Report of the work done by the Secretary under training	..	107
Memorandum of Important Resolutions passed at Previous Sessions		
I. Educational	.. .. .	110
II. Social	.. .. .	122
III. Labour	.. .. .	146
IV. General	.. .. .	152
Statement regarding Registration	.. .. .	155
Constitution of the A. I. W. C.	.. .. .	156
Balance Sheet for 1937-38	.. .. .	160
Draft Budget for 1938-39	.. .. .	162
List of Donors in 1937-38	.. .. .	163
Appendix A—Provisional Time Table	.. .. .	164
Appendix B—Executive Committee and Members in charge of different subjects	.. .. .	166
Appendix C—List of Branch and Sub-Branch Conferences	.. .. .	168
Appendix D—List of Presidents and Secretaries of Branch Committees	.. .. .	171
Appendix E—List of Branch and Sub-Branch Areas	.. .. .	172
Appendix F—Statistics of Medical Inspection prepared by Dr. Malinibai Sukthankar	.. .. .	174
Appendix G—A Scheme for the Extension of Work of the A. I. W. C. (prepared by Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade)	.. .. .	176
Appendix H—Memorandum of Association of the A. I. W. E. Fund Association	.. .. .	188
Appendix I—History of the A. I. W. C.	.. .. .	197
Appendix J—Text of the Messages	.. .. .	209

PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAP.

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, President, A. I. W. C. 1938.	Frontispiece
Mrs. Sultan Singh, Chairman, Reception Committee, Delhi	.. 4
Delegates to the Thirteenth Session, 1938	.. 34
Mrs. Dina Asana, Hon. Organising Secretary, 1937 and 1938	.. 78
Mrs. Asaf Ali, Secretary Reception Committee, Delhi Session 1938	.. 78
Members of the Standing Committee 1938	.. 168
Map of India showing the Branches of the All-India Women's Conference	.. 172

PATRONESSES
of the
ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Lady Dorothy Halifax

Her Highness the Maharani of Baroda

H. H. Maharani Sucharu Devi of Mayurbhanj

The Rani of Vizianagram

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu

Dr. Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi

Mrs. P. K. Roy

Lady Ramambhai Nilkanth

Lady Abdul Qadir

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji

H. H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi of Travancore

Mrs. M. E. Cousins.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur



**Names of Chairwomen and Hon. Organising
Secretaries from 1926-1938.**

Year	Chairwoman	Hon. Organising Secretary
1926	—	Mrs. M. E. Cousins
1927	Mrs. M. E. Cousins	Mrs. Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya
1928	Begum Hamid Ali	" " "
1929	Mrs. Huidekoper	" " "
1930	Mrs. Sushama Sen	Mrs. Kamala Devi, Mrs. Sushama Sen and Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade.
1931	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade.
1932	" " "	" " "
1933	Dr. Mathulakshmi Reddi	" " "
1934	Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade	Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee
1935	" " "	" " " "
1936	Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee	Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan
1937	Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan	Mrs. Dina Asana
1938	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	" " "



OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE
All-India Women's Conference for 1939.

President and Chairwoman

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I.

Vice-Presidents

Mrs. Dina Asana, Opposite Gujarat College, Ahmedabad.
The Hon'ble Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Anand Bhavan, Allahabad.
Mrs. Brijlal Nehru, 2, Worris Road, Lahore.
Shrimati Kamala Devi, Dhareswar Gardens, Mangalore.
Begum Aizaz Rasul, Jalalpur Estate, P.O. Sandila, U. P.
Mrs. Sultan Singh, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Honorary General Secretary

Dr. Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankar, Shantaram House, Malabar Hill, Bombay.

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs. G. R. Billimoria, Thoburn House, Apollo Bunder, Bombay.

Educational Section Secretary

Mrs. D. B. Akhtar Hussain, Latif Manzil, Panipat, Punjab.

Social Section Secretary

Mrs. Gulbanu J. R. Doctor, Hirji Mansion, 93, Gowalia Tank Road, P. O
Malabar Hill, Bombay.

Liaison Officer

Begum Hamid Ali, Camp, Baroda.

Members-in-charge of Special Subjects

Constitution :—Miss Leilamani Naidu, Hyderabad (Dn.).

Health :—Dr. Mrs. M. B. Kagal, 22, Rotendone Road, New Delhi.

Anti Child Marriage :—Dr. Mrs. K. Tarabai, Bunder Road, Karachi.

Harijan Welfare :—Mrs. Brijlal Nehru, 2, Worris Road, Lahore.

Opium & other Narcotic Drugs :—Begum Hamid Ali, Camp, Baroda.

Legal Disabilities :—Mrs. Sharadaben Mehta, Pritamnagar, Ellis Bridge,
Ahmedabad.

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

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

Labour :—Miss J. E. Copeland, C/o. Y. W. C. A., Asoka Road, New Delhi.

VI

Indigenous Industries :—Mrs. Jayashri Raiji, Tulsi Villa, Alexandra Road, Gamdevi, Bombay 7.

Traffic in Women & Children :—Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee, 25|1, Rowland Road, Calcutta.

Indian Overseas :—Mrs. S. N. Ray, 10, Camac Street, Calcutta.

Nursery Schools :—Mrs. Urmila Mehta, 15th Road, Khar, Bombay.

Standing Committee Members

Andhra—Shrimati Chandramathy, Member, Dt. Education Council, Rajahmundry.

Assam—Miss Usha Bhattacharya, Laitmukhara, Shillong.

Bengal East—Mrs. I. F. Hasan, Provost's House, Ramna, Dacca.

Berar—Mrs. Chandravali Abhyankar, Yeotmal.

Bihar—Mrs. S. Chakravarty, Ram Mohan Roy Seminary, Patna.

Bombay—Miss Godavari Gokhale, Servants of India Society's Home, Girgaum, Bombay.

Calcutta—Mrs. D. L. Mazumder, 11 A, Mayfair, Ballygunge, Calcutta.

C. P. North—Miss E. J. Ennis, B. M. Girls' High School, Bilashpur.

C. P. South—Mrs. Vimalabai Deshpande, Dhantoli, Nagpur.

Delhi—Dr. Miss Natarajan, Nicholson Road, Delhi.

Gujarat—Mrs. Dina Asana, Opposite Gujarat College, Ahmedabad.

Karnatak—Mrs. Shymalabai Belgaumkar, Jaykarnatak Office, Dharwar.

Konkan—Mrs. Grace Thomas, B. A., D. P. E., The Home, Alibagh, Dt. Kolaba.

Maharashtra—Mrs. Indirabai Maydeo, G. V. Joshi's Bungalow, Poona 4.

Madras—Mrs. Mary Clubwala, 54, Main Road, Royapuram, Madras.

Malabar—Miss K. E. Sharada, Chalapuram, Calicut, S. Malabar.

N. W. F. P.—Mrs. Kazi Mir Ahmed, Ahmed Manzil, Peshawar Cantt.

Orissa—Shrimati Sarala Devi, M.L.A., Telengabazar, Cuttack.

Punjab Central—Miss Premwati Thapor, 1|A, Golf Road, Lahore.

Punjab East—Mrs. P. L. Sondhi, Dilkusha, Jullundur City.

Sind—Dr. K. Tarabai, Bunder Road, Karachi.

Tamil Nadu—Dr. A. G. Gomathi Ammal, Koilpatti, S. I. R.

U. P. Agra—Mrs. Probha Banerjee, Beli Road, Allahabad.

U. P. Oudh—Mrs. Nurjehan Yusuf, Inspectress of Schools, Lucknow Division, Lucknow.

(Indian States)

Baroda—Miss Sushila Kumari Pandit, Arya Kanya Maha Vidyalaya, Baroda.

Cochin—Miss Lily Poulouse, C/o Mr. K. Poulouse, District Munsif, Trichur.

Gwalior—Miss K. Abdul Karim, C/o Justice Abdul Hakim, Marar, Gwalior, C.I.

Hyderabad (Dn.)—Mrs. Hyder Ali Khan, Jubilee Hill, Hyderabad (Dn.)

VII

Indore—Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta, 19, Yashvant Nivas Road, Indore, C. I.
Jath—Miss Monorama Khabade, Kanyasala, Jath State (Bijapur).
Kathiawad—Mrs. Saralabai Naik, M. A., Junagadh, Kathiawad.
Kolhapur—Miss Leela Kolhatkar, Shahupuri, Kolhapur State.
Mysore—Mrs. S. R. Mandyam, 114, Visweswarapuram, Bangalore City.
Phaltan—Mrs. Janakibai Godbole, Phaltan State.
Sangli—Mrs. Sumatibai Gokhale, Extension, Sangli, S. M. C.
Travancore—Miss K. Saradamma, Lecturer, Arts College, Trivandrum.

Co-opted S. C. Members

Hony. General Secretary, National Council of Women in India—Miss J. K. Zutshi, Saraswati Bhavan, Daryaganj, Delhi.
President, Women's Indian Association—Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi, Besant Avenue, Adyar, Madras.
Hony. Secy., All-India Women's Education Fund Association—Mrs. Sewa Singh Gill, 1, Sikandra Road, New Delhi.

Life Associates, A. I. W. C.

Mrs. Bakulabai Abhyankar, Civil Lines, Nagpur, C. P.
Mrs. Vimalabai Jatur, Civil Lines, Nagpur, C. P.

Liaison Officer between A. I. W. C. and British Women's Societies in England

Mrs. Grace Lankester, 62, Plough Lane, Purley, Surrey, England.

International Alliance of Women

(Since 1935, the All-India Women's Conference has been affiliated to the *International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship*).

President: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, 33, Upper Richmond Road, London, S. W. 15, England.

Headquarters Secretary: Mrs. Katherine Bompas, 12, Buckingham Palace Road, London S. W. 1. England.

League of Nations

(Since June 1937, the A. I. W. C. has been appointed a "**Correspondent Member**" of the Advisory Committee on Social Questions of the League of Nations).

A. I. W. C. Correspondent for the League of Nations: Mrs. S. N. Ray, 10, Camac Street, Calcutta.

LIST OF DELEGATES, DELHI, 1938.

Andhra

Srimathi Ch. Chandramathi
Mrs. Padmasini Amma
Mrs. Prabhavati Devi
Mrs. Satyavati Devi
Sm. B. Kamakshamma
Sm. V. Papayamma
Sm. T. Venkamma

Assam

Mrs. Ali Ahmed
Mrs. Sushila Sen
Sm. Usha Bhattacharyya
Sm. Lilavati Barua

Baroda

Mrs. Premlila Mehta
Miss Sushila Kumari Pandit
Mrs. Maniben Atri
Mrs. Gangubai Patwardhan
Dr. Miss Bana
Mrs. Sarala Mehta
Mrs. Tahera Begum Rizvi
Begum Hamid Ali

Bengal East

Mrs. Zahiruddin

Berar

Mrs. C. Abhyankar
Mrs. Lakshmibai Naik
Mrs. Durgabai Manjrekar

Bihar

Mrs. C. Sahay
Sm. Devaki Devi
Sm. Brahmakumari Tarwe
Sm. Chandrakala Devi

Mrs. Lakshmi Mehrotra

Bombay

Mrs. Urmila Mehta
Mrs. Roshan Bharucha
Mrs. K. Mote
Mrs. Jollyben Divetia
Miss Amy Rustomji
Miss Godavari Gokhale
Mrs. Kashalkar
Mrs. Jayashri Raiji
Mrs. J. R. Doctor
Dr. Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankar
Mrs. G. R. Billimoria

Calcutta

Miss Jyoti Prabha Das Gupta
Mrs. Shamsun Nahar Mahmud
Miss Margaret N. Wilson
Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee

C. P. North

Miss E. J. Ennis

C. P. South

Mrs. Vimalabai Deshpande
Mrs. Bakulabai Abhyankar

Cochin

Sm. V. K. Droupathamma
Sm. M. Madhavikuttyamma
Mrs. Skrine
Miss Lily Poulouse

Delhi

Mrs. Javitri Devi
Begum Rahman
Hajia Begum
Mrs. N. Halder

Begum Khan Saheb
 Miss J. E. Copeland
 Dr. Mrs. M. B. Kagal
 Mrs. Asaf Ali
 Mrs. Dikshit
 Dr. Miss Natarajan
 Miss M. Shephard
 Mrs. Dosibai D. Framjee
 Miss R. D. Sharma
 Mrs. J. S. Mansuri
 Mrs. Shankernath
 Mrs. Gadodia

Gujerat

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 Dr. Miss Medora
 Mrs. S. Divetia
 Miss S. N. Kavina
 Mrs. Shridevi Dhru
 Mrs. S. Desai
 Mrs. Dina Asana

Gwalior

Mrs. Talpade
 Mrs. Gangabai Bhagat
 Miss Khaliqie Abdul Karim
 Miss Bilqis Abdul Karim
 Miss H. Cotelingam
 Mrs. Indirabai Mathure
 Mrs. Lilavati Souti
 Mrs. Chandorkar
 Mrs. Krishnabai Bhagwat
 Dr. Mary Chacko
 Rani Saheb of Sirsi
 Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade

Hyderabad (Deccan)

Mrs. L. Dasan
 Mrs. Hyderali Khan
 Rani Karan Prasad
 Mrs. Mustaffa Begg
 Miss J. Nundy

Mrs. Ali Akbar
 Mrs. P. Sooli
 Mrs. Barkat Rai
 Mrs. Husain Ali Khan
 Miss Leilamani Naidu

Indore

Mrs. M. Wagle
 Dr. Motibai Thanevala
 Mrs. Kamalabai Gole
 Mrs. Savitribai Oak

Karnatak

Mrs. Shyamalabai Belgaumkar
 Miss Padma Chinnappa
 Srimati Kamala Devi
 Mrs. Lilavati Ekambarrao

Madras

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 Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan
 Mrs. Ameen Khalilee
 Mrs. Rukmani Lakshmipathi
 Mrs. Nazir Hussain
 Miss Joy Comstock

Maharashtra

Mrs. C. S. Salvey
 Mrs. Janakibai Bhat
 Mrs. Tarabai Patwardhan
 Mrs. Chandwadkar
 Miss B. Mustaffa Khan
 Mrs. Indirabai Maydeo
 Miss D. Bhatt
 Mrs. Sunderabai Mutha
 Mrs. Indirabai Kanitkar

Mysore

Mrs. S. R. Mandyam
 Dr. Ratnamma Isaac
 Miss Leelavati Cotelingam
 Miss B. H. Saraswati Bai

X

Mrs. Calappa
Mrs. M. Gouramma

N. W. F. P.

Mrs. Kazi Mir Ahmed
Miss Kazi Mir Ahmed
Mrs. Kamaluddin
Mrs. Basheswar Nath Khanna
Miss R. B. Karamchand Khanna
Mrs. Jagatram Khanna
Miss K. B. Ferozuddin

Phaltan

Mrs. Janakibai Godbole
Mrs. Indirabai Shinde
Mrs. Maitreyi Vinode

Punjab Central

Miss Premwati Thapor
Miss Sushila Sethi
Mrs. Brijlal Nehru
Mrs. D. G. Rai
Mrs. Ratan Soni
Mrs. G. S. Chowla

Punjab East

Mrs. D. B. Akhtar Hussain
Mrs. P. Jaideo
Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
Srimati Shannoo Devi

Sangli

Mrs. Sumatibai Gokhale
Miss Manutai Padalkar
H. H. the Rani Saheb of Sangli

Sind

Dr. K. Tarabai

Mrs. B. S. Pestonji
Miss H. S. Sethna
Mrs. C. Chaturi Dayaram
Mrs. Goody Chandurbhan

Travancore

Mrs. M. E. Cousins
Miss Sara Pathan
Miss K. Saradamma
Mrs. Janaki Chary
Miss S. Isaac
Miss K. Easwariamma
Miss K. Gouri Kuttyamma
Mrs. Lefever

U. P. Agra

Lady Wazir Hussain
Mrs. Sushila Shrivastava
Mrs. Shakuntala Mehrotra
Mrs. D. Krishna
Mrs. Purnima Banerjee
Mrs. Prabha Banerjee
Mrs. Lalita Bhusan

U. P. Oudh

Kaniz Fatma Haya
The Hon'ble Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi
Pandit
Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh
Begum Aizaz Rasul
Mrs. N. Jordon
Mrs. Hukum Singh
Mrs. Lilavati Mitra
Srimati Prabhavati Bhatnagar

A. I. W. E. Fund Association.

Mrs. Sewa Singh Gill

LIST OF DELEGATES IN EACH GROUP

GROUP "A"

President—Mrs. M. E. Cousins
Secretary—Mrs. Urmila Mehta
 Miss Comstock—Madras
 Miss Amy Rustomji—Bombay
 Mrs. Indirabai Maydeo—Maharashtra
 Mrs. Shakuntala Mehrotra—U. P. Agra
 Mrs. Ali Akbar—Hyderabad (Dn.)
 Dowager Rani Saheb of Sirsi—Gwalior
 Miss Padma Chinnappa—Karnatak
 Mrs. Lila Jordon—(U. P. Oudh)
 Dr. R. Isaac—Mysore
 Miss K. Saradamma—Travancore
 Miss K. Gourikutty—Travancore
 Mrs. Prabhavati Devi—Andhra
 Mrs. Sushila Sen—Assam
 Shrimati Devaki Devi—Bihar
 Mrs. Javitri Devi—Delhi
 Mrs. Shridevi Dhru—Gujarat
 Mrs. Clubwala—Madras
 Miss B. Mustafa Khan—Maharashtra
 Miss K. B. Ferozuddin—N. W. F. P.
 Mrs. B. S. Pestonji—Sind
 Mrs. Prabha Banerjee—U. P. Agra
 Mrs. Prabhavati Bhatnagar—U. P. Oudh
 Miss Lily Poulouse—Cochin
 Mrs. Mustafa Begg—Hyderabad (Dn.)
 Mrs. Hyder Ali Khan—Hyderabad (Dn.)
 Begum Khan Saheb—Delhi
 Mrs. Talpade—Gwalior

GROUP "B"

President—Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan
Secretary—Miss Premwati Thapor
 Mrs. Kashalkar—Bombay
 Mrs. Shinde—Phaltan
 Mrs. D. Manjrekar—Berar

Mrs. C. Abhyankar—Berar
 Mrs. M. Gowramma—Mysore
 Mrs. Lafever—Travancore
 Sm. V. Padmasini Amma—Andhra
 Mrs. Zahiruddin—Bengal East
 Mrs. Dikshit—Delhi
 Mrs. Lilavati Souti—Gwalior
 Mrs. N. Halder—Delhi (Muzaffarnagar)
 The Hon'ble Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi
 Pandit—U. P. Oudh
 Miss S. N. Kavina—Gujarat
 Mrs. Rukmani Lakshmipathi—Madras
 Mrs. Sunderbai Mutha—Maharashtra
 Begum Kamaluddin—N. W. F. P.
 Mrs. P. Jaideva—Punjab East
 Miss Homai Sethna—Sind
 Shrimati Shannoo Devi—Punjab East
 Kaniz Fatma Haya—U. P. Oudh
 Srimati V. K. Droupathiammal—Cochin
 Mrs. Indira G. Mathure—Gwalior
 Mrs. C. S. Salvey—Maharashtra
 Shrimati Chandrakala Devi—Bihar
 Miss J. Nundy—Hyderabad (Dn.)
 Mrs. Krishnabai Bhagwat—Gwalior

GROUP "C"

President—Begum Hamid Ali
Secretary—Dr. K. Tarabai
 Mrs. J. R. Doctor—Bombay
 Mrs. Bakula Abhyankar—Nagpur
 Mrs. Janakibai Godbole—Phaltan
 Mrs. M. Wagle—Indore
 Mrs. Hussain Ali Khan—Hyderabad—
 Dn.
 Miss K. Abdul Karim—Gwalior
 Miss H. Cotelingam—Gwalior
 Mrs. Jayashri Raiji—Bombay
 Mrs. S. R. Mandyam—Mysore

Mrs. B. Kamakshamma—Andhra
 Mrs. Lilavati Barua—Assam
 Mrs. Lakshmi Mehrotra—Bihar
 Mrs. Mansuri—Delhi
 Mrs. S. Divetia—Gujarat
 Mrs. Nazir Hussain—Madras
 Mrs. Indirabai Kanitkar—Maharashtra
 Mrs. Gopal Singh Chowla—Punjab
 Central
 Mrs. D. B. Akhtar Hussain—Punjab
 East
 Mrs. Goody Chandurbhan—Sind
 Mrs. Sushila Shrivastava—U. P. Agra
 Dr. D. H. Bana—Baroda
 Mrs. Madhavikutty Amma—Cochin
 Dr. M. Chacko—Gwalior
 Mrs. M. Vinode—Phaltan
 Dr. Miss Medora—Gujarat
 Mrs. Purnima Banerjee
 Mrs. C. S. Salvey—Maharashtra

GROUP "D"

President—Mrs. Brijlal Nehru
Secretary—Miss Copeland
 Mrs. D. Framji—Delhi
 Mrs. Asaf Ali—Delhi
 Miss R. D. Sharma—Delhi
 Dr. Mrs. Kagal—Delhi
 Miss M. Shephard—Delhi
 Mrs. Janaki Chary—Travancore
 Mrs. Chandorkar—Gwalior
 Mrs. Satyavati Devi—Andhra
 Miss Bhattacharya—Assam
 Mrs. C. Sahay—Bihar
 Miss R. Bharucha—Bombay
 Mrs. Sewa Singh Gill—Delhi
 Miss Nargish Kavina—Gujarat
 Mrs. Ameen Khaleeli—Madras
 Miss K. Khanna—N. W. F. P.
 Mrs. R. Soni—Punjab Central
 Mrs. Lilavati Ekambar Rao—Karnatak
 Begum Aizaz Rasul—U. P. Oudh

Mrs. Kamalabai Gole—Indore
 Mrs. Hukum Singh—U. P. Oudh
 Begum Rahman—Delhi
 Mrs. Ali Ahmed—Assam
 Miss K. Easwariam—Travancore
 Dr. Mrs. Sukthankar—Bombay
 Mrs. Billimoria—Bombay
 Miss Leilamoni Naidu—Hyderabad
 (Dn.)
 Mrs. Gadodia—Delhi

GROUP "E"

President—Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee
Secretary—Mrs. Premlila Mehta
 Mrs. Vimalabai Deshpande—C. P.
 South
 Mrs. Barkat Rai—Aurangabad—Dn.
 Mrs. D. Bhatt—Maharashtra
 Mrs. Shamsun Nahar Mahmud—
 Calcutta
 Mrs. Savitribai Oak—Indore
 Mrs. J. Divetia—Bombay
 Mrs. P. Soofi—Hyderabad—Dn.
 Mrs. Shankarnath—Delhi
 Mrs. Gangubai Patwardhan—Baroda
 Miss Saraswatibai—Mysore
 Miss V. Papayamma—Andhra
 Ch. Chandramathi—Andhra
 Mrs. Lakshmibai Naik—Berar
 Dr. Miss Natarajan—Delhi
 Mrs. Shyamalabai Belgaumkar
 --Karnatak
 Mrs. J. R. Khanna—N. W. F. P.
 Miss Sushila Sethi—Punjab Central
 Mrs. Dayaram—Sind
 Mrs. D. Krishna—U. P. Agra
 Mrs. Lilavati Mitra—U. P. Oudh
 Mrs. Tahera Begum Rizvi—Baroda
 Mrs. Gangabai Bhagwat—Gwalior
 Miss B. Abdul Karim—Gwalior
 Dr. Miss M. F. Thanevala—Indore
 Sm. Manutai Padalkar—Sangli

Programme

THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, DELHI 1938-39

Day & date	Event	Time
Monday, 25-12-38	.. Arrival of Standing and Subjects Committee members ..	Evening
Monday, 26-12-38	.. Arrival of Standing and Subjects Committee members ..	Morning
	Breakfast	8 a. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting at the Delegates' Camp	9 a.m. to 12-15 p.m.
	Lunch	12-15 to 1 p. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting at the Delegates' Camp	1 to 3-45 p. m.
	Tea	4 p. m.
	Opening of the Exhibition (Gandhi Ground) by Begum Hamid Ali.	4-45 p. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting at the Delegates' Camp	6-30 to 7-30 p. m.
	Dinner—Lala Shri Ram	8-30 p. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting at the Delegates' Camp	10 to 11-30 p. m.
Tuesday, 27-12-38	.. Breakfast	8 a. m.
	Visit to the Lady Irwin College	9-30 to 12-15 p. m.
	Governing Body Meeting at the Lady Irwin College (A. I. W. E. F. A.)	

XV

Day & date	Event	Time
	Lunch at the Lady Irwin College	12-30 p. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting at the Delegates' Camp	1-45 to 4-45 p. m.
	Tea	4-45 p. m.
	Dr. (Mrs.) Wilson's talk on Nutrition	5 to 5-10 p. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting at the Delegates' Camp	5-15 to 8-15 p. m.
	Dinner	8-30 p. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting at the Delegates' Camp	9-15 to 11-30 p. m.
	Arrival of Delegates ..	Evening
Wednesday, 28-12-38	Arrival of Delegates ..	Morning
	Breakfast	8 a. m.
	Registration of Delegates and distribution of Conference papers	8-45 to 12-15 p. m.
	The first batch of Delegates who have received their papers to be taken to the Lady Irwin College	10 to 12 p. m.
	Lunch	12-15 p. m.
	2nd batch of Delegates to be taken to Lady Irwin College	1-30 to 3 p. m.
	Public Reception and Tea at the Queens Garden by the Delhi Municipal Commissioners	4 p. m.
	Opening session of the Conference at the Town Hall, Queen's Garden	5-15 p. m.
	Dinner	8 p. m.
	Dramatic Performance at the Lady Irwin College, for the public (Tickets to be sold at the Enquiry Office) ..	9-30 p. m.
Thursday, 29-12-38	Breakfast	8 a. m.
	Open Session of the Conference at the Town Hall.	

XVI

Day & date	Event	Time
	(Reading and adoption of Reports of the Hony. Org. Sec., Hony. Treasure, Sectional Secretaries, Secy. under Training, and the A. I. W. E. Fund Association ..	9 a. m. to 12 p. m.
	Lunch	12-30 p. m.
	Open Session of the Conference, at the Town Hall (Discussion of General Resolutions and breaking up of Conference into Sections) ..	1-30 to 3 p. m.
	Garden Party given Kunwarani Lady Jagdish Prasad, President Delhi Women's Club at 1 Queen Victoria Road, New Delhi	3-45 p. m.
	Drive through New Delhi ..	5-45 to 6-15 p. m.
	Dramatic Performance at the Lady Irwin College, for the delegates (Tickets to be sold at the Enquiry Office) ..	6-30 p. m.
	Dinner	9 p. m.
Friday, 30-12-38	Breakfast	8 p. m.
	Group Meetings at the Delegates' Camp	9 to 12 p. m.
	Lunch	12-15 p. m.
	4 or 5 Public Meetings in Delhi City and sight seeing	1 to 4-30 p. m.
	Tea at the Delegates' Camp	4-45 p. m.
	Group Meetings at the Delegates' Camp	5 to 8 p. m.
	Dinner	8 p. m.
	A. I. W. C. Entertainment at the Lady Irwin College for the public (Tickets to be sold at the Enquiry Office) ..	9-30 p. m.
Saturday, 31-12-38	Breakfast	8 a. m.
	Group Photographs (Standing Committee Members	

XVII

Day & date	Event	Time
	and Delegates only)	.. 8-15 a. m.
	Groups Meetings at the Delegates' Camp .. ..	.. 9 to 11 a. m.
	Polling of Office Bearers at the Delegates' Camp	11-15 a. m. to 12-15 p. m.
	Lunch .. ..	.. 12-30 p. m.
	Preparation of Group reports .. ..	.. 1-15 to 2-15 p. m.
	Meeting of the Findings Committee at the Delegates' Camp .. ..	.. 2-15 to 4-30 p. m.
	Sight-Seeing (Jamia Training centre, Harijan colony etc., or visit to the Exhibition for non-members of the Finding Committee .. ..	.. 1-15 to 4-30 p. m.
	Tea .. ..	.. 4-45 p. m.
	Public Meeting Y. M. C. A.	5-15 p. m.
	Dinner .. ..	.. 8 p. m.
	Variety Entertainment at the Delegates' Camp (Free) .. ..	.. 9 p. m.
Sunday, 1-1-39	Breakfast .. ..	.. 8 a. m.
	Open Session of the Conference at the Town Hall (Announcement of election results, presentation of the reports of the different sections and discussion on resolutions submitted by them)	9-30 to 12 15 p. m.
	Lunch .. ..	.. 12-30 p. m.
	Closing Session .. ..	.. 1-30 to 4-30 p. m.
	Tea .. ..	.. 4-45 p. m.
	Visit to the Exhibition .. ..	.. 5-15 to 7 p. m.
	Dinner .. ..	.. 7-30 p. m.
	Departure of Delegates	
Monday, 2-1-39	Departure of Delegates	
	Breakfast .. ..	.. 8 a. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting at the Delegates' Camp	9 to 12 p. m.
	Lunch .. ..	.. 12-15 p. m.

XVIII

Day & date	Event	Time
	Standing Committee Meeting (or Public Meeting in the city)	1-15 to 4-15 p. m.
	Tea	4-30 p. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting	5 to 7-30 p. m.
	Dinner	8-15 p. m.
Tuesday, 3-1-39	Breakfast	8 a. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting at the Delegates' Camp	8-30 a. m. to 12 p. m.
	Lunch	12-15 p. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting or Visit to Rural Reconstruction areas	1-15 to 4-15 p. m.
	Tea	4-30 p. m.
	Dinner	7-30 p. m.
	Departure of Standing Committee Members and Office-Bearers	
Wednesday, 4-1-39	Departure of Standing Committee Members and Office-Bearers	

NOTE:

- All Standing Committee Meetings will be held at the Delegates Camp, Ludlow Castle, Alipore Road.
- All Open Sessions of the Conference will be held at the Municipal Town Hall, Queen's Garden, Chandni Chowk.
- All sittings of the Group Meetings will be held at the Delegates Camp, Ludlow Castle.
- All Delegates, Standing Committee Members and Visitors will be admitted by badges.
- Visitors' Badges will be available at Re. 1/- each for all the sittings including the Opening Session.
- The All-India Women's Conference Exhibition will be held in the Gandhi Ground and will be open from 22-12-38 to 5-1-39.
- Exhibits from Constituencies will also be included.
- Tickets for Entertainment on 28th, 29th & 30th December will be sold at Enquiry Office, Delegates' Camp, Ludlow Castle, Alipore Road, and the Lady Irwin College, New Delhi.
- The Reception Committee, Delhi, will offer hospitality to Standing Committee members from 25-12-38 to 3-1-39; to Subject Committee Members from 25-12-38 to 1-1-39; and to Delegates from 27-12-38 to 1-1-39. Any delegate arriving before 27-12-38 or staying beyond 1-1-39 will be charged Rs. 3/- per day.
- Visitors will be charged Rs. 3/- per day for as many days as they stay in the Delegates' Camp.

N. B.—The Time of the Subjects Committee Meetings will be announced later. **ALL WOMEN ARE URGED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.**

OPENING DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

Scenes of great enthusiasm prevailed at the opening of the 13th Annual Session of the All-India Women's Conference held on the beautiful grounds of the Municipal Town Hall, Delhi. The huge quadrangle behind the Town Hall was packed to its utmost capacity with over 3000 men and women of all nationalities from different parts of India and abroad. The decorations of the ground and the platform were very neatly and tastefully executed and the whole atmosphere presented a scene of unique magnificence and gorgeousness. **Rani Lakshmi Bai Rajwade**, President-elect of the Conference, on being led to the dais by the retiring President, **Rajkumari Amrit Kaur**, Patrons and Vice-Presidents of the A.I.W.C., the Hon. Organising Secretary and several members of the Reception Committee, was received by Mrs. Sultan Singh, President of the Reception Committee, Standing Committee members of the A.I.W.C., distinguished Indian and Overseas visitors and was loudly cheered by the delegates and all assembled. Prominent among the local visitors were Lala Shriram, Khwaja Hassan Nizami, many members of the Bar and the Municipal Committee and other distinguished citizens of Delhi. It was a gorgeous spectacle to see 176 delegates representing the Branches and the Sub-Branchees of the A.I.W.C., including those of Assam, Travancore and N. W. F. P., all gathered together at one place and inspired by the same ideals of improving the condition of the women of India. Prominent among the Overseas visitors were Miss Agatha Harrison, Representative of the Liaison Group of the A.I.W.C. in England, Miss Mary Dingman, President of the Peace and Disarmament Committee of the Women's International Organisations, Miss P. Hage as the representative of the International Labour Office, Geneva, Mrs. Hassan A. Ali from Japan, and Mrs. Harlow, President of the Northampton League of Women Voters, U. S. A. The proceedings started at 5 p.m. with a national song "Hindustan Hamara" by the students of the Lady Irwin College, after which **Rajkumari Amrit Kaur**, in proposing the President-elect to the Chair, said:—

"Before I perform the pleasurable task of asking you to acclaim Rani Rajwade as our President for 1939 I wish to plead your indulgence for a short time in order to share with you some of my thoughts in virtue of my experience of our work during my year of service.

You will hear about Conference activities in general from the Annual Report which will be presented to you in due course this afternoon. It is, however, essential for us to review briefly what more we might have done

in order that we may show better & better results in the years ahead of us.

My personal views expressed to you in my Presidential address last year have been strengthened by my contacts with the various branches whose work I have had the pleasure and privilege of seeing during the last twelve months. These contacts have been of immense value to me and I am convinced that our Presidents and Office-bearers will have to travel as much as possible in future in order to acquaint themselves with varying conditions and to kindle enthusiasm. To keep the enthusiasm alive, however, and to form new branches, the services of more than one travelling Secretary are essential. These facts have been amply borne in on me during my tours.

There is a definite awakening among women; they need service and guidance; work cries out to be done in both town and village but the dearth of whole-time workers is immense. While voluntary work is needed more and more and must ever be the source of inspiration of all service, I feel that our branches must consider the necessity now of having paid workers in their areas so that work may be carried on with unabated zeal. It is difficult, save in rare cases, to get sustained effort from purely voluntary workers—especially when these are few in number. Women of the monied classes must realise their responsibility and the contribution they can and should make in this regard.

It is for this reason that a new method of work at our Annual Session has been pressed by me in order that we may discuss in detail how to find workers, how to expand our work and how to make living contacts with the women who constitute the large majority of Indian Womanhood. I have great hopes that practical suggestions for the better carrying on of our work will be forthcoming in abundant measure during our deliberations this year which will help and inspire us all to forge ahead with redoubled energy and enthusiasm for our cause.

I am convinced that a women's platform is an absolute necessity for us. But we need to expand mentally no less than in our work. If we are to prove ourselves capable of shouldering the responsibilities which are becoming ours in increasing measure, we must make a far deeper study of all the questions which affect us than we have done so far. To pass resolutions is no longer sufficient to meet the needs of the times. Definite, concrete and detailed proposals for reforms wherever we want them must be put forward by us but this can only be done if we know our subject well. And to know our subject well it is essential for us to be intimately conversant with the life, conditions and needs of our people. Only in this way can we be of real service and only by these contacts will our Conference

become a live organisation. The important question of a change in our constitution has been before us throughout the year. There is no sphere of life which we can now afford to leave alone as not belonging to us or beyond our scope. In the world of today women must contribute their quota and lend their full weight on the side of justice and peace for the ushering in of a new order. I am quite certain that we can no longer afford to ignore political issues here any more than we can ignore world conditions. We must give the lead everywhere and I would be fain that we could—having a heart—believe ourselves in Non-violence—persuade the women of every country to unite on this platform and save the world from the moral and spiritual degradation which threatens today to destroy everything that we hold dear.

Europe, the Far East and the Middle East stand in special need of this message today. We have a definite advantage inasmuch as we can claim as our own the great apostle of Non-violence to inspire and guide us. Are we going to be his followers and helpers indeed? I pray that Indian women will not fail in the hour of trial of our country and of the world.

I would like to thank you for the courtesy and co-operation I have had from you during the year that is coming to a close. In particular I wish to express special gratitude to Mrs. Dina Asana our Hon. Organising Secretary for the last two years for her loyal and devoted service to the Association.

And now, friends, Rani Rajwade needs no introduction to any of you; for every one of us knows of her services to the Conference, in particular when the same was in its infancy. I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with her as Chairwoman for 2 years while she was Organising Secretary and I can testify to her zeal, her devotion to the Association and her infinite patience and capacity for work. Apart from the pleasure I feel in making over the reins of office to a very dear personal friend I know that I am handing them to one whose ability and guidance will serve our cause in the way we would all wish it to be served. The task of a President is not an easy one unless she has the help, understanding and co-operation and loyalty of all. I sincerely hope and am confident that Rani Rajwade will be able to count on these from each one of us. I have great pleasure in proposing her to the office of President and I wish the Conference a year of real progress and prosperity under her fostering care.

The Hon'ble Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, seconding the proposal in Hindustani, said that it was a matter of great pride to them that the reins of the Conference were to be in the hands of one, who had served the Conference for the last thirteen years most energetically.

The distinguished President then took the Chair amidst loud and prolonged cheers and was garlanded on behalf of the Conference and the Reception Committee, after which Mrs. Sultan Singh, Chairman of the Reception Committee, Delhi Session, read out her following Welcome Address:—

WELCOME ADDRESS

By

MRS. SULTAN SINGH

Chairman of the Reception Committee

RANI RAJWADE, SISTER DELEGATES, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

On behalf of the members of the Reception Committee of the 13th Session of the All-India Women's Educational and Social Conference, and on behalf of the women, and if I may say so, of the citizens of Delhi, I welcome you all most heartily and cordially to this town, at once one of the oldest and the newest of towns in this country. I am proud to welcome you and happy to feel that you have accepted our invitation and are now in our midst. But I do not do so without a certain amount of trepidation. I am not at all sure that we shall be able to give you the comforts that you should have and that you are used to. But if love and affection are any compensation for material discomforts, I assure you that you will not find us lacking and I hope, therefore, that you will look upon other shortcomings with indulgence. Some of you will find the cold climate of Delhi unkind, but I hope you will also find some compensation for it in the warmth of our hearts.

I see before me a number of delegates who have travelled a thousand miles or more to attend this Session. I particularly rejoice to see them here as their presence emphasises the widely representative character of this national assembly of women in India.

You are about to embark upon a discussion and consideration of the various difficult and intricate problems that face women in this country to-day. I will, therefore, not keep you long from your great task. Nor will I presume to guide your thoughts or to indicate what questions should engage your attention most. As is only fit and proper, I shall leave this to the care



Mrs. Sultan Singh
Chairman of the Reception Committee. Delhi.

of our distinguished President. But if I may be permitted to do so, I would very much like to refer very briefly to the humble efforts that the constituency to which I have the honour to belong, has been making towards the achievement of the ideas of this Conference. I do so in all humility and with the earnest request that you should give us the fullest benefit of your presence here by finding some time to study our work and to help us with your suggestion and advice.

The Delhi Women's League, which is a constituent body of the All India Women's Conference, has been making ceaseless efforts to make the women of this Province fully conscious, not only of their rights and privileges as human beings, but also of their duties and obligations to other human beings. Our Sarda Act Committee has vigilantly watched the operation of this most important law and although it would be vain to boast that the evil practice of child marriage has been completely eradicated, we can certainly pride ourselves on having stimulated, in an appreciable measure, that strong public opinion without which this or indeed any other legislation is hardly likely to succeed.

The depressed classes have not escaped our attention. Those of you who may find time to visit our Harijan Girl's School at Saraswati Bhavan, will, I hope, find some small satisfaction at our modest but concrete efforts in this direction. You will also permit me, I hope, to mention with no little pride that Mrs. Brij Lal Nehru, whom we claim as one of us, has dedicated her life to the cause of the untouchables.

Our literacy drive too has not been without success. Since 1927 the number of school-going girls has nearly trebled in this Province and I think our constituency may pardonably feel that it has contributed at least a small portion to this progress. Although we are second to none in pressing for open and fair competition and opportunities as between men and women for various vocations and professions, I believe that for some time to come we shall have to concentrate on equipping our women to take their place in the home, as wives and mothers, with dignity and with ease. It was to this end that the Lady Irwin College for Women, of which we all feel proud, was brought into existence by the efforts of this Conference as an institution where women could learn home arts and crafts and the art of physical fitness for themselves and for the generations for whom they will be responsible instead of stressing an academic type of education which will not meet their immediate and urgent needs. Feeling as we do, we have tried to spread the message of "Education for the home" in some of the surrounding villages by stimulating interest in cottage arts and crafts which are both educative and of practical utility. We have also done our bit in stimulating interest in inheritance and marriage laws that seek to

safeguard the rights of women, although we realise that this problem cannot be adequately solved unless women enter the legislature in much larger numbers than they do at present. The election of Mrs. Subbaroyan to the Central Assembly is to my mind, an event of great importance of which we should all feel proud. But it is obvious that we should have many Mrs. Subbaroyans in the Legislatures, and I assure you that our constituency will never cease to work to that end.

One aspect of our work we should particularly like to commend to your notice for your consideration. It is one of the foremost aims of this Conference to represent all classes and communities of women and to win the active sympathy and intelligent support of the educated, ill-educated and the uneducated alike. Our constituency has always been fully conscious of the need for spreading women's movements to the humblest and the most ignorant homes. It has, therefore, been our constant endeavour to work not only in comfortable drawing rooms (some of which have indeed provided the necessary inspiration and therefore need help and guidance least) but to go far into slums and villages where even the rudiments of women's rights and obligations are unknown. We have, therefore, established useful contacts amongst the rural population and the more backward sections of women of all communities in the towns by holding numerous public meetings in these areas, by frequent personal visits demonstrations and talks, and by encouraging the opening of suitable centres for the spread of useful education and information. I sincerely trust that this type of work will win your approval which I assure you will give us heart and courage in our future work.

In conclusion may I offer my heart-felt thanks to all those workers who have assisted the Reception Committee in its work, to the generous donors who have helped the Committee to maintain the honour and the traditions of hospitality of this town, to those friends who have gladly opened the doors of their own homes to some of the delegates and thus shared the pleasant burden of the Committee and last but not least, to one of our foremost citizens, Lala Ladli Pershad who has so kindly placed his large house at the disposal of the Reception Committee for the accommodation of the delegates.

And now I must leave you to your work and to the guidance of Rani Rajwade, a true and loyal worker in the cause of women's emancipation, whom you have justly honoured by electing her as your President. May success attend your deliberations and may the women of India have cause to feel grateful to you for your noble efforts.

MESSAGES FROM FAR AND NEAR

The President then called upon Mrs. Dina Asana, Hon. Organising Secretary, A.I.W.C., to read out the telegrams and *messages of goodwill and blessings received from numerous friends and associations in India and abroad. Some of these were received from:—

Mahatma Gandhi.
Lady Halifax.
H. H. the Maharani of Baroda.
H. H. Maharani Sucharu Devi of Mayurbhanj.
The Dowager Rani Lalita Kumari of Vizianagaram.
Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi.
Lady Vidyagouri Nilkanth.
Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji.
H. H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi of Travancore.
Sir Maurice Gwyer, Chief Justice of India.
Dr. Maude Royden.
Miss Muriel Lester.
Mrs. Heddy Fulop-Miller.
Sir Girija Shanker Bajpai.
Miss Ruth Woodsmall, World Secretary, Y.W.C.A.
Dr. Georgina Sweet, Australia.
Lady Yeshodabai Joshi.
Lady Mirza Ismail.
Lady Glancy, President, Delhi Provincial Council of Women.
Mr. Bhulabhai Desai.
Mr. Asaf Ali.
Mr. Shumshersingh.
Koolsum P. M. Master, President, Hindi Stri Mandal, Kobe, Japan.
Miss W. Dye, Secretary, Central Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church.
Baroness E. Van Boetzelaer, on behalf of the women delegates at the Intertational Missionary Council at Tambaram, Madras.
British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.
President, Australian Federation of Women Voters.
Mrs. Hansa Mehta.
Miss Jean Begg, National Y.W.C.A.

*The text of the messages will be found in the Appendix.

Gujarati Mahila Mandal, Karachi.
 Mrs. Uma Nehru, M.L.A., (U.P.)
 Capt. Rao Saheb Patay, Gwalior.
 Mrs. Annapurnabai Deshmukh, M.L.A. (Bombay).
 Miss Mira Datta Gupta, M.L.A. (Bengal).
 Mrs. Hemaprabha Mazumdar, M.L.A. (Bengal).
 Mr. and Mrs. Kandke of Baheri.
 Mr. Joshi, Bar-at-Law, Amraoti.
 Dr. N. Lakshmi Devi, M.L.A., (Madras).
 Mrs. Hasina Murshed M.L.A. (Bengal).
 Shrimati Padmabai Rao, Benares.
 Shrimati Gangaben Patel, Bombay.
 Mrs. Umabai Muley, Nasik City.
 Mr. Thompson, Tumkur.
 Mr. Charry, Trivandrum.
 Miss Sugra Humayun, Hyderabad (Dn.).
 Mrs. Jalu R. Vakharia, Ahmedabad.
 Miss Z. Lazarus.
 Mrs. Renuka Ray, Liaison Officer.
 Mrs. Manikbai Bhide, Amraoti.

This was followed by the reading of the Annual Report for 1938.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE FOR 1938

Hon. Organising Secretary: Mrs. Dina Jehangir Asana

The All-India Women's Conference, thanks to the devoted services of its workers, is able to record yet another year of sincere work and some concrete achievement in the Educational and Social fields of work. We fully realise that knowledge is power and a means to noble ends and we have tried to bring this knowledge and power into the service of Indian womanhood. Our silent work for the last thirteen years, however, is worth nothing if it does not prove an incentive to further efforts in securing victory over ignorance and bondage. In a world torn by conflicting passions and rivalries we women, all over the world, are tenaciously clinging to the ideals of peace, justice, tolerance and enlightenment. We feel that our Association, humble as its beginnings were and young as it is, must, with an awakening womanhood, play an important part in bringing about peace,

harmony and good-will, not only among the people of India, but also among the peoples of the world. Our Conference is cosmopolitan in our land and we are proud of our growing contacts with women of other countries whereby we seek to demonstrate the fellowship of women working in the cause of humanity and to truly interpret that larger gospel which transcends all barriers of race, creed and country. In token of these convictions we always welcome our sisters from beyond the seas at our Annual Sessions. Today we extend a special welcome to Miss Mary Dingman, President of the Peace and Disarmament Committee of the International Women's Organisations, to Miss P. Hage of the International Labour Office, League of Nations, Geneva, Mrs. Ali from Japan, Mrs. Harlow, President of the Northampton League of Women Voters, United States of America, Miss G. F. Greig of Australia as also to our old and valued friend Miss Agatha Harrison. We hope that they will take back with them to their countries happy memories of this Session and convey to their people the ideals of the All-Indic Women's Conference and our burning desire to unite with them in all that stands for justice and peace.

We have striven hard for the removal of illiteracy and the spread of education. During the year under report much active work has been done in this direction. Such has not been restricted to towns, for several of our Constituencies have given their help in the starting of Schools in villages, where hundreds of children are receiving free primary education. Schools for Harijans have also been opened and from them many pupils have gone out after a successful course in sewing, domestic science and hygiene. In some village schools vocational training is also imparted. In those villages where there are no girls' schools, the members of some of our branches have successfully persuaded parents to send their girls to boys' schools. Practical knowledge on subjects of Sanitation and Hygiene by way of magic lantern shows has been imparted to many villagers. These shows are much appreciated as they afford the villager instruction and amusement at the same time. One of our Constituencies, the members of which are keen on adult education, has prepared a list of places where literacy classes for adults in the city could be held. Circular letters to all leading firms and commercial houses, including Government and Railway offices, were sent out requesting them to induce their employees to attend those classes. Popular lectures by experts on subjects like the geography, the religions, the people, the languages, the literature, philosophy, music and Art of India were arranged in one of our Constituencies for educating the public about our own country.

Our Conference discussed and studied in detail the Wardha Education Scheme and our Educational Secretary was authorised to go to Wardha

to discuss the Scheme personally. We are glad to feel that some of our suggestions and recommendations were incorporated in their Syllabus by the framers. We regretted that the Wardha Scheme had unfortunately not been able to make any provision for Nursery Schools owing to lack of funds, and we were asked to take up this work. We are glad to say that a simple and practical syllabus for Nursery Schools in India has been prepared by our Educational Section Committee in consultation with experts on the subject. In this Syllabus the principle of educating children through purposeful creative activities, leading on to productive work, has been preserved. This Syllabus, besides including physical welfare, hygiene, self-help, hand-work, language-training, musical appreciation, nature study and social training, lays special emphasis on the education of the parents and the training of teachers—for we realise that a great deal depends upon the personality and qualifications of the teacher. We have also prepared a draft budget for the Nursery Schools. Copies of the proposed Syllabus and the Draft Budget can be obtained from our office.

Some of those assembled here may not be aware that the Lady Irwin College for Women in Delhi, which has been doing useful work during the last six years, is a child of our own creation and is the first of its kind inasmuch as it deals mainly with imparting training in domestic science and the supply of trained teachers in this craft. We would like to add two new sections to this College which could be responsible:

- (a) for the training of teachers in northern India for the kindergarten stage with an experimental school attached for children of the ages of four to seven, and
- (b) a handicrafts department for our teachers so that we may be able to supply such, at any rate for urban areas.

For this expansion funds are needed for which we appeal to the public and it is to be hoped that members of the Conference will not rest content until they have made this Institution a really useful College—capable of training young women in the ideals of service and citizenship and turning out efficient teachers who will contribute unsparingly towards the success of a changed system of education for our boys and girls.

Some of our Branches have already started running Nursery Schools which report good progress.

We have not restricted ourselves to the educative side only of the child; we, as women, do not forget all the other factors which help to make the child grow into a healthy citizen. With that end in view, in some of our Constituencies, care committees have been formed and one particular

school in a poor locality selected as the centre for work. Names and addresses of children suffering from physical ailments were also obtained. These children were divided amongst the workers who visited their homes for the purpose of establishing friendly contact and co-operation with their parents. Literacy classes where men and women are taught elementary reading and writing exist in almost all our Constituencies and the results are very promising.

We have stressed for a long time the need for a common language for India and the instructive scheme prepared by the Convener of our Common Language Sub-Committee has been closely followed by many of our Constituencies. Classes for teaching Hindustani have been organised by many of our Branches and good progress reported. We are happy that some of the Provincial Governments are taking up seriously the question of a common language for India. Debates, lectures, broadcast talks and cinema films in Hindustani will go a long way in helping the spread of Hindustani but in addition to these we suggest that Hindustani literature should be supplied, wherever possible, especially in school and college libraries and in Reading Rooms in rural as well as urban areas.

Classes in first aid, home-nursing, needle-work and cooking, laundry and toy-making exist in most of our Constituencies. In the short time at my disposal, however, it is impossible to narrate all the activities of our Educational Section Committee in detail.

The SOCIAL work of the Conference during the year under report has been extensive and constructive. All our Constituencies have been most active in holding meetings for educating public opinion in support of the principles underlying most of the important social bills introduced in the Provinces and in the Central Legislature, in particular those dealing with Divorce, Monogamy, Restraint of Polygamy and the Legal Disabilities of Women. These Bills were thoroughly discussed by our Standing Committee at its half-yearly meeting in July last and our detailed amendments were forwarded to the sponsors of the various measures. We would, however, have preferred comprehensive, rather than piece-meal legislation, for the questions of monogamy, divorce and rights of inheritance and maintenance are all intimately connected and the need for revision of existing laws to suit the growing consciousness of women is felt in both Hindu and Moslem Society. A great many of us still feel that a Commission to enquire into the existing codes would be very beneficial. The All-India Women's Conference was busy throughout last year in creating public opinion on Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's and Mr. B. Das's amendments to the Child Marriage Restraint Act. It is a matter of great

satisfaction to us that these have been passed by the Central Legislative Assembly. We wish, however, to have the Act still further amended and the clause for one month's notice which is likely to be taken advantage of by unscrupulous persons, removed.

Representation was made to all the Provincial Governments and States to include "Opium and other dangerous narcotics" in their prohibition programme. We have received encouraging reports from some of the provinces namely Bombay, Orissa, Assam, Central Provinces and Madras. A good deal of propoganda is still necessary to achieve our object.

Our work for untouchability is progressing and in some of our Constituencies our members contribute their share towards the education and boarding expenses of some Harijan students. Clothes are also distributed to them. Some of the Schools for Harijans conducted by our Constituencies are making steady progress and many pupils have gone out with a fair knowledge of the 3-R's, and of sewing, domestic science and hygiene. One of our State Constituencies is also conducting a hostel for Harijan girls.

Exhibitions of the products of agriculture and of various industries, such as home-craft, painting, leather-work, clay-modelling, needle-work and embroidery, as well as health Exhibitions have been successfully organised in some Constituencies. In others, popular lectures, illustrated with magic lantern and bioscopic slides are also organised, which attract large crowds. It is worthy of mention that one of our Sub-Constituencies realised over Rs. 500 from the sale of work of their own hand work and other handicrafts from outside Provinces, and distributed the amount between the Harijan Sevak Sangh, Famine Relief in the United Provinces and for provision for milk for the poor children of the district. This branch also clothed all the children of an orphanage as well as the poor Harijans of the town. The same Sub-Constituency subscribed Rs. 100 towards the Congress Ambulance Unit going to China.

We have always devoted considerable attention to Maternity and Child Welfare. Several of our Constituencies conduct Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics which, in many cases, provide free medical examination and medicine as also free milk to children, and clothes to poor children and their mothers. It is the experience of some of us that Health Centres run under voluntary Health Committees of women do more satisfactory work than when they are run by the Local Bodies.

In one of our Constituencies, a co-operative Sub-Committee has been formed with the object of keeping in touch with other similar women's organisations in its district. For this purpose a register has been kept and institutions requiring help are visited from time to time. This personal con-

tact is very encouraging to all and helps us to realise that all work, by whom-ever done, is worthy of mutual help and co-operation.

In some Constituencies where our members visited mill areas, they found that though the Maternity Benefit Act had been operating there in theory for some time, not a single woman had taken advantage of it. The benefit to be derived from this Act was explained to the ignorant and illiterate woman workers and this helped some of them to get the advantage due to them from their employers.

The Health Sub-Committees of some of our Constituencies have concentrated on improving the insanitary conditions prevailing in many of the schools of their province. In the particular instance of an industrial area where two or three thousand labourers live and work, this Committee has successfully persuaded the authorities to build better dwelling quarters for the workers. To improve the condition of the labourers, efforts were also made to organise lectures with magic lantern illustrations with the help of the Corporation Publicity Department. Cinema lectures in poor areas for temperance work were also arranged by these Sub-Committees.

In order to revive old and decaying arts and home crafts and to provide a means of livelihood for women to work in a healthy and congenial atmosphere, industrial homes in different localities were opened by some of our Constituencies. Our members assisted the workers and teachers by helping to sell their finished products, which were either in the form of garments or articles of daily house-hold needs, and the proceeds therefrom were given away to the producers themselves. Our members also helped actively in canvassing orders for them. In one energetic Sub-Constituency they canvassed for orders and were recently successful in getting an order for 500 uniforms for Railways, which was a good source of income for the poor workers. Thus these Industrial Homes run by us are at once both schools and workshops and are based on the principle of "earn while you learn".

Another interesting feature of one of our Sub-Constituencies is the formation of what they call the "Family Circle". This is formed with a view to promote inter-communal friendship, to inculcate a healthy sense of freedom among the sexes and to encourage sport. This circle includes men and women of all castes, creeds and communities. It is the hope of this circle that this little beginning might serve to help them in eliminating Purdah, the prejudices of caste and other harmful social customs.

We are very glad to learn that the government of one of the States

has taken action on one of our Resolutions passed at our last Session at Nagpur by framing byelaws for the registration of births, deaths and marriages.

Propaganda against child marriage, regular visits to jails with a view to improving the condition of the women prisoners and organising classes for them in elementary education and in useful handicrafts and cottage industries, village welfare sub-committees for supplying medicine, milk, fruits, cotton and woollen garments, are common features of most our Constituencies—as also stalls or depots for indigenous articles for home use.

In November, 1937, the High Commissioner for India in London, Trade Department, asked the co-operation of the women of India in sending exhibits for the Women's Section of the Empire Exhibition to be held at Glasgow for six months from May to October 1938. I am glad to say that some of our Constituencies were able to send articles of exquisite handwork.

Our Liaison Group in England, here represented this year by Miss Agatha Harrison whose services to India are so well known, has been very active, thanks to the devoted service of our Liaison Officer, Mrs. Grace Lankester, who spends a great deal of her time and energy in giving publicity abroad to our interests. We are much indebted to her and the Group for the work they have been doing for our Organisation as well as for India and Indians in England. The quarterly Bulletin prepared by them deserves special mention.

Our work has increased much and we feel more than ever the need of a Central Office. Our main difficulty in putting this scheme into force is lack of funds. We earnestly hope, however, that in view of the aims and objects and the urgent necessity of the nature of the work done by the All-India Women's Conference, the people of our country will respond generously to our appeal for funds.

A new venture this year and the fulfilment of a long-felt need and desire is the publication of a journal belonging to the Conference. The first issue can be had from our office and I sincerely trust the public and especially women will become subscribers and contributors so that it may become possible for us to translate the Bulletin into our various languages and thereby reach our poor sisters with a view to educate them regarding their needs and responsibilities.

It is gratifying to note that we have in all 40 Constituencies and over 150 Sub-Constituencies. We were glad to add some new Constituencies to our list this year, namely, Jath and some of the Kathiawad States. New

Sub-Constituencies have also been formed at Bihar, Kathiawad, Bombay and some other places through our travelling Secretary. The result obtained shows that very often the ground is ready for new branches if only we can supply the worker to organise a Committee to start the work.

I feel the Report will not be complete without a few words in recognition of the services which our retiring President, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, has rendered to our Organisation during her term of office. Her great abilities and sincerity of purpose, her indefatigable industry, her innate courtesy and the enthusiasm with which she has worked throughout the year, have proved of immense help to us, while the international reputation which she has won as one of the most devoted workers of our generation for the uplift of women, has enhanced the prestige of our Conference in India and abroad. It will not be out of place to mention that a noteworthy feature of this year's work has been that the Rajkumari has travelled extensively and visited several of our Constituencies. She is the first President to have done so. She has met the Committees and addressed public meetings at Nagpur, Delhi, Lahore, Jullundur, Simla, Madras, Trivandrum, Cochin, Mysore, Bangalore, Baroda, Bombay and one of its suburbs, Poona, Ahmedabad, throughout the Kathiawad States, as also at Amreli and Dwarka in the Baroda State and Lucknow. These visits have provided a much-needed stimulus to our women workers at various centres, and their revived activities and enthusiasm bear witness to the inspiration and guidance that they have received from the exemplary devotion to duty and the selfless career of our retiring President.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that however encouraging the report about the work of our members and branches is, I am sure we are all more than ever conscious of the increasingly urgent need for sustained and redoubled effort for the attainment of our ideas. The veils of ignorance and darkness that enshroud our land cannot be banished unless every one of us makes up her mind to devote every moment of her spare time to the service of our less fortunate sisters. The goal that we have set before us is not an easy one to achieve. We have much to battle against and the number of workers is small. But with a living faith in justice of our cause, with the call to serve within us and an abounding love for our country to inspire us, no obstacles will be too difficult to overcome and our Conference must surely march forward from strength to strength.

Delhi.
28th December, 1938

DINA JEHangIR ASANA,
Hon. Organising Secretary,
All-India Women's Conference.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

By

RANI LAKSHMIBAI RAJWADE

The President delivered the following address:—

Friends,

Inevitably all my thoughts this afternoon are given to the course which this conference must follow during the present session and during the year which for us begins to-day and which, in the context of contemporary Indian life, promises rich and varied opportunities of work and experience. And I am naturally eager to share these thoughts with you, for I am sure that we are all equally vitally interested in the problems of the immediate future. Before I do so, however, I must say how deeply conscious I am of the very great honour you have conferred on me by electing me president this year. As I said, these hurrying years are full of vital and far-reaching change in our country and abroad; to be asked to be at the helm of the greatest women's organisation in India at such a time is an honour and a responsibility which I, with my obvious limitations, might have found well-nigh overwhelming had I not found strength in the thought that I shall have the support of zealous and experienced colleagues: besides, my long connection with this conference which I cherish very much really left me no choice. I shall try, during my tenure, to make some return for the honour and the trust you have put upon me by serving to the best of my ability, the conference and through it the women of India.

A decade has gone by since this conference last met in this great city. I remember that in 1928 when we met here the Sarda Bill was on the anvil and there was also a good deal of fluttering over franchise and women's representation in the legislatures. But in Delhi then we had not even dreamt of the swift and almost miraculous awakening which the year 1930 saw and of the subsequent anxiety of this conference to learn the lessons of that awakening and to line up with the other major All-India organisations in democratic ideals and actual work. That inevitable destiny which will in due time turn this conference into a fully democratic, intensely active body, broad-based on the constant satisfaction of the real needs of the mass of Indian women—that destiny, I fear, was not as clearly visible in those days as it is now. But, we must also remember, the conference was then only an year old.

From 1927, when the conference first came into being, to 1938 we have been doing a great deal of useful and steady work. It will, perhaps, be useful to recapitulate some of these achievements if only to remind ourselves of the vast things that remain undone and the possible lines of advance in the immediate future.

This organisation is, as you know, only twelve years old. But partly because those twelve years have been extraordinarily eventful and crowded in India and partly because of our workers the scope of the conference has very rapidly increased from more or less academic discussions over educational and social reform to active agitation and the creation of institutions, funds and working centres. Our organisation now comprises of 148 branches extending over British India as well as the States. These with their yearly conferences provide many opportunities for public service and organising and propaganda to our women. Mainly through the conference machinery we have tried to create a public opinion on all problems relating to women; we have also created a unity of classes, creeds and interests here which is the envy of all other Indian organisations.

Further the passing of the Sarda Act was partly due to these efforts: our memorandum on Educational Reform, the All India Women's Education Fund, the Lady Irwin College, can be pointed to as really worth while achievements in the educational field. We helped in the passing of a number of socially useful pieces of legislation. We opposed unanimously those provisions in the new constitution which proposed communal seats, separate electorates and a limited franchise.

We have been carrying on propaganda for social and educational reform: we have lately been engaged in a similar effort to support bills dealing with women's legal disabilities in the legislatures. Finally our annual sessions, while undoubtedly helping to focus public attention on women's problems, have also been the clearing houses of a great deal of information, new ideas and schemes, useful contacts and necessary activities bearing on the problems before Indian woman.

Out of this very brief survey of our achievements several conclusions emerge. Let us frankly admit that these achievements are neither impressive nor adequate. To be able to say that they more than justify our existence is surely not enough. Of course, we all know how difficult it is, in a country where most men and women have to live on the barest subsistence level to get voluntary workers: moreover the country's very natural preoccupation with the struggle for freedom necessarily means the absorption in that struggle of most experienced workers: nor is it possible to attract fresh young people to make sacrifices for social and educational work

when they have splendid opportunities for more urgent and spectacular sacrifices in the political field. Incidentally I take this opportunity to welcome the Women's Fellowship of Service recently started in Poona by two young workers: I think that we need hundreds of such service and training centres.

But the fact remains that our work so far has consisted mainly of more or less inadequate propaganda, agitation in favour of certain legislative measures, extension of the conference organisation, collecting money for educational and other purposes, supporting educational institutions, generally attempting to rouse women—at any rate—those of the middle class women who could be reached through any extension of the A.I.W.C. organisation. I would call this activity 'indirect' though necessary and vital. It is indirect in the sense that it does not organise itself directly to attempt the solution of any of the problems which we have to face: it only tries to create the necessary stage at which we must start direct activity: it is indirect in the sense that it does not vitally touch the ambit of the real needs of the mass of Indian women. For instance, we helped to put the Sarda Act on the statute book but those classes and those localities where its impact should have been most felt are hardly aware of the Act because we have not succeeded in reaching those classes and those areas. We have collected a big fund for the education of women with which we have helped to create a college for girls, we were responsible for the production of an admirable handbook about educational reforms: yet that great literacy drive which waits to be undertaken in this country has remained quite outside our efforts. We have maintained in this conference a truly magnificent unity between Hindu and Muslim and Sikh and Christian and the rest: but beyond the limits of this conference we have not made any constructive or dynamic contribution towards the solution of that urgent problem: we have tried to rouse—I am afraid without any degree of adequacy—our women to a sense of their political rights, we have agitated for franchise and representation without getting what we wanted, *viz.*, adult franchise based on a system of joint electorates. But towards the attainment of political freedom and of true democracy in India we have not made so much as a gesture. You will probably discuss this question later on in this session: but let me say here and now that without actually owing allegiance to any one of the current political methods in India and without seriously endangering that unity which has been one of our most cherished achievements this conference can still do a great deal towards the attainment of democratic freedom for India, as I hope to indicate later on when I return to this subject.

Another conclusion which emerges out of a survey of our work is that

our organisation needs to enlarge its composition so as to include a far greater number of women than hitherto of the majority classes—the village and city workers. Our constitution provides for working centres and their local committees enlisting members on any terms that may be locally possible. I think the time has come when the fullest possible advantage should be taken of this and an effort made not only to enlarge the scope of our ministry in social and educational matters but also to increase and democratize our numbers.

I am sure you do not think that I am advocating a meaningless type of playing to the gallery. Some of you will remember the fact that last year Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru offered some criticisms regarding this conference. His criticism was that ours was a wholly bourgeois organisation. I took it upon myself to examine his criticism in a speech to the Bombay Constituent Conference: and I remember the only reply I could make was to accept his criticism in so far as it meant that our organisation was not making any marked effort to serve or to come into vital contact with the real mass of Indian women. You and I will gladly agree with Pandit Nehru's claim that the present awakening among women is due more to what the Congress has been doing than to our conference. Naturally the woman in the house is the first to be aroused in an earthquake because she has the most precious burdens to rescue. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Congress for these peaceful earthquakes and the consequent entry of women into the highest positions in public life. But Pandit Nehru was not so realistic or fair when he suggested that whatever work this organisation had done was vitiated by the fact that it is a bourgeois body. The Congress has been and still largely is predominantly bourgeois in composition—even after fifty years of incessant work.

But, for us, the point is: aren't we going to do something to meet this criticism? Are we going to be satisfied with what I have ventured to call 'indirect' activity? That type of work is necessary and always useful. But the mere scale of our organisation or the resources at our disposal are not going to secure for us our rightful place by the side of organisations like the Congress until our work becomes more direct, more fundamental and vastly more strenuous. A survey of our achievements shows us clearly that our work bears none of these characteristic and *that* in its turn is due to the fact that our organisation does not embrace the real mass of India's women nor all of their vital needs and aspirations. And it is here that I should like most to compare notes with you and to indicate the lines, as they seem to me, of immediate and possible remedy.

I shall take politics first. As perhaps some of you know I belong to

a group which has been trying, for sometime now, to induce the All-India Women's Conference to widen the basis of its constitution so as to include, along with other reconstructive activities for women and children, political activities of a non-party and constructive nature. Perhaps during our discussions last year the phrase 'constructive politics' did not seem to be adequately defined. As far as I can see I think the phrase has a definite meaning and can be translated into action. I should personally define constructive political activity as consisting of the following:—For instance, a clear declaration of our unity with many of the political parties in India regarding the accepted goal of independence for India should be made forthwith. Although this will be a mere declaration of political faith it will have an immense effect on the prestige of our association: it will convince our countrymen that if we do not take part in party-politics it is not because we are afraid to do so. Secondly this declaration should be supplemented by a national effort to explain to Indian women wherever our organisation can reach them why and how far the form of government affects their lives, why the present form of government is unsatisfactory, how little has been given to us, how much remains to be taken and how the average woman can help in the taking of it. Thirdly, as part of an adult education scheme and as part of the work of our conference a programme of general political education of women must be undertaken. They should be made familiar with democratic forms and women's duties and responsibilities in a democratic dispensation. Again, this conference can sponsor vigorously the Swadeshi movement so that women will come to realise the economic needs of the country. Finally the A.I.W.C. might impress upon its members and on other women the importance of making use of the vote towards the attainment of political freedom. These are some of the ways in which the phrase 'constructive politics' may be translated into practice. Whilst I am dealing with this point I should like to mention one other thing. There has lately been some vague talk of the necessity of forming a women's party in the country. I must say that I am totally against such a move. In the first place men have so far proved far from obstructive towards women's demands: we in India seem to have succeeded in skipping over the 'suffragette' stage in the development of the relations between men and women: and therefore there is no necessity for a women's party. And secondly I think that so long as the question of Indian independence is not settled it is the duty of women to subordinate their sectional interests to the larger interests in which surely they are in complete unity with the men of India.

The A.I.W.C. as a body may and—I think at any rate, for some time to come—ought to remain aloof from the disconcerting hurly-burly of party-politics. Of course, individual members of the conference have been and

will continue to be free to participate even in party-politics. But there is no point in sacrificing our present unity when we can satisfy our patriotic instincts and dispel whatever doubts and fears we have by activities which will only stop short of partisan politics. The instinct to be politically free is almost as real and much more urgent and irrepressible than even the instinct for enlightened and happy living. And I do think that for an organisation of the stature and compass of the A.I.W.C. to taboo politics blindly and totally is very much like repressing itself in an abnormal fashion. Moreover, if we do not shoulder our share of the responsibility, tacitly laid on all large scale organisations for public work, of rousing this country to regain its self-respect and its birthrights, what prestige shall we have when these will have been won without our participation even in constructive politics? Do not forget that the fact that women have attained positions of honour and trust in the new Congress Provinces is almost entirely due to their equal share in the battles which the Congress fought. It might be said that as we have actually been doing some political work even with the present constitution of the A.I.W.C. there is no reason why we cannot go on doing so without broadening the constitution. But I *do* think that our present constitution stands in the way of a sufficiently large number of politically minded workers joining our conference. That is why the operation has to be performed.

Before I leave this subject I should like to refer to another and to some of us an equally important aspect of it. We are often told that, if we so expand the constitution, our States branches or constituencies will hesitate to continue their connection with our body. That, I think is a wholly baseless fear. No less a person than the Diwan of a great South-India State has assured us that women in the States need not be afraid of so expanding their organisation as to include purely constructive political activities. That assurance I think should finally answer all fears on behalf of the State branches. And then there is the further question to be asked: Are we not going even to express our sympathies with the people of the States wherever they are trying to bring the States to toe the democratic line? We must realise that our State branches must be free to express if they wish to do so, their sympathies and moral support for their local brethren engaged in agitating for reforms. Every State unit is free to develop whatever form of government suits it: I imagine that some form of constitutional monarchy with varying degrees of democratization will be finally accepted in most States. But whatever the form they are agitating for, surely, these State units have the right to expect some expression of sympathy from the A.I.W.C. in this matter?

In the field of education too I feel it is time we undertook on a large

scale some concrete work. Every year we pass resolutions demanding this, that and the other. The primary aim of education in India is literacy. You are aware of the frightening literacy percentages—2½% for women and about 11% for men. We know of course that the agency through which alone this vast work can be done is the Government. But we also know that our governments have not enough money. Government effort has therefore to be supplemented by voluntary work and private enterprise. I again endorse the suggestion made from this platform on previous occasions that young people—especially women should be invited—even morally compelled to put in at least a year's service in literacy work either in cities or in villages after the completion of their school or university courses: one could cite the example of China where, as a European friend who had returned from China, told me last year, the literacy drive was enthusiastically helped by bands of young women. We must also keep the provincial governments continually alive to this great need by incessant propaganda. So far as girls' education is concerned I suggest—and I hope the conference will take up the suggestion in a concrete form—that a committee of expert men and women be appointed under the aegis of this conference to survey the existing curricula for the girls' education and to draw up standard curricula for the primary, secondary and higher stages answering to the needs of Indian girls. I understand that some effort along these lines is being officially made. In drawing up these curricula I hope they will bear in mind the pointless and excessive westernisation which has attacked the outlook, tastes, mental and physical habits, dress, manners, arts, etc., of several generations of men and women among the middle and higher classes. It is a thing which is undermining the homogeneity of Indian life very rapidly and is not wholly profitable. It is partly the fault of the education we receive. I hope the educationists engaged in this effort will keep in view the need of bringing our life back to Indian forms and standards in all these things.

I understand that this conference is seriously going to take up the question of Nursery schools. I have no definite idea how far such schools are possible in villages and cities. But to the peasant and worker woman no boon will perhaps be so welcome as a respite from the unceasing and ignorant care of her children which hampers her a great deal in her work and leaves her no leisure. There is another aspect of this matter of education which I should like to emphasise. The pivot of all educational effort is naturally the teacher. It is important, therefore, that all possible care is given to the selection and the training of teachers. If, for instance, the Wardha Scheme is generally accepted, as I presume it will be, I think that it will need really well-trained teachers for its successful working. This need for training may or may not be compatible with the idea of having volun-

tary workers. But so far as women are concerned I would suggest that those of our widowed sisters, who for one reason or another must seek some occupation will do well to adopt this noble work for their own. Also for those married and unmarried women who have leisure and comparative economic assurance and freedom it should be possible to volunteer for this work. I do not think I ought to make glib appeals for self-sacrifice on the part of young women. For, I know that our young women are showing an increasing awareness of the magnitude and the true nature of the task that awaits us and of the demands it will make on them. I am also enough of a realist to realize that it is up to the government and to organisations like this to see that too wearisome a demand is not made on the self-sacrifice of the young.

But education is only a part of a vaster work—that of rural reconstruction. You will disabuse your minds of the meaning which that word has often assumed—that of a vote-catching, fashionable racket. I refer to a work which will require a vast and efficient administrative machine, good money and good men or alternatively great self-sacrifice and infinite capacity for harnessing the mind and the body to the grind of a rigid patient plan. As you know, this India of ours lives mostly in its villages: and the life it lives there is fettered and barren and only fit-fully happy. The task before this generation and the generation after that therefore is to set it free and make it happy and enlightened. We are agreed that that is the supreme task.

You and I also realise that it is the duty of every member of this conference to help in the accomplishment of that task. At the same time I think we must realise that we cannot all participate in the actual day-to-day work in the villages. To be effective, village work requires the continuous presence of a trained worker in the village. You all know that no work is possible until the worker really becomes a member of the village community. That means that apart from those who dedicate their lives to this work hardly any one of us town-dwellers can do any effective work in that line although those of us who live in or near villages can of course help a great deal—even without much training.

Those who are not so placed can perhaps help by collecting the money to support the rural voluntary workers. But many of us who have our homes in towns and cities can share in an equally important task—the uplift of slum women—of the submerged classes in cities and towns. We the town-dwellers can, and I think must, give a certain portion of our time to social and educational work among the women of the towns in which we live. I have here the outline of a scheme by which we the members of this conference can undertake this vitally necessary work. I propose to

put it before you in due course, if I am permitted to do so. As I see it, this type of work is quite within the scope of our organisation and will not need any large funds. I hope that our organisation will seriously take it up and make a success of it.

The problem of social reform is slightly different. Here the chief agency, definitely, is not the government. It is true that we can legislate some evil customs out of existence if we are ruthless enough. But usually legislation in social matters arouses too much bitterness to make it always worth while. Here the more effective weapon is voluntary and propagandist effort. The mohalla committees which I envisage will have to undertake this part of our work. Social hygiene, personal hygiene, sanitation, care of children, nutrition, health, thrift, family life, recreations, social intercourse, prohibition, swadeshi, citizenship these can be successfully accomplished only through personal contact, through intimacy, through gentle but persistent preaching and example. This is even truer of that special Indian task of Harijan work. Harijan work may be regarded as our necessary penance for the wrongs done to the Harijans. I have no special guidance or line of progress to offer to you in this subject: indeed it would be presumption for me to offer suggestions when Mahatmaji has so amply and authoritatively given us directions but I know that the more our organisation is able to achieve in this field the firmer and deeper will its roots go among the women of India.

You must remember that laws cannot confer real status. Indian women's status will rise not with the passing of many acts removing their disabilities and restoring their rights: it will rise only as women free themselves of ignorance and superstition and acquire the many arts of free independent life. Let us struggle hard—by all means—to remove our legal disabilities. Let this conference sponsor with all the weight it can command, the formation of a committee of legal experts and representative women to go into the whole question of women's legal disabilities in all branches of the law and prepare a comprehensive draft of amendments embodying the removal of those disabilities. I have the authority of a member of the highest judicial body in this country for asserting that no amount of tinkering with one law here and another there will do and that it is urgently necessary to make a thorough going and comprehensive change in the whole body of laws relating to women's rights. Indeed, in an ideal and I hope not too distant state of affairs there will be one law not only for men and women but also for all creeds and cultures in India. But in the meanwhile the process must go on of bringing women's legal rights up to the same level of justice and equity as those of men. This organisation has already lent its support to the principles embodied in the bills now

before the legislature. But as I said our efforts must go far beyond the legal form. It must strike at the roots of the social disabilities which gave rise to those legal disabilities. There is also the need that in all these things women should learn the lesson of self-help. Our men are helpful: but the less help we take from them in matters which are exclusively our concern the better will it be for us. That is the only way in which we shall rise from strength to strength.

There is yet another matter in which I should like the women of India as represented by this conference to play a special part. The immediate task before our country is the attainment of political freedom. Behind that task loom darkly the far more formidable and far more vital tasks of economic reconstruction, of social progress and happiness, of individual happiness and liberty. For the immediate purpose of national freedom as well as for these other purposes the crying need is *unity*. If all of us who are Indians unite and present an undivided front to all the impediments to national freedom, I need hardly say that those impediments will vanish as by magic. So far in this conference our common womanhood has withstood and will continue to withstand until it becomes a habit—the strains of all the communal, industrial and class conflicts which divide our country. Can we not propagate that healthy habit among our countrymen? Can we not, as women, practise and induce others to practise the new technique, resurrected by Mahatmaji, of non-violence in the solution of these internal conflicts? We wish to practice it in the national fight for freedom, we aspire to advocate it in international councils: why can't we use it for this very urgent purpose? Here I should venture to make a special appeal to the women of Delhi. For, it seems to me, this great metropolis, in which the glamour of ancient Hindu and Muslim traditions still lingers, must, by a sort of historical fate, continue its role of a cosmopolitan, representative quintessential centre of Indian life. And it must lead in this most vital work of unity.

Finally let me once again bring you back to the realisation that this organisation has now to step down into the places where the majority of the women of India live—where the starkest realities of Indian life are to be encountered. Let me remind myself and you that this conference must sooner or later test itself on the only touchstone for all great associations in our country—the service of the vast mass of Indian women, the satisfaction of their most vital needs. There is no limit to what we can do. But the margin for delay and evasion is very very small.

That, however, is not the last word I should like to leave with you this afternoon. You and I know that India will win in the not distant future its political freedom: even material prosperity: ultimately power also.

Women might be finally emancipated: they might get power, freedom and all the rest of it. But I humbly yet deeply feel that these things are not enough. I feel—I know—that your political and economic freedom or your social uplift must be aimed at the conquest of the peace that passeth all understanding. That is the only way in which all our agitated effort can have any meaning. Much has been said about Indians being other-worldly. And again much has been said about this same other-worldliness being the bane of Indian life. Much too much has been said about the supreme importance of bread. I shall risk the charge of being an arm-chair philosopher—a smug bourgeois sentimentalist—and say, with all the emphasis I can command, that man liveth not by bread alone. By all means, bring bread and light and air to those who need it. Remember that is what this conference exists for. But as Indians—as women—as human beings—let us also remember that, in spite of all our monstrous social injustices and in spite of so much fake spirituality, our land has always essentially been a land of seers and sages and passionate ballad-makers of the spirit. Do we then have to remind ourselves that the abiding strengths and freedoms and happinesses come ultimately out of the spirit—not out of our possessions? We shall strike at poverty and social evil. But we shall do so with a full and sleepless awareness that we do it so that beauty shall come in and the spirit become free.

December 1939

LAKSHMIBAI RAJWADE.

Lala Shriram, one of the honoured guests, then addressed the gathering as follows:—

Rani Rajwade, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have very great pleasure in welcoming you all to Delhi. I deem it a great privilege to be asked to address so distinguished an audience as this. I do not know if I have deserved the honour, or would be able to do justice to your expectations. I do not think that a mere man has any right to speak in an assembly of ladies who are reputed to have perfected the art of speaking on any subject under the sun. But I have the consolation of finding a number of men also in your midst. Perhaps you think I can spin a few yarns to interest you, or give a coat of sugar to pills more difficult to swallow otherwise. He would be a bold man who would venture to speak without hesitation on an occasion like this; but, in any case, I am sure you would be indulgent, nor look too closely into the ways of a person

more accustomed to the intricacies of the wrap and the woof than of words.

I sometimes think that, great as Manu undoubtedly was, he would easily admit his error if he saw the world as it is today. Women, he said, need a master always. But during the last fifty years women have won for themselves a place of equality with men all over the world.

The women's movement in India may be new in its present form; but in India, as elsewhere, woman has ruled the home and heart of man from immemorial times. I need not refer to the great women of ancient epics and poetry, or else the queenly rules of kingdoms in historic times. I think it is the special privilege of woman to teach and to tend; and the history of life may perhaps be summed up in these two words. "Give me to make the songs of a nation," said a poet, "and you can make all their laws." And you can rule men with a song as you can with sweetness. This is the power of woman, her privilege and her duty; and it is not a mere accident or a figure of speech that men think of freedom in terms of Home Rule; for whoever rules the home, rules the world.

Talking of freedom and Home Rule reminds me that we in this country are suffering today from a moral and mental insanity, called communalism, which chokes our progress and stifles our life. There is little religion in it, though it wears a religious garb. It grows on class hatred and is fed by jobs and soft options, and has, for the moment, become the despair of the physician, philosopher, and statesman. But I have felt that where men have failed, women can succeed. Love is unselfish, and transcends all colour and caste and creed, and the heart of Woman is Love.

Indeed, the political life of the country would not have been what it is, but for the service and sacrifice of hundreds of women in the darkest days of the struggle. There can be no hope of town revival or village reconstruction without the help of women. If you wish to serve and to save, be with the people and of the people; and it is in the village more than the town and in the narrow lanes more than in palatial houses that the strength of a nation lies. In your meetings and conferences you will consider many schemes of reconstruction and reform; you will demand a removal of your disabilities, proclaim your rights, and put men in their proper place. No one can doubt your patriotism or power or sympathy with the poor; and as it is the mother that nurses an infant, even so it is woman who raises a nation.

"The field is large, but the workers are few,"—and this is perhaps equally true both of men and women. But Nature has endowed you with a rare gift; you have a firmer and stronger grip over the realities of life, and would not easily despond. Man and woman are like the warp and

woof of life, and the two together make it wearable, colourful, and strong. I need hardly ask you to profit by the failures of man. It is our right to err,—only to rise: and it is your privilege to shed sweetness and light on whatever you attempt or do. It is given to you to make the home smile and the heart expand; you are realists by nature and have a practical turn of mind; and when you organize your power, there is nothing in the world that you cannot achieve. I would only ask you to build on sure ground, see that the foundations are well and truly laid, so that those who come after you may raise their own structure as firmly as you have done.

The tissues of our life to be
We weave with colours of our own;

And in the field of destiny
We reap as we have sown.

Thus it is said. And may the tissues you weave and the fabrics you make the beautiful and strong, and the fruit of your labours health-giving and sweet.

* * * *

Mrs. Brijlal Nehru, another distinguished guest, spoke in Hindustani as follows:—

As an old resident of this place I consider it a great privilege to welcome the President and the Sister delegates of the All-India Women's Conference to this great and ancient City of Delhi. As I stand here on this platform and see this great and distinguished assemblage before me, my thoughts naturally go back to 11 years ago when the second sessions of the All-India Women's Conference was held in this very town for the first time. The Conference was in its infancy at that time. Its activities were confined to educational matters only. I remember, how some of us who were interested in social questions regretted the fact and organised a separate meeting to discuss social affairs on one of the free days. We thought the occasion, when leading women from all over India had collected together, too valuable to be missed for a discussion of that nature. Many important resolutions were passed at that meeting. The very next year at Patna the scope of the conference was extended to social matters and the resolutions passed at the Delhi meeting to-day form the nucleus round which women's demands have grown. But while thinking of those early

days which after all were not so long ago, one cannot help being struck by the difference between then and now. The size and importance of today's meeting is a symbol of the growth and importance of the Conference. The small stream of its newly started life of that day has now grown into a big river which promise to gain volume with the passage of time.

Rani Rajwade in her brilliant speech has taken an honest stock of the achievements and failures of the Conference. After that there does not remain very much for me to say, as I agree with all that she has said. But it will not be out of place for me to add to what she has said, my own feelings about the work of the Conference. There is no doubt about the fact that it has served a very useful purpose in consolidating and broadcasting women's opinions on different questions. It has taught women to think about their problems, to express themselves and to assert themselves. It has brought the women of the whole of India together and its annual sessions provides a unique opportunity for the erstwhile stranger women to come near to each other. It has also taught women to organise and manage; and the success of its annual sessions is a proof of how well the women have learnt this lesson. It has done excellent propaganda work, thanks to our friends in England, through its liaison-committee in London. The contacts established with the advanced women of the world and their organisations in other countries, through our distinguished foreign visitors every year are most valuable. But while we may legitimately be proud of our achievements, we cannot help noting the fact that we have failed to establish contact with the masses of women which alone can give us strength and vigour. It is not that we are not conscious of this defect. Our resolutions extensively deal with the questions touching the lives of the working and Harijan women. But those resolutions have an academic flavour about them and lack that force which can come only out of practical life experience. During the course of the deliberations of the ensuing session, our task will be to find out ways and means of how to achieve that end. As one who has been associated with the work of this Conference from its very inception, I am very anxious that this should be done. Our worthy President has given a lead and has made suggestions for that purpose. I have no doubt that under her guidance during the course of the year we would be able to cover to a great measure the path of progress to the desired goal.

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Khawaja Hassan Nizami, also one of our honoured guests, read out his beautiful address in Hindustani which is translated as follows :—

Where you all are assembled today, Rani Lakshmi Bai, and Sister-delegates, was once the private garden of Princess Jehan Ara, the pet daughter of Emperor Shah Jehan and was known as "Begam-Ka-Bagh" in his time. The Nehr-Sa'adat Khan, from which the Nehrus derive their surname, flowed in front of this Royal Park, and where the clock tower stands today, spouted a beautiful cistern, a subsidiary of the Nehr.

It was in reward of treating Princess Jehan Ara that the English received concessions to trade in India from the Emperor. In other words, a country like India was paid towards Doctor's fees. Where you all confer this evening, is the Royal Park of the Princess whose mother Taj Mahal's tomb wails odes, by the bank of the Jumna, to the mogul glory of bygone days. A lady who laid the wealth of 3 crores of rupees at the feet of her Pir's tomb, where is situated her own grave, on the tombstone of which she willed to be inscribed the following epitaph, and which is there to this day.

Baghair Sabza na poshad kase Mazar-i-Mara.
Ke Qabr-posh-i-gha riban hamin giah bus ust.
(Let nothing but green grass deck my grave,
For, to cover the remains of the poor this is enough ornament).

After Princess Jehan Ara's death, this park was passed on by her brother Aurangzeb to his daughter Zeenat-un-Nissa to whom we owe Zinat-ul Massajid (situated in front of Dr. Ansari's house in Faiz Bazaar, Daryaganj). In the courtyard, northwards, of this Mosque is the Princess's grave with the following epitaph :

Monisi Ma dar Lahad Fazl-i-Khuda tanha Bus Ust.
Sayde az abr-i-Rahmat Qabr posh-i-ma Bas ust.
(God's Grace is enough company for me in the grave, and the
Shadow of His Benevolence suffices me for shade and shroud.)

A few years before the revolution of 1857 the Begum of Mirza Jehangir, brother of Emperor Bahadurshah, the last of the Mogul dynasty, brought this park in her dowry. But after his death, the park was taken away from his widow by the Emperor in a fit of Royal anger. Begum Mirza Jehangir sued the Emperor in the British Resident's Court in Delhi for this and won her suit. Bahadurshah was advised to appeal to the Supreme Court at Agra, but he thought otherwise, and said that it would be below his dignity to do so. Two years later, however, when the Army mutinied, the Emperor joined forces against the British.

Before the suit in the Resident's court, Emperor Bahadurshah had given this park to a daughter of his, who was very beautiful, cultured and illustrious; and like the other Mogul Princesses, Noor Jehan, Jehan Ara, Zeb-un-Nissa, and Zinat-un-Nissa, a poetess. She was very fond of dress

and possessed a natural aptitude at creating new, various modes and fashions. She could recite with pathos peculiar to herself her father's and her own verse.

After the fall of Delhi, and routing of the Mutinous Army, the son-in-law of the Emperor (and the husband of this lady) was made prisoner on charge of abetting in the Mutiny. Near this park and opposite to the present Kotwali in Chandni Chowk, he mounted the scaffold. After her husband's execution, the Princess went away from Delhi, and many years later was seen by some Indian Hajis in Mecca, in robes of saffron, standing before the Ka'aba and reciting her father's and her verse in a pathetic and pitiful voice.

Do you hear, Sisters, what I am telling you and where, and why I am telling you? I am telling the story of this park, true to life, tales of woe of ladies of note in this park where thronged nightingales and thrushes once to convince my hearers that the World is not worth the notice it gets. All the pomp and splendour here is to end sooner or later; to elicit pity for those unfortunate persons who have lost their throne, their reputation, their worth, their value and have become characters out of a tale of woe and with a moral to us.

This is the park, where gardeners would receive a guinea a flower from the Royal ladies. But today it is an office for collecting revenues from the public of the city.

The lawns of this park used to be watered with Kewra and Rose-water when the ladies of Court came here for their evening stroll, while today one smells the evil-stink from the exhaust pipes of motor cars, and the sense-aching fumes from the roads of tar. But there is some cause of consolation. We see here the statue of an English Lady. Queen Victoria, indeed loved this country and had the welfare of the women of this country at heart; the present Empress, and Her Excellency the Vicerene, too have likewise sympathy with our women. You have called this conference for the advancement and betterment in the state of Woman. My thoughts and sympathies are with you, but at the same time my appeal to you is not to forget the history of this City, and what was once here, and what it is now.

Here, in front, we see Chandni Chowk; in the Mogul times palanquins in neat procession would emerge from the gates of the Lal Kila, bearing Princesses and Ladies-of-honour of the Mogul House; and as they passed the traders and shopkeepers would descend from their seats and salute, bowing low before the Palanquins. This very market place that witnessed this splendour, later on bore evidence to the numerous executions in the streets of Chandni Chowk. And later still, was seen Prince Qamar Sultan, grandson of the Emperor Bahadurshah, tall and lean and blind and attired in

rags and torn fragments of once Imperial robes, with a beggarly truss slung from his neck, a stout long oaken crutch in one hand, and an earthen bowl in the other, tottering on the crutch feebly, and step by step and wailing in deep and sad undertones "Flour worth a pice, Oh! God, It is Thou that givest, and in Thy name that people give—Flour worth a pice."

He would stop nowhere nor beg of any man in particular. Charitably disposed persons would voluntarily drop, each according to his means, copper in his bowl.

My hearers! This is a fact and true-to-life picture of a real live Prince, and grandson of an Emperor, that this Market-place (Chandni Chowk) has witnessed. Don't doubt my word. Ask the walls of the Town Hall. They have ears. And they bear testimony to the piercing wails of the beggar-prince often at night. Will the Walls not speak? Will they not attest to the truth of the story of our darling Prince. Let them not! Not if they wish not. I myself am here, a tumbled down roof and a wall, bent and rusty with age. I bear evidence that it is indeed so. So it has happened. And so was it heard here.

You will pass resolutions here, my Sisters, while I will remember the past blossoms of this park, and upon the scrolls of my cheeks, will I flow resolutions of tears.

May Happiness strew your path, and may you all prosper, and may your Hearts' desire bear fruit—But never forget that IT IS GOD THAT ALONE IS ETERNAL.

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The President then asked the foreign Special Visitors to deliver their messages.

Miss Agatha Harrison, representing the Liaison Group of British Women's Organisations (British Common Wealth League, Six Point Group, Women's Freedom League and British Section of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) which co-operate with the All-India Women's Conference in their work, said:—

It is a very great joy to me to bring to you in person greetings from the Liaison Group in England. Two special messages in particular I would like to read to you—one from our President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, and the other from Mrs. Lankester, Liaison Officer in Great Britain. I am reading them to you.

Message from Mrs. Corbett Ashby:—

"The Liaison Group wishes you a happy and successful time of conference and a year of progress and achievement, so that women's contribution to peace, prosperity and social justice may ever be more effective."

Message from Mrs. Grace Lankester:—

"With happy memories of Nagpur, 1937, I send my love and warmest greetings to the officers and delegates of the All-India Women's Conference assembled in Annual Session at Delhi. May their work grow and prosper and may our bonds of friendship strengthen with the years."

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Miss Mary Dingman, President of the Peace and Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations, said:—

"I bring the greetings of the Committee which I represent to this great Conference. Our Committee represents 12 international Bodies with millions of members in 56 countries in the world, and in India also there are branches of our Committee. I have travelled many thousands of miles to bring to the women of India the sense of unity from the ends of the earth. We women stand for unity."

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Miss P. Hage, representing the International Labour Office, said:—

"I have great pleasure to be present here as representative of the International Labour Office. Before I left I was asked to take a message. I was asked to convey the best wishes to the Conference. I belong to the section which deal with the conditions of work for women and children. I have already had the advantage of seeing various institutions which have been organised by the sections of your Association. I do not know to express my gratitude for the great and incomparable hospitality which has been extended to me here."

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Mrs. Kunoo A. Ali, representing the Kobe Hindi Stri Mandal, Japan, said:—

"I am extremely grateful for the honour you have done me by giving me this opportunity of attending the All-India Women's Conference in Session. We the members of the Hindi Stri Mandal of Kobe—have always taken the greatest interest in the doings of the Conference, and have tried to keep in touch with it. Although we live so far from our motherland, our hearts are always here, and we like to think we are doing our bit in sending small sums of money from time to time towards your Education Fund. I bring you greetings from your sisters in Japan, and hope that the bonds between our two associations may be made stronger and more permanent as time passes.

In honouring me, you have honoured the Kobe Hindi Stri Mandal, and I thank you once more on its behalf—as well as mine."

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In proposing a vote of thanks to the President and others, **Mrs. Sarojini Naidu** thanked the Delhi Municipality for the loan of the Hall, the Minto Road Club and the Schools and Colleges which helped the Conference by lending their buses and in other ways. She also thanked Lala Onkarnath for the Exhibition and the office staff for their work. Mrs. Naidu then went on to pay a very warm and affectionate tribute to Mrs. Asaf Ali, Secretary of the Reception Committee, mentioning among other things the fact that it was a recognition of Mrs. Asaf Ali's spirit of service that Delhi called her "Seva Devi". After thanking profusely the three honoured guests of the evening, Mrs. Naidu continued: "And now I want to tell you about two other women, one the retiring President, and the other the would-be President for the year. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur is an example of what an educated woman can do. The Conference owes a great deal of its distinction to her and to the self-less quality of her work. In accomplishing that she has ruined her health. Last year we had the privilege of having her to lead the Conference and the women of India. And now Rani Rajwade has succeeded her. I remember how 25 years ago she had conquered Bombay. I remember going to her room then and seeing her standing proud and tall there; I immediately christened her 'the Spirit of India'. This was 25 years ago. Imagine my pleasure when I find how she has vindicated that prophetic name. Her speech is splendid. With her dexterous mind always inclined to serve she has given a lead that every woman should follow. She has diagnosed the weak part of our organisation and prescribed the proper remedy for it. Her very confession is a guarantee that we shall go from service to service and from strength to strength.

The meeting then terminated.

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, DELHI.



Delegates to the Thirteenth Session, 1938

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

FIRST SITTING : 29th December 1938 : 9 A.M. to 12 P.M.

The first Open Session of the Conference met at the Town Hall on 29th December 1938 at 9 a.m. After the Roll Call, the report of the Hon. Organising Secretary, and the Balance Sheet from the Hon. Treasurer were adopted. The Educational and Social Section reports, as well as the report of the Secretary under Training and the Secretary of the All India Women's Education Fund Association were read and passed.

Anti-War Resolution

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit proposed the following important anti-war resolution:—

"Conscious of the gravity of the situation today in the world and believing that a new order is an imperative need we wish to stress once more our abhorrence of war as a solution of any problem. We declare ourselves in utter and eternal opposition to all oppression and exploitation. We have been pained and horrified at the betrayal of Austria and Czechoslovakia, at the abetment from outside and continuance of the internal strife in Spain, at the merciless persecution of the Jews, at the deplorable interference and cruelties in Palestine and at the unjustifiable aggression in China. The inability of the so-called great powers of the world to put an end to all this woe and misery is proof enough of the futility of their methods of approach. We are convinced that it is only through the banishing of all greed for possession that the shadow of war and armed conflict itself can be removed. We, therefore, protest against the mad race in the building of armaments that continues unabated. We appeal to the women of the world to unite on the platform of non-violence and actively demonstrate that by this power alone can the forces of hatred and the desire for possession be brought under control and a real and lasting peace established."

In moving the resolution Mrs. Pandit said that some among the audience might be wondering why the Conference was attempting to define the attitude of Indian women to a future war. It was true, she said, that they in India were not in immediate danger of war, but modern science had annihilated distances and had brought about a world unity. Whatever happened, say in China, had repercussions all over the world, including India. Moreover they in India had another sort of war, which had been in progress for many years, a war to win their freedom, a war to free India from a dwarfing of the soul of the people. The latest weapon they had successfully used in this war had been the weapon of non-violence. In

this regard, therefore, India had a definite message for the whole world.

Proceeding Mrs. Pandit said that the world today was a battle-ground of two forces, forces of reaction and oppression and forces of freedom, justice and fairplay, and they in India had to decide which side to take in this war of ideas, and ideals. The question concerned womanhood as a whole. For it was very likely that those forces of oppression which were so prominent in the Far East, Near East and in Europe might bring further misery and oppression for them in India too.

Mrs. Pandit referred to her recent visit to Europe and said that she witnessed a real panic in London, a panic due to fear of war, and she saw British people genuinely relieved when they were told that Mr. Chamberlain had succeeded in averting war. The moral of them was that a great power did not honour its obligations towards a weaker State when there was a real threat of war.

Analysing the present malady in the West, she said that it was the greed for power and possessions that had brought the world to its present state of unrest. They alone in India, with their past traditions and background were in a position to re-establish faith in justice and equity. The women of India could make a stand and create a world "united front" for liberty. They in India had set their faith in non-violence. Non-violence was not pacifism and she had no doubt that the women of India would today send out a message to the oppressed nations of the world, which would bring them hope and faith in justice and equity.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, seconding the resolution said that the women of India should not think in the narrow terms of their country alone, but also of what contribution they were going to make to bring about a new order of things in the world. The old slogan of war to end war had proved a failure, and they should not only adopt the resolution urging non-co-operation with any war of the future, but also devise practical schemes to put that resolution into practice. In her opinion the conference should set up a world committee to educate public opinion in its favour. Furthermore they should tell their Governments that they should not look to them for any support in the event of war even in the field of humane activities. If women of every country successfully impressed upon their governments what they would do in the event of war, she was sure there was every chance of ending the war and bringing about a new order of justice and equity in the world. Women had great power but the pity was that they had not so far realised it.

Begum Hamid Ali further supporting the resolution, urged that women should boycott the goods of an aggressor country.

Miss Dingman, President of the Peace and Disarmament Committee of the Women's International Organisations, associating herself with the resolution said, that women in India could not realise how much this resolution meant for them. She believed that India had achieved a great deal through non-violence and she appealed to them to give the lead to the rest of the world.

The resolution was further supported by **Miss K. B. Ferozuddin** (N.W.F.P.) in Hindustani emphasising that women should not co-operate with preparations for war even with the so-called humane activities like nursing during war and should boycott the goods of the aggressor.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The following General Resolutions were then moved by the President and were accepted unanimously by the Conference :—

1. The All-India Women's Conference records its deep sense of sorrow at the untimely death of Kemal Ataturk to whose consummate genius modern Turkey owes the liberation of her people and the social and economic emancipation of all her women.
2. The All-India Women's Conference places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the passing away of Sir Mahomad Iqbal, the distinguished philosopher and poet.
3. The All-India Women's Conference expresses sorrow at the death of Maulana Shaukat Ali, a great National Leader.
4. The All-India Women's Conference expresses sorrow at the death of Mahatma Hansraj, an eminent social worker.
5. The All-India Women's Conference places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the passing away of Begum Ansari, whose death is a great loss to the country.
6. The All-India Women's Conference congratulates the S. N. D. Thakersey Indian Women's University and thanks the Government of Bombay for recognising the degrees of this University as equivalent to the degrees of other universities for the purposes of Government service. It urges other Provincial Governments to grant them similar recognition.

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The following Sub-Committee reports were read out:—Health, Harijan, Opium and other Narcotic Drugs, Legal Disabilities of Women, Labour,

Legislation, Indigenous Industries, Traffic in Women and Children and Common Language.

The Conference adjourned to 1-30 p.m.

SECOND SITTING: 29th December 1938: 1-30 to 3 P.M.

In the afternoon the **Revd. C. F. Andrews** addressed the Delegates and visitors on the subject of Indians Overseas and their problems. He said:—

"It is a very great privilege to be able to speak for a few moments to you about Indian women in the colonies over-seas. I want to ask for three things from this Conference. The first thing I want to ask is that this Conference should agree to send a deputation to His Excellency the Viceroy and Lady Linlithgow asking that no more returned emigrants should be sent from British Guiana, and other colonies back here to India, where they suffer terrible hardships on their return. They receive return passages as part of the indenture contract but it has been proposed that these return passages should be commuted and land settlement should be offered instead of them.

I want the All India Women's Conference to do what was done nearly more than 20 years ago by Mrs. Jehangir Petit, Lady Harmul Singh, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Lady Bose and other ladies, who went to the Viceroy Lord Chelmsford in order to ask him to bring to an end the terrible system called indentured labour. That deputation was completely successful. I hope that you will send this deputation and if you do your success will be equal to that noble effort of twenty years ago.

The second thing that I am deeply anxious to put before you is the need of women in the colonies, that some women from India who have been trained, not only as teachers but as teachers of teachers, should go out to British Guiana in order to train Indian women to take their part in the teaching of the Indian children. It is specially needed in the infant or the kindergarten stage and I have a hope that in this year it may be possible for arrangements to be made for one at least to go out as an expert for training teachers.

The third point that I would wish to make is this:—

Could one of your members be appointed so that she may make this subject of Indian women overseas her own, correspond and be in close touch with me, so that when anything comes up relating to women over-seas I may at once send it on to her and bring it to her notice? In addition to this member

who may be called the Liaison Officer of the Conference connecting the Conference with the women overseas, I should like to urge at the same time that some one in Calcutta should meet me there and go down to Methiabruz and see the terrible condition of the women and children who are gathered there among the returned emigrants and if I could take one of you down there and show you what is happening, I think you will take steps to do away with all this misery."

"These three things therefore I place before you—first of all a deputation with regard to the returned emigrants that no more ships should come filled with them back to Calcutta. The second is that you should have one or two members at least who would deal specially with the subjects as the Liaison Officer and keep in touch with me.

I wonder if I may say one single word more outside this subject, on another subject which undoubtedly you will be dealing with and which is so near and dear to my heart, I cannot help speaking about it and that is the condition of the Jews. I think that every women's Conference in the world to-day ought to take up and pass resolutions of sympathy and help to these terribly unfortunate people whose miseries are accumulating every-day. Possibly you have already done this. Possibly you are going to do it. While you so kindly gave me this one opportunity, I felt I might stretch the opportunity still further to this point of giving you at least this one thought of my utter heart-felt sympathy with these poor people who are being driven from pole to post and are in such desperate plight. I have in these few words given you all that is in my heart."

This speech was translated into Hindustani by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.

The President, in a few words, thanked Mr. Andrews for taking keen interest in Indians overseas and the vital questions that have arisen with regard to them.

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Standing Committee members representing Constituencies were then asked to read out their annual reports in the following order as fixed by ballot:—N.W.F.P., C.P. South, Phaltan, Gujarat, Assam, Calcutta, Maharashtra, Delhi-Simla-Muzaffarnagar, Cochin, Bombay, Sangli, Mysore, C. P. North, Sind, Baroda, Gwalior, Hyderabad (Dn.)-Aurangabad, Punjab Central, U. P. Oudh, Travancore, Berar, Bengal-East-Comilla, Bihar, U. P. Agra, Karnatak, Indore, Madras, Andhra.

The meeting adjourned at 3 P.M.

GROUP MEETINGS**30th and 31st December 1938.**

According to the decision of the Standing Committee at Baroda it was decided by the Standing Committee at Delhi to divide 176 delegates into six Groups. Accordingly, Groups 'A' to 'F' were formed with their respective Presidents and Secretaries, as follows:—

Group.	President.	Secretary.
'A'	Mrs. M. E. Cousins	Mrs. Urmila Mehta
'B'	Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan	Miss Premavati Thapor
'C'	Begum Hamid Ali	Dr. K. Tarabai
'D'	Mrs. Brijlal Nehru	Miss J. E. Copeland
'E'	Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee	Mrs. Premlila Mehta
'F'	Shrimati Kamala Devi	Miss Sarah Pothan

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Mrs. Dina Asana, Mrs. S. K. Datta, Miss Wilson were appointed 'Guiders' who were eligible to go to any Group which required their services, but each Guider could vote only in one Group. Visitors were allowed to chose any Group they liked. The Agenda for the Group Meetings was as follows:—

Subjects For Group Discussion

1. Scheme for Extension of Work of the All-India Women's Conference (prepared by Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade).
2. Nursery Schools: Syllabus—Budget—Ways and Means of starting—Training of Teachers—suitable books—need of the formation of a Nursery Schools Sub-Committee.
3. Social Reform Bills and Educative Propaganda thereon—Methods of agitation.
 - (a) This Conference accepts the principle underlying the Child Marriage Restraint (Orissa Amendment) Bill, 1938, introduced into the Orissa Legislative Assembly by Srimati Sarala Devi, M.L.A., and supports it—as it is very essential that the age of consent under marital relations should be raised.
 - (b) This Conference lends its support to the "Orissa Dowry Abolition Bill" which Srimati Sarala Devi, M.L.A. (Orissa), proposes to introduce in the Orissa Legislative Assembly.

4. Sex Education.
5. Nutrition : Dietetics.
6. Care Committees.
7. Women's contribution towards communal unity.
8. Women's contribution towards world peace and their attitude towards war: To send a comprehensive resolution with practical suggestions therein with a view to making the women of the world unite—irrespective of race—in bringing about World Peace.
9. Labour :
 - (a) The extent of child labour in different districts. Are women employed under bad conditions in homes, workshops, or factories not under the Factory Act? How can we help to remedy matters?
 - (b) Maternity Benefits Act if any? Is it working satisfactorily? Are there any grounds for supposing that employers are dismissing women because of the Act? If so, what evidence have you to show.
 - (c) The Housing of Factory workers, Municipal employees, contractors' coolies and other labourers in your area? What means and methods of improvement do you suggest?
 - (d) Forced labour, if any, existent in India? If so, where? How could it best be stopped.
 - (e) It is necessary that women working in the homes as wives, mothers and home-makers should be entitled by law to some proportion of the income of her husband in her own right so that her work as such may entitle her to a status as a recognised member of the industrial world and receive the benefits which follow from this, such as Health insurance, and also give her life-work an economic value, and raise her own economic status and all-round prestige.
10. Village Reconstruction : Wider contact with women.
11. Illiteracy : General Education : Instruction in Citizenship.
12. Common Language.
13. To propose to the Provincial and State Governments :—
 - (a) That they start training centres for training women workers in the specialised field of Nursery Schools either in the form

of special institutions for that purpose, or by including a Special Nursery School Training Course in the curricula of their training schools.

(b) That they lay special emphasis on such training wherever training centres already exist.

14. The A.I.W.C. should chalk out suitable programmes for the running of Nursery Schools, on the lines of "One year in a Nursery School" by Mabel Bloomer (Mrs. J. P. Ackroyd)—the Grasham Publishing Co., Ltd., London.

15. Opium and other Narcotic Drugs :

Production in India : 4,28,340 lbs.

Consumption per head : 11.04 grains.

According to the League of Nations recommendations, it should be :
about 8 grains per head.

Recommendation for future action. The Constituencies must keep their Government active by sending in reports of the Acts and Bills, passed by other Provinces, and must demand equivalent legislation for their own States or Provinces. For instance, the A.I.W.C. resolution passed last year should now be forwarded again to each Government with a request for information as to how far the Scheme has been adopted in practice. The Bombay Act of 1936 for the control of opium smoking should be quoted, and representation made that each Province and State must pass an Act on the same principle.

Our Constituencies must also make sure that prohibition scheme for every Province or State include due restriction of opium and other dangerous drug and make representations and carry on effective agitation by means of public meetings and propaganda through their newspapers.

16. Educational and Social Resolutions as forwarded by the Educational and Social Section Secretaries.
17. That this Conference views with satisfaction the efforts now being made all over India to discipline the youth of the country through various forms of military training.
18. Colonel Nariman's letter dated 15th November 1938.

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The Group Meetings lasted for six hours on 30th December and for 2 hours on the 31st, after which each Group prepared its individual report and presented it to the meeting of the Findings Committee, which met from 2-15 to 4-30 P.M. on the 31st, and prepared its final Report.

The following Nominations for Office-bearers were received between 8 and 9-30 P.M. on 30-12-38, and polling took place on 31-12-38 between 11-15 A.M. and 12-15 P.M. :—

NOMINATIONS

For Six Vice-Presidentship :

Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan.
 Begum Aizaz Rasul.
 *Mrs. M. E. Cousins.
 Mrs. Dina Asana.
 Mrs. Rukmani Lakshmi pathi.
 Mrs. Brijlal Nehru.
 Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit.
 Mrs. Asaf Ali.
 Shrimati Kamala Devi.
 Mrs. Sharadaben Mehta.
 Begum Hamid Ali.
 Lady Wazir Hasan.
 Miss K. B. Ferozuddin.
 Mrs. Sultan Singh.
 *Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.
 The Rani Saheb of Phaltan.
 Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee.

For Hon. General Secretaryship :

Dr. Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankar.
 Mrs. P. Soofi (Hyderabad-Dn.)

For Educational Secretaryship :

Mrs. D. B. Akhtar Hussain.
 Shrimati Droupathiammal.
 Mrs. P. Soofi.

For Social Secretaryship :

Mrs. J. R. Doctor.
 Mrs. Sharadaben Mehta.
 Mrs. Urmila Mehta.

For Hon. Treasurership :

Mrs. G. R. Billimoria (Returned uncontested).

*(Mrs. M. E. Cousins and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur withdrew).

THIRD SITTING: 1st January 1939: 9-30 A.M. to 12 P.M.

The open session of the Conference met at 9-30 A.M. on Sunday the 1st January 1939. **Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade**, the President of the Conference, called upon **Rajkumari Amrit Kaur** to propose the Draft Constitution as prepared by the Standing Committee. In proposing the same, **Rajkumari Amrit Kaur** said:—

"We women cannot remain static in a dynamic world and Indian ways and Indian thought are developing in a remarkable way. The question of widening the scope of our Policy has been before us throughout in a special manner. You remember that last year when we discussed the change in the Constitution we needed 4/5ths majority to pass the Articles of Policy. We decided to think over the change for a year and bring it before the Conference this year. You have therefore had ample time to consider this change. During the course of last year I had a fair amount of touring throughout India and visited several Constituencies and I have definitely sensed a desire on the part of women all over India that this Conference should become a living mouthpiece of theirs."

"We stand for the emancipation of women not only of paying members of this Association, but others and through them the emancipation of our country. Now that the changes have been accepted by the Standing Committee I hope they will be accepted by you at this Conference unanimously. I will now read to you the Articles from the Draft prepared by **Rani Rajwade**, and the changes that are suggested by the Standing Committee:

* * * *

DRAFT CONSTITUTION AS PREPARED**BY RANI RAJWADE****ARTICLE I****Name.—**

1. The name of the organisation shall be "The All-India Women's Conference" hereafter to be called "The Conference."

ARTICLE II**Policy, Aims and Objects**

A. The A. I. W. C. shall not belong to any political organisation nor take an active part in party politics but shall be free to discuss and express its opinion on all questions and matters whether social, educational, eco-

conomic, political or moral, especially where they affect the interests of the women in India.

B. To work actively for the general progress and welfare of women and children.

C. To inculcate in women and children the ideal of true citizenship.

D. To promote education along right lines.

E. To work and press for social reform.

F. To strive to establish equal rights and opportunities for all and work for a united India.

G. To set, demand and maintain a high standard of morality.

H. To stand for international goodwill and world peace.

Miss L Naidu's amendment to Article II (*A*).

(*A*) "The Association shall be free to discuss and contribute to all questions and matters affecting the welfare of the people of India with particular reference to women and children."

(Ref. Item No. 12, page 13, Baroda Minutes.)

ARTICLE III

Composition.—

(*A*) Patrons.

(*B*) Office-Bearers.

(*C*) Standing Committee.

(*D*) Branches.

(*E*) Associated Bodies.

(*F*) Associate Members.

(*A*) Patrons :—

(*i*) Past Presidents.

(*ii*) By special invitation of the A.I.W.C.

(*B*) Office-Bearers :—

(*i*) President (Chairwoman).

(*ii*) Six Vice-presidents.

(*iii*) Chairwoman of the Standing Committee (to be elected for the year from amongst the Vice-Presidents, in case the President does not desire to fill the office).

(*iv*) The Hony. Treasurer.

(*v*) The General Secretary.

(*vi*) The Organising Secretary.

(*vii*) Sectional Secretaries (Whenever appointed).

(C) Standing Committee :—

- (i) The Office-Bearers.
- (ii) Branch Representatives, one from each branch.
- (iii) Members in charge of special subjects.
- (iv) Secretary, Fund Association.
- (v) Conveners of Sub-Committees whenever such Sub-Committees are appointed.
- (vi) Co-opted members, if any.
- (vii) The *Liaison* Officer in India.

(D) Branches :—

- (i) Provincial or State units (the former being usually an administrative unit in British India) or such groups of States as the Conference may decide from time to time.

(E) Associated Bodies.

Any All-India Women's Organisation in sympathy with the policy, aims and objects of the A.I.W.C. shall, provided it has at least 250 members on its rolls, be qualified to become an Associated Body on the payment of Rs. 15 per year.

(F) Associate Members :—

Women sympathisers paying an annual subscription of Rs. 50 or over to the A.I.W.C. shall be Associate Members. Such members shall receive all literature (reports, brochures and journals) excepting circulars issued in connection with the organisation.

N. B.—Patrons and Associate Members shall be entitled to attend the Annual Session of the A. I. W. C. and will have the right to vote at the open sessions of the Conference.

ARTICLE IV.**Agencies of Work.—**

The work of the A. I. W. C. shall be carried out through

- (i) the Standing Committee and its executive;
- (ii) the Branches and their Committees

by means of

- (a) Conferences.
- (b) Meetings.
- (c) Correspondence.

ARTICLE V.

The All-India Conferences.—

1. An Annual Conference of the A. I. W. C. shall be held at a time and place fixed by the Standing Committee. The following shall be entitled to attend:—

- (a) Patrons.
- (b) Standing Committee Members.
- (c) Branch Delegates.
- (d) Reception Committee Delegates.
- (e) Associated Bodies Delegates (one allowed for every 250 on the Associated Body membership roll).
- (f) Special Delegates by invitation of the Standing Committee.
- (g) Associate Members.
- (h) Visitors (not allowed to participate in the deliberations.)

Branch Conferences.—

(a) An Annual (Public) Conference shall be convened by every Branch in its own area at any one of its working centres, at least six weeks before the Annual Session of the A. I. W. C.

- (b) The Conference must be attended by
 - (i) Delegates elected at Public Meetings from all the Branch working centres as well as other places in the Branch.
 - (ii) These Delegates must include those who have been elected by the various working centres to attend the Annual Session of the A.I.W.C.
 - (iii) Such members of Associated Bodies as are to represent their Organisation at the Annual Session of the A. I. W. C. and who happen to be resident in the Branch concerned.

(c) This Conference shall formally confirm the election of the Delegates who are to attend the Annual Session of the A.I.W.C. as specified under Rule 95.

ARTICLE VI.**1. Branches and Associated Bodies.—**

(a) Each Branch shall carry out the ideals and work under the direction of the A.I.W.C.

(b) Each Branch shall have power to frame its own Bye-laws and Regulations in conformity with the Articles and Bye-laws and Regulations of the A. I. W. C., such Bye-laws and Regulations and any alterations thereto being subject first to the approval of the headquarters of the A.I.W.C.

(c) Each Branch shall be responsible for its own finances.

2. Associated Bodies.—

The policy, aims and ideals of each Associated Body shall be examined and its reports of work discussed by the Standing Committee before recognition. Every recognised Associated Body shall also notify the A. I. W. C. of all proposed changes in its Constitution, etc.

ARTICLE VII.**Finances.—**

All moneys received shall be held in deposit at a scheduled Bank in the name of the A.I.W.C. and all cheques issued shall be operated upon conjointly by two persons, *i. e.* the General Secretary and the Treasurer and in the absence of one of them by the President.

Each Branch (Central) Committee shall send a minimum affiliation fee of Rs. 30 as soon as possible after the Annual Session, and before the half-yearly meeting of the Standing Committee.

ARTICLE VIII.

1. The Standing Committee shall have power to make Bye-laws and Regulations for carrying on the work of the A. I. W. C. and to alter them and add to them from time to time as occasion may require.

2. 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 Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the members present, 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 Conference.

ARTICLE IX.**Alteration of Constitution.—**

The Constitution may not be altered except at the Annual Session of the A. I. W. C. by a four-fifths majority of the members present, and provided that a notice of such proposed alteration shall have been sent in writing, by registered post or under postal certificate, to every member of the Standing Committee three months before the Annual Session.

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**DRAFT CONSTITUTION AS SUGGESTED
BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

ARTICLE I**Name.**

The name of organisation shall be "The Association of All-India Women's Conference," hereinafter to be called the "A. I. W. C."

ARTICLE II**(a) Policy.**

The A. I. W. C. shall not belong to any political organisation nor take an active part in party politics but shall be free to discuss and express its opinion on all questions and matters whether social, educational, economic or political, especially where they affect the interests of the women in India.

(b) Aims and Objects.

1. To work actively for the general progress and welfare of women and children.
2. To inculcate in women and children the ideals of true citizenship.
3. To promote education along right lines.
4. To work and press for social reforms.
5. To strive to establish equal rights and opportunities for all.
6. To work for a united India.
7. To set and demand a high moral standard in all departments of life.
8. To stand for international goodwill and world peace.

ARTICLE III

Composition :—

- (a) Patrons
- (b) Office-bearers
- (c) Standing Committee
- (d) Branches
- (e) Associate Members.

A. Patrons :

- i. Past Presidents.
- ii. By special invitation of the A. I. W. C.

B. Office-bearers :

- i. President and Chairwoman.
- ii. Six Vice-Presidents.

Note : A Chairwoman of the Standing Committee shall be elected for the year from amongst the Vice-Presidents in case the President does not desire to fill the office.

- iii. Treasurer.
- iv. General Secretary.
- v. Organising Secretary.
- vi. Sectional Secretaries (if required).

Note : No paid officer of the A. I. W. C. shall be entitled to vote.

C. Standing Committee :

- i. The Office-bearers.
- ii. Members-in-charge of Special Subjects.
- iii. Branch Representatives.
- iv. The Liaison Officer in India.
- v. The Secretary of the All-India Women's Education Fund Association.
- vi. Conveners of Sub-Committees whenever such Sub-Committees are appointed.
- vii. Members co-opted for special purposes.

D. Branches :

Areas in Provinces and States, as decided on by the Standing Committee from time to time.

E. Associate Members :

Sympathisers paying an annual subscription of Rs. 50 or over to

the A. I. W. C. shall be Associate Members. Such members shall receive all literature (Reports, Brochures and journals), excepting Circulars, issued in connection with the organisation.

Note : Patrons and women Associate Members shall be entitled to attend the Conference of the A. I. W. C. and to vote at the Open Sessions.

ARTICLE IV.

Agencies of work :—

The work of the A. I. W. C. shall be carried out through

- (i) The Standing Committee and its Executive;
- (ii) The Branches, Sub-Branchees and their Committees, by means of
 - (a) Conference
 - (b) Meetings
 - (c) Correspondence
 - (d) Publications.

ARTICLE V.

Conferences :—

1. The All-India Conference
 - (a) Conferences of the A. I. W. C. shall be held periodically, at a time and place fixed by the Standing Committee.
 - (b) The following shall be entitled to attend :—
 - i. Patrons
 - ii. Standing Committee Members
 - iii. Branch Delegates
 - iv. Reception Committee Delegates
 - v. Special Delegates (by invitation of the Standing Committee)
 - vi. Associate Members
 - vii. Visitors (not allowed to participate in the deliberations).
- II. Branch Conferences

Public Conferences shall be convened annually by all the Branches and Sub-branches of A. I. W. C.

ARTICLE VI.

Branches :—

1. Each Branch shall carry out the ideas of the A. I. W. C. and work under its direction.

2. Each Branch shall frame its own Rules and Regulations in conformity with the Articles, Bye-Laws and Regulations of the A. I. W. C., such Rules and Regulations and any alterations thereto being subject first to the approval of the Standing Committee.
3. Each Branch shall be responsible for its own finances.

ARTICLE VII

Finance :—

1. All moneys received shall be held in deposit by the Treasurer, at a Scheduled Bank, in the name of the A. I. W. C.
Cheques shall be signed by any two of the following Office Bearers:—
President, Treasurer and General Secretary.
2. Each Branch shall send annually to the Treasurer, before July the 1st, a minimum affiliation fee of Rs. 25/-.

ARTICLE VIII

I. Bye-Laws :—

1. The Standing Committee shall have power to make Bye-Laws and Regulations for carrying out the work of the A. I. W. C. and to alter them and add to them from time to time as occasion may require.
2. These Bye-Laws and Regulations may not be altered or added to except by the Standing Committee, at one of its meetings, by a two-thirds majority of the members present.

and provide 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 at least three months before the meeting
- and (b) the Bye-Law in question has been in existence for at least a year.

II. Alteration of Constitution :—

The Constitution of the A. I. W. C. may not be altered except at a Conference Session by a two-thirds majority of the members present, provided that a notice of such proposed alteration shall have been sent in writing, by registered post or under certificate of posting to every member of the Standing Committee at least three months before the conference.

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Regarding Article I, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur said: "The first is in regard to the name of the Conference. There was a certain amount of feeling that there should be an Indian name. The Standing Committee has decided to keep the old name with this addition or change only, and that is that we should call ourselves 'the Association of the All-India Women's Conference'. The inclusion of the word 'Association' is only to get over the difficulty, if in future we wish to have a biennial or triennial session instead of the annual sessions. It reads thus: "The name of the Organisation shall be 'The Association of the All-India Women's Conference.' This was passed unanimously.

Regarding Article II (a) Policy, (b) Aims and Objects, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur said: "I do not think any of you will have any objection whatever to the changes that have been proposed in the Policy, Aims and Objects by the unanimous decision of the Standing Committee. I however, propose Article II (a) Policy, again to you in the hope that there will be a unanimous vote.

Mrs. M. E. Cousins, seconding the Resolution, said: "When I think of our last Women's Conference in Delhi over ten years ago and think of all that has happened both to our Conference and to this great and noble land and to the lives of women within this ten past years, I know that our Conference has to expand in all its methods of approach of the subjects and in its general expressions of thought on life. I am personally entirely in sympathy with the proposed change and give my full support to the expansion which is now proposed to be made. There may be certain details which may still remain to be improved upon, but I am entirely in favour of the general policy as moved by our ex-President. I am not going to speak on this question in detail but I want to put it before this meeting that each one of you stand in a position of great responsibility. We have been working for years to make the Constitution as good as we can and to tackle the difficulties in the way particularly in the States. These difficulties have been clearly removed by written words of various Dewans and Princes who have said that they have no objection whatever to the way in which we have put our new Policy. Therefore I appeal to every one of you and say that it is the duty of each one of you to vote in favour of this Policy. We have to get 4|5ths of the Delegates to vote for this. Of course I would like to have an entirely unanimous vote on the subject but this is almost impossible in any state of society, but we have got to get 4|5ths. Therefore I am asking now, everyone of you to vote in favour of this policy without any feeling that you are jeopardizing either the Association or the whole country. I say this because, if you do not wish to work in certain ways you have a right to say that this suits us and this does not. At the same

time you must have a policy which suits this vast country and this policy we have found as the most suitable as far as we can see the future. Therefore my great appeal to the Conference is to help the leaders of the country to have an all-round aspect and approach the live-forces, life problems and the world problems in which India is mixed up and make no limitation to your power to discuss and come to conclusions, and when it comes to working out the details we have promised you, we have given you assurances and safeguards that we will not be a party political Organisation, but whenever we have to deal with Politics we will do it according to your special needs. I therefore make the request that you will see your way to support this change of policy by the really practical method of voting in favour of it."

Begum Hamid Ali, Mrs. Brijlal Nehru and Lady Wazir Hussain supported the resolution.

Begum Aizaz Rasul proposed the following amendment to the proposal:—

"The A. I. W. C. shall not belong to any Political organisation nor take an active part in party politics, but shall be free to discuss and express its opinion on all questions and matters, whether social, educational, economic or moral, specially where they affect the interests of the women in India."

Mrs. Soofi (Hyderabad-Deccan) seconded the amendment.

Mrs. G. R. Billimoria proposed the following amendment to Article II A:—

"The All India Women's Conference shall not belong to any political organisation nor take an active part in party politics but shall be free to discuss and express its opinion on all matters, specially where they affect the interests of the women of India."

Mrs. Billimoria in proposing the amendment said:

"The reason for this amendment is that when you say that we shall discuss and express our opinion on all questions, the words Social, Educational, Economic, Political or moral are superfluous and they are not needed. Moreover, you will have freedom if you do not tie yourselves down by mentioning these subjects. Further, there might be other subjects which are not included under the heads "Educational, Social etc.," which you would like to discuss and therefore it is much better not to put in these words at all. The word 'political' may frighten away some people from the Conference who have been extremely helpful to us, for example some of the Inspec-

tresses and teachers who are Government servants, who have co-operated with us in the past, and whose co-operation has been useful. I will give you one example. An Inspectress of Schools when she asked for leave to come for this Conference was told that so long as this was not a political organisation she can attend the Conference but not otherwise. We do not want to drive these people away. The next point is that the lines between politics and party-politics is a very, very general line. You do not know where you will be in a short time. Our Conference has been united so far. So do not stress the word 'politics' too much, else it may cause disunity. With the amendment I am proposing we shall be able to take up all questions and matters affecting the women of India and we are not also debarring politics.

Mrs. J. R. Doctor in supporting Mrs. Billimoria's amendment said :—

"It is very necessary that we do not include the word 'political' in defining the subjects which we shall discuss. It is easy to say that we shall keep ourselves free from party politics, but it is very difficult to draw a definite line where mere politics ends and party politics begins. Up to now, without the inclusion of the word 'political' we have discussed and taken action on all matters affecting the welfare of women and children of India. We have discussed political questions also without the words 'political' being brought in. Why should we bring in this now and allow disruption in our midst? It is politics which is causing war in the world; we are opposed to war and so please keep our Conference free from all strife. Let us be united and let us go on working, widening and expanding our work in India. Our President has said that appalling ignorance still exists among our women; if so, is this the time to bring politics within the folds of our Conference?"

Dr. Gulbanu Medora (Gujerat) further supported the second Amendment and said :—

"The change proposed is only a change in wording. It is not going to change the scope of our work. I feel that if by adding the word political we will disunite even one quarter of the women of India it is our duty not to add it. Unity is more essential than mere big names. I am not afraid of politics, but I would say as Mrs. Doctor has said just now, we have already been discussing politics in every branch, but I feel that this change in wording will give persons of extremists' side a handle to bring in subjects for consideration which are bound to cause disharmony and break the enviable unity which the Conference rightly claims to possess at present. I appeal to all of you to join in keeping the Conference united and to delete the word politics and support Mrs. Billimoria's amendment."

Miss Ferozuddin (N. W. F. P.) speaking in favour of the second amendment said :—

"Government servants are willing to make the sacrifice not to attend the Conference if it can be done without them. The only difficulty is that it will disturb the unity of this Conference. We should not follow the foot-steps of men and introduce politics in our organisation. Today people will join the Indian National Congress and others the Muslim League or the Maha Sabha and where will it lead us? This is our great dread and not because we are Government servants. There is this danger of disunity and of entering into party politics. The unity of this great country, which is already so much disturbed with communities, sections and sects, is very essential and we must see how we are going to work for it. Ours is the one body which has had a united platform for the last 12 years and I request you to kindly think over the matter before you jump into it and disrupt it. Do not be sentimental; be practical.

Miss Naidu in proposing a third amendment to the resolution said:—

"I do not think that constitutional matters call for long and eloquent speeches. They require prosaic explanation. Those of you who have come up here as Delegates have already studied and been explained by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur the comprehensive and well-debated alteration to Art. II of the Constitution as it exists in the amended Draft. I do not think that this is the time for further confusion between the words 'party politics' and the word 'political'. Those of you who have not understood the difference should really allow Rajkumari Amrit Kaur to explain the difference as she did in the Standing Committee at Baroda when the whole Standing Committee unanimously agreed to accept the alteration. I am here to really suggest an amendment, in a slightly altered form to that already proposed by Mrs. Billimoria this morning, and judging from your enthusiasm I think you are inclined to support it because it suggests a complete deletion of the words "social, economic, political and moral." I think more stress has been laid by some Members on the deletion of the word "political" ignoring the others but I do not think it matters much. My whole point is that by the precise inclusion of these words you specify certain subjects beyond which if you wish to proceed you will not be in a position to do so without a further alteration of your Constitution. Therefore, I think that the time is long past when we are to be bound within the limits only of certain categories.

Thirteen years ago we were dealing with social and educational questions and therefore we specified them and everything else was excluded. Now we want entirely the reverse process. We want to include everything except party politics. That is the whole point. On logical as well as on

psychological grounds therefore I think the complete deletion of these words would be welcome. My amendment therefore reads as follows :

"The Association of A. I. W. C. shall not belong to any political organisation nor take an active part in party politics, but shall be free to discuss and contribute to all questions and matters affecting the welfare of the people of India with particular reference to women and children."

The only addition I have brought in is to work for the people of India and not merely for women and children.

Miss Shepard (Delhi) in seconding Miss Naidu's Amendment said :

I feel that the best argument which has been made has been the question of our unity and its continuance. Miss Naidu's amendment is sufficiently inclusive to allow expression of opinion and of active work on all subjects which contribute to the welfare of the people of India with special regard to women and children.

The second thing I want to say for your consideration is that everyone of us, belonging to whatever race or creed, or whatever political party or no party, has been able to work together as a body of women who are dedicating their lives to the welfare of the women and children, and it is in this sense that today in India the social workers are above politics. Politics may be one tendency in the forward progress of the people and there are many political organisations in which women can join. Social and welfare work being above politics, I think Miss Naidu's amendment should be adopted.

The other statement, that an expression of opinion on politics should be allowed, seems to me to be psychologically unsound. If as a Conference we express an opinion on any subject it is surely not possible or psychological to take no action on it. Therefore, I would urge you to support and pass Miss Naidu's amendment which is all inclusive and which does not specify any particular kind of welfare. As years go on, the All-India Women's Conference may include in its programme every kind of welfare of the women and children and the people of India. As Miss Naidu has said if we include specifically each question, we are bound to leave something out. If we say merely welfare, then, that is an all inclusive programme which the United womanhood of India can surely undertake. I have much pleasure in seconding Miss Naidu's amendment.

Mrs. Brijlal Nehru translated Rajkumari Amrit Kaur's resolution and the three amendments in Hindustani.

Mrs. Billimoria withdrew her amendment as she felt that Miss Naidu's amendment was practically the same as hers.

Begum Aizaz Rasul also withdrew her amendment in favour of Miss Naidu's.

Mrs. Rukmani Lakshmipathi (Madras) said: I rise to support the Policy "A" under Article II as drafted by the Standing Committee of the All-India Women's Conference and oppose the amendment moved by Miss Naidu. Sub-clause 'A' under Article II has been moved and supported by many of the members of the Standing Committee. Clause 'A' explains fully the purpose for which the A. I. W. C. stands. It was pointed out by Mrs. Billimoria that there is no necessity whatsoever for the retention of the words "whether social, educational, economic political or moral" for she meant that by the retention of these words it would mean we are restricting the scope and purpose of our work. I wish to point out to this Conference that the retention of these words would only elaborate the purpose and the ideals of the Women's Conference. There is no harm whatsoever if the A. I. W. C. were to say that the Women's Conference stands for the social emancipation of the womanhood of India, that the Women's Conference stands for the educational progress of India, it stands for the economic regeneration and reconstruction of the country and also for its political emancipation. Miss Feroze-ud-din while supporting Miss Naidu's amendment said that if the word 'political' were to be introduced in the policy of the Conference it will prove to be a source of hardship to all those who are in Government service. Article II 'A' definitely and specifically lays down that this Conference shall not participate in party politics. This Conference shall eschew party politics while at the same time it shall interest itself in politics of a general nature and general character. I want you to bear this definition in your mind. This distinction has already been pointed out by Miss Naidu and she has said that these two words have got to be kept separate from one another. We are not going to take sides so far as politics is concerned; certainly the Women's Conference has its own individual existence; it has got a unity of purpose, it is not going to take sides either with the Indian National Congress or the political-communal organisations like the All-India Muslim League or with the Hindu Maha Sabha. We want the purpose of this Conference to be kept in mind, namely, that we shall not take part in party politics but shall take interest in politics of a general character, because we are a Conference of Women representing Womanhood of India. We have got our definite ideals of life. Why are we here if we are going to sit with folded hands and say "we shall not touch politics with a pair of tongs," but I feel that we should make our influence felt upon the burning questions of the day. This is all that I wanted

to tell you and therefore I oppose the amendment moved by Miss Naidu and support the resolution moved by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.

Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee supported Miss Naidu's amendment and said :

I am supporting very strongly Miss Naidu's amendment. In supporting this I am giving you my reasons for the same and I wish you to consider them. The first is when drafting any constitution we should try and make it concise and explicit. I wish to put this point before you that we are drafting a constitution for the Conference. In the articles proposed by Rajkumari we have besides 'A' and 'B', 1 to 8. These items tell us the scope of the Conference. So it is a repetition to bring them all up again in clause A. It would serve our purpose literally well if we accept the amendment as proposed by Miss Naidu. If we have 'A' as proposed by Rajkumari we will not be gaining anything; on the other hand we may be misleading people and preventing them from joining us which may dis-unite us. As we are not precluded from dealing with political questions by accepting Miss Naidu's amendment, I would request you to vote for the same.

Miss Feroze-ud-din said: I have to request the President to allow me to say a few words on a point of personal explanation. Mrs. Lakshmi-pathi said that I mentioned in my speech that because of the Government servants the word 'political' should be deleted. But what I said was really that for the sake of Government servants we are not going to forget the welfare of the whole country. I am a Government servant myself. I wish to explain that Government servants will be quite willing to make sacrifices if the welfare of their country is at stake.

Shrimati Kamaladevi supporting Miss Naidu's Amendment said :

If I today favour the idea of widening the scope of this Conference I want you to clearly understand that the association of people like myself with this move is not with a view to disrupting the Conference or jeopardising its future. It has become necessary as this Conference has evolved to widen its scope from time to time. In the course of these ten or eleven years we have been witnessing inevitable changes and we have also been welcoming them. So today when pointed attention has been drawn to the fact that the widening of the scope, in order to include all subjects, might convert this association into a political one it is a needless fear which I want you to get rid of. Closely associated as I am with politics and political organisations, I assure you that it is not my desire to convert this into an essentially political body, because I feel it is unnecessary, for we have a political organisation in which all women who want to make politics their primary concern and their mission in life are welcome and have plenty

of scope. Therefore we do not wish to duplicate that work. So you must accept the assurance of people like myself when I say that here we are today to deal with all women's problems in this organisation. That is our essential concern, that is our primary duty. Therefore this organisation should remain a women's organisation and it should welcome all those who want to devote all their time and energy to the welfare, progress and development of the women and children in this country. I hope that will disabuse your minds of any idea that we are trying to convert this into a political body. It is impractical, it is tactless to do so, when we have political organisations where we can carry on this work. We do not wish to spoil this organisation as it stands today by mixing it up with party politics. But we must remember that politics today need not have the connotation which it had got some years ago. We cannot ignore the fact that in this country there are two political forces. Therefore the word 'politics' has got a certain significance which is rather different from the academic connotation that may be usually attributed to it. That is why people range themselves into two camps the moment the word 'politics' comes up. I think we are all agreed on one point, and that is that politics means the Government of the people for the welfare of the people for their future progress, growth and development and there cannot be any disagreement on that question. All of us I think stand for that ideal and on that definition of politics surely this Conference cannot be divided, and moreover, we cannot get away from this aspect of politics because administration and legislation are essentially a part of social work, a part of our own activities and are necessary if we want our women to progress. We have to send our women to legislatures, we have to bring forward measures and bills in order to help our women and children, and we have also got to depend upon our administration to help us in carrying our programme of work. Therefore we do want a good Government, a Government of the people that satisfies the needs of our people and to that extent we cannot say that we have got nothing to do with politics and it is a contradiction if we say so. Therefore we are politically minded and we want politics to that extent. The constitutional amendment before you means that and nothing more. I prefer personally the amendment of Miss Naidu which is as simple and as elastic as possible and therefore I think it will serve our purpose extremely well, because Miss Naidu has made it clear in her amendment that we can take up all topics which deal with the question of women and children and which primarily deals with the welfare of our nation and we cannot deal with women and children as a secluded unit from the rest of humanity. Therefore all fundamental and basic problems, which essentially affect women and children are part and parcel of our national problem. So I think her amendment gives us full scope to deal with all the necessary national

problems. If that point is quite clarified, and I think Miss Naidu's speech has made it clear, we should gladly accept that amendment. In any constitution it is better not to enumerate too many headings so that we need not agitate our minds so as to see whether this comes within the scope of the Constitution or not. Therefore I think I am voicing Miss Naidu's sentiment and opinion when I say that this is a very wide amendment which gives us sufficient scope and the fullest opportunity to deal with all those necessary and essential problems affecting the Indian nation and the women and children in particular. I want to make it clear that Miss Naidu's amendment leaves us absolutely free to deal with all the necessary subjects. I have made it clear that it leaves us free to include political problems affecting the welfare of the Indian nation, and it would help us to move towards greater and greater progress.

Mrs. Asaf Ali supported the motion, in Hindustani.

Dr. Sukhtankar said: The only issue that is before us today is whether we want to widen the scope of the Conference. I think each one of us will agree that we do want to widen the scope of our work. There is no use fighting over words. Whether we accept the words as suggested by the mover or as amended by Miss Naidu personally I believe it makes no difference at all. I want to ask you, do you want to stick to our original work, viz. social and educational work only? Even when we were doing social and educational work for the last 4 or 5 years we have been discussing political questions. Now, we want to express freely that what we have been doing and put it down in our Constitution. Miss Naidu's amendment makes it quite clear that we are free to discuss and contribute to all questions and so I feel that we could all accept the same unanimously.

Mrs. D. B. Akhtar Hussain, speaking in Hindustani, said: "It has been said by some speakers that the inclusion of the word "politics" in the Constitution would raise communal differences among the ranks of the Conference. I would like to ask if these differences will be created by the proposed change in the Constitution or as the Constitution already exists. The fact is that they are present already and that political discussions will only make apparent what is now unrevealed—these discussions will at the same time give us opportunity to make an honest effort towards finding a solution of the communal tangle. Every one knows that at this time the greatest need of the country is a solution of this problem. If we women who claim to be above communalism can come together and through our deliberations can offer to our people a really practical method of putting an end to communalism, we shall have made the greatest possible contribution to the cause of Indian nationalism. Why should we not make an at-

tempt to do the great work? As this purpose can be attained by accepting Miss Naidu's amendment, I heartily support it."

The President called upon Rajkumari Amrit Kaur to reply to all the points raised by several members during the discussion and said that she was not going to allow any more speeches.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur in replying to the debate said:—I wish to say that I am willing to withdraw my original resolution in favour of Miss Naidu's amendment but in doing so I want to make it perfectly clear, as it has been made clear by her and other speakers, that this Conference by this change in their Constitution will have the right to discuss and express opinions on all questions barring party politics. I have no desire, and never had any desire to change this Conference into an essentially political organisation. I want a women's platform and you will see that clauses 1 to 8 under B Article II definitely define the work on which this Conference has got to concentrate every year in an increasing measure. Doubts and fears have been expressed by those who are in opposition to any change. Their doubts and fears are mainly centred on two or three points. They feel that wives and relations of Government servants will be put in an awkward position when this Conference discusses and passes Resolutions on political issues. I want to assure them that I shall myself propose a Bye-Law that it shall be open to wives of all Government servants and any persons who feel that expression of opinion or even discussion of political questions is going to endanger their position to refrain from discussion, and their names, as having refrained from discussion and voting, shall be recorded if desired. The other point that I want to emphasize is that any change to widen the scope of our activities widens our mental horizon. I look upon it as of tremendous importance not only to extend our work but also to expand mentally. We have asked for the right to vote and got it, and we want franchise in a more abundant measure than we have today. We are proud of our women legislators. Are we not going to expand mentally, to help our women legislators, to lay down policies which are for our benefit, and our welfare is the country's welfare. I want to assure those who feel that our State Branches will desert us that the same principle will apply to them also, should they want to refrain from discussion or participation. I have talked personally and been in personal correspondence throughout this year with the Prime Ministers and those responsible for the Governments of various States and I am happy to tell you that from no Government have I had any real opposition. I think that the psychology of fear has dominated us far too long because of the system of Government under which we are today, but with Provincial Autonomy and the increasing freedom, these fears must go and we women have got the right to say that it should go. I wish to

dispel those fears that have guided you or agitated you or influenced some of you to vote against this change. It is essential for us to bring a change, or, we shall not gain that increasing respect, we shall not attain that status which I want this Conference to attain. We shall keep out of it many of our sisters who would long to come in but who feel that they would be too cramped here. Surely, we should not be cramped ourselves and cramp anybody else. We should open our doors far and wide.

After this explanation and after the clear speeches that have been made in favour of the change, I wish to say that I accept the amendment proposed by Miss Naidu.

THE PRESIDENT, Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, summing up the discussion said :—

I think we have had a very interesting discussion on this question of the proposed change in the Constitution. This question has been before us for the last 3 years and I am glad we have come to a decision in a spirit of compromise and mutual understanding. I want to make it clear to you that there is no intention in the minds of any of us to make the Conference into a rival political organisation or a sister organisation to any political body in the country. All that I wish to say to you is that we must be free to discuss anything that pertains to politics, which affects not only women and children but, according to the amendment, all the people of India. It was said during the discussion that Government servants—Inspectresses of Schools, for example, or women who are doing other Government jobs will find it very difficult to remain within the Conference if politics is to be included in our programme of activities. I should like to draw your attention to a circular which was recently circulated in the Presidency of Bombay by the Bombay Ministry which said that not only pensioners but people depending on those pensioners also were now free to take part in politics and even to stand for elections and I believe that similar circulars have already been circulated or are intended to be circulated in several other provinces. Last year, in Nagpur, I remember that several Government servants, actually those who were in charge of Government Schools and Colleges, came forward to support the inclusion of politics in our programme of activities. With regard to the States I think we can safely include, now that we have assurances from four or five of the prominent States in India, that no trouble is likely to arise if their representatives continue their association with the Conference even after the inclusion of politics in the sphere of our activities.

Regarding the maintenance of unity about which our friends here have spoken, you know that this year one of the most important subjects

for group-discussion was how to bring about communal unity and how to foster it. We have read the reports of the groups and each group, you must have noticed, laid stress on the change of heart which is as necessary and vital in this matter. If we follow the principles embodied in those reports, we shall have no trouble about maintaining unity. Of course, the amendment which you are accepting—I hope you will accept it unanimously—is very comprehensive. Although Article II does not mention the word 'politics' which I on my part would have liked to have retained in the wording of this article, you must have noticed that the Conference will be free to discuss all the matters including politics.

The amendment which has been moved by Miss Naidu and which has been accepted by the Mover, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, reads as follows :—

"The A. I. W. C. shall not belong to any political organisation nor take an active part in party politics but shall be free to discuss and contribute to all questions and matters affecting the welfare of the people of India with particular reference to women and children."

The amendment was put to vote and carried unanimously by the Conference. It was also carried as a substantive proposition.

The President, then, read out the results of the election conducted the previous day, which were as follows :—

Vice-Presidents :

Mrs. Dina Asana.
Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit.
Mrs. Brijlal Nehru.
Shrimati Kamaladevi.
Begum Aizaz Rasul.
Mrs. Sultan Singh.

General Secretary :

Dr. Malinibai Sukhtankar.

Treasurer :

Mrs. G. R. Billimoria.

Social Section Secretary :

Mrs. J. R. Doctor.

Educational Sec. Secretary :

Mrs. D. B. Akhtar Hussain.

FOURTH SITTING: 1st January 1939. 2 to 6 P.M.

The Conference reassembled at 2 P.M. after lunch.

Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade (President): "Let us get on with the Constitution quickly because we have a long report to go through this afternoon. The Draft Constitution as recommended by the Standing Committee is before us. We have finished with Clause (a) of Article II this morning. We shall now deal with Clause (b) **Aims and Objects**. I want to know whether you would like the retention of Clauses 1 to 8 as in the Standing Committee Draft or would you rather have them as B to H as in the original Draft. I will take this part clause by clause, and I would like you to vote on each separately."

Votes were then taken and the Conference unanimously agreed to retain all the clauses from 1 to 8 as presented by the Standing Committee.

ARTICLE III as recommended by the Standing Committee was accepted amended as follows: Clause (e) was deleted with this proviso that Life Associates under the old Constitution will have the right of attending the open sessions of the Conference and voting as hitherto.

ARTICLE IV, as suggested by the Standing Committee, was passed unanimously.

ARTICLE V, as recommended by the Standing Committee was passed, except that in place of 'Associate Members', 'Life Associates' was added.

ARTICLES VI, VII and VIII, as recommended by the Standing Committee, were passed unanimously.

* * * *

The Findings Committee Report was then taken up for consideration. In placing the same before the Conference, **Rajkumari Amrit Kaur**, said:—

"I have been asked by the President to explain to you once again that this year according to the new method of work we have followed, the old method of presenting Resolutions for you to pass has been abolished. I am presenting the Report of the Findings Committee which was appointed to collaborate all the suggestions that were given in to them by the various groups that were formed. There were six Groups discussing and deliberating on the same questions. All Groups sent in their recommendations and the Findings Committee have embodied all those into a concrete whole in the form of a Report. It has not been an easy task to put into concrete form and shape all the resolutions and findings in such a short space of time

but we have tried to work against time. I now ask you to consider one by one the subjects put forward and vote on the same. I take it that the Delegates have all discussed these points and there is not very much further to say."

The Report of the Findings Committee was read out by the President subject by subject and was finally adopted as follows :—

* * * *

REPORT OF THE FINDINGS COMMITTEE.

1. NURSERY SCHOOLS.

There is no gainsaying the fact that these should come into being as early as possible in both urban and rural areas. The main obstacles in the way are the lack of money and the dearth of trained teachers. The necessity for voluntary endeavour in the beginning in order to overcome both these difficulties is therefore very urgent. As teachers for rural areas are still hard to find, our recommendations deal in the main with children—in particular poor children—in urban areas.

In the matter of training teachers we feel that our Branches should form special Nursery School Committees and demand that there should be at least one training centre in every Province and State either in the form of a special Institution or by the inclusion of a special Nursery School Teacher Training Course in the curricula of the existing Training Centres. In view of the fact that really well educated teachers are necessary to handle the young we should appeal to our graduates to go in for this training. Until such time, however, as sufficiently well-trained teachers become available we should encourage efficient voluntary endeavour in this domain. Each local Nursery School Committee should endeavour to send one candidate a year in the Nursery School Project, Madras, Srijiut Gijju Bhai's School at Bhawanagar or other approved Institutions. These Committees should also organise Study Circles to read and discuss books and periodical bulletins by experts on the subject.

All local bodies should be asked to provide suitable quarters for Nursery Schools in their areas with a playground and a suitable provision for drinking water. Where such quarters are provided and our fully trained teacher is available the services of the latter may be requisitioned to give training *pari pasu* with her duties to promising helpers who may later be sent for proper training to Institutions at the headquarters of either Province or State. We are convinced that good habits, a sense of discipline

and civic consciousness, elementary reading and writing and manual training if imparted properly to these young children will form good material for our primary schools and be of real service to the country.

2. SEX EDUCATION.

- (a) Sex Education should be given from the child's earliest years by means of simple talks on plant life and elementary physiology. Later, definite instructions should be given by trained people to boys and to girls at the High School stage. Such instructions should also be given to College Students and should be compulsory in Training Colleges. Doctors may be enlisted to help.
- (b) Books are already available but small leaflets in the various Indian languages should be prepared.
- (c) Marriage hygiene clinics should be established to give advice to married couples.
- (d) To help parents to give proper sex education to their children, group meetings of fathers and mothers separately may be arranged in connection with schools, where men and women doctors or other experts may give instructions.
- (e) A film called "The Gift of Life" is available and we would welcome others of this nature.

3. NUTRITION.

Educative propaganda must be carried out on a wide scale in regard to the use of hand pounded rice, raw sugar and hand ground wheat and we appeal to our members to set an example in this matter themselves. District and Local authorities should be requested to help by making available to the public the supply of these articles both in town and in rural areas where machines have crept in. The authorities concerned may also be asked to refrain from granting licenses in rural areas to those anxious to put up big machinery for grinding wheat and pounding rice. Those who indulge in eating polished rice and mill flour should be advised to mix the husk and the bran with it so as not to lose all the vitamins. Standing Committee members should study the available literature on nutrition and diet, e.g., "Balanced Diets", pamphlet No. 8—Bombay Health Week—Food and Health Model Lecture No. 5, Bombay Health Week. Pamphlets and leaflets should be circulated and Dr. Aykroyd's Bulletin may be summarised and translated for distribution. Propaganda may also be done by newspaper articles, radio talks and lectures. Model meals according to a system of

balanced diets should be served by our members when entertaining their friends in order to familiarise our members with the proper diet for a particular area. Our Committees should encourage the growing of vegetables and fruit by villagers and poor people in towns wherever land is available. Fruit and vegetable shows may be encouraged and prizes awarded to the best specimens. Advice how to cook articles of food so as to retain the maximum vitamin values should be made available to women. The proper care of cows, buffaloes and goats should be stressed for improving the quality of milk. Pure milk for children in urban areas should be provided by local bodies. Where these fail private endeavour should come to the rescue. In rural areas skimmed milk and "chhachh" have valuable nourishing properties which should be made use of and emphasised.

4. SOCIAL BILLS.

We recommend that Clauses IV, V, VI and VII on dissolution of marriage of Mrs. Subbarayan's Bill as finally drafted be incorporated in Dr. Deshmukh's Bill on Divorce. We also recommend that a Joint Select Committee with Mrs. Subbarayan as a member of it be formed to consider both Dr. Deshmukh's and Seth Govindlal Motilal's Bill on Monogamy. We are in favour of clauses 1 to 3 of Mrs. Subbarayan's Bill above referred to being included in Seth Govindlal Motilal's Bill on Monogamy.

We accept the principle of both Shrimati Sarala Devi's Bills now before the Orissa Assembly as also those before the Legislatures of Bihar, Sind and U. P. for amending the Child Marriage Restraint Act and the abolition of the Dowry System. We are aware that the word Dowry refers to Jahez, Mehr and Stridhan and would therefore strongly urge the substitution for this word in all these measures of the following :—Bridegroom price and bride price, Var Vikraya and Kanya Vikraya.

We accept the principle of Mr. Kazmi's Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee.

We again urge the appointment by the Government of India of a Committee of expert lawyers with an adequate number of women on its personnel to look into the whole question of the legal disabilities of Indian women.

We feel that our members must make a far deeper study of this question ourselves as well as carry on extensive propaganda for the public and explain the necessity of changes in the existing law to women in the mass. Their ignorance is stupendous.

5. INDIGENOUS INDUSTRIES.

There is no need to reiterate our earnest belief in the development of our industries specially hand industries which include Khadi and are a source of life to our women in particular. We believe the time has now come when our members and office-bearers in particular should definitely pledge themselves to the use of Swadeshi. Every Branch should sponsor a Swadeshi Store at their headquarters and give a prominent place in it to Khadi. Our Bulletin should give a regular list of shops and stores in all parts of the country from where various articles can be had.

6. CARE COMMITTEES.

Branches should form such committees to visit the homes of children who have been prescribed treatment after having been medically examined by the School Medical Officer in order to see that the required treatment is carried out. Where Compulsory medical inspection of schools does not exist authorities should be urged to introduce the system and voluntary workers may undertake pioneer work in one school or a small group of schools. The keeping in touch with and educating parents of sick and un-healthy children is very important. Hospitals and maternity homes also require Care Committees or hospital almoners who would visit discharged patients and see that they have proper facilities for convalescence and necessary strengthening diet and rest. Discharged prisoners should also be kept in touch with and each jail should have a committee for this purpose. In places where there is no Children's Aid Society care committees should follow up juvenile delinquents.

7. WAR AND WORLD PEACE.

We endorse the resolution passed the other day in open session. We believe that love alone can conquer the forces of evil that threaten to drown the world in an orgy of war today. As women we desire to develop within ourselves the capacity for observing non-violence in thought, word, and deed, for we have seen the efficacy of this weapon demonstrated in a practical manner under the guidance of Gandhiji. We definitely feel that this is the goal of our desires and that women who have a heart believe in it can contribute enormously towards bringing in of a new order.

Struggling as we are for freedom ourselves we sympathise in a special manner today with the peoples of Spain, China, Arabia, Palestine, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Africa, with the Jews and all those countries and peoples who are still the victims of exploitation and cruelty. At the same

time we wish to express our love and sympathy with the people of those countries who are in possession of the so-called power of armed might for they are also the victims of a crucial system. Oceans and mountains, races, languages, and customs may divide geographically and in outward semblance but life is an indivisible whole. As all international conflict is due to competition for spheres of influence, economic exploitation and desire for possession of colonies, we appeal in a special manner to the women and women's organisations of Britain, the United States of America, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and Japan to join hands with us in demanding complete freedom for every country and the immediate cessation of all exploitation, injustice and aggression.

We are opposed to India helping in any way in any war of aggression and we wish to record our strong protest against the Army Recruitment Bill recently passed in the Central Legislative Assembly.

8. TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Women's associations need to take an interest in this question and get a group of members actively interested to work out the following programme :—

The Conference should ask all the Provincial Governments to follow the lead given by Madras in appointing a Provincial woman welfare worker in all Provinces and States.

The authorities should be urged to take more active interest in Rescue work. The Constituencies must agitate to get suitable laws passed and enforced for the prevention of immoral traffic in women and children. Women members of the Assembly should especially be approached in this connection.

The Constituencies should also make efforts to create public opinion in favour of such measures by holding meetings and through press propaganda.

A course of training for probation officers and social workers should be included in the curricula of institutions like the Dorab Tata Graduate School of Social Work, the Lady Reading Health School, and the Moral and Social Hygiene Association should be asked to train workers in this line.

This Committee should request Government to engage special women officers at Railway Stations, lock-ups, prisons, etc.

Constituencies should make efforts to break down existing prejudices against women who have been forced to lead life of shame as unfortunate

victims of circumstances and are desirous of leading an honourable and decent life. Homes should be started for such women and all efforts be made to train them to earn their own livings. Efforts can be made on the lines of the Big Sister Movement of the All Bengal Women's Union.

Local authorities should forbid at melas, cinemas, carnivals, etc., which lower the sense of decency of the public and encourage immoral life.

9. VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION.

Village reconstruction is dealt with in Rani Rajwade's Scheme, which is dealt with separately. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur's Scheme of work in villages was heartily supported. Practical suggestions were put forward for carrying out the work, as follows :—

1. Each Branch Committee of the A. I. W. C. should adopt one village each year. Emphasis should be laid on personal contacts and friendship between our members and villagers. Magic lantern and cinema shows, day and night schools, baby clinics, employment of a trained dai for the village, dispensaries either travelling or permanent may be methods used for establishing contacts.

2. Each Branch should endeavour to arrange for a permanent conveyance which may be used by the members for village work.

3. In Provinces where the Government is undertaking rural reconstruction work our members should offer their services to such Government Schemes.

10. REMOVAL OF UNTOUCHABILITY.

This is an evil which has long been recognised by us but which needs sustained effort on the part of our members. We offer the following concrete proposals for our work in this connection. Personal contacts between Harijan women and our Committees, the promotion of the work of the Harijan Sewak Sangh by lending help to its local branches, joining the Harijan Sewak Sangh as members, inspection and improvement of and financial help to Harijan Schools, calling upon Municipalities to provide suitable quarters for their Harijan employees, as also maternity benefits and other service regulations, demanding an increase in wages where necessary, pressing for the participation of Harijan women in festivals with caste Hindus, demanding from those States or Provincial Governments who have as yet not made that declaration that they make no differentiation between castes in relation to the civic rights of the people, subscribing to the Harijan Sewak Sangh, are items of work which can be taken up by our members both in-

dividually and collectively without any difficulty if we hold the cause dear.

We congratulate all those Governments and States who have brought in Temple Entry Legislation and appeal to those who have not yet done so to come into line. We include in this appeal the Trustees of Temples also.

11. INDIANS OVERSEAS.

We heartily endorse Mr. Andrews' appeal and are glad that he has drawn our attention to the help we can render and the interest we should take in our countrymen abroad in their numerous difficulties and trials.

We call public attention to the urgent need of special care being taken to give the best teaching to Indian children abroad in the culture and tradition of their motherland and feel that one member of our Standing Committee should be put in charge of the subject of Indians Overseas in order to be in touch and take the necessary steps from time to time.

We call immediate attention to the miserable plight of the returned emigrants at Matiaburz, Calcutta, and ask the local Branch of the A. I. W. C. to take steps in ameliorating their condition and providing a remedy for it. We appeal to our members and to the general public to subscribe liberally in money and in kind towards the fund Mr. Andrews has started for the relief of these emigrants.

12. COMMON LANGUAGE.

The All India Women's Conference welcomes Hindustani having been made compulsory in Madras and deplors the spurious agitation against it. We appeal to all women to refrain from such agitation and request our Madras Branch to do more propaganda. We further ask the All-India Women's Conference members to learn Hindustani in both scripts (Nagri and Persian). Constituent reports should be read in Hindustani and it should be obligatory on Office-bearers of the A. I. W. C. to learn Hindustani in at least one script. We should, as far as possible, ask all delegates to the next Annual Session to learn at least simple conversational Hindustani. The A. I. W. C. Magazine should have a special section for Common Language and members should make full use of this.

Hindustani should be a compulsory subject in all schools and books in Hindustani should be added in Libraries. All possible efforts should be made to simplify the language used in Hindustani School books, newspaper articles and public lectures.

Exchange of teachers should be made between Hindustani Areas

and non-Hindustani Areas. High School and College students, teachers and nurses of other areas, who are learning Hindustani, may be invited to spend their holidays in similar institutions in Hindustani areas.

13. COMMUNAL UNITY.

We realise that communal disunity is due to political and economic causes rather than to differences in culture or religion. To bridge the gulf that exists we suggest the following practical ways and means:—

1. S. C. members should see that their local committees are representatives of all sections of women in their areas.
2. Our members everywhere should educate public opinions and should work towards securing representation of all communities in Committees and Boards, whether local or central.
3. Each community should take part in the celebration of religious festivals of other communities and should teach their children the stories of heroes of communities other than their own.
4. The principles of the various religions may be taught in schools and all school and college text books showing any communal bias should be banned.
5. Both English and Vernacular newspapers should be scrutinized and protests made against articles and utterances which may give rise to hatred and strife.
6. Sectional hostels in educational institutions and sectional institutions themselves should be abolished.
7. Communal Associations for social and educational service may be asked to open their doors to other communities.
8. Social intercourse must make its full contribution, interdining should be encouraged and mixed clubs of women established.
9. A closer contact with the masses of the country should be maintained by our members and encouraged by them in others, so that working together for the progress of the masses, society may learn to recognise communalism as a grave national danger.

14. OPIUM & OTHER NARCOTIC DRUGS.

Our Branches must keep Governments active by sending in reports of the Acts and Bills passed by other Provinces and must demand equivalent legislation for their own states or provinces. For instance, the A. I. W. C.

resolution passed last year should now be forwarded again to each Government with a request for information as to how far the Scheme has been adopted in practice. The Bombay Act of 1936 for the control to opium smoking should be quoted and representation made that each Province and State must pass an Act on the same principle. Our Branches must also make sure that prohibition Schemes for every Province or State include due restriction of opium and other dangerous drugs and make representation and carry on effective agitation by means of public meetings and propaganda through newspapers. Our members must also carry on more propaganda, especially in labouring and village areas among those women who are addicted to giving opium to their children so that they may understand the evil results of this habit.

Prohibition.

We congratulate the Governments who have introduced prohibition in various areas and appeal to those in both Provinces and States who have not already done so to follow this excellent lead. We appeal to our members to help to their utmost capacity in those areas where Prohibition has come in as also by preparing the ground in both town and village for the rapid extension of this necessary reform.

15. LABOUR.

The A. I. W. C. declares as its considered policy the principle that Labour must be recognised as part owners in industry along with capital and urges that this ideal be worked for by more co-operation between labour and capital. We view with alarm the deplorable standard of life in which women working in industries in India are living on account of the extremely low wages paid. We urge the Central and Provincial Governments to enact without delay legislation setting up machinery for fixing a minimum living wage and recommend our branches to make efforts to secure such legislation in their areas.

The A. I. W. C. urges the Provincial Governments and the Central Government to enact legislation providing for some suitable scheme of social insurance giving workers in organised industries protection against the risks of sickness, unemployment and old age and further recommends that our branches in the various Provinces should endeavour to secure such legislation.

The Conference desires Standing Committee members to agitate for Maternity Benefit Acts in those Provinces where such legislation does not at present exist. We recommend that the working of the Maternity Benefit Scheme should be obtained from the employers according to the total

number of employees, both men and women. We reiterate our request for more women factory inspectors in order to secure (inter alia) the proper working of the Maternity Benefit Schemes, and recommend our Standing Committee members to press this point in their Provinces. We earnestly urge the Indian States to introduce Labour Legislation as prevailing in British India.

In places where Section 33 (2) (α) of the Indian Factory Act (Provision of Creches in factories employing a sufficient number of women) has not been applied by the Local Governments, our members should call upon these Governments to take immediate steps to do so. The Branches should seek to educate public opinion and also employers on this subject.

The Labour Sub-Committee and the Branch Labour Committees should undertake a survey of the conditions of child and women labour in unregulated industries and workshops not under the Factory Act; as in many of these industries and in many places in India, as for example in the Bidi industry in Madras, children and women are heartlessly exploited. We urge the Government of India to introduce legislation to safeguard such children and women.

With regard to the Housing of workers, we urge that all housing schemes should be on Indian lines suited to local conditions. Adequate housing schemes should preferably be undertaken by the Government, Improvement Trusts, local authorities and by the employees themselves through Co-operative Housing Societies. We recommend our members in the various areas to study and survey the conditions of housing of workers in their own district.

With reference to the question of Forced Labour, the Conference appeals to every Province and State in India to abolish forced labour wherever it exists. Our members should educate public opinion and the labourers themselves against the system. The Conference urges the Government of India to ratify the Convention on Forced Labour.

The Conference urges local Governments to cease to classify scavengers as "Contingent" employees and to place them in the "permanent" class, thus enabling them to secure such benefits as apply to the latter class.

We request the Labour Sub-Committee to prepare a Questionnaire dealing with Child Labour and women workers in unregulated industries, the housing of workers, and forced labour. This Questionnaire should, after study and surveys made in each area, be answered by Branch Labour Committees and returned to the Labour Sub-Committee Convener. We strongly urge the vital necessity for our members everywhere to get into

close touch, through some centre of helpful and constructive activity, with women workers, in order that we may educate the women with regard to the benefits that are already available to them and also in order that the workers may readily turn to us to help them, not only in times of crisis, but also in their everyday difficulties and needs.

This Conference deplores the insufficient wages paid by Government to Famine Relief Labour for the heavy work they are doing in Madras and in Hissar.

To help unemployed educated women, each Branch and the Central Office should open an Employment Bureau.

A good Marathi pamphlet on "Women in Industry" should be translated into English and Hindi.

Standing Committee Members should study the relevant paragraphs of the Whitley Report and other books dealing with the subjects to be included in the proposed Questionnaire.

16. ILLITERACY AND ADULT EDUCATION

This subject has two sections :—

- (1) Training in Citizenship, and
- (2) Removal of Illiteracy.

To remove illiteracy, the terrible incidence of which in India we do not need to reiterate, every member of the A. I. W. C. should make at least one person, if not more, literate every year. She should start with her dependents and those in her immediate surroundings. Employers in Government and other services in institutions and industrial concerns should be approached with a view to their making special arrangements for teaching their employees. Each member of the A. I. W. C. should make herself familiar with special methods of teaching adults as for example the Lauback method in Hindi, by which an adult can become literate in 4 weeks. We must study the system and success of mass literacy campaigns already instituted in other parts of the country, as for example, in Bihar, and do our utmost to initiate similar campaigns where and when necessary. Teaching should not be primarily or only from books but also through the pupils' interests. This leads us to the second section of our subject, namely, instruction in Citizenship. There should be graded courses in Citizenship in schools and training Colleges and propaganda should be carried on in towns and villages by means of lectures, leaflets, magazine stories and articles, magic lantern and

cinema shows, radio talks and debates. Study circles may be organised to study Civics and rights and duties of Citizenship. Members who possess Cine-Kodak Cameras may help to produce films on Health, sanitation and other citizenship topics, which would have local interest and show local conditions.

* * * *

17. SCHEME FOR EXTENSION OF WORK OF THE A. I. W. C.

(Prepared by Rani Rajwade).

We approve in general of the Scheme leaving Branches free to make any changes to meet their local needs.

* * * *

CONCLUSION.

We feel a far deeper study of our problems is essential. We must be able to back up our resolutions and general ideas with concrete proposals implemented by facts and figures and show definite achievement at the end of each year.

Our membership must be widened and increased and placed on a financial basis now. We endorse the principles underlying Rani Rajwade's scheme for the expansion of work and congratulate her on it. We have not been able to give it the close study it needs but we would like to see the Standing Committee go into it in detail and broadcast it to our Branches. A Scheme of expansion is definitely necessary.

This is the first year in which a report with practical suggestions for work rather than a series of resolutions has been presented to the Open Sessions for consideration by the delegates. It is hoped that the new method of work by means of the Group system whereby every delegate has had the chance of speaking and making her contribution in her Group, will prove to be one means of stimulating interest and creating within each of us a burning desire to serve.

* * * *

THANKSGIVINGS.

The business of the Conference being over, **Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade**, the President, in thanking the various people who contributed to the success of the Conference said :—

"We have managed to get through a long Report with your co-operation and patience. It is now my pleasant duty to thank the Reception Committee for first of all having invited us here and having made us very happy and comfortable in every way. I am sure you will agree with me when I say that we have been put up very comfortably in the Delegates' Camp, even with the provision of fire, whenever we wanted it.

"Special thanks must be given to **Mrs. Sultan Singh**, chairman of the Reception Committee, for the very great interest she has been taking in the welfare of women since very many years. She was in Delhi at the second session of the Conference 10 years ago and we know how much love she bears for the Conference. I should also like to assure her that all of us shall take back with us very happy memories of the Delhi Session .

"I do not know how to thank **Mrs. Asaf Ali** sufficiently. I cannot describe her better than by saying that she has been true to her popular appellation "The Seva Devi". We are indeed very, very grateful to her.

"I want particularly to thank also Dr. Mrs. M. B. Kagal, Dr. Natarajan, Mrs. Basantlal, Mrs. Bhagatlal, Mrs. Darabakht, Shri Prem Devi, Mrs. Shib Charan Das, Mrs. Kohli, Mrs. Sushila Sharma, Kumar Jehan Begum, Mrs. Pande and Miss Joshi for the help they have given during the Conference; and also Mrs. Gadodia, Vice-President of the Reception Committee, Mrs. Rani Prasad, Miss Sayed and Mrs. Nayek for arranging Mahalla meetings. Our grateful thanks are due to the staff and students of the Lady Irwin College and to Mrs. Menon and Mrs. Berey for their help in the excellent Entertainment got up by them. Our thanks are also due to the Conveners, secretaries and members of the various Sub-committees of the Reception Committee and the volunteers who have been very useful in every possible way. We are very grateful to the Delhi Municipality for giving us free use of their Hall and free use of electricity and every other facilities as also to Mr. Ludli Prasad for granting us the use of Ludlow Castle free of any charge and to the different schools for the loan of their buses. The office staff of the Delhi Municipality and the Reception Committee, and Mr. Gopalan and members of the Minto Road Club also deserve our thanks."

Referring to the help rendered to the Conference by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur the retiring President, the President said :—"Rajkumari has been a guide, philosopher and friend, all combined, to us in this Conference and although she has retired as a President, we hope that in the near future we shall have her again as President to give us her leadership and to imbue us with the real spirit of service of which she is a symbol and model.

"Mrs. Dina Asana, the Hon. Organising Secretary, deserves special



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Mrs. Dina Jehangir Asana

Honorary Organising Secretary

A. I. W. C., 1937 & 1938



Mrs. Asaf Ali

Secretary, Reception Committee

Delhi Session, 1938

mention and thanks. She has been working as Organising Secretary for us for 2 years, and I who have spent almost 4 years in that capacity, know how much work she has to put in. Mrs. Dina Asana has been very prompt, painstaking and accurate and we are much pleased with her methods of work, her courtesy and kindness to all. We hope, as Vice-President, she will further help our cause by touring about and helping the organisation with her experience".

"The President also thanked the Honorary Treasurer, the Sectional Secretaries, the Conveners of Sub-Committees and members of the Standing Committee for their co-operation and help."

In conclusion, the President thanked Mrs. Sarojini Naidu for coming to the Conference specially out of her way and also the Overseas visitors and expressed the hope that they would come and help the Conference every time.

Mrs. M. E. Cousins in a short speech proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair; this was seconded by Mrs. Billimoria. **Begum Hamid Ali** further supported the vote of thanks in Hindustani, which was passed with acclamation.

Miss Agatha Harrison replying on behalf of the overseas visitors said that they were very much interested in the Conference and especially in the way in which the Conference changed over to the new method of working in groups. She said that they all felt very, very happy indeed and would take back with them happy memories of the Delhi Session.

The Conference terminated at 5-15 P.M.



RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT DELHI.

1. The All-India Women's Conference records its deep sense of sorrow at the untimely death of Kemal Attaturk to whose consummate genius modern Turkey owes the liberation of her people and the social and economic emancipation of all her women.
2. The All-India Women's Conference places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the passing away of Sir Mahomad Iqbal, the distinguished philosopher and poet.
3. The All-India Women's Conference expresses sorrow at the death of Maulana Shaukat Ali, a great National Leader.
4. The All-India Women's Conference expresses sorrow at the death of Mahatma Hansraj, an eminent social worker.
5. The All-India Women's Conference places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the passing away of Begum Ansari, whose death is a great loss to the country.
6. The All-India Women's Conference congratulates the S. N. D. Thakersey Indian Women's University and thanks the Government of Bombay for recognising the degrees of this University as equivalent to the degrees of other universities for the purposes of Government service. It urges other Provincial Governments to grant them similar recognition.
7. **Peace Resolution :** Conscious of the gravity of the situation today in the world and believing that a new order is an imperative need we wish to stress once more our abhorrence of war as a solution of any problem. We declare ourselves in utter and eternal opposition to all oppression and exploitation. We have been pained and horrified at the betrayal of Austria and Czechoslovakia, at the abetment from outside and continuance of the internal strife in Spain, at the merciless persecution of the Jews, at the deplorable interference and cruelties in Palestine and at the unjustifiable aggression in China. The inability of the so-called great powers of the world to put an end to all this woe and misery is proof enough of the futility of their methods of approach. We are convinced that it is only through the banishing of all greed for possession that the shadow of war and armed conflict itself can be removed. We, therefore, protest against the mad race in the building of armaments that continues unabated. We appeal to the women of the world to unite on the platform of non-violence and actively demonstrate that by this power alone can the forces of hatred and the desire for possession be brought under control and a real and lasting peace established.

SECTIONAL AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT.

1938

REPORT OF THE EDUCATIONAL SECTION

Miss Z. Lazarus

I have much pleasure in presenting to you, the following Annual Report of the Educational Section.

In my Circular No. 1 dated 19-2-38 I referred to the reply from the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India who stated that he found our suggestions regarding Primary Education "valuable and very helpful", while the Secretary, Wardha Education Scheme, added in his letter to me "Many of the suggestions put forward by your standing committee have been incorporated in our syllabus".

I am also glad to inform you that the Central Advisory Board of Education appointed by the Govt. of India have included on their Education Committee two of our members viz., our President Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and Begum Shah Nawaz.

During the months of January and February 1938, as the important question of the re-orientation of education was on the anvil throughout India, I wrote to the Government of India and several Provincial Governments requesting them to appoint women on their respective committees, preferably those of our members who had studied the subject in all its aspects. The Govt. of Bombay replied "The Committees mentioned in your letter have been appointed, one of which has already met and begun work. Women are represented in all the three Committees and lately we have also added Mrs. Hamid Ali to the adult Education Committee. I am forwarding your letter to the Presidents of the Committees which have got the powers to co-opt members". Mrs. Hansa Mehta and Miss Reuben were also appointed in Bombay.

Favourable replies were also received from the Minister for Education in the United Provinces and the far-distant North-West Frontier, Bihar and Orissa. The Ministers in Sind, Punjab, Bengal and Central Provinces thinking that discretion was the better part of valour, maintained a discreet silence while the Minister in the Presidency of Madras, wrote that the Government had not yet appointed a Committee with regard to the re-orientation of education.

I was asked to go to Wardha by the Standing Committee. I went

there and had a discussion with the Secretary of the Wardha Committee. He told me that it was the wish of the Wardha Committee that a resolution be forwarded to the A. I. W. C. requesting this body to undertake this noble work. He hoped that myself as secretary of the Education section will take up this matter and keep them informed of further developments. As I did not get many replies from the Standing Committee members and felt that the matter be considered by experts, I got into touch immediately with all the experts possible who had received the best education in Europe and America where they specialised in this subject and had given practical shape to their theories by running Nursery Schools in India. The experience gained by me in the "Folk Schools" abroad as well as in India was also useful.

I have been able to evolve a simple, practical syllabus that will tend to bring little children of pre-school age into intimate touch with life and the needs and traditions of our Indian people and the enunciation of the principle of "educating children through purposeful creative activities leading on to productive work". Those "experts" responsible for framing this syllabus have kept in view the necessity for the re-orientation of education in the light of the doctrine enunciated in the Wardha Scheme and the Abbot—Wood Report. Amongst the "experts" consulted were teachers from Hyderabad through the courtesy of the S. C. Member, Mrs. Cornelius, and Mrs. Urmilla Mehta, Mrs. Shivarao and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. I may add that the **Syllabus** prepared by us for Nursery Schools with so much labour and expenses in touring has been appreciated. I am quoting the opinion of the Secretary of the Wardha Education Committee :—

"I am glad to receive your Circular No. 5 containing the Syllabus for Nursery Schools and to know of the steps you have taken in order to start the movement for Nursery Schools under the auspices of the A. I. W. C. It is a very well drafted Syllabus and I trust the A. I. W. C. will undertake more work in villages and gain more experience."

I would suggest the formation of a "Nursery Schools Sub-Committee" to deal with this matter. I have also prepared a **Time Table**, after consulting Experts, for the Nursery Schools which has already been circulated to the Standing Committee members. I may add that the Time Table with slight modifications has been tried in the neighbouring villages and has been found useful and practicable. It has also been made permanent in a well-known institution of nearly twenty years' standing in South India. The leading newspaper in South India, viz., "The Hindu" has pronounced its benediction by publishing it under the caption of "The Model Time Table" in its special Educational Supplement.

A great deal depends upon the personality of the teacher and I would

again impress upon the teachers and the parents the fact that a child is never too young to learn the ideals of citizenship. Incidentally, I was deeply impressed by the marvellous "civic and sanitary conscience" implanted in children of the pre-school age and also their highly developed "road-sense" during my recent travels in Greater India, Bali, Java and Sumatra.

With regard to the question of Adult Education and the Liquidation of illiteracy, the Sub-Committee of the Bombay Constituency has prepared a list of Literacy classes for adults. This is a very important subject and we should have an all-India Committee for directing the Constituencies to do the needful in the matter. There is ample scope for this work in every Constituency.

The Delhi Women's League has taken up the question in right earnest in connection with Women's Industrial Centre. The Adult Education Conference of India was held this year at Delhi and has certainly given a fillip to this branch of education. The Andhra Constituency has discovered a new and admirable method of spreading literacy and education amongst adults, viz., by holding frequent competitions in instrumental and vocal music. In the Sub-constituency of Rajahmundry, classes for adults have been made more attractive and popular by the introduction of the Fine Arts, such as Singing, Instrumental Music, Painting, Classical Dancing, Embroidery and Cottage Industries. In the Samajas in Mysore State, women are not only becoming literate in Kanada, but also learning to read and write through the medium of the national language—Hindustani. In Hyderabad, the Women's Hostel is continuing its good work for adults by giving home comforts and security to women coming to the city for their livelihood especially to those from the districts who come for training as Dhais and midwives. Nagpur has set a good example by teaching reading, writing and needlework to the women who come with their babies for attending the child welfare centres. I might add from experience that this method of imparting education as well as teaching some craft to mothers while they are waiting for children to be attended to, is an excellent and attractive method of starting Adult Education.

Hyderabad (Deccan) has started new rural schools in villages and about 400 Hindu and Mohomedan children are receiving free primary education. One of the teachers has come from "The Garden Home" which was started in September 1937 "to give sympathy and timely protection to women in difficulties." Cinema lectures on various subjects including Temperance have been delivered in areas where the poor classes can be reached. A great deal of propoganda work has been done and women from the Districts are anxious to start sub-areas in Aurangabad, Parbhani and Warangal. A few months ago I toured in several places and found excellent work being

done by Mrs. Barkat Rai and her friends in Aurangabad where an industrial Home for women, a Rescue Home, child welfare centres are all in a flourishing condition.

In Mysore the two village schools at Yediyur and Karisandra have shown satisfactory progress and others have been started. The samajas in the districts are increasing in numbers and Nursery schools are being established as popular adjuncts. In Andhra a school has been started on original lines and is working successfully the girls being taught to prepare soap and cooking powder on a self-supporting basis. Attached to Nursery schools, in Nagpur and Baroda there are splendidly organised children's clubs and children's libraries which I had the pleasure of visiting during my tour in these provinces. Medical Inspection is being thoroughly conducted in the schools in Calcutta, South C. P., Madras, Hyderabad, Simla and Delhi where milk and meals are also provided for indigent children.

The Delhi Women's League has been conducting classes in Indian Music and Classical Dancing for the last 5 years in the premises of the Lady Irwin College with the two-fold purpose of (1) providing a centre for cultural pursuits (2) to make the College a centre of such activities. These classes have proved popular and have heightened the interest of the public in the Lady Irwin College. The League also arranged a meeting for school teachers, nurses and others when H. E. Lady Linlithgow addressed the gathering and placed before them her scheme for Anti-Tuberculosis Work.

I would also invite the kind attention of the Standing Committee to the urgent question of the affiliation of the Branch in Greater India to the A. I. W. C. as urged in my circular No. IV of 30th June 1938. I have just received a cable from Singapore (Straits Settlements) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaya) requesting me to represent their cause as they are unable to undertake this long and expensive voyage.

I regret very much that I have not been able to refer to the details of work done in other constituencies. In spite of frequent reminders from our patient and long-suffering Organising Secretary and from my impatient self, the remaining constituencies have not sent me their reports although I have waited for one month after the date fixed.

However from the Half-yearly and Annual Reports recently received it will be seen that though a great deal remains to be accomplished in the educational field, still the A. I. W. C. deserves to be congratulated on the pioneer work it has done regarding Nursery Schools and in giving a new orientation and a wider and more stimulating and interesting outlook to women's education in India.

I desire to thank the President, the Vice-President, the Organising Secretary and the Members of the Standing Committee for their great kindness, their sense of appreciation and their hearty co-operation in my work for four years as an Office Bearer and a humble worker in the Education Section. It is with the deepest regret that I have to request you to accept my resignation of the appointment of Education Secretary. It was twelve years ago that I had the privilege of starting the Mysore State Women's Conference, having been inspired by the splendid example set by the A. I. W. C. at Poona.

I well remember at that small but historic Meeting held at Poona thirteen years ago, when just a handful of us, about twenty in number gathered together from the distant corners of India to launch into the wide, dangerous, uncharted seas the tiny fragile vessel known as the "A. I. W. C." Those of us, amongst the 20 who still remain faithful and devoted to the great cause of service to the millions of women and children in this great country offer a pæan of praise to the Almighty for having given our small band of workers the strength and vision to create and cherish this conference until it has grown to-day to be the largest and most important organised body of women in India with representatives in Greater India, South Africa, England and Geneva and sympathisers in America, Australia, France and New Zealand.

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SOCIAL SECTION REPORT, 1938

Mrs. Sharada Mehta

I am extremely sorry I have not been able to present my report personally. I am pleased to inform you that throughout this year much progress and activity has been shown by almost all the constituencies in their work,—mainly due to the various social bills introduced in the Central as well as Provincial legislatures—also to the zeal of our worthy President Rajkumari Amrit Kaur for the work of the conference.

Dr. Deshmukh's Divorce Bill and Mrs. Radhbai Subbarayan's Bill for Prevention of Polygamy have evoked great interest. For the first time in the social life of Hindu woman measures like these have been introduced in the legislatures to rescue her from lifelong calamity, distress and shame. Naturally quite a lot of enthusiasm has been shown by the women folk of the country and an amount of propaganda work has been done in almost all the constituencies to explain the various bills and also to arouse mass interest in the matter; appeals have been made to the members of the legislatures to get the bills passed into laws speedily.

This has been the main work in which the constituencies were engaged throughout the year. Of course the permanent work which the constituencies had been doing, e.g. adult education, industrial classes for poor women, Harijan work, birth control clinics, inspection of schools, and village uplift work, continued to be done as usual. Several circulars were issued from the Head Office as well as by the Social Section Secretary giving in details each and every bill which were introduced in the legislatures referring to Reforms to be made in matters of marriage customs, Divorce and other legal disabilities of women.

The Bills referred to are :

- (a) Dr. Deshmukh's Bill on Hindu Women's Right to Divorce ;
- (b) Mrs. Subbarayan's Bill on Prevention of Polygamy ;
- (c) Mr. Kazmi's Bill on Muslim Women's Right to Divorce ;
- (d) Mrs. Lilavati Munshi's Bill on removing disparity of age of marriage ;
- (e) Raja Bahadur Govindlal S. Motilal's Bill on Giving Rights of Inheritance to Hindu Girls ;
- (f) Mr. Bhogilal Lala's Bill on Prevention of Polygamy ;
- (g) Bihar Bill—to abolish the evil custom of giving huge Dowries at the time of marriage.

Several constituencies have asked for all India support in their attempts to move their provincial Governments to pass adequate laws to remove disabilities of working women : to give them better housing facilities and also to have maternity benefit acts passed in their areas.

The conveners of sub-committees have been quite alert and active in their work. The suggestion of the convener of the committee for legislation in connection with the request to the Central Government to appoint a committee to overhaul the Hindu law with regard to women's rights of inheritance, marriage, divorce, etc., has been welcomed everywhere; also her suggestions with regard to Mr. Kazmi's Bill on Muslim Women's Right to Divorce are very appropriate.

The Indigenous Industries Secretary Mrs. Jayashri Raiji in one of her circulars has given a very comprehensive list of several Japanese articles which can be easily replaced by Swadeshi articles. She has recently prepared a very interesting brochure on indigenous industries which I hope will be published by our A. I. W. C.

Mrs. Hamid Ali's circular on Nikah Nama and Miss Hassan's circular on the appeal of Hindustani Language have been greatly appreciated.

Regarding the problem of Traffic in women and children the sub-committee convener Mrs. Mukerjee issued a long and pertinent question-

naire. Her findings prove the need for establishing Rescue Homes for women in every big city and also appointing committees of women with police powers for doing the work of vigilance.

Mrs. Hamid Ali, convener of the Opium and other Narcotic Drugs sub-committee was actively doing her work all along. She writes to me as follows :—

“The Opium Resolution passed at the Nagpur conference has been much discussed by a number of constituencies and has been appreciated by Provincial Governments to whom it was forwarded. I have been in correspondence with several constituencies in regard to the method of finding out the quantity of opium consumed in each constituency. I find a better response this year from the constituencies—Baroda, Hyderabad (Dn.) and Aurangabad asked me to speak on Opium at public meetings for women. Several other constituencies have written to me and consulted me about pressing for curtailment of sale and produce of opium on their Governments. Bombay, Sind, Assam, Orissa, Madras and several states have already accepted the principles of gradual reduction of sale and growth of opium and other dangerous drugs.”

Report from the various constituencies show that good work has been done throughout the year. Aurangabad—under the guidance of its Chairwoman and Secretary, Mrs. Barkat Rai, is doing very good work. Bombay constituency has done very good work by starting new branches in the suburbs. Its work in connection with the beggar problem is noteworthy. The Delhi Women's League (Local Branch of the A. I. W. C.) after the echo meeting has been engaged in supervising its village school, and the women's industrial centre, where women work and earn about Rs. 5/- a month. It has also started an adult literacy class where the number of children is over 80 and in view of their poor physique it has decided to provide them with light refreshments, the children are provided with simple medicines and are medically examined every week. A women's club has also been started; after the passing of the Child Marriage Amendment Act, the Secretary and members of the League had to visit the parents, to get into touch with the Magistrates for issuing injunctions against child marriages and also to give advice to the parties. This constituency in pursuance of the desire of the President of All India Women's Conference sent a batch of five workers to the Kumbh Mela at Hardwar. Hyderabad constituency in addition to its permanent activities has started a new rural school for girls both Hindus and Muslims. This branch is doing very good vigilance work also. The report of the Mysore Association is very encouraging. The educational and social work done by this institution deserves special notice.

Report from Indore is also very satisfactory. I need not go into each and every detail of the work done by all the constituencies, but it seems that since the last three years our workers are realising their responsibility and are taking up some sort of work for the uplift of their poor ignorant sisters.

In my six monthly report I had mentioned the work done by some members of the Gujarat Constituency in connection with the Peasant Satyagraha in a small state in North Gujarat where women were mercilessly treated and terribly insulted by the State Police. The sympathy shown at such juncture was greatly appreciated.

Our Touring Secretary Miss Shantabai Bhalerao did very good work during her stay in Kathiawad. In Kathiawad there are numbers of small and big states, and Miss Bhalerao was successful in organising the women of many of these States. She managed to hold Kathiawad Women's Conference at Lathi and requested our worthy President to preside over it. This conference resulted in the formation of one constituency comprising of several States. The Kathiawad conference was a unique success and it was due to the indefatigable labour of Miss Bhalerao.

Third class Railway Passengers are subjected to great discomfort and dangers, especially women. Hence several constituencies have requested the various Railway Companies to remove their grievances; but this problem should be dealt with by the Head Office immediately.

Resolutions for the use of Swadeshi articles have been passed in most of the constituencies, but the idea has not taken a deep and satisfactory root yet. Our members and office bearers should as a measure of discipline follow up this resolution with more earnestness and rigidity.

In conclusion I thank Rajkumari Amrit Kaur for her very useful suggestions and words of appreciation for whatever little work was recorded in my name. I also thank Mrs. J. R. Doctor for her advice whenever I sought it, also our Hon. Org. Secretary Mrs. Dina Asana for her ready help whenever I asked for it.

I hope you will excuse me for my unavoidable absence, I wish every success to our conference under the guidance of our new President Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade.

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REPORT OF LIAISON GROUP OF BRITISH WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS CO-OPERATING WITH THE ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Liaison Group of British Women's Organisations (British Commonwealth League, Six Point Group, Women's Freedom League and British

Section of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) which co-operate with the All India Women's Conference have the pleasure once again of submitting a report of their work for the year to the Conference meeting in annual session.

The Group is especially glad that this report should be brought in person by a member of their Committee, who has herself established close contacts with India and who is attending the annual session as the special visitor representing the Liaison Group in response to the kind invitation of the Standing Committee.

It was a great joy for the Liaison Officer, Mrs. Lankester, to be present herself at the annual session last year in the same capacity as Miss Agatha Harrison this year, and she wishes to put on record in this report her keen appreciation of the great kindness and consideration shown to her on all sides, both at Nagpur and also during her subsequent tour, when she had the privilege of being entertained by and meeting with many Conference members and of seeing something of their work. She was filled with admiration for what has already been achieved and by the manifest desire to extend the usefulness of the Conference into even more vital and practical channels. The vivid memories of happy contacts will always remain with her and it is her earnest desire to interpret what she saw in India in such a way as will increase understanding and friendship in her own country with our fellow workers in the East.

Mrs. Lankester spent a fortnight in Egypt on her return journey in order to visit a newly formed section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and found women in Cairo and Alexandria keenly interested in hearing of developments in India. The resolution passed at last year's annual session of the A. I. W. C. on 'Wars of Aggression' which made an appeal to women of all countries to 'join hands' with the women of India in working for freedom, justice and a lasting peace created a deep impression and Mrs. Lankester was given many opportunities of delivering this message. We hope that the links thus formed between the women of India and Egypt may increase and strengthen year by year.

On her return to England the Liaison Group organised a very successful meeting for Mrs. Lankester to report on her visit and since then she has spoken in many parts of the country, and much interest has been shown. The significance of the Nagpur resolution referred to above has been felt everywhere and has strengthened the hands of women who are working for a peaceful and just solution of the world's problems.

The Liaison Group Committee and especially the Chairman, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, have given a good deal of time, in conjunction with the

International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, to exploring means by which India should be included in the League of Nations Enquiry into the Status of Women at Geneva, difficulties having been raised with regard to the codification of Indian laws affecting women. The Committee fully realised that now in India rapid progress is being made in social legislation, and that Congress Governments, recognising the principle of equal status between men and women, will need little persuasion to carry out their pledges, but it is learned that the possible exclusion of India in the Enquiry might tend to limit its scope in other directions and delay progress in the really backward countries. The A. I. W. C. Standing Committee, however, did not feel able to accept the suggestions of the International Suffrage Alliance and the Liaison Group with regard to this matter.

The British Commonwealth League organised a farewell reception for Mrs. Rama Rau before her departure for S. Africa. Representatives of 22 organisations including the Liaison Group paid in turn the warmest tributes to one who has done much to enlighten British people as to true conditions in India and who has endeared herself to many. The Liaison Group Committee have felt her loss keenly, but are delighted to have her once again in our country for a short time.

The Committee will miss the help of Miss Avabai Mehta who is returning to Ceylon. She has given from time to time valuable service as a representative of the Six Point Group.

India has been to the fore in the annual conferences of the British Commonwealth League and the Women's International League and resolutions were passed supporting the aims and the work of organised women in India.

It was a great delight and privilege to have with us in England this autumn India's first woman Cabinet Minister who is also a Vice-President of the A. I. W. C. the Hon. Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, though we regretted that ill health was the reason of her visit. The Liaison Group organised a well attended and successful meeting for Mrs. Pandit, representatives of 26 women's organisations being present. Mrs. Corbett Asby presided and Mrs. Pandit made an excellent and most interesting speech. Although Mrs. Pandit's engagements had to be strictly limited yet she made a deep impression on all who met her and who recognised in her a woman of outstanding ability and vision. It was a great disappointment that a dinner which the Women's Freedom League had arranged in her honour had to be cancelled on account of Mrs. Pandit's health.

The Bulletin, which is issued quarterly by the Liaison Group now

appears in print and is steadily increasing its circulation, going to many parts of the world besides the British Isles. News contained in the Bulletin also finds its way into other papers and periodicals and helps to educate public opinion.

It has been a great pleasure to welcome some members of the A. I. W. C. who have been in England this year and we have that the Liaison Officer will always be informed in advance of such intending visitors, so that we may have an opportunity of meeting them and rendering any service in our power while they are in our country.

We have heard with much regret of the serious illness of your Liaison Officer, Mrs. S. N. Ray, who has done so much to help us in our work at this end. We extend to her our sympathy and best wishes for a complete recovery. We owe a debt of gratitude to your President and your capable Honorary Secretary for keeping us in touch with A. I. W. C. activities while Mrs. Ray has been unable to deal with correspondence.

In conclusion, we would once again reiterate the value we place on our special link with women in India. In days when the peace of the world is threatened on all sides, when ruthless aggression and merciless intolerance seem to carry all before them, we realise the significance of the vast multitudes in India who stand at this time for true liberty and democracy and for the achievement of their aims through non-violent means. We rejoice that in increasing numbers women in your country are sharing with men the responsibilities of nation building and from a harrassed Europe we look to India to lend a hand also in bringing back a mad world to sanity.

December 1938.

Grace Lankester (Liaison Officer)
on behalf of Liaison Group Committee.

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HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr. Mrs. Malinibai Sukhthankar

The Report which I have to submit for this year, is, as was the case with the last year's one, not an All-India one—because many of the constituencies to whom I had submitted questionnaires did not send any reply.

The questionnaire submitted last year was as regards Medical Inspection of schools. This year the questionnaire sent round was as regards physical enducation given in the schools. This questionnaire was submitted with a view to elicit information regarding the methods followed in different schools in India for imparting physical education to the students,

and to devise ways and means for improving the same.

The following questions were submitted :—

1. Is physical education compulsory in your area in primary schools and secondary schools and in colleges? And if so, whether the course is uniform.
2. Is there a Government grant given for such education?
3. Are there enough teachers available for the purpose?
4. Is Government doing or does it intend to do anything in the matter?
5. Name the chief diseases prevailing among students.
6. Give the percentage of undernourished children, make suggestions for improvement and state whether the Government or the Municipality are doing anything in the matter.
7. Are you satisfied with the courses of instruction in your area? Send copies of any such course being followed.
8. Is enough known about food values?
9. Please send a report of the Physical Education Committee if any.

To this questionnaire replies were received from the Indore and Mysore constituencies only. The Hyderabad (Deccan) constituency sent me a report of their health committee, which shows that they are doing good work. The Indore constituency sent a detailed reply to the questionnaire, of which the following is a summary, namely:—Physical education is compulsory in primary and secondary schools and there is a graded course. Government give a grant but not specially for physical education. There are teachers for giving the instruction. The most prevalent diseases are defective eyes, (26%); defective teeth (21%); throat disease (18%); skin diseases (3%); heart diseases (3%) and malaria (3%). Under nourishment was to the extent of 35% though Government had introduced a midday tiffin scheme in some schools as an experimental measure; local philanthropy had started a scheme for giving milk in some places. There was also sent to me a statement of reply to the questionnaire from the College authorities to whom the same had been forwarded from the Indore constituency. The Indore Constituency must be congratulated on having submitted such an extensive and valuable report, and if the other constituencies had done likewise, we would now have valuable material before us for formulating some scheme of action.

The Mysore constituency stated that Physical education was compulsory in Secondary girls' schools, and that there was no uniform course followed. There was no Government grant and enough teachers were not available, there being medical inspection on a very small scale, it was not

possible to give the percentage of health and disease, some provision was being made in some places for midday meal; a committee had been appointed to draft a physical education syllabus, and that propoganda was necessary in rural areas in food values.

In Bombay physical education is compulsory in primary as also in secondary schools and Colleges. There is a more or less uniform course for the primary schools, but not in the secondary schools. As there are not enough teachers, Government has recently started a college for training teachers for giving physical instruction. The following are the percentage of diseases, and undernourishment :—Throat 29.7%; Nose diseases 4.6%; ear diseases 3.8%; teeth trouble 95%; skin disease 55%; malnutrition 20%.

The Bombay Municipality is spending about fifty thousand rupees this year on giving milk to undernourished children in primary schools.

As the mal-nutritution of women and children was a matter deserving immediate attention, I had referred to it in my last year's report, and working in that direction I obtained from Dr. G. S. Mhaskar, permission to circulate his most valuable monograph on the nutritional problems of women. This was forwarded by me to the Honorary Organising Secretary, and she is doing the needful in the matter furnishing all the constituencies with copies of this monograph together with translations where necessary. I must however include in this report the most valuable conclusions which have been arrived at by such an eminent authority on the subject as Dr. Mhaskar. They are as follows :—

1. Milk must be added to the diet. This does not materially increase the cost.
2. A balanced non-vegetarian diet can be arranged at the cost of Rs. 5|8 per month per head.
3. Food loses its value by faulty cooking or storing and proper precautions should be taken to remedy this.

In conclusion, I beg to say that as no All-India scheme can be framed unless detailed and exhaustive information is received from all Constituencies I must earnestly request all constituencies and specially Standing Committee members to obtain the information asked for in the questionnaire already submitted, as soon as possible, so that a tentative scheme of action can be placed before the next session of this Conference.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the question of physical well-being and education is holding the attention of people at the moment and that there is now being held in Bombay the All-India Physical Education

Conference; and I think that our various constituencies will be able to obtain much guidance and direction from the deliberations of this Conference, in the matter of bettering the condition of women and children in their respective areas by propaganda work.

I need not stress the importance of the physical well-being of our women and children, all over the country, and every constituency will, I hope, take active continued interest in the matter of educating public opinion by propaganda work in their respective areas, in order to improve the present conditions all over.

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HARIJAN SUB-COMMITTEE

Mrs. Brijlal Nehru

The closing year of 1938 has been a very prosperous year as far as the Harijan work is concerned. The advent of the Congress Government into most of the Provinces has given a great impetus to this work. All these Governments are working in close co-operation with the Harijan Sevak Sangh, implementing and supporting it in all aspects of its work.

The fact that Harijans have been made Ministers in 4 Provinces and Parliamentary Secretaries in 4 others has raised the social status of the Harijans and has inspired them with hope. Apart from this, much work has been done for giving them social and religious equality with the caste Hindus and for promoting education amongst them.

The Government of Orissa, Bihar, U. P., Bengal, C. P., Madras and Bombay have budgeted and are spending large sums of money on the educational advancement of Harijan children. The anti-illiteracy drives launched by the Bihar and U. P. Governments have and will continue to benefit Harijans in large numbers and so will the rural development schemes undertaken by many Provinces. The introduction of prohibition in some districts of Madras, U. P., Bihar, C. P. and Bombay has been a real boon to the Harijans, bringing them great relief and saving them from moral, physical and economic ruin.

The Civic Disability Removal Bill has been passed by the Madras Legislature giving the Harijans complete legal equality with the rest of the citizens. The Government of Bombay has passed a permissive Temple Entry Bill which has been instrumental in getting opened for the Harijans a number of temples in the Bombay Presidency. The Madras Legislature also has passed the Malabar Temple Entry Bill as a result of which it is hoped

that the famous Guruvayur Temple which has been a great stronghold of orthodoxy and which has witnessed many a hard battle on this behalf, will soon be opened to the Harijans. The Harijan Sevak Sangh has already started work for this cause.

Various other measures too numerous to mention here have been undertaken by the Provincial Governments to promote the welfare of the Harijans and to remove untouchability. The work of the Harijan Sevak Sangh has also steadily grown during the year. The consolidated expenses of the Central Harijan Sevak Sangh and all its branches came to 3½ lacs during the year. The most outstanding feature of its work during the year has been the initiation of a scheme of Harijan Sevak Services under which 51 workers have been recruited on Rs. 30 a month. They have pledged themselves to serve the Sangh for 5 years. They are men of good educational qualifications and are serving on great sacrifice. The social, economic and educational condition of the Harijans in the Indian States generally is yet far behind that in the British Indian Provinces. Mysore, Cochin and Baroda have been the only three States which have been taking a leading part in the emancipation work of the Harijans for a long time. Travancore has come into line with the others and has recently undertaken a lot of educational and welfare work for the Harijans. It, of course, has been the pioneer and the leader in giving them religious equality by its most famous royal declaration of Temple Entry of the year 1936. Indore has followed suit and during the last year its Maharaja also has declared all temples to be open to the Harijans. The Indore Government has also started a comprehensive scheme for the general uplift of the Harijans. The rest of the States have done very little in this line. A deputation of the Harijan Sevak Sangh, consisting of Mrs. B. Nehru and Sri A. V. Thakkar, the Vice-President and General Secretary of the Harijan Sevak Sangh respectively, travelled in 15 Central India and South Rajputana States and stirred up public conscience on this behalf. They represented the case of the Harijans to the rulers and their officers by interviews and drew their attention to the necessity of the States undertaking the promotion of the educational and social well-being work of the Harijans. It is hoped that as a result of this tour the Harijan work both by the Governments and the public of the different States will gain strength.

As far as the All India Women's Conference is concerned, only 3 of its branches, Calcutta, Gujerat and Delhi are maintaining permanent institutions. Calcutta has been running a Harijan Night School for sometime which has steadily maintained itself during the year. There are 40 girls, 19 adult men and 38 school boys on the roll. The monthly expenses are Rs. 61|-. The Calcutta Corporation is giving a grant of Rs. 550|- a year. The

balance is met by the Conference Branch. Delhi has been maintaining a small school for the Chamar children which has continued during the year. Gujerat has started a class for the women employees of the Municipality. A paid teacher has been engaged who besides teaching them literacy does propaganda work for cleanliness and other matters as well. She also renders them medical and other help.

Simla Sub-constituency gave financial aid to the Harijan Sevak Sangh by contributing part of the money they realised from a sale organised by the Young Peoples' League. They also gave clothes to the poor Harijans in Simla. In Maharashtra, some of the members gave clothes to 50 Harijan children and others contributed towards the education and boarding expenses of one Harijan girl. Indore proposes to take up the management of a Girls' Hostel which at present is being run by another agency which is not satisfactory.

The Convener Harijan Sub-Committee of the A. I. W. C. continues to be a member of the Working Committee of the A. I. H. S. S. and is holding several other official positions under the auspices of that Sangh.

In conclusion I would like to point out that India expects its women to make a greater contribution to the most important work of the removal of untouchability. I appeal to members of the A. I. W. C. to make a solemn resolve for making a concerted effort to do their share of the work during the coming year.

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OPIUM REPORT 1938

Begum Hamid Ali

Very soon after the Nagpur Session, copies of All India Women's Conference's Resolutions of 1938 (Nagpur) were forwarded to the Central and Provincial Legislatures by the Organising Secretary. The members of the Standing Committee were requested to send a copy to the Secretaries and Presidents of their own Legislative Councils and assemblies. We have had a good response from the Provinces, and our resolution has been acknowledged to be helpful.

We are happy this year that there is a marked change for the better in the attitude both of the Central and Provincial Governments as regards curtailment of production and sale of opium and other dangerous drugs.

The Central Government who in 1895, insisted that Propaganda and welfare work were the only possible means of combating the evil (Royal

Commission on Opium, 1895) gradually moved forward until in 1930, they could declare that the Policy of high prices, reduction of the number of shops, restriction of limit of sale and personal possession have proved very effective every where in reducing consumption of opium (Government Report 1930). But even now our production is 4,28,340 lbs., and consumption per head is 11.04 grains, whereas, according to the League of Nations Recommendation, it should be about 8 grains per head.

Prohibition Schemes which have been introduced as experimental measures in many Provinces include restriction of opium and other harmful drugs. At the same time as the Central Government have been steadily decreasing the area under poppy cultivation, some provincial Governments have taken measures for abolishing opium smoking, and curtailing the sale of opium and other harmful drugs. It is very gratifying to note that the worst form of opium consumption i.e. opium smoking, has been completely stopped by Bombay and Assam by means of special legislative measures. Bombay has passed an admirable act against smoking opium, called The Bombay Smoking Act, 1936.

In reply to our letter Baroda Government writes: "Opium Smoking is prohibited in the Baroda State and that consumption of the drug is steadily going down every year owing to the spread of education among women. They are giving up the habit of using opium as a sedative for children.

In Assam there is complete prohibition of opium smoking, and Assam has already enforced many of the precautions and measures which we advocated in our resolution on opium last year. For instance, Assam has introduced Registration of opium addicts, and Sections B ("Registration of opium addicts and smokers") C ("Each person to be certified by a doctor") F (In no case opium to be given unless dross of previous dose is returned) G (Doses to be given under medical supervision, and gradually reduced to a fixed minimum) of our Resolution have been enforced since 1934.

The Governments of the United Provinces, Madras and Bombay are doing a great deal in the cause of prohibition of dangerous drugs, I have the Bombay figures through the country of the Director of Information.

The Bombay Government have practically agreed with all our recommendations, as their scheme tallies with our resolutions. From 1st April 1938 the Government of Bombay have imposed restriction on the consumption of opium and hemp drugs in seven talukas of 4 districts. "In these areas the sale of opium and hemp drugs has been entirely prohibited to the public, but Government have licensed at each taluka headquarter a retail opium and drug shop for the supply of these drugs not to the public, but only to

those persons who have obtained permits for their use. Such permits will only be given on the production of medical certificate certified by a Registered medical practitioner. Printed forms of such certificates will be available at the mamlatdar's and other offices. The maximum quantity per head available will be $7\frac{1}{2}$ tolas of opium per month. Addicts will not be able to obtain more than $\frac{3}{4}$ tola at a time.

The U. P. Government have carried on a vigorous policy of prohibition of intoxicants and drugs, including opium. Complete prohibition is already enforced in two districts. The results are as follows:—

Opium.	Percentage of reduction in	State managed districts	42½
	"	"	"
	"	"	"
	"	"	"
Ganja	"	"	"
	"	"	"
	"	"	"
	"	"	"
Charas	"	"	"
	"	"	"
	"	"	"
	"	"	"

Orissa is following closely the example of Assam, Bombay and Madras.

Orissa is registering addicts within a specified time limit no new names having added later on. Panels of doctors, men and women have been appointed for registration of addicts. They aim at a gradually enforced reduction of opium doses, until complete prohibition is attained. Madras, Punjab, Sind, Bengal and the Frontier Provinces are each contemplating prohibition in one or more districts. I have no definite figures from these Provinces but I note that the Policy of curtailment of production and sale of liquor, opium and other dangerous drugs has now been universally accepted. The Indian States are also alive to the importance of this subject and a great forward movement is now to be expected.

Recommendation for Future Action

The Constituencies must keep their Government active by sending in reports of the acts and Bills passed by other provinces, and must demand equivalent legislation for their own State or Provinces. For instance the A. I. W. C. Resolutions passed last year should now be forwarded again to each Government with a request for information as to how far the scheme has been adopted in practice. The Bombay Act XX of 1936 for the control of opium smoking should be quoted, and representation made that each Province and State must pass an act on the same principle.

Our Constituencies must also make sure that Prohibition Scheme for every Province or State includes due restriction of opium and other dangerous drugs, and make representations and carry on effective agitation by means of public meetings and propaganda through their newspapers.

LEGISLATION SUB-COMMITTEE 1938**Mrs. Asaf Ali**

The following will roughly indicate the directions in which the Legislation Sub-Committee of the A. I. W. C. has been carrying on its activities during the year :

- (1) A circular letter was addressed to all women members of the Provincial Legislatures asking them to furnish the Sub-Committee with
 - (a) information regarding measures of social reform which they have introduced or contemplate introducing,
 - (b) a summary of their contribution to the work of each session of their respective Legislatures.

Replies were received from

Mrs. Hasina Murshid. (Bengal Assembly).

Mrs. Hansa Mehta. (Parliamentary Secretary, Bombay Government).

Begum Habibullah. (U. P. Assembly).

Mrs. Lilavati Munshi. (Bombay).

The replies received were very encouraging.

- (2) The Bill introduced by Mr. B. Dass in the Central Legislature to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act came up for discussion during the 1938 Winter Session of the Assembly. Mr. B. Dass sought the help of the Sub-Committee to ensure the enactment of his Bill before the end of the Session. The Convener thereupon
 - (a) arranged for the presence of a large number of women in the Visitor's Galleries on the days when the Bill was under discussion, as a silent reminder to the House that the Bill had the support of women,
 - (b) canvassed amongst the members of the Assembly by personal discussion and a fuller explanation of the women's point of view than was possible on the Floor of the House,
 - (c) arranged for a deputation of women to meet the Home Member and the Law Member.

The Home Member was requested to grant an extra day for the discussion and final disposal of the Bill, if the orthodox members of the opposition adopted dilatory tactics. To this the Home Member agreed.

It was further requested that the Clause which makes it necessary that a notice shall be served before the injunction is issued to stop a child marriage, should be withdrawn, as in the opinion of the deputation this would result in evasions and would, therefore, nullify the object of the injunctions. The Law Member expressed his inability in view of the existing customs and the attitude of the Hindus to make the Law so drastic and was of the opinion that the deletion suggested would cause unnecessary hardship. But he promised to declare on the Floor of the House that if it was shown that this Clause was taken advantage of for purposes of evasion, Government would be prepared to amend the law with a view to making it more effective. Government also expressed its willingness to nominate a member of the A. I. W. C. to the Assembly for one day, in order that the women's point of view may be placed before the House. This offer could not be made use of as there was no suitable person in Delhi at the time to whom this work could be entrusted.

The Bill was, however, passed by the House and received the Governor General's sanction on the 16th April 1938.

(3). The Convener tried to canvass the support of some members of the Punjab Assembly for Mrs. Duni Chand's Divorce Bill, but no appreciable progress could be made as the measure met with intense opposition from the majority of the members.

(4). During the summer of this year the Bill proposed to be introduced by Mrs. Subbarayan to prevent polygamous marriages amongst Hindus engaged our attention. The Baroda Standing Committee draft of the Bill was discussed by the Convener with well-known lawyers and political leaders and was amended in the light of the suggestions received. Every effort was made to have the Bill in its final shape introduced in the Simla and special Sessions of the Central Assembly. But since in the meantime, Dr. Deshmukh's Bill to grant Hindu women the right of divorce had been introduced, it was felt that Mrs. Subbaroyan's Bill should confine itself to polygamous marriages and omit the portion relating to the dissolution of marriages.

(5) The purport of Mrs. Subbaroyan's Bill was explained at meetings of orthodox Hindu women and it is satisfactory to note that there was strong support for the object of the Bill and its aim of removing women's legal disabilities.

(6) Mr. Kazmi's Bill to consolidate the provisions of Muslim Law relating to Muslim women's dissolution of marriage was carefully scrutinized and a note by the Convener on the legal and social aspects of this measure from the women's point of view was forwarded to the Social Section as well as to others concerned. Every effort has been made to make this Bill as fair to women as possible. The Bill will be further scrutinized at its emergence from the Select Committee.

(7) The Sub-Committee also proposes to lend its weight and support to the proposal to appoint a committee of the Central Legislature to investigate the position of Hindu women in regard to their rights of inheritance under the existing law.

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LABOUR SUB-COMMITTEE, 1938.

Miss J. E. Copeland.

The work of the Labour Sub-Committee in 1938 has been mainly educative, i.e., striving to make the educated women in our Constituencies aware of, and alive to, the needs of labourers, men, women or children, in India.

Attention has been drawn throughout the year to conditions in small or unregulated industries and in workshops, with special reference to women and children. Some useful study has been done along these lines, resolutions have been passed, Government has been approached and practical work has been undertaken in some places.

An enquiry was also made into the relative status, opportunities and remuneration of men and women workers in various types and grades of work.

A third question that has engaged our attention has been the housing of the labouring classes. Types of houses, plans and estimates have been studied and prepared. Authorities have been urged to take action. A scheme to obtain suitable housing for the working classes under the Delhi Improvement Trust is now in progress.

Our work for the women miners and women dependents of miners in Bihar has borne fruit in the allocation of Rs. 30,000 from the Central Government to the Government of Bihar for training the women in cottage industries. Two training centres have been opened by the Bihar Government.

During the year, work has been done in connection with Maternity Benefit Acts. Indore Constituency has succeeded in making the Act operative.

The Maternity Benefit Act which had been made applicable a year earlier, came into operation in Delhi Province and we were able to induce Government to appoint a woman as part-time factory inspector to help administer the Act. We are very fortunate in the choice of a Lady doctor for the post and the scheme is working satisfactorily. The mothers are receiving their maternity benefit promptly and with the minimum of trouble on their part while other advantages also, directly or indirectly, are being introduced into the conditions under which women work.

Finally, our concern for the woman worker has been recognised by the Government of India, who have obtained from us the names of three ladies suitable to be included in the Correspondence Committee of the International Labour Office at Geneva.

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INDIGENOUS INDUSTRIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Shrimati Jayashri Raji

My Committee took up the work of collecting the names of articles imported from Japan to this country. This was done in order to give protection to the small industries in this country against the Japanese competition, as well as to show our sympathy with China. Then the attention of the S. C. members was drawn to the definition of genuine Swadeshi, passed by the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress, clarifying the position of India's right to discriminate against non-national interests.

Some of the members of my Sub-Committee, and the various constituencies have done useful work in helping the sale of indigenous articles. Mrs. Kamalamma Dasappa informs me from Bangalore, that an Annual Khadi and Swadeshi Exhibition was organised in the Mahila Seva Samaj during the Deepavali week, which was opened by Mrs. Radhabai Subbarayan (M. L. A.), and was a great success. A special feature of this year's Exhibition, she said, was that there were demonstrations of small cottage industries such as mat-making, pottery and cooking. A gentleman has invented a simple stove, by which food can be cooked much quicker than an ordinary stove—the Women's Section was the most attractive as usual—Charkha and Takli Competition were held during the week for women and prizes were given to the best in both the sections. In the village School Kasturbai Pathshala also, charkha, takli, mat-weaving, bag-making, needle work are being taught.

Mrs. Barkat Rai from Aurangabad informs me that four Industrial

Centres were established during the year in four different localities for poor women. They do spinning, weaving, nawar-making and tailoring and earn their livelihood. Effort is made to improve the business of Himru and Mashru clothes, and to start toy-making. Industrial Exhibitions were held during the year.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur writes to tell that they had a small Swadeshi store in Jullundur last winter and had a good sale of articles. She points out that the main difficulty with Swadeshi shops in small mofussil towns is the freight and duties they have to pay on articles ordered from big centres. This makes the articles more expensive and it is found difficult to compete with foreign goods. Then Rajkumari informs that a sale of Khadi and Indian articles of carved wood, ivory, sandal wood and pottery and soap was organised in Simla and was a great success; the proceeds went to famine relief in U. P., the Harijan Sevak Sangh, and to supply of milk for the poor children in Delhi. The Young People's League made clothes as usual in Khadi for the orphanage and poor Harijans in Simla.

Various Constituencies had held Exhibitions at the time of their Local Constituent Conferences. I want to take this opportunity of requesting them to be more careful while organising such Exhibitions and to see that only Swadeshi articles are allowed to be exhibited.

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REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN (A. I. W. C.), 1938.

Mrs. S. C. Mukerji

1. The Sub-Committee met at Nagpur and decided to send a Questionnaire to Constituencies to find out what was being done in different areas for the suppression of Traffic in Women and Children and for helping the poor unfortunate victims. The questionnaire was on the following points (a) Legislation, (b) Rescue work, (c) Propaganda, (d) Adequate medical treatment, (e) Tribal customs, (f) Kidnapping, (g) Whether any of the victims had been rescued by personal contact of members of any Association, (h) Sex Education, and (i) Obscene publication. I am glad to report that replies to this Questionnaire were received from Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi and Mrs. Cousins in Madras, Miss Allen in Hyderabad (Deccan), Standing Committee members in C. P. South, Cochin, N. W. F. P., Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Indore and U. P. Agra

2. From the replies received we find that there is no legislation in Hyderabad (Deccan), C. P. South, Cochin, Delhi and Indore. The Acts in Bom-

bay, Calcutta, Madras, the Punjab and the North West Frontier Province are defective and should be amended. In Madras the present Government recently amended the Act by including those who live on the earnings of prostitutes liable for punishment. In some temples there was still the habit of dedicating girls and keeping the Devadasi service in spite of legislation to put down this evil. On the representation of the Women's Associations there the Government had undertaken to bring in a Bill to eradicate this evil. The Bill when it was brought up had a clause in it by which the legislature would have recognised "Devadasis"—Dr. Muthulakshmi is to be congratulated for getting that clause deleted from the Bill.

In most cases (1) the definition of 'brothels' in these Acts is very inadequate and (2) the power of taking cognizance of an offence is also limited. The Acts should also be extended to other parts of the Provinces. A Women's organisation in Bengal has been agitating to get the present Bengal Act amended on the above lines. Of the existing Acts the one in Madras is better than the others.

Until we have trained women appointed with special powers to rescue minor girls from mothers who are leading immoral lives in brothels this traffic cannot be checked properly. Some social workers should also be invested with special powers to investigate these cases. The women Probation officers where appointed are doing splendid work. There are some instances where Secretaries and members in charge of 'Homes' have succeeded in rescuing girls.

3. Rescue work and propaganda for the suppression of this evil have been organised by the Vigilance Associations in the big Provincial towns, as well as by a few women's associations, such as the Women's Temperance Society in C. P. (South), the Women's Union in Cochin, and Social workers of the Constituency in the Hyderabad State. But there should be much propaganda and rescue work undertaken considering the large number of victims.

At present all Rescue Homes are run by private organisations. Some recognised Homes receive Government aid in cases of minor girls sent in by the Children's Court. We should have Rescue Industrial Institutions started by Government in all the Provinces and States, as private endeavour alone cannot cope with this work. Most of our Rescue Homes are not under proper supervision either, nor is suitable training given in them. The training should be such as to make the women economically independent. We want more training Centres for widows and also for those women, who are dependents, if we are to improve the condition of things as they are

now. Also intense propaganda is necessary to remove prejudices, so that it may be possible to secure employment for them after training.

4. The difficulty due to tribal customs is reported from Cochin, but the practice is slowly declining. The sale of girls in the North is common and at Melas conditions are very bad. In Delhi the League brought this to the notice of the Police and there has been more vigilance since.

5. Kidnapping is on the increase in one or two areas. A representation regarding this evil was sent in to Government by the Delhi League. Women's Associations should also take up the matter of drawing the attention of the authorities to the offence of obscene publications and demand redress. In some places only the Indian Penal code has provision regarding the matter. Test cases might be instituted through some of our Constituencies. There is a good deal of controversy regarding sex-education. But it is an important matter and so it has been recommended as one of the subjects for group discussion at this Session. Dr Reddi in reply to this point writes:—"There is so much ignorance among the boys and girls of our country on sex matters that the silence should be broken and proper knowledge imparted to protect themselves from temptations and from bad associations. They must also be taught the value of purity and of a good life."

For the treatment of Social diseases there should be more centres in the big towns and apparently there are no centres in rural areas.

The Constituencies were requested to adopt resolutions on the following lines at their Constituent Conferences urging the imperative need of

- (i) The introduction of adequate legislation where none exist for
 - (a) the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children
 - (b) the Protection of Children and regarding obscene publications.
- (ii) The effecting of suitable amendments to existing Acts.
- (iii) The establishment or subsidising of Rescue Homes.
- (iv) Investing trained women with special powers for the enforcement of all such legislation and for rescue work.

The group discussion at this Session will help the Sub-Committee to collect further information and to get suggestions so that a Memorandum on behalf of the Conference may be drawn up next year.

ALL INDIA WOMEN'S EDUCATION FUND ASSOCIATION

REPORT 1938

Mrs. B. Sewa Singh Gill, Hony. Secretary

I have pleasure in presenting an interim report of the All India Women's Education Fund Association and the Lady Irwin College for the year 1938. Our full and formal report is ready for publication usually in March and this one has been prepared specially for the Annual Session of the Women's Conference. The Association was established in 1929 and the Lady Irwin College came into being in November 1932 and has been our main interest, perhaps our only practical venture in the field of Education. That explains why the report of the All-India Women's Education Fund Association has always centred round the history and progress of the Lady Irwin College. The Governing Body of the Association is the Governing Body also of the College.

The year under review has been a very happy one for us, for it witnessed the completion of our new buildings. The Lady Irwin College now occupies up to date, well equipped, yet simple buildings and has a chance of developing on more efficient and practical lines. The working laboratories cater for 20 students at a time and are more spacious than the rooms of the old residence. It is no doubt obvious that these buildings with the grounds and furnishings have cost us a considerable sum and have reduced our capital by nearly 2½ lacs. Our annual income from our securities is proportionately less and effort should be made to raise more money if the College is to continue to render its valuable services to the community. Already the influence of this institution has been felt far and wide and the importance of Domestic Science Students is receiving increasing recognition. In a country where marriage is universal the place of Home Science in the Educational System needs great emphasis and must be given its adequate share of attention. In focussing the public mind on this and in providing well trained Home Science Teachers, Our Association through its College is conditioning thought in the right direction and is bringing about the much desired re-orientation in Education.

I am dwelling at length on this aspect because I wish to awaken the consciousness of our women to their duty towards their own College; for not only must our endowment fund be augmented to bring it to its previous level but larger capital is needed for further development and expansion.

So far this institution has been free from any sort of Govt. help except of course for the excellent and valuable piece of land sold to us at the usual nominal rate allowed to Education Institutions. In addition to the income derived from our endowment fund, we have received small annual subscriptions from a number of interested friends. In appealing to you for grants towards our capital may I also urge you individually to become members of our Association? A tiny sum of Rs. 5|- will give you that privilege for a year and Rs. 100|- will make you a life member. Since you are now in Delhi and in a position to see our College and appraise its work, I think this moment opportune to give your interest a financial bias.

The College has now 60 students on its roll and can with its present accommodation and staff increase the number to 75. A Home Science institution cannot like the Arts Colleges take in girls by the hundreds, because the work is mainly practical and has to be carried out in small groups in the various laboratories—cookery, laundry, science, needlework, etc. In the short six years of its existence the college has sent out four batches of fully trained Teachers who are now employed in different Provinces and Indian States.

You will be interested to know that the college is open to all classes of women, irrespective of creed or province and every attempt is made to help the poorer to join. The authorities of the college provide three permanent scholarships and one temporary one for this purpose. Deserving students receive financial help also from their Province or State. Each of the Punjab and the U. P. Governments maintain two scholars. The Hyderabad State and Orissa also have special scholarships for students studying at the Lady Irwin College.

I do not intend to give further details of the College activities because full information about this is available in the Prospectus which I hope all of you will be good enough to read.

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REPORT OF THE WORK DONE BY THE SECRETARY

UNDER TRAINING A. I. W. C. IN 1938

Miss Shantabai Bhalerao

During the year, organising work was done in the constituencies of Gujarat, Baroda, Karnatak, Kathiawad and Bihar.

Work done in the constituencies of Gujrat and Baroda

Visits were paid to Broach, Surat, Rajpipla, Patan, Mehsana, Visnagar and Navsari, in many of which places meetings were held. All these places can be active centres for A. I. W. C. work.

Work done in the Karnatak Constituency

A visit was paid to Dharwar on the invitation of the Karnatak Mahila Mandal, to settle a dispute that had restricted the activities of the constituency for some time. It was a good opportunity to note the growth of the institution started a year back. The Association has made good progress; and the village centre of Shirsangi, where a small A. I. W. C. committee was actually working, showed the possibilities of work in the Karnatak. A network of such associations need to be started in Karnatak, where women's organisation is yet in the making.

Work done in Kathiawad

A hurried tour was made in Kathiawad in the month of February. The main places visited were Wankaner, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Junagad, Amreli, Lathi and Limbdi. Meetings were held at almost all these places, and activities started in some of these. It was highly necessary that workers at different places should meet together; hence a women's conference was fixed up at Lathi in September.

Visits were again paid in the month of September to Amreli, Junagad, Porbandar, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Wankaner, Limbdi and Bhavnagar to secure support for the Lathi Conference. I accompanied Rajkumari Amrit Kaur our President in her visits to Rajkot, Wankaner, Morvi, Jamnagar and Porbandar. The President's tour gave a great impetus to the work in Kathiawad. Such tours would be very valuable in provinces where enthusiasm needs to be roused, specially in Kathiawad, Karnatak and Bihar.

The Kathiawad Mahila Parishad was held on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd October, at which Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and Shrimati Sharadaben Mehta were present. Twenty-five representatives had come from various places in Kathiawad, representing their local Associations. It was decided to start a Kathiawad Mahila Mandal with representatives, one each from every local association. These Associations exist in Bhavnagar, Lathi, Amreli, Junagad, Porbandar, Limbdi, Rajkot, Bilkha and Dwarkha.

Work done in Bihar

A tour, lasting for about two months was undertaken in Bihar in the months of March, April and May. Some propoganda was done at Patna itself, and money collected for work there; visits were paid to Darbhanga, Madhubani, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Jheria. Work was done in Bihar again for two and half months at the end of the year. An extensive tour was undertaken for the constituent conference held at Patna; and places visited

were Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Jheria, Gaya, Darbhanga, Muzzaffarpur, Motihari and Chapra. After the conference, work could be undertaken in a more thorough manner, and about a month was devoted to work in Begussarai, Darbhanga, Gaya and Motihari.

A. I. W. C. committees have started functioning in Ranchi, Jheria, Darbhanga, Begussarai, Gaya.

The Bihar Constituent Conference at Patna was the first of its kind; in that twenty delegates had come from district places; a few from villages also. Mrs. Anusuyabai Kale, Deputy-Speaker, C. P. Assembly was the President. The meeting has been of great use in that it has created interest in the work of the conference all over Bihar.

In connection with this conference, and indeed from the first, special attention was given to holding meetings among women who generally have no chance to attend such functions,—in small towns, and various mohollahs of the same town. In Madhubani near Darbhanga, half-a-dozen such meetings were arranged on the day I visited that place in April. In Patna where distances are forbidding, meetings have been held at Mithapur, Danapore, and Patna City. A. I. W. C. committees can be started at all these localities with more persistence. In the holy city of Gaya, one meeting was held in the interior recess of the town, where perhaps, a women's meeting was never heard of before and ignorance and blind prejudice reign supreme.

It is necessary to note that a meeting in Bihar means great initial effort, and almost house to house propoganda. Because of the backwardness of education among women and general prevalence of Purdah, a definite prejudice exists in Bihar towards women's work. The condition of women under these circumstances is pitiable. The only corrective is encouragement to social contact among women, for more useful work. A. I. W. C. committees would play a great part in Bihar in the very necessary work of women's amelioration.



**MEMORANDUM OF
IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

1. EDUCATIONAL

A. Primary Education

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.
- (b) 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

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

7. 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.

8. 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 educa-

tion of the coming generation and an essential factor in the advance of a nation.

9. **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.

10. **Primary Education:** This Conference urges the universal introduction of free and compulsory Primary Education without further delay. With this purpose in view we request the authorities:

- (a) To provide for properly trained teachers the majority of whom should be women.
- (b) To request the Government of each Province and State to make adequate provision for this item in the budget for the next year;
- (c) To make provision for the re-orientation of such education with special stress laid on training in handicrafts.
- (d) In order to effect economy, "the shift system" be introduced where possible and boys and girls be taught together.
- (e) In rural areas where necessary "seasonal" education be arranged for.
- (f) That buildings however simple, with playgrounds and adequate sanitary arrangements be provided in suitable localities.
- (g) That medical Inspection and treatment begin at this stage and be made compulsory by legislation, and care should be taken to appoint efficient and responsible doctors.
- (h) That all Primary Education should be on a non-communal basis.
(Nagpur 1937).

11. **Voluntary Service:** This Conference urges all educated men and women to further the cause of education on the following definite lines:—

- (a) To organise well-run Nursery Schools for children between the ages of 3 and 6.
- (b) To form Care Committees to follow up in a practical manner the work of medical inspection and treatment.
- (c) To provide buildings, however simple, for schools.
- (d) To make special efforts to promote adult education individually and through organisations.

- (e) That Co-operative Societies be formed to raise money for investing in buildings for schools, the interest on the capital thus raised, being paid by the rent which in its turn must be collected by private effort if not contributed by Government. (Nagpur 1937).

B. 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. **Secondary Education :** This Conference is of the opinion that Secondary Education for girls be remodelled so as to include subjects such as Home Craft, Home Nursing, First Aid, Dietetics, Needle Craft, Cookery, Laundry which should be made optional one at least being compulsory. (Nagpur 1937).

5. 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.

6. 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 Education Fund Association as part of its work in the coming year.

7. 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 Inspection.

8. 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.

C. 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 Scholarship should be offered to women students to attract them to take their Degrees in Law, Medicine, Fine Arts and Social Science.

3. **Hostels:** This Conference reiterates its demand that sufficient number of recognised Hostels should be established for women students by the authorities concerned and that they should be efficiently supervised by experienced and responsible women as Inspectresses. (Nagpur 1937).

4. This Conference urges the Educational authorities in India to make adequate Hostel arrangements for women students in all important centres of education.

It further calls upon them to make such arrangements on non-communal lines. (Ahmedabad 1936).

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

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. This Conference is of opinion that, in view of the long hours and strenuous nature of the work which the Medical Course entails, 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.

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.

10. **University At Poona:** This Conference urges the Government of Bombay to take all necessary steps to give at an early date statutory recognition of the S. N. D. Thackersy Indian Women's University which has been doing useful work for the higher education of women for the last 20 years. (Nagpur 1937).

11. **College for Girls in the N.W.F.P.** This Conference supports the demand of the women of the North-West Frontier Province for a Girls' College and urges the authorities to take steps for its establishment at an early date. (Ahmedabad 1936).

(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.

D. 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 College 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 be made for the actual training.

E. Literacy, Mass Education and Adult Education

1. 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.
- (Trivandrum 1935).

2. 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.

3. University Extension Lecture Scheme should include special courses for women.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. This Conference, realising 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.

7. Adult Education

(a) *Literacy*: With a view to intensify the campaign against illiteracy, this Conference recommends that each Constituency should appoint a special sub-Committee to carry on the work, and to report progress every half-year to the Conference through the proper channels.

(b) *Mass Education*: This Conference views with satisfaction the work that is being done for the promotion of adult education, particularly in the rural areas of the country, by our constituencies and by other public and private organisations.

It urges the constituencies to make further earnest efforts to organise such work wherever required and to co-operate with other associations doing similar work.

(c) *Broadcasting*: This Conference strongly appeals to the Broadcasting authorities in India to promote mass education in every possible way through the medium of the Radio. It suggests the authorities concerned to have representative committees, with women, in every province to draw up practical schemes for this purpose. (Ahmedabad 1936).

F. Common Language

1. 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.
- (Trivandrum 1935).

2. **Common Language:** This Conference resolves that it is desirable that in order to promote cultural unity and harmony amongst the people of India, Hindustani be made the common language the script used being either Devanagari or Persian. With the purpose in view it calls upon

- (a) all Constituencies of the A. I. W. C. to help by starting work in this direction.
- (b) that Hindustani be taught as an optional second language in Primary Schools. (Delhi 1938).

3. Hindustani

(a) This Conference recommends that earnest efforts be made in all constituencies to encourage the study of Hindustani so that it may soon become the common language of India.

(b) It requests all educational authorities to promote the teaching of Hindustani in schools.

(c) It further requests the Universities to include Hindustani in the syllabus for the Matriculation Examination and other University Examinations where it may not be so included.

(d) It is the opinion of this Conference that the language should not be over-Sanskritised or over-Persianised, and that the script used may be the Devanagari, Urdu or Roman. (Ahmedabad 1936).

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

7. 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.

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

9. This 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.

10. 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) compulsory medical inspection with after-care treatment;
- (c) and it also calls upon Municipalities and Local Boards to provide an adequate number of public parks and play-grounds for women and children.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. **Literature, Etc.:** This Conference lodges its emphatic protest against the publication and circulation of obscene literature, pictures and films throughout India and demands that instances be reported immediately to the authorities concerned who are urged to take drastic action.

In this connection this Conference proposes that sex education be imparted by suitable teachers.

15. **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, and
- (g) Dietetics, with special reference to children's food,

should receive special attention, and appoints a Sub-Committee to study the questions and to report to the Conference at its next session.

16. **Medical Inspection.**—This Conference demands legislation for compulsory Medical Inspection and treatment in all schools. (Ahmedabad 1936).

17. 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.

18. **Mal-Nutrition** (a) That every person responsible for the education of children should study and understand the principles of dietetics and nourishment and spread knowledge in this direction.

(b) To combat the evil of mal-nutrition the authorities should make every effort to supply suitable nourishment to such children as need it. (Nagpur 1937).

19. 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.

20. 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 others) which deserve such recognition.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. **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.

25. Parental co-operation.

Realising 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.

26. 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.

27. **Differentiation between the Matriculation and the School-Leaving Examination.** This Conference considers that the combination in one and the same Matriculation Examination of two different tests, one an entrance to the University, and the other a completion of Secondary Education, is not calculated to accomplish either of those two aims satisfactorily; and therefore, calls upon all Departments of Education and Universities to take immediate steps for the separation of these two tests into two distinct examinations.

(Ahmedabad 1936).

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II. SOCIAL.

A. Child Marriage Restraint Act

1. This Conference emphatically condemns the unnatural and de-vitalising 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. (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 recommendation of the Age of Consent Committee.
- (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.

3. 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.

4. 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 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 marriages as soon as possible.

5. 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.

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 recommends that unequal marriages of old men to minor girls should be forbidden by law.

9. **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.

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 recognised by the British Courts.

11. In view of the fact that the **Child Marriage Restraint Act** has proved ineffectual so far, this Conference re-iterates its opinion that Mr. B. Das's bill amending this Act should be passed into Law without further delay.

It strongly advocates that anti-child marriage propoganda work be redoubled throughout the country with particular emphasis in the villages. (Ahmedabad 1936).

B. 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 Sardar.)

(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. **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 Widow's 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 Widow's 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.

3. (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 Sub-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.

4. This Conference strongly urges that the mother should have equal right of guardianship with the father over her children and that a widow should have preferential right of guardianship over them.

5. **Statement on Legal Disabilities of Women.** This Conference empowers the Special Committee on Legal Disabilities of Women to draw up a comprehensive Statement on the lines of the Baroda and Mysore enactments which can later be introduced in the form of a Bill in the new Legislatures. (Ahmedabad 1936).

6. **Removal of legal disabilities of women**—This Conference urges upon the various Governments to introduce a bill making the following additions and alterations in the existing Hindu Law as it affects marriage and divorce :

- (a) That monogamy should be made compulsory.
- (b) That the custody of the child should be given to the mother unless there is just cause for withholding the same.
- (c) That the age of marriage should be raised to 16 for girls and 20 for boys.
- (d) That there should be suitable provision in the Hindu Law for divorce on the following principles :—

(i) Desertion	(iv) Adultery
(ii) Lunacy	(v) Drunkenness
(iii) Cruelty	(vi) Leprosy

(Nagpur 1937).

7. Support of Bills pending Legislation

(a) While this Conference lends its support to the following Bills pending in the Legislative Assembly,

- (1) The Hindu inter-caste Marriage Bill
- (2) The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Bill
- (3) The Arya Marriage Validation Bill
- (4) The Bill for the removal of social Disabilities amongst certain classes of Hindus

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in so-far as they help to improve the status of women the Conference feels that the time has come for such piecemeal legislation to be replaced by comprehensive legislation on equitable lines affecting the rights of the people of the country as a whole.

- (b) This Conference regrets that Dr. Deshmukh's Bill on the Hindu women's right to property which has been referred to a Select Committee, has been whittled down in favour of widows only, ignoring the rights of daughters and other female heirs.
- (c) This Conference regrets that none of the Social Reform Bills which were before the Legislatures for consideration last September has made any headway. It appeals to the Government as well as to all the members of the Assembly to try their utmost not to delay the passing into law of such measures as will constitute a real step forward in the life of the nation (Ahmedabad 1936).

8. Bills Pending Legislation. This Conference supports Mr. Rajah's Bill for removing the disabilities of depressed classes. (Nagpur 1937).

9. This Conference supports the amendments proposed by Mr. B. Das and Mr. Lalchand Navalrai in the Central Legislative Assembly to the Sarda Act and expresses its opinion that an additional clause should be added to the Act, so that people who celebrate child marriages outside British territory in order to evade the consequences of the Act, though residents of British India, may be punished and that this Act should be so amended as to declare all marriages performed under the contravention of the Sarda Act null and void. (Nagpur 1937).

10 This Conference congratulates His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar for having so graciously accorded his consent to the "Hindu Widow Remarriage Bill."

11. This Conference congratulates H. H. the Maharajah of Travancore

for so graciously giving his assent to the Hindu Widow Remarriage Bill recently passed by both Houses of Legislature in the State.

12. This Conference congratulates the Government of H. H. the Maharajah of Travancore for appointing, for the first time in India, a woman to the Judiciary of the State.

13. This Conference congratulates the Government of H. H. the Maharajah of Gwalior for passing into law the Widow Remarriage Act.

C. 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.

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. **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.

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. **Birth control clinics.** This Conference believes that it is the duty of medical departments and local authorities to take immediate steps to put an end to the advertisement and sale of birth control remedies by quacks which ruin the health of women in many cases. It appeals to medical departments and municipalities to educate men and women in birth control methods from the point of view of their ill health, mental weakness and economic considerations. Such clinics should be specially opened in labour areas. (Nagpur 1937).

E. STATUS OF WOMEN

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 Commissions 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. **Women in Departmental Services.** This Conference urges that no sex disqualifications should be shown for debarring women from services in any department of Government. (Nagpur 1937).

3. 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.

4. This Conference congratulates Mrs. Anna Chandy on her appointment as the first woman Munsiff in India, in Travancore State. (Nagpur 1937).

5. 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

Chairman and the Organising Secretary of 1932 be appointed and authorised 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 Organisations (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.

6. 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 Associations be invited shall be called after the publication of the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to determine what the attitude of the representative womanhood of India should be in case their repeated demands are ignored.

7. 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.

8. **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 reason 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:

- (a) 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 "Eligibility for holding Public Office, etc.," vide para 367 Vol. I (Part I). While feeling keenly this omission as a grave injustice to us inspite of our repeated demands in this connection, we hope that the same may even now be rectified.
- (b) 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 qualification 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 election 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 purpose of increasing our electoral members.
- (c) 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.

- (d) 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.
- (e) 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.
- (f) 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" have been ineffective and useless in the Legislative Assembly.

Conclusion

While mentioning the above details we wish to make it quite clear that 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. (a) This Conference is emphatically of opinion that the time has come when woman should take her legitimate share in the government of her country, Central, Provincial and Local.

(b) While we are opposed on principle to the reservation of seats for women in the Legislatures, we emphatically protest against the differentiation made in this matter in the Frontier Province and Assam and suggest that this error be rectified forthwith. (Ahmedabad 1936).

13. **Women in legislatures.**—This Conference congratulates all women M. L. A.'s and members of the Upper Houses, and hopes that they will work for women's cause and sponsor bills on urgent social reform in the legislatures. It feels particularly gratified that the U. P. Assembly have taken the lead in appointing Mrs. Pandit as the first woman Minister and also congratulates other Provincial Legislatures who have appointed women as Deputy Presidents and Parliamentary Secretaries. (Nagpur 1937).

14. **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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. **Status of women in India.** This Conference is of opinion that the status of women in India should be included in the inquiry on the Status of women by the League of Nations.

18. 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.

19. (a) This Conference is of opinion that for any enactment concerning the welfare of women and children, the Government should consult representative women's organisations in India with a view to ascertain the true merits of such enactments.

(b) It is also of opinion that women's organisations should be similarly consulted by Government in the matter of Memoranda etc., bearing on matters affecting women and children sent abroad or published by them.
(Ahmedabad 1936).

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F. PREVENTION OF TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

1. In view of the legislation pending and affecting the education

of girls—such as Child-marriage and Devadasis—this Conference urges Government to nominate without delay at least two women to the Central Legislature.

2. This Conference supports all efforts that are being made in the country 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.

3. This Conference congratulates the States of Travancore and Cochin on the abolition of Devadasi service in temples and gives its whole-hearted support to Mr. R. K. Shanmukham 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 the 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 enforcements of the Acts already in existence.
4. (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 Station who may render assistance to women travellers.

5. **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 the Conference.

6. **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.
- (b) It strongly urges upon its Constituencies 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.

7. (a) This Conference requests the authorities concerned to take more rigid steps towards the prevention of traffic in women and children and urges all Provincial and Local Governments and the public to make immediate provision for Rescue Homes where such do not exist.

- (b) Brothels at Fairs: This Conference expresses its emphatic protest against the practice of opening brothels in Sind and elsewhere during Melas (fairs) as these have a degrading effect on the morals of the people, and urges the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to suppress them. (Ahmedabad 1936).

8. **Traffic in women and children.**—This Conference is of opinion that Acts for the suppression of traffic in women and children be introduced in all Provinces and Indian States where they do not exist and to provide for suitable amendments to such Acts in the provinces, where they are in force, to make them stricter and more effective, and urges the Legislatures to introduce such Acts and amendments at an early date, for establishment of Remand and Rescue Homes for Women and Children, so that the Acts can be effectively enforced. (Nagpur 1937).

9. This Conference congratulates the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore for having placed on its Legislature the 'Act' for the suppression of immoral traffic in women and children. (Nagpur 1937).

10. **Crimes against children.**—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 care of neglected, destitute and feeble-minded 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 the 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.

11. Protection of Children.

- (a) This Conference impresses upon the authorities the necessity for the introduction of Children's Acts in all Provinces of India where such Acts are not in existence.
- (b) This Conference urges upon all individuals and organisations engaged in Social welfare work to take all possible measures for the care of neglected, destitute and feeble-minded children.

(Ahmedabad 1936).

12. **Child protection.** This Conference is emphatically of opinion that Children's Acts should be introduced at an early date in places wherever they do not exist, both in the Provinces and the States. (Nagpur 1937).

G. Harijan Work :

1. This Conference supports all efforts that are being made in the country to remove untouchability and supports Mr. Jayakar's Bill to remove disabilities affecting the untouchable classes of Hindus, pending in the Assembly.

2. 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.

3. This Conference gives its whole-hearted 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) 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.
- (c) This Conference requests the Zamorin to open the temple of Guruvayur to the so-called untouchables.
- (d) This Conference whole-heartedly supports the Anti Untouchability Bill to be introduced in the Assembly and the 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.

4. This Conference congratulates H. H. the Maharajah of Travancore on the noble step taken by him in the cause of the freedom of the Harijans. It also conveys a special message of joy and gratitude to H. H. the Maharani Setu Parvati Bai that this step should have been taken during her tenure of office as our President. It earnestly appeals to all other Indian States and those in authority over temples in British India to follow the courageous lead of Travancore. (Ahmedabad 1936).

H. Indigenous Industries and Rural Reconstruction.

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).

4. **Village work and Swadeshi.** This Conference strongly appeals every one of its members to take an increasingly active part in rural work and to restrict all their purchases to Swadeshi and products of cottage industries. (Ahmedabad 1936).

5. **Encouragement of swadeshi.** It is the firm belief of this Conference that women can help tremendously the economic progress of the country by using and advocating the use of Swadeshi articles. (Nagpur 1937).

6. 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.

7. (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 whole-heartedly 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 wholtime 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.
8. (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 reconstruction 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 Sub-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.

9. **Rural Uplift.** This Conference views with grave concern the conditions of life in general in Indian villages particularly in regard to education and sanitation. We confidently hope that the Government will do everything possible to further the cause which all well-wishers of India have at heart, and support the request of the Karachi Constituency to enable it to carry out the constructive programme which it has in view about the Chanesar village by extending the help sought for by the local workers of the A. I. W. C. (Nagpur 1937).

I. Miscellaneous

1. **Beggar Problem.** 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.

2. 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.

3. **Legislation for beggars.** This Conference strongly disapproves the prevalence of professional begging and urges legislation for its prevention, and calls upon 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 and Infirmaries, and enforce legislation for the eradication of this evil. (Nagpur 1937).

4. **Women in Jails:** This Conference draws particular attention of the various provincial Governments to the extremely unsatisfactory condition

of women in jails and calls upon them to take effective measures for their mental and moral uplift. (Nagpur 1937).

5. 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.

6. 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 civilization 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.

7. 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.

8. **Legislation enforcing prohibition.**—This Conference whole-heartedly supports the policy of prohibition initiated by seven provinces.

- (a) It calls upon its branches and members to render all help they can towards the attainment of this desirable goal.
- (b) It appeals to the remaining provinces and all Indian States to follow this lead and bring in the necessary legislation in their areas also.
- (c) It is of opinion that the policy of prohibition should be enforced also in the case of ganja, opium, cocaine, and all other drugs of recognised harmfulness. (Nagpur 1937).

9. Opium and other Harmful Drugs.

- (a) This Conference resolves that the Government of India be asked to undertake an inquiry and find out the exact amount of opium needed for medical purposes in India with a view to the curtailment and gradual reduction in poppy cultivation, and also

for reporting to the League of Nations which is preparing for an Opium Conference in 1939-1940.

- (b) Registration of opium addicts and smokers must be undertaken in each Province by a Provincial Government Department created specially for registration of opium addicts and opium smokers.
- (c) Each person desiring to be registered should be certified by a doctor appointed by Government.
- (d) A minimum dose to be fixed, and sealed packets of different weights to be made up by a Central Government Department administered in the same manner as the postal and revenue stamps department. No dose to be given to an uncertified person; any person wanting to have more than the standard dose—to be certified by a Board of Directors appointed by Government.
- (e) Licensed opium shops to be abolished and Government opium depots to be opened.
- (f) In case of smokers no prescribed dose of opium be given unless and until the dross from the previous dose is returned. Medicated Opium according to the League of Nations prescription should replace opium sold in its present form.
- (g) The allotment of the doses of opium to addicts should be under the direct supervision of a Medical or Health Department created specially for this purpose, with instructions to reduce the dose gradually and to refuse to give any more to those who have reached the minimum. Such persons may be kept under observation in a special central sanatorium for a prescribed time and prophylactic treatment may be given to them.
- (h) That each unit of the A. I. W. C. should consult a panel of medical practitioners to find out the exact amount of opium necessary for medical needs for that particular area. That such information should be sent to the Convener of the Opium Sub-Committee of the A. I. W. C. That Government should also undertake to register charas, bhang and other dangerous drug addicts and take the same measures for restriction of sale and gradual alienation of production of these drugs. (Nagpur 1937).

10. 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.

11. This Conference calls on the organised political parties to put up women candidates at each election.

12. 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.

13. **Hardships of Third-Class Railway Passengers**

This Conference notes with concern and extreme regret that in spite of repeated requests from the general public the condition of Third-Class Railway passengers, particularly women, remains a matter of little concern to the Railway authorities.

It is high time that steps were taken to provide even an elementary standard of comfort for those passengers who constitute the large majority of the travelling public. (Ahmedabad 1936.)

14. **Facilities for Third Class Railway Passengers.** This Conference requests the railway authorities to add more third-class carriages to avoid unhealthy over-crowding of passengers in third-class compartments and appeals to the railway companies to make separate arrangements for issuing tickets for men and women 3rd class passengers on railway stations, especially on stations of pilgrimage where the necessity is very great. Besides, wherever it is possible, women ticket officers and ticket examiners should be provided for, and there should be separate entrance and exit for women on railway stations. (Nagpur 1937).

15. (a) **Protest against the drama entitled "The Rani of Jhansi"**. This Conference records its emphatic protest against the attempt made by one Mr. Philip Cox who in his drama entitled "The Rani of Jhansi" has cast serious aspersions on her moral character. This is in direct variance with all admitted historical facts. This Conference takes writings of this nature as an insult to the womanhood of India, and exhorts the Indian public to carry on country-wide propoganda against all such mean attempts so that foreign writers may not dare to distort historical facts to suit their malicious ends.

(b) This Conference emphatically protests against the statement made by Miss Sorabji in her letter to the London Times on the subject

of child marriage. It considers it most objectionable as expressing views which are not held by Indians and regrets that Miss Sorabji continues to misrepresent her own country in a manner which is detrimental and degrading to herself and the nation.

- (c) This Conference also calls upon the Government and the women of foreign countries in particular to use their authority and influence in disallowing unfair and nefarious propoganda from being used against us whether in the Press by way of news or articles in Journals or books or by the showing of films.

(Ahmedabad 1936).

16. **Obscene advertisements and publications.** This Conference emphatically protests against various newspapers and magazines publishing obscene advertisements and literature as these constitute an insult to womanhood. It appeals to the press as a whole to see that this pernicious practice is abolished. It also urges the Government to take more drastic steps to make the provisions of the Indian Press Act sufficiently effective to put down this demoralising aspect of the Press. (Ahmedabad 1936).

17. **Obscene literature and advertisements.** (a) This Conference lodges its emphatic protest against the circulation, overt, as well as, covert of obscene literature throughout India.

(b) We have cause to believe that such obnoxious literature is provided by small bookstall holders for the younger generation, that is, to students of schools and colleges and of both sexes.

(c) We therefore request the authorities concerned to take drastic and immediate steps into the matter and stamp out the evil as soon as possible and give every encouragement to the publication of better literature.

(d) We further request the public and Government to censure all such journals and newspapers that continue to indulge in the pernicious practice of publishing obscene and outrageous articles and advertisements which constitute an insult to womanhood in general and violate all the laws of decency in a manner that cannot be tolerated by any civilized nation. (Nagpur 1937).

18. **Compulsory Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths.**

This Conference desires to impress on the Government of India and the States the necessity for the immediate introduction of Bills for the compulsory registration of births, marriages and deaths. (Ahmedabad 1936).

19. **Recording of marriages, births and deaths.** This Conference recommends that all Municipalities and local authorities in British India and the States should pass rules and regulations for compulsory official recording of all marriages and deaths. (Nagpur 1937).

20. **Evil Social Customs.** This Conference expresses its emphatic protest against such evil social customs, as undue expenses on occasions of marriage and death, sale of brides and bridegrooms, dowry, prejudice against widow remarriage, polygamy, intensive intercaste marriages, and purdah. (Nagpur 1937).

21. **Cruelty to animals.** (a) This Conference expresses its disapproval and disgust at all forms of cruelty to domestic and other animals in India, not only on humane but also on economic grounds, and because of the psychological effects such cruelty has on the minds and character of children, and recommends that some of the small books and pamphlets published by various Animal Welfare Societies in several vernaculars should be introduced as Readers in Rural Schools and distributed by Rural Reconstruction and Village Uplift Societies.

(b) This Conference urges Government to take legislative steps to protect milch kine in India, regard being had to the fact that India is mainly an agricultural country, and that sufficient supply of cow's milk is not available. . . (Nagpur 1937).

III. LABOUR

1. (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.
2. 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.
3. (a) This Conference reiterates the need for the immediate appointment of at least one Woman 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.

4. **Housing Facility for Labourers.** This Conference is of opinion that the labouring populations should have healthy dwelling-houses with plenty of air and light, facilities for water and its disposal and proper sanitary arrangements. (Nagpur 1937).

5. 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.

6. 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 millowners 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. This Conference calls upon the Government of India to take necessary steps immediately to implement the Report of the Whitley Commission with regard to labour conditions of women and children in India.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

- 18. (a) We agree with the recommendations of the Investigation Committee that it would be a 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.

19. 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.

20. **Women workers eliminated from mines.** This meeting of the All India Women's Conference strongly urges the Government and the authorities concerned to take immediate action for the provision of suitable employment for women workers eliminated from mines and the fixing of adequate minimum wage for men mine workers whose family income has been reduced by such elimination. (Nagpur 1937).

21. 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 Factories Act, and record that in our opinion no child under 14 years should be employed as a labourer.

22. As the newly amended Factory Act does not make the provision of creches compulsory for employers of women 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.

23. 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.

24. All India Maternity Benefit Act :

This Conference is of opinion that an All-India Maternity Benefit Bill on the lines 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.

25. (a) This Conference while advocating the introduction and passing of Maternity Benefits Acts throughout India regrets that, where such do exist, the application of them in practice is causing unemployment amongst women labourers. It calls upon the authorities concerned to look on this matter in a humane rather than in a mercenary spirit and upon those in charge of these measures to find ways and means of so framing the provisions that the danger of the unfortunate results now obtaining may be eliminated.

- (b) The Conference further urges the immediate introduction of an All-India Maternity Benefits Act. (Ahmedabad)

26. This Conference also congratulates the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore for passing the "Maternity Benefits Act" by which women working in factories are given leave on full pay for four weeks before and four weeks after confinement. (Nagpur 1937).

27. **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.

28. **Unemployment:** This Conference is of opinion that the relief of unemployment should invite the serious attention of the Government of India and that in formulating any schemes for the amelioration of this long-standing evil, an effort should be made to utilise the labour resources of India for the supply of the necessaries of life at a cheaper price to the workers themselves. (Ahmedabad).

29. **Social Insurance:** In view of the suffering industrial workers undergo, due to loss of income on account of sickness, maternity, death of wage-earners, occasional unemployment etc., this Conference recommends that schemes of Social Insurance should be introduced in British India and the States as early as possible. (Ahmedabad).

30. **Unregulated Industries.** This Conference urges upon the Government the necessity of introducing legislation to regulate the condition of hours of work in unregulated industries.

IV. GENERAL

1. 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, 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 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.

2. **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.

3. 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 whole-hearted 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.

4. **Protest against wars of aggression.** While the memory of the cruel rape of Abyssinia is still fresh in our minds, and the horrors of the fratricidal warfare in Spain continue to haunt us, Japan's ruthless aggression against China has come, as it were, as a further blow to shatter all our hopes of peace. We are bitterly disappointed at the incapacity and inability of all the so-called great powers of the world to put an end to the injustices consequent on the oppression of the weak and poor. We are convinced that increasing armaments of warfare by land, sea and air, and the harnessing of the knowledge of science for the purpose of destruction are not going to bring peace to a troubled and stricken world. We feel that it is through the weapons of love alone that a new order can be ushered in. Standing on the threshold of another year we dedicate ourselves to non-violence in thought, word and deed, and appeal to women throughout the world to join hands with us, for we are confident that this doctrine alone can quell the desire for possession, can save the nations from racial jealousies and communal strife and protect humanity from oppression and exploitation. (Nagpur 1937).

5. 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.

6. **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 rights 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.

7. (a) This Conference endorses the decision of the Standing Committee for the establishment of a Permanent Central Office at Delhi at the earliest possible opportunity.

(b) It therefore makes a special appeal to the general public to contribute liberally and to the constituencies to do all in their power to raise funds for the early realisation of this project.

(Ahmedabad 1936.)

8. This Conference puts on record its appreciation of the recent circular issued by the President of the Indian National Congress directing the Parliamentary Committees to put up women candidates for the General Seats.

(Ahmedabad 1936.)



STATEMENT REGARDING REGISTRATION

The All-India Women's Conference has been duly registered under the Societies Registration 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.



THE CONSTITUTION OF A. I. W. C.

ARTICLE I

Name :

The name of the organisation shall be "The Association of the All-India Women's Conference", hereinafter to be called the "A. I. W. C."

ARTICLE II

(a) Policy :

The A. I. W. C. shall not belong to any political organisation nor take an active part in party politics, but shall be free to discuss and contribute to all questions and matters affecting the welfare of the people of India with particular reference to women and children.

(b) Aims and Objects :

1. To work actively for the general progress and welfare of women and children.
2. To inculcate in women and children the ideals of true citizenship.
3. To promote education along right lines.
4. To work and press for social reform.
5. To strive to establish equal rights and opportunities for all.
6. To work for a united India.
7. To set and demand a high moral standard in all departments of life.
8. To stand for international goodwill and world peace.

ARTICLE III

Composition :

- (a) Patrons**
- (b) Office-Bearers**
- (c) Standing Committee**
- (d) Branches**

(a) Patrons :

- (i) Past Presidents
- (ii) By special invitation of the A. I. W. C.

(b) Office-Bearers :

- (i) President and Chairwoman
- (ii) Six Vice-Presidents

Note: A Chairwoman of the Standing Committee shall be elected for the year from amongst the Vice-Presidents in case the President does not desire to fill the office.

- (iii) Treasurer
- (iv) General Secretary
- (v) Organising Secretary
- (vi) Sectional Secretaries (if required).

Note: No paid officer of the A. I. W. C. shall be entitled to vote.

(c) Standing Committee :

- (i) The Office-Bearers
- (ii) Members-in-charge of Special Subjects.
- (iii) Branch Representatives
- (iv) The Liaison Officer in India
- (v) The Secretary of the All-India Women's Education Fund Association.
- (vi) Conveners of Sub-Committees whenever such Sub-Committees are appointed
- (vii) Members co-opted for special purposes.

(d) Branches :

Areas in Provinces and States, as decided on by the Standing Committee from time to time.

Note: Patrons shall be entitled to attend the Conference of the A. I. W. C. and to vote at the open sessions.

Life Associates under the old Constitution will have the right of attending the open sessions of the Conference and voting as hitherto.

ARTICLE IV.

Agencies of Work :

The work of the A. I. W. C. shall be carried out through

- (i) The Standing Committee and its Executive ;
- (ii) The Branches, Sub-BrancheS and their Committees, by means of
 - (a) Conference
 - (b) Meetings
 - (c) Correspondence
 - (d) Publications.

ARTICLE V.**Conferences :****I. The All-India Conference :**

- (a) Conferences of the A. I. W. C. shall be held periodically, at a time and place fixed by the Standing Committee.
- (b) The following shall be entitled to attend :
 - (i) Patrons
 - (ii) Standing Committee Members
 - (iii) Branch Delegates
 - (iv) Reception Committee Delegates
 - (v) Special Delegates (by invitation by the Standing Committee)
 - (vi) Visitors (not allowed to participate in the deliberations).

Note: Life Associates under the old constitution will have the right of attending the open Sessions of the Conference and voting as hitherto.

II. Branch Conferences :

Public Conferences shall be convened annually by all the Branches and Sub-branches of the A. I. W. C.

ARTICLE VI.**Branches :**

1. Each Branch shall carry out the ideals of the A. I. W. C. and work under its direction.
2. Each Branch shall frame its own Rules and Regulations in conformity with the Articles, Bye-Laws and Regulations of the A. I. W. C. such Rules and Regulations and any alterations thereto being subject first to the approval of the Standing Committee.
3. Each Branch shall be responsible for its own finances.

ARTICLE VII.**Finance :**

1. All moneys received shall be held in deposit by the Treasurer, at a Scheduled Bank, in the name of the A. I. W. C.
Cheques shall be signed by any two of the following Office Bearers :
President, Treasurer and General Secretary.

2. Each Branch shall send annually to the Treasurer, before July the 1st, a minimum affiliation fee of Rs. 25|-.

ARTICLE VIII.

I. Bye-Laws :—

1. The Standing Committee shall have power to make Bye-Laws and Regulations for carrying out the work of the A. I. W. C. and to alter them and add to them from time to time as occasion may require.
2. These Bye-Laws and Regulations may not be altered or added to except by the Standing Committee, at one of its meetings, by a two-thirds majority of the members present.
and provide 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 at least three months before the meeting
 - and (b) the Bye-Law in question has been in existence for at least a year.

II. Alteration of Constitution :

The Constitution of the A. I. W. C. may not be altered except at a Conference Session by a two-thirds majority of the members present, provided that a notice of such proposed alteration shall have been sent in writing, by registered post or under certificate of posting to every member of the Standing Committee at least three months before the conference.

* * * *

The Bye-Laws and Regulations, Rules of Procedure and Rules of Guidance for the starting of New Branches are being revised. They will be printed separately.

**THE ALL-INDIA
Receipt and Payments Account**

	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
<i>To Balance on 1st November 1937:—</i>						
Fixed Deposit in the Bank of India Ltd.	2,759	6	0			
" " National Bank of India Ltd.	610	0	0			
With the National Bank of India Ltd.	4,212	12	9			
" " Organising Secretary	303	13	9			
" " Social Secretary	45	0	0			
" " Education Secretary (Miss Reuben)	47	14	0			
" " Honorary Treasurer	7	15	6	7,966	14	0
" Registration Fees of Delegates				1,490	0	0
" Reception Committee donations				1,000	0	0
" Donations for expenses of the conference				3,187	0	9
" Affiliation Fees				670	0	0
" Central Office Fund				1,292	0	0
" Life Membership Fees				200	0	0
" Constituencies and sub-constituencies :—						
For extra copies of circulars				100	0	0
" Vice-Presidentship Fees				30	0	0
" Sale proceeds of Annual Reports				31	5	0
" Sale proceeds of Franchise Booklets				48	0	9
" Interest on Fixed Deposits				58	4	0
" Interest on Bank Current Account				28	14	0
" Miscellaneous receipts				2	2	0
	Rs	16,124	8	6		

Examined and found correct, as per our report.

(Sd.) Sorab S. Engineer & Co.,
Incorporated Accountants,
Registered Accountants,
Hon. AUDITORS.

(Sd.) G. R. Billimoria
Hon. Treasurer,
All-India Women's Conference.

Bombay, 8th December 1937

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

for the Year ending 31st October 1938.

	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
By Reception Committee Expenses				745	0	0
.. Honorary Organising Secretary's Office Expenses*				2,368	7	6
.. Central Office Expenses :—						
Miss Bhalariao's salary	787	15	0			
Miss Bhalariao's travelling, postage and other expenses	197	2	0	985	1	0
.. Printing and Stationery				818	0	0
.. Social Section Secretary's Expenses :—						
Mrs. Doctor (Aug. '37 to Dec. 1937)	93	12	0			
Mrs. Mehta	40	0	0	133	12	0
.. Education Secretary's Expenses				95	1	9
.. Miss Reuben (Former Educ. Secretary) Expenses				36	13	6
.. Convener, Special Committee on Legal Disabilities of Women				38	4	0
.. Honorary Treasurer's expenses				15	15	0
.. Affiliation fee to International Alliance of Women's Suffrage				27	14	0
.. Mrs. Bannerji for A. I. W. C. Bulletin expenses				20	0	0
.. Convener, Legislation sub-committee				2	15	0
.. Bank Commission charges				14	2	0
.. Balance on 31st October 1938 :—						
Fixed Deposit in the Bank of India Ltd.	2,807	10	0			
Fixed Deposit in the National Bank of India Ltd.	620	0	0			
With the National Bank of India Ltd.	7,073	9	6			
With Organising Secretary	293	2	9			
With Convener, Special Committee on Legal Disability of women	6	12	0			
With Hon. Treasurer	22	0	6	10,823	2	9
				Rs.	16,124	8 6

* Details of the office expenses of the

Honorary Organising Secretary :—

Salary of clerk with allowance	1,200	0	0
Clerk's travelling allowance	170	8	0
Bonus to clerk	100	0	0
Printing & Stationery	406	10	9
Postages	402	3	9
Telegrams	29	0	0
Registration	12	10	0
Repairs to typewriter	30	10	0
Miscellaneous expenses	15	6	0
Bank commission	1	7	0

Rs. 2,368 7 6

DRAFT BUDGET

For 1938-39.

Estimated Income.	Rs.	A.	P.	Estimated Expenditure.	Rs.	A.	P.
Balance on 1st Nov. '38:				Reception Committee (half the amount of delegates' fees) ..	880	0	0
Fixed Deposit in the Bank of India Ltd. ..	2807	10	0	Hon. General Secretary's Office expenses ..	2500	0	0
Fixed Deposit in the National Bank of India Ltd. ..	620	0	0	Printing of Annual Report ..	1000	0	0
With the National Bank of India Ltd. ..	7073	9	6	Central Office Expenses: Miss Bhalerao's salary ..	1000	0	0
With the Hon. Organising Secretary ..	293	2	9	Travelling Expenses and postage ..	350	0	0
With the Convener, Special Committee on Legal Disabilities of Women ..	6	12	0	Printing and Stationery ..	200	0	0
With the Hon. Treasurer ..	22	0	6	Social Secretary's Expenses ..	100	0	0
Registration fees of Delegates ..	1760	0	0	Educational Secretary's Expenses ..	100	0	0
Estimated Donations ..	1800	0	0	Convener, Special Committee on Legal Disabilities of Women ..	40	0	0
Reception Committee donations for Entertainment ..	835	15	3	Hon. Treasurer's Expenses ..	25	0	0
Affiliation Fees ..	750	0	0	Affiliation fee to International Alliance of Women's Suffrage ..	28	0	0
Vice-Presidentship Fees ..	60	0	0	A.I.W.C. Bulletin Expenses ..	300	0	0
For Extra copies of Circulars ..	100	0	0	Expenses of Members in-charge ..	300	0	0
Sale proceeds of Annual Reports ..	50	0	0	Expenses of Shifting Office ..	100	0	0
Sale proceeds of Franchise Booklets ..	25	0	0	Contigencies ..	200	0	0
Interest on Fixed Deposits ..	60	0	0	Bank Charges ..	15	0	0
Interest on Bank Current Accounts ..	30	0	0		7138	0	0
	16294	2	0				

+ other donations from Reception Committee.

LIST OF DONORS OF RS. 10|- OR OVER IN 1937-38
(1st November 1937 to 31st October 1938).

Lady Chitnavis ..	500|-	Mrs. Sarojini Mehta ..	25|-
Madras Branch ..	500|-	Punjab East Branch ..	25|-
Rajkumari Amrit Kaur ..	250|-	Mrs. Sarala Mehta ..	25|-
Mr. Shankerlal through		Dr. Mrs. M. B. Kagal ..	25|-
Mrs Sarojini Naidu ..	250|-	Lady Vidyagouri R.	
Indore Branch ..	200|-	Nilkanth ..	25|-
Through Mrs. M. E. Cousins	128|8	Mrs. Sarngapami ..	25|-
Hyderabad (Dn.) Branch ..	100|-	Miss Piggott ..	15|-
Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan ..	100|-	Assam Branch ..	10|-
Mrs. S. N. Ray ..	100|-	Mrs. E. F. Vestal ..	10|-
Miss Leilamani Naidu ..	100|-	Mrs. Sundrabai Ambedkar ..	10|-
Begum Hamid Ali ..	100|-	Mrs. Savitribai Khare ..	10|-
Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee ..	100|-	Miss Dolly Basu ..	10|-
Mrs. G. R. Billimoria ..	100|-	Miss Tara Subedar Sagar ..	10|-
Lady Taskar ..	100|-	Mrs. Laxmibai Mote ..	10|-
Mrs. Barkat Rai ..	100|-	Mrs. Saudamini Mehta ..	10|-
Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade ..	100|-	Mrs. Tarabai Shinde ..	10|-
H. H. the Rani Saheb of		Mrs. Kher ..	10|-
Sangli ..	100|-	Mrs. Gangabai Mote ..	10|-
C. P. North Branch ..	100|-	Miss Bharda ..	10|-
Bilashpur Women's		Mrs. Thombre (Sangli) ..	10|-
Association ..	100|-	Mrs. Vinodi Bhivapurkar ..	10|-
Mrs. Skrine ..	50|-	Mrs. Radhabai Parande ..	10|-
Mrs. C. Cornelius ..	50|-	Mrs. R. K. Krishna Pillai ..	10|-
The Hon'ble Mrs. Vijaya		Mrs. Hookoo ..	10|-
Lakshmi Pandit ..	50|-	Mrs. R. Abhyankar ..	10|-
Phaltan Branch ..	40|-	Mrs. Dwarakabai Pradham ..	10|-
Mr. Benjamin E. Mays	26|0|9	Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta ..	10|-
Mrs. Grace Lankester ..	25|-	Mrs. A. V. Khare ..	10|-
Mrs. Annapurnabai		Mrs. Anasuyabai Khare ..	10|-
Patankar ..	25|-	Mrs. Trivenibai Subedar ..	10|-
Mrs. Bhide ..	25|-	Mrs. Shashikalabai Shide ..	10|-
Mrs. Parvatibai Joglekar ..	25|-	Miss Lazarus ..	10|-

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

PROVISIONAL TIME TABLE FOR THE YEAR 1939

- Jan. & Feb.** "Echo Meeting" for explaining the work of the annual session held at Delhi, to be held at any time in January and February, but not later than the end of February. (Vide Bye-Law No. 21, page 201, Nagpur Report).
- April 30th.** One nomination from each Constituency and from each of the other Standing Committee Members, not representing Constituencies, for the Presidentship of the Annual Session of the Conference to be held in 1939, to reach the Hon. General Secretary before 30th April 1939. *No nomination received later than 30th April 1939 will be considered.*
- June 15th.** Items for the Agenda of the Half-yearly meeting to be sent by the Standing Committee members to the Hon. General Secretary latest by 15th June. (Vide Bye-Law No. 31, p. 202, Nagpur Report).
Half-yearly reports also to reach the Hon. General Secy. by 15-6-39.
- July 1st.** Voting papers will be sent to the Standing Committee members and they will send their votes for Presidentship for the 1939 Session by registered post so as to reach the Hon. General Secretary on or before the 1st July. *No Voting Paper will be considered valid after that date.* (Vide Bye-Law No. 40 A, p. 203, Nagpur Report).
- July 15-20.** Half-yearly meeting of the Standing Committee to be held provisionally at Gwalior at any time between 20th and 31st July 1939.
- August 25th.** All resolutions relating to 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. General Secretary before the 25th August. (Vide Rule of Proc. No. 1, page 207, Nagpur Report).

- Sept. 15th. to Nov. 8th** Constituent and Sub-Constituent Conferences should be held before 8th November as far as possible.
- Nov. 15th.** Resolutions passed at the Constituent and Sub-Constituent Conferences to be sent to the Hon. General Secretary and also to the Sectional Secretaries on or before the 15th November. (Bye-Law No. 12, p. 200, Nagpur Report, and Rules of Procedure Nos. 2 to 7, pp. 207-208, Nagpur Report).
- Names and addresses of delegates and substitutes, New Standing Committee Members and two members for the Subjects Committee to be sent to the Hon. General Secretary on or before the 15th November (Vide Bye-Law No. 1, p. 196, Nagpur Report).
- Items for the Agenda of the annual Standing Committee meeting in December, to be sent to the Hon. General Secretary latest by the 15th of November (Vide Bye-Law No. 31, p. 202, Nagpur Report).
- Constituent Conference reports also are to be sent to the Hon. General Secretary by the 15th November.
- December.** The 14th Annual Session of the All-India Women's Conference will be held during the last week of December (Place and time will be announced later).
- N. B. In order to facilitate work, it is requested that the final list of delegates for the annual session should reach the Hon. General Secretary and the Secretary of the Reception Committee 15 days before the Conference at the latest.
- Any change in the above Provisional Programme will be notified in time.
-

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND**Members-in-charge and Committees on different subjects.****Executive Committee :**

- Rani Lakshmi Bai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I. (President).
 Mrs. Brijlal Nehru, 2, Warris Road, Lahore. (Vice-President).
 Shrimati Kamala Devi, Dharieswar Gardens, Mangalore. (Vice-President).
 Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City, Punjab. (Patron).
 Mrs. M. E. Cousins, "Ann Arbor", Nathencode, Trivandrum, S. India.
 (Patron).
 Dr. Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankar, Shantaram House, Malabar Hill, Bombay.
 (General Secretary).
 Mrs. G. R. Billimoria, Thoburn House, Apollo Bunder, Bombay. (Treasurer.)
 Mrs. D. B. Akhtar Hussain, Latif Manzil, Panipat, Punjab. (Educational
 Section Secretary).
 Mrs. Gulbanu J. R. Doctor, Hirji Mansion, 93, Gowalia Tank Road, P. O.
 Malabar Hill, Bombay 6. (Social Section Secretary).
 Mrs. D. L. Mazumdar, 11 A, Mayfair, Ballygunge, Calcutta. (Branch
 Representative, Calcutta).
 Mrs. Vimalabai Deshpande, Dhantoli, Nagpur, C. P. (Branch Representa-
 tive, C. P. South).
 Mrs. Probha Banerjee, Gyan Kutir, New Katra, Allahabad. (Branch
 Representative, U. P. Agra).
 Mrs. Hyderali Khan, Jubilee Hill, Hyderabad (Deccan). (Branch Repre-
 sentative, Hyderabad (Deccan)).
 Mrs. S. R. Mandyam, 114, Visweswarapuram, Bangalore City. (Branch
 Representative, Mysore).
 Begum Hamid Ali, Camp, Baroda. (Co-opted).
 Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee, 25/1, Rowland Road, Calcutta. (Co-opted).

Educational Section Secretary :

Mrs. D. B. Akhtar Hussain, Latif
 Manzil, Panipat, Punjab.

Social Section Secretary :

Mrs. Gulbanu J. R. Doctor, Hirji
 Mansion, 93, Gowalia Tank Road,
 P. O. Malabar Hill, Bombay.

MEMBERS-IN-CHARGE :**Constitution :**

Miss Leilamani Naidu, Hyderabad
(Deccan).

Health :

Dr. Mrs. M. B. Kagal, 22, Rotendone
Road, New Delhi.

Nursery Schools :

Mrs. Urmila Mehta, 15th Road, Khar,
Bombay.

Anti-Child Marriage :

Dr. Mrs. K. Tarabai, Bunder Road,
Karachi (Sind).

Harijan Welfare :

Mrs. Brijlal Nehru, 2, Worris Road,
Lahore.

Legal Disabilities :

Mrs. Sharadaben Mehta, Near Guja-
rat College, Ahmedabad.

Citizenship :

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, Gwalior,
C. I.

Labour :

Miss J. E. Copeland, Y.W.C.A. Asoka
Road, New Delhi.

Indigenous Industries :

Mrs. Jayashri Raiji, Tulsi Villa,
Alexandra Road, G a m d e v i,
Bombay 7.

Indians Overseas :

Mrs. S. N. Ray, 10, Camac Street,
Calcutta.

Legislation :

Mrs. Asaf Ali, Kucha Chelan, Darya-
ganj Delhi.

Note : The following members
have been chosen by
the Member-in-charge
to help her :

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, Gwalior,
C. I.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta, 16, Altamount
Road, Bombay 6.

Mrs. Radhabai Subbarayan, M.L.A.,
Tiruchengodu, Salem Dt., South
India.

Mrs. Sharadaben Mehta, Near Guja-
rat College, Ahmedabad.

Begum Hamid Ali, Camp, Baroda.
Begum Shah Nawaz, 53, Lawrence
Road, Lahore, Punjab.

Traffic in Women and Children :

Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee, 25|1, Rowland
Road, Calcutta.

Note : The following members
have been chosen by
the Member-in-charge
to help her :

Dr. Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi, Besant
Avenue, Adyar, Madras.

Dr. Mrs. K. Tarabai, Bunder Road,
Karachi, Sind.

Miss J. K. Zutshi, Saraswati Bhavan,
Daryaganj, Delhi.

Opium & other Narcotic Drugs :

Begum Hamid Ali, Camp, Baroda.

Note : The following members
have been chosen by
the Member-in-charge
to help her :

Mrs. Dina Asana, Opposite Gujarat
College, Ahmedabad.

Mrs. Barkat Rai, Gulshan Mahal,
Aurangabad (Dn.)

Miss Copeland, Y.W.C.A., Asoka
Road, New Delhi.

Miss Piggott, C.E.Z.M. House, Hyder-
abad (Sind).

Mrs. A. N. M. Saleh, Beauchamp
Lodge, Shillong, Assam.

APPENDIX

LIST OF BRANCH AND SUB-BRANCH CONFERENCES

Name	Branch	President	Secretary	Date
Rajahmundry	.. Andhra	.. Mrs. R. Devadasan, B.A.	Ch. Chandramathi	12 & 13-11-38
Cocanada	.. "	.. V. Padmasanamma, B.A.	{ Mrs. V. G. Clive M. Satyavatamma V. Papayamma	8 & 9-11-38
Bezwada	.. "	.. B. Subhadramma	T. Rajarajeshwaramma	5 & 6-11-38
Guntur	.. "	.. M. Koliswaramma	R. Ratnamma	2-11-38
Baroda	.. Baroda	.. Mrs. Hiraben Nanavatty	Mrs. Vatsalabai Ambegaonkar	5-10-38
Dacca	.. Bengal East	.. Mrs. Abdul Hafeez	Mrs. Kanak Das	
Comilla	.. "	.. Mrs. Sudhamayee Dutta	{ Mrs. Sudha Sen Mrs. Johara Abdulla	
Khamgaon (Buldana Dt.)	.. Berar	.. Mrs. Annapurnabai Deshmukh M.L.A.	Mrs. Chandravati Abhyankar	8-10-38
Patna	.. Bihar	.. Mrs. Anasuyabai Kale, M.L.A.	Mrs. Vidyavati Varma	12 & 13-11-38
Bombay	.. Bombay	.. Mrs. Hansa Mehta, M.L.C.	Mrs. Urmila Mehta	5-11-38
Khar	.. "	.. Mrs. G. R. Billimoria	Miss Bhanumati Bhatt	31-10-38
Dadar	.. "	.. Mrs. Annapurnabai Deshmukh	Mrs. Indirabai Dhadphale	6 & 7-10-38
Calcutta	.. Calcutta	.. H. H. Maharani Sucharu Devi of Mayurbhanj	Mrs. Shamsun Nahar Mahmud	12-11-38
Bilashpur	.. C. P. North	.. Mrs. Shrivastava	Dr. Miss Fernandez	23-10-38
Jubbulpore	.. "	.. Mrs. Chitambar	Mrs. Shrivastava	2-11-38
Bilashpur	.. "	.. Mrs. Kusum Mehta	Mrs. Shrivastava	3 & 4-11-38
Seoni	.. C. P. South	.. Mrs. Shantabai Bhatwadekar	Mrs. Vimalabai Deshpande	29 & 30-10-38
Trichur	.. Cochin	.. Mrs. Skrine	Miss L. Poulouse	12-11-38

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, DELHI.



Members of the Standing Committee, 1938.

LIST OF BRANCH AND SUB-BRANCH CONFERENCES (Contd.)

Name	Branch	President	Secretary	Date
Tripunithura	.. Cochin	.. Sri V. K. Lakshmikutty Nathiaramma		26-10-38
Ernakulam	.. "	.. Mrs. B. K. Menon		28-10-38
Trichur	.. "	.. Mrs. C. R. Menon		28-10-38
Delhi	.. Delhi	.. Begum Khwaja Hasan Nizami	Mrs. Asaf Ali	26-11-38
Simla	.. "	.. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	Mrs. Sahgal	
Muzaffarnagar	.. "	.. Mrs. Sukhbeer Singh	Mrs. Haldar	
Ahmedabad	.. Gujarat	.. Mrs. Gangubai Patwardhan	Mrs. Sarayudha Divetia	13-11-38
Gwalior	.. Gwalior	.. Lady Dhanwanta Mehta	Mrs. Chandrakala Sahai	6 & 7-11-38
Hyderabad	.. Hyderabad (Dn.)	Princess Niloufer W. Farhat Begum	Mrs C. Cornelius	25 & 26-11-38
Aurangabad	.. Hyderabad (Dn.)	Princess Niloufer W. Farhat Begum	Mrs. L. Dasan	30 & 31-8-38
Indore	.. Indore	.. Miss Sushila Kumari Pandit	Mrs. Jyosna Mehta	5-11-39
Belgaum	.. Karnatak	.. Mrs. Anasuyabai Kale	Mrs. Awoobai Kale	31-10-38
Bellary	.. "	.. Mrs. Shyamalabai Belgaumkar	Mrs. P. Sushilabai	29-10-38
Dharwar	.. "	.. Mrs. Gideon	Mrs. S. Belgaumkar	27-10-38
Gadag	.. "	.. Mrs. Gangabai	Mrs. Parvatibai Kinagi	17-9-38
Mangalore	.. "	.. Shrimathi Kamala Devi	Mrs. M. Lilabai	8-10-38
Lathi	.. Kathiawad	.. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	Mrs. Indirabai Gadre	1-10-38
Alibagh	.. Konkan	.. Mrs. Nora Gawan Taylor	Mrs. Monoramabai Taskar	14-11-38
Madras	.. Madras	.. Begum Mir Amiruddin	Mrs. Mary Clubwala	12-11-38

LIST OF BRANCH AND SUB-BRANCH CONFERENCES (Contd.)

Name	Branch	President	Secretary	Date
Nasik	.. Maharashtra	.. Mrs. Ramabai Tambe	Mrs. Nalinibai Chandwadkar	8 & 9-11-38
Hassan	.. Mysore	.. Mrs. Devarao Sivaram	Mrs. S. Janakiammal	30 & 31-10-38
Peshawar	.. N. W. F. P.	.. Mrs. Kazi Mir Ahmed	Mrs. Charanjilal	10-11-38
Phaltan	.. Phaltan	.. Shrimati S. Rani Lakshmi Devi	Mrs. Janakibai Godbole	6-11-38
Lahore	.. Punjab Central	.. Begum Shah Nawaz	Miss Premwati Thapor	19-11-38
Jullundur	.. Punjab East	.. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	Mrs. P. L. Sondhi	
Sangli	.. Sangli	.. H. H. the Rani Saheb of Sangli	Mrs. Sumatibai Gokhale	12-11-38
Shahapur	.. "	.. Mrs. S. Jog	Mrs. Talwalkar	19-10-38
Shirhatti	.. "	.. Mrs. S. Gokhale	Mrs. Santubai Pawar	14-10-38
Kavathe	.. "	.. Mrs. I. Bidnur	Mrs. Godbole	6-10-38
Mangalwedha	.. "	.. Mrs. Patwardhan	Mrs. K. Bhagwat	4-10-38
Terdal	.. "	.. Mrs. R. Phadnis	Mrs. K. Gokhale	7-10-38
Koilpatti	.. Tamil Naidu	.. Begum Mir Amiruddin, M.A.	Miss Leela Shankar B.A.	19-11-38
Trivandrum	.. Travancore	.. Mrs. M. E. Cousins	Mrs. T. J. Ponnamma	4 & 5-11-38
Allahabad	.. U. P. Agra	.. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu	Mrs. Aktar Hussain	20-11-38
Cawnpore	.. "	.. Mrs. Suniti Devi Mitra		
Lucknow	.. U. P. Oudh	.. Mrs. Uma Nehru, M.L.A.	Begum Aizaz Rasul	
Moradabad	.. "	.. Rani Phulkumari of Sherkot	Mrs. N. Jordon	22-11-38

LIST OF PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES OF BRANCH COMMITTEES

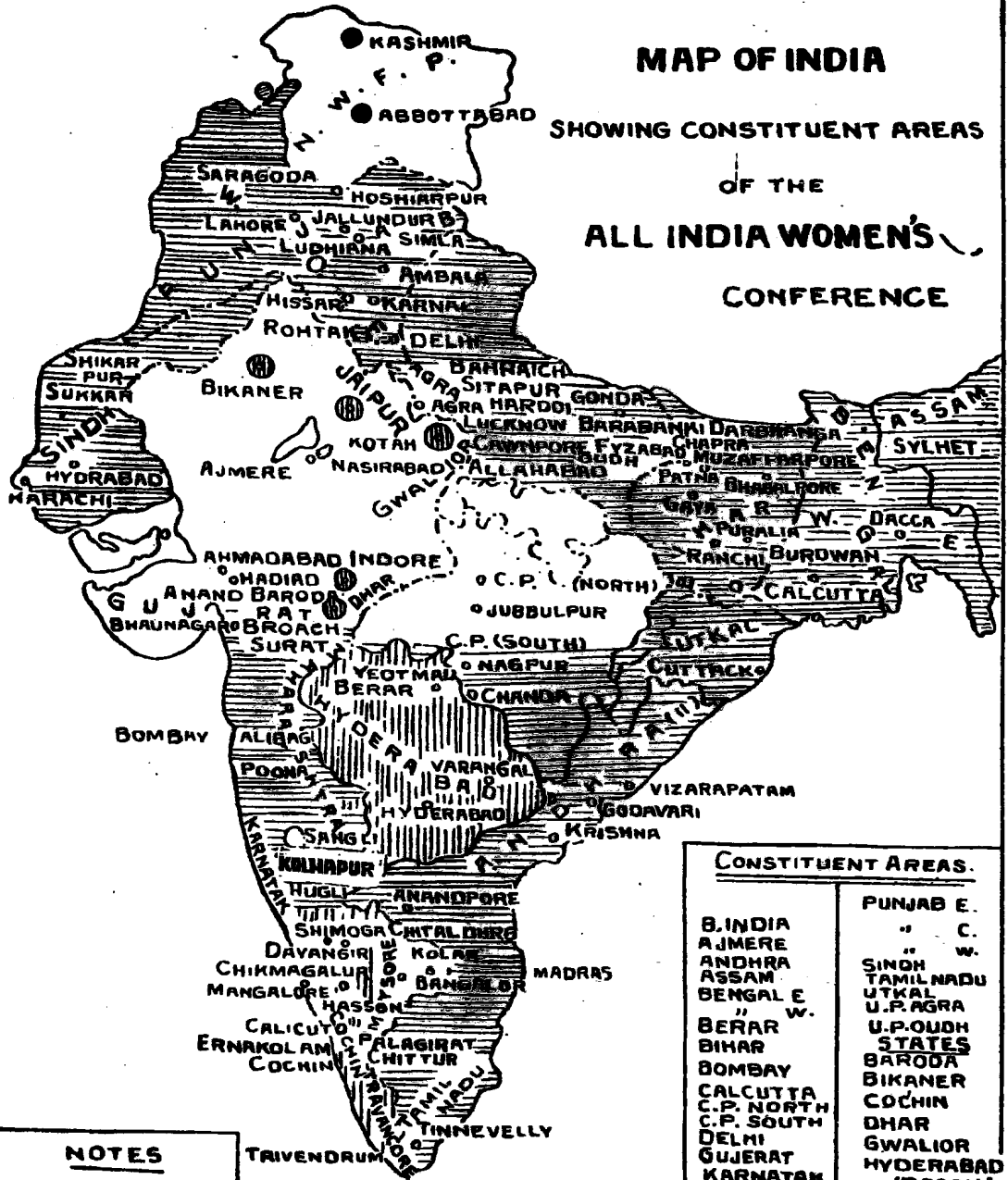
Branch	President	Secretary
Andhra	Mrs. Rachel Devedasan, B.A.	Mrs. S. Subhadramma
Baroda State	Lady Krishnamachari	Mrs. Vatsalabai Ambegaonkar
Bengal East	Mrs. Abdul Hafeez	Mrs. Kanak Das
Bihar	Lady Imam, M.L.A.	Mrs. Vidyavati Varma
Bombay	Mrs. G. R. Billimoria	Mrs. Urmila Mehta
Calcutta	Mrs. P. Choudhury	Mrs. Shamsun Nahar Mahmud
C. P. North	Mrs. Kusum Mehta	Mrs. Shrivastava
C. P. South	Mrs. Ramabai Kedar	Mrs. Vimalabai Deshpande
Cochin	Mrs. C. P. Skrine	Miss Lily Poullose
Delhi	Lady N. N. Sircar	Mrs. Asaf Ali
Gujarat	Lady Vidyagouri Nilkanth	Miss Nargish Kavina
Gwalior	Lady Dhanwanta Mehta	{ Mrs. Chandrakala Sahai { Mrs. Pushpalata Dutta
Hyderabad (Dn.)	Begum Sahiba Wali-Ud-Dowla	Mrs. Hyderali Khan
Indore	Princess Savitribai Saheb	Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta
Karnatak	Miss E. S. Elijah, B.A., B.T., T.D.	{ Miss Y. D. Nadkarni { Mrs. Shantabai Malwad
Kathiawad	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	Mrs. Indirabai Gadre
Konkan.	Mrs. Nora Gawan Taylor	{ Mrs. Monoramabai Taskar { Mrs. Y. Apte
Madras	Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan	Mrs. Mary Clubwala
Maharashtra	Mrs. Kamalabai Deshpande	Mrs. Tarabai Ranade
N. W. F. P.	Mrs. Kazi Mir Ahmed	Mrs. S. Aslam
Phalton	Shrimant S. Rani Saheb of Phalton	{ Mrs. Shantabai Likhite { Mrs. Saraswatibai Tathvadkar
Punjab East	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	Mrs. P. L. Sondhi
Punjab Central	Begum Shah Nawaz	Miss Premwati Thapor
Sangli	H. H. the Rani Saheb of Sangli	Mrs. Sumatibai Gokhale
Tamil Nadu	Mrs. Rajammal Jesudoss	Mrs. V. Pichammal
Travancore		
U. P. Agra	Mrs. Mohanlal Nehru	Mrs. B. Razdan
U. P. Oudh	Begum Aizaz Rasul	Mrs. Salamatullah

LIST OF BRANCH AND SUB-BRANCH AREAS

Ajmer-Merwara	Ajmer	C. P. North	Jubbulpore
	Beawar		Bilashpur
	Kekri		Narsinghpur
Andhra	Bezwada	C. P. South	Bhandara
	Guntur		Balaghat
	Anantapur		Betul
	Bapatla		Chindwara
	Bellary		Chanda
	Cocanada		Nagpur
	Rajahmundry		Wardha
	Chittoor		Seoni
	Madanapalle	Delhi	Delhi
	Vizagapatam		Muzaffarnagar
Assam	Gauhati		Simla
	Shillong	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
	Sylhet		Anand
Bengal East	Dacca		Bhavnagar
	Comilla		Broach
	Brahmanbaria		Nadiad
	Faridpur		Surat
Berar	Akola	Karnatak	Dharwar
	Amraoti		Belgaum
	Buldana		Bellary
	Yeotmal		Gadag
Bengal West	Santiniketan		Mangalore
	Chinsurah		Shirsangi
	Bogra	Kathiawad	Lathi
Bihar	Bhagalpore		Wankaner
	Chapra		Junagadh
	Darbhanga		Porebunder
	Muzaffarpore	Konkan	Alibagh
	Patna		Thana
	Purulia		Ratnagiri
	Purneah	Madras	Madras
	Ranchi	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar
Bombay	Khar Santacruz		Nagar
	Bombay		Nasik
	Dadar-Matunga		Poona
Calcutta	Calcutta		Satara

MAP OF INDIA

SHOWING CONSTITUENT AREAS
OF THE
**ALL INDIA WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE**



NOTES

 B.I. AREAS.

 INDIAN STATES-AREAS.

CONSTITUENT AREAS.

B. INDIA
AJMERE
ANDHRA
ASSAM
BENGAL E. W.
BERAR
BIHAR
BOMBAY
CALCUTTA
C.P. NORTH
C.P. SOUTH
DELHI
GUJERAT
KARNATAK
KONKAN
MADRAS
MAHARASHTRA
MALABAR
N.W.F.P.
KOLHAPUR

PUNJAB E.
" C.
" W.
SINDH
TAMIL NADU
UTKAL
U.P. AGRA
" W.
U.P. OUDH
STATES
BARODA
BIKANER
COCHIN
DHAR
GWALIOR
HYDERABAD
(DECAN)
INDORE.
KASHMIR
KOTAH
MYSORE
SANGLI
TRAVANCORE

A.D.P., GWALIOR.

List of Branch and Sub-Branch Areas

	Solapur		Sukkur
	Kirloskar Wadi	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
	Bhusawal		Ettayapuram
Malabar	Calicut		Madura
	Cannanore		Salem
	Tellichery		Tanjore
	Ottapalam		Trichinopoly
N. W. F. P.	Abbottabad		Tinnevelly
	Peshawar		Koilpatti
Orissa	Cuttack	U. P. (Agra)	Agra
	Puri		Allahabad
Punjab Central	Amritsar		Benares
	Lahore		Cawnpore
Punjab East	Ambala		Bareilly
	Gurgaon	U. P. (Oudh)	Gonda
	Hissar		Hardoi
	Hoshiarpur		Kheri
	Jullundur		Lakhimpur
	Ludhiana		Lucknow
	Rohtak		Moradabad
Sind	Hyderabad		Onao
	Karachi		Partabgarh
	Larkana		Rai Bareli
	Shikapur		Sitapur
INDIAN STATES			
Baroda	Baroda		Chitaldurg
Bikaner	Bikaner		Davangiri
Cochin	Ernaculam		Hassan
	Trichur		Kolar
	Tripunithura		Mysore
Gwalior	Bhind		Shimoga
	Gwalior		Tumkur
	Ujjain	Phaltan	Phaltan
Hyderabad (Dn.)	Aurangabad Dn.	Sangli	Kawathe
	Hyderabad		Mangalwedha
Indore	Indore		Sangli
Kashmere	Srinagar		Shahpur
	Jammu		Shirhatti
Kolhapur	Kolhapur		Terdal
Mysore	Bangalore	Travancore	Trivandrum
	Chikamagalur		Nagercoil

Statistics of Medical Inspection Collected from the Branches in 1937 by

1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
						METHODS ADOPTED			
Serial No.	Name of the constituency	Prevalent	Prevalent in private primary schools	Prevalent in Govt. Secondary Schools	Prevalent in Private Secondary Schools	A	B	C	D
						In Municipal Schools	In Govt. Schools	In Local Board Schools	Private Schools
1	MYSORE	Yes	Nil	Yes	Nil	Complete Medical Inspection of all systems			
2	BOMBAY	Yes	In some of the schools	Nil	In some of the schools	Systematic Medical Inspection 2/3 times in the course of their primary education			
3	SIMLA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Every child is annually examined. Medical Officer visits Schools twice a year; treatment follows			
4	AHMED-ABAD	Yes	Not in all	No	Not in all	3 Medical men and a lady Doctor who carry on annual inspection in Municipal School only			
5	TRAVANCORE	Occasionally at the option of the authorities		Yes in boys schools	Yes	On admission Govt. Doctor examines the children of preparatory class & of III Form.			
6	KOLHAPUR	No.		No	No	N I L			
7	BARODA	Municipal Schools do not exist	No	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil	Any defect or disease found by Medical Inspector is reported to the parents concerned with advice to get diseases cured either at the Govt. Hospital or by family physician.	
8	OUDH	Yes, general inspection of boys only	No	Yes, a detailed inspection & follow up work. Children examined 3 times a year on parade	Yes	Parade examination in all vernacular schools & detailed examination in Anglo-Vernacular schools		Yes	No.
9	Central PUNJAB	A school of M. I. is being worked out in Sialkot	No	Yes	Yes	Nil	Nil	Re. 1/8 charged for M. I. in High School per head. 12 as, in middle Schools. Part time medical men and Compounders employed.	
10	KOLABA	Yes	Yes	Heights and Weights taken	Yes for girls only	Girls sent to Hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil

Dr. Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankar, Convener, Health Sub-Committee.

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Approximate Expenditure	The grant for private schools & source & amount	Does Govt. give grant to Municipal Schools for school inspection.	Prevalent in College or other Industrial Institutions.	Nature of help if any from your constituency.	Any Report of M I work done	Clinic Work seen after inspection.	The opinion on Medical Inspection of primary school children especially without clinic for them
4000	No grant as it does not exist in private schools	Mostly at Govt. expense	College students medically examined	The Municipality pays its quota the rest managed by Govt.	Yes	Yes	It is beneficial when M. I. is followed by treatment at a clinic as elder students & the parents of young children are negligent.
40000 for 70000 children	Nil	Nil	Yes, by the University	No	Yes	Yes, in the Municipal Schools	It is decidedly beneficial if it is followed by treatment facilities at a clinic during school hours.
Not mentioned	not mentioned	Not mentioned	No	No	Yes	Yes	Without clinic it is not useful. There are Ladies' School Committees who look after the health question of children.
3600	No	No	Discontinued	No	Not mentioned	Yes	Unless there is a clinic the suggestions of the Medical Inspection are not likely to be carried out.
8 annas per head	No	No	Yes	No not yet	No	No	Not of much use.
NIL	Nil	No	University arranged it in 1932	At the time of epidemics we advocate it	Yes. Of the work done during plague epidemic	Nil	It is advisable to have Medical Inspection & treatment facilities.
Not mentioned	No Medical Inspector is appointed by Government	Nil	Yes	Two members (Lady Doctors) of our institutions work for 2 Institutions	Yes, A copy is sent	Yes	Clinics are very useful, otherwise the parents only learn the nature of their children's defects & get advice to get them treated.
7000	No	No	Yes	A Committee is formed to advise the authorities to introduce it in girls schools	Yes	Yes, only for the Anglo-vernacular institutions including Intermediate Classes.	Clinics are necessary for follow up after Medical inspection or else Medical Inspection is not likely to bear fruitful results.
Rs. 50/- for part time Medical Inspector & Rs. 15/- for medicines	No	No	Re. 1/- per head is charged for M. I.	Educational Department of the Punjab insists on its introduction	No	Not Satisfactory	Practically useless if there are no clinics. Red Cross Society helps us by way of doing inspection work and lectures on hygienic subjects in twelve Municipal Schools.
NIL	NIL	Nil	Nil	Yes—through the efforts of the constituency	Yes	Advice is given—Children are directed to the local Doctors	N i l

A SCHEME

for

THE EXTENSION OF THE WORK OF THE A. I. W. C.

(Prepared by Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade)

Introductory.—

We all realise the necessity of extending the scope of our ministry in social and educational matters. As many of us have insisted we must now attend increasingly to the needs of the women of the working classes both in the villages as well as the towns: for, the A. I. W. C. will take firm root only when the lives of the working women are encompassed by its activities and organisation. Here the aim is twofold: the extension of the A. I. W. C. activities and with it the extension of its membership and its sphere of influence. I feel that village work is too specialised and remote a field to be easily accessible to all of us. I think it is the general experience that village work can best be accomplished only by those who dedicate their lives to it and who go and live amongst villagers. The knowledge, the temperament, the sacrifices required for it are, in the present conditions in the villages, of a special type. Some workers have that equipment and are in a position to undertake this very important work in the villages: and the fact that in this scheme we are concerning ourselves exclusively with the towns need not be taken as any discouragement to those who are working and wish to work in the villages.

Many of us, however, can effectively undertake similar social work among the women of one's neighbourhood in the towns and cities where we live. I am presenting here a scheme by which such work can be undertaken within the scope of our organisation. To begin with, the work will be done by voluntary workers, though later on paid workers and the necessary funds to pay them will have to be found. Most of these workers will have to be the trained workers, although some of the work will be done by members of the A. I. W. C. who need not be specially trained.

The work, during the first few years at any rate, will consist mainly of a course of talks, demonstrations, excursions, entertainments, organised activities covering as many items of social hygiene and civics as may be possible.

The unit to which the work will be referred and limited will be the Mohalla or roughly a Municipal constituency in a town and in big cities like Bombay areas corresponding to the sub-divisions of the wards.

Where a given Moholla is small, one centre of work may suffice but where as in large cities, a given Moholla encompasses a wide area it will be necessary to organize several centres in each. Each centre should cater for from 20 to 30 grown-up women.

The teaching is to be free or a nominal fee may be taken: but this will depend upon local conditions, chiefly financial. There should be two persons in charge of a given centre; one of whom should devote her whole attention to the spread of literacy while the other should undertake the rest of the subjects. These two workers should change work every month, so that the one who has taken the literacy portion takes the rest of the work, while the second takes over the literacy section of it.

I. Organisation.—

- (1) The existing Local Committees of the A. I. W. C. will initially select a voluntary worker whom they will send to a training centre (see para IV—10) for the necessary training.
- (2) The Local Committee will appoint a sub-committee to be known as the Sub-Committee for Mohalla Work. The trained worker will be either the Secretary or an ordinary member of this committee. (It may perhaps be found necessary in big towns to have small committees or sections of workers—one for each Mohalla or Municipal constituency. In that case the work of all these smaller committees will be supervised and co-ordinated by the Sub-Committee for Moholla Work of the whole area.) The size of the Sub-Committee should be determined by the Local Committee. The Sub-Committee will report to the Local Committee twice a year.
- (3) The Sub-Committee for Moholla Work will collect all the data for and personally supervise and co-ordinate the work of the voluntary workers in each Mohalla. The trained member of the sub-committee will actually direct the work in all the Mohallas. The sub-committee will exist not only to supervise and co-ordinate but also to render any help necessary including, on occasion, financial help. Its composition should be decided also from this point of view. Women of influence and leisure, women experts in various subjects should be included along with women devoted to social work. I also think that influential local men may also be co-opted on this committee. In places where there is only the Sub-Committee for Mohalla Work and no smaller committees, the workers in all the Mohallas should be asked to attend

monthly co-ordinating meetings of the sub-committee. Where there are more than one committee for each Mohalla the worker should also meet once a month at some place in the Mohalla to compare notes, get difficulties solved, etc., etc.

II. The Trained Member.—

- (4) Otherwise the sub-committee should function mainly through the trained member so far as the actual work is concerned. Supervision, suggestions, financial and other help, outlining the year's work, general policy will, of course, be matters which will be the concern of the sub-committee as a whole. But apart from these the actual work—all dealings with the workers—will be through the trained member. Because, the trained member will be a volunteer and an expert.
- (5) This twofold authority attaching to the trained member will have to be recognised and expressed in the distribution of work and authority as between her and the rest of the sub-committee.
- (6) The trained member will have received special training for this kind of work either in an A. I. W. C. Training Camp (see para IV—10) or at any other training centre recognised for this purpose by the A. I. W. C.
- (7) Although she will be a voluntary worker her training expenses and then whatever conveyance charges she incurs in the course of her actual work in the Mohallas should be paid out of the local funds.
- (8) She will train the workers who will do the actual work in the Mohallas. She will prepare the year's plan of work and put it before the sub-committee. She will explain the work to them and see that they do it in the proper way. She will receive their demands for help, etc., and put them, if necessary, before the sub-committee. The training of the workers may be arranged for by the trained member organising local training camps.

III. The Workers.—

- (9) They will be voluntary and honorary at least for some time to come. They will be trained locally or at their own expense at any of the training centres organised or approved by the A. I. W. C. I think we should have educated local women even on a basis of only 6 months' or a year's voluntary service.

IV. The Training Camps.—

- (10) For a country so vast as India a Central All-India Training Camp will be impracticable and unprofitable. For the sake of standardization and economy of training the biggest unit possible is the province (a province means either a British India Province or a State). Even these will be found very difficult to organise. Perhaps the most convenient basis will be linguistic areas. Each such area can organise a training camp, say, for a month every year, where workers may be sent by the local committees in the area. The expenses of the camp may be equally shared by all those who may have participated in it. For starting this scheme and for the initial camps we shall have to have people coming forward offering to organize these initial camps in as many areas as may, with the help of the local experts, be possible.

I intend, if all goes well, to organize a training camp at Poona this summer. I hope, if at all it comes about, I shall have a useful and successful experiment to report to this Conference at the conclusion of the camp.

V. Finances.—

- (11) Local Committee funds will have to suffice. These must be supplemented by a separate locally levied fund for this purpose. It will have to be further supplemented by income from entertainments, etc., arranged by the Mohalla work organisers.

The expenditure will consist of the following items mainly

- (a) training of the trained members;
- (b) printing of the pamphlets to be used ;
- (c) conveyance charges ;
- (d) charges incidental to demonstrations, excursions, entertainments, etc. ;
- (e) miscellaneous.

At a much later stage, if the work proves useful and extends itself, perhaps the collection of an All-India Fund may be undertaken by the A. I. W. C.

VI. The Work.—

- (12) The work among Mohalla women will not be as continuous, direct and intimate or fundamental as in the villages. At any rate

in the beginning the work, although very wide in range, will be done mainly through the reading and explaining of pamphlets, demonstrations, excursions to places and institutions dealt with in the pamphlets (to see their actual working), the organisation of common activities with reference to the subjects of those pamphlets and lastly entertainments. I realise that this is not enough. But our chief aim is not so much reform as the awakening of interest in reform and in the whole environment. The last clause in this scheme gives a rough idea of the subjects that these pamphlets and demonstrations will deal with.

- (13) To begin with, it will suffice if the women of the Mohalla meet about three times in the week for this purpose. They are extremely busy: and the workers too will be voluntary, so that meetings more than three times in the week will not be possible nor desirable. Of course, if a demand is created for a daily social centre in the Mohalla so much the better: and means should be found to satisfy that demand. The time and place will be locally settled of course: but the earlier part of the afternoon seems to be the best time unless the evening is definitely found more convenient.
- (14) Usually only one pamphlet should be dealt with at one meeting, although 2-3 allied subjects can also be discussed. The worker reads the pamphlet aloud and explains it: then answers questions. This is where the trained worker herself can be useful: in fact I think these questions and answers will be the really effective part of the whole process.
- (15) Clause VII of this scheme gives the subjects with which the pamphlets will deal. The pamphlets themselves will be very short—each about 2-3 printed octavo pages—and very simple, elementary and precise. They must be written for the average working class woman's capacity to understand and for *her* needs. I have with me copies of 4—5 model pamphlets. A group of about 10-15 people—I have such a group in view—might undertake the writing of these pamphlets. Some of these will have to be written inevitably by the local people as the information will need a great deal of local reference as, for instance, a pamphlet on the working of the municipality. But the others should be uniform—written in one language and translated into the rest. The translations can be locally made by the trained workers or their assistants.

(16) The Pamphlet.—

Information will be supplemented by

- (a) Demonstrations (all sorts from hospital treatment to buying a stamp or a ticket).
- (b) Reading of newspapers.
- (c) Magic lantern.
- (d) *Kirtans* : readings from classics.
- (e) Knitting and sewing classes.
- (f) Baby shows, etc.
- (g) Excursions and picnics.
- (h) Visits to institutions, industrial centres, all sorts of public places like the zoo, the museum, etc., etc.
- (i) Organising Mohalla days when some activity of common interest may be carried out.

VII. The Pamphlet.—

- (17) These will cover roughly the following headings and sub-headings : I expect there will be about 160-175 such leaflets. These may be serially printed in the A. I. W. C. Journal and later on in book form. The list given here is by no means either exhaustive or absolutely exact. The sub-headings which will be more or less the headings for leaflets may be altered : their grouping may be changed. But the broad outline is as follows :—

(N. B.—Literacy—one hour should be given at each meeting to the spread of literacy).

I. Personal Hygiene.—

- (1) Cleanliness of the body ; care of the hair ; a little beauty culture.
- (2) Cleanliness of clothes and other personal belongings ; use of soap.
- (3) Common diseases which result from uncleanliness—itch, ring-worm, pyorrhœa, etc.
- (4) Destruction of common vermin.

II. (A) Domestic Hygiene.—

- (1) How dirt, dust, darkness or damp in the house or around it cause disease and how to remedy them : use of cheap disinfectants where possible.

- (2) Cleaning utensils—cooking and others, furniture, children's clothes, bed clothes, etc.

(B) The Home and its Environs.—

- (1) The domestic budget : *accounting*.
- (2) Shopping.
- (3) Cooking (some new recipes).
- (4) Mending clothes.
- (5) Care and beautifying of the house : gardening.
- (6) Care of domestic animals.

III. Mohalla Sanitation and Cleanliness.—

- (1) Every woman's responsibility in keeping the Mohalla clean (arrange Mohalla cleaning weeks or days).

IV. Municipalities : a Visit and Demonstration.—

1. Civic rights.
2. Water supply.
3. Fire Brigade.

V. General Hygiene and Health.—

1. Maternity (2 pamphlets)—visit maternity homes.
2. Some physiology—models, charts, etc.
3. Common epidemics, care of the body : exercise.
4. Prevention of diseases.
5. First aid, home nursing, homely remedies.

VI. Care of Children : Baby Weeks.—Particularly Child Psychology (Elementary).

1. Health and growth (a children's dress sample).
2. Training.
3. How children are taught : where to put the child to school.

VII. Food.—

1. General.
2. Different kinds of diet : nutrition and food values.

VIII. Neighbourliness and Co-operation.

IX. The Law Courts : a Visit.

X. The Police.—

1. Explanation of the exact position of the police.

2. The rights and duties of citizens in relation to the police : a visit to police lines, perhaps demonstration of traffic control.

XI. The Secretariat or Kacheri : a Visit perhaps.

XII. The Post Office.—

1. Explanation of its work : (a visit) ordinary mail, money transactions, parcels (actual demonstration).
2. The Telegraph and the Telephone : demonstration.
3. The Savings Bank.

XII. (a) Railways and Buses.

XIII. Banks.

XIV. Industry.—

1. General explanation.
2. Follow the whole process of the manufacture of 2-3 common articles like cloth or soap or nibs, etc.—visits to mills and factories.
3. The crafts local—weaving, basket making, spinning.
4. The arts—visit to museum (2 leaflets, dealing with the various fine arts).
5. Conditions of pay and life in the big industries.

XV. Swadeshi.—

1. Its necessity and place in the economic life of the Nation.

XVI. Government : Politics.—

1. The most elementary outline : the constitution.
Where the money comes from : taxes and revenues : how it is spent.
2. The various political parties.
3. The franchise : how to vote and elections.
4. Local government.
5. The Local Member—what help to expect of him.

XVII. Laws.—

1. Why and how.
2. Women's legal rights and disabilities.

XVIII. Marriage and Family.—

1. Child marriage : why undesirable.
2. Marriage customs, good and bad : expense of marriage,
3. How to live happily together (the right to be happy).
4. Birth control.

5. Prohibition.
6. Purdah.

XX. Religions and Untouchability.—

1. What is religion ?
2. Various religions : tolerance.
3. Religion and custom.
4. Festivals : costly religious rites.

XXI. Books (arrangements for readings from Literature)—circulating libraries.

XXII. Newspapers (arrangements for weekly or bi-weekly reading of newspapers—chiefly through borrowing)—

1. Importance of Newspapers : visit to a Newspaper Office or Press, if possible.
2. Printing.

XXIII. Radio.—

Explanation and demonstration, if possible.

XXIV. Cinema.—Visits.

XXV. Theatres, Fairs, etc.—Visits arranged.

XXVI. Indian History.—

1. General outline—4 pamphlets (including some local history to be done locally).
2. Famous incidents. (Historical *Kathas* or ballad singing to be arranged).

XXVII. Current Topics in India.—Eminent Indians (on newspaper days).

XXVIII. Current Topics in the World.—on newspaper days.

XXIX. Countries of the World (bare outline).—

1. Geographical.
2. Historical, political and racial.

XXX. Some World Personalities.

XXXI. Local Personalities.—(Arrange their visiting Mohalla).

XXXII. Prominent local institutions.—Visits.

XXXIII. The Earth.—

1. Some geographical facts.

2. Continents, oceans, etc.
3. Climate : seasons, weather forecast, local climate.
4. The moon's phases : eclipses.
5. The sun and the stars : if these can be so simplified.

XXXIII. Indian Geography.—

1. Natural features, climate, people.
2. Provinces, places of importance and big cities.

XXXIV. Every-day Science.—

1. Simple machinery : flour mills, etc., etc.
2. Heat and cold effects, light, electricity, etc.

XXXV. Natural History : .in the form of a visit to the zoo and park, common Indian birds, trees and flowers.**XXXVI. Some occupations.—**

1. Agriculture.
2. Mining.
3. Building houses, ships, bridges, etc
4. The Army.
5. Sailors and fishermen.
6. Metal working.
7. The professions.

XXXVII. Some raw materials and their origin : cotton, wool, jute, hides, oil seeds, crude oil, metals, rubber.**XXXVIII. Some manufactured articles :****XXXIX. Some aspects of the town or city.**

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|-------------------------|----|----|------------------------------|
| 1. Public Parks | .. | .. | } Where and how to use them. |
| 2. Hotels | .. | .. | |
| 3. Streets | .. | .. | |
| 4. Temples and mosques. | | | |

XL. Some Occupations with which they come into daily contact.—

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| १. तेली. | ४. मंडी. |
| २. दूधवाली. | ५. बजाज, &c. |
| ६. बनियां. | |

XLI. Spare time Activities.—

Pastimes, entertainments, pictures, etc.

The subjects which will be supplemented by demonstration or prac-

ical activities are not exhaustively shown because most of the leaflets can be so supplemented.

This is the broad outline of the scheme. The subjects have not been either exclusively or exhaustively arranged. Obviously if the A.I.W.C. wants to take it up, it will have to ask one or two of its members to take charge of it and work it out in detail and then launch it. The A.I.W.C. will, I think, do well to do so.

Existing women's institutions in a big city should co-operate in this scheme by sending workers to be trained and later by organizing similar work themselves. It must be made clear that such women's institutions will be entirely free to carry on their own line of work. Their co-operation will be sought only for the purposes of this scheme.

N. B.—The *Harijan* numbers dated the 29th October, 5th November and 19th November 1938, contain a very valuable note on the methods adopted for the spread of mass education in China, a perusal of which will be found both interesting and useful.

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APPENDIX I

SUGGESTED GRADES FOR THE TRAINING OF WORKERS.

The General Efficiency Grades are :—

JUNIOR DIVISION

Elementary.—

(These must be prescribed exactly, and in detail).

- (i) Personal Hygiene, *viz* :
- (ii) Games, *viz* :
- (iii) Gardening, *viz* :
- (iv) Needlecraft.

Advanced.—

- (i) Domestic Hygiene (elementary), *viz* :
- (ii) Elementary care of children.
- (iii) Physical exercises, *viz* :

SENIOR DIVISION

Elementary—(Badge).

- (i) First Aid and precautions against sickness.

- (ii) Care of animals.
- (iii) Personal health and exercise.

Intermediate—(Badge).

- (i) A craft—gardening or spinning (elementary).
- (ii) Practical dietetics (suited to local conditions).
- (iii) More advanced needlecraft.
- (iv) General knowledge (practical tests, e. g., how to send telegram, money-order, Savings Bank account, etc).

Advanced—(Badge).

- (i) Social hygiene (including birth-control).
- (ii) Elementary civics (practical).
- (iii) Care of infants, children and nursing mothers.
- (iv) A definite piece of work for Mohalla or village.
- (v) Household management.

There will also be Special Proficiency tests of a more advanced standard in each individual subject. These tests may only be taken by those who have passed the Intermediate Grade of the Senior Division. A member who has passed the Advanced Grade and in addition passes the Special Proficiency tests in two subjects, shall be entitled to a badge—to be decided upon.

APPENDIX II

The suggested Code of Honour is:—

1. **Duty:** to help the Motherland by working for the uplift of her women and children.
2. **Beauty:** to embody the beautiful in my life and my environment.
3. **Health:** to maintain personal purity, improve personal health, and work for hygienic surroundings.
4. **Truth:** to uphold the highest standards of my religion and my conscience.

* * * *

APPENDIX H

THE ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S EDUCATION FUND ASSOCIATION

(As 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 first Delhi session, it recommends this Fund to all those interested in the Development of girl's education along the lines of its Memorandum).

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION

1. The name of the Association is "The All-India Women's Education Fund Association."
2. 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—
 - (a) 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).
 - (b) The institution of propaganda for the education of the women and girls of India.
 - (c) The increase of the supply of better trained teachers, having particular regard to the inclusion of training in domestic subjects.
 - (d) The encouragement of the production of better text-books and attractive and suitable literature in the vernacular.
 - (e) 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.

- (f) 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.
- (3) The purchase or acquisition on lease, or in exchange, or on hire or otherwise, of any real or personal property, and any rights or privileges necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Association.
- (4) The erection, construction, alteration and maintenance of any buildings necessary or convenient for the purpose of the Association.
- (5) The sale, improvement, management and development of all or any part of the property of the Association.
- (6) The promotion and establishment of branches and of other societies or associations with similar objects particularly in the constituent areas of the All-India Women's Conference, and the affiliation or amalgamation of such societies or associations with this Association.
- (7) The doing of all other such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. MEMBERSHIP

1. There shall be the following grades of members of the Association:—

(a) President. (b) Patrons. (c) Vice-Patrons. (d) Life Fellows. (e) Life Members. (f) Members.

2. The President shall be elected at a General Meeting for a period of three years.

3. The Patrons of the Association shall be 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. Members shall be persons who pay an annual subscription of not less than Rs. 5, such subscription shall be due in advance on the 1st November in every year.

6. The Governing Body may elect any person to honorary membership of any grade in recognition of services rendered to 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.

II. GENERAL MEETING

8. (a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held once a year at Delhi at an interval of not less than 10 and not more than 15 months. The Executive Committee, however, shall have power to alter the venue for any special reasons. (Notice of such Annual General Meetings shall be given 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.)

(b) At such Annual General Meeting the report and balance sheet for the past year, and the budget for the next year, shall be presented and an Auditor appointed for auditing the account of the next year. Any other business may be brought forward with the assent of the Chair.

9. (a) An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association may be convened at any time by the President for any purpose connected with the Association and shall be convened on the written requisition of at least 30 members stating the object of such meeting.

(b) At least 18 days' notice shall be given of such meeting, with the agenda to be brought before it, provided that accidental omission to give such notice to any member shall not invalidate any Resolution passed at such meeting, and no business other than that specified in such agenda shall be transacted.

10. (a) All General Meetings of the Association shall be presided over by the President or in her absence by the Chairwoman of the Governing Body, or in absence of both by some other person elected by those present.

(b) All questions shall be decided by the votes of the members present, taken by show of hands, but anyone present may demand a division which shall forthwith be taken and the result declared by the officer presiding.

(c) In case of equality of votes, the officer presiding shall have a second or casting vote.

THE GOVERNING BODY

11. (1) The Governing Body of the Association for the purpose of the Act XXI of 1860 shall consist of the President and 21 members including an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer, all of whom with the exception of the Honorary Treasurer, shall be women.
 - (2) From and after the Annual General Meeting of 1938 the Governing Body shall consist of :—
 - (a) the President, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer.
 - (b) nineteen members of the Association elected triennially as follows :—7 elected by the Association and 12 elected by the Standing Committee of the All-India Women's Conference of whom 2 shall be from Indian States.
 - (3) The members of the Governing Body shall all be members of the Fund Association.
 - (4) Casual vacancies among office holders or members of the Governing Body shall be filled by the Governing Body and any person so chosen shall retain his or her office so long as the vacating member would have retained the same if no vacancy had occurred : In the event of a vacancy or vacancies occurring among those members elected by the Standing Committee of the All India Women's Conference, the Governing Body shall fill it or them from among names submitted to them by the said Standing Committee. 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 3 (three). An absence of 12 months out of India shall constitute a vacancy.
 - (5) The Governing Body shall have power, when necessary, to co-opt persons having expert knowledge in any Branch of 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.
12. The Governing Body shall hold their Annual Meeting on the same day and at the same place as 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 a Vice-Chairwoman who in the absence of the Chairwoman shall conduct her duties and exercise her powers. In the absence of both at any meeting, such meeting may elect its own Chairman from those present. Any vacancies in these offices shall be filled up by the Governing Body.

13. Ordinary meetings of the Governing Body shall be held at such place and time as may be fixed by the Executive Committee. The annual budget and report of the Association shall be considered at one such meeting in each year.

14. An extra-ordinary meeting of the Governing Body may be called at any time by the President or Chairwoman.

15. Upon a requisition in writing made by any five members of the Governing Body stating the object, the President or Chairwoman shall call an extraordinary meeting.

16. Eighteen day's clear notice of any meeting of the Governing Body, specifying the place, day and hour of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted shall be given to every member of the Governing Body by notice sent under postal certificate, provided that the failure to give such notice to any of the members shall not invalidate any resolution at such meeting.

17. At a meeting of the Governing Body six members must be present in person to form a quorum.

18. If no quorum is present within an hour of the time fixed for a meeting of the Governing Body, the meeting shall be held after an interval of 24 hours. If there again be no quorum, only urgent business may be transacted, and at such meeting three members shall form a quorum.

19. In the event of an equality of votes at any meeting, the presiding officer shall have a second or casting vote.

20. (1) The Governing Body shall at their annual meeting elect the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer. They may also appoint an Honorary Assistant Secretary and an Honorary Assistant Treasurer. These shall not, *ex-officio*, be members of the Governing Body but in the event of the absence from any meeting of the Secretary or Treasurer they shall act in their respective offices as members of the Governing Body. Persons holding these offices shall be eligible for re-election. Any vacancies

in these offices occurring during the year shall be filled up by the Governing Body.

(2) All other appointments shall be made by the Executive Committee.

21. The Governing Body, subject to these Rules, shall have general control of the affairs of the Association with authority to make standing orders regulating its own procedure, the procedure of the Executive Committee, and the powers and duties of its officers. In particular it shall provide for a proper record of all proceedings, and for an accurate account of all receipts and payments to be opened to the inspection of the auditor.

22. In addition to the powers and authorities conferred on them either by Statute or Rules of the Association, the Governing Body shall have power to do all such acts as are to be done by the Association, with the exception of those which by these Rules or by Statute are expressly directed to be done by the Association in General Meeting.

IV. COMMITTEES.

23. The Governing Body shall at their annual meeting elect an Executive Committee of eight members besides the office-bearers. Any vacancies in the elected members of the Executive Committee occurring during the year shall be filled by the Executive Committee.

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.

24. The Chairwoman, Vice-Chairwoman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee. The Honorary Secretary shall be ex-officio member of all Sub-Committees (In the absence of either Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer their Assistants, if any, shall act as members of the Executive Committee and any of Sub-Committee.)

25. (1) All matters affecting the finance of the Association shall be

referred to the Executive Committee before being determined by the Governing Body.

- (2) The Executive Committee shall scrutinise the accounts of the Association and shall consider the Report of the Auditor. It shall also prepare the annual budget and submit it through the Governing Body to the General Meeting of the Association.

26. When a Branch of the Association is formed, or any other body having for its objects the purposes for which the Association is established, desires affiliation, the case shall be examined by the Executive Committee before being submitted to the Governing Body, and no such branch shall be recognised or body affiliated without the vote of the Governing Body. It shall be a condition of recognition or affiliation that each such branch or body shall have a regularly constituted committee, and shall pay an annual affiliation fee to be fixed by the Governing Body, and that its accounts be audited by an auditor approved by the Governing Body.

27. Unless otherwise desired by them, branches and affiliated bodies shall remain independent in the administration of their funds and in the conduct of their operations, but they shall furnish to the Governing Body such reports and information as may be required by the Governing Body and shall assist by correspondence and conference in the furtherance of their common objects. The Governing Body shall have power, subject to the Rules to assist branches and affiliated bodies in such manner and to such an extent as it may consider to be conducive to the objects of the Association.

28. The Governing Body shall be at liberty to appoint sub-committees for such purposes and with such powers as they may think proper.

V. GENERAL

29. All moneys at any time standing to the credit of the general account which shall not be required for current expenses, and which the Governing Body shall not determine to transfer to the Building or any other account, shall be invested by the Honorary Treasurer, with approval of the Executive Committee, in securities authorised by law for the investment of trust funds.

30. The Bankers of the Association shall be the Imperial Bank of India and also if necessary the Central Bank of India Ltd.

31. The Executive Committee shall provide a seal and also provide for its safe custody, and the seal shall never be used except by the authority of the Executive Committee previously given and in the presence of two Members of the Executive Committee who shall sign every instrument to which the seal is fixed, and every such instrument shall be countersigned by the

Honorary Secretary or some other person appointed by the Executive Committee.

32. If any corporation, firm, school, college or body of trustees makes any subscription or donation to the Association, the privileges which such subscription or donation carries shall be exercised by a person whom the abovementioned may from time to time nominate for a period not exceeding ten years to be determined by the Governing Body.

33. (1) None of these Rules shall be repealed or altered and no new Rules shall be made except by Resolution passed by majority of not less than three-fifths of the members of the Governing Body present at an ordinary meeting and confirmed by Resolution passed by a subsequent General Meeting of the Association.

(2) Interpretation of these Rules shall be vested entirely in the Governing Body.

* * * *

Bye-Laws for the Election of Members to the Governing Body.

1. The Executive Committee shall conduct all elections to the Governing Body.

2. Every candidate for election to the Governing Body shall be a member of the Association and shall be nominated by a member of the Association. Nomination forms for membership for the Governing Body shall be posted to each member of the Association in such form and at such time as the Executive Committee may think proper. No person can nominate herself or himself.

3. The nomination forms must be returned to the Honorary Secretary of the Association by the date fixed for that purpose accompanied by the consent in writing of the candidate nominated.

4. All nominations shall be scrutinized by the Executive Committee who shall have absolute discretion to reject any nominee. Notice of the names of all candidates so nominated together with voting papers in the form approved by the Executive Committee and instructions as to voting shall be posted to each member of the Association. The voting papers must be returned to the Honorary Secretary in special envelopes provided only for this purpose by the date fixed in the notice.

5. The voting papers shall be opened and scrutinized at a meeting of the Executive Committee or by the Honorary Secretary and two scrutinizers

appointed by the Executive Committee. The votes for candidates will be counted separately and the candidate or candidates, as the case may be, receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of two or more candidates for one vacancy heading the poll with the same number of votes, the chairwoman of the Executive Committee shall exercise a casting vote.

6. The declaration of the Chairwoman of the Executive Committee declaring the candidates elected shall be final, and shall be reported to the Association at the Annual General Meeting. Successful candidates shall be notified immediately of their election.

7. If, during the interval between the posting of the nomination papers and the counting of the votes, a candidate, nominated by a member of the Association, is elected to the Governing Body by the Standing Committee of the All-India Women's Conference her name shall be removed from the voting paper.

8. The Standing Committee of the All-India Women's Conference shall have power to nominate not more than 3 (three) names for each vacancy occurring during any year in the Governing Body among its representatives. In the event of these nominations not being sent in to the Honorary Secretary of the Association within one month of the request for such nominations, the Governing Body shall fill the vacancy or vacancies themselves.

9. In order to simplify elections for office-holders of the Executive Committee nominations for these should be sent in by the members of the Governing Body to the Honorary Secretary at least 3 (three) days before the Annual General Meeting.

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**List of Patrons and Vice-Patrons of the A. I. W. E.
Fund Association**

Patrons—

Lady Dorothy Halifax, (Founder),
His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad,
Her Highness the Maharani of Baroda. (Founder),
Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, (Founder),
Sir Victor Sassoon.
Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji, (Founder).

Vice-Patrons—

His Highness the Maharaja Pateshri Prasad Singh.
His Highness the Maharaja Holkar.

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 Miss 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 Conferences 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 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 the Bethune College (who, we are 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 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 organised 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 Gaekwar of Baroda,—Mrs. Cousins being the first Honorary Organising 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 (Lady Halifax). In addition to reaffirming 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 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. Kamaladevi 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 Commission, 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 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 setback 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, caste, 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 Nilkanth. 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 State 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 Novem-

ber 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 quiet and devoted care and service, as well as in laying of foundation-stones and presiding over public meeting, our Conference would have never grown into the solid organisation that it now is.

8. The Eighth Conference :—

Our Eighth Session was held at Calcutta, Lady Abdul Qadir 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 while 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 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 organisations of other countries and with institutions of international scope including the various organisations 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 even more intensive as it grows extensive. As a whole our Movement gathers force every day from new streams of local enterprise.

9. 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 Fund 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 non-communal 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 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.

10. The Tenth Conference :—

The Tenth Session was held in Trivandrum in December 1935 under the presidentship of Her Highness Setu Parvati Bayi Saheba of Travancore. Her guidance and keen interest in the proceedings of the Conference and in the discussions made this one of the most successful Sessions.

It was the first time that the Conference was held in an Indian State, a State where the percentage of literacy amongst women is higher than in any other part of India, where the purdah system is unknown and where women have equal rights and privileges,—in other words where women's rights are recognised.

An important feature of the year's work was the tremendous increase in the number of constituencies which have taken up village up-lift work in earnest and have already achieved considerable progress. Rural-work, Maternity and Child welfare centres have been organised and systematic course of lectures on sanitation and health arranged.

The Sub-Committee on the Child Marriage Restraint Act did good work during the year. A Bulletin was issued giving the statistics of child marriages in our country. A good deal of propaganda was done during the year through the Press to create public opinion in favour of amending the Sarda Act. It is a matter of pride to note that Mr. B. Das was given permission to introduce a Bill in the Legislative Assembly to amend the Sarda Act and most of his amendments were based on the suggestions made by the Conference.

The immediate necessity for a common language for India was recognised by the Conference. A Sub-Committee was appointed to report on the ways and means that could be adopted for the realisation of this ideal. Another Sub-Committee was appointed for the spread of literacy in the country. It was realised that unless a concerted and intensive campaign against illiteracy is organised, the moral and material progress of the land is bound to be hampered.

The work of the Liaison Group which was appointed for the first time

last year has gone on well during the year. The establishment of this contact with the British women's organisations has been of great service to the Conference. The Group as a whole, worked increasingly to press the demand of the Conference concerning franchise and did their best to educate public opinion in England. The Group also arranged busy programmes for Conference members during their stay in England. This gave them an opportunity of speaking about the Conference. Ample publicity was given in English Newspapers to all they said and did on behalf of the Conference.

The Constituencies had collected funds in the previous year for relief of people in Bihar stricken by the earth-quake; this year also funds were raised in the same way for the Quetta Earthquake Relief. Special mention must be made here of the organised help that was given by the members of Constituencies in Central Punjab, Sind and North West Frontier Province to the refugees in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and other places.

With regard to franchise there was nothing much left to be done. All efforts to alter the qualifications for franchise mentioned in the Government of India Bill were of no avail; repeated demands, representations and statements met with but little success and the Government of India Bill was passed into an Act. A resolution was passed reiterating the disapproval of the Conference of the franchise qualifications but urging on the women to use the powers granted to them by the Act however inadequate they may be.

There was a lively discussion on the question of Birth Control during the proceedings of the Tenth Session. The Conference was fortunate in having Mrs. Sanger, one of the prominent workers in the United States of America, whose vast experience and knowledge was helpful. The Conference passed by a large majority the resolution supporting the necessity for instruction in methods of Birth Control through recognised clinics.

Notable visitors from foreign countries, U. S. A., England, Japan and China were present at this Session. It was a source of great encouragement and inspiration to all. The women's cause is the same all over the world and it gave one an opportunity of exchanging ideas and learning one another's experiences.

The number of Constituencies and members had been increasing during the year. The reports of the work done in the different constituencies show that women are taking a much greater interest in social work. The activities had increased and most constituencies had undertaken practical work in some direction.

11. The Eleventh Conference :—

The Eleventh Session of the A. I. W. C. was held at Ahmedabad in December 1936 under the Presidentship of Mrs. M. E. Cousins. We entered this year into the second decade of our work. It is gratifying to note from the work of the past ten years that the A. I. W. C. has now taken its rightful place as a representative and fully established women's organisation in India. This year more concentration was given to the need for medical inspection in schools and to the opening of Hostels for girls and for the removal of illiteracy by starting even night schools. The year 1936 should be mentioned for the outstanding event of the year, viz., the opening of the State Temples of Travancore to all classes of Hindus by H. H. the Maharaja of Travancore, when H. H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi, his illustrious mother, was our President. A great deal of propaganda work was carried out by our Constituencies by holding meetings and enlisting public support for the Social Bills introduced in the Legislative Assembly—e.g., Dr. Deshmukh's Bill to amend the Hindu Law governing Hindu Women's Right to Property. Mr. B. Das's Bill to amend the Sarda Act in order to make it more stringent, Dr. Bhagwan Das's Bill seeking recognition of inter-caste marriages, and Mr. Hafiz Abdullah's Muslim Personal Law Application Bill,—and to urge their adoption by the Assembly.

Our Constituencies also try to introduce improvements with regard to sanitation, health and education in the villages and this year was also devoted to the uplift of Harijan work, Leper relief, Tuberculosis work, Maternity and child welfare, encouragement of indigenous Industries were also dealt with during the year. The Special feature of this year was the work done by our Franchise Sub-Committee for the enrolment of women voters for the new Legislatures, Municipalities and District Boards. At the request of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, a Memorandum on the political, Legal, Social and Educational Status of Women in India was submitted to the League of Nations and the Government of India. The question of a Central Office to meet the expansion of our work was also considered and a scheme for the same was also prepared. We had this year Special Visitors from England, Australia and other visitors from U. S. A. and Holland who attended the conference.

12. The Twelfth Conference :—

The Twelfth Session of the All-India Women's Conference was held at Nagpur in December 1937 under the Presidentship of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.

The most notable feature of the year 1937 was the inclusion of about 60 women in the Legislatures of the various provinces, which was possible

on account of the facilities given to women to contest elections held under the Government of India Act of 1935. One of these, namely, the Hon'ble Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit was elected to be a Cabinet Minister which shows the gigantic strides made by the women's movement in the country. A few of our women have been elected as Deputy Speakers of various Legislatures and some have been appointed Parliamentary Secretaries.

More constructive work was undertaken by the Branches. The Standing Committee considered the draft curriculum of girls' primary schools in India, and the suggestions made by us were considered helpful by the Educational Commissioner to the Government of India. Some of the Constituencies have started conducting village schools and also other useful village work, such as, adult classes, night schools, etc. A scheme has been prepared by the Convener of the Common Language Sub-Committee, which is expected to be useful for solving the common language problem.

The Standing Committee prepared a programme of legislation for improving the social status of women and the same was forwarded to the Prime Ministers of the new Provincial Governments and to the new women members of the Legislatures. Also brochures dealing with such vital problems as child marriage, birth control, temperance, etc., have been prepared in different vernaculars and forwarded to local committees. Much propaganda was done and meetings were held regarding the legal disabilities of women and resolutions expressing public opinion in the matter were forwarded to proper quarters.

Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee, an ex-Chairwoman of the Standing Committee, was appointed by the Government of India as Indian delegate to the Conference of the Central Authorities of the League of Nations in Eastern Countries for combating traffic in women and children, held at Bandoeng, Java, in February 1937. An excellent report on the women suffrage movement was prepared by Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade, which is expected to educate women on the subject.

Mr. Ekstrand, Director of Opium Traffic and Social Questions Section of the League of Nations, visited India on his way back from Java and gave lectures under the auspices of the A. I. W. C. stressing the work to be done for children suffering from physical and mental congenital defects and some of our Constituencies have started work on the lines suggested by him.

Propaganda against child marriage was vigorously carried on and steps were taken to file complaints and to prosecute cases against offending parents and priests, with some measure of success.

Mrs. Grace Lankester, our Liaison Officer in England, was present at

the Nagpur Session. It is gratifying to note that our Liaison work is getting on satisfactorily. There has been increasing contact with other countries in the world and an invitation was received from British Guiana to attend the Centenary Celebration of the Indian Emigration.

Untouchability work has been pushed ahead, and as a result some Municipalities have thrown open tanks and wells to Harijans. One of our Constituencies is running free Harijan School. Following the example of the Travancore State, some other Indian States have allowed Temple entry to all Hindus. Some members of our Constituencies are paying regular visits to Jails and provincial and State Governments are being urged to take steps to improve the condition of women prisoners, as also to provide suitable occupations for women labourers eliminated from the mines.

Swadeshi Exhibitions were held in many Constituencies and there was a large sale of swadeshi articles exhibited. A directory of swadeshi articles has been prepared. The Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee prepared a Scheme which was forwarded to the Director of Industries in various provinces and states. A Scheme for unregulated industries is in hand.

New Sub-Constituencies have been opened at Bhusawal, Kirloskerwadi, Bijapur, Belgaum, Patan, Mehsana, Visnagar, Navsari, Amreli, Surat, Broach and Rajpipla. This brings the list of sub-constituencies to more than 100. There are now 38 working Constituencies.

The most important development this year was the Resolution tabled at the Session at Nagpur for widening the scope of the Conference by amending Article II of the Constitution so as to enable the Conference to take part in the progressive welfare of the people of India in all directions and not merely in educational and social spheres. To this resolution several amendments were tabled. For want of the necessary four-fifths majority required for changing the Constitution, the question remained undecided. But the discussion showed a keen desire amongst the members to widen the scope of the activities of the conference.



MESSAGES

"Women alone can emancipate themselves—not men. If women will it, they can help in the fulfilment of Ahimsa. Through the Charkha they can serve crores of their poor sisters. By wearing only khadder they can bring help to the homes of the poor. They can bring about Hindu-Muslim unity. They can abolish Purdah. They can drive away the ghost of untouchability. Will the Delhi Conference help in the achievement of any of these changes ?

Mahatma Gandhi.

"I only wish it were possible for me to be in India, and to come to the 13th Session of the All-India Women's Conference, as I should be immensely interested, and it would give me the very greatest pleasure. I should like to send my very best wishes for the success of your deliberations at the Session, and for your future work."

Lady Dorothy Halifax.

"Wish every success to the Conference and the cause for which it stands".

H. H. the Maharani of Baroda.

"My sincerest good wishes, sympathies and Prayers always with you and am one with you."

H. H. Maharani Sucharu Devi of Mayurbhanj.

"Wish Conference Success."

The Dowager Rani Lalita Kumari of Vizianagaram.

"May glorious success attend."

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi.

"Regret inability to attend wish Conference success."

Lady Vidyagouri Nilkanth.

"My earnest prayer is that this Conference may achieve something good and great."

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji.

"Regret my inability to be present but send my heartiest greetings and good wishes to the Conference."

H. H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi of Travancore.

"May I ask you to accept my very warm wishes for the success of the Conference? I believe, that the All-India Women's Conference is doing a work of inestimable value for this and for future generations and it must

have the ardent support of all people of good will. May God bless and prosper it."

Sir Maurice Gwyer, Chief Justice of India.

"Send greetings to the All-India Women's Conference and wish them success in their deliberations. In this fear-tormented world, the thought of India, India's great leader, the Mahatma and India's women is a light and a leading to all people of goodwill. God be with you."

Dr. Maude Royden.

"With every good wish for the success of your Conference."

Miss Muriel Lester.

"My very best wishes for the Conference."

Heddy Fulop-Miller, Vienna.

"May I take the opportunity of wishing the Conference every success."

Sir Girija Shanker Bajpai.

"Personal greeting and best wishes from the World's Y. W. C. A. for a successful Conference."

Miss Ruth Woodsmall, Secretary.

"Please convey personal greetings Conference."

Dr. Georgina Sweet, Australia.

"Please convey my blessings to Rani Rajwade and accept my good wishes for a most successful Women's Conference."

Lady Yeshodabai Joshi.

"Greetings and good wishes for a very successful Conference."

Lady Mirza Ismail.

"Delhi Provincial Council of Women welcome the Delegates of the All-India Women's Conference and send them their hearty greetings and wish them success in all their undertakings."

Lady Glancy, President.

"Wish Conference all success."

Mr. Bhulabhai Desai.

"My sincerest thoughts and good wishes will be with you in all your undertakings. I am entirely in agreement with women that the present structure of society is wholly unsatisfactory, and particularly in India women have yet to make a fuller contribution towards the progress of the country. I also recognise that no one should be subjected by society to any kind of disability merely on account of 'sex'. Women

alone have the right to determine the proper sphere of their activity and to enumerate their demands. It is for them to point out to men where they have gone wrong and it is for men so to adjust the existing relationship as to bring about the greatest common measure of agreement on all matters of vital importance."

Mr. Asaf Ali

"Best wishes for successful Conference."

Mr. Shumshersingh.

"The Indian ladies residing in Japan desire to convey their kind thoughts and good wishes for the successful conclusion of the session of the All-India Women's Conference to be held at Delhi in December 1938, and assure their sisters in India that their compatriots in Japan would always be willing to extend a helping hand in any constructive work that may be undertaken for the welfare of Indian Women."

Koolsum P. M. Master,

President, The Hindi Stri Mandal, Kobe (Japan).

"Central Conference Methodist Episcopal Church meeting Hyderabad Deccan extend best wishes and appreciation of splendid work you are doing for women and children of India."

Miss W. Dye, Secretary.

"Women Delegates at the International Missionary Council Representing many countries send greetings to All-India Women's Conference recognising the significance of your movement for the women of India."

Baroness E. Van Boetzelaer.

"The British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom sends its warm greetings to delegates of the All-India Women's Conference, assembled in Annual Session. It rejoices in the knowledge that Indian women are at this time standing on a common front with the women of other lands for the defence of liberty and justice and for the peaceful solution of world problems."

Mrs. K. E. Innes, Hon. Secretary.

"Our wish is that your deliberations will be blessed beyond all expectation."

Mrs. B. M. Rischbieth, O.B.E. J.P.

President, Australian Federation of Women Voters

"I regret my inability to be present on the occasion. I wish the Conference every success."

Mrs. Hansa Mehta.

"Best wishes for successful Conference. Greetings to friends. Regret inability to attend."

Miss Jean Begg, National Y. W. C. A.

"Please convey our hearty congratulations to our Comrade sisters of all communities assembled under the banner of A. I. W. C. at Delhi. We wish you success."

Maneckbehen L. Mehta,

President, Gujarati Mahila Mandal, Karachi.

"My greetings to all my sisters. I do hope under the guidance of Rani-sahab Rajwade, the Women's Conference will thrive and instruct the coming generations the love of our kins, the constant struggle for a higher state of national morality, a better adjustment and greater equality among all peoples. We are aiming for Peace and we should join hands without European women and show to the World that we stand united for the defence of Peace and Freedom."

Mrs. Uma Nehru, M. L. A. (U. P.).

"Best wishes for success of the Conference. Grasp the spirit and success is assured."

Capt. Raosaheb Patay, Gwalior.

"Wish every success."

Mrs. Annapurnabai Deshmukh, M. L. A. Bombay.

"I wish all success to the Conference."

Miss Mira Datta Gupta, M. L. A. (Bengal).

"Regret cannot attend owing ill health. Wish success."

Mrs. Hemaprobha Majumdar, M. L. A. (Bengal).

"Wish your Conference every success."

Mr. and Mrs. Khandke of Baheri.

"Please convey congratulations to President and Good wishes for successful Conference."

Mr. Joshi, Bar-at-Law, Amraoti.

"I heartily wish success to your Conference."

Dr. N. Lakshmidēvi, M. L. A. (Madras).

"I wish this session of the All-India Women's Conference the success it deserves."

Mrs. Hasina Murshed, M. L. A. (Bengal).

"Regret unavoidably detained. Best wishes Conference."

Shrimati Padmavati Rao, Benares.

"Regret absence. Wish success."

Shrimati Gangaben Patel, Bombay.

"Congratulations; wish Conference success."

Mrs. Umabai Muley, Nasik City.

"Sincere wishes successful Conference."

Mr. Thompson, Tumkur.

"Greet Conference success. India's Redemption ultimately rests with mothers wives sisters. Forge reforms suitable our culture. Purge bigotry. Help establish revitalized Indians abreast other nations. Godspeed."

Mr. Charry, Trivandrum.

"Though broken-hearted still I pray for the Conference success."

Sugra Humayun, Hyderabad (Dn.).

"Wish Conference every success."

Mrs. Jalu R. Vakharia, Ahmedabad.

"I wish the Conference great success."

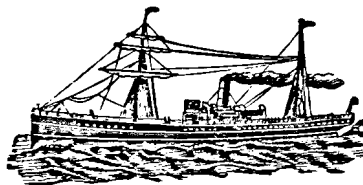
Miss Z. Lazarus, Tumkur.

"Regret deeply inability attend due illness wish Delhi Session Conference every success."

Mrs. Renuka Ray, Liaison Officer.

"Good wishes for a very successful Conference."

Mrs. Manikbai Bhide, Amraoti.



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