

All - India
Women's Conference

ELEVENTH SESSION



AHMEDABAD
December 23 to 27, 1936.



**Mrs. Margaret E. Cousins,
President, All India Women's Conference, 1936.**

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All-India Women's Conference

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AHMEDABAD
December 23 to 27, 1936.

Printed by S. R. Vasavada at the *Majoor Mudranalaya*, Cheekanta Road
Ahmedabad.

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PATRONESSES
of the
ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

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

**OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE
ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, 1937**

President

Mrs. M. E. Cousins, The Krishna Cottage, Madanapalle, S. India.

Vice-Presidents

Rani Lakshuibai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I.

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

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City, Punjab.

Begum Hamid Ali, C/o. Mrs. Abbas Tyabji, Camp, Baroda.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Khambatta Hall, 16, Almont Road, Bombay.

Mrs. Sharada Mehta, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad.

Chairwoman

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

Hon. Organising Secretary

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

Educational Section Secretary

Miss Z. Lazarus, Tumkur, Mysore State.

Social Section Secretary

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

Hon. Treasurer

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

Lisiam Officer

Mrs. S. N. Ray, Magistrate's House, Comilla, Bengal.

Conveners of Sub-Committees

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

Constitution—Miss Leilamani Naidu, The Golden Threshold, Hyderabad (Deccan).

Literacy—Miss R. Reuben, Chembur, Bombay (Suburban Dist.)

Common Language—Miss D. B. Hassan, Latif Manzil, Panipat, Punjab.

Vocational—Miss S. Pandit, Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Baroda.

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

Anti-Child Marriage—Mrs. Sarojini Mehta, 6, Tanjira Chambers, Wodehouse
Road, Bombay.

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

Indigenous Industries—Mrs. Jayashri Raiji, 68, Nepeansea Road, Bombay.

Rural Reconstruction—Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City, Punjab.

Harijan—Mrs. Brijlal Nehru, 15, Tughalak Road, New Delhi.

Opium & other Narcotic Drugs—Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, 1, Badsha Bagh,
Lucknow.

Special Committee on Legal Disabilities—Mrs. S. N. Ray, Magistrate's House,
Comilla, Bengal.

Legislation—Mrs. Asaf Ali, Cucha Chelan, Daryagunge, Delhi.

Franchise—Rani Lakshuibai Rajwade, Gwalior, C. I.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Ajmer*—Mrs. L. F. Massey, C/o. F. Massey, Esq. Asst. Engineer,
B. B. & C. I. Ry., Ajmer.
- Andhra*—Mrs. M. Kamamma, Masulipatam, Kistna Dist.
- Assam*—Mrs. Rajabala Das, C/o. Dr. J. Das, M. B., Panbazar, Gauhati.
- Shillong*—Mrs. S. Desai, Lake-side, Shillong.
- Bengal East*—Mrs. Sujata Ray, The Chummery, Ramna, Dacca.
- Bengal West*—Mrs. R. N. Tagore, Shantiniketan, Bengal.
- Berar*—Mrs. Sarojini Inamdar, C/o. N. L. Inamdar, Esq., Khaparde Gardens,
Amraoti.
- Bihar*—Mrs. A. T. Sen, C/o. A. Sen, Esq. Bar-at-Law, Patna.
- Bombay*—Mrs. Urmila Mehta, 15th Khar Road, Bombay.
- Calcutta*—Mrs. S. C. Mazumder, 104, Russa Road, South, Tollygunge, Calcutta.
- C. P. North*—Mrs. H. I. Ahmed, C/o. Khan Saheb S. I. Ahmed, City Magistrate,
Jubbulpore, C. I.
- C. P. South*—Mrs. Ramabai Tambe, near Maharajabagh Club, Maharajabagh
Road, Nagpur.
- Delhi*—Miss J. Zutshi, M. A. 15, Tughalak Road, New Delhi.
- Gujarat*—Mrs. J. R. Vakharia, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad.
- Konkan*—Mrs. S. B. Bhaskare, Mission Bungalow, Alibagh, Dt. Kolaba.
- Madras*—Miss Sita Devadoss, Silvery Lodge, Mylapore, Madras.
- Maharashtra*—Mrs. Yesubai Kulkarni, 536, Shanwar, Poona.
- Malabar*—Miss K. E. Sharada, Chalapuram, Calicut (S. Malabar).
- N. W. F. P.*—Mrs. Kazi Mir Ahmed, Ahmed Manzil, Peshawar Cantt.
- Orissa*—Miss S. B. Das, Madhu Smriti, Cuttack.
- Punjab Central*—Miss Premwati Thapar, 1A, Golf Road, Lahore.
- Punjab East*—Mrs. P. L. Sondhi, Dilkhusha, Jullundur, Punjab.
- Sind*—Dr. Mrs. K. Tarabai, Bunder Road, Karachi.
- Tamil Nadu*—Mrs. A. G. Gomathinathan, Ganapathivilas, Koilpatti, S. I. Ry.
- U. P. Agra*—Mrs. Sheila Dhar, 3, Beli Road, Allahabad.
- U. P. Oudh*—Begum Aizaz Rasul, Jalalpur Estate, Sandila, U. P.

INDIAN STATES

- Baroda*—Mrs. Premlila Mehta, C/o. Supdt., R. M. S., Baroda.
- Bikaner*—
- Cochin*—Miss C. Thankam, Asstt. Professor, Maharaja's College, Ernakulam.
- Gwalior*—Mrs. Chandrakala Sahai, 10, J. A. Hospital, Lashker, Gwalior C. I.
- Hyderabad (Dn.)*—Mrs. C. Cornelius, Asaf Zahi Road, Hyderabad (Deccan).
- Indore*—Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta, 19, Yashvant Nivas Road, Indore.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

3

Jaiipur—

*Kolhapur—*Miss S. K. Ghorpade, Laxmipuri, Kolhapur State.

Kashmir—

Kotah—

*Mysore—*Mrs. Mandyam, 114, Visweswarapuram. Bangalore City.

*Sangli—*Mrs. Sumatibai, Gokhale, New Extension, Sangli.

*Travancore—*Miss K. Easwari Amma, Lecturer, Arts College, Trivandrum.

*N. C. W. I. co-opted member—*Mrs. Keron Bose, 14, Palm Avenue, Ballygunge,
Calcutta.

*W. I. A. co-opted member—*Dr. Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi, Everest, Katchery
Road, Mylapore, Madras.

*All-India Women's Education Fund Association Co-opted Member—*Hony. Secre-
tary, Mrs. Sewa Singh Gill, 6, Jantar Mantar Road, New Delhi.

*Liaison Officer in England—*Mrs. Grace Lankester, 62, Plough Lane, Purley,
Surrey, England.

LIST OF DELEGATES, AHMEDABAD 1936

Baroda

Mrs. Gangubai Patwardhan.
Dr. Mrs. Patel.
Miss S. Pandit.
Mrs. J. Desai.
Mrs. A. Acharya.
Mrs. Kumud Thakore.
Mrs. Sarala Mehta.
Mrs. Goolbai Wadia
Mrs. Premlila Mehta.
Dr. Miss G. H. Limaye

Bengal East

Mrs. S. N. Ray.

Berar

Mrs. R. Abhyankar.
.. Sarojini Inamdar.

Bombay

Miss Amy Rustomji.
Miss Shanta Bhalerao.
Mrs. Ramdas.
Miss K. Bharda.
Mrs. R. Massani.
Mrs. G. R. Billimoria.
.. Urmila Mehta.
.. Daphtary.
.. Gangaben Patel.
.. N. M. Raiji.
.. Bachuben Thackeray.
.. Hansa Mehta.
Miss R. Reuben
Dr. Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankar.

Calcutta

Mrs. S. C. Roy.
.. Maya Bose.
Miss Dolly Basu.
.. Jean Begg.

Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee.
.. Saudamini Mehta.

C. P. North

Miss M. Chandekar.

C. P. South

Mrs. B. Abhyankar.
.. Kedar.
.. Jatar
.. Gokhale.

Cochin

Miss C. Thankam.
Mrs. M. C. George.
.. Menon.

Delhi

Mrs. Gadudia.
Miss J. E. Copeland.
Mrs. Nalini Krishna Rau.
Dr. Miss B. Natarajan.

Gujarat

Miss Sagarika Mehta.
Miss S. Paul.
Mrs. Promoda Desai.
.. Shantaben Yodh.
.. Sharada Mehta.
Miss Savitaben Trivedi.
Mrs. Indumati Divan.
.. Manorama Chinubhai.
.. Tanumoti Chinubhai.
.. J. R. Vakharia.
.. Shirin Mehta.
.. Sarojini Mehta.
Miss Fatima Mansuri.
Mrs. Bhandarkar.
Dr. Miss Madora.
Mrs. Yodh.
Miss Nergish Kavina.
Mrs. Chandrika Pathak

LIST OF DELEGATES

5

Mrs. Pagar.
Mrs. Dina Asana.
Hyderabad (Deccan)
Miss Bharucha.
Miss Sughra Syed.
Miss Leilamani Naidu.
Miss Tarabai Mehta.
Gwalior
Mrs. Patlibai Jal Bharucha
Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade
Mrs. Indumati Raja Rajwade
.. Indrabai Bhagwat
.. Sharadabai Bhagwat
Indore
Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta
Miss Wagli
Dr. Miss Motibai Thanevalla
Mrs. Gandhye
Miss I. N. Bhagavat
Kolhapur
Miss Huzurabazar
.. S. K. Ghorpade
.. Harolikor
Madras
Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan
Miss Sita Devadoss
Mrs. Thivy.
Maharashtra
Mrs. Yesubai Kulkarni
.. Bhajekar
.. Mehendale
.. Patwardhan
.. Shevde
.. Bapat
.. Godbole
Miss Mustaffa Khan
Begum Hamid Ali.
Malabar
Miss K. E. Sharda

Miss Thomas
Mysore
Mrs. Mandyam
.. Ramanna
.. R. Janakamma
.. Kalappa
Miss Z. Lazarus
N. W. F. P.
Mrs. Kazi Mir Ahmed
Miss K. B. Ferozuddin
Punjab Central
Mrs. Mangla Desai
Miss Kamala Sahgil
Punjab East
Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
Miss D. B. Hassan
Sangli
Mrs. Sumatibai Gokhale
.. Sathye
Sind
Miss Chandurbhan
Miss Homai Sethna
Travancore
Miss K. Easwari Amma
Miss Rebecca Thomas
Mrs. G. Menon
Mrs. Tampi
.. Asan
.. Gourikutty.
Miss G. Prakashan
.. Parvathi Amma
.. K. Sharda Amma
U. P. Agra
Mrs. A. S. Nath
Miss Telang
Mrs. Rama Rao
Miss Premlata Mehta
Mrs. Agnes Shaw.
U. P. Oudh
Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon

Programme

of the
**Eleventh All-India Women's Conference on
 Educational and Social Reform**
 AHMEDABAD-1936

DATE	EVENT	TIME
<i>Sunday</i>		
20-12-36.	Arrival of Standing and Subjects Committee Members.	
21-12-36.	Arrival of Standing and Subjects Committee Members.	
<i>Monday</i>		
	Standing and Subjects Committee Meeting at Delegates' Camp.	9 a. m.
	Lunch	12 Noon to 1 p. m.
	Standing and Subjects Committee Meeting-Delegates' Camp	1-15 to 4 p. m.
	Tea	4-30 p. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting	6 to 8 p. m.
	Dinner	8-30 p. m.
22-12-36.	Standing and Subjects Committee meeting-Delegates' Camp	8-30 a. m. to 12 Noon
<i>Tuesday</i>		
	Lunch	12 Noon to 1 p. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting	1-15 to 4 p. m.
	Tea	4-15 p. m.
	Opening of the Exhibition-George V Hall, The Gujarat College	5 p. m.
	Standing Committee Meeting	6 to 8 p. m.
	Dinner	8-30 p. m.
	Arrival of Delegates	
23-12-36	Arrival of Delegates	
<i>Wednesday</i>		
	Registration of Delegates and Distribution of Conference Papers-Delegates' Camp	8-30 to 11-30 a. m.
	Governing Body meeting of the A. I. W. F. Fund Association-Delegates' Camp	10 a. m.
	Lunch	12 Noon to 1p. m.
	Visit to Institutions-Deaf and Dumb School, Jyoti Sangh and Sharda Mandir etc.	1-30 to 3 p. m.
	Tea	3-15 to 3-30 p.m.
	Opening Session of the Conference at Pritamnagar Municipal School Compound	4 p. m.
	Reception to the Conference by the women's institutions of Ahmedabad at Pritamnagar (for Delegates and Reception Committee Members).	6-30 p. m.

PROGRAMME

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	Reception by the Municipality (for Delegates only)	7 p. m.
	Dinner	8 p. m.
24-12-36	1st sitting (Reading and Ratification of Reports)	8-30 a. m. to 12
Thursday	Lunch	12-15 to 1 p. m.
	2nd Sitting (Educational Resolutions)	1 to 5 p. m.
	Tea	5-15 p. m.
	Dinner	7-15 to 8 p. m.
	A. I. W. C. Entertainment (by tickets only)	8-30 p. m.
25-12-36	Excursion	9 to 10-30 a. m.
Friday	Third Sitting (Educational and Social Resolutions)	10-30 a. m. 12-30
	Lunch	1 p. m.
	4th Sitting (Social Resolutions)	2 to 4-30 p. m.
	Party (for Delegates only)	5 p. m.
	Dinner	7-30 to 8-15 a. m.
	Entertainment by Sharda Mandir	8-30 p. m.
26-12-36	Group Photo	8 a. m.
Saturday	5th Sitting (Social and Labour Resolutions)	9-10-30 a. m.
	Polling of office-bearers	10-30 a. m. 12
	Lunch	12-30 p. m.
	6th and final Sitting (Work for the Ensuing year-Election results-Vote of thanks).	1-30 to 4 p. M.
	Picnic at Victoria Gardens (Delegates and Reception Committee Members).	5. p. m.
	Dinner	8 p. m.
	Departure of Delegates	
27-12-36	Departure of Delegates	
Saturday	Standing Committee meeting	9 a. m.-12
	Lunch	12-30 p. m.
	Standing Committee meeting	2 to 4-30 p. m.
	Tea and Sight-seeing	4-45 p. m.
	Dinner	7-30 p. m.
	Departure of Standing Committee Members and Office bearers	
28-12-36	Departure of Standing Committee Members	
Monday	and Office bearers	

All Standing Committee Meetings will be held at the Delegates' Camp. All Delegates, Standing Committee Members and Visitors will be admitted by Badge.

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

Children will not be admitted.

The All-India Women's Conference Exhibition will be open from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. Daily.

There will be Exhibits from Constituencies.

OPENING SONG

આવો વનવનની વિહંગણીઓ રે
 ચાલો અમૃતની અટારીએ
 ઉઘડયાં આકાશ અને ઉઘડી છે ખારીઓ
 હસતી ઉષા ઉડાડે રંગની કુવારીઓ
 ક્યારીઓ ખીલી છે ખુલ્લી આગે આગે—ચાલો
 ધુટે છે કંઠ મીઠો ફોડ ભરી કોકિલા
 લુટે મધમાખ પેલાં ફુલ ખધાં રંગીલાં
 મોરલા પોકારતા છે આગે આગે—ચાલો
 આંખો ખુલી છે અને પાંખો ફરકતી
 અંતરમાં નવલેરી આશા મરકતી
 મરતી કાયામાં પ્રાણ ભગે ભગે—ચાલો
 જગની જગદંબા ભગ, કાયાનો કંપ ત્યાગ
 કાલી ખનીને કોષ, જીવમના જંબ લોષ
 ધરતીને રંગ નવા રંગે રંગે—ચાલો

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Come, O ye birds, from innumerable forests,
 Come to the Kingdom of Eternal Life
 The windows of the skies are opening one by one
 And the laughing Dawn comes dancing with
 Her troupe of countless colours.
 The flower beds are blossoming in every garden
 O, come to the Kingdom of Eternal Life !
 The sweet throated cuckoo, filled with an infinite
 Longing, iterating her familiar notes.
 The bees are leisurely stealing the honey from the
 multi-coloured flowers.
 And the peacock cries out 'O, do not delay.'
 O, come to the Kingdom of Eternal Life !
 Your eyes are alight and your wings aquivering.
 In your heart fresh hope is gently breaking.
 Rekindling the dying embers of the soul.
 O, come to the Kingdom of Eternal life !
 Mother of the Universe, awake ! and shake off the weaknesses,
 Born with the wrath of kali & efface the ruthless tormentors.
 Suffuse the world with the deep rich colours of Love.
 O, come to the Kingdom of Eternal Life !

Opening Day's Proceedings

The Eleventh Session of the All-India Women's Conference opened on the afternoon of Wednesday the 23rd December 1936, at Pritamnagar in Ahmedabad. The function was held in a beautifully decorated 'Pandal' which was filled to overflowing, more than two thousand people being present. The presence of such a large gathering indicated the enthusiasm and interest of the people of Gujarat in the women's movement. Prominent among the visitors present were, the Rani Saheba of Phaltan, the Yuvarani of Gondal, Sir and Lady Chinubhai, Mrs. Ambalal Sarabhai, Shrimati Anasuyaben, Sheth Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr. Hamid Ali, Principal Anandshanker Dhruva, Sir M. I. Kadri, Dr. Sumant Mehta and others. The distinguished visitors from overseas were, Miss Agatha Harrison from England, Dr. Georgina Sweet from Australia, Lady Procter (England), Mrs. De Mel (Ceylon), Miss Van Asch van Wiyjck (Holland), Miss Woodsmall (U. S. A.) and others.

Mrs. M. E. Cousins, the President-elect, on arrival, was received by the Chairwomen and members of the Reception and Standing Committees, and was conducted to the dais.

After an invocation sung in Gujarati by some of the younger members of the Reception Committee, Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee, the Chairwoman of the Standing Committee, rose to propose the President-elect to the Chair, with the following words :

It is with genuine feeling of pleasure and pride that I propose Mrs. Cousins to the Chair. It is a great honour for the All-India Women's Conference to have at its Eleventh Session, one who has not only shown her devotion to our country by life-long dedication of service, but who has been so largely instrumental in initiating and helping towards the development of our organisation. When we look back to that first session at Poona, where with unwavering courage and enthusiasm, the women of India met to deliberate on educational problems, none of us was able to foresee the rapid strides with which this Conference was to grow and to play so important a part in the life of our nation. This was made possible because from its very inception the Conference has remained intrinsically our own, so entirely indigenous in its outlook and so broad in its vision as to include people of diverse shades of thought. That Mrs. Cousins has been able to identify herself

so unreservedly with us is but further testimony to her understanding and appreciation of the aspirations and problems of Indian women. Therefore, I am sure, you will whole-heartedly join me in offering Mrs. Cousins the supreme tribute of regarding her as entirely one of ourselves.

Mrs. Cousins is well-known as a writer and a speaker not only to the Indian public but also abroad. To us who have so often been guided and encouraged by her words in the past, the eloquent wisdom of her Presidential Address will we feel sure, help to sustain and strengthen that indivisible unity of Indian womanhood of which we are so justly proud. We are proud of the unique position the All-India women's Conference holds in India to-day, because transcending all individual differences of opinion, particularly those of a political or religious nature, the women of India have been able to cooperate in making their practical contribution to India's progress.

Mrs. Cousins, we are confident that under your able guidance our Conference will continue its valuable work with dignity and success. So, on behalf of the Conference I have the privilege of inviting you to take the chair.

Begum Hamid Ali seconded the proposal and said :

I have great pleasure in seconding the proposal of Mrs. Mukerjee. Mrs. Cousins will do us honour by taking the Chair. We are delighted to have her here as our President and guide for the next year. She has proved worthy of being nominated as our President, not only by her writings and music, but by inspiring us to take part in the work for political franchise, the betterment of womanhood and everything that tends to the progress of womanhood of India. Her work is well-known in connection with pushing forward legislation for preventing child marriage etc., and doing away with social and legal disabilities for women. I welcome Mrs. Margaret Cousins, on behalf of you and invite her to take the chair.

Mrs. M. E. Cousins then took the chair amidst cheers and was garlanded.



**Lady Vidyagauri Nilkanth,
Chairwoman, Reception Committee, Ahmedabad.**

WELCOME ADDRESS

BY

LADY V. R. NILKANTH

Chairwoman Reception Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Chairwoman of the Reception Committee of the All India Women's Conference, it is my proud privilege to welcome all the office bearers and delegates to this Conference which is holding its 11th Session in this historic City. No words are adequate to express our great joy in seeing you gathered among us. The *Shesha Naga* of our *Puranas* had a thousand tongues which I do not possess, but I have the honour and privilege to represent the thousand ladies who have joined our Reception Committee and on their behalf I extend to you all, our warmest welcome. Ahmedabad is very fortunate in having Mrs. Margaret Cousins as the President of the Conference and we give her our sincerest greetings. Perhaps it is not known to many of us that she was the originator of the idea of a Women's Conference. It was through her rare foresight that a beginning was made in 1927, with a small band of tried workers, to unite the women workers of India. Perhaps she never dreamt that the little seed sown by her would grow so soon into such a large and umbrageous tree. Apart from this, we bow to Mrs. Cousins in respect and admiration for her great courage of conviction, for the unostentatious and silent work she has been doing, and for the sacrifices she has made for our country, which, though herself a daughter of Erin, she has adopted as her own.

Two years back we had invited the Conference to Ahmedabad, but owing to the severe epidemic of Meningitis prevailing in the city the idea had to be abandoned. The Gujarat Constituency of the All India Women's Conference had given up hopes of getting another chance, for Karachi next extended its invitation to hold the Conference in that city. After the Trivandrum Conference in the Christmas of 1935, our Constituency considered the question of renewing our previous request and to our great delight and satisfaction it was accepted. As a result Ahmedabad has the opportunity to witness today this gathering of enthusiastic and untiring workers in the cause of womanhood.

It may be, and has been asked what good results from such Conferences? Our humble answer is that, as in the case of the individual, the nation has to deliberate before it begins to act. In order that action may result in achieving its desired end the best of thought should be given to it. The best brains in the country should be consulted and this cannot be done unless those who have the same object in view, meet and discuss the ways and means to attain their goal. Throughout the length and breadth of the country there are hundreds of institutions silently working for the same object viz. the uplift of women in the educational and social spheres. It is very necessary to co-ordinate them, to compare the different methods of working and to give guidance where needed. This can only be done by bringing the workers of these institutions together and by considering the reports of what they are doing. In this way a properly guided and uniform policy can be adopted and waste of energy avoided. The exchange of views and the knowledge of examples for emulation are no small advantages of these conferences. For doing useful work Conferences are essential and this is proved by the existence of similar bodies all the world over.

The All India Women's Conference in its short existence, has attained a status of its own, and as is well known, it is considered an authority in many matters pertaining to women's cause. This we have tried to bring home to the people of Gujarat by the tours conducted by our propaganda Committee in the districts of Gujarat and Kathiawad. The members of this Committee, I am glad to say, succeeded in enlisting the sympathy of numbers of women wherever they went. They saw also the great awakening that had come among the women. They found that at all places enthusiastic women workers were conducting sewing classes, physical cultural classes and classes for the removal of illiteracy and others according to the facilities and needs of each place. They were struck by their spirit of sacrifice and the keen desire of these workers to do all they could to improve the lot of women. At the same time they saw that much still remained to be done. The appalling illiteracy, poverty and absence of sanitation brought tears to their eyes. Their experience has put zest in the members of our Reception Committee to continue their work for the amelioration of women.

Ladies and gentlemen, the exacting work of organising an All India Conference was realised when we set to do it. It required help from all our members and I have great pleasure in saying that every one of them has risen to the occasion and done everything in her power to make it a success. Still we know our shortcomings. I hope my friends who have come here from great distances to help this good cause will forgive us for any inconvenience they might have to put up with. Those who have undertaken similar gatherings in the past, will realise our difficulties and look upon us with forbearance.

I take this opportunity of expressing our heartfelt thanks to those who have helped us in different ways, especially those who are outside our body. The owners of several Bungalows in Parimal Society and outside, who have most willingly given the use of their houses for accommodating the delegates, deserve our sincere thanks. To the municipal school board which has lent its school building for the use of our Reception committee members, and to owners of houses in Pritamnagar for allowing their bungalows for the same purpose, our thanks are due. We express our thanks to the Ahmedabad Municipality for every help rendered. There are many institutions and private ladies and gentlemen who have helped us in various ways to whom we are also grateful. They are too numerous to be named individually. Principal Findlay Shiras of the Gujarat College has allowed us the use of George V Hall and of the College Building for our exhibition and his kindness has helped to solve many of our difficulties for which we thank him profusely.

Unlike Trivandrum, the visitors to Ahmedabad will find it a place not gifted with natural scenery and beauty. This city is wellknown for its Mahomedan architecture of the midaeval period. At present its reputation stands on the textile industry in which it is considered the second city in the whole of India. Though chiefly an industrial city it can boast of many philanthropic and educational institutions. Mahatma Gandhi's residence here for fifteen years and more has made its name famous in many countries outside India.

To Miss Agatha Harrison and our other Special Visitors we accord a very warm and cordial welcome. Their presence in our midst is very inspiring. To those visitors who have also travelled from far-off countries and honoured us by their presence, we also extend our sincere greeting.

Though we may have not much to offer you by way of beautiful sights, though our hospitality may not be adequate, I assure you our hearts are full of the greatest regard for you. We thank you one and all for setting aside racial, religious, communal, and political differences and assembling here for the sacred cause - the uplift of Indian Women.

MESSAGES FROM FAR AND NEAR

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

Mahatma Gandhiji
H. H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi of Travancore.
Mrs. Sarojini Naidu
H. H. the Rani Saheba of Bhavnagar
H. H. the Maharani of Baroda
H. H. Maharani Sucharu Devi of Mayurbhanj
Lady Mirza Ismail
Lady Abdul Quadir
Maharani Lalita Kumari of Vizianagram
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
Mrs. Brijlal Nehru
Mr. M. R. Jayakar
H. H. the First Princess of Hyderabad
Dr. Mathulakshmi Reddi
Dr. Cousins
Dewan Bahadur Harbilas Sarda
Maharani Saheb of Porbunder
Maharani Saheb of Palitana
Darbar Saheb of Vadia
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
Maharani Saheb of Navanagar
The Liaison Group in England
The National Council of Women in India
The National Y. W. C. A. of India
The Women's Advisory Council on Indian Questions of Great Britain
The British Common Wealth League

The President then asked Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan, Hon. Organising Secretary, to read her Annual Report.

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

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HON. ORGANISING SECRETARY

Today, when we are entering the second decade of the history of the All India Women's Conference, it is only fitting that we should celebrate it here in Ahmedabad, the home of Mahatma Gandhi who has played so singularly great a part in bringing women of India to a realisation of their responsibilities and duties in public life. We have every reason to feel proud that we hold our Annual Session here amongst the women of Gujarat who have shown such unfailing courage and undimmed enthusiasm in the struggle for national regeneration.

Reviewing the work of the past ten years it can be said that the All-India women's Conference has now taken its rightful place as a representative and fully established women's organisation in India. During these ten years the efforts of those who pioneered the cause have been crowned with greater success than they could have anticipated. Year after year the Conference brings women of different parts of India of all classes and of all shades of opinion together to deliberate on problems which affect their common welfare. There is a fundamental unity among these women who are endeavouring to take their full and legitimate share of responsibilities in the work for the real progress of their country.

WORK OF THE CONSTITUENCIES DURING THE YEAR

I. Educational

In reporting the work of the year we find that much practical work is being done by the Constituencies in Educational and Social advancement. Through the efforts of some of our members, medical inspection in schools has been made compulsory in various places. In others, our members have opened adult classes, delivered and arranged lectures on subjects of interest to women and started handicraft and industrial classes. The interest in debating societies is keenly kept up in certain constituencies, and others have also started such societies in the year under report. It is realised that at the

present time when women are on the eve of entering the legislatures such opportunities of debate serve as extremely good training ground for their future work.

Every effort is being made by many of the Constituencies to meet a greatly-felt need - Hostels for girl students, and women workers living away from their homes. Following the lead given by Hyderabad (Deccan) and Baroda, Assam has opened a temporary Hostel to start with, which, it is sincerely hoped, will have sufficient public support to establish itself as a permanent and well-run institution very soon.

Side by side with opening of Hostels, the attention of several of our Constituencies this year has been particularly drawn towards the removal of illiteracy; members have started adult and night schools and in some places are trying experiments with quickest methods of making the illiterate literate. Hyderabad (Deccan) and Mysore are to be specially mentioned for the growing number of schools opened through the efforts of our Constituencies. In Dacca also they are running four Primary schools and four Industrial classes for adult education successfully. We are pleased that some of our constituencies have been instrumental in getting District Boards to apply the compulsory primary Education in their respective areas. Let us hope, similar agitation will be carried by other Constituencies and will meet with success.

The necessity for physical culture as a part of educational progress is being more and more realised. The step taken by Baroda State in making physical training compulsory in schools is to be greatly appreciated as also the successful efforts of some of our Constituencies in this direction.

The Lady Irwin College

The Lady Irwin College for Home Science in Delhi, is maintaining satisfactory progress. It is to be hoped that those who feel the need for educating girls in Home Science and on different lines from training given in other colleges, will encourage and support in every way this institution, the first and only one of its kind, and enable the Conference to realise fully the ideals which prompted its inception.

Last year a handsome anonymous donation of Rs. 1,50,000/- added substantially to the funds of the college. There are now besides the Directress three other members of the staff. A number of honorary workers give lectures to the students on Mothercraft, Accounts-keeping, Needle-work, Home-Nursing, First-aid etc.

For the Home Science Diploma, 12 candidates appeared in 1935. Of them 11 passed, four gaining distinction and one failed in one subject only.

For the Teacher's Diploma there were 9 candidates of whom 8 passed, one gaining distinction.

The work of the class room and the laboratory is amplified by Home duties, Social functions at which the students act as cooks and hostesses, visits and excursions to various institutions and teaching practice and observation at local schools. The students are also encouraged to take part in debates and tournaments. The College also united in the celebration of the Delhi Health Week and the Health Home Stall prepared by them was considered one of the most distinctive and useful section of the Exhibition. The Governing body had decided to move the College into the Flag Staff House in old Delhi, but as the terms offered by Government were not as advantageous as expected, and the cost of structural alterations and additions was also going to be considerably greater than the estimate, the Governing body had to reconsider their decision and have now decided to construct a building of their own on the site in New Delhi already acquired by them three years ago. 16½ acres of land was acquired from the Government on Sikandra Road on payment of Rs. 16,000/-, the building on this site having to be completed in three years time which period fell due at the end of November 1936.

II. SOCIAL

Before we go into the work done by the Social Section, it is my privilege to mention an outstanding event of the year in Social Reform. This is the opening of the State Temples of Travancore to all classes of Hindus by His Highness the Maharajah and his Durbar. We know that Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi has taken keen interest in this matter and it was largely due to her influence that Travancore State has taken lead in this matter. We are indeed fortunate to be able to claim as our President for the past year, a woman with so broad an outlook and one who is so imbued with the spirit of social service.

The Conference this year carried on a great deal of propaganda to enlist public support for the Social Bills introduced in the Legislative Assembly by Dr. Deshmukh, Mr. B. Das, Dr. Bhagwan Das, Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah, and Mr. Hafiz Abdullah, and to urge their adoption by the Assembly. Every Constituency held meetings to give wide publicity to these Bills and to explain in detail the necessity for introducing such legislation to amend the present Hindu Law with regard to women's Right to Property, Child Marriage Restraint Act, Intercaste marriages, Removal of Social Disabilities among certain classes of Hindus, and the Muslim Personal Law Application Bill. At our Half-yearly meeting of the Standing Committee in July, the merits of these Bills were fully discussed, and recommendations for certain changes which would make the Bills more

effective and useful, were suggested and sent to the sponsors of these Bills as well as to the authorities concerned. A letter addressed to the members of the central legislatures inviting their special attention to the Social Bills was sent by the Conference. Dr. Deshmukh's Bill on Inheritance was the only one of these Social Bills that came up in the Assembly for discussion during the year and we regret that the scope of this Bill has been so limited, before being sent to the Select Committee, as to make it almost ineffectual. Realising from past experience that difficulties of this nature would arise regarding private members' Bills and also because the Conference believes that a wholesale revision of the existing legal system is necessary, a Special Committee on Legal Disabilities was formed at our last Annual Session. During the year, this Committee has consulted prominent lawyers throughout the country and is drawing up a comprehensive scheme on the lines of the Baroda Enactments in regard to women's rights of Inheritance.

Rural Reconstruction

The members of the Conference are realising more and more the necessity of getting into touch with our villages and of introducing improvements as far as possible with regard to sanitation, health and education. Some constituencies have opened schools in rural areas, others devote attention to sewing, handicrafts and adult education of women. Special mention must be made of the very good work that is being carried on in Jullundur, in Satara and in the newly formed Sub-Constituency of Comilla. The prominent members of our Conference who have taken the lead in these places have enlisted the co-operation of all organisations both official and non-official which are working for rural welfare and are thus enabled to progress more rapidly. Their precedent might well be followed by others in the work for rural welfare. Other Constituencies also continue to send encouraging reports of work done in this direction during the past year. The plan for a model village undertaken by the Sind Constituency at Karachi, will, we hope, be an accomplished fact by next year. Rural Reconstruction work naturally brings up the question of untouchability; hence in coping with difficulties facing the villages, we are at the same time working towards the solution of this all-important problem which has always been in the forefront of our activities. With regard to Harijan work, many of the Constituencies are co-operating with and helping those societies which devote special attention to this question.

Labour

The appointment of a woman organiser to look into the conditions of and provide work for women eliminated from the mines of Bihar, which was sanctioned at the Trivandrum Conference, has not been put into force. It

has not been found necessary for the Conference to appoint a Woman Organiser for the mines at present as, largely due to the activities of Miss Copeland, one of the members of our Labour Sub-Committee, the Government of Bihar have taken up the matter and have informed us that they were looking into the matter of finding employment in Cottage Industries for these women who have lost their employment. We are glad to note that the recommendations of our last year's Standing Committee Member for U. P. Agra, helped in effecting the appointment of an Honorary Inspectress for women labourers in the factories and mills of Cawnpore.

Indigenous Industries

Several constituencies are working for the encouragement of cottage industries such as Weaving, Bee-keeping and various handicrafts. Exhibitions have been held in various parts to encourage and give publicity to indigenous products. If all constituencies followed their lead and held exhibitions along with their Constituent Conferences then a great impetus would be given to local products. Industrial classes are also working successfully in many areas.

Leper Relief and Tuberculosis work

In some constituencies our members have visited existing local leper Relief Clinics, and have effected considerable improvements by their suggestions. Mrs. Kuriyan, the Standing Committee Member for Madras, is doing splendid work as the Secretary of the Madras Leper Relief Association. The Anti-Tuberculosis Dispensary in Jullundur Sub-Constituency continues to do good work. Agitation has been carried on for the establishment of cancer hospitals.

Maternity and Child Welfare work

Baby Creches and Child Welfare Centres continue to be run successfully in some areas. Maternity Centres and Dai-training classes have increased in number in the Constituencies.

Birth Control

After Mrs. Sanger's visit to the last Session of our Conference and her extensive tour throughout the country an impetus was given to the spread of scientific knowledge of Birth Control. There is still a great deal of controversy on this matter and the standpoint of our Conference is misunderstood in some quarters. The Conference is doing propaganda work for the spread of this knowledge through recognised clinics to poor mothers, who

are in real need of such knowledge. Mysore, Bombay, Indore, C. P. South and Baroda have recently opened Birth Control Clinics.

Special work of the year

Franchise

The Constituencies were very active this year regarding the enrolment of women voters for the new Legislatures and Municipalities and District Boards. A great deal of propaganda work was done both by the Franchise Sub-Committee and the Constituencies. Leaflets were issued explaining the position, house to house visits were undertaken in some Constituencies and public meetings convened all over, to explain the necessity of taking the fullest advantage of the powers given to women, however inadequate they may be. The number of women on the electoral rolls are due largely to the efforts of our organization. A manifesto was drawn up by the Standing Committee and sent to all political parties asking for the support of their candidates in regard to the various measures of reform for which this Conference stands.

Memorandum on the Status of Women

The International Alliance of Women for suffrage and Equal Citizenship requested the Conference through our President, H. H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi Saheba of Travancore, to send a Memorandum on the Political, Legal, Economic and Educational Status of Women in India, to the League of Nations through the Government of India—who had been approached by the League to submit a Memorandum of this nature. A detailed Memorandum to this effect was drawn up by the Conference in conjunction with the Women's Indian Association, and it was forwarded both to the League direct and to the Government of India. The Government of India had already replied to the League questionnaire before the women's organizations had been approached in regard to this. It is unfortunate that the Government of India did not think it necessary to consult the premier Indian women's organizations before they dealt with a matter which is so vital to the women's cause in India.

Central Office

With the growth in the importance of the Conference and its continual expansion, it has been felt that it is essential that the Conference should have a permanent office in some central place. The volume of work too has increased at so rapid a pace that unless a paid Secretary is kept, it is not possible for the Honorary Secretaries to do justice to the Conference work.

The establishment of a Central Office will be of invaluable help to the Conference in regard to information and literature on women's work both in India and abroad. But while the idea of a Central Office has been unanimously accepted and a scheme is already being prepared for the same, it will be impossible for us to bring it into being without adequate funds. An appeal for help has already been made and we are confident that as soon as a cut and dried scheme can be released to the press that the general public will respond in a suitable manner which will enable us to carry on our work with redoubled energy and vigour.

Liaison Work

The interest and real understanding shown by the Liaison Group in England has been invaluable to us. This little group of Englishwomen have shown a genuine desire to help us to attain our objects in our own way and to bring about a better understanding between England and India. We cannot but be grateful to Mrs. Lankester, the Liaison Officer in England, who has spent so much time and energy to give wide publicity to all our interests, and who is in constant touch with Mrs. Hamid Ali, our Liaison Officer here. The Liaison Group organised meetings in support of our demands in regard to social Bills pending before the Indian Legislatures.

We are specially glad to welcome Miss Agatha Harrison this year as representative of the Liaison Group. She and her work for India need no introduction to an Indian audience.

We also welcome our Special Visitors from England, Australia and Ceylon, Lady Procter, Dr. Georgina Sweet and Mrs. De Mel and other visitors from U. S. A., Holland, etc. It is indeed a very pleasant duty to welcome them amongst us and to hope that their presence will result in greater understanding and co-operation between women of different countries. Last year too we had outstanding women representatives from the Liaison Group in England and from the U. S. A., Japan and China. This is the clear indication of the growing interest that women of different countries are taking in each other, and will help to bring about a real unity amongst women in the future.

An attempt has been made to give a survey of the manifold activities that the Conference is attempting to undertake. It is not possible to go into all the details of work which is continuing and expanding from year to year. It is true that there still remains much to be achieved that we yet have to organise and focus the public conscience of the nation against the forces of dead customs and irrational prejudice which stand as barrier in the way of

national progress. At the same time we feel that there is no cause for despondency that the record of our progress in a few years gives us hope and augurs well for the future. The Conference aspires to be representative of women of every class in India and although today we cannot yet say that we include all the mass of Indian women we feel that we are striving to work on the right lines. With courage and determination and a rationalistic outlook it will not be long before we achieve our object.

Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan,
Hon. Organising Secretary,
All-India Women's Conference.

ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, AHMEDABAD.



Delegates to the Eleventh Session, 1936.

Presidential Address

By

Mrs. Margaret E. Cousins

Fellow-Delegates, Sisters and Brothers,

Ten years of work carried out by this Conference lie completed behind us as today we start our deliberations and our dreams for the first year of a new decade of service. Our first duty is to thank the Inner Powers which rule our human destinies for blessing our endeavours to mould the world nearer to our heart's desires, and for granting to the small pioneering band who started this Conference at Poona in 1927 success beyond their first limited schemes, and stability, and ever-widening thought and action in its opportunities for service, primarily to women and children, and through them to all India and the world.

India My Adopted Country

I cannot adequately express my happiness at the affection and confidence which you have shown me in electing me as your President this year. I feel deeply the honour you have done me in considering me as truly one of yourselves. From the day I landed in Madras about this time twenty-one years ago to join Dr. Annie Besant I have felt spiritually at home; politically, as an Irish-woman, equally at home; physically, thank God, full of energy and good health; and coming straight from full participation in the valuable experiences of the struggle for votes for women in Britain and Ireland I soon realised that I had much to learn from you, my Indian sisters, and that anything I could do side by side with you in your struggles for freedom would not repay all I received from this great land full of Beauty, Philosophy, Peace, Simplicity of Life; Ahimsa, and from the Hindu conception of Ardhanarishwara, the dual Being, Half-Lord, Half-Lady, Divine Equality, Father-Mother of all creation; and from the Moslem acceptance of the spiritual equality of man and woman as expressed in the explicit language of *The Koran*. I have adopted India as my home for this life and it is a privilege for me to work in any and every way for its restoration to supreme dignity. Though I identify myself with your hopes and interests I do not feel worthy of your largeness of heart in overleaping the boundaries of nationalism and thus demonstrating that we are a solidarity of sisters in a world where the

woes of women are similar everywhere. Despite my inadequacy, especially as regards language, (though I struggle to learn Hindi) I shall do my best to be a President worthy to follow the more eminent and brilliant Presidents of the past years.

Ahmedabad, Gandhiji, Harijans

Last year our Conference was entertained with royal honours in what I may call the Women's Kingdom of Travancore, and in that matriarchal State we saw in operation many of the reforms for which we are straining, such as inheritance rights for women and the proportion of one literate girl to every two literate boys.

Today we are back again in a Presidency of India, not an Indian State. We are happily in the city for so many years blessed by the presence of the Sage of Sabarmati, Mahatma Gandhi, and we have to be worthy of the continued benediction of that holy patriot-reformer who brought our womanhood and its power of service and national sacrifice more into prominence in 5 years than all our reform movements had done in the previous hundred years. We are in a democratic environment—and you have a democratic President. This is the City of Cotton—and you have a Khaddar-clad President. Could we be nearer the agriculturists and industrial masses? Here we can study at first-hand problems of the peasantry and the mill-workers. Yearly our pilgrim bands of Conference delegates pass up and down and back and forth through this vast land like a shuttle weaving a new khaddar cloth for Mother India and we thank our hostesses of Ahmedabad for giving us this inspiring and instructive resting-place this year. Ahmedabad is also famous for its Harijan Ashrama and today nothing is more prominent in our thoughts than the Proclamation of the Maharaja of Travancore granting temple-entry to Harijans of that State and we rejoice at such liberation and are proud that such an act has taken place during the year when H. H.'s ideal Mother has been the President of our Conference, and that the Resolution that this Conference passed last Xmas at our Trivandrum Conference in her presence was one of the factors, which brought about this consummation of the Vaikom Temple Satyagraha, the fast and touring of Gandhiji, and the able advocacy of the cause in this last year in Travancore State by amongst others, the Convener of our own Untouchability Committee, Mrs. Brijlal Nehru.

Renewal of Inspiration

A presidential address must be a fresh draught of idealism from our primary spring, and those who were present at Poona will remember what an outpouring of blessing and spiritual enthusiasm and power one and all of us received on that historic occasion.

"We are privileged," prophetically said our first President, the Maharani of Baroda, "to be called to take part in a noble task. This opportunity, used with a sense of its responsibilities, with a vision of its enormous possibilities, will make history. Here we are assembled to discuss those things which are essential for the education and general well being of the future mothers of the race,... A Conference such as this should be a call to action; a challenge to those who would hold us back, an inspiration to co-operation in a victory of freedom and enlightenment over darkness and slavery."

Nowadays people, especially men, are always asking us in critical tones, "And what has your Conference done? Aren't you disappointed with it?" Our ideal was so high, our youthful hopes were so enthusiastic that when we have met with frustration, when we have to be patient, when personalities begin to creep in, when it is difficult to get fresh workers, and young people seem to be only frivolous, even our own women members are tempted to turn critical. I am not one such. I would like someone to write as my epitaph, "One of the Encouragers." As President this year I want to inject fresh encouragement and enthusiasm into you and so I conceive it one of my privileges to bring rapidly before you some of the Conference achievements which should satisfy any fair-minded seeker for truth and should make us members proud of the past of our Conference and hopeful of its future.

Achievements

We have created an All-Indian organisation of 36 Constituent areas, with 114 Sub-Constituency areas whose annual gatherings have been training grounds in public service & public speaking unequalled in the country, and unique in India as they are carried through by women only. We have created a most remarkable union of women of all classes, creeds, races, castes. Though originally a band of the intelligentsia we now are a solidarity of sisters such as never existed before in India ranging from Maharanees to Harijans, including Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians, all feeling the common link of conference connection, activities, friendships. We have also created a public opinion on women's questions of a strength which did not exist previously. We have raised the prestige, dignity, influence, power, and capacity of our united womanhood, and gained a new and deep appreciation from the public for women's ability and for their rights of citizenships,—a wider vision of women's sphere and responsibilities, nationally as well as domestically.

Chronologically, it was largely owing to our agitation and support that the Age of Consent Bill and the Sarda Act were passed. Our Memorandum on Educational Reform is a handbook to educational authorities and is constantly consulted by them. We founded a Women's Education Fund of six lacs through which we have organised and established, the first Indian Women's

College for Home Science and this Lady Irwin Collge is yearly growing in public favour and proving itself a model for an alternative new type of girls' education wich will have the most far-reaching results.

International Interest

We have shared in the abolition of the Devadasi system, and the passing of the Brothels Bill, increased the number of Children's Acts, and the rescue of delinquent children. We have gained such international reputation that vistors from foreign countries hasten to attend our Conferences. We have had such from Britain, America, Japan and this year, Australia and the League of Nations. Our members have also been honoured special delegates to International Conferences, in America and Istambul. We also took the major share in bringing about the remarkble first All-Asian Conference in 1931 whose prestige and timeliness brought it into the circle of Women's Associations which form the Women's Consultative Committee of the League of Nations.

Swadeshi

As regards our support of Indigenous Industries you have only to compare the saris we are wearing today with those Videshi materials in which we were almost all arrayed in Poona in 1927 to be convinced of the sincerity and success of our promotion of Khaddar and Swadeshi as we followed the lead given to the country by Mahatma Gandhi, for we understood the necessity of economic self-help, and our responsibilities as the demanders and consumers of materials. In our annual exhibitions of Indigenous Industries at our many Conferences, and in our Entertainments, woman is in her element as lover, expressor and stimulator of Beauty in Arts and Crafts and in the Fine Arts.

Health

We have taken a lead in pointing to a solution of the dread problem of the menacing growth of population in this country. Our Conference has ranged itself on the side of Eugenic scientific Birth Control through the dissemination of knowledge by recognised clinics of which those conducted by our Bombay Constituency since last year are examples worthy to be followed everywhere. I myself believe that dedicated self-control in the sex life is the highest ideal, but while people are growing to that perfection I believe also in using the help of Science to regulate the quality and quantity of the race, and especially to liberate physically and economically helpless mothers from too frequent and unwanted child-bearing amongst the general masses of humanity who have not the spiritual will to sublimate sex impulses. We must save by all health schemes a large proportion of the 200,000 Indian mothers who are yearly

victims of maternity, and the millions of babies who are unnecessarily born only to die within their first year of life.

India's Women Legislators

Then we can all be proud that as a result of our direct campaign for our political status through Memoranda, Deputations, Conferences, Publicity, the new Constitution will give India the premier place in the nations of the world in respect of the number of her women legislators, for by March there will be 41 women occupying seats in the various Legislatures of the land, with 15 more to be added if and when the Federal scheme begins to function.

The mere recital of these achievements will hearten us for our future struggles, will increase our pride in our womanhood as such, and develop our sex loyalty, creating a new atmosphere and mentality which is as valuable as any concrete piece of legislation, new reform in education, or local item of constructive work.

Elementary Education

Yet these gains are only as drops in the ocean of our country's needs. It is true that we have wide and deep cause for disappointment. The continued illiteracy of the country is heart-breaking to those who love India. In twenty years the percentage of literacy of Indian women has not risen from two to three per cent. An enquiry by a Committee of the Government of Madras this year reported that there was no money available for this desirable reform, and in the Central Provinces we saw the opposition of the Government to Mrs. Tambe's gallant attempt to introduce a Bill to give Compulsory Primary education to girls only. Gokhale claimed that two-thirds of the national revenues should be spent on education. Under the present system of government only 8% of these Indian revenues is allotted to education. While India spends only 8 crores for 350 million people on elementary education, Britain spends 86 crores for only 40 million, and the United States spends 347 crores for 130 million. (*Planned Economy for India* by Visveswarayya.) Even within the meagre amount available for education here we women are not getting a fair deal. Fourteen times more money is spent on boy's education than on girls'. The Governor of Bombay himself Suggested recently that these disproportionate amounts should be adjusted by Government so as to raise the literacy of women "which is a great obstacle to the progress of society," he said. It is appalling that only one out of every 100 girls gets elementary education, and only 1 out of 1,000 girls gets secondary education. At the rate we are moving it will be a thousand years before India catches up in education with other nations ! Yet Russia has shown the world that she could become literate in 20 years. We women can legitimately ask in the interests of

our children, however, that two-thirds of the large amount that is being given to each Province as a Birthday Gift to the New Constitution shall be immediately allocated for spreading elementary education as "the safest and most valuable investment for the future". (Visveswarayya) We should know that while England spends on her defence only 12% of her revenues, Switzerland 9% and the U. S. A. 14%, the expenditure on the army of this most peaceful country is 25%. I quote Government Publicity Department figures. The first recommendation of the Inchcape Commission for retrenchment was the Army estimates. We women look to its further retrenchment to set free money for nation-building services. The people are already too taxed for the provinces to squeeze them further. Our Indian administration is the most costly in the world, said a Royal Commission on the subject. While the purse-strings are compulsorily withheld from Indian control in such manner that over 50% of the central and provincial national revenues is consumed by army, law, order and administration, there is no hope of liquidating illiteracy. History has proved that that can only be done by the full resources of a free nation.

Elections

In electoral matters we find to our disappointment that our elected women will be the chosen of men and of vested interests of groupings of men rather than in any way representatives of women, because men voters are nearly seven times as many as women. It has been especially painful to us that the political parties have put forward only a couple of women for general seats despite the pleading of the Congress President and though it was evident from the election of women for Municipalities and from the immense success of Mrs. Rukmani Lakshmi pathi for the general constituency seat of Madras City for the Legislative Council that our sex is no barrier to election victories. The whole election subject is a muddle without principle or consistency. It can be set right only by the substitution of adult Franchise, and we will continue to work for that with might and main, to obtain our freedom from the undesired and unnatural qualification of marriage, and the disparity of numbers, and the limitations of a monetary status instead of a human and rational status. As for the virus of communalism that has been forced on us the only way to get rid of it is to vote for candidates who pledge themselves to remove communal electorates.

The Future A Central Office

Are we going to be disheartened and paralysed in our efforts because of these defects, delays or partial successes? Surely not. Such a great gathering as this today re-charges us to increased efforts. Our immediate new task is to improve further our organisation by establishing a permanent Central Office in Delhi and by securing the wholetime services of a Travelling

Secretary who will be an inspirer of all the Constituencies, a circulating library of information between us all, and a stimulator of great expansion of local effort. The public owes us something for our past work. We invite and expect from it, from wise philanthropists and from our Constituencies generous contributions towards the scheme for collecting two lacs of rupees as the Endowment Fund which will give the annual income necessary for putting this organisation on a stable foundation instead of the hand-to-mouth undignified existence it has so far had.

Increased Local Work

Next I appeal to our members individually to increase their efforts in the work they are already doing so as to spread health, purity, beauty, recreation, enlightenment, knowledge, prosperity, freedom, happiness. It is not subtraction of schemes, but multiplication of workers we want and of numbers of the schools, hostels, creches, women's parks, classes in Hindi, clinics, rural training centres, demonstrations of communal unity, anti-drink campaigns and Civic groups, Harijan services, Vigilance Committees, and dozens of other fine schemes which different localities are carrying on.

Temple Entry

The example of Travancore will give us all added zest to push forward temple entry and full equal social rights for all Harijans as one of our foremost all-Indian schemes this coming year. Naturally we shall all engage ourselves next February in using our votes for the best candidates for the elections, through which we want to show the mass mind of the more widely enfranchised and representative India.

Village Work

We must also as an entire Conference get into touch with our sisters in the villages, fields, factories. We must know their lives at first hand if we want to speak in the name of the mass of Indian womanhood. These agriculturists and industrialists form 7,000 out of every 10,000 of the population, and actual wage-earning women form 2,000 out of every 7,000. Let us live in a village as Gandhiji is living in Shevgaon so that we may get to grips with it and help the people who are living each on an average at a rate of As. 2 per day. Only through the documentation of the heart will we get the courage and will to plan wisely and carry through practically a new social and economic order where the wealth that exists in this land and the necessaries that are produced in it may be shared equitably and sanely, "with knowledge free, and the head held high."

Study of Fundamentals

In his reply to our Conference Questionnaire to parties regarding the programme of candidates for the elections Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said :

"I feel that many of the items in your programme are superficial in the sense that they do not enquire into the root causes of the evils which we want to get rid of"

This is a world complaint. Let us be humble. Let us study more. Let us drop prejudices and be ready and brave for changed valuations, for changed ways, for changed lives. Change must come, for neither India nor the world can go on as they now exist.

Revolt against the Double Standard

In this study of fundamentals we women have to create new standards. All women's struggles for reforms when analysed are our expression of revolt against a double standard. There has been acquiescence everywhere in the idea that there shall be one standard for men, and another different standard for women. There is a double standard in morality, in wages, in education, in citizenship, in opportunities for work and service, in religion. Here lies the Centre of the women's movement. Having become aware of the injustices, cruelty and depreciation under which the mass of women suffer because of the double standard we are determined to establish ourselves as an order of humanity equal in spiritual degree to our brothers, and in every section of the social and economic framework to be valued by the economic worth of the *work* we do, not by *sex*. Last year our President, the Maharani of Travancore, said truly, "The solution of women's problems depends on securing for them, in marriage and out of it, economic independence. There must be freedom to work outside the home, and economic partnership in the home."

Legalised economic status for the home-working woman

I take this torch from Her Highness and carry it forward by demanding that the married woman in the home be legally entitled in her own right as a co-worker for the family and the country to a defined proportion of the income of her living husband, a due proportion of his assets when he dies, and if he has none that the State should give her a pension and a maintenance allowance for each child up to sixteen years of age while she rears them as Wards of State. This is not so-called endowment of motherhood. It is the expression of the economic value of the *work* of the women in the homes. Unless this economic value is given to women who work in the homes all laws giving the widow property and inheritance rights are only a minor detail of the revaluation of women needed. They are only mending the edges of a fundamental problem. Without economic rights in the home women will continue to be the suppressed sex dependent on the generosity, patronage, sentimentality of the artificially-made-superior sex, and she cannot have self-respect or self-reliance but imbibes an inferiority complex, thinking

also that her great hard work of mothering and caring for the race is her curse instead of her worthy vocation. At present a premium is placed on women's work outside the home, its hours, physical conditions, wages are regulated. But the woman who minds the house and the children and the food has no locus standi in the organised world of labour. For that woman who will ever be the majority type of womanhood, we Conference women will dream dreams and we will work for her legalised economic status till she stands liberated from inferiority and drudgery, valued as a worker within the home legally and financially as highly as the man or woman worker outside the home.

National Freedom

Since the Vedic times we women have been a subject sex. India [today is a subject country. We say, "Can man be free if woman be a slave?" We go further and say, "Can the Indian man or woman be free if India be a slave?" Over and over again we are made aware of Indian national powerlessness. In the new Constitution we are beset with "safeguards" not of our own desiring. War-clouds are over Europe. Our Conference has declared itself against war. Can the Indian people have any control over the use of Indian soldiery abroad if war should again overwhelm Europe?

The tide of national consciousness has risen high in the last ten years. The people state now everywhere that they want the government of the country wholly in their own control. We women in this Conference are part of the people. We cannot separate ourselves from them. We are in our own way a representative cross-section of the people. How can we remain dumb about national freedom, the very basis of all great reforms? We need a Circumference for our ever-widening circles of needed reforms. First we formulated our Resolutions for education, then for social reforms, later for political status, thus widening our work to political idealism of a non-party character. But within what conspectus of India as a nation are we working? We have not defined it. In this we are working in a vacuum. We are illogical. We are non-patriotic in the greater issue of national freedom while showing ourselves patriotic in lesser details. Our whole Conference mentality has been moving yearly towards a Declaration of our aspiration of National Freedom. A Muslim President of a Constituent Conference in an Indian State said last month that our work for political advancement is as necessary as our work for humane relationships or economic prosperity. One of our speakers at the Half-Yearly meetings said, "our excursions into the political arena must be left to critical times." The inauguration of a new Constitution is such a time. In my opinion it is the psychological moment for our Conference to take a step forward, and for us to declare our unity with the yearning of awakened India for the free control of its destinies. The subjection of poor

Other Addresses

Principal Anandshanker Dhruva

I am sincerely grateful to the local organisers of this Conference for giving me an opportunity of expressing my deep admiration for the noble work which the educated women of modern India, irrespective of caste, creed and social position have been doing for their sisters, and through them for the whole country, for the last ten years. I trust I am voicing the universal opinion of our people when I say that it was that courageous band of early social reformers working under the broadminded and longsighted leadership of men like the late Mr. Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade who did the pioneers' work of surveying the fields and opening up paths through the thick jungles of ignorance and prejudice; but the march forward with electric speed, almost amounting to shocktactics we owe to Mahatma Gandhi, that great man who has stirred the soul of India to its depths and released spiritual forces which are now acting in every department of life.

The problems which the women have been tackling for the last ten years and which they will carry forward in this Session are problems of common interest affecting men as well as women; in fact, there is no such thing as Indian men and Indian women living in different islands, but one Indian nation living in a common land, possessed of common interests and leading a common life. And, therefore, whatever solution the conference of Indian women will offer of the different problems will eventually affect men as well as women. I lay emphasis upon this aspect of our work, as I want to point out that the standard of right and wrong in regard to every resolution which we pass is not the rights of women as against men; but social good i. e. the good of the society as a whole, we have had enough of wars in the world, such as religious wars, imperialistic wars, class wars—let us not add one more to the number, viz. the sex-war. I hasten to add, however, that there is as yet no sex-war in India, nor have I reason to fear that there will be one in the near or distant future unless we in our overzeal forget that peaceful homes are the highest mark of civilisation and culture.

I regard the Women's movement as not a paltry ripple on the surface of our national life but as the crowning point of the great Indian Renaissance which has set in from the seventies of the last century.

I would now touch upon one point before I conclude. It is *Education*. Women's education bristles with problems on which differences of opinion exist in plenty. My attitude to all those differences may be summed up in one simple formula—
Education They are *all* right from different points of view. What about co-education? I am emphatically for it, in the primary stage and the higher i. e. the university stage. Should there not be separate colleges for women? There should be, for that would give a powerful stimulus to their higher education, but co-education will be necessary for those who propose to enter the medical profession. Should there be separate courses of study for men and women? To some extent only. Both women and men are human beings, have human needs and human aspirations. Why should any subjects which are taught in boys' schools and colleges be denied to girls? Are they less interested in History, or Geography or Philosophy or Civics or Literature than men? Why should we suppose that poetry and music and drawing and painting and domestic science are the only proper subjects for them and that they have no right to understand and enjoy the marvels of science. However, in these days of expanding knowledge when it is impossible to take all knowledge for one's province it is but proper that men and women should divide their work according to their respective needs and capacities and yet bring the two halves of education together in the home of which they are common owners ('दम्पती'). I would therefore include in their education a knowledge of history, geography, arithmetic, nature-study, general science, civics and jurisprudence as readily as literature, music, painting and domestic science. *But the great need of the hour is secondary education of girls.* It should be made thoroughly comprehensive and rational and adapted to the needs of the majority of girls. In our zeal for imparting higher education to women, who are fully entitled to it, let us not forget the still greater need of strengthening and improving their secondary education which is the back-bone of education in a democracy.

Sir M. I. Kadri

In response to the wish of the Chairwoman of the Reception Committee that I should speak a few words on this occasion, I rise to do so. At the outset, I desire to welcome the ladies who have come today from different parts of India to this old and historic city of Ahmedabad. The President of the Conference made mention just now of the criticism of those who ask what results are being achieved by Conferences of this kind. But the great interest taken in these Conferences, shown by the presence here today of such a large audience of persons from all over India is sufficient evidence against such criticism; while the very fact of the holding of this Conference for the Eleventh time is positive proof of its necessity.

Dr. Sumant Mehta

This Conference has been in existence for over ten years and during that relatively short period of time it has made creditable progress. It is no longer a Conference seeking merely to spread education amongst women and to beseech Government to pass certain legislation for your social betterment. Since 1926, you have marched much further and higher than any one could have anticipated. In 1930 during and after Civil Disobedience movement there was a unique awakening in our country, but the awakening amongst women was something wonderful. Women now aspire to take a hand in the national struggle, and often to lead it. They have felt the national urge for freedom—freedom from political, social and economic exploitation.

Now with regard to your organisation: The Constituencies of Gujarat and Baroda have not got a single branch. Until you organise your branches in the talukas of all your districts you cannot hope to come in contact with the masses. Eighty per cent of our population in this country live in the villages and it is a sad fact that the women outside the Presidency towns and a few large towns know nothing about your Conference activities. You have now to devise means for coming in intimate contact with the rural problems. I should like to draw your attention to the fact that women from all over Gujarat (including Kathiawar) are attending this meeting as members of the Reception Committee. They have not come merely to see the Tamasha, but they want to be told how best they can carry the message of the Conference to every part of their Province. This morning they had a side Conference of their own where they have decided to carry on active work throughout the year.

We have not been able to educate public opinion to the extent that we should have done on all problems of social reform such as prevention of child marriages, education of girls, dowry and other matter. I wish to tell you our bitter experience in the Baroda State that by mere legislative enactment and by fines you cannot reform evil customs. You have in addition to carry on a well organised educative propaganda amongst the masses. This requires an army of women workers to move about and preach in the important villages.

Finally, I should point out to you that your efforts at emancipation and betterment are not an isolated phenomenon but they form part of a world-wide movement. Look at the marvellous progress which the Turkish women have made, they were veiled and imperfectly educated. In ten years the veil and polygamy have disappeared like magic. The Russian, the Persian, the Chinese and other womenfolk have made remarkable advance. In many countries women have fought in warfare side by side with men. This type of co-operation is not only natural but inevitable. We have to form a united front; we should ignore differences of race, caste, religion and sex. Our

fight is along many fronts, social, economic and political. Let us all work together and fight together in the grim struggle that lies ahead of us.

Miss Agatha Harrison—London (Special visitor)

In bringing you a message from the Liaison Group in England that works in co-operation with the All-India Womens' Conference, I am conscious of the other organisations of women in Great Britain and their deep and abiding interest in the Indian women; but as I am a delegate of the Liaison Group, I have been asked to give a short message to you from this group :

“ At this most critical time, when every country seems to be arming to the teeth, when mutual fears and distrust seem to dominate every national policy, and when one country in Europe is in the throws of possibly the most ghastly civil war in history—we believe that the women in almost every country are passionately desirous of peace. Women everywhere must unite, and we need the help of Indian women in the work of preparation for peace, so infinitely harder than preparation for war. We believe that women in the East, and perhaps especially in India, have a particular contribution to make. Whatever it be—whether an emphasis on spiritual values which should not counteract violence, or any other contribution specially their own—we look to the women of India at this time to join hands with us in helping to save civilisation from destruction.”

Whatever this work has meant to the All-India Women's Conference, it has been nothing to what it has meant to us in Great Britain in bringing a better understanding of the problems facing the women here. It has also brought us many friendships. I would suggest to you that mutual understanding and friendship are the two rocks on which peace is built.

Dr. Georgina Sweet—Australia

First Vice President of the Pan Pacific Womens' Conference (special visitor)

I cannot tell you the tremendous pleasure that it is to me to be today the visible link between yourselves and the women of fourteen countries around the Pacific Ocean. Scientists tell us that Australia and India were once united. Unfortunately these two countries are many miles off at present. Also unfortunately, since India is not among the countries which boarder the Pacific Ocean, her women cannot be actually members of that group which constitutes the Pan Pacific Womens' Association, though we welcome the

closest possible co-operation and friendship between the women of India and those around the Pacific Ocean. The objects of the Pan Pacific women's Association are :

- (a) To strengthen the bonds of peace and friendship among Pacific people, and
- (b) To initiate and promote co-operation among the women of the Pacific for the study and betterment of existing conditions.

Their aims are thus similar to those of the All-India Women's Conference within your own country, and I bring to you to-day the greetings and the very hearty and sincere expression of goodwill of those women of our fourteen member-countries in and around the great Pacific Ocean. It will be an inspiration to the next Pan Pacific Women's Conference to know something of the work of Indian women, and to know that you on your part recognise that we are working for peace and justice in and between various countries, and for friendship between all countries. We believe that it is only possible to attain this much-to-be-desired-end by the most fundamental spiritual attitude to life as a whole and to all human beings. Only thus we can secure perpetual peace in any individual country, and between individual countries, and still more, in the whole of this troubled world. I also bring sincere and hearty greetings to you from the Australian Joint Standing Committee, and the Australian Pan Pacific Women's Committee, which include in their membership eleven of the major Nation-wide Associations of the Australian Women. The women of the Pacific countries, and particularly the women of Australia, desire to associate themselves with the women of the All-India Women's Conference in all their attempts to secure conditions which will make possible a higher development of the body and mind and soul of every man, woman and child, from the highest to the simplest in the land. I wish the greatest possible success to your deliberations here at Ahmedabad, and hope that endeavours to improve conditions may be crowned with increasing success while there is any work to do in this world, that is, until all men and women rise to the fullest achievement of all that which is possible to the personality of each.

Lady Procter-England (Special Visitor)

I feel it is a very great honour to be here to-day to give greetings and good wishes for this Conference and for the coming year of work, from the Young Women's Christian Association of Great Britain, which feels it has a special link with you, not only because two of their members sit on your Liaison Committee in London, but also because that Committee meets in the Young Women's Christian Association's central building in London and so they often have the privilege of meeting Indian representatives who come to

London. But far stronger than any such physical link is the deep, profound realisation that whatever our nation, country or race, we are working together for one great aim and one great object, viz. the enrichment of life for all, and the uplift of those for whom life is hard and limited. Together we find a wider, more glorious vision of service and of fellowship in this great cause. May I add a personal word of grateful thanks for the invitation to come to this Conference and to sit with you during your deliberations on so many important matters. Coming back to India after many years, I have found a wonderful inspiration from the sense of a new and vital life of fellowship and service pulsating throughout India, and as I go back to Europe I shall carry a fresh inspiration myself from what I have seen and felt here. I wish you every possible success not only in the holding of this Conference but in the coming year of work. Many difficulties may still face us as we struggle on towards our goal, but we go forward in the spirit of courage and hope, knowing assuredly that which is true, beautiful, just and righteous, will come to pass, if we work together throughout the world in the spirit of faith, hope and love—that spirit in which alone true success can be found. I wish you all success in your conference.

Mrs. De Mel—(Special Visitor) Ceylon

Hon. Secretary—All Ceylon Women's Conference (Special Visitor)

As a Delegate from Ceylon, I would like to say that for the last 2,000 years Ceylon has had connection with India. Every new movement in India has had its influence on our country. The women of Ceylon have followed your Conference with great interest. You have been a source of great inspiration to us. I would like to say that the women of Ceylon realise that regeneration lies in full reconstruction. I convey to you greetings from the women of Ceylon. I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to do so.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur

I am sorry that you have been kept so long and that I will have to keep you longer. I have a special message to give you on behalf of this Conference. You have heard of the Central Office that we wish to open at Delhi. The President has only touched on it briefly because I was commissioned to speak on the subject. Until now the work of this Association has been carried on on a voluntary basis year after year. We have worked with very little money in hand but with faith in the right, in the justice of our cause a faith that can move mountains. How were we going to carry on our work without funds, has been a problem every year; but living faith has brought enough money. The work has, however, increased so much that we

now feel it imperative to ask for funds for a Central Office in Delhi. Our voluntary efforts will not, must not become less, for I personally believe that the spirit of all national work of regeneration must be voluntary. Its existence will be nothing worth otherwise. But funds are necessary for us, just as they are for our everyday bread. We want now to keep one or two paid workers who will live on a minimum wage. We want this office to be a source of inspiration and information to those women who will go to take up active work in the legislatures. We want an information bureau not only for women, but for men also, who are sometimes very ignorant of questions concerning women and children. We have realised ourselves now that the Nation cannot progress until we contribute what we have to contribute. Our members are drawn from all parts of India and from all classes of Indian Society. We want to get into much closer touch with the masses. We have been doing a great deal of propaganda work. We have aroused interest specially among women. We must now do much more practical work. We want to rope in more workers. For office work we must have money. We appeal to Ahmedabad whose name, because of Gandhiji, is an inspiration to us, to take the lead in giving us funds. We want a living wage only. We have been asked by our President to be humble. We are humble. We welcome criticism much more than praise. These annual sessions are an inspiration to us, because we get together and we discuss and realise more than ever our weakness and our failures. It is through these failures, therefore, that we want to have your understanding. This is not a political Conference. As has been pointed out by a previous speaker this is no appendage of any other organization. It is an Association of women no less anxious than any one else for the political freedom of our country but our members are not all able to take an active part in political life, because of their situation and environment. They do, however, try to contribute to social and educational service whenever and howsoever, they can in their own sphere. We want you to understand such limitations. I hope we have found a corner in your hearts for all time and that you will give us a practical demonstration of your love by giving us that which will help us to fulfil our ideal of service in a more national way and in a wider sphere. We want your sympathy, interest and help, and when we appeal to you, we are quite sure, that we shall not appeal in vain.

Rani Lakshuibai Rajwade

It is my pleasant duty to thank all those who have assembled here this evening, including of course those who have come from abroad, for their interest and sympathy with the Women's Conference.

It has been said and perhaps with justice that the Indian women's movement is not a feminist movement in the sense in which it is understood

in the west and that instead of discouragement they have all along received the fullest sympathy, help and even active co-operation from the men in the furtherance of their cause. Since this has been the case one is often asked the reason of the existence of a special women's organisation. The answer is that in common with women all over the world Indian women have also been stirred by a new thought and a new life and with it the ideal of self-reliance is fast being evolved in this land. Even if this Conference has not justified its existence by anything else, it has certainly done so by the promotion of the ideal of unity which ideal found its expression in the united stand which the Conference consisting of women of all classes and creeds has taken all along against special privileges and communal electorates and representation in the new Constitution. Just as a woman, as the mother, wife, or daughter is a stabilizing force in a home, we feel that this conference on account of the unique stand they have taken has proved itself to be such a force in the wider, the larger home, the Nation. I am confident that the women's unity will be the ultimate means of bringing about a brotherly understanding and even active co-operation among the seemingly divided communities of this land.

The Gentlemen speakers of the evening have been very sympathetic in their remarks but we have been on previous occasions warned by friends against a reckless progress in blind imitation of the West and to evolve along India's own lines. With the speedy developments of communication in the near future and with it an equally rapid transmission of ideas it will be difficult to say what is really Indian except perhaps her ancient philosophy which is *Ahinsa*—plain living and high thinking. We hope the high thinking will return when there is scope for it, viz. with the achievement of political freedom; as to plain living, attractive as it sounds, such would hardly be conducive to the material progress of the country which pre-supposes a diversity of wants and means of their fulfilment.

Here then is a conflict of ideas which the future alone will determine. I often wonder what exactly it is that some of our men well-wishers mean when they ask us to progress on Indian lines. A great many of the problems taken up by the Women's Conference are problems common to all women and which are engaging their attention all the world over. The problems which are taken up for discussion are not taken up in blind imitation of the West. They only express the whole conception of the larger life which the women wish to lead. Although today they appear as essentially women's problems, one feels that they will cease to be so only when woman becomes economically independent. What looks like a conflict is only a struggle to establish their individuality. Women feel that besides their duty to their homes they have also a contribution to make towards human progress by

taking part in activities other than those of their homes. It may be conceded that in theory there is no such thing as a woman's cause as distinguished from the man's cause. But it has been found by experience that rather than depend upon outside help it is desirable to rely on self-help and organization until we reach the utopian ideal wherein the common interests will be those of humanity.

So far the Conference has limited itself to the spheres of educational & social reforms, but some of us have now begun to feel that it should expand its scope to include all activities of National welfare. Fortunately for this country the women can still afford not to squabble for petty loaves and fishes and in times of national crisis they have proved that rising above the limitations of communities and creeds, they can still think in terms of the nation, and hence one's hopes are centred on a mighty faith that it is the women, the daughters of the nation, who will yet rebuild India into a nation of the strong and free.

I thank you all once again for your sympathy with the Conference.

Mrs. G. R. Billimoria

I have great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks that has been so ably moved by Rani Rajawade. We are thankful to the mere males for the sympathy they have shown towards the aspirations and ideals of Indian womanhood. We are also grateful to the visitors from across the seas for their greetings and messages of goodwill. Listening to one or two addresses this afternoon some of you might have been led to believe that this Conference was a political body. That would be an entire misconception of the aims and ideas of the Conference. We have had success in our work all these years because we have been able to bring together not only different classes and communities, but women of all shades of opinion into one common fold. Individually we may belong to the Liberal or Independent or Congress camp. The Conference as such is above party-politics and will faithfully follow the policy formulated at the first sessions when it decided not to engage in any party politics.

Friends, I am afraid, I have strayed a little from the point, but I hope you will excuse me in view of the urgency of the subject.

Once again, on your behalf, I thank the speakers of the evening and hope you will carry the vote with acclamations.

Then an address on behalf of the following women's associations of Gujarat was presented to Mrs. Cousins and she was profusely garlanded by members of each of these associations :

Mahila Mandal

Mahalaxmi Training College for women

Gujarat Ladies Club
Mahila Pathshala
Municipal Girls' High School
Sathodara Nagar Stri Samaj
Kanya Chhatralaya
Pritamnagar Bhagini Samaj
Vanita Vishram
Sharda Mandir
Jarthosti Stri Mandal
Govt. Girl's High School
Stree Kelvani Mandal
Women's Council
Jamnabai Saraswati Mandi:
Bhadra Bhagini Samaj
Khadayata Bhagini Samaj
Bhagini Mandal, Maninagar

The function came to a close at 7 p. m.

All-India Women's Conference

First Sitting 24th December 1936. 8-30 A. M.

President:—Before we begin our deliberations this morning, let us ask for the guidance of the Higher Powers of the Universe.

The day's proceedings began after a few minutes silence, all standing.

Some of the messages which were not read on the previous day were now read out by the Hon. Organising Secretary.

The Annual Report was then formally adopted, having been proposed by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and seconded by Rani Rajwade.

Mrs. G. R. Billimoria read the Balance Sheet. It was adopted, Begum Hamid Ali proposing, and Mrs. S. C. Roy seconding.

Sectional and Sub-Committee Reports were then read,

Social Section Report 1936

Mrs. J. R. Doctor

Great progress and much activity have been shown in the work of this Section by the Constituencies, though the Legal Disabilities of Women, their Economic Dependence, and the hardships of one-sided Man-made Laws still exist, which require our untiring effort and strong support of Public Opinion to be eradicated completely.

The main interest of the Social section was centred in the Social Bills in the Legislatures, both Central and Provincial.

Some of the Bills pending Legislation are:—

1. Dr. Deshmukh's Bill on Hindu Women's Right To Property.
2. Mr. B. Das' Amendment to the Child Marriage Restraint Act.
3. Mr. M. C. Rajah's Bill To Remove Social Disabilities of Certain Classes Of Hindus
4. Dr. Bhagvan Das' Bill To Validate Marriages among the various castes of Hindus.

Of these, only Dr. Deshmukh's Bill came up before the Central Assembly towards the end of the last Sessions.

This Bill, which in its original form aspired to the recognition of the Rights of all Female heirs to a property, was whittled down to the share of the Widows only, and referred to a Select Committee, whose Report is likely to be out by the end of January 1937.

Much regret and keen disappointment have been evinced at this ignoring of the rights of other Female Heirs, and particularly of Daughters, to inherit Parental property.

Mr. Das's Bill has received a hearty support with suggestions for further amendments, namely, enhancing punishment and penalising the perpetrators of Child-Marriages of British Subjects in Indian States or Foreign possessions to evade the Law.

Dr. Bhagvan Das's Bill was supported by the Constituencies with the proviso that monogamy should be compulsory under this Bill. I wrote to Dr. Bhagvan Das about it, and he replied that if his Bill was referred to a Select Committee, he would see that the required clause was inserted.

On behalf of the Social Section, I have sent letters and wires to the President, the Home and the Law Members, Leaders and Whips, and other Members of the Legislative Assembly, indicating the opinion of the A. I. W. C. on the Bills, and requesting them to help the successful passage of the Bills through the Assembly, in the name of Humanity and Justice.

The abduction of Women for Immoral Traffic and other Crimes against Women have increased to a very alarming extent recently, especially in Bengal and the surrounding Districts. The Women of Bengal have formed an Association called The All India Women's Protection Conference to find ways and means for the suppression of such Crimes. The Protection Conference has passed Resolutions to the effect, and has agreed to the legislation for the punishment of whipping for such offenders.

The aims of the Conference was circulated to the Standing Committee Members and they too have supported the Resolutions, and sent them on to the Central and Provincial Legislatures. It is incumbent on us to do all propaganda work at our command and take active steps to eradicate this evil.

The Travancore Darbar has taken a very meritorious step in throwing open the doors of State Temples to Hindus of all castes. This freedom of Temple Entry to all Hindus has aroused unbounded joy and satisfaction all over India, as a great step towards the removal of Untouchability. Adequate messages were sent to their Highnesses the Maharaja, and Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi of Travancore for taking this noble step.

The increasing enthusiasm of Women for the A. I. W. C. has resulted in the great activity shown by the Constituencies in the various departments of the Social Section, and the opening of new sub-constituencies.

Village Up-lift work is carried on with great zeal in some Constituencies. Talks on Health, Sanitation, and Child & Maternity welfare are given. New Health-Centres are opened, and rural Dais are trained and certificates for proper training are issued. Calcutta has started a Harijan Baby Clinics, and Indore a Birth-Control Clinic in spite of severe opposition from the orthodox section. An affiliated association of the Bombay Constituency also has started a similar clinic.

Enrolment of Women voters was carried out with great zeal and success, Maharashtra Constituency itself holding meetings in twenty-five different centres, thus helping a very large number of women to enrol themselves.

The Gujarat Constituency has instituted several cases against the breach of the Sarda Act, and got the culprits punished. But the mere penalising of the breach of the Sarda Act is not enough to put a stop to this unfortunate practice of Child Marriage. I recommend that the Constituencies should form strong Anti-Child-Marriage Committees in various centres to be on the look out for such cases, and take steps to prevent them; also to educate people, specially in villages and small towns, and bring home to them the terrible evils of Child-Marriage. One of the chief steps towards putting a stop to this harmful practice is the compulsory registration of Births and Marriages, so that no certificate is issued by the authorities where the contracting parties are underage, and in case of false statement as regards the ages, the culprits could easily be punished without the plea of ignorance of ages.

With this in view, Bombay and Gujarat Constituencies have made urgent demands of their respective Authorities for compulsory registration of marriages in communities where such registration is not in force. Also the All India Women's Conference should move in the matter, and request the Government or Municipal Authorities to enforce Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths. (The Registration of Deaths is also necessary to prevent complications in matters of succession.)

The Maternity Benefits Act is in force in some Provinces only, and the constituencies where this Act is not in force have made representations to the Authorities for the introduction of this Act in their respective Provinces, or to introduce an All-India Act on similar lines. We are glad to note that the Indore State has recently enacted such a Measure in the State.

The discomforts and dangers to which Third-Class Railway passengers, and especially Women Travellers, are subjected, have caused several Constituencies to move in the matter and request Railway Authorities to take immediate steps to remove these long-standing grievances. Bombay Constituency has taken up this matter, but since this question is not confined to one Province, other constituencies should move in the matter and make it an All-India concern.

The enthusiasm for the use of Swadeshi Articles and the encouragement of Indigenous Industries is growing in India, and Swadeshi Bazaars and Exhibitions were held along with the constituent conferences in Delhi, Mysore and Bombay.

The Reports of the Indigenous Industries, Rural Reconstruction, Franchise and Harijan Sub-Committees reveal very good and solid work put up in these branches of the Social Section.

In conclusion I tender my sincere thanks to the President, the Chairwoman, the Hon. Organising Secretary, and the Standing Committee Members and Conveners of Sub-Committees for their kind co-operation during the year.

Educational Sectional Report

Miss R. Reuben

I have no report in the ordinary sense because it is superfluous. You will have report of things going on in the various Constituencies. The Literary Committee, the Health Committee, and the Common language Committee will put up their Reports. It is better to put before you suggestions as regards the educational section. In the last two years that I have been Secretary, I have come across certain difficulties which I want to put before you, the Delegates and members of the Standing Committee, for consideration. The first point is as regards the choice of the Educational Secretary. I do feel that the amount of our work has to be recognised and for work of this type it is very very necessary to have a person who can give all her time to the work. You must choose a person who can devote considerable amount of time in doing the work. My second suggestion is as regards the Educational Committee. Instead of having a number of members on this Committee, I feel it would be more helpful to have only the conveners of the Educational Sub-Committees. Very often the Educational Committee work is hampered as there are many members and answers have to be given. As regards

the Constituencies, one of the difficulties I find is that immediately after the Annual Conference they always say that they are awaiting re-election of their Committees. There ought to be an Educational Committee on more or less a permanent basis whose work should not be hampered by half-yearly or annual Conference or echo meetings etc.

As regards the work of the Constituencies there is a great deal of daily education going on, and work in every other direction is also carried on. Besides all this we should have facts and figures from the various Constituencies. One work which Constituencies should take up is to make a General Survey of Educational problems in their areas. Very often we are asked for information on various educational points. But when we write to the Constituencies, we have to wait for ages for answer. If the Educational Sub-Committees are ready with these figures the information might be supplied in a very short time. Regarding Survey of work they will have to take up special work according to local needs. As regards reports a lot of time of the Conference is wasted in reading so many reports and repeating same things again and again. We have reports from different Constituencies giving same things. All Reports from different Constituencies should go to the Educational Committee and finally to the Organising Secretary's Report. A great deal of time would thus be saved.

All resolutions from various Constituencies are sent to the Educational Secretary who prints them and submits them to the Standing Committee. But I suggest that Reports from Constituencies should go to the Educational Secretary in time and she should find out important Resolutions and draft about half-a-dozen of them for the Standing Committee for consideration. That way our work will be facilitated and time will be saved.

Last point is the special work our Constituencies should do. The most important thing we want to take up is literacy and I would wish that all Constituencies would concentrate their time on literacy.

I beg to thank you all for the patient hearing.

Report of the Literacy Sub-Committee**Miss Z. Lazarus**

Soon after the Annual Session was completed in Travancore at the beginning of January 1936, I felt I should visit the Indian State of Cochin where the percentage of Literacy is 70, the highest in the whole of India. I found that remarkable progress had been achieved with regard to Primary Education, which really helps to solve this apparently insoluble problem. It seems more profitable to open fresh schools for young children than to spend a great deal of time, energy and money on adult women because it is not easy for a grown up woman to leave her house and work in the evenings or nights to attend classes. Again, another useful factor I found in Cochin was that Primary Education was more or less under the control of Government. Unfortunately in other parts of India Primary Education is entirely in the hands of Local Bodies whose income is limited while its expenditure knows no limits. There are so many calls on the purse of the Local Bodies such as Roads, Lighting, Sanitation, Conservancy etc., that they are inclined to treat Primary Education as the Cinderella of their family. I appeal to the Delegates present here to use all the influence they can to get this subject of Primary Education transferred entirely to Government who have the necessary funds to extend the Scheme.

At the Travancore Conference I appealed to each Delegate to make herself and each member of her Constituency responsible for making literate one woman or girl during the course of the year. In reply to my first Circular I had an encouraging letter from Mrs. B. Roy, Calcutta, who informed me that her Committee had started a Night School for adult men and women and with an average of nearly 70 attending it. The members are from all classes especially from the Depressed classes. In the Calcutta Corporation, Ward No. 9 is giving free Compulsory Primary Education for boys as well as for girls. In every ward free Primary Education for girls has been introduced.

At the Ladies' Park under the management of the Calcutta Constituency, weekly lectures for mothers and adult women are arranged on subjects such as Hygiene, Food, Maternity, Greater India, Civics, etc., which are greatly appreciated and largely attended—as many as 300 attending at times.

Every year a programme of 6 or 7 lectures on Refresher Courses for Teachers are arranged on different subjects such as Franchise, Home School Art, Food, Hygiene, Evolution of Bengali Literature, and Civics etc.

Again, the Calcutta Constituency has proposed to spread Literacy amongst adults through already existing organisations by giving them funds and suggestions. The Nari Siksha Samiti has 42 schools in different villages. The Saroj Nalini Association has a few schools. There are also some voluntary Brahmo Samaj organisations which are also doing good work.

In Madras Presidency, the Madras Library Association is doing a great deal of spade work not only in the smaller towns in the several districts, but is also carrying its message into the rural parts through its travelling libraries; for example, in the village of Sattankulan in the Tinnevely District, a building for a village Library and Reading Room will be opened on 2nd February next by the Man-President of the District Board who, though not a member of the A. I. W. C. has been inspired by the example set by our ladies in that remote District. Of course in Madras Presidency there are hundreds and hundreds of Primary Schools where children, especially boys receive regular instruction. There is a movement afoot in Madras City to make Primary Instruction compulsory not only for boys but also for girls especially Mohammedans.

In Bombay Presidency work is being done on similar lines in various parts and an intensive campaign has been launched. It remains for our delegates to make personal efforts in this direction. The Bombay City Literacy Association is doing splendid work especially among the untouchables of the City. In Mysore State, heroic efforts are being made by a few individuals in Mysore City, Bangalore and Tumkur. Primary Education is certainly in the hands of Local Bodies.

Suggested Programme for the next year -1937.

I. It seems to me one of the most practical ways to solve this huge problem is by gently persuading each member of your Constituency to make herself responsible for making literate one woman or girl during the next year.

II. Each member should insist on her servants being literate (If in the Bombay Presidency masters insisted on their servants being literate, it would increase the literacy of the country by at least 10 millions)- School children or College students could be entrusted with this work.

III. The Bombay Municipality employ about 4000 persons including 2000 Teachers. In addition to them it has a large army of 10,000 employees who are illiterate. A body as responsible as this should be made to tackle its own employees with the aid of its own Teachers and see that within a year these 10,000 illiterates are made literate. All Municipalities and smaller Local Bodies could do the same.

IV. Travelling Libraries and Village Libraries as in Madras.

V. * Mr Devasahayan's Tamil Scheme to be followed as an example.

VI. Baby shows as in Mysore State and the Five-year Plan of Mysore Women's Conference will increase literacy by 50 per cent.

* For the Scheme please refer to Mr. Devasahayan of Madras and for a Similar Marhatti Scheme for making an adult illiterate literate in one hour, please refer to Mr. Bhagwat, Pochana.

Report Of the Rural Reconstruction Sub-Committee for 1936

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur

I am glad to be able this year to report that some of our Constituencies have taken an interest in and tried to do some constructive work in rural areas.

Satara under the able leadership and Organising capacity of Begum Hamid Ali has furnished me with three interesting pamphlets on their Village Improvement scheme. Not only has propaganda been done but propagandists have been trained to carry the message of reconstruction throughout the district. Lectures on all subjects relating to village welfare both for men and women have been a special feature. "Dai" classes and Sarda Committees were formed in all the Talukas and many of the Villages, a Health Association was started and the place of Cottage industries was stressed. Side by side with the lectures, practical and useful demonstrations were given to the people so that the villager could readily understand the meaning of what he was being asked to do for the betterment of his condition. The delightful feature of this work has been the whole-hearted Co-operation of the Officials and the entire Government machinery in the district of Satara with Begum Hamid Ali. Her work should be an incentive to all wives of Collectors, in particular, to follow in her footsteps. It is to be hoped, in any event, that with the departure of our friend the good work started by her and Mr. Hamid Ali will not languish either for want of interest and help from the authorities or for lack of Voluntary workers.

Shrimati Kamalamma Dasappa started a Village school near Bangalore last June which was opened by Shrimati Kasturbai Gandhi and is getting on well. 25 children attend regularly. Baths are given them at school. A welfare Centre has been opened where antenatal and baby clinics are held every week, the lady doctor examines expectant mothers and their babies while medicines are supplied free. They are arranging to have Cinema health shows too. The annual Swadeshi exhibition held during the Deepawali festival was a great success. Rs. 100/- worth of Khadi was sold at the school during Gandhiji's birthday week. This is indeed a good beginning and the work should expand under Mrs. Dasappa's fostering care and enthusiasm.

Comilla (East Bengal) started a Sub-Constituency in April this year. Mrs. S. N. Ray - member in charge - decided to commence work in two Villages about 6 miles away from the town. The working Committee members go down once a week to each of these villages and classes are held twice a week for sewing, handicrafts and for adult education among the women. Lectures are given on Social Reform subjects and on maternity and child welfare. Village sanitation and improvement of thoroughfares are receiving the attention of the

Committee. A Cinema show was arranged in June. Village women were encouraged to send in their handicrafts to an exhibition for such recently held and money is being raised to have a permanent paid teacher who will go round to each village to give systematic lessons in weaving as also reading and writing. In these two villages a large number of women have become literate and with a paid teacher it is hoped to extend work to other villages in the interior. For a new Constituency the work at Comilla is specially commendable and I hope Mrs. Ray will remain there long enough to put the same on a firm footing.

Members of the Delhi Committee have paid several visits to neighbouring villages and discussed with the villagers the question of rural work. It was thought impossible to do sustained work without a whole time worker. One such has been appointed in Chandrawal who daily visits houses to teach adult women to read and write and needlework as also spinning to unemployed women. The worker also persuades the parents of school children not to allow the latter to absent themselves from school. The sanitary conditions of the village have received attention and are beginning to show signs of improvement. Villagers now approach the members for help and advice which in itself is an encouraging sign.

Konkan Constituency informs us that a fully qualified nurse has been visiting various village homes, giving lectures and talks to groups of villagers on cleanliness, prevention of disease, care of the sick and antenatal care. She has tended the sick and distributed medicines free to those villagers who live too far away to attend dispensaries or hospitals. Midwives have been instructed also to do their work with due attention to cleanliness.

Night classes have been held in one Mahar village but people belonging to higher castes from neighbouring villages have also been persuaded to attend these classes. The teacher here is himself a Haijan (chamar) but he has won the respect and goodwill of all. The villagers are being taught not only to read and write but to live cleaner, healthier and honourable lives. They have physical drill, "bhajans" on spiritual and classical subjects and talks on home industries. The Malabar Constituency is trying to rouse interest in rural work. Cottage industries and adult education are being encouraged and one Co-operative Society started exclusively for women and of which one member is Hony: Secretray is doing good work.

Mysore, as usual, shows good results in the shape of village schools for all classes. The school at Yediyur is progressing, another one has been opened for Mohammedans at Karisandra where both boys and girls attend. Adult classes for men and women are also being held here and one member is conducting a school for Harijans at Shoolny near Bangalore. Another village school is flourishing at Varuna and encouragement is given to Hindi which

women are showing keenness to learn. Members of the Lahore Committee pay frequent visits to the Y. W. C. A. Model Home in Ichra village. They teach sewing, knitting, cleanliness, personal hygiene and "first aid" to the women there. Members also manage some of the Red Cross Centres run under the Bagwanpura Centre which works in 13 different villages.

The Sind Constituency is trying to make a model village near Karachi. A small school has been started where women are taught to read and write and sew clothes and embroider. A class for children is also held. Travancore reports a special effort, in addition to normal work, in regard to the starting of bee-hives and a poultry farm as well as a system of Home Safe Deposit for the Harijan community. Andhra reports an increased interest in rural reconstruction and adult education. Berar and Gujarat report that their members are taking an interest in village work done by other organisations.

Members in Jullundur are subscribing Rs. 5/-per mensem for my village work in Manguwal on behalf of the Village Industries Association. As this village is about 40 miles away members are not able to visit it as often as they would like to.

It is possible and probable that other constituencies than the ones I have mentioned are working on similar lines but as they have not sent me in any reports of their activities I am unable to make special notes of their labours.

I can only hope that our members will realise more and more the magnitude and importance of the task of rural reconstruction as well the duty of women in this sphere. The interest that has been roused and the little practical work that has been started must be more than redoubled in the coming year if we are going to try and prove worthy of our calling. Once again I do urge each Constituency to "adopt" just one Village where regular visits and sustained work can be carried out on proper lines.

Report of the Labour Sub-Committee

Mrs. A. C. Chatterjee

At Trivandrum last year, a resolution advocating an All India Maternity Benefits Act was passed unanimously and the Conference further recommended that the constituencies in the different provinces should work for the passage of such a bill. In Calcutta we decided to work for this resolution and when we met for discussion in February this year we had information that the Government of Bengal had already approached the different organizations of Commerce, asking for their opinion on the practicability of

introducing a Maternity Benefits Bill for Bengal on the lines as those in Bombay and the Central Provinces. We therefore decided to write to the different commercial organisations to find out their views on the matter. Accordingly I wrote to the secretaries of the different organizations and received copies of the answers they had sent to the Secretary in charge of the Department. Both the European and Indian Chambers had agreed with the Government proposal for the introduction of this Bill. We also wrote to the Deputy Secretary asking for an interview for a discussion on the proposed Bill. In September this year the Bill was circulated and we joined with the Bengal Presidency Council of Women in sending our recommendations. Hence as far as Bengal is concerned, we are hoping to have a Maternity Act very soon. This has been a great step forward towards an All India Act as another Major Province will be added to the list of those that already have it. I should like to suggest here to those members who have no Maternity Act in their provinces that they should work for this purpose with a greater enthusiasm and carry on organised agitation for obtaining such legislation in their provinces so that very soon it might be possible to have an All India Maternity Benefits Act.

For a year and a half conditions in the mining area have been a source of anxiety for every one interested in the well being of Labour. The distress has increased but no adequate help, either from the authorities, or from welfare organizations has been offered to these unfortunate people. We have not been able to appoint our woman supervisor yet for want of sufficient funds. Two appeals for funds have been issued, one to the general public, the other by the Labour Sub-Committee of the Delhi League to all interested in the welfare of women in the mining area. The first one which appeared in News papers, had no response, the second has been partly successful. The whole point in the agitation is that if we want to have a woman worker representing the A. I. W. C. in the mining area at all, we should appoint her immediately, otherwise, if we delay much longer, such a worker will not be needed any more.

In March as we all know Miss Copeland saw Mr. Clow and put our case before him. She wrote a hopeful letter saying that Mr. Clow had said that it might be possible, provided that his department agreed, to encourage handloom weaving in the Coalfield area. He also agreed to make enquiries about getting a portion of the Central Rural Reconstruction Fund, earmarked for the mines area. We have had no further news on these points.

In spite of virulent criticism, the Behar Government have done nothing for the abolition of the Outstill system of distilling liquor in Behar. The effects of cheap drinks have already been repeatedly emphasised. Hence it is not necessary for us to go into details again. Conditions are just as bad, if

not worse, as when we started almost two years ago. That something should be done immediately is more than evident from all reports. It is possible for us to start a widespread agitation for the abolition of such a system and all our centres should work for this end. As an influential organisation we can help in this way and we should not deny the people of Behar this much needed help.

Report of the Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee

Mrs. Hansa Mehta

During the year under report, I am happy to say that there has been marked activity on the part of some of the members of my Committee. Three of the members have submitted a very satisfactory account of the work they have been doing. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur reports that their branch of the conference at Simla tried to encourage the sale of indigenous articles by opening a small shop. Apart from this shop, they also held exhibitions of articles at women's gatherings every month. The articles were from the Gandhi Seva Sena, Bombay, Mysore arts and crafts, Travancore arts and crafts, some exhibits left over from the last All India Village Industries Exhibition, Sindh embroideries, hand made note paper, various kinds of soap, leather goods from Vishwabharati, curtains from Widow's Home in Ahmednagar district, some fancy articles from Rani Rajwade's working class in Gwalior and Khadi from Punjab spinners' Association. The sale came to between Rs. 1500/- and Rs. 1800/- of hand made articles and about Rs. 2000/- of Khadi. The enterprise was on the whole a success and though it may not be possible to open a permanent shop owing to the Simla season being short and the Octroi charges being high, Rajkumari feels that encouraged by the response last year they would certainly try to carry on this practical propaganda for the encouragement of indigenous industries and particularly hand made articles in future.

Mrs. Barakat Rai writes from Aurangabad to say that she has been able to gather quite a good bit of information with regard to the various industries in that district. Aurangabad being an old city many of its handicrafts are famous throughout India. At present Hemroo, Kinkhab and silk are manufactured there and find a ready market. In one of the taluqas called Paitan very good pagaries and paithan saris are made. All these industries receive state aid and are frequently inspected by Government Officers. Apart from this Shriman Rupnarayanji has also started a handicraft association in

which an appreciable quantity of handspun cotton is turned into cloth. This association has started a section for women of which Mrs. Barkat is President. It is known as the Women's Handicraft Association. The Working Committee meets twice a week and if they find any unemployed women, they try to induce them to work at home and earn some money. If the women are agreeable they are first taught in the Association's workshop according to their ability, such industries as spinning, weaving, cloth cutting, sewing, book binding, paper making and many other small handicrafts. The Association has found that it is not difficult to dispose of their stocks provided that the goods are purely Swadeshi. Mrs. Barakat Rai expects to introduce this experiment among the Bhir women also. She has submitted a list of industries in which women are employed. They are (1) Match factory in Bijapur where five hundred women get work, (2) Bidi factory in which nearly one thousand women get work, (3) Cane weaving, (4) Silk spinning and weaving and (5) Paper manufacture employ a much smaller number.

Mr. Kamalamma Dasappa from Bangalore writes to say that the Mahila Seva Samaj of which she is an organiser encourages Swadeshi in all possible ways. It organised a Khadi and swadeshi exhibition during the Deepavali week. Swadeshi articles from all parts of India were exhibited. The exhibition was well patronised by the public and during the five days it ran more than ten thousand men women and children visited it. The ladies' section was most attractive stall in which was displayed a good collection of hand work, old and new. This was the second Deepavali exhibition that the Mahila Samaj organized with the co-operation of the Swadeshi Vyapari Sangh. Their attempts have proved a great success and they intend to make the Deepavali Exhibition an annual function.

Besides the annual exhibition, a Swadeshi store is kept at the Samaj. All the articles needed for the school, the Samaj is conducting, such as note books, pencils, etc., are all Swadeshi made. At their prize distribution and for their industrial class only Swadeshi articles are purchased. It is gratifying to know, she writes, that the members are greatly encouraging Swadeshi.

The cottage industries, she writes, which provided employment for women, by which they could add to their income are in great peril. Weaver women who used to make silk at home are now without work as the yarn they produce cannot compete with the fine mill yarn. Recently an invention of a machine for 'Nekki' work, in Ajmer threw out of employment 1,500 families in Bangalore. There was a strike of these poor people and at last the Government had to interfere and a compromise was arrived at. Mrs. Dasappa hopes that these are some of the questions which the conference will take up and try to find some means to help the poor women

who suffer under the new industrial policy and also help to preserve the old industries.

The Bombay constituency was the only one to reply to my circular letter No. 1. They gave me a report as to what the Department of Industries of the Bombay Government is doing by way of encouraging the indigenous industries, more especially the Cottage Industries. In my half yearly report I have given at length the work that is being carried on by this department and so I need not go over the whole thing again.

I wish other constituencies would give me information about the work in this connection done in their respective areas. It is unfortunate that even the statistics I had asked for from the various constituencies have not been so far received by me.

During the year under report it is most gratifying to know that the importance of encouraging indigenous industries has been widely recognised. The Congress exhibition of village industries which proved a great success last year has shown possibilities for the development of the cottage industries. The Chitra exhibition at Trivandrum, the Lucknow Exhibition under the auspices of the U. P. Government, the Indigenous Industries Conference opened by Sir Frank Noyce at Lucknow are sufficient indications to show where the wind blows. It is, however, not the production which needs so much encouragement as improvement in the quality of the products and marketing them. Here the state aid is an absolute necessity. There is a general complaint from the producers of this country that for lack of proper marketing facilities, for lack of transport facilities, it is not possible for them to compete with foreign goods. In Patna the Government used to run a sales depot for indigenous goods produced in their factory. Such depots ought to be established or helped to be established by the Government Departments of Industries for marketing the products of cottage industries. A marketing company has been recently started in U. P. with the aid of Government, to help the agriculturists. Similar companies can be started with the state aid to help the cottage industries. I hope the Conference will direct the constituencies to move in this matter. Prosperity of this country depends on the development of its indigenous industries, great and small. Unless we are able to give bread first to the starving millions it will not be possible to expect any improvement in other directions for which the Conference is striving.

Opium Sub-Committee Report

Begum Hamid Ali

For the last two years we are trying to obtain some information from each Constituency about opium. In 1930 when the Government of India had a Conference, it was written in the Daily Herald that out of 1000 children in India 440 die of opium. Government did not accept this without proper grounds. We should therefore try and get authoritative information from each Constituency, so that we may put before Government this matter in a forcible manner. We had sent a form to different Constituencies but from none of the Constituencies adequate report was received. Hence I am unable to give you the Opium report. We made attempts in Satara and received some information. They formed a Committee and kept watch over opium shops. You can also follow their example and try to detect for whom opium is being purchased. Our health visitors are doing the same thing. They visit the houses and explain to parents that they should give up giving opium.

If these forms are filled in and returned, our hands will be strengthened in making our representation to Government. All the Committees working in connection with opium should take note of this. We should take special care of our Tea-shops in the villages. Most of them put opium and habits of opium and tea-drinking are increasing day by day.

Report of the Harijan Sub-Committee

Mrs. Brajlal Nehru

The year 1936 has been a very auspicious year for the work concerning the Harijans. In the State of Travancore by a Royal Proclamation all Harijans are allowed to enter the temples without any restrictions. This has been a great move forward in the abolition of untouchability. In fact as far as the State of Travancore is concerned it may be said without any reservation that untouchability has completely gone from that part of the country. I take this opportunity to express the thanks of the women of India, to the Maharaja and the Mother Maharani of Travancore for the great service they have done to the country by removing untouchability from their State. They will be remembered with gratitude by the coming generations.

The contribution of our constituencies to the Harijan cause has not been very striking this year. Gujarat, Calcutta, Travancore, Delhi, Konkan, Kolhapur,

Maharashtra, Indore, Berar, C. P. South and Simla mention Harijan work in their reports. Of these Calcutta, Maharashtra, and Delhi are maintaining schools for Harijan children. In Calcutta the Bal Mandir, the children's clinic which was started a couple of years ago is progressing satisfactorily. In C. P. South and one or two other places functions were organised by our constituencies on festival days to which caste Hindus as well as the Harijans were invited. Garments were given to the Harijan children by the Simla constituency.

The field of Harijan service is vast and hundreds of workers are needed to do the work which is lying undone. It is the women of India even more than the men who can accomplish this great task. Harijan work is unostentatious and unexciting, it may even be a sort of drudgery but it is urgent and necessary all the same. It is the basic work on the foundations of which the whole structure of nation will be built. I therefore appeal to my co-workers of the Women's Conference to devote more attention to this work and try and give a better record of their services next year.

The Anti-Child Marriage Committee Report for 1936

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon

This Committee concerned itself with propaganda regarding the proposed amendments to the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929.

All the Constituencies were asked to hold public meetings and put forward their suggestions regarding Mr. B. Das's Bill. Most of them showed keen interest in the work and held public meetings and suggested more drastic amendments.

The Bill was circulated by Bihar & Orissa Government for our opinion and through the Hon. Organising Secretary the Committee gave its opinion and suggestions regarding the amendment.

A very great incentive to propaganda is given by Rani Rajwade's generous offer of Rs. 100/- to any Constituency which conducts prosecutions of child marriages in contravention of the Act. The minimum number of prosecutions demanded is 100 which is very high and many constituencies have asked for a lower minimum. This we hope will encourage constituencies that are financially hard hit and socially conscious.

Report of The Franchise Sub Committee

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade

The half-yearly report of the Franchise Sub-Committee which was submitted at Waltair is already in the hands of the members of the Standing Committee. At the half-yearly meeting certain portions from a note on franchise and representation of women, drafted by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and circulated to the members of the Franchise Sub-Committee, were incorporated in the Memorandum on the Status of Women in India, submitted to the League of Nations. At Waltair the Standing Committee discussed the attitude the conference was to adopt with regard to the new elections to the various legislatures, meaning thereby whether the Conference was to set up its own candidates or not. Suggestions for setting up candidates on behalf of the Conference had been made by some women workers. The half-yearly meeting fully discussed the question and came to the conclusion that this would not be possible for the Conference because it had neither the requisite organization nor the funds at its disposal to do so vide item No. 15, page 4 of the half-yearly minutes (1936).

The half-yearly meeting also passed a resolution which runs as follows:—

“It was resolved to agitate for franchise and for representation of women in regard to local bodies the nucleus Self-Government where these rights do not exist. As it is a very paradoxical situation that although women have been accorded certain rights of voting and representation in regard to the Central and Provincial Legislatures and Municipalities they have been left out of any participation in the activities of the units of certain Local Governments where direct contact would help far larger numbers of women to have training in citizenship and where their participation is absolutely essential for any real improvement.”

At the same meeting it was also decided to get into touch with other women's organisations and to collect information regarding the women who could contest elections to the reserved seats for women in their constituencies. The Congress and other parties were approached to keep the Conference in touch with the names of those women candidates whom they were setting up. The Conference also expressed a hope that the political parties should set up some women candidates to contest general seats. The Honorary Organising Secretary will, I think, be able to give you details on this point.

The advisability of requesting the Government to appoint responsible women volunteers as polling officers and scrutinizers of women's votes during the elections was considered. The suggestion was accepted and the constituencies were asked to act locally in the matter.

In a letter dated the 16th November, 1936, Dr. Reddi said that women's associations have certain responsibilities in the matter of choice of women candidates. Therefore we might suggest the names of suitable women candidates to the various political parties in the country and ask them to adopt them.

The President of the Congress was addressed in this matter and his reply is already in the hands of the members of the Standing Committee.

In the letter under reference Dr. Reddi points out that women had stood out against reservation of seats relying on the good sense of their men folk to set up some women candidates from the general constituencies. She further said that the Congress party was not putting up any woman candidate for the general seats though competent women candidates were available.

Dr. Reddi's letter was circulated to the members of the Franchise Sub-Committee with my personal reply to it. In the reply it was said that reservations having been provided in the New Constitution by law, it was hardly fair to expect any party to assign any general seat to a woman, simply because she was a woman. The present constitution of the All India Women's Conference also prevents us from identifying our interests with any political party and hence it is perhaps too much to expect them to assign of their own accord a few general seats for women.

Only two members of the Franchise Sub-Committee have replied to this letter to me directly. Both of them have been in agreement with my reply in general.

It has been suggested by one member that in view of the unwillingness of some of the women who are on principle against contesting seats reserved for women, it might be worth while to approach the Congress to make an exception in the case of such women provided of course they sign the necessary party pledges.

Another member while agreeing with my reply has pointed out that the Congress has set up women candidates for the general seats wherever possible though it might not have been done in Madras.

Such practical difficulties would suggest the necessity of making suitable amendments to the constitution of the Conference. This question will come before the Conference in due time.

Report of the Health Sub-Committee

Dr. Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankar

As a Convener of the Public-Health Sub-Committee A. I. W. C. I endeavoured to collect information on the subject from various constituencies by sending them a questionnaire on Medical Inspection of schools. Answers to the same were received from the Constituencies, Bombay, Baroda, U. P. (Oudh), Simla, Gujarat, Travancore, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, Central Punjab, Konkan, Mysore, and Calcutta. From the answers to the questionnaire as well as from the reports sent by some of these Constituencies, one finds that Medical Inspection of Children in Schools, Private, Municipal, Local Board, Government or Secondary has far reaching effects. It has shown certainly encouraging results, especially in those Constituencies where Co-operation for this work is received from Government or Local bodies in the form of monetary aid, grants or other ways.

The methods applied for carrying out Medical Inspection of Children differ in different areas. In most of the Constituencies it is neglected in Private Secondary Schools. In very few places it is followed on; the importance of this appears to have been fully realised in Constituencies like Bombay, Baroda, Mysore, and Simla; others have only been moving in the direction. By vigorous propaganda, through the medium of Magic Lantern Lectures and show of educative medical films, the public support can be gained for this most humanitarian scheme.

Primary Schools must invariably have Clinics and the parents or guardians of children should be invited to see the far reaching effects of such clinics. It is found that generally in the Primary Schools, we have a large number of Children who are handicapped by some ailment or other. Establishment of School Clinics is therefore essential as it will bring remedy at the earlier stage while the parents may not afford to treat their children at Public Hospitals or by private Doctors.

Much can be done in this direction by starting Medical Boards in every Constituency, which with the aid of Government or Local Boards may have some honorary Doctors to visit schools, at least Primary ones, and follow on the practice throughout the year. Once the parents or guardians are made to realise the importance of Medical Inspection a lot can be done by their co-operation to improve the Health of thousands of diseased children. There should be special lectures of interest arranged for the parents and guardians. Diseases of Nose, Throat, Eye, Teeth, Skin Rickets, Spleen enlargement and anaemia are very common amongst children. From the reports one finds that these are not quite incurable. Thousands of children have been relieved through the efforts, direct or indirect, of Medical Inspection.

Besides Medical Inspection, important factors to improve the children's health should be handled by the respective Constituencies; 1. Sanitation of Schools 2. Nutrition 3. Clothing and Cleanliness 4. Open Air physical exercise.

Sanitation of Schools:—Schools as far as possible must be located in healthy surroundings in well ventilated premises, the classes should not be too crowded. A spirit of cleanliness must be created in the minds of Children. Our constituencies could do lots in this matter by having Visiting Committees of women.

2. *Nutrition:*—This is one of the most important factors which vitally affects children's health. Many diseases of Teeth, Abdomen, Lungs etc., trace their beginning from bad nutrition. The system of young children is often starved for want of healthy food. In some Constituencies milk is supplied to children but that is not enough. Of course, sufficient funds are necessary but it can be solved if the Local Bodies of the Constituencies lend a whole hearted support.

3. *Clothing & Cleanliness:*—Very often children in Primary schools are found so dirty that it is painful to see them so. If possible, efforts should be made to supply clothing to the poor children and the habit of cleanliness created in them through individual efforts in school and by homely talk with the parents on the subject.

4. *Open air physical exercise:*—True, this has been resorted to through the medium of drill and games in almost all the schools but the time allotted for this is hardly enough to have any vital effect. Very often classes are conducted immediately after a vigorous game or exercise and the children who have hardly regained normal breath for studious work are at a loss to follow instructions. Sufficient time must elapse before any mental work is taken up after physical exercise.

Well equipped clinics do not seem to have been established in any of the Constituencies except Bombay. Medical Inspection as a necessity should be made compulsory in all schools whether Primary, Secondary, Local Board, Municipal, Private, or otherwise. On the whole Medical Inspection has tended towards decrease of diseases of children and it is a healthy sign that even in Constituencies where school clinics are still not started the percentage of disease is decreasing.

We must take up this question in right earnest now and in all Constituencies where Medical Inspection is not introduced, make vigorous propaganda for the introduction of Medical Inspection and Clinics wherever possible. If we do that, we shall have helped a great way in the production of healthy citizens for our Nation.

Report of the Liaison Officer A. I. W. C.

Begum Hamid Ali

Our partnership with the Liaison group in England has borne good result it has brought about sympathy and understanding for our difficulties and we have to thank our friends for many efforts made on our behalf. Their unconditional support to our resolutions regarding "Women in Administration", their support of the bills and acts and amendments to better the legal and social position of Indian women, their resolution regarding clemency for political prisoners and their protest against the use of bombs in the North West Frontier, a deep and abiding interest in the welfare, health, medical aid, education of our womanhood—all inspire us with gratitude. We must thank those who are at the helm overseas and above all Mrs. Lankester and Miss Agatha Harrison who are mainly instrumental in bringing out that interesting paper "Bulletin of Indian Women's movement" which is extremely well informed and does great propaganda work for us.

Bulletin No. 8 on Indian Women's Movement, February 1936, printed the impressions of Miss Daisy Solomon of the Conference held at Trivandrum. Miss Solomon represented the Liaison Group from England. Dr. Kora and Mrs. Tyau, Miss Muriel Lester, Mrs. Sanger and Mrs. How Martyn were our other distinguished Visitors from over-seas, at Trivandrum.

Miss Solomon wrote "the hospitality and friendliness were amazing. The way in which people of all communities and from all parts of India mixed freely together was, I think, the greatest achievement of the Conference and had the greatest educational value. The educational Section was very good and I think the best session. A Sub-Committee was set up to go into the matter of a common language. Another Committee was appointed to go into the matter of literacy, and another to go into such matters as School Hygiene and sanitation, medical inspection of school children, school clinics, dietetics, and so on. I thought the speakers showed great self control when discussing the Franchise resolutions and there was an absence of bitterness, although it was made quite clear that the new franchise qualifications were strongly disapproved of and a keen disappointment. It was however, unanimously agreed to conduct a vigorous propaganda to get women on the electoral roll on the literacy qualification and not on the wifehood qualificaton. It was realised that there was much apathy among women and that it was upto the members of the A. I. W. C. to overcome this."

Miss Lester writes about the earnestness with which Indian women tackle their problems. "Do not trust to words and resolutions but act" was the urgent undertone of nearly every speech. Delegates were asked not to vote

for the resolution on extending rural reconstruction unless they intended to give their personal service, and not to support the Swadeshi motion urging the use of Indian produced goods unless they were prepared to give up wearing foreign saris. Each speech on the franchise resolution was clear, concise, convincing. For years Indian women have said here and in many countries that they did not want reserved seats, votes as the wives of voters, indirect elections, or communal representation. Yet the poison of communalism is being forcibly administered to them."

Mrs. Ray has been quoted in this number of the Bulletin. She was our Social Section Secretary when she visited England last year and did very fine work for us.

Mrs. Lankester sent us copies of two resolutions passed by the Council of the Women's Inter-national League. One was asking for an act of clemency and releasing all Political prisoners at the accession of King Edward VIII and the second was a protest against the use of bombs by the Government of India in the North West Frontier. The Council urged the Government of India to remove economic and other causes of unrest on the Frontier by peaceful means.

Mrs. Lankester spoke at length on our resolution "Women in Administration in India" at a Conference arranged by the British Common Wealth League on March 11th, 1936. She said "I firmly believe that in the new India we may see women getting to the highest places of responsibility. It is revealing to see what posts in administration women have been holding in India, and in other directions what their work has been. There were, of course, three women on the Round Table Conferences, and Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi was a member of the Auxiliary Educational Committee of the Indian Statutory Commission while Mrs. Brijlal Nehru served on the "Age of Consent" committee. Dr. Reddi was the first woman on the Madras Legislative council, and for three years she acted as Deputy President of that body, and during that time she was able to initiate some much needed reforms. There are now four women in Provincial Legislatures, in U. P. and C. P.. The members have been nominated but in Madras and Punjab they got in, by open election.

"In the Indian State of Travancore a woman had the honour to be the first in any legislature and recently the Christian community there chose a woman to represent them in the council, while at one time a woman was in charge of the Health Administration in the State. There is a women's Medical Service for British India employing only women and women are in administrative charge of this service. There are many women, both elected and nominated on Municipalities, Corporations, and District Boards. On her

recent visit to India Dame Elizabeth Cudbury met three women of the Calcutta Corporation and compared notes with those and recently three women have been elected on the Bombay Municipal council.

Begum Shah Nawaz, known to many of us here is doing fine work on the Lahore Municipality and in all parts of India women are taking part in local administration. There are also a number of women Magistrates, and in Lucknow there is a Bench composed entirely of women who deal with the women and children in the Court. A woman Magistrate in Calicut is a member of the "Depressed Classes" and recently received the Kaiser-i-Hind medal. Women are also working in many other departments, in Government Secretariats, and in telegraph, telephone and postal services, while there are of course many engaged in educational work, who hold responsible posts and there are several women lecturers in men's Colleges. I hope that I have said enough to prove that women are already entering almost every sphere of public life and service in India. What is a next step?

"I have tried to get from India the idea underlying the resolution we are discussing, that women should be given chances of association in the administration of the Legislatures and should also be put on every commission and committee and on every bureau where the welfare of women & children are concerned and that this should appear in the "Instruments of Instruction." This is what one woman leader has written to me. "What we want is a definite recognition that the administration, especially in departments which concern the welfare of women and children will be better run if women are associated in all such. For example the departments of Health and labour ought definitely to have women in their Secretariats. These women should be in a position to put forward the point of view of the women's organisations and the women workers themselves, when any measures or policies affecting their welfare are brought forward.

"As an example of the importance of having women in administration, let us take *Education*. In the last census the returns of literacy for the whole of India are males 15.6%. females 2.9% (it is interesting to note that in the Indian State of Cochin the literacy figure for women is as high as 22 % and for Travancore 16.8 %, which are partly due to the higher status of women in those States). These figures prove how little attention has yet been paid to the education of women and girls. Although there are in Bengal 19000 primary schools for girls it takes two of these schools to produce one "literate" per year, which would seem that much of the money that is spent on the education of girls in that province is wasted. We can see the reason for this when we know that for these schools there are only two women Inspectors and 12 Assistant Inspectresses. On the other hand the Panjab has gone ahead remarkably in the last few years with regard to female education because there is a Deputy Directress of Education in that province. Madras, which is ahead

of any other province has a Central Committee on Girls' Education but even here I hear in a letter received by last mail that the Madras Government has appointed a Committee to draft a scheme of compulsory education, and in this only boys are mentioned, all mention of girls being completely left out,

"If that committee had only had some women on it", my correspondent from Madras writes "this Certainly would not have happened. We are now agitating for girls to be included also in this scheme of education".

"We have, however, been greatly cheered by the appointment of two women to the new central Advisory Education Board for the whole of India, Lady Grigg and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. This Board should help to unify Provincial Educational programmes and lead the way to progress in this direction. Even as regards Bengal, about which I gave such a poor account, I have read in the paper that have just come from India that the Minister for Education stated last month that he had the question of the education of girls particularly under consideration and that he was making an increased provision for Rs. 50000/- to be spent on this, and that he also proposed to set up a woman's Board to advise Government on the subject. This is good news indeed.

"In the department of Labour women are greatly needed in the administration. There is a deplorable lack of factory inspectors, and the conditions of labour in many parts are extremely bad. The A. I. W. C. last year sent a commission of their own to enquire into conditions under which women work in the mines and they issued a valuable report. It is obvious that it is most necessary for women to be associated in Health administration, Maternity and Child Welfare, the Training of mid-wives, the enforcement of the Child Marriage Restraint Act and much needed Amendment of that Act all need the co-operation of women in the departments concerned.

"Women feel very strongly about the censorship of films in India, and they have urged that they should be represented on these Committees. One or two provinces like the Punjab have appointed women members but the majority of the provinces have neglected to do so in spite of repeated protests.

"I have tried to show the reasons why women in India are asking to be given a chance of association in the administration in the new Constitution, the great need to have them there, and their qualifications for such work. It was recognised by the Simon Commission, and has been reiterated many times since, that the "Women's Movement in India holds the key to progress". It is surely upto us to see that they get within reach of the doors which they will be able to open with that key."

Miss Rathbone and Mrs. Lankester had an interview with the Under Secretary of State for India and pressed for acceptance of our resolution. As the most important part of his reply had already been circulated by the organising

Secretary I shall not insert it at length. The gist of it was that the administrative posts would be in the hands of the Ministers and that the Government would not be able to interfere—therefore it was not possible on technical grounds to insert this clause. Mrs. Lankester inquires now if we would approve if the Liaison Group wrote to all the Governors of provinces asking them when they make their official speeches at the opening of provincial Government, to make a point of stressing the importance of the part that women play and the hope that they (women) will be appointed to fill responsible posts ?

Mr. Mackenzie's letter in regard to save the Children Inter-national union has been circulated and answered, some pamphlets and information have been forwarded to him - and more will be forwarded when received from the various constituencies.

The Child Marriage Restraint Act - its working and inadequacies have been much discussed by the Liaison group. Mr. Das's Amendment Bill has roused their interest. A copy of the Bill and the various circulars and bulletins on the subject have been forwarded to the Liaison Officer. Dr. Deshmukh's bill on inheritance has had their support in England. Letters have been written by the Liaison group to the Times and other papers supporting those measures which are favourable to women in India. A suggestion had been made to appoint a corresponding Indian member in England who will answer letters and put forward the views of the All India Women's Conference in the English press. An enquiry and questionnaire was forwarded by the Inter-national Alliance which was answered on behalf of the Conference by me as the time was too short for circularising. My answer was based mainly on Mrs. Hansa Mehta's valuable note on "The Political and Economic Disabilities of Indian women." I advocated the principle of "Like conditions of work for men and women, on basis of equality and output."

Miss Agatha Harrison—London

I am speaking for the Liaison Group of British Women's Societies which is co-operating with your Conference. You have had so many reports this morning. So I do not intend to read this one. The only thing I ask you is to read it when your Conference Report is printed and ready, because I think it will show you what we are trying to do. Among other things we prepare a Bulletin regularly that goes out to different parts of the world. For example, directly we get the information of this Conference by Air Mail in England, it will be immediately put into a Special Bulletin which will be circulated not only in Great Britain but in other countries e. g. Australia, America, Geneva etc. In this way information comes to the knowledge of those interested in speaking or writing on India. A member of the Young Women's Christian Association in the United States of America who had been here for the Ceylon Conference,

asked me before she sailed for America to send the Bulletin to her so that the many women with whom this Association is in touch may learn of your work. This Liaison work has been found to be of great value in Great Britain and we would urge that it is not only with the British women that you should have this Liaison work but the same link should be made with women of other countries.

Women from the Liaison Group in England have asked me to give you a message in connection with peace :—

“ At this most critical time, when every country seems to be arming to the teeth, when mutual fears and distrust seem to dominate every national policy, and when one country in Europe is in the throes of possibly the most ghastly civil war in history, we believe that the women in almost every country are passionately desirous of peace. Women everywhere must unite and we need the help of Indian women in the work of preparation for peace, so infinitely harder than preparation for war. We believe that women in the East, and perhaps especially in India, have a particular contribution to make. Whatever it may be, whether an emphasis on spiritual values which should counteract violence, or any other contribution specially their own - we look to the women of India at this time to join hands with us in helping to save civilisation from destruction. ”

Madam President, I report that many of us who are travelling round India, are constantly being told that until India is an equal member in the Family of Nations it is impossible to take an active share in the work for peace. In spite of this, we persist in saying we want your help at this juncture.”

Report of Liaison Group of British Women's Societies co-operating with All India Women's Conference

**British Commonwealth League
Six Point Group
Women's Freedom League
Women's International League**

The Liaison Group of British Women's Societies which work in co-operation with the All India Women's Conference are glad to present once again to the Conference at their Annual Session a report of activities during the year.

In submitting their report last year the Group expressed the hope that the links, which were originally formed in order to support the demands of organised Indian women for rights in the new constitution, would not be broken after the passing of the Government of India Act. They were, therefore, delighted to hear that at the last annual session, the Conference definitely expressed the wish that the contacts should remain unimpaired, though the character of the work might be changed, and that they had appointed Begum Hamid Ali to be Liaison Officer in the place of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, who had done so much to strengthen the links and interpret the views of Indian women to our Group. Begum Hamid Ali became known to many of us through her visit to England in 1935, and our co-operation with her this year has been built up on the ground of mutual understanding and happy friendship. The Group has felt particularly fortunate in having as their first two Liaison Officers in India women who were doing such devoted work themselves for their country, especially in rural areas, where the need is greatest. Our knowledge of conditions in India has been enriched by the experience of those with whom we have come into such close contact.

Last spring a request came from the Conference to the group that we should work for the recognition of the necessity of women being in administrative posts in India especially in the departments of Health, Labour and Education. In response, this desire has been expressed at meetings and especially at a Conference arranged by the British Commonwealth League, when both Mrs. Rama Rau and Mrs. Lankester spoke of the need for women to be in the administration, and resolutions were passed and sent to the government. After Mrs. Lankester, as Liaison Officer had approached Mr. Butler, the Under Secretary of State for India, by letter on the subject, he asked her to come with Miss Rathbone for a fuller discussion at the India Office. The impression gained from this interview was that the British Government did not wish to interfere in matters of this kind in the new Constitution, as the appointments to administrative posts would in future be in the hands of Ministers responsible to the legislatures. We have done what we could to impress on the Government here the need for women to be included in these posts and to serve on Commissions, and now it seems as if any future work can only be done with effect in India. We hesitate to offer suggestions to experienced workers on the spot, but we would urge them to consider bringing pressure to bear through the Conference, both at the Centre and through its constituencies, on every Governor and Minister when the new Constitution comes into operation.

The Group has taken much interest in the Bills for social reform, which have been before the Legislative Assembly, especially in Dr. Deshmukh's Bill with regard to Hindu Women's Property and Mr. Das's Bill to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act. A letter to the London 'Times' emphasising the importance of Mr. Das's Bill, explaining its objects and expressing the hope that it might have the support of the Government was written last August, signed

by the following distinguished men and women:—Lord Lothian, Mrs. Tate M. P.; Miss Cuzalet M. P., Miss Rathbone M. P., Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, Rev. Paton and our Chairman Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Mrs. Lankester, as Liaison Officer followed up the correspondence, as a letter had appeared over the signature of a wellknown Indian woman, saying that she considered that the time was not ripe for further legislation; more propaganda needed to be done as public opinion was by no means ready for such a Bill. Mrs. Lankester wrote pointing out that the A. I. W. C. was doing a great deal of educational work on those lines, but as the largest body of organised women in India they whole heartedly supported the Bill, which she felt was significant. She thought it would be seen that progressive opinion in India considered that legislation on these lines was overdue, so that the defects in the Sarda Act, which had largely led to it becoming a dead letter might be removed.

In October a letter appeared in the 'Times' drawing attention to Dr. Deshmukh's Bill, which was signed by representatives of the Liaison Group. The correspondence on both these Bills aroused a good deal of interest both in England and India and we understand that the promoters of the Bills appreciated the help we gave in this way. The British Commonwealth League were particularly active in helping to get this publicity. The Liaison Committee consider that it would be very valuable if, on occasions like these, leading members or officers of the A. I. W. C. could themselves write to the "Times." It would go far to counteract opinions expressed sometimes by Indians in England out of touch with progress in India.

The Bulletin, issued in connection with the Liaison work, is steadily increasing its subscription list and its influence. Copies go to over 30 women's organisations in England, India, Geneva, Australia, and U. S. A. We have received appreciative letters from India, saying that even there the Bulletin serves to give a comprehensive view of women's work throughout the country. We are always glad to receive from correspondents in India accounts of their work and interests and we shall be pleased to send copies to members of the A. I. W. C. who may like to see the Bulletin regularly. Extracts have appeared in the Christian Science Monitor in U. S. A. and also in a Melbourne newspaper and the press correspondents in England to whom it is sent regularly make use of it in various ways. There is no doubt that the work of Indian women for social and educational reform is by this means getting better known and appreciated and that it has helped to counteract the distorted picture of Indian womanhood that were given in the past.

The Liaison Officer is grateful to the members of the Committee who work with her for all their help, and especially to the Chairman, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who, in spite of her very busy life with its many responsibilities, national and

international, always endeavours to keep in touch with our work. Thanks are also especially due to Miss Todhunter for a great deal of valuable help rendered with keenness and interest. The Committee remain the same, except that Mrs. Guy Innes (chairman of the British Commonwealth League Executive) served in the place of Miss Solomon during the latter's absence in India and S. Africa and was asked to stay on after her return, and Mrs. Struge, who has agreed to represent the women's International League instead of Miss Harrison while she is away. Miss Underwood represents the Women's Freedom League and Miss Avaijai Mehta the six point Group. St. Joans Social and Political alliance continue to send an observer to our Committee to co-operate wherever possible.

The Committee is glad that invitation to attend the annual session as observers have, at our request, very kindly been sent by the A. I. W. C. Standing Committee to several British women leaders in other organisations who are visiting India and who had expressed their wish to be present at the Conference. We should like to express our gratitude and appreciation of the welcome that has been extended to them.

The Group were delighted that Miss Daisy Solomon, the Hon. Secretary of the British Commonwealth League, one of the most active of our co-operating societies received an invitation, together with Miss Muriel Lester, to attend the last annual session of the Conference at Trivandrum. This contact with Indian leaders has been most helpful to our work here. Both Miss Solomon and Miss Lester gave their impression at a largely attended At Home given by the Women's Advisory Council on Indian questions to welcome back the visitors to both the A. I. W. C. and the International Council of Women Conference that had been held at Calcutta. Miss Solomon has also spoken at meetings and conferences arranged by organisations in the Group and the Committee have been very glad of the help which she has been able to give them from first hand knowledge. They much appreciated all the kindness and hospitality that were given to Miss Solomon and Miss Lester at Trivandrum.

The Group received the news that Miss Agatha Harrison had been invited to attend the annual session at Ahmedabad this year as the Liaison Group representative with the greatest pleasure. No one in our group has worked more devotedly for India than Miss Harrison and we are sure of the welcome that will await her. She will be able on her return, to interpret the mind of organised women in India in a unique way, and we feel also that the Conference will be richer for her experience of work in both the Far East and the Far West. We trust Miss Harrison to convey to the Conference a sense of the deep interest, sympathy and support that this Group continues to give to the work of the A. I. W. C.

We believe also that Miss Harrison will give to the Conference a message as regards world peace.

Nov. 30, 1936.

Mrs. Grace Lankester
Liaison officer.

Report of the Legislation Sub-Committee

Mrs. Asaf Ali

The Legislation Sub-Committee issued an appeal during September 1936 Session of the Legislative Assembly in Simla, requesting the Members to expedite the measures for Social Reform pending in the House. The appeal has appeared in most of the newspapers in India.

A question was asked in the Assembly regarding the procedure for circulating Bills affecting Women's Rights and the Government did not give any satisfactory reply. They merely stated that when public opinion is invited on certain Bills an announcement is made in the Local Gazette and the Bills are forwarded to Local Governments to elicit public opinion.

In view of this information, the Standing Committee should request all Standing Committee members to subscribe to the local Gazettes and the Gazette of India and give their opinion on any particular Bill that comes within our range of interest.

The Legislation Sub-Committee will endeavour to interview the M. L. A.'s during the forthcoming Session of the Assembly and see if at least one of the many private Bills pending can be passed.

Report of the Common Language Sub-Committee

Miss. D. B. Hasan

The Common language Sub-Committee of the A. I. W. C. was formed to:-

- (a) report on the ways and methods that could be adopted for the realisation of the common language 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.

As regards Item (a) the Committee makes the following suggestions:-

- (1) that the Education Departments in all the provinces and States be requested to encourage the learning of Hindustani;
- (2) that the various Universities be asked to include Hindustani in the curriculum of the Matriculation and other University Examinations;

(3) that facilities be provided for the learning of Hindustani in all adult education centres;

(4) that over-Sanskritisation and over-Persianisation of the language be discouraged.

With regard to (b), Miss Justin (the original Convener) took advantage of the one thousand most commonly used words compiled by the Revd. J. C. Koenig. To begin with Miss Justin selected 300 words and made a list of the English equivalents of these. A copy of this list was sent to all the Standing Committee Members requesting them to give the equivalents of these words in their own vernaculars. A study of the vernacular lists shows that about 90 % of these 300 words are common in Hindi and Urdu. It can therefore be stated that a knowledge of either of these can be considered a knowledge of Hindustani. Some of these Hindustani words are common to other North Indian vernaculars also, but their number is not sufficiently large to be of any great help in the learning of Hindustani. The number of Hindustani words in the South Indian Languages is negligible, and for the speakers of the Dravidian language, Hindustani is an alien tongue.

With reference to item (c) of our programme, Miss Justin and Mrs. Asaf Ali with some other members of the Delhi Women's League met the Director of the All-India Radio and suggested to him that as the language generally used on the radio was over the heads of the villagers, speakers for village uplift be asked to limit their vocabulary to the 300 hundred words of our list. The Director was most appreciative when the list was sent to him.

In the year to come, we hope to achieve much more than we have been able to do during the last one and I solicit the active co-operation and moral support of all the members of the Conference because our ideal of having a common language for all people inhabiting our motherland cannot be realised without the help of a very large number of enthusiastic workers in all parts of the country.

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

Kolhapur	...	...	...	Miss Ghorpade
Baroda	...	...	...	Mrs. Goolbai Wadia
C. P. South	...	...	...	Mrs. B. Abhyankar
U. P. Agra	...	...	...	Miss Premlata Mehta
Maharashtra	...	...	...	Mrs. Yesubai Kulkarni
Cochin	...	...	...	Miss C. Thankam

ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Mysore	...	...	...	Mrs. Mandyam
Delhi	...	...	...	Mrs. Nalini Krishna Rau
Travancore	...	...	...	Miss K. Easwari Amma
Punjab Central	...	...	...	Miss Kamala Sahgal
Bengal East	...	...	...	Mrs. S. N. Ray
Gwalior	...	...	...	Mrs. Indumati Raja Rajwade
Sangli	..	...	...	Mrs. Sumatibai Gokhale
Gujarat	...	...	...	Mrs. Sharada Mehta
N. W. F. P.	...	...	...	Read by Mrs. Doctor on behalf of the S. C. M.
Hyderabad (Deccan)	...	...	...	Miss Leilamani Naidu

The Conference adjourned at 12 noon.

SECOND SITTING-24th December 1936

The second sitting of the Conference commenced at 1 P. M. with Mrs. M. E. Cousine in the Chair. The Annual Reports of the following constituencies were then read by the respective members representing them:—

Sind	...	...	...	Miss Homai Se:hna
Calcutta	...	...	...	Mrs. S. C. Roy
Bombay	...	...	...	Mrs. N. M. Raiji
Indore	...	...	...	Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta
Andhra	...	...	...	A small report was read by the President

Labour Resolutions

The following two Resolutions were proposed from the Chair:—

(1) 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 utilize the labour resources of India for the supply of the necessaries of life at a cheaper price to the workers themselves.”

(2) 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."

Carried Unanimously.

(3) Maternity Benefits Bill

"While welcoming the introduction of the Bengal Maternity Benefit's Bill, this Conference reiterates the urgency of introducing an All India Maternity Benefits Act on the lines of the Bombay, Central Provinces and Madras Acts.

"It also appeals to Indian States to introduce similar measures at an early date."

In moving this resolution Miss Shanta Bhalerao (Bombay) said:—

A Resolution to advocate an All India Maternity Benefits Act was brought into the Legislative Assembly by Mr. N. M. Joshi as early as in the year 1924. There has been continuous propaganda since then for such a measure and today, in the year 1936, we have made a slight progress. Maternity Benefits Acts of a limited application have been passed in Bombay, Central Provinces and Madras.

It will be a most harmless and innocuous measure. The expenses of the Benefits that are required to be paid by the employer are not considerable. If a full insurance scheme just as the one advocated in the previous Resolution is brought into being, the employer will have to pay a certain amount per head per every wage-earner. This is not the case in payment of Maternity Benefits. The number of women wage-earners is smaller in proportion to the number of men wage-earners, and the cost per head would come very little.

As it is, the application of the act in Bombay has been found to be defective. That however should not deter the introduction of an All India Act. A body like the All India Women's Conference should take up this problem, and see to it that such a measure, so important to the welfare of women labourers, should be brought into operation without any more delay. They should give their whole-hearted support to this Resolution, they should help the women wage-earners in obtaining this Benefit, they should see that this measure, once introduced is brought into its full effect.

The previous Resolution had been about Social Insurance and if I have understood it correctly, it included payment during Maternity also. These two

however should be different. Insurance implies that the wage-earner has to contribute partly. Indian wage-earners generally receive very low wages, which are barely sufficient for their maintenance. To assist the woman wage-earner in such a contingency as Maternity, we must have a scheme of Benefits. I urge upon you all to accord to this measure your whole-hearted support.

Mrs. Jayawati Desai in seconding the proposal in Gujarati said:—

We all know how hard is the life of women workers. To ameliorate their condition it is necessary that we should support this measure as strongly as possible.

(An amendment was moved at this stage by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur)

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Said:

I wish to move an amendment in regard to Maternity Benefits. It is only right that we should have a really detailed insight into labour questions and when proposing and pressing for labour legislation, we should study what the effect of such will be. I should therefore like to move an amendment in two parts:—

- (a) "That 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 among women labourers. It calls upon the authorities concerned to look on this matter in a humane rather than in a mercenary spirit and to 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) This Conference suggests that in all future legislation maternity Benefits may be paid by the employers as a general charge per head according to total number of mill hands in any factory and that existing legislation may be amended in the same manner."

I would like to read to you an extract that has been sent to me by our esteemed friend Anasuya Ben. She has pointed out that the Maternity Benefits Act has not operated as an unmixed blessing. Ever since it came into effect, the employers have tried to evade their responsibility in this matter and women workers are discharged frequently from work. Yesterday a poor woman came and said that she had been dismissed after she had had maternity benefit. When she asked to be re-employed they said they did not want women because they were too costly. The woman said that she had been prepared to give her thumb-impression that she would never claim such a benefit, but even then she had not been taken back.

Since 1929 there has been a progressive decline in the employment of women in the Textile Industry in Ahmedabad. This will be apparent from the study of statistical figures of labour reports. There is an enormous decrease in the number of women employed in the Industry. Anasuya Ben says that this is not only the result of the Maternity Benefits Act. There is also an increase in night-shift working and elimination of certain processes in which women used to find employment. In certain departments, for example, Spinning, the employers now say that they can do away with the women, and give preference to men. There are also other reasons. The Maternity Benefit question is a fairly complicated one. We must see that the existing Acts are altered and new ones made so as to protect these women. You will, I hope, accept the amendment as it stands.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta in seconding the amendment in Gujarati, said, that it was a matter for regret that where this Act operated women are thrown out of employment. She suggested that out of the common expenses a certain amount should be taken out and a fund should be created to help the women during periods of maternity. This amendment and not the original proposal, I hope, will be taken into consideration by you all.

Another speaker also supported this amendmet in Gujarati.

The President inquired at this stage if anybody would like to speak further on this subject.

A second amendment was moved by Miss Copeland. She said:-

"I beg leave to move a second amendment, one which may perhaps meet the objections raised by the mover of the first amendment and at the same time maintain the essential substance of the original motion. I move that the motion should now read: "while welcoming the introduction of the Bengal Maternity Benefits Bill, this Conference re-iterates the urgency of iteroducing an All-India Maternity Benefits Act."

By omitting the words "on the lines of the Bombay Act" we do not commit ourselves to any particular set of regulations but we do cordially support, as we have always supported, the principle of the necessity of giving maternity benefit to women labourers. This principle is in itself a good, a right and a just one. We must not dissociate ourselves from it merely because some bad employers have found ways and means of evading the Acts at present in force in Bombay, Madras and the C. P. These Acts may not be ideal but they are a step in the right direction and any All-India Act might well be framed with additional clauses and regulations suggested by experience of the working of the present Acts and calculated to prevent unscrupulous employers from dismissing their women labourers in order to avoid increased expense under the Act.

The fact that women are being wrongfully dismissed is a call to us to help the women labourers to organise themselves so that such abuses may be put down. Until that day comes when the woman labourer is able to defend herself, we must help in every way we can and see to it that no employer is able to raise his head in honourable society if he is known to be exploiting his women employees. By omitting the last clause of the original motion we shall meet Rajkumari's objection and also remain staunch to the principle of an All-India Maternity Benefits Act.

In seconding this amendment, Mrs. Lakshmi Menon (Lucknow) said :-
I second the amendment for the following reason :-

The Maternity Benefit is conducive to the benefit of wage-earning women. Because in certain cases that Act is abused, it does not follow that we should not advocate and press for its proper enforcement.

Finally, after discussion, Miss Copeland withdrew her amendment and the following was accepted by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur :-

- (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."

Being put to the vote it was unanimously carried.

Miss Copeland (Delhi) moved the following resolution :-

4. " This Conference is insistent that the attention of the authorities concerned should turn immediately to the imperative necessity for providing improved housing facilities for the labouring classes."

She said, " In moving this resolution I feel it is essential that greater housing facilities should be given to the labouring classes. By the term " Labouring Classes " is meant not only Mill, Mine, or Tea-garden Labourers i. e. workers in organised industries, but also labourers of all kinds, such as workers in Public Works Departments, workers under Municipalities and for contractors, because throughout India with one or two exceptions, you will find that the labouring classes are extremely badly housed. One thing, I suggest, is that as a Conference and as individual members of the Confer-

ence, and as citizens of India we should attempt to know the facts. I believe that the disgraceful conditions, that exist at present in a great many cities would not endure very long if women like us were to go and find out where these working people live. There is a great deal of reliable information available in the Report of the Royal Commission on Labour (Whitley Report). Let us all look up to the facts and figures for our own Districts. If you live in the neighbourhood of Calcutta for example, you will probably know something of the conditions of the Jute Mill workers, but we need to know much more than most of us know from practical experience at present. You will find that there are one or two Mills in Calcutta that have provided reasonable accommodation for their workers but the greater number of Jute Mill workers are housed by Sardars and these "Bustis" are amongst the worst housing conditions any-where. In Bombay there are Chawls, large tenement houses of several storeys. The disadvantage of this type of house is that the workers can never feel at home, every thing is so different from their village conditions of life. I have here a survey made by the International Council of Women in Bombay. They went into the houses of over a thousand workers and found out to what extent overcrowding existed. I have not time to give you more than a few samples of the worst conditions of overcrowding. In one single-room-tenement there were 8 adults and 1 child. In another house, in one single room, there were 10 adults and 5 children living, i. e. 5 couples and their children, 5 different families living in one single room. If you go to Madras you will find there is very little done to house the working classes, although exceptions like the Carnatic Mills have set excellent examples. In Madras the labourers usually settle down on any available waste land. Filth and want of Sanitation lead to disease and high mortality rate in these wretched cherries. Many workers have no home at all and may be found sleeping at nights in Verandahs or in the streets. Similar conditions prevail among the Municipal workers etc. Before Imperial Delhi was built sufficient consideration was not given to providing accommodation for the thousands of humble workers who helped to raise that magnificent City, so these people in many instances have had to build temporary shelters and huts on some waste ground, only to be moved on again when that land was required for building purposes. So let us see to it, in the future, when any big building scheme is about to be initiated that those responsible are made to realise the importance of making proper provision for the labourers. Let us urge the authorities to make proper Sanitary arrangements to ensure adequate air and light in the houses provided for or built by the workers. Even where houses do exist for workers they are not always desirably planned and in any new area I would ask you to see that the authorities lay out a suitable plan at the beginning into which all subsequent housing schemes may be fitted in order that the whole lay-out may be healthy, orderly and suited to Indian ideas of comfort and attractiveness. Wherever possible Chawls or

barracks or lines should be avoided, as they cannot be really homelike and attractive. Let us urge attention being paid to this feature. Also let us do our own little bit to secure better Sanitary conditions and more light and air in houses already built. The Delhi Village Welfare Board is popularising windows or ventilators rather, which can be purchased for six annas and easily fitted in by the villager himself. So even if we cannot move the Municipalities and other authorities to undertake large schemes we can see that one or two windows are put up through which air and light may penetrate. I would suggest three practical steps for each one of us to take:—

- (1) Get to know the actual conditions obtaining in our own areas, at firsthand.
- (2) Find out the proper authority, the person actually responsible, and suggest reforms. For example in many cases, it may be rich fellow citizens who are exploiting the labourers letting out houses without light or ventilation at exorbitant rents.
- (3) Write to these authorities whoever they may be, and keep on urging reforms till it is no longer possible for contractors to amass large fortunes while their labour force is wretchedly housed.

Lady Nilkanth—Ahmedabad (Speaking in Gujarati) Said:—

The housing conditions at present in Ahmedabad are not at all satisfactory. The new tenements that are being erected are however an improvement and consist of 2 rooms, verandah, etc. Ahmedabad Municipality is going to pull-down all the bad houses and initiate a scheme involving Rs. 5,00,000 for housing. It has made a complete list of uninhabitable houses and is taking every step to remove them as soon as possible. Secondly the Municipality has built 2,000 very commodious and nice Sanitary houses for the Harijan sweepers. Two-thirds of the sweepers live in them. Houses for the remaining one-third will be built in the next three years. The rent is fixed at Rs. 5/- for persons whose income is below Rs. 50/-. The new Mills that are built have better Chawls for their labourers. These are the things which I have pleasure in placing before you.

Mrs. Swaminadhan :

I have just a few words to say about housing conditions in Madras. There is a women's Civic Group and members are going into the housing question with a view to put forward a scheme before the Municipality. The new Councillors of the Municipality have decided to go into the question very seriously. It will be possible in Madras to get the public support to help in carrying out at least a part of the scheme. I am very glad that this resolution has come up before our Conference, and I very heartily support it.



Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee,
Chairwoman, Standing Committee.

Miss Bhalerao (Bombay)—Further supported this Resolution.

Miss Agatha Harisson (London): When I came to India with the Royal Commission on Labour in 1929-30, we saw the condition as the Conference has described. You will be able to read about the condition in that report. I do not think however even the report would give a true picture of what you will find when you go and see for yourselves. It is a matter of great satisfaction and encouragement to see the interest that you are taking in this question. If you go and see in your various localities the condition in which your people stay, and move the Municipalities to put an end to such conditions, you will do more than any other people have done in this country.

The resolution being put to the vote was passed unanimously.

SOCIAL RESOLUTIONS

1. The following resolution was moved from the Chair and was passed unanimously—all present Standing.

“This Conference places on record its sincere grief at the death of Kamala Nehru, Mr. Abbas Tyabji, Dr. Ansari, Munshi Premchand and J. T. Sunderland.”

2. The following resolution was moved from the Chair and was passed unanimously:—

“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. Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi 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”.

The following resolutions were proposed from the Chair and on votes being taken they were passed unanimously:—

3 *Utilization of Memorial Funds:—*

“This Conference urges the Central and Provincial Governments and the Governments of Indian States to utilise the King George Memorial Fund for the furtherance of Medical aid and Research.”

4 *Women's Share in the Country's Administration:—*

(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 & 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 & Assam, and suggest that this error be rectified forthwith.

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."

Mrs. Sarala Mehta--proposed the following resolution:—

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.
 3. The Arya Marriage Validation Bill.
 4. The Bill for the removal of Social disabilities amongst certain classes of Hindus;

In so far as they help to improve the status of women, it 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 Special 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 Special 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.

Mrs. Sumati Gokhale (Sangli) seconded the Resolution.

Miss K. E. Sharda (Malabar) and Mrs. Panna Daphtary (Bombay) supported the Resolution.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta (Bombay), (Spoke in Gujarati) :

The Bills mentioned in the resolution are before the Legislative Assembly. We gave our support to them sometime back. With regard to Dr. Bhagwan-das' Bill re: Hindu Inter-caste marriage we supported the Bill with the proviso that it should include a clause about monogamy. With regard to Dr. Deshmukh's Bill we had supported the principle underlying it; but the Bill as referred to the Select Committee is reduced to the rights of widows only. As such the Bill is not a new thing as there is already another bill before the Assembly on the widow's right of inheritance. Dr. Deshmukh should not have allowed this whittling down of his Bill and this Conference must protest against such an action.

There is another very important point in this resolution which I would like the Conference to note. Instead of having so many personal laws like the Hindu Law, the Mohammedan Law etc., we should ask for an All-India Legislation based on equity re: Marriage and Inheritance. These personal laws tend to keep up the communal difference. It is also difficult to change them here and there. We should, therefore, ask for All-India-Legislation and I hope the Conference will carry on the fight in that direction.

The Resolution was then put to vote and passed unanimously.

Miss Dolly Basu (Calcutta) proposed the following resolution :—

7. *Traffic in Women and Children and Rescue Homes :*

(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.

Brothels at Fairs :

(b) 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.

She said:—In proposing this I should like to say a few words with regard to the 1st part of the Resolution as I have some practical knowledge of this

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Mrs. Sumati Gokhale (Sangli) seconded the Resolution.

Miss K. E. Sharda (Malabar) and Mrs. Panna Daphtary (Bombay) supported the Resolution.

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The Resolution was then put to vote and passed unanimously.

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(b) 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.

She said:—In proposing this I should like to say a few words with regard to the 1st part of the Resolution as I have some practical knowledge of this

Subject having done some work among minor Hindu girls rescued from brothels and women of ill repute. We need social workers to specialise for vigilance work and women of our own country can best help in this cause as they understand the condition and mentality of the people. We can get considerable help by approaching the authorities as they are always willing to assist voluntary workers in every way. The Vigilance Associations and Salvation Army are doing good work and many brothels and houses of ill-fame have been closed due to their efforts. Voluntary Organisations can do much in the way of approaching the authorities and getting some of their members appointed as Probationary Officers under Juvenile Offenders Act etc. Women voluntary workers can also ask to be appointed as Hon: Magistrates in Children's Courts. I think the question of preventing traffic in women and children should also be dealt with from a moral and educational point of view. The Women's Organisations can do a great deal in this in helping to educate public opinion. Legislation alone cannot do much and I urge that Voluntary Women Workers should undertake to do everything possible to stamp out this evil. I am a practical worker and have got 89 girls in my care. These poor unwanted children being allowed to remain in these undesirable surroundings is a disgrace to our society. I wish we had more persons like Dr. M. Reddi and others who have done so much for this cause. Many of these girls are eager to be trained for some useful work and we can try to find for them some way of earning a decent livelihood. Voluntary workers can do much to help in this by visiting these girls after they leave the Rescue Homes and helping to find some suitable work for them. I would like to make the following suggestions:—

(1) More drastic legislation should be introduced in order to close the present 'tolerated areas' all classes of persons of both sexes responsible for the trade whether traffickers, procurers, brothel keepers, landlords who allow their houses to be used as brothels, should be heavily punished.

(2) Provision for Homes for the victims of these evils are necessary part of any scheme of reform. Government should be asked to give adequate provision for this.

(3) Every effort should be made by Voluntary Organisations to start centres to train vigilance workers and Government should be asked to give adequate financial support.

(4) I feel confident in that our Women's movement will bring about radical changes in our country, if we work seriously and earnestly. I say that women alone can eradicate this evil and it is my earnest request to one and all of you to try your best to do something towards this long-neglected serious cause. Traffic in Women and Children is a world-wide evil and so world-wide co-operation of public spirited men and women of all nations is needed to combat it.

Miss Sushilakumari Pandit (Baroda) seconded it. Speaking in Hindi she said : The condition of women in India is very bad owing to the tremendous illiteracy prevailing amongst them. It is a pity that much attention is not being paid to this most vital point. Hence in our society we find that so many women are being misguided by cunning people, who are actually making money by selling them in different parts of India. Illiterate and ignorant women supply a good harvest for such low type of people. In order to remove this evil we must first try to prevent child marriage and disparity of age and temperament of marrying couples. The institution of child marriage, purdah, illiteracy, etc., have lowered the status of womanhood. We should try to eradicate the evils which have crept like a black cloud into the social life of India by starting genuine Rescue Homes such as we find in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Bombay and in many other parts of India.

We should leave no stone unturned to improve the condition of our sisters who are wrongly directed by selfish people. We must begin in all earnestness and start good Rescue Homes. I urge upon you not only to give your strong support to this resolution but to do some work in a tangible form.

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon (U. P. Oudh)—supporting the Resolution said:—I want to support this resolution because our constituency wants the backing of this Conference in our agitation to eradicate the evil of traffic in women and children. In U. P. traffic in women and children of the most inhuman type exists in the Naik community in the Kumaon District. It is not the usual case of girls in want and poverty lured into vice by traffickers; but it is a custom accepted, tolerated and condemned shamelessly by Society and Government. We are told that the women of the Naik community are sold at the annual fairs like cattle and other commodities and people buy them and exchange them for purposes of vice. The girls and women, who are thus sold and bought and exchanged have no choice but to yield to a custom and although many of them hate this sort of life and would like to settle down, they have no opportunities for doing that. There is no organization to help their cause. The so called Mahila-Ashrams and Seva-Ashrams have proved to be nothing more than traffickers' sources of supply and the recent cases which were reported in the newspapers must have convinced many of us how necessary and urgent it is that the whole matter should be treated in a more drastic manner and effective steps should be taken to wipe out this evil; while Government help will be forthcoming only very slowly, we should not stop in our work of agitating against this horrid custom; nor should we diminish our enthusiasm till the time when not a single woman will be forced into a life of evil because of custom. Let us remind ourselves that as long as we tolerate this custom and do not exert ourselves sufficiently to stop it, it will be taken

for granted that we are accomplices and abettors in this awful sale of human beings.

Miss Homai Sethna (Sind) and Mrs. Gangaben Patel (Bombay) also spoke supporting this Resolution.

The Resolution was then put to vote and carried unanimously.

8 *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."

Mrs. Sharda Mehta (Gujarat) in proposing the above resolution said (in Gujarati): It is rather a matter of shame that a resolution on Swadeshi has to be brought before us and that it should become incumbent on us to explain that we should use Swadeshi, a thing which we ought to do of our own accord and willingness. We are importing foreign goods worth crores of rupees every year and are being ridiculed by outsiders for such a folly. Our degradation is attributable only to our forgetting Swadeshim. If Swadeshim is not followed as it ought to be in its true and real spirit, this resolution should not remain as a pious resolution to be left as a decoration on paper. I strongly urge this resolution not for its being put on paper only but for being acted upon by us all in a true and genuine spirit. I also consider it our bounden duty to take an active part in rural work and to restrict our purchases to swadeshi and to products of cottage industries. We must adjust the style of living in such a way that we may be able to eschew the purchase of foreign products as far as possible and use things which are swadeshi and preferably home-made. We are not able to produce each and every thing like Japan but things which may be a bit inferior should yet be used because they are made by our own countrymen and the money goes to them. I hope you will pass this resolution whole-heartedly.

In seconding the Resolution Mrs. S. C. Roy (Calcutta) gave information regarding the work done by Government of Bengal in connection with helping the Indigenous Industries in the country and said that the Govt. was trying to some extent to prevent the dumping of Japanese goods particularly affecting the struggling cottage industry products of Bengal.

While speaking on the village work she described the Bustee cleaning work which was taken up by the Corporation of Calcutta for which a "Busty Cleaning week" was organised. She said that during that week all sorts of measures for health propoganda were undertaken with which members of the Calcutta Local Committee of the All-India Women's Conference had co-operated.

Mrs. Bachuben Thacker (Bombay)-supported it and laid particular stress on improving the health of village children.

Mrs. Yodh (Gujarat) and Miss Premlata Mehta (U. P. Agra) further supported this resolution.

The Resolution was then put to vote and carried unanimously.

10. *Hardship 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."

In moving the resolution, Mrs. Urmila Mehta (Bombay) described the various sorts of hardships namely, dirty latrine, want of facilities for water, want of proper space in the compartments, over-crowding, want of facilities for purchasing tickets etc., that the Third Class passengers have to suffer and also the callous indifference shown by the Indian Railway authorities to meet the public demand so often made to them through the Legislative Assembly and through the platform and press. While emphasising the fact that the major portion of the Railway Revenue comes from the Third Class Railway passengers, she said that it was they who received such inhuman treatment at the hands of the Railway companies.

Continuing she said, that while 2nd class passengers were provided with fans and other amenities 3rd class passengers had to go without them. In the hot weather to travel in a third class compartment was indeed, to say the least, a very trying ordeal and if the public had not taken drastic steps, it was because the Indian people were proverbially patient and all-suffering.

"The Waiting rooms—if they can be so called—for the 3rd class passengers on our Railway Stations are a positive scandal. During the monsoon and the cold weather they are positively unfit for human use.

How unfairly the 3rd class passengers are treated, can be seen from the fact that in the matter of Christmas, Dewali and Easter concessions also, it is the 1st and 2nd class passengers who get the best of it, and while a 2nd class passenger has to pay $1\frac{1}{2}$ of the single fare, the third class passenger has to pay $1\frac{1}{2}$ and even $1\frac{3}{4}$ of the single fare. Another reform badly wanted by the Indian women is the placing of the alarm signals within easy reach. At present they are inaccessible to most women. I sincerely hope our public bodies etc. will take up this question in right earnest and carry on a nation-wide agitation on behalf of the poor unorganised third class passengers.

Mrs. Gangaben Patel (Bombay) in seconding the resolution in Gujarati said:—The resolution refers to the hardships and inconveniences experienced by

Third-Class Railway passengers—particularly women passengers. The rude manner in which the Ticket Collectors and others some times accost Third-Class passengers, and specially women, should be protested against by us as vehemently as possible. It is the duty of the Railway authorities to check these evils. The Third-Class compartments are not cleaned at reasonable intervals and the lavatory arrangements are extremely bad. In fact no check is exercised and ways and means are devised, to prevent over-crowding in the Third-Class, and passengers are huddled together in insanitary surroundings where they even run the risk of catching diseases of other passengers. Even the chain arrangement of the Alarm Signal is not a satisfactory one. The Chain should be so fixed as could be easily reached and made use of by women as quickly as possible in case of emergency. To those of you who travel by the higher classes the hardships of the Third-Class Passengers could hardly be realised and for this reason I requested some of the Delegates to travel with me by the Third Class while coming here. Some of these sitting here complied with my request and they have personally experienced these difficulties.

Mrs. Premli'a Mehta (Baroda) supported this resolution referring to her experience in her recent journeys to Kathiawad for doing propoganda work for the All India Women's Conference,

The resolution was passed unaimously.

THIRD SITTING-25th December 1936

The Third sitting of the Conference commened at 10-30 A. M. In the absence of the President, Lady Vidyagauri R. Nikanth took the Chair.

Discussion on Social Resolutions was resumed.

Child Marriage Restraint Act. (Government of India 1929).

Resolution No. 9

"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' Bill amending this Act should be passed into Law without further delay.

It strongly advocates that anti-child marriage propoganda work be re-doubled throughout the country with particular emphasis in the villages."

In proposing this resolution Mrs. S. N. Ray said : " To you who are delegates to the All-India Womens' Conference, I do not have to expound on the evils of child marriage, nor on the grave and deterrent effects this custom has, not only on our women but on the health of our race as a whole. We know that the figures for infant mortality are 400 per 1000, and maternal mortality 20,000 per year which amounts to 20 deaths every minute, and that a large amount of this is due to child marriage.

Our Conference did a great deal of propoganda work against the system before the Sarda Act was passed in 1929, but we all know how ineffectual that Act has been, how grave is the necessity of having that Act amended immediately to make it effective. Mr. B. Das's amendment to the Child Marriage Act, if it is passed, will improve matters considerably. At present the Act leaves the initiation of proceedings to private individuals and yet the launching of a prosecution is very difficult with the security fine, and many of us have had personal experience of the difficulties involved. The Act also does not provide for injunctions restraining contemplated marriages or for keeping the child wife in separate custody till she reaches the statutory age. Mr. B. Das's amendment makes provision for this. Under this Bill the Court will be able to initiate proceedings on being informed by any private person and no security will have to be given. The offence will remain non-cognizable. Provision will also be made for the custody of the girl married in contravention of the Act until she reaches the statutory age. Provision is also made for injunctions prohibiting contemplated marriages on informations received and verified by marriages.

There can be no doubt that if these amendments are passed, the Child Marriage Act will become far more effective. Yet we find that there is a surprising amount of dilatory tactics regarding inclusion of one of the most pressing humane reforms needed. It is most unfortunate that both the Government and the members of the Central Assembly have shown a curious apathy towards so important a measure of reform. This attitude towards measures which seek to bring in much needed social reforms has had a very detrimental influence. We must not rest until we are able to change this attitude and let us hope the new legislatures will be different.

But it is not enough to get the law changed. No Acts nor laws can bring about effective changes until there is a real change of heart. The need of educational propoganda cannot be over-rated. Only recently I have visited interior villages where the people had not even heard of the Sarda Act and villages where girls are even today given in marriage at the ages of 4 and 5. Things are changing rapidly but there is still a necessity for country-wide propoganda with particular emphasis in the villages. Today when the need of rural reconstruction work has been recognized both by our

leaders and the Government it is surely necessary that the matter of effectively stopping child marriages, so that they will soon be a relic of the past, should be made one of the foremost items on the programme."

Mrs. Riaji (Bombay) seconded the Resolution in Gujarati—She said:—

There was a great stir and commotion when this Act was passed in 1930. I would like just to speak on the difficulties of the Act and the amendments contemplated in Mr. B. Das's Bill. The first difficulty is the security of Rs. 100/-. The prosecution has to be launched by private persons and Rs. 100/- paid as security. For this reason nobody cares to come forward. In the villages it is difficult to pay such high penalty. Mr. Das has asked for an amendment and our Conference has supported it. The second difficulty is that people escape the Act by going to the Indian States and performing the marriages there. There is no law of this kind in most of the States. We should request the Residents and A. G. C.'s in the States to advise the Rulers to take steps to pass effective laws to prevent child marriages in their States. There is also the difficulty of ascertaining the correct ages. A child of 12 is passed off as a child of 14. If ages and marriages are registered, many of the difficulties will be removed. Rani Rajwade has offered a special prize of Rs. 100/- to be given to the constituency in which the best work is done in regard to this matter. It is very necessary that the members of our Conference should make hard efforts in this direction in their own constituencies and I feel that the Act could be better enforced by public opinion and efforts.

Mrs. Chandrikaben Pathak (Gujarat) supported it. Speaking in Gujarati she said:—I do not wish to say much as the matter has been discussed at length. Just before the passing of the Sarda Act, a large number of child-marriages took place hurriedly. It is absolutely certain that these marriages are very harmful. Not only does it tell on the physic and mental health of the parties but the maintenance of a large family consequent on early marriages, brings in its wake a number of other miseries. Mr. Das's amendment if passed will compulsorily stop child marriages and the country will be benefited to a great extent.

Mrs. Chandur Bhan (Hyderabad Sind) supported the Resolution.

Begum Hamid Ali speaking in Hindi said:—Child marriage has many disadvantages. The resolution that is before you refers to Mr. B. Das's Bill which is to come before the Assembly. We must try and assist in every way for the passage of the Bill. By the passing of such an Act, Government officers will be empowered to take cognisance of child marriages. We had made great efforts in this matter, we were however disappointed. I urge upon you all to support this resolution whole-heartedly and in every manner

possible, because we all know how effectively the Act on these lines is going to check the evil.

The Resolution was then put to vote and passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 11 was taken up in parts.

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade—Madam President I move the following Resolution:—

Resolution 11 (a) " 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 county-wide propaganda against all such mean attempts so that foreign writers may not dare to distort historical facts to suit their malicious ends."

It is not necessary to introduce so historically wellknown a figure as the Rani of Jhansi to an Indian audience. She was the heroine of the struggle for independence carried on in this country in the middle of the last century, when this brave and courageous daughter of India laid down her life in trying to save the Mother Land from foreign domination.

In a drama entitled "The Rani of Jhansi" an English Writer, Philip Cox, has cast serious aspersions on her moral character. In a scene depicting an interview with a British military officer the Maharani is shown as imploring him to save Jhansi even at the cost of her honour. Here is the passage which appeared in the Hindustan times of the 18th December 1936:—

"Lakshmibai said to one of the Majors of the Army, 'Major, you are an unmarried man, perhaps the soft body of an undefiled Hindu widow may tempt you, if money cannot. I live only to save my Jhansi now and for her, I can sacrifice every thing.'"

There are people living today who, as youngsters, remember to have seen the Rani, and from what has been testified by them and what is recorded in history, this mean attempt to defile her character is nothing short of a dishonest twisting of historical facts evidently to demonstrate the superiority of an ordinary westerner as against a most highly placed Indian—and a woman at that. Besides this, one wonders if it is not part of a propaganda

against the growing sympathy of the civilized world towards India and her aspirations.

Joan of Arc has been canonized only during the early part of this century, but she of course belongs to a free country. The Rani of Jhansi, however, is not only not given her due place among the martyrs, but on the other hand, an attempt has been made to lower her in the estimation of the world. To anyone who cares to analyse the deeper Psychology of all this, such a despicable attempt would appear to be the result of a definite apprehension of the growing loss of prestige and authority of those who seek domination over others though under the guise of bearing the white man's burden. Be that as it may; we look upon such a cowardly attempt not only as a personal insult to this great woman, but as an insult to the womanhood of India. A friend who is present here today has kindly promised to try to have the obnoxious passage deleted from the book. I do not know why the authorities have not yet proscribed this book. Knowing however as they do now, the feeling of the women of India as expressed in this resolution, we hope they will take the necessary action without further delay.

In seconding this Resolution Mrs. Yesubai Kulkarni (Maharashtra) said:-

A drama named "Rani of Jhansi" was written by Mr. Philip Cox in 1933. The subject matter of the drama relates to 1857, when Lord Dalhousie was the Governor General. I suppose most of you know the life of that renowned and brave lady, Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi.

In the third scene of the drama under reference the Rani has an interview with Major Ellis. She arranges some entertainment for the guest and opens the subject of adoption in the most peculiar and round about manner. Before telling you the conversation that took place between the Rani and Major Ellis, I shall just request you to go back 75 years from now, and then think of the Hindu ideals of life, their customs and manners and the wife's devotion for the husband; then think of the Rani Saheb, whose husband was recently dead and who was a childless widow, and who had adopted a son to save the Raj of Jhansi. With all this in your mind we shall now turn to their conversation. The object of her interview was mainly to get Government sanction for the adoption, failing that the Raj was to be annexed: She is offering money to save the Raj, but it is refused. Then she is represented as offering herself, the most objectionable part of the whole scene.

Fancy, a Hindu widow, who is renowned for her bravery stooping to such a mean thought. It is really only the character that Hindu women live for, and at the cost of their life they will try to maintain their character. She would not even dream of such thought and less so to utter and offer herself!

Really speaking, the whole scene is improbable and contradictory to Hindu tradition and it has no historical evidence also. The writer has adopted a very spurious method to vilify women of India and India must not tolerate it.

Supporting the Resolution Mrs. Sarojini Mehta (Gujarat) said in Gujarati:

The book has been written definitely with the aim of lowering India in the estimation of foreign countries. Many western writers are under the impression that India is a suppressed country and consequently anyone can write any calumniating nonsense about her people. In the present case we can excuse a foreign writer for incorrectly describing the Marahтта ladies' dress or other minor details. But to describe the great queen as selling her body to an English officer is nothing short of deliberate slander. Even an ordinary Hindu woman prizes chastity above all, and to picture one of the greatest Hindu women as being unchaste is the worst possible insult that could be offered to the Indian womanhood. To me it appears that at a time when the elections are at our door, and the Indian women are preparing to enter politics, the writer and some hands pulling the strings from behind are trying to show to the world indirectly that the Indian women who take part in politics can stoop to such low level of degradation. If an Indian writer had described a western woman deviating from a trivial form of their so-called etiquette, there would have been a hue and cry about it. And yet they expect that we shall take lying such slandering lying about such a great personality. But we ought to show them that the Indian women are now awake and no more possess the slavish mentality to bear such insult meekly. We must try and get the book proscribed as early as possible. But whether the Government proscribed it or not, it is our duty to gather all available copies of the book and burn them publicly all over the country.

Further supporting the Resolution Mrs. Bapat (Maharashtra) said:—

I am here to pay my humble respects to the Great Rani Laxmibai Saheb of Jhansi. She has been a great and inspiring figure to us the 'daughters of India. She was a warrior and died also like a warrior. Imagine a widow of mere 20 years of age on whom rested the responsibility of protecting the people of her kingdom and her adopted son Amritrao. She had to fight against a well-organised army of British soldiers continuously day and night for six days and on the seventh day when she found her army broken she took a little Ganga water with her and ordered her men to take some fodder with them to burn her body when they found her dead while fighting. That is, she was not willing to let even her dead body to be touched by others. In short, such a noble woman should be taken out of her grave after 80 years and made to utter words of the most distasteful nature to herself and to all of us under a pretext of a supposed discussion about the subject of widow remarriage

amounts to a libel against the honour of our revered heroine. I say, then that this objectionable book should be at once forfeited.

Mrs. G. Patwardhan (Baroda), Miss Ferozuddin (Punjab), and Gandhye (Indore) further supported.

In proposing the second part of the Resolution, Begum Hamid Ali s

While associating myself with all the former speakers on the first of the Resolution, I am confining myself to the second part of it which is as follows:—

Resolution No. 11 (b). This Conference emphatically protests against the statement made by Miss Cornelia Sorabji in her letter to London Times on the subject of Child marriage. It considers most objectionable as expressing views which are not held by Indians and regrets that Miss Sorabji continues to represent her country in a manner which is detrimental to herself and the nation.

It is shameful when foreign men and women villify Indians but what can be said of a woman who belongs to us—who has our blood in her veins—who persists in misrepresenting and villifying her own people? I speak of Miss Cornelia Sorabji and of her latest performance, namely of writing a letter to the London "Times" on the subject of Child marriage. The India Women's Conference emphatically protests that in no way does Miss Cornelia Sorabji represent the views of Indian Womanhood—ancient and modern—and we ask our overseas visitors and friends to fully realize this and inform their countries through their press.

This was seconded by Mrs. S. N. Ray (Bengal East)—She said:—

I like to endorse every word about Miss Sorabji. We have given every opportunity and chance, but she has gone on misrepresenting our country on several occasions. We cannot tolerate it any longer. I think it is necessary for us to express openly and widely that she does not represent the views of Indian Women, if we wish to contradict the wrong impressions given about us on other lands.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur moved the 3rd part of the Resolution which runs as follows:—

Resolution No. 11 (c) "This Conference calls upon the Government and the women of foreign countries in particular to use their authority and influence in disallowing unfair and nefarious propaganda from being used against us whether in the Press by way of notices or articles in journals or books or by the showing of films."

She said:—"So much has been said about this resolution that I hope all our foreign friends who are here will have gathered from the depth of feelings on the part of speakers and from the response of the audience, how deeply we feel on the subject. I know the Liaison Group in England sympathises with us. They have on more than one occasion helped to remove misrepresentations; but I want the Liaison Group, in particular, through their representative, Miss Agatha Harrison to know that she has seen and heard with her own ears our resentment at this continued misrepresentation of Indian traditions and culture and great personalities. I also would like to ask the representatives of America, Ceylon, Australia, France and Holland, who are here, to take this message to their countries. We look upon this as a very mean trick of hitting below the belt. I do hope, therefore, that our friends abroad will do all in their power to put an end to the practice by writing to journals and newspapers and by means of propaganda through meetings and in the press."

The whole resolution was then put to vote and passed unanimously.

12. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur moved the following:—

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."

She said: I do not think there can be any two opinions on this. There can be no woman worth the name of woman who will not agree to this resolution. But I do want to impress upon women that we ourselves are to blame for allowing this practice to go on. We must protest just as strongly against this as we have done on the previous resolution. Why is it that it is only the woman that is insulted in these? We have to protest in such a manner that newspapers, journals and periodicals, will cease to write about women insultingly and to look upon the beauty of women in a horrible light. Real beauty is the beauty of the soul but we women have forgotten this fact. Every time any one of us comes across such an advertisement she should cut it out and send it to the editor with a protest. By doing so, we shall raise the moral tone of our papers and restore the dignity of womanhood. We have lost it on account of our own weakness. Let us not be weak any more. I want you to support this resolution not by the raising of hands only but by practical demonstration throughout the country.

Miss Woodsmall (World's Young Women's Christian Association, Geneva) said: I take this opportunity to speak before a very large body of women who have it as a deep personal concern that there are evidence of misunderstanding which suddenly militate against the Government, of differences between the East and the West. We realise that the Cinema and the Press and Books are forces which were neither for good nor for evil. We deplore that they are often used for the latter through malice. We deeply regret that there are forces which tend to divide brothers instead of uniting them. I speak individually for myself and I am also speaking for the world's organization—World's Young Women's Christian Association, (Geneva), which I represent, the object of which is the building of world's understanding. We are watching opportunities to express constructively our knowledge in interpretation of the East and the West. We are watching the Cinema and we fight adverse publicity. I am at present in Geneva, the world's headquarters, and deem it a privilege to try and advert adverse propoganda. My own country as well as your own country suffer from bad interpretation. If we move together we will get into better understanding. I trust there will be visitors from India to America for personal contact to establish better understanding between the women of the East and West. We want direct contact with your problems through the Young Women's Christian Association. We assure you of our interest for international understanding.

Mrs. Urmila Mehta (Bombay) Speaking in Gujarati said:—We often come across such pamphlets during Dewali time. Advertisements on birth-control medicines are also found published in unbecoming and indecent language. There are some advertisements which are worded in an obscene manner. Our children on several occasions inquire about the meaning of the wordings of such advertisements and we are often put in an awkward position. Editors should have certain standard for accepting advertisements. There ought to be also a strict Act for it. Women should specially protest because the advertisements are insulting to them.

Mrs. S. C. Mukerji took the Chair as Mrs. Cousins rose to speak.

Mrs. Cousins said she had been mandated by her Sub-Constituency to draw the attention of the Conference to the harm that is being done to the advancement of education by the false presentations of educated young men and women which are being shown by the cinemas. The educated girl is being made the butt of ridicule by the dramatist and film-producer. The result is disastrous to the atmosphere of sympathy which should be natural for stimulating education and social progress. The general attitude of the wide-spread, illiterate public which attends cinemas is to look on the educated girl with suspicion and people are, alas, only too ready to believe that she is the embodiment of all evil tendencies in human nature. Such films as "Miss 1933" and "Fashionable India" are caricatures of our young

folk, but they are poisoning India from end to end. We have to agitate against misrepresentation of womanhood within these shores as well as outside them, and the members of this Conference should appeal to their local Cinema Censorship Boards to prohibit films which are so subversive of truth, and so productive of a wrong atmosphere. In an illiterate country the Cinema is an extension of the Press and therefore this subject needs ventilation and protest under this Resolution, and we must use our influence and intelligence to stop films being produced and shown which do harm to our ideals and work.

The resolution was then put to vote and carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 13. Protection of children.

Mrs. Masani (Bombay) Said : I have pleasure in proposing the following resolution :-

- (a) " That 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 also 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. "

It is a matter of deep concern to us all that in most of the cities of India the Children's Act has not yet come into existence, except for the few places like the City of Bombay and its suburban District, Poona City and Cantonment, the municipal Borough of Dharwar, Hubli, Belgaum, Sholapur and Villages of Sholapur. Sections 9, 12 and 15 of the Children's Act are applicable in the town of Ahmedabad. In no other important cities is there any Act for the safety and protection of children.

Till the year 1924 there was no Children's Act in our City. A limited number of offences against children came under the Penal Code. The Bombay City Police Act made begging and exposure of offensive ailments an offence. There was no other enactment for the effective protection of children or for the prevention of cruelty to them. Neither was there any remedy against parents or guardians neglecting or ill-treating children in several ways, nor was any power given to any authority to take charge of or give shelter to neglected or oppressed children.

This Act enables a Police Officer or any other authorised person to bring before the court:

- a. A child who is wandering and has no home.

- b. A child who is found destitute, or whose parents are undergoing transportation or imprisonment.
- c. A child whose parent or guardian is unfit to take care of the child.
- d. A child who is found in the company of any reputed thief or prostitute.
- e. A child who is residing in a house used by a prostitute for the purpose of prostitution.

On the contrary if a parent or guardian proves to the Court that a child is uncontrollable that child can be sent to a suitable Children's Home.

The Act provides that people committing the abovementioned offences would be punishable by law.

It is for a body like the All-India Women's Conference and all its constituencies to agitate for Children's Acts throughout India.

This leads us to the 2nd part of the Resolution that it should be urged on individuals and organisations to make a move in the matter.

I would like to point out that every nation is awakening to the importance of conservation of child life. What are we doing about the masses of illiterate, destitute, delinquent and neglected children all over India? Can we boast of even a dozen agencies who are engrossed in the field of protection work like the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in London?

With all the talk of social work being done in Bombay we have not the faintest idea of the conditions prevailing in its streets, children and young persons are discovered roaming about the cinema houses till 11-30 or even later at night. There are young boys from the age of 8 to 14—Girl-mothers with their babies exciting pity of the cinema-goers for a gift of a pice. In the slums of Bombay there are scores of children of school-going age who spend all their time on the streets. There are very few Children's Unions which can arrange a healthy scheme of recreation for them. We have got no Adoption Scheme by which at least some of the children could secure love and care in a home. Unwanted children, children who are crippled by heartless parents in order to earn their own livelihood, children who are turned to machine wheels at a tender age, very young children who sleep alongside their mothers on piles of wool in the carpet-making trade, breathing the germladen dusty air, children who are hired out and treated cruelly, children who for their daily bread have to be engaged in risky jobs, present to us an aspect very, very desponding. There is not a single shelter or hospital-home for those physically defective, leave aside the question of training that could be given with advantage to such children.

Then think of a number of feeble minded children. If a normal child needs protection a feeble minded needs it more. It has less means and power to protect itself from the temptations of a city life, much less to enter into competing for its livelihood. What is to become of them all? In the whole of Bombay Presidency there is not a single special school or a Home for them. In the city of New York alone there are 250 different Associations and Societies to look after the mentally defective children. It is a slur on Bombay's civic administration that there is not a single Home for mentally or physically defective children.

I hope every one here to-day will bear with me that it is most incumbent on us not to rest till we see things a bit more straightened. Let us, who are supposed to be the custodians of happiness of the poor, believe that each one of us should be alive to the woes of poor children, be responsible for creating institutions and societies and assist those which already exist.

Dr. Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankar (Bombay): The resolution that has been moved by Mrs. Masani is simple and it needs no words from me. We want the introduction of Children's Acts in all Provinces of India where they are not in existence. We want to see that the unprotected children should be protected. You have already been given the figures from which we see that there are hundreds and thousands of children whom we cannot protect unless legislation compels the authorities to do so. This kind of Legislation should be for all India. In spite of all the agitation about this, it is surprising that even today only a few cities in India such as Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Poona and one or two others that have the children's Act.

We must have an Act for all India. Then, merely having such a legislation is not enough. We want social workers to take up the work of the future generation of India. Feeble-minded and delicate children are sent to schools. They are unable to make progress and the teachers think that they are backward and leave them alone. Their education is thus neglected. It is, therefore, imperative that Governments and Municipalities should have separate schools for children of this type. This important problem has not been taken notice of by the State. We have one such in Bombay, the first of its kind, in the Byramji Jeejibhoj Home. Here children who were considered hopeless at first have made considerable amount of progress within the short time of a year or so. Their future which was considered hopeless at first was brightened by education given to them here. We want our Municipalities to look after such children. The State should also make provision for them. It is an important problem and we as mothers ought to take it up. In the light of these facts, I hope and trust you will give your whole-hearted support to this Resolution.

Mrs. Saroj Yodh (Bombay), and Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta (Indore) supported this Resolution.

Shrimati Laxmibai Naik, the Harijan Delegate from Berar, speaking in Hindi said that in the system of education there must be specific provision for the education of children particularly of feeble-minded and delicate ones and they should not be allowed to remain backward or be handicapped by the fact of their receiving their education side by side with children having intelligence or normal abilities. There ought to be separate teachers and provisions for the improvement of this type of children. By proper care in this direction, it is likely that several of them may be found to make much better progress than could have been thought of, and even some of them may show a bright progress.

The Resolution was then put to vote and carried unanimously.

The Conference adjourned at 12-30 P. M.

FOURTH SITTING-25th December 1936

The Fourth Sitting of the Conference commenced at 2 P. M. with Mrs. M. E. Cousins in the Chair.

Social Resolutions were continued.

Mrs. Jayashri Raiji (Bombay) proposed the following Resolution:—

14. "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."

Speaking in Gujarati she said : The work of the registration of births, marriages and deaths carried on by the municipalities in towns and cities should be exhaustive and this work should spread over even the smallest villages. The Birth and Marriage Registers should be maintained so completely that at the time of recording marriages the birth Register may serve as a correct guide for ascertaining the right age, and the Marriage Certificate should be given after verification from the Birth Register.

Mrs. Ramanna (Mysore) in a long and instructive speech dealt with the sanctity of the Hindu Marriage rites. "In spite of this," she said, "Our ceremonial marriage is not a barrier against bigamy in case of men. Hence, it seems that a Government recognition will just call to order the inner sense of man on occasions where a great judgment ought to have been exercised. If religious precepts are not sufficient to keep a man within the bounds of morality, it is necessary that the law should step in. Let us join hands to urge government to bring forth legislation giving effect to this Resolution."

Mrs. Gangaben Patel (Bombay) speaking in Gujarati said that registration of births was the only way to prevent child marriages.

Miss B. Mustafa Khan (Maharashtra) strongly supported this resolution.

It was then put to vote and carried unanimously.

EDUCATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

I. 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.

This resolution was moved in three parts.

Miss Z. Lazarus (Mysore), in moving the first part of the Resolution (on Literacy) said that if each delegate present made herself and each member of her Constituency responsible for making literate one woman or girl during the course of the year even that would go a long way to remove the appalling illiteracy in the country. She referred to the good work done by the Calcutta Constituency and also by Madras Library Association among the untouchables of the city. In Mysore also some ladies had undertaken this work. She then quoted the following from the Presidential Speech in order to bring to the notice of the delegates the utter disparity of State expenditure on Elementary Education:—

India	Spends	8	crores	(of rupees)	on	350	millions	of	people:
Britain	"	86	"	"	"	40	"	"	"
U. S. A.	"	347	"	"	"	130	"	"	"

Miss Lazarus gave a tentative programme of work for the ensuing year and in this connection wanted all the delegates to refer to her Literacy Sub-Committee Report (vide page 48) and appealed to them to pass this resolution wholeheartedly.

Miss Amy Rustomjee (Bombay)—rising to move the second part of the Resolution (on Mass Education) associated herself with Miss Lazarus in what she said with regard to removal of illiteracy among Women. Proceeding she said:—

We have often been asked what this Conference has done beyond passing Resolutions. I personally think that if we had devoted the previous ten years to tackling this question of literacy, we might now have been able to say that we do not know about men but we women have abolished illiteracy among women. I used to say in my ignorant past that it took 3 months to teach a man Gujarati, 4 months to teach Marathi, 6 months to teach Urdu. I have taught these languages which, though I speak badly, I decipher well, only in a few days' time. I was asked to take a class of Bombay Municipal sweepers in Annesley Road Chawl. I was dumb-founded, for on the 7th day four of my men from a class of 40 which was taught one hour a day were able to read a newspaper. When you can do that in 7 days, what can be done in a year? There are 52 weeks in a year, even if you take 12 weeks' holiday, you can still have 40 people literate every year, one a week. For each woman who is literate there are 50 illiterate. If we have the capacity, energy and spare time let us sit down and teach these women ourselves. Our Indian languages are intensely phonetic. Once you can read the letters, there is nothing more to do. You have to go forth in faith. You are not going to make research scholars of them all, though some of them may become so. It is general labour that we have to look to. If they can read newspapers today,

it is a matter of awakening. The second part of the Resolution says that we are satisfied with the progress made. I am *Not Satisfied*. In Thar Parkar District, lately a part of Bombay Presidency, (now separated in Sind) the literacy figure of our women is .2 per cent. Think of it! Why should it be so? Even if you pay for a teacher and collect women together, it would only cost Rs. 4/- per student. Is that a big item of expenditure? You can thus make an effort towards literacy. Nobody is too old to learn. It is a question of expediency. If you choose to succeed with one man a week, you will succeed in teaching at least 40 a year even allowing 3 months concession. Your children going to schools and colleges and all those who can, should help in the literacy work. Nobody should have the slightest shame in doing this sort of literacy work. Let us not be selfish any longer. Let us not have to accuse ourselves of selfishness, for self accusation is the bitterest part of accusation.

Mrs. Raiji (Bombay) supported.

In further supporting Mrs. S. N. Ray said:—

"We have just heard two Educational Experts on the subject, so I feel diffident to speak after them. However there is one point which I think should be stressed. In spite of the fact that we are living in a time when world upheavals are taking place, when theories which we firmly believe today are changed overnight, it is undoubtedly true, that there is one basic principle which has emerged and which seems to be fairly well-established, and that is the realisation of the need for every human being to have an education which will help him towards self-realisation and self-expression. As Miss Rustumji has just pointed out, we are at last realising the tremendous need in our country for the spread of literacy without further delay; and a start has already been made. But we must realise that education does not merely mean the ability to read and write. In our campaign for the spread of Mass Education we must keep this before us, and try to spread such education as will help our people to be real citizens. This cannot be overstressed. It is essential that from the beginning we avoid falling into the errors which have allowed either individuals or a small section, in other countries to take advantage of the mass of the people. Their ability to read and write has been exploited by a few individuals and by propagandist newspapers, with the result that the people have been betrayed into accepting and glorifying principles and deeds, which human beings as such, must abhor. The example of certain countries in Europe today and of Japan where literacy, if it is not cent per cent, is still very high, leaves no doubt of how effective this kind of propaganda is. In our efforts to spread education let us always remember this very real danger. We must endeavour to spread Education which will equip our people to use their thinking power and will help them to contribute to their own ultimate welfare."

Mrs. Shevde (Maharashtra) said :

It will be practically impossible for us to succeed in our attempts for the uplift of Indian women so long as illiteracy continues. As we learn from the Presidential speech, in twenty years the percentage of literacy of Indian women has not risen from two to three per cent—is it not our first and foremost duty to try our level best to raise this low percentage to the highest possible degree? We should follow the splendid example of Russia in this case. Unless and until each Constituency takes up this work we will not succeed in driving out this internal enemy in the form of illiteracy which has taken firm root all over India. We should spare no pains to approach the Government, the Municipalities and other local bodies for financial help for this propaganda but what is wanted is a systematic organisation, spirit of co-operation and individual enthusiasm. Therefore 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. I earnestly request you to pass this resolution.

Miss Thankam (Cochin)—I am asked to say what we have achieved in our country for literacy by way of free primary education for our backward classes including Harijans and minor communities. In spite of various efforts made and amenities provided for, for primary education, there is still a vast amount of illiteracy. Our local Women's Association has been agitating for the last few years for compulsory primary education in our State. The Legislative Council has taken up the question, and Government has appointed a Committee to inquire into the matter and is trying to introduce free compulsory Primary Education in the State. In a few years' time we hope to have free compulsory education throughout the State.

Mrs. S. C. Roy (Calcutta), supporting, said:—A great difficulty in the way of spreading literacy in India is a dearth of workers and lack of funds. In spite of this, I am afraid, there is an amount of overlapping of the work done by various institutions in the Provinces, with the result that much energy and money is frittered away in individual effort which, if united, would produce far reaching and far better results.

Speaking for the Calcutta Constituency I can say that there already exists the Nari Siksha Samity which at present has 52 Primary Schools for girls functioning in different villages. They have a scheme for opening out a Central Board with several centres each controlling a few villages. The elements of education and a practical knowledge of hygiene are to be taught to the adult woman population of these villages and the services of the dispensary doctors of the bigger villages will be requisitioned to instruct dais

in the scientific ways of carrying out their work. The cost of one centre comes to about Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 and the Calcutta Constituency of the A. I. W. C. have a proposal before them to bear the expenses of one of these centres. We can further help them by sending out lecturers from Calcutta to help to arouse interest in social and hygienic problems of the village.

If this proposal can be made feasible I am sure that much good and practical work in spreading literacy will be carried out and I am sure the other constituencies can also spread literacy on this line.

Miss Sughra Syed (Hyderabad—Deccan) said:—

In supporting this resolution I wish to say a few words. Wrongly or rightly I feel that there is a certain amount of "who cares?" attitude towards subjects of educational importance, in contrast to the attention given to social and labour problems. This is because we do not comprehend the exceeding vastness of the word education. I wish to emphasise the need for enlarging the scope of adult education, educating our adults, in the true and wide sense of the term. I propose that they be given more general lectures on beauty of form and of colour, on art and on science, that each be given an opportunity to expand in his or her own manner, that they all be not moulded in one type. I cannot sufficiently emphasise the need for vocational and technical training. Such institutions are the crying need of India at the present day, especially for women.

Mrs. Chandurbhan (Sind) also supported the resolution.

Miss Easwari Amma (Travancore) supporting said:—

There is the opinion prevalent among us in Travancore that since Government has been doing this work of education, private enterprise is not necessary. In a place of appalling ignorance this opinion or attitude is deplorable.

Mrs. Jalu R. Vakharia (Gujarat), in supporting the resolution said:—

Eighty per cent of the men and women of India are to be found in villages. The cities are few and their prosperity depends on the villages. India can become truly prosperous when its peasant mass is really contented and lives a decent life. Literacy in villages is hardly one or two per cent and that among women is still less. This is a very deplorable condition. If elementary education is in such a state what of vocational education? The primary necessity of India is to impart elementary and vocational education to her women in the villages. That this is not an unsurmountable obstacle will be seen from the fact that Russia which was mainly an agricultural country till recently and backward too in many respects with a huge percentage of illiteracy has within less than twenty years been able to bring the percentage of illiteracy

down to practically zero, apart from going ahead in all practical spheres of individual and national life.

Vigorous efforts must be made to direct all charities and other help towards providing elementary education along with the necessary vocational training i.e. training in the art of agriculture and horticulture, cattle-breeding, dairy farming, poultry farming etc., and medical relief to the villagers. Charities in this direction would serve far better than money spent in building temples, or raising costly memorials. The ideal of rural population, i. e. of 80 per cent of Indian people, should be "To make two ears of corn grow where one grew before, to produce ten pounds of milk where two were produced before and to make the hen lay two eggs where she laid one before."

In moving the 3rd part of the Resolution (on Broadcasting) **Rajkumari Amrit Kaur** said:-A great deal has been said by many people of the necessity of mass education. I wish to put before you one means of spreading education and that is through broadcasting which wields tremendous power. The radio has only recently come to India. There is no reason whatsoever why we should not spread knowledge through broadcasting. We should agitate about this matter and I am sure the broadcasting authorities will help us in the matter. At each place where a broadcasting centre exists we have got to approach the authorities for assistance and to devote our time in giving educational talks which will bring life and light to village homes and break the monotony of the lives of the masses. They have hard lives. They have to work from morning to evening. Through these means they should not only be taught to read and write but they should be made to learn how to live cleanly and joyfully and to cultivate in them a moral and civic sense. I wish you not only to pass the resolution, but to help in bringing about the result. The radio authorities will need women helpers and if we are really keen on mass education we must be willing to give practical help in the arranging of the programmes.

Mrs. Mangla Desai (Simla), seconding the Resolution said:—

As many of you may be aware, the broadcasting authorities, especially of Delhi, are moving in the direction indicated in this Resolution, and they have set apart an hour in the evening for our brothers and sisters living in the country-side.

The other day I was reading an account of the visit of the Controller of Broadcasting to Peshawar and it was stated that a lack of interest was noticed among villagers to whom the radio was no longer a novelty. Now I am not surprised at this complaint, for the Broadcasting authorities have so far restricted their talks to only half of the country folk and have more or less ignored the needs of the other half—that is often spoken of as the better

half of men. Radio programmes do not make that appeal to women which they do at present to men. The reason is obvious. The Broadcasting authorities have no women to advise them as to the sort of talks which would be popular with them and benefit them. In fact, I believe that there is every justification for setting apart a special hour in the afternoon, say from 3 to 4, for women just as an hour has been set apart in the evenings by the broadcasting authorities for men in villages. Women folk can, if at all, find a little leisure in the afternoons when they will appreciate and benefit by radio talks to which they can listen while attending to light work such as sewing, stitching or even spinning.

A representative committee of women in every broadcasting area will be of great help to the broadcasting authorities in devising such programmes: and where qualified ladies with a real interest in this work are available there is no reason why their co-operation should not be sought and welcomed.

With these words I heartily support this Resolution and hope that you will all accept it.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta (Bombay)—Speaking in Gujarati she said : In ancient times education was imparted through 'Shruti' and 'Hari Kirtans'. To day it is imparted through reading and writing (Akshar Gnyan). Now the time is coming of educating people by the former practice of Shruti. At present we have to employ a number of teachers to educate people but through the agency of the Radio it is possible to instruct and educate innumerable persons say in Bombay, Ahmedabad, Poona and several other places by talking to them at one and the same time. Government has been spending a large amount on broadcasting. Frequently we find some very odd programmes being broadcasted. In Bombay once we had to protest against broadcasting a subject which should not have been broadcasted to the people. The Radio should be used for real education.

Mrs. Mandyam (Mysore) in supporting the Resolution said:—

Broadcasting is one of the ways by which the masses could be easily educated; it is a novel method and will no doubt appeal to all from the youngest children to the oldest persons. In the evening, after a day's hard toil, the mental faculties will be refreshed by news-items on the wireless from home and abroad. This method of education will not tax the brains also too much; just as the children learn a good deal by means of the Montessori method during their play time, the elders also will easily learn during their leisure hours. A glimpse at the Broadcast programme shows that there are special talks for children, music, talks on scientific discussions, world news etc. just as there are educative films specially suitable to children, there

must be talks, stories with morals for children, and other items for the grown ups especially the illiterate masses. The radio should be made more popular and easily accessible to the masses : it is a direct method of education and will be more effective and popular. In Mysore, we have the "Akasvani" from which news, and talks suitable to all are broadcasted daily and many people take advantage of it.

The Resolution was then put to vote and carried unanimously.

At this stage the President declared that an emergency Resolution on the coming elections to the Legislatures has been proposed to be moved and she asked Dr. Miss Limaye (Baroda) to move it.

Emergency Resolution on the dates of the General Elections

In order to facilitate women voters in the exercise of their right, this Conference urges upon Government the necessity of holding the ensuing elections to the Provincial Legislative Assembly either on the same day as the General Elections, where such practice does not exist, or (2) to declare the day of women's elections as a public holiday.

In proposing the above Resolution, Dr. Miss Limaye (Baroda)—speaking in Gujarati, said that as women have to cook and to look to the domestic work, it is tremendously difficult for them to go out for voting to the polling booths at the specified time of the day. But it is wellnigh impossible for a majority of them to go out for the purpose on two occasions, one for election of men and the other for election of women. Realising these difficulties of women we must urge upon Government to arrange for the elections being held both for men and women, on one and the same day.

Dr. Mrs. Sukthankar--Women have been given the right of franchise for the first time all over India. It is very difficult to get women registered as voters in the first instance. That is the experience of some of us who have worked and who went out to explain to the women their right to exercise their vote. We can tell you, how difficult it is to get them registered as voters, because they have not realised the value of the right of franchise. With great difficulty we got them registered. Now the difficulty in many of the Provinces is that elections for men and women are on separate days. The same women voters have to go to the polling booths on two different occasions. One can imagine how difficult it would be for women voters. The whole scheme of making as many women vote as possible would, under the circumstances, be frustrated.

Another practical difficulty in the way of women would be that it would be impossible for many of them to go to the polling booths if the polling day would not be a holiday as women cannot go alone without men accompanying them. There is also the question of conveyance and expenses incurred. We have agitated for women's rights, and we should see now that they exercise this right. It would be almost impossible to get many voters twice at the polling booths. With these words, I second the proposal.

The Resolution was then put to vote and carried unanimously.

Educational Resolution No. 2 "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 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 Devanagri, Urdu or Roman.

In proposing this Resolution Miss Ferozuddin (Punjab) said: I would like to point out that the need for a common language for India can not be too much emphasised at this stage when we are earnestly and really rising to a sense of true Indian Nationalism. Coming to this word, I would like to point out that in different ages in History there had been different reasons and criteria for nationalism, namely, community of blood, community of religion, and community of interest. These criteria have developed the sense of belonging to one another, one great harmonious whole. You cannot belong to one another unless you have a common medium of thought. When I was studying my own religion I felt that it had everything. I did not know at that time that there would be similar thought in other countries. But when I learnt Sanskrit, and read the Bhagwatgita I found the same idea there also that whenever there is need for reforms the Reformer comes. While we are so much apart from one another in this country of India, which is our land, we want to call ourselves "daughters of Bharat." Because we cannot understand each other, the time has come to bring about a uniformity of language and womanhood. This Conference should take up the question of teaching Hindustani in their own areas and press for it. I know there will be certain difficulties with regard to the script, in writing from right to left

and from left to right. But we will have to rule out our prejudices. We do not want to add any more to our existing scripts and dialects. I would commend to this Conference that at least two delegates from each place that attend the Conference must know Hindustani.

Mrs. Saudamini Mehta (Calcutta) speaking in Gujarati said:—

In our country there is the difficulty of one common language. Practially in every district the language is different. Whenever the All-India Women's Conference meets, the difficulty of not having a common language is experienced. If Hindustani is introduced as a common language the difficulty would be removed. It is said that in Madras etc, it is difficult to teach Hindustani; but when they can learn English, why can they not learn Hindustani? From my experience I can say that small children can learn with the greatest ease any language. Again, Hindustani which we want to be the common language should not be so Sanskritised or Persianised as to make it difficult for ordinary people to understand. In several schools in Calcutta, Hindi is taught. Gujarat, however, is backward in this direction. In the circumstances, I appeal to those delegates who are here to-day to exert their best for the spread of Hindi in their respective constituencies.

Mrs. Tarabai Patwardhan (Maharashtra) spoke in Hindustani and said:—

There are several languages in India and it is not possible for all to learn every one of them; so there must be a common language through which we can carry on our propaganda throughout India, and which can be a common link among us. Our common language will bring about truly united India. Hindustani is a very easy language. It is already spoken and understood by a good majority of our people and it can be learnt by the rest without much difficulty. It is only right that Hindustani should be the lingua franca of India. I urge the Government and the Municipalities to encourage Hindustani by making it a compulsory subject in all the schools and colleges. Madras has made much progress in this direction. Many Hindi classes have been opened there by the Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha and already thousands of people have learnt Hindi there. Propaganda for Hindustani is being done in Maharashtra also. I request all the delegates to help to spread Hindustani in their respective provinces and States. I give my hearty support to this resolution.

Miss J. E. Copeland (Delhi) supported the resolution.

Miss S. Pandit (Baroda) in supporting the Resolution (in Hindustani) also referred to the difficulty in carrying on communication as there were many languages in India. Hindustani could be easily taught and could be made the lingua franca of India. She gave her full support to this resolution.

Shrimati Laxmibai Nayek (Berar), Mrs. Acharya (Baroda) and Mrs. Mangla Desai (Simla) further supported the Resolution.

Miss Savitaben Trivedi (Gujarat) said:—I stand before you to support the resolution about the common language. It is a resolution, the importance of which is very great. To us who meet here in the Conference from all parts of India the difficulty of not having a common language is quite obvious. Instead of dwelling at length on the subject, I would consider experience better than precept and would submit that in view of the great need of a common language, we would immediately make an effort for having a common language.

The resolution being put to the vote was passed unanimously.

The Conference adjourned at 4-30 P. M.

FIFTH SITTING-26th December 1936

The Fifth sitting of the Conference commenced at 9-30 A. M. with Mrs. M. E. Cousins in the Chair.

Resolution No. III. Differentiation between the Matriculation and the School Leaving Examinations.

“This Conference considers that the combination in one and the same Matriculation Examination of the 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.”

Mrs. G. R. Billimoria:—In commending the text of the resolution I would like to draw attention to the magnitude and importance of the task implied in this subject. In several provinces of India the Matriculation and the School Leaving Examinations are combined in one and the same test with the result that the test has to serve the purpose of two different classes of students—those that wish to prosecute higher studies and those that want to give up school after the secondary stage. Naturally, therefore, pupils in secondary schools look upon the Matriculation as the goal they must reach if they are to make success in life. But the tragedy of it

is that fifty per cent of those students who appear for the Matriculation fail because they are not fit for it and then a hue and cry is raised about the "slaughter" of candidates. Several of the candidates that are successful go to Colleges; whether they are fit for higher studies or not; whether they are financially in a position to complete their studies or not. Those that do not go to Colleges, find themselves social misfits, for their general education has not fitted them for any kind of employment. It, therefore, there were two separate examinations, the Matriculation and the School Leaving, with different courses of studies it would be in the best interests of students. We could allow a number of practical optional subjects in the School Leaving Examination and confine the purely literary subjects to the Matriculation.

The next question we have to tackle is who is to conduct these two examinations. It is a very complicated question. In many provinces, where there is a dual authority in Education—the University and the Department of Education—the question would arise as to which of the two bodies should conduct the examination. We shall not enter into the intricacies of this problem at this stage but leave it to the Provinces themselves to settle these local matters. There is one point that I would like to touch upon before I close. We should not be merely content with passing resolutions of this nature on paper. They say that the mills of God grind slowly but the machinery of our public bodies is still more difficult to set in motion. I am suggesting therefore that all those members of our Conference who are connected with the University of their own Provinces should take immediate steps to bring this problem to the notice of the authorities and suggest a solution. So far as the Bombay University is concerned, I myself am bringing up the question before the next meeting of the Senate and I hope some of you too will take up the question with the Universities or Education Departments of your districts. I commend this resolution for your acceptance.

Mrs. Gangubai Patwardhan (Baroda) seconded it in Hindustani and said:—

At the time of the results of the last Matriculation Examination in Bombay University there were so many criticisms in the papers. I am only talking of the difficulties that are created by the combination of the two examinations—the Matriculation and the School Leaving. The percentage of successful candidates is generally not more than 33, and in spite of appearing for it three times or more many students do not pass; and for those who have to begin the battle of life by seeking for a job straightaway there is no provision in our present system. There are special examinations in other countries for those who take up special subjects where nearly 95% pass. We should also have a separate examination for those who do not want to study further.

Miss Z. Lazarus speaking on the subject said:—

I had a discussion on this question with the Vice Chancellor of a University and other educationists. They say that it is not very practicable to have two separate examinations. It is a question of expense. I would like to recommend to you that instead of holding two separate examinations, the whole examination should be the same, but have separate courses for those entering the University and for those who wish to have a certain amount of cultural and general education only. I, therefore move the following amendment:—

“In view of financial implications this Conference is of opinion that there should be only one examination with different minima for both the Entrance and School completion, but this scheme should include a large number of optional subjects so that each Examination serves a definite end.”

The original resolution, on paper, is very excellent. But every Department of Education and every University is not as rich as the Bombay University. The Bombay University is unique. It is the only rich University in India. But we belong to an All-India body. We must try and help all Departments of Education not only of Bombay, but Calcutta, Madras, etc., and we want our boys and girls to attempt one Examination with different minima.

Mrs. S. C. Roy (Calcutta) in seconding the amendment said:—

It would give a set back to women's education if we have separate examinations one for those who wish to have separate University career and one for those who do not. For several reasons this system would not work satisfactorily. A girl usually is 15 or 14 when she is going up for the Matriculation Examination and she takes to prepare for it. At this early stage she finds it very difficult to decide for herself which course she should take. The girl who chooses a University career gets no training whatsoever in any of the subjects a housewife may find it useful. A girl on the other hand who chooses the alternative examination may find herself seriously handicapped later on if circumstances necessitate her taking up a University career.

Of course things are different because the University has included subjects like Domestic Science, Fine Arts, Music, etc. This gives a girl a much wider choice but in other places there is little provision made for subjects suited to girls.

The ideal system would be to keep to one Examination and to include in the syllabus subjects like Domestic Science etc., to give the girl who has a particular bent for these subjects a fair chance also. With these words I ask you to accept the amendment moved by Miss Lazarus.

Mrs. Sharada Mehta (Ahmedabad) in supporting the original resolution said (in Gujarati) The object of the resolution is to separate the two Examinations. An opinion has been advanced that by having two examinations, there will be a large amount of extra expense and extra trouble but the University can very well bear the expense. The percentage of marks for passing the School Leaving Examination should be reduced. The amendment just moved is not at all satisfactory. The present standard of marks necessary to pass the Matriculation is very high. For those who do not wish to go up for College Education and to join Municipal and Government services immediately, such a high standard is not necessary. Several students in spite of wasting much money after education and making attempts at the cost of their health are unable to go through this test successfully. I am of opinion that there should be two examinations, one for students who do not wish to go up for the higher studies and who desire to take up some employment, and another for those who would go to the colleges etc. Formerly there used to be two examinations - the Matriculation and the School Final Examination, but the standards laid down for the Government and University Examinations were not in accord and therefore the School Final Examination was dropped. I am of opinion that the University should undertake to conduct both these examinations and that there should be two separate examinations. We as mothers should protest against this inhuman "slaughter" and save our children's health. The Matriculation Examination is the stepping stone and children failing in the very beginning of their career become dejected and lose all the enthusiasm of their youth. We must try and stop this evil.

Miss Amy Rustomji : I am strongly in support of the resolution put before us. What is happening at present is that for getting jobs some sort of certificate is necessary. The ordinary employer wants a sort of an authoritative certificate. Everybody in order to get this sort of entry to employment has to secure the Matriculation Certificate. We do not want the lowering of standard. We want men and women who can face and tackle things. Therefore we need some sort of second examination to show that a man has gone right through the examination course. A certain number of fundamental subjects and a certain number of choice subjects should be there; but it is no question of reducing the standard. Question of cost, I do not believe. We used to have in Bombay such an examination and we used to get quite an amount of money. I believe the University makes a profit of about two lacs of rupees annually. After all a School Leaving Examination would not be held without fees. I would suggest that if it is not possible for the Government or the Universities to have two separate examinations, an Employers' Association or some such bodies might take up such examination. This of course is a matter of detail. But the necessity of having two separate Examinations is apparent.

Miss Rebecca Thomas (Travancore) in supporting the amendment said: The resolution is no adequate solution to the problem. The adoption of the resolution would mean two distinct examinations instead of one, and such examinations of course imply that there should be two separate lines of studies one for the students who are going to stop with the Matriculation Examination and another for those who are going to prosecute higher studies. But children are not able to decide for themselves what they are going to do some years later. The problem is so vital and complicated that in the limited time at my disposal I am not able to suggest an alternative course. Let us have one examination instead of two. After the University examination let there be a year's course, in which the student can undergo training which will be best fitted to make her a useful citizen. With these words I oppose the original Resolution.

Mrs. Mukerjee in supporting the amendment said:-We have a very important resolution before us. There are two sides to the question. We want one examination with optional subjects called the Matriculation, and a second examination to be called the School Leaving Examination for those who do not wish to enter college. The subjects for those appearing for the Matriculation would be more than those for the other course. Many of us will realise that girls who have done the School Leaving Examination, may in later life be faced with difficulties. They may find themselves in reduced circumstances and they may have to think of earning for themselves, and to go to college in order to do so. In such a case, though they would have passed the other examination they would now have to pay extra fee and thus incur extra expenditure to do the Matriculation. If there is one examination, they can enter the University without this waste of time and expenditure. Even otherwise it will be difficult for girls at the age of 13 or 14 to decide which examination to take. This is a question of great importance. It is going to be an All-India question, and we should therefore think for All-India and not for Bombay, Calcutta or Madras only.

Mrs. Jayashri Raiji (Bombay) Speaking in Gujarati in support of the original proposition said:-

An amendment is moved to the effect that instead of separating the two examinations there should be one examination only with different minima for each. By adopting such a course the value of the examination will be minimised. To introduce different minima would involve many difficulties. There ought to be two separate examinations.

Dr. (Mrs.) Malini Sukthankar: I rise to oppose the amendment moved by Miss Lazarus. The argument advanced against the resolution is that there will be an extra expenditure. If for Matriculation we have 20,000 students appearing for Matriculation we have to provide proportionately for a very

large number of examiners; if you separate the examination, the number of examiners will be the same for the students. Whenever a Public Body or a Municipality does not want to do a thing, there is always a cry for expenditure.

The second argument urged is that an ordinary student cannot make up her mind before-hand as to what she will do later. If this is so, let her take up the Matriculation course. If she can make up her mind before-hand, she can take up the School Leaving one. One of the chief reasons for which they go up for examinations is to get a certificate of qualification. Thousands of students cannot reach the academic standard, set by the University; the result is that the lives of a majority of them are ruined, and their failure means so many valuable years lost. In fact it means that the people who really do not wish to go up for the University Examination find their whole life ruined because this hard test is prescribed. Further it is suggested there may be a choice of subjects for Matriculation. For academic knowledge, there ought to be a certain standard; the student should know a certain amount of Geometry, Geography, etc. For the students who do not wish to go on to the University, there can be a choice of subjects. The Resolution has been opposed on the ground, first of expenditure and secondly, that students cannot make up their minds before-hand. I hope in the light of the arguments placed before you against the amendment you will support the original resolution and pass it unanimously.

Shrimati Savitaben Trivedi: The Resolution and amendment are both before you. Obviously the amendment is nice, attractive and tempting; but I do not consider it advisable to agree to it. A large number of students appearing for the Matriculation fail. If, therefore, there are two separate examinations the students can take advantage of the School Leaving Examination and can join a profession. Even students who are not well off are compelled to appear for the Matriculation Examination under the present system and are put to great hardship when they cannot get through. It is much better for such students to appear for the School Leaving Examination. Some feel that the standard of School Leaving Examination would be lower; but this would be better for such students than the higher standard of Matriculation which results in their failure. You will I hope vote for the resolution.

Mrs. Gangaben Patel Speaking in Gujarati supported the Resolution.

Miss Easwari Amma in opposing the resolution said: Unless there be a thorough over-hauling of the system, this resolution is meaningless in the extreme. I therefore, oppose the resolution.

The proposition being an important one, Miss Z. Lazarus, the mover of the amendment, was given a chance of replying.

Miss Lazarus rose up and said: The resolution we are discussing is a very important one and I should like you to give it due consideration. As you are all aware, the money set apart for the education budget all over India is comparatively small and out of this small amount, a portion goes towards the expense of the Department of Public Instruction and to the Universities as well. We have quite a few Universities in the South and I have had the privilege of discussing this question of holding two separate examinations with the Registrars and a Vice Chancellor. The general opinion is that this resolution deals with ideal conditions and an ideal financial stability, but unfortunately it does not come within the sphere of practical achievement. In the South we have the Secondary School Leaving Certificate system which means the holding of one and the same examination both for entrance into the University and eligibility for public service. Two separate minima are prescribed—the higher one is meant for entrance into college while a student who obtains the lower minimum is eligible for entrance into the services meant for rural development such as the junior Departments of Agriculture, Surveying, Horticulture, Medicine, Primary and Middle School education and Commerical education etc.

It is a well-known fact throughout India that many students are really not fit for higher education. In spite of several checks they feel tempted to enter the portals of the University and after obtaining a third class at great expense they go out into the world seeking employment and finding none and their names are added to the already overcrowded list of the unemployed and discontented. Whereas, if, after obtaining the lower minimum at the S. S. L. C. state, they had elected to enter the junior services, they would by this time be flourishing in the rural parts of the country which sadly need their services. Besides, at the S. S. L. C. Examination there are a large variety of optionals to choose from, and every boy or girl can cultivate his or her special tastes, inclinations and aptitudes.

A statement was made by one Delegate viz., that in Bombay the Department of Public Instruction could afford to conduct two separate examinations. What holds good for Bombay may not hold good for all the other provinces and the Indian States scattered throughout the country and we must remember that our Conference is not a Provincial Body serving the needs of one Province but an All-India Body which is interested in questions pertaining to the three hundred and fifty-five millions of India.

Therefore I would bring before you for your kind consideration and acceptance the amendment suggested by me.

Mrs. G. R. Billimoria, In winding up the discussion, said:—

Miss Lazarus has told you that there should be two different standards for passing; the higher standard for those who wish to continue their studies in

college and the lower standard for those who wish to join the battle of life immediately after leaving school. With due deference to Miss Lazarus I must say that there could not be any thing more absurd than such a proposal. There can be no two standards for passing. The suggestion is like giving a Fourth Standard Student a text book of the B. A. Class and keeping two different standards for passing for the B. A. Candidate and the Fourth standard candidate. Again other speakers supporting the amendment have tried to play on our emotions. They tell us:— "How can a poor child decide at the age of 10 or 12 whether she should appear for the Matriculation or for the School Leaving." I maintain that this is not a question for the child or even for the parents to answer; for parents always think their children are geniuses. Really speaking it is a matter to be decided by the teacher in charge. The science of Education is now-a-days so far advanced that by means of mental tests the teacher can say whether a child is fit for higher studies or not. These are arguments which I hope will commend themselves to you. I appeal to you therefore to throw out the amendment.

On votes being taken on the amendment of Miss Lazarus, 18 voted in favour and a larger number against it. It was therefore lost.

The original proposition was then put to vote and carried by a large majority.

Resolution No: V Medical Inspection

"This Conference demands legislation for compulsory Medical Inspection and Treatment in our schools."

In moving this resolution Dr. (Mrs.) Malini B. Sukthankar (Bombay) said: We are all agreed that we want medical inspection in Schools. We have been passing this resolution for the last several years. The object in bringing this resolution up again before this conference is that in spite of our demanding it for a number of years we have not gained anything as yet in the matter. Local authorities and Government do not help us in this direction. Except Bomay, Baroda, Simla, and such other important places, medical inspection in our schools does not exist in spite of the strong public opinion. We have now no other recourse but to demand legislation, and this demand of ours would now go to the legislatures. Not only do we want medical inspection in primary schools, but we want it also in secondary schools. We want those who go to the legislature on our behalf to do this work.

Mrs. Jayashri Raiji (Bombay) seconded the resolution.

Mrs. N. K. Thampi: In Travancore, medical inspection of school children has not so far been made compulsory in all the schools. Medical inspection is now done as an experimental measure in all the Primary schools

in eight Talukas out of thirty Talukas in the State. Medical inspection in all schools is carried on in the Health Unit at Neyyathikara. Facilities are also provided for treatment following the medical inspection of the school children. There is urgent need for extending this work to the rest of the State and the progress made in this direction has been slow. We in Travancore, also feel the need for compulsory medical inspection of all school children. With these few words, I support the resolution.

Miss Khorshed J. Bharda (Bombay) and Mrs. J. N. Desai. (Baroda) supported.

The resolution being then put to vote was passed unanimously.

The following two resolutions were then put from the Chair and carried unanimously:—

IV. Hostels. "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."

VI. 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."

The Conference then adjourned at 12 Noon.

SIXTH SITTING-26th December 1936

The Sixth Sitting of the Conference commenced at 1-30 P. M. with Mrs. M. E. Cousins in the Chair.

As some of the delegates present in the Conference desired to make suggestions about the work for the ensuing year, the President allowed them to speak.

Suggestions for the ensuing year

Reference was made to the Young Women's Christian Association's work by Miss Jean Begg (Calcutta), and she invited the delegates and all others to visit the Y. W. C. A. summer school at Ootacamund and see for themselves the work in physical training and culture. She said that a fortnight's stay

there would interest them very much. She recommended summer schools and referred also to the physical training schools opened at Calcutta.

Miss J. E. Copeland (Delhi): I have been asked to suggest a line of work for the coming year with reference to labour problems. All of you who are interested in labour questions in India might give us your names and addresses so that we may form amongst us a Labour Study Group. We want people from all districts where labour is employed in any capacity, municipal sweepers, P. W. D. contractors' labourers in building schemes etc., as well as the large centres of regulated industry. Such a Group would help us to do three things, viz.,

1. Study conditions and present legislation.
2. Make surveys of local conditions.
3. Engage in some concerted and constructive work.

The duty of the leaders of the Group would be to give concrete help, suggestions and outlines for all these three parts of our work.

Mrs. Ray: I should like to say a few words about the suggestions of Miss Copeland. We do take interest and we are doing some work regarding labour conditions. We do not, however, know as much about this matter as we know about social questions. The study groups will therefore be of great assistance. We may not be perfect about these things but our experience will teach us much. I myself found such experience in the Asansol mining area. From among the Delegates. I do hope some will come forward to do this work.

Miss Telang (U. P. Agra) suggested that Delegates and all other women should give greater preference to Swadeshi articles and the Delegates should at least wear Swadeshi during the Conference.

Mrs. Masani (Bombay): Regarding children's protection work, I want to suggest that the work be started on a small basis. Instead of waiting for the Children's Act we can do something in this direction e. g. opening a small "Ashram" and teaching children on the Montessori and other methods.

General Resolutions were then taken up.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

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

- 1 (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.

Begum Hamid Ali then moved the following resolution:—

- 2 (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.

She said:— As you all know, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur appealed to the audience for a Permanent Office at Delhi. All of you are well aware that the work of the Conference has increased enormously. Now we are not able to get on with unpaid workers. It is very essential that we should now have a permanent office. Particularly now when women are going to Assemblies and Councils, it is very necessary to have a resident office—Women's Secretariat at Delhi. It was decided that the office should be at Delhi because the Central Government will be there and it will be the very fountain head of Government which we shall know to be Swaraj Government. In this Government we have to put in work and to help our men to attain our object. For this we shall require at least 2½ lacs of rupees. We shall have to work and get this money. In the meanwhile to train up workers we will require some money for the next year. At least Rs. 1800/—for training up the staff of our secretariat. We would require one organizing and one permanent secretary for the office. I am glad that we have received a large number of donations.

She was followed by Rani Lakshmi Bai Rajwade who said that her estimate of a well-staffed and well equipped Secretariat was some where about four lacs of rupees and she made a strong appeal for funds.

The resolution was put to vote and was passed with acclamations.

Resolution No. 3. 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.

Resolution No. 4. This Conference expresses its gratitude to the

Railway Board,
The State Railways,
H. E. H. the Nizam's State Railway,

The Jodhpur Railway,
The Bengal and North Western Railway, and
The Rohilkhund and Kumaon Railway

for granting concessions to the delegates to the half yearly and to the annual meetings of the All-India Women's Conference. It hopes, the other Railways will extend the same concession.

The above resolutions were moved from the Chair and passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS

The following results of the polling for the Office-Bearers of the Conference for 1937 were then announced:—

Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan, Chairwoman.
Mrs. Dina Asana, Hon. Organising Secretary.
Mrs. G. R. Billimoria, Hon. Treasurer.
Miss Z. Lazarus, Educational Section Secretary.
Mrs. J. R. Doctor, Social Section Secretary.

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade	}	Vice Presidents
Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee		
Rajkumari Amrit Kaur		
Begum Hamid Ali		
Mrs. Hansa Mehta		
Mrs. Sharda Mehta		

Dr. Georgina Sweet (Australia) conveyed to the Conference the very earnest desire of the officers and International Executive of the Pan-Pacific Women's Association, of which she was the 1st Vice-President, that one or two Indian women, preferably belonging to the Standing Committee of the A. I. W. C. might honour the next P. P. W. A. by being present as guests and visitors at their next Conference at Vancouver, Canada to be held during July 12th to 24th, 1937. She expressed her thanks to the Conference for having given her the wonderful experience and opportunity of knowing so many fine women of India.

Miss Van Asch Van Wyjck (Holland) : I am very glad that I have this opportunity of extending to you my hearty thanks for myself and the other members of the Executive Committee of the World's Young Women's Christian Association, who have had the privilege of attending this meeting. We have come to India after attending the regional meeting of the Young Women's Christian Association in Ceylon. Our object is to come in closer contact with the life of women in India. One of the best opportunities is to be with you here, when you are discussing those problems which are most important to you at the moment, and where we get an impression of what the women

of India are doing at the present moment. We have branches of National Associations, and our work is being carried on in more than 50 countries in the world who have been working for many years and have members from all groups of Society. You will understand how closely we are in touch with problems affecting women's lives. We have come here to this country where the life of women is developing so rapidly, but where there are a number of problems and difficulties confronting them.

You will understand that one of our chief aims is to bring a closer understanding between these countries. Having been with you and having heard all your discussions and also having had an opportunity of meeting you and discussing with some of the representatives of your constituencies in India the difficulties and opportunities before them we have been given a deeper insight into the life of the women of India which will help us to make you better known in our country. My hearty wishes to you all for the further development of the work of your Conference and the work in the Constituencies. After leaving India we will show you that we follow the work of Indian Women with the keenest interest.

Miss Godavari Gokhale member of the Women's Fellowship of service, explained in detail the aims and objects of the newly started Fellowship under the guidance of the Servants of India Society. She referred to the need of having a Fellowship where women could unite in creating a standard of disciplined service which should be worthy of the deep devotion and high ideals of Indian womanhood and also, as the Servants of India Society did not admit women as its members, the need for an institution like this was more keenly felt. She made an appeal for more members and for funds. *

THE PRESIDENT'S CLOSING SPEECH

There is inevitably a touch of sadness when we come to the moment of farewell, when we have to break up a time of good-fellowship. In this city we have received a cordial welcome and lavish hospitality. We have gained fresh inspiration by seeing the amount of hard work that was done by the large numbers of our Ahmedabad sisters - and brothers also - for the organisation of this successful session. The coming together of All-Indian delegates has, as always, increased enthusiasm for the work we have undertaken. I specially thank you all for undertaking your long journeys and incurring considerable expense in your service of your constituencies and the Conference. I shall never forget how so many of you turned out to meet me at the station at

* Footnote : For further information please refer to the Servants of India Society, Sandhurst Road, Girgaon, Bombay 4.

six o'clock in the cold morning, headed by the dozen of Gujarati women pioneers and how you welcomed me with music by the first women's fife and drum band I have ever seen in which your fine girls vigorously beat the big drum. The presence at our sessions of hundreds of women from the Districts, has been a new feature, and I thank them for the patience they showed in listening to non-Gujarati speeches and reports. The language problem has this year enriched us by bringing forward many fine new speakers in Gujarati and Hindi, and has made us feel the increasing necessity there is for every woman to learn Hindi as the common language for this vast country. Then we also thank our special visitors from overseas for their messages of good will from women of far-off lands and we ask them to convey to their organisations our sense of solidarity with them in working for the equality of the sexes, and for justice for the worker as worker without reference to sex. In this great city of over 100 cotton mills we have felt ourselves in the grip of the machine age. We have to remake our social and economic system in terms of the inclusion of machines, which can be either our masters or our servants. We have realised ourselves as the sport, the victims and the proteges of the microphone as an example of the changed era in which we live. Our first hand contact with the problems of labour and capital caused us re-word our proposed Resolution on Maternity Benefits, and strengthened our desire to study sociological and economic questions to their roots. Yet side by side with the products of machinery should go artistic handicrafts such as had been shown in the Conference Exhibition and in productions of the Fine Arts such as had been so perfect a treat in the Dance and Drama entertainment, that was provided for us, here. One of the aims of the Women's Conference is to increase unity. Locally we have seen how all classes and families united in that remarkable entertainment - the group of Harijan women in their strong and graceful Garba with brass pots, the Rani of Sangli's daughter playing her Sitar in public for the first time, millowner and artist, clerk and teacher, boys and girls old and young. The same unity was in the remarkably large opening session attended by representative men and women. I retain a specially happy memory of the unity between our men and women public workers demonstrated in the Reception given to our delegates by the Municipal Council in its artistically illuminated gardens. We have similar happy memories of tea-parties with our Muslim sisters of this city. Begum Hamid Ali's presence amongst us this year has been particularly helpful and appreciated. We miss the striking personality of Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji owing to ill-health but we feel her deep interest in our doings. It is happy and fitting that Ahmedabad gives us two new office-bearers for the coming year, a Vice-President and a General Secretary. I take this opportunity on your behalf to thank specially Mrs. Mukerji, our Chairwoman, and Mrs. Swaminadhan, our Secretary of the past year for their splendid services. To them, to our Sectional Secretaries, to the members of the Standing Committee and

the office-bearers of the Reception Committee I tender my sincere thanks for their efficient way of handling the day-to-day business of the Conference and for making my duties as President easy and pleasurable. Even so I must have unintentionally made mistakes of omission and commission which I request you kindly to overlook.

The new year is knocking at our doors. May it be a year of international peace! May our India realise her dreams for freedom, unity and prosperity. May our Women's Conference work increase in all spheres of life from its centre of the Unity of all for the common good. May each one of us here go forth with fresh encouragement to create a fairer, fresher world around us guided by our deliberations and resolutions of this eleventh session which I now declare closed.

Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee: Madam President and Fellow Delegates.

In moving a vote of thanks for the Chair, I am perfectly sure that I am voicing the sentiments of the Delegates, Visitors and Reception Committee members. Mrs. Cousins has very ably guided us as our President in this session. To us it is a great event to have as our President one who helped to start the Conference. We know how much she has contributed and helped to shape the Conference. I should also like to thank the Delegates. This year, I believe, we have nearly 130 Delegates here. We had expected more at Ahmedabad; but we had many difficulties. I wish to thank all those who have come from long distances for participating in this Conference and making it a success. As a Delegate, I want to express my very great pleasure in attending the Session of Ahmedabad, and to have the opportunity of meeting women of the type of Lady Nilkanth, Mrs. Sharada Mehta etc., women who have devoted so much of their time and energy for the welfare of women and children long before the Conference had started. On behalf of the Standing Committee also, I wish to express my grateful thanks, and I am sure I am voicing your sentiments when I express feelings of thanks and appreciation to our Organising Secretary, Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan for the able manner in which she has discharged the duties of her office in this past year. We every one of us congratulate to-day our New Organising Secretary Mrs. Dina Asana who belongs to Ahmedabad. The women of Gujarat, I am sure, will be greatly benefited by having two of the office-bearers of the Conference amongst them, and thus they will be able to see the privilege and honour, reputation and confidence, which the work for the Conference entails. With these few words, I move the vote of thanks to the chair.

Begum Hamid Ali seconding said: I have great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. Mukerjee. I specially thank the President for her most inspiring words about our future programme. Every woman of the Conference will work with her to carry out the lofty ideals she has set

before us. It is undoubtedly true that we must broaden our vision and go forward with faith and courage. Our Conference is bound together with fine links—let us endeavour with all the forces we command not to break a single silken fibre of it and so weaken the chain that binds us together. It is enough that we endeavour to make our country a self-governing one, one of the most truthful, the most peace-loving and most contented in the world. Slavery cannot abide in a truthful nation, nor will our self-respect allow us to remain in tutelage or bondage for ever. When I say this, you need not misunderstand me that I want the Conference to enter into party politics as such. Our Conference is positively not a political organisation. I am confident that our conference will go ahead day by day towards the fulfilment of its ideals.

Lady Nilkanth:—I rise to support the vote of thanks so ably proposed by Mrs. Mukerji and seconded by Begum Hamid Ali, on behalf of the women of Gujarat. We are very thankful to Mrs. Cousins for accepting the Chair and carrying out its duties so successfully. I am sure, I am voicing the sentiment of every one here when I say this. I would apologise for the difficulties and inconvenience that the Delegates might have experienced, on my own behalf and that of the Reception Committee. I hope we part in very good spirit and in the next year when we meet, we meet with great enthusiasm and a very good programme of work.

Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan said:—I take this opportunity to thank on behalf of all the Standing Committee Members and delegates and on my own all those who have helped to make this session of the Conference such a success. I cannot adequately thank the Reception Committee for the infinite trouble they have taken in making arrangements for the accommodation of delegates hailing from different parts of India. I am sure, you will all agree with me when I say that our stay here has been very happy in every way and we have had the privilege of visiting some of the most interesting institutions run by the women of Ahmedabad. The concert was a real inspiration to all of us besides being an Evening Entertainment. We assure you, we will take back with us most pleasant memories of our stay here and for long we shall remember the enthusiasm of the women of Gujarat who showed such keen interest in the proceedings of the Conference.

Although we should not go into personalities we cannot but remember with gratitude the invaluable help rendered to us and the Conference by Lady Vidyaben Nilkanth and her daughters, Shrimati Shardaben and her daughters, Mrs. Dina Asana, Mrs. Vakharia, Shrimati Savitaben, Miss Paul and Shrimati Indumati Dewan. We thank them most heartily for their indefatigable patience and untiring energy. Last but not least let us remember the bright band of unknown workers without whose untiring energy no Conference could be a success—I mean our charming young volunteers.

To my colleagues who have shared my burden throughout the year and have patiently put up with my shortcomings and co-operated with me in every way I offer my grateful thanks. You will forgive me if I take the liberty of mentioning one name in particular, that of our Chairwoman, Mrs. Mukerji, whose ungrudging help and patience have always been my main stay during those days when I found the work of the Conference too difficult a task for me. It would not have been possible for me to carry on this heavy burden on my shoulders but for her very great help all through the year. Once more I thank you all on my behalf as well as on behalf of the delegates.

Before I give up my office I want to express my grateful thanks to the delegates and Standing Committee members for electing me Chairwoman of the Committee. I accept the office in the hope that I would be assured of their support and co-operation throughout the year. I hope and I am sure you will help me in the working out the ideals of the Conference and even if there are individual differences of opinion let us bury them, for the cause for which we are assembled here is indeed greater and more important than all our small, narrow, personal differences.

The Conference came to a close with Dr. Tagore's famous song

“ जन गण मन अधिनायक जय हे भारत भाग्य विधाता. ”

LABOUR RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT AHMEDABAD

1 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.

2 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.

3 Maternity Benefits

(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.

4 Housing Facilities For Labour

This Conference is insistent that the attention of the authorities concerned should turn immediately to the imperative necessity for providing improved housing facilities for the labouring classes.

Resolution on Social Reform passed at Ahmedabad

Condolence Resolution

1 This Conference places on record its sincere grief at the death of Mrs. Kamala Nehru, Mr. Abbas Tyabji, Dr. Ansari, Munshi Premchand and Dr. J. T. Sunderland.

2 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. 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.

3 Utilisation of Memorial Funds

This Conference urges the central and Provincial Governments and the Governments of Indian States to utilise the King George Memorial fund for the furtherance of medical aid and Research.

4 Woman's share in the country's administration

(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.

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.

6 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,

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.

7 Traffic in Women and Children and Rescue Homes

(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.

Brothels at Fairs.

(b) 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.

8 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.

9 Child Marriage Restraint Act (Government of India 1929.)

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 propaganda work be redoubled throughout the country with particular emphasis in the villages.

10 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.

11 (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 propaganda 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 propaganda 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.

12 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.

13 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.

14 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.

15 Emergency Resolution

In order to facilitate women voters in the exercise of their right this Conference urges upon Government the necessity of holding the ensuing elections to the Provincial Legislative Assembly, either on the same day as the General Elections, where such practice does not exist, or (2) to declare the day of women's elections as a public holiday.

Resolutions on Educational Reform Passed at Ahmedabad

I. 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.

II. 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 Devanagri, Urdu or Roman.

III. Differentiation between the Matriculation and the School-Leaving Examinations

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 these 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.

IV. Hostels

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.

V. Medical Inspection

This Conference demands legislation for compulsory Medical Inspection and treatment in all schools.

VI. 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.

General Resolutions passed at Ahmedabad

1. (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.
 2. (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.
 3. 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.
 4. This Conference expresses its gratitude to the
Railway Board,
The State Railways,
H. E. H. The Nizam's State Railway,
The Jodhpur Railway,
The Bengal and North Western Railway, and
The Rohilkund Kumaon Railway
for granting concessions to the delegates to the half-yearly and to the annual meetings of the All-India Women's Conference. It hopes the other Railways will extend the same concession.
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Important Resolutions passed at Previous Sessions

I. EDUCATIONAL

A. General

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

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

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

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

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

6. 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) and compulsory medical inspection with after-care treatment;
- (c) and also calls upon Municipalities and Local Boards to provide an adequate number of public parks and 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. *Health*

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

- (a) School hygiene and sanitation,
- (b) Medical Inspection of school children,

- (c) School Clinics and Care-Committees,
- (d) Health education in Schools,
- (e) Physical Culture,
- (f) Adult Classes for the study of Child Welfare and Child Hygiene,
- (g) Dietetics, with special reference to children's food,

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

15. 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.

B. 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.
- (h) Nutrition Bureaus should be established in every Province where the much needed research work on the value of the food-stuffs available in the Province should be carried out and where all information regarding suitable dietaries could be obtained.

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 Kindregarten, 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 education 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.

C. Secondary Education

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D. College Education

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

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

3. Hostels for Girls

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

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

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

- (i) that vernaculars should be allowed, optionally with classical languages, in the curricula at *every stage* in the University course
- (ii) that Domestic Science, optionally with Physics, should be allowed in the First Year in the Arts Examination.

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

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

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

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

E. Training

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

F. 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;
 - (c) 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, realizing the vital need of educating the masses of the country, urges that the speediest possible measures be adopted for the spread of adult education and suggests the use of the Radio and Broadcasting as one of the means to achieve this object.

G. Miscellaneous

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. This Conference reiterates the importance of educating girls of all communities in the same schools in order to promote mutual understanding and a common cultural unity.

5. This Conference is totally opposed to the infliction of corporal punishment in schools and institutions for boys and girls and it calls on every one to report instances to the authorities concerned and on the latter to see that the laws forbidding such acts are strictly enforced.

6. *Common Language*

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

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

(Trivandrum, 1935)

7. As a practical measure for the realisation of its ideal of a universal language for India, the All-India Women's Conference hopes to conduct as soon as possible its proceedings in Hindustani, and invites the immediate and full co-operation of the Constituencies in this endeavour.

8. *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.

9 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.

10 Debating society.

In support of the recommendation of the Educational Committee, this Conference advises the immediate formation in each Constituency of a *debating society* to serve as a training ground for:—

- (a) the stimulation of discussion on matters of public interest;
- (b) the efficient expression of thought and speech.

II SOCIAL

A Child Marriage Restraint Act

1. This Conference emphatically condemns the unnatural and devitalising custom of allowing immature girls to become wives and mothers, as it robs them of their right to education and freedom and arrests their mental, moral and physical growth. This meeting demands that the legal age of marriage be fixed at 16 and 21 for girls and boys, respectively.

2. (a) This Conference expresses its satisfaction at the passing of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, and congratulates Rai Saheb Harbilas Sarda and those who helped in making it the law of the land on their achievements.

(b) It further urges that,

- (i) In order to make this Act effective, it is necessary to form Sarda Committees to prevent, and to bring to light, breaches of the Law.
- (ii) In order to give effect to the Child Marriage Restraint Act, it is imperative to take immediate steps to provide adequate machinery for the registration of marriages and to ensure the correct registration of births, in accordance with the recommendations of the Age of Consent Committee.

(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 1922."

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.

- (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.

9 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.

10 Debating society.

In support of the recommendation of the Educational Committee, this Conference advises the immediate formation in each Constituency of a *debating society* to serve as a training ground for:—

- (a) the stimulation of discussion on matters of public interest;
- (b) the efficient expression of thought and speech.

II SOCIAL

A Child Marriage Restraint Act

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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 recommendations of the Age of Consent Committee.

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- (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 Mohammedans, in so far as it allows an arbitrary power to the husband to divorce his wife at his mere caprice, is not in accord with the true interpretation of Islamic teaching and places on record its considered opinion that the right to divorce as conceded by the Islamic Law to Moslem women be recognized by the British Courts.

B. Purdah

1. This Conference condemns the custom of enforced seclusion of women and entreats all Hindus, Muslims and other communities which observe this custom, to take practical steps to educate public opinion towards abolishing it as soon as possible.

C. Inheritance

1. (a) This Conference places on record its opinion that there should be complete equality between the sexes in the matter of inheritance and control of property.

(b) As a step towards this goal the Conference supports the following measures which are pending in the Legislative Assembly :

(i) " A Bill to declare gains of learning by a Hindu to be his separate property." (Mr. Jayakar.)

(ii) " A Bill to make better provision for certain heirs under Hindu Law especially with regard to women regarding their rights of inheritance." (Mr. Jogiah.)

(iii) " A Bill to secure share for Hindu Widows in their husbands' family property." (Rai Saheb Harbilas Sarda.)

(iv) " A Bill to remove certain existing disabilities in respect of powers of adoption among Hindus." (Mr. Jayakar.)

(c) In order to ensure the rights of inheritance to Muslim women, in accordance with the laws laid down in the Koran, the current customary law as practised in some parts of India be not recognised by the Courts.

(d) The Conference further extends its cordial support to the committees, appointed in Mysore and Baroda, for investigating the Hindu Laws of Inheritance with a view to making them more equitable to women.

2. *Legal disabilities of women*

(i) This Conference strongly protests against the existing discriminations in Hindu Law against the rights of women; it demands that existing laws should be so amended as to make them just and equitable and that an All-India Non-official Commission be appointed to consider the removal of the legal disabilities of women as regards inheritance and marriage.

(ii) *Legal disabilities*

(a) We give our whole-hearted support to all the bills introduced into the Provincial and Central Legislatures, such as the Bill on the Hindu Women's Inheritance Rights (by Hon. Mr. P. C. D. Charry, before the Council of State) and welcomes the bills passed by the Sangli and Mysore Darbars on Hindu Widows' Property Rights, which seek to remove the legal disabilities of women in so far as they are in accord with our principles. We further support Rao Bahadur Kale's Bill in the Bombay Council, on the Hindu 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 a 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.

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.

E. Indigenous Industries

1. This Conference urges that in view of the poverty of the country the public be requested to encourage and support indigenous industries and calls upon the Government to open industrial centres and to give special grants to such institutions as provide industrial training for girls and women.

2. This Conference while reiterating all its former Resolutions on Indigenous Industries, is firmly of opinion that the encouragement of such is essential for the industrial and economic development of the country and appeals to the public to use *swadeshi*.

3. *Swadeshi*

This Conference is strongly of opinion that it is essential for the industrial and economic development of the country to encourage indigenous industries and appeals to the public to use swadeshi articles, in particular Khaddar (hand spun and hand woven fabrics).

F. Women and Government

1. This conference reiterates its firm conviction that women should be adequately represented:

- (a) on the Central and Provincial Legislatures;
- (b) on District, Municipal and other local Bodies;
- (c) on 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. This Conference fully adheres to the stand it has taken in regard to the question of Franchise in all its bearings as pertaining to the status of women in the future Constitution of India. It expresses its firm belief in perfect sex equality and demands that women shall possess equal citizen rights with men. No disability either legal or social shall be attached to women on account of sex, or in regard to public employment, office, power or honour and in the exercise of any trade or calling.

This Conference stands united:

- (i) in its protest against the Communal Award as touching the womanhood of India, and
- (ii) in its demand for a system of Joint-Electorates, and further resolves
 - (a) that a representative Committee of ten persons including the Chairwoman and the Organizing Secretary of 1932 be appointed and 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 Organizations (A. I. W. C., N. C. W. I. and W. I. A.);
 - (c) that the National Council of Women in India and the Women's Indian Association be requested to appoint their similar Committees and that the Joint Franchise Meeting be postponed until after the

return of the members of the Round Table Conference and publication of the decisions of His Majesty's Government on the subject.

3 Franchise

- (a) This conference reiterates its demands regarding franchise and the status of women in the future Constitution of India as placed before the Joint Parliamentary Committee in London by our elected representatives, and fully endorses the statements made by them before the same Committee.
- (b) A cable to the above effect be sent to the Secretary, Joint Select Committee, and the Secretary of State for India.
- (c) A special Session of the Conference to which representatives of the National Council of Women in India and the Women's Indian Association be invited shall be called after the publication of the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to determine what the attitude of the representative womanhood of India should be in case their repeated demands are ignored.

4. This Conference expresses its profound indignation and disappointment at the omission of the right of Franchise or of candidature for election to the Legislatures of the following Provinces :

Bengal, Assam, North-West Frontier Province, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, and strongly recommends that these qualifications be removed forthwith.

5. *J. P. C. Report* : Whereas the Joint Parliamentary Committee's Report on the White Paper, as a whole, and in particular where its recommendations concern the status of women in the new Constitution fall far short of our demands, we do hereby state in unequivocal language our strong disapproval of and inability to accept the same. We give reasons for our dissatisfaction in the appended statement.

Statement

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

1. We claim that there should be a declaration of rights in which the removal of sex disabilities should be clearly stated. We draw attention to

the fact that the word "Sex" has been omitted from the "Eligibility for holding Public Office, etc.," *vide* para 367 Vol. I (Part I). While feeling keenly this omission as a grave injustice to us in spite of our repeated demands in this connection, we hope that the same may even now be rectified.

2 The greater number of women enfranchised under the recommendations are going to be the wives and widows of property holders and to this number have also been added the wives of men with the military service 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 the purpose of increasing our electoral members.

3. In our opinion far too much weight has, from the outset, been laid on administrative difficulties where women are concerned. This opinion is practically strengthened by the numbers of "Pardah" women who went to the polls in the recent Legislative Assembly Elections. We protest strongly against the invidious differentiations that have been made between the provinces in regard to literacy and property qualifications. "Application" conditions and other details including the omission of the wives and widows of those holding the educational qualification if the "Wifehood qualification" is unreasonably persisted in.

4. We have not swerved from our conviction that we do not, on principle, approve of reservation of seats in Legislatures for ourselves or for any particular interest. Nevertheless, seeing that this expedient may unfortunately be imposed on us during the transition period, we deplore the entire omission of women from the assemblies of several Provinces and the total exclusion for whatever reason, of women of the North West Frontier Province, from all citizenship rights including Franchise. We feel very strongly that in the case of these provinces where women may be said to be less vocal, the exclusion of their representatives from the Legislatures constitutes a grave omission and neglect of the very causes for which we stand. We also claim that no disabilities shall be attached to women in any province that may be newly created.

5. If certain selected Provinces are definitely to be burdened with Second Chambers we see no reason whatsoever why women should not be

accorded a *definite* place in all these as well as in the Council of State. We regard such as our inherent right and must, therefore, protest against this omission.

6. With Lord Lothian we are "Unrepentant believers in a system of direct election" and we, therefore, object with all possible emphasis to indirect election at any time and for any one. We refuse, likewise to accept nomination for the Legislatures for ourselves, knowing by bitter experience that the "safeguards of nomination" 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.

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

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

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. *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.

G. *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 the 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 Borthels 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 Stations 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. It strongly urges upon its Constituencies

(b) the study of local conditions in connection with cases of trafficking, and segregated brothel areas;

(c) when facts have been obtained a vigorous protest against such crimes, by approach with the facts to the Governments, Municipal or Local Government Authorities or persons concerned in responsible positions. Where Legislation does not exist, the same to be promoted, with adequate punishments effectively enforced.

(d) *Moral Education.* Realising that the survey above suggested and adequate legislation against trafficking in women and children will not, of themselves, effectively remove the danger to health and morals arising from commercialised vice, this Conference stresses that the education of individuals in their moral and social responsibility is essential.

(e) This Conference urges that in each Constituency a co-operative attempt shall be made during the coming year, to secure such progressive health and moral welfare education as shall tend to a higher standard of personal conduct as well as a high standard of public opinion in these matters.

Crimes against children

8. This Conference urges that separate Children's Courts should be established for trying juvenile offenders and in these courts at least one Magistrate should be a woman.

- (a) This Conference urges women to come forward to undertake this work.
- (b) It recommends that special provision be made for children sentenced for short periods.
- (c) This Conference is of opinion that an All-India Children's Act on the lines of the Bombay and Calcutta Acts is necessary to give protection to all children under the age of 18 and it further urges upon all women to study the question of Juvenile Delinquency in all its aspects and co-operate in establishing clubs, shelters and Homes for the reformation of these delinquent and destitute children.
- (d) This Conference expresses its keen regret at the attitude of the U. P., the Mysore, and the Frontier Councils towards the Bills for the suppression of Immoral Traffic in women and children and urges upon the members of those Councils to promulgate such legislation as will punish traffickers in vice and rescue minor girls from houses of ill-fame.
- (e) It congratulates 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.

H. 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 wholehearted support to Mr. R. K. Shunmukham Chetty's Bill to remove disabilities affecting the untouchable caste of the Hindu community, and calls upon—

- (a) The members of each Constituency to educate public opinion in favour of the removal of Untouchability;
- (b) 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.

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, Infirmarys 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. *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.

4. *Rural Reconstruction*

This Conference views with grave concern the conditions of life in general in Indian villages particularly in regard to education and sanitation and exhorts its Constituencies and other Women's Organizations throughout India to form Local Committees to consider practical projects for rural reconstruction.

5. *Rural Uplift—*

(a) In as much as on the economic, hygienic and moral uplift of the villagers of India depends the real progress and prosperity of our Country, this Conference welcomes the formation of the All-India Village Industries Association and resolves to co-operate 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.

6. (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 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.

7. *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.

8. *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.

9. This meeting of the All-India Women's Conference records its vehement protest against the tyranny perpetrated on their Beluchi sisters through various horrible customs as "Bhajai" (i. e., giving away wife of a deceased to his heirs), "Khoon-beha" (i. e., taking away by force the sisters and daughters of a murderer by the aggrieved party), "Tavadula" (i. e., interchange of children in marriage even before they are born), "Dukhter feroshi" i. e., selling away women for marriage), and also protests against such similar customs wherever they exist.

This Conference deplors the condition of their Beluchi sisters and appeals to the Government of Beluchistan and the educated men to take measures for their protection and uplift. It further demands that all impediments in the way of social workers and educationists be removed.

This Conference ardently hopes that the Beluchi sisters would be given the same social, economic and civic rights and privileges enjoyed by the womanhood of other parts of the country.

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.

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. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. This Conference draws the attention of the Government of India to the following recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour and urges for early legislative measures.

- (a) Rigorous action should be taken against those factories where conditions in regard to humidification are worst.
- (b) First-aid boxes should be provided in all the factories using power and in departments of factories employing over 250 persons.
- (c) Comprehensive Public Health Acts should be passed in all Provinces.
 - (i) Where pipe-water supplies are not available special precautions as to purity should be taken.
 - (ii) Where Industry begins to develop in a new area, it should be the duty of employers to provide suitable water to their workers.
- (d) Naikins (women jobbers) should be excluded from the engagement and dismissal of labour.
- (e) Every Factory should be compelled to maintain separate and sufficient latrine accommodation for males and females and an adequate staff to keep them clean.
- (f) Creches should be provided for children up to the age of six years where considerable number of women are employed. This requirement should be statutory for places employing 250 women or more. The Factories Act should embody this with discretionary power to Local Governments in regard to factories with fewer women. The organization of factory creches should be the duty of the women-Inspectors.
- (g) Women factory inspectors should be appointed in every province. They should be of Indian domicile and not less than 25 years of age and their pay should be adequate to attract the right type.
- (h) Maternity benefit legislation should be enacted throughout India on the lines of the schemes operating in Bombay and Central Provinces.
 - (i) The scheme should be non-contributory.
 - (ii) In the first instance, the entire cost of the benefit should be borne by the employer.
 - (iii) The rate of benefit given by the Central Provinces Act is suitable for general application.

- (iv) The maximum benefit period should be 4 weeks before and 4 weeks after the child-birth.
- (v) Administration of the Act should be entrusted to the factory inspection staff and wherever possible to women factory inspectors.
- (i) Maximum daily hours of work for children should be five hours.
- (j) Employers should arrange to give children at least one rest interval.
- (k) No child who has been employed full time in a factory should be allowed to work overtime or to take work at home after factory hours.
- (l) No child under the age of 14 years should be permitted to work in or about the mines.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. (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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. *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.

22. *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 Out-still 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. (Trivaudrum, 1935-36)

23. *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.

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 and in us a spirit of true patriotism and love of humanity so that rising above the narrow confines of communities and provinces we may see fulfilled the vision of a larger India ready to take her rightful place in the world comity of nations.

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 wholehearted support and sympathy to the World Disarmament Conference to be held in Geneva in February, 1932, and calls upon all Governments to reduce their Army and Navy.

4. 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.

5. *Istambul Resolutions*

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

(a) *Legal Rights*

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

(b) *East and West Co-operation*

Whereas this Congress believes in the interest of true progress, the women of every country must advance on the lines of equality and justice, it pledges its hearty support to all the women of

the West as well as of the East whether they struggle for the eradication of their special legal, social and economic disabilities and for the recognition of their rights to equal citizenship in their respective national units or whether they are in danger of losing these legal, political, and economic rights which they have achieved.

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

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

LINES OF WORK OF THE ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

1. The All-India Women's Conference instructs its Standing Committee to continue the work inaugurated at its All-India Sessions, namely :—

- (a) To collect and deal with suggestions on educational matters sent from the Constituent Conferences and States represented at the Conference.
- (b) To make known to each other the work done in other parts.
- (c) To bring public opinion to bear on matters of general, educational and social principle, or policy, where necessary.
- (d) To arrange the Annual Sessions of the Conference.

2. In consideration of the widespread awakening of interest amongst the women of India in all questions affecting their-welfare, this Conference is of opinion that while continuing its policy, it should widen its scope and have two Sections,—viz., one dealing exclusively with Educational matters and another dealing with matters of Social Reform, each section having its own Sectional Committee and Secretary under the Organising Secretary.

3. The Social Reform Sectional Committee has working under it the following Sub-committees:

- (a) Labour
- (b) Indigenous Industries

4. The All-India Women's Conference recommends that each of its Constituent Conferences should have a Local Committee to carry on the work of the All-India Conference in its locality and to co-operate with all Educational Institutions and to report regularly to the Standing Committee of the Conference.

5. This Conference requests its delegates to visit the schools in their locality; to investigate cases of differential treatment of Depressed Class children and to report to the authorities concerned. It urges that Provincial Governments and the Governments of Indian States be requested to enforce the laws already existing for the admission of Depressed Class children to schools.

6. The All-India Women's Conference is strongly represented on the Governing Body of the All-India Women's Education Fund Association, which came into existence through the Conference after its Delhi Session. It recommends this Fund to all those interested in the development of girls' education along the lines of its Memorandum.

Constitution of the All-India Women's Conference

ARTICLE I

Name—

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

ARTICLE II

Policy, aims and Objects—

1. The Conference shall not engage in any party politics, but shall unite on such points as affect women and children.
2. The objects of the Conference shall be—
 - (a) To promote in India the education of both sexes at all stages.
 - (b) To deal with all questions affecting the welfare of women and children.

ARTICLE III

Composition—

1. The Conference shall consist of—
 - (a) Patrons,
 - (b) Office-bearers, and
 - (c) Delegates.

Patrons—Past Presidents of the Conference and any other who may be appointed by the Conference.

Office-bearers—

President,
Six Vice-Presidents,
Hon. Organizing Secretary,
Two Sectional Secretaries,
Hon. Treasurer, and
Chairwoman of the Standing Committee.

Delegates—As duly elected by Constituent Conferences which may be convened in the following Constituent Areas and in such other Areas as the Standing Committee may decide from time to time.

Also special Delegates as provided for in the Regulations and Bye-Laws.

British India—Agra, Ajmer-Merwara, Andhra, Assam, Bengal—East, Bengal—North, Bengal—West, Berar, Bombay, Calcutta, Central Provinces—North, Central Provinces—South, Coorg, Delhi, Gujarat, Madras, Karnatak, Maharashtra, Malabar, Oudh, Punjab—Central, Punjab—East, Punjab—West, Sind, Tamil Nadu, Utkal.

Indian States—Baroda, Bhopal, Cochin, Dhar, Gwalior, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kashmir, Mysore, Travancore.

2. The number of delegates from each Constituent Area shall not exceed ten.
3. The Reception Committee convened for the purpose of holding the Annual Session of the Conference shall be deemed to be a Constituent Area and as such shall have the power to elect ten delegates including its Office-bearers.

ARTICLE IV

Agencies of Work—

1. The work of the Conference shall be accomplished by—

- (a) The All-India Conference.
- (b) The Standing Committee, Sectional Committees, and their Sub-committees.
- (c) The Constituent Conferences, their Local Committees or such other agencies as the Conference may decide from time to time.

The All-India Conference—There shall be an Annual Session of the Conference at a place and time fixed by the Committee.

The Standing Committee—The Standing Committee shall consist of—

- (a) The President of the Conference for the current year,
- (b) Six Vice-Presidents,
- (c) Office-bearers.
 - (i) The Chairwoman
 - (ii) The Organizing, Sectional and Assistant Secretaries
 - (iii) The Treasurer or Treasurers.
- (d) Elected Members : one representative elected by each Constituent Conference.
- (e) Conveners of the Sub-committees.

(f) There shall be a Finance Sub-committee and any other Special Sub-committees as directed from time to time by the Conference.

Constituent Conferences—A constituent Conference is a public meeting of women in a Constituent Area from which delegates are elected to represent that Area at the All-India Women's Conference.

Each Constituent Conference shall have power to frame and amend its own Bye-Laws in conformity with the Articles and Bye-Laws of the conference and to regulate among other matters the election of delegates, and of Local Committees, and the holding of Sub-constituent Conferences. Such Bye-Laws and Regulations shall be subject to the approval of the Standing Committee.

Sub-constituent Conferences—If any, in different parts of the Area, shall send representatives to their Constituent Conference.

Local Committees—Each Constituent Conference shall elect a Local Committee to act as its Executive.

ARTICLE V

Power to make Bye-Laws

1. The Standing Committee shall have power to make Bye-Laws and Regulations for the carrying on of the work of the Conference and to alter them and add to them, from time to time, as occasion may require. (Ref. Section 55 Bye-laws and Regulations.)

ARTICLE VI

Alteration of Constitution

1. The Constitution may not be altered except at an Annual Session by a four-fifths majority of the Delegates present, and provided that a notice of such proposed alteration shall have been sent in writing by registered post to every Local Committee of the Constituent Conferences three months before the Annual Session.
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Bye-Laws and Regulations

CONFERENCE

Delegates

1. Each Constituent Conference shall send, through its Liaison Officer, the names of the Delegates it has elected to represent it at the All-India Conference. These must include the Standing Committee Member for the current year. It shall also clearly indicate which of the Delegates has been elected as its Standing Committee Member for the next year, and in order of preference give the names of two Delegates to act in her stead at the Annual Session, if necessary. It shall also send the names of two Delegates for the Subjects-Committee. These lists must reach the Organising Secretary a month before the Annual Session. Alterations, if any, should be sent without delay.
2. A Standing Committee Member shall be one of the Delegates to attend the All-India Conference and shall be chosen according to the local Constitution of each Area. During her term of office she should be resident in the Area she represents. She shall hold office from the date of the first sitting of the new Standing Committee held after the final Session of the annual Conference.
3. The Delegates from each Constituent Conference shall include representatives from the Sub-constituent Conference, if any. At least three Delegates may be elected from the headquarters of the Constituent Area.
4. No Societies or Bodies may independently send Delegates to the Conference.
5. The Sub-executive Committee shall be empowered to invite Special Delegates under exceptional circumstances. Local Committees through their Standing Committee Member may recommend such names to the Sub-executive Committee.

Special Delegates

6. Any Constituent Conference wishing to invite the All-India Women's Conference to meet within its Constituent Area, shall pass a Resolution to that effect and authorise its delegates to give the invitation at the forthcoming Annual Session for the following Session.
7. The election of Office-bearers of the Conference, other than the President, shall take place annually.
8. The Vice-Presidents shall be nominated by the Standing Committee and elected by the Conference at the Annual Sessions.
9. The election of the Organising Secretary and of the Treasurer shall be by ballot at the Annual Conference.
10. Any vacancy among office-bearers of the Standing Committee which may occur between Annual Sessions shall be filled up and any similar vacancy among Vice-Presidents may be filled up by the Standing Committee from amongst :
 - (a) its own members,
 - (b) its past members, and
 - (c) in exceptional cases from among names suggested by the Sub-Executive Committee three names being submitted to the Standing Committee by the Organising Secretary or Chairwoman, and the person so elected to hold office only till the next Annual Sessions.
11. At the Annual Session shall be presented :
 - (a) The Annual Report by the Organising Secretary,
 - (b) A duly audited Balance Sheet by the Treasurer.
 - (c) Reports of Sectional and of Sub-committees, and
 - (d) Brief Reports of their year's work by Standing Committee Members.

Invitation**Vacancies****Business**

} for adoption

ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

- (e) Brief Report of the Honorary Secretary of All-India Women's Educational Fund Association. } for information
- Resolutions** 12. Resolutions, and any other items for the Agenda of the Annual Session must reach the Organising and Sectional Secretaries six weeks before the Conference.
- Language** 13. At the meetings of the Conference itself the speeches shall be as far as possible in the language of the place where the Conference is being held, arrangements shall be made to have any speeches in other languages translated.
14. The Subjects-Committee and the Standing Committee meetings shall be conducted in English.
- Railway Concession** 15. The Organising Secretary shall arrange for railway concessions for delegates and visitors to and from the Conference.
- Fees** 16. Delegates to the Conference shall pay a fee of rupees ten.
17. The Delegates' fees shall be equally divided between the Conference and the Reception Committee. *
- Reports** 18. There shall be published annually a Report of the Conference with a statement of accounts duly audited by a Chartered or Government Accountant; this Report shall be published in English, Hindi and Urdu and it shall be issued within three months after the Annual Session.
- Local Conferences after Annual Session** 19. The Local Committee of each Constituent Area shall send as soon as possible a Report to the Organising Secretary, giving an account of the Educational and Social Institutions and the educational and social conditions of the women and girls within its area, and shall keep this information up-to-date by further Reports from time to time.

* The amount paid to the Reception Committee is intended to allow Delegates to have free board and lodging during the Annual Session.

20. The Reports thus received by the Organising Secretary shall be kept to form the nucleus of a Reference Library.
21. The Local Committee of every Constituent Area shall, as soon as possible after the Annual Conference, hold a public meeting in its Area in order to give an exposition of the Conference.
22. All money received on behalf of the Conference shall be paid into an account or Bank accounts, in the name of the All-India Women's Conference and all cheques issued, shall be signed by the Organising Secretary and the Treasurer.

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Standing Committee

23. The President of the Conference shall be during her term of office, a member *ex-officio* of the Standing Committee.
24. The Organising Secretary and the Treasurer of the Conference shall have the same *ex-officio* offices in the Standing Committee.
25. The Chairwoman and two Sectional Secretaries shall be elected by ballot by the Standing Committee at the Annual Session.
26. The Standing Committee shall administer the affairs of the Conference subject to the Constitution and to any general or special instructions issued at the Annual Session.
27. The Standing Committee shall appoint a Sub-executive Committee to administer urgent affairs subject to the Constitution and in consonance with the Resolutions already passed at the Annual Sessions. The transaction of this Committee shall be duly recorded and laid before the Standing Committee at its next meeting for information or confirmation. This Sub-executive Committee shall consist of the Chairwoman, the Organising Secretary, the two Sectional Secretaries, the Treasurer and three elected Standing Committee members [see Art. IV (d)] appointed annually by the Standing Committee (resident as far as possible within a convenient distance of the

Offices

Duties

Sub-executive Committee

ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

- Organising Secretary). The quorum shall consist of five.
- Conduct of Business**
28. The business of the Standing Committee shall be carried out by:—
- (a) Meeting
 - (b) Circulation
 - (c) Sub-executive Committee (see Bye-Law No. 27).
29. Meetings of the Standing Committee shall be convened by the Organising Secretary, or, if she is unable to do so, by a member deputed by her. The Organising Secretary shall also call a meeting on the requisition of two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
30. Important proposals for decision by circulation shall be sent by registered post to each member and the decision shall be made according to the majority of replies received. The accidental failure to receive any proposal does not invalidate the decision arrived at. If, however, the majority of replies received shows an objection to the matter being decided by circulation then the question shall be laid before the next meeting of the standing Committee.
- Agenda**
31. Any members wishing to bring forward subjects for discussion at a meeting, shall give four weeks' notice to the Organising Secretary who shall then insert the same on the Agenda.
32. The Agenda shall be sent by registered post to all members at least two weeks before the meetings.
- Minutes**
33. The Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting shall be kept by the Organising Secretary and shall be accessible to members of the Standing Committee. A copy of the Minutes of Standing Committee meetings shall be sent by registered post to all members, whether present at the meeting or not.
- Quorum**
34. The quorum for Standing Committee meeting shall be one-sixth of the total number of the Standing Committee of which at least four shall be elected Standing Committee members. [See Article IV (d)]

35. Vacancies on the Standing Committee occurring among representatives of Constituent Areas shall be filled up by the Local Committee of the Area Concerned electing a new representative. **Vacancies**
36. A substitute for the Standing Committee member of any Constituent Area may, in the unavoidable absence of the regular member, be appointed by the Local Committee of that Area, to attend and vote at any Standing Committee meeting. **Substitutes**
37. The Standing Committee shall have the power to send one or more of its members as representative of All-India Conference to any other body, or meeting, inviting it to do so. **Deputations**
38. The Standing Committee shall have power to co-opt whenever necessary, one woman doctor, one woman lawyer, and on the recommendation of the Sectional Committees, experts on any required subject. These Co-opted Members shall not have the power of voting.
39. The Secretary of the All-India Women's Fund Association shall be co-opted annually as a Member of the Standing Committee during her term of office and shall have the power of voting.
- 40.A. Each Constituency and Standing Committee Member shall send in one nomination for the President within three months after the Annual Session. The names are then to be circulated to the Constituencies and Standing Committee members in alphabetical order. Voting papers will be sent to each Constituency and Standing Committee member who will send their votes by registered post to reach the Honorary Organising Secretary a fortnight before the half-yearly meeting. No nominations or elections will be considered after the dates mentioned here. **Election of President of Conference**
- 40B. That every Constituency shall be asked to submit names of those who are suitable for the offices of the Chairwoman, Treasurer and the Organising Secretary, and are likely to accept these offices. These names shall then be circulated again to all **Election of the Chairwoman, Treasurer and the Organising Secretary**

Constituencies by the Organising Secretary, so that the Delegates attending the Annual Session will have had ample time to find out all about the possible office-holders.

**Sectional
Committees**

41. There shall be two Sectional Committees, one for Educational Reform and one for Social Reform. Each Committee shall include the Sectional Secretary, Conveners of the Sub-committees of that Section, if any; two members elected by the Standing Committee; representatives of those whom the year's programme of work will chiefly affect and experts competent to deal with the work in view. The latter shall be co-opted by Sectional Committee. In Constituent Areas the Sectional Committees shall work through, or with the consent of the Local Committees.

Sub-committees

42. The Standing Committee and Sectional Committees shall have the power to appoint such Sub-committees and their Conveners as shall be required to carry on the work of the Conference.
43. The Chairwoman and the Organising Secretary shall have the right to attend as ordinary members any of the Sub-Committee meetings, if they wish to do so.
44. Conveners of Sub-committees shall have power to fill vacancies on the Sub-committees and to obtain the co-operation of experts.
45. Conveners of Sub-committees shall send a report of their Sub-committees' work to the Organising and Sectional Secretaries twice within the year, *i. e.*, once five months after the Annual Session and again one month before the next Annual Session.
46. The Convener of each Sub-committee shall be allotted a certain sum for the expenses of the Sub-committee; any further expenditure shall be considered by the Standing Committee, who shall decide whether to allot further sums or not.
- 46.A. When appointing any Committee or Sub-committee the appointing Committee shall clearly define the powers of, and the work to be done by, such Committee.
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DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| <p>47. The Standing Committee Member of each Constituent Area shall be the Liaison Officer between that Area and the Organising Secretary of the Conference. In case of emergency she may delegate her duties as Liaison Officer to a member of the Local Committee approved by that Committee.</p> | <p>Liaison Officer</p> |
| <p>48. Where there is no member to represent a Constituent Area, the Organising Secretary of the All-India Conference shall deal directly with the Secretary of the Local Committee of that Area.</p> | |
| <p>49. The Standing Committee Member of any Constituent Area shall, as its Liaison Officer, be <i>ex-officio</i> member of the Local Committee of that Area, and of the Reception Committee of her Area when such exists.</p> | |
| <p>50. Each Standing Committee Member shall be responsible for forwarding to the Organising and Sectional Secretaries the Resolutions passed in her Constituent Conference. She shall also send to the Organising Secretary the number present at the Constituent Conference and the names and addresses of the delegates elected thereat to attend the All-India Women's Conference. This information must reach the Secretaries six weeks before the Annual Session.</p> | <p>Resolutions</p> |
| <p>51. Each Standing Committee Member shall submit a report of the work done in her Constituent Area to the Organising Secretary five months after each Annual Conference, and another one month before the next one. She shall also submit for adoption at the Conference a brief report of the year's work in her Constituent Area.</p> | <p>Report</p> |
| <p>52. Each Standing Committee Member acting on behalf of the Local Committee of the Constituent Area in which the Conference is to be held, shall convene a public meeting at which arrangements for a Reception Committee of women shall be made.</p> | <p>Reception Committee</p> |
| <p>53. The Standing Committee Member shall put the Conveners of the Sub-committees of the All-India Women's Conference in touch with the Conveners of</p> | <p>Conveners of Committee</p> |

- similar Sub-committees of her Constituent Conference when such exist.
- Attendance at Annual Session**
54. The Standing Committee Members shall arrive (designate members also if possible) at the place where the Annual Conference meets two days before the Conference, and the new Standing Committee members shall remain for two days after its close.
- Alterations and Additions to Bye-Laws and Regulations**
55. These Bye-laws and Regulations may not be altered, or added to except by the Standing Committee at one of its meetings, held at the time of an Annual Session, by a two-thirds majority of the members present; and provided that a notice of such proposed alteration or addition, shall have been sent in writing by registered post to every member of the Standing Committee three months before the Annual Session.
- Provisional Programme**
56. After formal discussion at the Half-Yearly meeting of the Provisional Programme, the Hon. Organising Secretary should be empowered to fix the programme finally in consultation with the Standing Committee Member of the place where the Annual Session is to be held.
- Attendance of the Sectional Secretaries and Treasurer at the Standing Committee Meeting**
57. The Educational and Social Section Secretaries and the Hon. Treasurer shall be present at the Standing Committee Meeting, and failing to attend the meeting personally, they shall send their own representatives and preferably from the Sectional Committee.
- Circulars received from the A. I. W. C.**
58. Except when personal opinion is solicited, the Standing Committee member should without delay inform the Local Chairwoman and the Local Secretary of the Circulars received from the A. I. W. C.
(a) The Organising Secretary shall send upto three extra copies of each circular to a Standing Committee member, to facilitate the work of her Constituency, on payment of Rs. 10/- annually.
- Past Presidents**
59. Past Presidents shall have the right to come to any Conference as Special Delegates and shall exercise the rights of Special Delegates.

ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, AHMEDABAD.



Members of the Standing Committee, 1936.

60. (a) Ex-Office bearers of the Conference may be supplied with Circulars, Minutes and Reports on payment of Rs. 10 annually.
 (b) Ex-Chairwomen, Ex-Honorary Treasurers, Ex-Honorary Organising Secretaries, and Ex-Sectional Secretaries may attend Standing Committee meetings as members without a vote provided they pay an annual subscription of Rs. 10 to the Conference.

Ex-Office-Bearers

RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. All Resolutions concerning changes of (a) Constitution. (b) Bye-Laws and Regulations, must reach the Organising Secretary four months before the date of the Annual Conference.
2. Attention is drawn to Rule 12 which reads :
 "Resolutions, and any other items for the Agenda of the Annual Session, must reach the Organising and Sectional Secretaries six weeks before the Conference."
3. Only Resolutions sent in by the Constituent Conference can be placed on the Agenda of the Annual Session, but exceptions may be made in the case of urgent and important matters at the discretion of the Sub-executive Committee.
4. Each Standing Committee Member shall send a copy of all the Resolutions her Constituency wishes to have placed on the Agenda to each of the following :
 (a) The Organising Secretary,
 (b) The Educational Section Secretary,
 (c) The Social Section Secretary.
not later than six weeks before the Annual Session.
5. Each Constituent Conference shall send in its Resolutions classified as follows:
 I. Educational
 II. Social
 These to be further classified as—
 (a) Urgent. Resolutions urgent because of pending legislation. etc.

Resolution

ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

(b) Starred Resolutions are considered as of first class importance because of their All-India application.

(c) Local, for which the backing of the Conference is desired,

(d) Local Resolutions of only local importance for information.

6. The Resolutions sent up which cover alterations of Resolutions already embodied in the Memorandum of important resolutions should be so worded as to ask for the addition or deletion of certain clauses in definite paragraphs of the Memorandum.

7. As soon as possible after receiving these Resolutions, each Sectional Secretary shall issue copies of all the Resolutions received concerning her section, classified in a similar way. These lists shall be issued to each Standing Committee Member who will be supplied with copies for distribution among the delegates of her Constituency, and amendments invited. Such amendments shall reach the Organising Secretary and the Sectional Secretaries at least two weeks before the Annual Session.

8. Each Sectional Secretary shall prepare copies including these amendments for members of the Subjects-Committee.

9. The Subjects-Committee consists of:

(a) all the Standing Committee Members:

(b) two additional members appointed for the purpose by each Local Committee, who shall be known as the Subjects Committee Members.

(c) The same rule as to substitute for the Subjects-Committee Member shall be in force as for Standing Committee Member, (See Bye Law 1.)

10. The Subjects-Committee shall go through the classified copies including the amendments and shall determine the number and order of Resolutions to be taken up at the open Conference.

11. Copies of Resolutions as prepared by the Subjects-Committee shall be given to each Delegate at the time of registration (if possible). They will also be obtainable at the Enquiry Office.

**Re: Subjects-
Committee**

**Procedure
for Sectional
Sittings**

12. Any Delegate wishing to make further amendments should give them in writing at the Enquiry Office before noon on the day previous to the Sectional Sitting dealing with the subject. During the Sectional Sitting any Delegate wishing to propose an amendment should send it in writing to the Chair.

13. Urgent Resolutions

(a) From the Chair

(b) Proposed and seconded in the usual way

Time allowed,—Proposer 5 minutes

Seconder 3 ..

Supporter 3 ..

Order:—As determined by the Subjects-Committee,

Language:—The first three speakers shall as far as possible speak in different languages.

The Resolution shall then be thrown open to general discussion; each speaker being allowed not more than three minutes except with the consent of the President. After half an hour the President shall inform the House and take its sense as to further discussion. The amount of time devoted to general discussion is also left to the discretion of the President.

14. Voting shall be, in the first instance, by show of hands.

Voting

15. If a count is called for, Delegates shall be asked to stand, and may not sit until their vote has been taken.

16. The Standing Committee shall appoint four or six tellers to count voters.

17. Visitors and Reception Committee Members who are not Delegates shall be seated apart from the Delegates; and shall, if possible, have a separate entrance to the Hall.

Visitors

18. Volunteers shall be responsible for the proper sittings of Delegates, voters, etc.

19. Gentlemen-Visitors shall be admitted only to the Opening Ceremony.

20. Men Reporters, if present, shall be so seated as not to prevent Purdah ladies from taking part in the proceedings.

Enquiry Office

21. There shall be an Enquiry Office in working order from the time the Standing Committee Members arrive until they leave.
22. It shall keep a Register for the Delegates to sign on arrival.
23. Delegate's fees to Conference, if not already sent, shall be paid on signing the Register.
24. Nomination Forms, Telegraph and Money Order Forms should be obtainable at the Enquiry Office.
25. Stamps can be had on payment.
Railway Time Tables shall also be available and Railway timings will be found in the Guide Book.
A supply of stationery on sale will be found at the Enquiry Office.

Miscellaneous

26. A list of important Educational and Social Institutions of the place where the Conference is held will be found in the Guide (if prepared). If no Guide is available a list of such institutions shall be posted in the Enquiry Office.
Sight-seeing parties may be arranged at the Office.
27. The number of Resolutions for open discussion at the Annual Conference, including both social and educational, shall be restricted, so that more time should be allocated for fuller discussion and suggestion of practical schemes. If time allows other Resolutions (from those to be passed from the Chair) to be taken up for discussion in order of preference as fixed by the Subjects-Committee.
28. The Conference should give more practical shape to the Resolutions through the Executive of the Standing Committee.

History of the Conference

29. A short sketch of the history of the Conference together with a succession list of the Presidents and Chairwomen shall be prepared from time to time and published in the Annual Report as a permanent feature for information and guidance for propaganda.

Rules of the A. I. W. E. Fund Asson.

30. The Rules for election to the Governing Body of the All-India Women's Education Fund Association from the A. I. W. C. are to be incorporated in the Annual Report.

Constituency Annual Reports

31. Whereas owing to lack of time certain Constituencies are unable to read their annual reports at the All-

India Women's Conference, the time allowed for each report should be 3 minutes only, and if even then some are left out, these latter should automatically take precedence in the following year without being balloted.

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 32. Those who pay Rs. 500 or over to the Conference shall be Patrons—men or women. | Patrons |
| 33. Those who pay Rs. 100 or over shall be Life-Associates—men or women. | Life Associates |
| 34. Money received from the Patrons and Life-Associates shall be put into the Reserve Fund. | Reserve Fund |
| 35. Only Women Patrons and Life Associates shall be entitled to attend and vote at the open Conference. | |
| 36. Names of all Donors paying Rs. 10 or more for the current year shall be printed in the Annual Report. | Donors |
| 37. Rs. 10 per annum shall be the minimum subscription for every Vice-President. | Vice Presidents |
| 38. The year for the Affiliation fee shall be from the 1st November to the 31st October next, every year. | Affiliation Fee |

RULES FOR GUIDANCE FOR THE STARTING OF NEW CONSTITUENCIES

1. The Organising Secretary or a responsible officer of the A. I. W. C. should be present at the place to be organised.

2. Failing an officer of the A. I. W. C., a responsible person who is fully acquainted with the aims and objects and the facts relating to the A. I. W. C. may be deputed by the Chairwoman or Organising Secretary to organise the new Centre.

3. The organiser must enlist the sympathy of the women of the place and acquaint them with the aims and objects of the A. I. W. C. and try to hold small meetings before the public meeting.

4. Propaganda work may be done by distributing Reports of the A. I. W. C.

5. A public meeting should be organised by one or two leading women of the place, a hall or some suitable place being engaged.

6. All communities and classes of women should be invited to attend the meeting.

7. A popular and capable woman should be proposed and seconded to to the Chair to preside over the meeting.

8. The organiser should give a short history of the A. I. W. C. in the language which would be understood by most of the women attending.

9. Reference should be made to the past Annual Sittings of the A. I. W. C. at Poona, Delhi, Patna, Bombay, Lahore, Madras, Lucknow, Calcutta, Karachi, and Trivandrum.

10. Resolutions passed at the last Annual Conference should be read and explained.

11. The policy, aims and objects as laid down in Article II of the Constitution of the A. I. W. C. should be read and explained. Further explanations should be based on the Memorandum.

12. A resolution should be duly moved and seconded—that the place or area forms itself into a new Centre and becomes a Constituent Area of the A. I. W. C.

13. The duties of the Standing Committee Member should be read from the Constitution of A. I. W. C. and explained.

14. The meeting should elect a capable woman as its Standing Committee Member of A. I. W. C.

15. A Local Committee should be elected to act as the Executive of the Constituent Area formed.

16. A Chairwoman should be elected who will preside over the meetings of the Local Committee.

16. (a) A Secretary and a Treasurer should also be appointed.

17. The Local Committee should be representative, consisting of at least one member of every community living in that Area.

18. Rules for guidance of the Local Committee should be framed or the meeting can delegate the Local Committee to frame the Rules.

19. The meeting should proceed to discuss any important question of that Area affecting women and children, and ask the Local Committee to take such steps as are necessary.

20. With a vote of thanks to the Chair the meeting disperses.

21. After the preliminary meeting described above is held at the head-quarters, the Standing Committee Member in consultation with the Local Committee should organise similar meetings in the district which will establish

branches of the Constituent Area, and appoint a local Chairwoman, a Secretary and a Treasurer, if necessary.

22. The following Rules with necessary alterations to suit the conditions of the place should be adopted by the Local Committee who shall place these Rules at the Annual Constituent Conference of that Area for adopting, and sending to the Annual Session of the A. I. W. C. for its approval.

Constitution for the Constituent Areas

The name of the organisation will be 'The (name of the place) Women's Conference Committee on Educational and Social Reforms'.

Aims and Objects

1. To carry out the directions and ideals of the All-India Women's Conference.
2. To promote education in all stages.
3. To deal with questions affecting the welfare of women and children.

Subscription

Membership subscription should be in accordance with local conditions.

Committee

Standing Committee Member (*ex-officio*), should, if possible, be the Secretary.

President (*ex-officio*). One who presides at the Annual Constituent Conference.

Chairwoman. To preside over the Local Committee meetings.

Secretary. Who should, if possible, be the Standing Committee Member.

Joint Secretary (if necessary).

Treasurer.

Representative members not exceeding twenty.

Liaison officers representing districts.

Chairwoman, Secretary and all Office-bearers of the A. I. W. C.

Constituent Conference

A Constituent Conference is a public meeting of women in a Constituent Area from which 10 delegates are elected to represent that Area at the All-India Women's Conference. The Constituent Conference should elect at least 10 more to be on the waiting list in order of preference to be sent to the Annual Sessions of the A. I. W. C. if the first 10 elected delegates fail to go.

A meeting shall fix the headquarters of the Constituent Conference. Sub-conferences may then be started at various localities in that unit which will send delegates to the Constituent Conference.

Affiliation fee

With effect from the year beginning on the 1st November 1936, each Constituent Area shall send a minimum affiliation fee of Rs. 25 as soon as possible after the Annual Session of the All-India Women's Conference and before the half-yearly meeting of the Standing Committee. The fee must be sent to the Honorary Treasurer before the names of the delegates are sent in.

Sub-Constituencies on payment of Rs. 10 annually direct to the Hon. Treasurer and informing the same to the Hon. Organising Secretary, shall be entitled to receive the usual circulars and two copies of the Annual Report.

Rules

1. The Local Committee shall meet once a month.
 2. In case of the Chairwoman's absence, the members present shall elect one from among the members to act as Chairwoman for that meeting.
 3. Five members to form a quorum.
 4. The Chairwoman and Secretaries to prepare an Agenda for such meeting.
 5. Subjects on the Agenda shall only be discussed and voted on.
 6. Any member wishing to bring forward a subject shall give a fortnight's notice to the Secretary.
 7. Subjects under discussion to be decided by votes.
 8. The Chairwoman has the casting vote.
 9. Any member absenting herself for three consecutive meetings, without showing good reason, shall be deemed to have vacated her appointment and the Committee shall duly elect another in her place.
 10. Rule 9 shall not apply to co-opted or district members.
 11. Sub-committees shall be formed with Conveners in charge of each section.
 12. The Local Committee shall arrange to hold the Annual Constituent Conference at least seven weeks before the All-India Women's Conference.
 13. Sub-constituent Committees to be informed by the Constituent Committee to hold their meetings, about a fortnight before the Constituent Conference.
 14. The new Standing Committee Member, soon after her return from the A. I. W. C., shall call a meeting in her area to elect the Local (organising) Committee.
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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 ALL-INDIA
Receipts and Payments Account**

	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
<i>To, Balance on 1st November, 1935:—</i>						
Fixed Deposits in the Bank of India	2,639	6	0			
" " " " National Bank	600	0	0			
With the National Bank of India ...	1,421	7	3			
With the Organising Secretary ...	100	15	3			
With the Present Organising Secretary	132	11	0	4,894	7	6
<i>To, Registration Fees of Delegates ...</i>	...	...	...	1,530	0	0
Donations :—						
Mrs. Salamat (Oudh)... ..	100	0	0			
Reception Committee (Trivandrum) ...	702	0	0	802	0	0
Affiliation Fees ... ..	...	...	...	655	0	0
Vice-Presidentship Fees ... ..	...	...	...	30	0	0
Constitution Sub-Committee Expenses (1934-35) ...	...	...	...	15	0	0
Adjustment of Reception Committee Expenses (1934-35) ...	...	...	...	10	0	0
Constitnencies and Sub-Constituencies For Extra copies of circulars	30	0	0			
Mrs. Faridoonji for copies of circulars	10	0	0	40	0	0
Sale proceeds of Annual Reports ... ..	...	...	...	79	7	0
Woman Organiser for Mines ... ..	...	...	...	239	0	0
Interest on fixed Deposits	72	9	0			
Interest on Bank Current Account	23	10	0	96	3	0
				Rs. 8,391	1	6

BOMBAY, 18th December, 1936.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
for the Year ending 31st October 1936

	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
By Adjustment of Reception Committee Expenses...	765	0	0
Organising Secretary's Office Expenses * *	2,108	15	3
Previous Organising Secretary's Expenses- as per Standing Committee's Resolution of 6-12-35	100	15	3
Printing and Stationery	437	0	6
Social Section Secretary's Expenses	60 0 0			
Mrs. Ray's expenses (1934-35)	100 0 0	160	0	0
Constitution Sub-Committee Expenses	20	0	0
Educational Secretary's Expenses	52	2	0
Honorary Treasurer's expenses	13	7	0
Convener Anti-Child Marriage Committee Expenses	46	12	0
Purchase of New Typewriter	284	12	0
Books bought by Miss Vincent	14	6	0
Affiliation Fee to the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship	27	15	6
Bank Charges	10	9	9
				<u>4,041</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>
Balance as on 31st October, 1936						
Fixed Deposits in the Bank of India	2,711 15 0			
" " " the National Bank	600 0 0			
With the National Bank	901 6 3			
With the present Organising Secretary	46 6 0			
With the Educational Secretary	47 14 0			
With Social Secretary	30 0 0			
With the Hon. Treasurer	11 8 6	4,349	1	9
				<u>Rs. 8,391</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>

* * Details of the office expenses of the

Honorary Organising Secretary :-

Salary of clerk with allowance	1,036	7	0
Clerk's Travelling Allowance	260	1	9
Telegrams	94	3	0
Registration	40	14	0
Postage	407	12	9
Stationery	163	12	6
Repairs to Duplicator	14	5	0
Miscellaneous	3	1	6
Office Shifting expenses	88	5	9

Rs. 2,108 15 3

Examined and found correct.
G. J. Bhadurji,
Honorary Treasurer,
All-India Women's Conference.

Sorab S. Engineer & Co.
Incorporated Accountants.
Registered Accountants,
Honorary Auditors.

DRAFT BUDGET

<i>Estimated Income</i>				<i>Estimated Expenditure</i>			
	Rs.	As.	P.				
Fixed Deposit in the Bank of India, Limited ...	2,711	15	0	Organising Secretary's Office Clerk's Salary and Traveling Expenses ...	1,200	0	0
Fixed Deposit in the National Bank of India, Limited ...	600	0	0	Stationery ...	200	0	0
With the National Bank of India, Limited ...	901	6	3	Postage ...	500	0	0
Balance with the Honorary Organising Secretary	46	6	0	Expenses for shifting the Office ...	100	0	0
Balance with the Educational Section Secretary ...	47	14	0	Chairwoman's Expenses ...	250	0	0
Balance with the Social Section Secretary ...	30	0	0	Two Sectional Secretaries...	200	0	0
Balance with the Hon. Treasurer ...	11	8	6	Treasurer's Expenses ...	50	0	0
Delegates' Fees (Half the amount) ...	645	0	0	Sub-Committees ...	300	0	0
Estimated proceeds from the Entertainments ...	1,000	0	0	Printing of Conference Resolutions ...	300	0	0
Donation from Begum Hamid Ali ...	100	0	0	Printing of Annual Report ...	1,000	0	0
From Simla Branch ...	200	0	0	Contingencies ...	200	0	0
Gwalior Constituency (through Rani Rajwade) ...	11	0	0	Extra Allowance for Office Clerk ...	360	0	0
Other Donations ...	200	0	0	Extra for extra Sub-Committees ...	150	0	0
Affiliation Fees ...	750	0	0				
Vice-Presidents' Subscription	60	0	0				
Bank's Interest	100	0	0				
Total ...	7,415	1	9	Total ...	4,810	0	0

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
Provisional time table for the year 1937

January & February

' Echo Meeting ' for explaining the work of the Conference, to be held as early as possible within the first two months (before the end of February) (Bye-Law No. 21, also Ahmedabad Minutes, page 23).

March 31st

One nomination from each Constituency and from each of the other Standing Committee members not representing Constituencies, for the Presidency of the Annual Session of the Conference, to be held in 1937 (Bye-Law No. 40 A), to reach the Hon. Organising Secretary before the 31st March. *No nomination will be considered after the 31st March 1937.*

June

Items for the Agenda of the Half-yearly meeting to be sent by the Standing Committee members to the Hon. Organising Secretary (Bye-Law No. 31) by the end of June.

Half-yearly reports also to reach the Hon. Organising Secretary before the end of June (Bye-Law No. 51).

July

Voting papers will be sent to the Standing Committee members and they will send their votes by registered post to reach the Hon. Organising Secretary on or before the 15th July. *No voting paper will be considered after that date.* (Vide Item No. 21, page 8, Ahmedabad Minutes).

August

Half-yearly meeting of the Standing Committee to be held during the first week of August at Phaltan (Maharashtra).

Alternations and amendments to the Constitution and Bye-Laws and Regulations of the Conference, if any, suggested by the Standing Committee Members to be sent to the Hon. Organising Secretary before the 25th August (Vide Rules of Procedure No. 1).

Sept. 15th to Nov. 8th

Constituent and Sub-Constituent Conferences should be held before the 8th November as far as possible.

Nov. 15th

Resolutions passed at the Constituent and Sub-Constituent Conferences to be sent to the Hon. Organising Secretary and Sectional Secretaries before the 15th November at the latest (Bye-Law No. 12, and rules of Procedure Nos. 1 and 2).

Names of Delegates and Substitutes, names of Standing Committee Members and names of two members for the Subjects Committee to be sent to the Hon. Organising Secretary before the 15th November (Bye-Law No. 1, Rules of Procedure No. 3, 4 and 5).

Items for the Agenda of the Annual Standing Committee Meeting in December, to be sent to the Hon. Organising Secretary by the 15th of November (Bye-Law No. 31).

Constituent Conference Reports also to be sent by the 15th November.

December

The All-India Women's Conference Session provisionally fixed to be held at Nagpur during the last week of December.

N. B. The final list of Delegates for the Annual Session should reach the Hon. Organising Secretary and the Reception Committee 15 days before the Conference at the latest.

Any change in the above will be notified in time.

SECTIONAL AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-Executive Committee

Chairwoman (Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan, Gilchrist Gardens, Chetput, Madras).

Hon. Organising Secretary (Mrs. Dina Asana, Opposite Gujarat College, Ahmedabad).

Hon. Treasurer (Mrs. G. R. Billimoria, Thoburn House, Apollo Bunder, Bombay).

Educational Section Secretary (Miss Z. Lazarus, Tumkur, Mysore State).

Social Section Secretary (Mrs. J. R. Doctor, Hirji Mansion, 93, Gowalia Tank Road, P. O. Malabar Hill, Bombay).

Mrs. S. C. Mazumdar, 104, Russa Road, Tollygunge, Calcutta.
Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City, Punjab.

Miss. K. Easwari Amma, Lecturer in English, Arts College, Trivandrum, Travancore.

Constitution Sub-Committee

Miss Leilamani Naidu (Convener), The Golden Threshold, Hyderabad (Deccan).

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, Gwalior, C.I.
Mrs. G.R. Billimoria, Thoburn House, Apollo Bunder, Bombay.

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji, Khairtabad, Hyderabad (Deccan).

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

Miss D. B. Hassan, Latif Manzil, Panipat, Punjab,

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, 1, Badsha Bagh, Lucknow.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Khambatta Hall, 16. Altmont Road, Bombay,

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City, Punjab.

Educational Section Committee

Miss Z. Lazarus (Sectional Secretary).
Tumkur, Mysore State.

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

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City, Punjab.

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, 1, Badsha Bagh, Lucknow.

Miss K. B. Ferozuddin, Inspectress, Girls' Schools, Lahore.

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

Miss K. Easwari Amma, Lecturer, Arts College, Trivandrum.

Mrs. Hannah Sen, Lady Irwin College, 1, Sikandra Road, New Delhi.

Mrs. Gangubai Patwardhan, Dandia Bazaar, Baroda,

Mrs. Urmila Mehta, 15th Khar Road, Bombay.

Miss Tarangini Nilkanth, Bhadra, Ahmedabad.

Miss Manorama Bose, 1/2, Harish Mukerjee Road, Gokhale Memorial School, Calcutta.

Miss D. B. Hasan, Latif Manzil, Panipat, Punjab.

Miss S. Pandit, Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Baroda.

Common Language Sub-Committee

- Miss R. Reuben (Convener), Chembur,
Bombay (Suburban Dist.)
Rani Lakshmbai Rajwade, Gwalior,
C. I.
Miss Amy Rustomji, Behestan, Colaba
Road, Bombay,
Mrs. Urmila Mehta, 15th Khar Road,
Bombay.
Mrs. S. C. Roy, 36, Wellington Street,
Calcutta.
Mrs. Premlila Mehta, C/o. Supdt.
R. M. S., Baroda.
Mrs. Devasahayan. C/o Mrs. Pitha-
vadian, Lawders Gate Road, Vepery,
Madras.
Mrs. Mandyam, 114, Visweswarapuram
Bangalore city.
Mrs. Yesubai Kulkarni, 536, Shanwar,
Poona, 2.
Mrs. Nalini Krishna Rau, 4, Roberts
Road New, Delhi.

Common Language Sub-Committee

- Miss D. B. Hassan (Convener), Latif
Manzil, Panipat, Punjab.
Miss J. E. Copeland, 24, Rajpore Road,
Delhi.
Mrs. Asaf Ali, Cucha Chelan, Darya-
gunge, Delhi.
Mrs. Sharda Mehta, Ellis Bridge,
Ahmedabad.
Shri Gourikutty, Secretary, S. N. V.
Women's Association, Thycand,
Trivandrum.
Mrs. S. Jankiamma, 114, Visweswara-
puram, Bangalore City.
Mrs. T. Patwardhan, Seva Sadan,
Poona.
Mrs. T. Bharathi Amma, Ernaculum,
Cochin State.

Vocational Sub-Committee

- Miss S. Pandit, (Convener) Arya
Kanya Maha Vidyalaya, Baroda.
Shrimati Mridulaben Sarabhai, The
Retreat, Shahibagh, Ahmedabad.
Mrs. N. M. Raiji, 68, Nepean Sea
Road, Bombay.

Health Sub-Committee

- Dr. Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankr (Con-
vener), Shantram House, Malabar
Hill, Bombay.
Mrs. N. M. Raiji, 68, Nepean Sea
Road, Bombay.
Dr. Miss G. D. Madora, Bhadra,
Ahmedabad.
Mrs. Varubai Shevde, 616, Shanwar,
Poona, 2.
Dr. Miss B. Natarajan, Nicholson
Road, Delhi.
Miss A. V. Van Doren, Byramji Road,
Nagpur.

Social Section Committee

- Mrs. J. R. Doctor (Section Secretary),
Hirji Mansion, 93, Gowalia Tank
Road, P. O. Malabar Hill, Bombay.
Mrs. Sarojini Mehta (Convener, Anti-
Child Marriage Sub-Committee.)
Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Convener,
Rural Reconstruction Sub-Com-
mittee).
Mrs. Brijlal Nehru (Convener, Harijan
Sub-Committee).
Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon (Convener,
Opium & Other Narcotic Drugs Sub-
Committee).
Mrs. S. N. Ray (Convener, Special
Committee on Legal Disabilities).
Mrs. Asaf Ali (Convener, Legislation
Sub-Committee).

Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade (Convener, Franchise Sub-Committee).

Mrs. Saudamini Mehta, 24, Ray Street, Calcutta.

Mrs. N. M. Raiji, 68, Nepean Sea Road, Bombay.

Miss Indumati Mehta, Khamassa Gate, Ahmedabad.

Anti-Child Marriage Sub-Committee

Mrs. Sarojini Mehta, 6, Tanjira Chambers Wodehouse Road, Bombay.

Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, 1, Badsha Bagh, Lucknow U. P.

Miss Shyam Kumari Nehru, 1, Prayag Street, Allahabad.

Mrs. Brijlal Nehru 15, Tughalak Road, New Delhi.

Begum Hamid Ali, C/o. Mrs. Abbas Tyabji, Camp, Baroda.

Mrs. N. M. Raiji, 68, Nepean Sea Road, Bombay.

Mrs. S. N. Ray, Magistrate's House, Comilla, Bengal.

Miss A. Khemchand, Kundanmall Girls' School, Hyderabad (Sind).

Mrs. Janaki Amma, 114, Visweswarapuram, Bangalore City.

Mrs. G. Visalakshi, Gopalapuram, Cathedral P. O., Madras.

Labour Sub-Committee

Miss J. E. Copeland (Convener), 24, Rajpore Road, Delhi.

Mrs. A. Chatterjee, 20, Mullen Street, Calcutta.

Mrs. Maniben Moolji, Mulji Jetha's Bungalow, near Mahalakshmi Temple, Lombay 6.

Mrs. J. R. Vakharia, Velle Viue, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad.

Miss Anasuyaben Sarabhai, (to be requested to be a member of the Committee), C/o. Labour Union, Ahmedabad.

Indigenous Industries Sub-Committee

Mrs. Jayashri Raiji (Convener), 68, Nepean Sea Road, Bombay.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Khambatta, Hall, 16, Altmont Road, Bombay.

Mrs. Barkat Rai, C/o. Rai Barkat Rai, Esq., Collector of Beed, Ahmednagar G. I. P.

Mrs. Kamala H. Dassappa, P. O. Basavangudi, Bangalore City.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullundur City, Punjab.

Miss Savitaben Trivedi, Sharada mandir, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad.

Rural Reconstruction Sub-Committee

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, (Convener), Jullundur City, Punjab.

Mrs. S. N. Ray, Magistrate's House, Comilla, Bengal.

Mrs. Satyavatibai Bapat, 536, Shanwar, Poona.

Dr. Miss Bana, M. B. B. S. Shri Jamnabai Hospital, Baroda.

Mrs. Sharda Mehta, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad.

Dr. Mrs. K. Tarabai, Bunder Road, Karachi.

Miss K. Easwari Amma, Lecturer, Arts College, Trivandrum.

Mrs. Purnima Banerjee, 41, George Town, Allahabad.

Mrs. Rukminiamma, Santivilas, Lakshimpuram, Mysore.

Rani Saheba of Sherkot, Dhampur, U. P.

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

Harijan Sub-Committee

- Mrs. Brijlal Nehru (Convener), 15,
Tughalak Road, New Delhi,
Mrs. S. C. Roy, 36, Wellington Street,
Calcutta.
Mrs. K. Madhava Menon, Chalapuram,
Calicut (S. Malabar).
Mrs. S. Rajammal, opposite Y. M. C.
A. Trivandrum.
Mrs. G. Visalakshi, Gopalapuram,
Cathedral P. O., Madras.
Lady Nilkanth, Bhadra, Ahmedabad.
Mrs. R. Ramanna, C/o B. Ramanna,
Esq. Sub & Asst. Sessions Judge,
Mysore.

**Opium and Other Narcotic Drugs
Sub-Committee**

- Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon (Convener),
Badsha Bagh, Lucknow.
Begum Hamid Ali, C/o Mrs. Abbas
Tyabji, Camp, Baroda.
Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, Gwalior, C.I.
Miss Piggot, C. E. Z. M. House,
Hyderabad, (Sind).
Dr. Mrs. K. Khadye, 204/2 Sadashiv,
Poona City.
Miss J. E. Copeland, 24, Rajpore Road,
Delhi.

**Special Committee on
Legal Disabilities**

- Mrs. S. N. Ray (Convener), Magistrate's
House, Comilla, Bengal.
Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade, Gwalior,
C. I.
Begum Shah Nawaz, 5, Lawrence
Road, Lahore.
Dr. Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankar, Shanta-
ram House, Malabar Hill, Bombay.
Begum Hamid Ali, C/o Mrs. Abbas
Tyabji, Camp, Baroda.

- Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, Badsha Bagh,
Lucknow.
Miss Shyamkumari Nehru, 1, Proyag
Street, Allahabad.
Mrs. Manjeri Kamalam, Rajagriha,
Ghalapuram, Calicut, S. Malabar.
Mrs. R. Ramanna, C/o B. Ramanna,
Esq., Sub & Asst. Sessions Judge,
Mysore.
Miss Leilamani Naidu, The Golden
Threshold, Hyderabad, (Deccan).

Legislation Sub-Committee

- Mrs. Asaf Ali (Convener), Cucha
Chelan, Daryagunge, Delhi.
Mrs. Hansa Mehta, 16, Altmont Road,
Bombay 6.
Mrs. S. N. Ray, Magistrate's House,
Comilla, Bengal.
Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, 1, Badsha
Bagh, Lucknow.
Lady Shrivastava, Lucknow.
Miss Leilamani Naidu, The Golden
Threshold, Hyderabad (Deccan).

Franchise Sub-Committee

- Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade (Convener),
Gwalior, C. I.
Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji, Khairtabad,
Hyderabad (Deccan).
Mrs. Hansa Mehta, 16, Altmont Road,
Bombay.
Miss Manorama Bose, 1/2, Harish
Mukherji Road, Gokhale Memorial
School, Calcutta.
Mrs. Anasuya Kale, Dhantali, Nagpur.
Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Jullunder City,
Punjab.
Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee, 9, Lower Rawdon
Street, Calcutta.

SECTIONAL AND SUB-COMMITTEES

197

Dr. Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankar, Shantar-
am House, Malabar Hill, Bombay.

Finance Sub-Committee

Mrs. G. R. Billimoria (Convener),
Thoburn House, Apollo Bunder,
Bombay.

Begum Hamid Ali C/o Mrs. Abbas
Tyabji, Camp, Baroda.

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji, Khairtabad,
Hyderabad. (Deccan)

Begum Habibullah, 11, Mall Road,
Lucknow.

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

Mrs. Mandyam, 114, Visweswarapuram,
Bangalore City.

LIST OF CONSTITUENT AND SUB-CONSTITUENT CONFERENCES

Name.	Constituency.	President.	Secretary.	Date.
Ajmer ...	Ajmere- Merwara ...	—	Mrs. L. F. Massey	—
Rajahmundry ...	Andhra ...	—	Mrs. B. Kamakshamma	—
Nidadavolu ...	„ ...	Mrs. D. Satyavatiamma	Mrs. Dayamani	—
Guntur ...	„ ...	Mrs. Hayagriva Rao	Mrs. R. Rahaman	—
Madanapalle ...	„ ...	Sri G. Durgabai	Miss C. Royab	—
Gauhati ...	Assam ...	Mrs. Higgins	Mrs. Rajabala Das	—
Shillong ...	„ ...	Lady Keane	Mrs. S. Desai	—
Baroda ...	Baroda ...	Dr. Malinibai Sukthankar	Mrs. Gool Wadia	17-10-36
Dacca ...	Bengal East ...	Mrs. Sahabuddin	Mrs. Protiva Nag	—
Comilla ...	„ ...	Mrs. S. N. Ray	Mrs. S. Sen	22-11-36
Brahmanbaria ...	„ ...	—	Mrs. Khan	—
Santiniketan ...	Bengal West ...	Mrs. Protima Tagore	Mrs. Sndhamayee Mukerjee	—
Akola ...	Berar ...	Mrs. Manutai Kolhatkar	Mrs. Ambutai Mahajani	12-10-36
Amraoti ...	„ ...	Mrs. Kamalabai Sohoni	Mrs. Sarojinibai Inamdar	8-10-36
Yeotmal ...	„ ...	Mrs. Chandrabai Patwardhan	Mrs. Mayadevi Bhalchandra	25-10-36
Buldana ...	„ ...	Mrs. Kamlabai Rege	Mrs. Kamalabai Korde	28-9-36
Patna ...	Bihar ...	Rani Saheba of Amawan	Mrs. A. T. Sen	—
Bombay ...	Bombay ...	Miss G. J. Bahadurji	Mrs. Panna Daphtary	7-11-36
Calcutta ...	Cacutta ...	Lady Bose	Mrs. S. N. Gupta	10-11-36
Jubbulpore ...	C. P. North ...	Mrs. S. Chitambar	Mrs. H. I. Ahmed	16-11-36
Bilashpur ...	„ ...	Mrs. Agnihotri	Mrs. Hussain	—
Khandwa ...	„ ...	Mrs. D. R. Rutnam	Miss Pool	—
Nagpur ...	C. P. South ...	Miss R. Reuben	Mrs. Sushila Kothiwan	31-10-36
Ernaculam ...	Cochin ...	Dr. (Mrs.) P. Gouri Amma	Mrs. K. T. Koshi	1-11-36
Delhi ...	Delhi ...	Mrs. Brijlal Nehru	Mrs. Atija Masood	31-10-36
Ahmedabad ...	Gujarat ...	Mrs. Bhide	Mrs. Jalu Vakharia	7-11-36
Gwalior ...	Gwalior ...	Mrs. Kamalabai Kibe	Mrs. Pramilabai Paradkar	26-10-36
Hyderabad ...	Hyderabad(Dn.) ...	H. H. Princess Durrushehvar	Mrs. C. Cornelius	11&12-10-36
Indore ...	Indore ...	Mrs. Malinibai Sukthankar	Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta	30-10-36
				21-10-36

Name.	Constituency.	President.	Secretary.	Date
Kolhapur ...	Kolhapur ...	Lady Jankibai Sabnis	Mrs. A. T. Kumate	—
Alibagh ...	Konkan ...	Miss B. Deshpande	Mrs. Gupte	31-10-36
Revdanda ...	" ...	Mrs. B. Bhaskare	Mrs. Tarabai Gaikwad	24-10-36
Madras ...	Madras ...	Mrs. B. Rama Rau	Mrs. A. Kuriyan	23-11-36
Poona ...	Maharashtra ...	Dr. Malinibai Sukthankar	Mrs. Tarabai Patwardhan	3& 4-10-36
Nagar ...	" ...	Mrs. Venubai Modak	Mrs. Indirabai Kanitkar	—
Satara ...	" ...	Begum Hamid Ali	Mrs. Vidyagauri Bakhale	—
Calicut ...	Malabar ...	Mrs. M. Thomas	Miss M. Janaki	4-12-36
Kolar ...	Mysore ...	Lady Mirza Ismail	Mrs. S. Janakiammal	10&11-11-36
Peshawar ...	N. W. F. P. ...	Mrs. K. B. Saaduddin Khan	Mrs. Aslam	—
Cuttack ...	Orissa ...	Mrs. Sarojini Choudhury	Miss S. B. Das	—
Simla ...	Punjab Central ...	Mrs. Asaf Ali	Mrs. Asmail	19-9-36
Jullundur ...	Punjab East ...	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	Mrs. P. L. Sondhi	—
Sangli ...	Sangli ...	H. H. the Rani Saheb of Sangli	Mrs. Sumatibai Gokhale	5-11-36
Sahapur ...	" ...	Mrs. Indirabai Lokur	Mrs. Laxmibai Talwalkar	—
Shirhatti ...	" ...	Mrs. Bithnur	Mrs. Santubai Pawar	—
Terdal ...	" ...	Mrs. Sumatibai Gokhale	Mrs. Anasuya Tambe	—
Kuchi ...	" ...	Mrs. Khadilkar	Mrs. Godbole	—
Karachi ...	Sind ...	Mrs. N. A. Haroon	Mrs. M. H. Tyabji	9-11-36
Hyderabad ...	" ...	Miss R. Piggot	Miss A. Khemchand	—
Sukker ...	" ...	Mrs. Bhojsingh	Miss S. Narsian	—
Virudhunagar ...	Tamil Nadu ...	Mrs. Alumelumangai Thay- arammal	Mrs. V. T. Padmavatiammal	8-11-36
Trivandrum ...	Travancore ...	Mrs. Kunjan Pillai	Miss K. Easwari Amma	26-10-37
Nagercoil ...	" ...	Miss H. GnanasiKhamoney	—	—
Benares ...	U. P. Agra ...	Mrs. Sanjiva Rao	Mrs. Wagle	14-10-36
Lucknow ...	U. P. Oudh ...	Lady Kailash Srivastava	Begum Aizaz Rasul	Nov., 36
Moradabad ...	" ...	Lady Maharaj Singh	Mrs. Jordan	Oct., 36
Rai Bareilly ...	" ...	—	Mrs. Joshi	—

APPENDIX D

**LIST OF PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES OF CONSTITUENT
COMMITTEES**

Coustituency	President	Secretary
Ajmer-Merwara	—	Mrs. L. F. Massey
Andhra ...	Mrs. M. E. Cousins	Mrs. M. Kamamma
Assam ...	Mrs. Higgins	Mrs. Rajabala Das
Baroda ...	Dr. Bana	Mrs. Gool Wadia
Bengal East ...	Mrs. Sahabuddin	Mrs. Nag
Bengal West ...	Mrs. Protima Tagore	Mrs. Sudha Mukerjee
Berar ...	Mrs. Janakibai Sathe	Mrs. Ambutai Mahajani
Bihar ...	Mrs. Jayaswal	Mrs. A. T. Sen
Bombay ...	Mrs. Jayashri Raiji	Mrs. Panna Daphtary
Calcutta ...	Mrs. S. C. Mukerjee	Mrs. R. Ahmed
C. P. North ...	Mrs. S. Chitambar	Mrs. H. I. Ahmed
C. P. South ...	Mrs. Ramabai Kedar	Mrs. Laxmibai Chitnavis
Cochin ...	Dr. P. Gouri Amma	Mrs. Meenakshi N. Menon
Delhi ...	Lady N. N. Sircar	Mrs. Asaf Ali
		Mrs. Atija Masood
Gujarat ...	Mrs. Bhide	Mrs. J. R. Vakharia
Gwalior ...	Lady Raja Bai Phalke	Mrs. Chandrakala Sahai
Hydrabad (Dn.)	Begum Wali-ud-dowla	Mrs. C. Cornelius
Indore ...	Princess Savitribai Saheb	Mrs. Jyotsna Mehta
Kolhapur ...	Lady Janakibai Sabnis	Mrs. A. T. Kumate
Konkan ...	Mrs. Willis	Mrs. Gupte
Madras ...	Mrs. M. E. Cousins	Mrs. A. Kuriyan
Maharastra ...	Miss Wadia	Mrs. Tarabai Patwardhan
Malabar ...	Mrs. M. Thomas	Mrs. Manjeri Kamalammal
Mysore ...	Lady Mirza Ismail	Mrs. S. Janakiammal
N. W. F. P. ...	Mrs. Saadduddin Khan	Mrs. Aslam
Orissa ...	Mrs. Sarojini Choudhury	Miss S. B. Das
Punjab Central	Begum Shah Nawaz	Miss Premwati Thapor
Punjab East ...	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	Mrs. P. L. Sondhi
Sangli ...	H.H. The Rani Saheba of Sangli	Mrs. Sumatibai Gokhale
Sind ...	Mrs. N. A. Haroon	Dr. K. Tarabai
Tamil Nadu ...	Sreemathi S. Paramasivan	D. Karpagavalli-ammal
Travancore ...	Mrs. N. Kunjan Pillai	Miss K. Easwari-Amma
U. P. Agra ...	Mrs. Suleiman	Mrs. Sheila Dhar
U. P. Oudh ...	Lady Srivastava	Begum Aizaz Rasul

List of Constituent and Sub-Constituent Areas

Ajmer-Merwara	Ajmer		Khendra
	Beawar		Jagdalpur
	Kekri		Narshingpur
Andhra	Rajahmundry	C. P. South	Bhandara
	Ellore		Balaghat
	Nidadavolu		Betul
	Guntur		Chindwara
	Kudappah		Chanda
	Nandigram		Nagpur
	Madanapalle		Wardha
	Vizagapatam	Delhi	Delhi
Assam	Gauhati	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
	Shillong		Anand
	Sylhet		Bhavnagar
Berar	Akola		Broach
	Amraoti		Nadiad
	Buldana		Surat
	Yeotmal	Konkan	Alibagh
Bengal East	Dacca		Thana
	Comilla		Ratnagiri
	Brahmanbaria	Madras	Madras
Bengal West	Shantiniketan	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar
	Chinsurah		Nagar
	Bogra		Nasik
Bihar	Bhagalpore		Poona
	Chapra		Satara
	Darbhanga		Solapur
	Muzaffarpore	Malabar	Calicut
	Patna		Cannanore
	Purulia		Tellichery
	Purneah	N. W. F. P.	Abbottabad
	Ranchi		Peshawar
Bombay	Baudia	Punjab Central	Amritsar
	Bombay		Lahore
	Khar		Simla
Calcutta	Calcutta	Punjab East	Ambala
C. P. North	Jubbulpore		Gurgoan
	Bilashpur		Hissar

	Hoshiarpur		Cawnpore
	Jullundur		Meerut
	Ludhiana	U. P. (Oudh)	Behraich
	Rohtak		Barabanki
Sind	Hyderabad		Fyzabad
	Karachi		Gonda
	Larkana		Hardoi
	Shikarpur		Kheri
	Sukkur		Lakhimpur
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore		Lucknow
	Madura		Moradabad
	Salem		Onao
	Tanjore		Partabgarh
	Trichinopoly		Rai Berelli
	Tinnevelly		Sitapur
U. P. (Agra)	Agra	Utkal	Balasore
	Allahabad		Puri
	Benares		Cuttack

INDIAN STATES



Baroda	Baroda		Jammu
Bikaner	Bikaner	Kolhapur	Kolhapur
Cochin	Adoor	Mysore	Bangalore
	Chittor		Chikamagalur
	Cranganore		Chitaldrug
	Ernaculam		Davangiri
	Iringa Kuladah		Hassan
	Kunnankulam		Kolar
	Trichur		Mysore
	Tripunithura		Shimoga
	Vadakancheri		Tumkur
Gwalior	Bhind	Sangli	Kawathe
	Gwalior		Mangalwedha
	Ujjain		Sangli
Hyderabad (Dn.)	Bir		Shahpur
	Hanamkondha		Shirhatti
	Hyderabad		Terdal
	Warangal		Trivandrum
Indore	Indore	Travancore	Nagerkoil
Kashmere	Srinagar		

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
TAMILNADU
UTKAL
U.P. AGRA
U.P. OUDH
STATES
BARODA
BIKANER
COCHIN
DHAR
GWALIOR
HYDERABAD
(DECAN)
INDORE.
RAJAPUR
KASHMIR
KOTAH
MYSORE
SANGLI
TRAVANCORE

A.D.P., GWALIOR.

**All-India Women's Education Fund Association
Memorandum of Association**

The objects for which the Association is established are :

1. The management of the Fund known as " The All-India Women's Education Fund. "

2. The promotion of the education of the women and girls of India including:-

- (i) the aid of any schemes for the furtherance of the education in all its branches, of the women and girls of India as may, from time to time, be recommended by the Conference known as the All-India Women's Conference or under such other name as the Conference may hereafter be registered (hereinafter and in the Rules and Regulations of the Association referred to as the All-India Women's Conference) :
- (ii) the institution of propaganda for the education of the women and girls of India ;
- (iii) the increase of the supply of better trained teachers, having particular regard to the inclusion of training in domestic subjects;
- (iv) the encouragement of the production of better text-books and attractive and suitable literature in the vernacular,
- (v) the exploration and initiation of schemes for the education of children of Kindergarten age, for the extension of suitable education amongst children in rural areas, for the support where possible of approved schemes which already exist, and for the provision of suitable housing accommodation for women teachers, especially in rural areas; and
- (vi) the extension of facilities in existing educational institutions for courses of training in home craft, fine arts, domestic science, physical culture and other suitable subjects.

Rules And Regulations

CHAPTER I—MEMBERSHIP

1. There shall be the following grades of members of the Association :

President

Patrons

Vice-Patrons
 Life Fellows
 Life Members
 Fellows
 Members

2. The President of the Association until its Annual General Meeting in 1931 shall be Her Excellency The Lady Irwin. Thereafter the President shall be elected at a General Meeting for a period of three years.

3. The Patrons of the Association shall be Her Excellency The Lady Irwin, Her Highness Chimnabai Gaekwar the Maharani of Baroda, and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and donors of sums amounting in the aggregate to not less than Rs. 20,000 and such other distinguished persons as the Governing Body may think proper to appoint. Every Patron shall be at liberty to appoint a representative to attend and vote at the General Meetings of the Association on his or her behalf.

4. Vice-Patrons shall be donors of sums amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 10,000. Life Fellows shall be donors of sums amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 500. Life Members shall be donors of sums of not less than Rs. 100.

5. Fellows shall be persons who pay an annual subscription of not less than Rs. 25; and Members shall be persons who pay an annual subscription of not less than Rs. 5. The annual subscription shall be due on the 1st of November in every year; save only that no person becoming a member between the 1st August and the 31st October in any year shall be required to pay any subscription for the ensuing year.

6. The Governing Body may elect any person to Honorary Membership of any grade in recognition of services rendered in the Association.

7. The Honorary Secretary of the Association shall maintain a register of Members of the Association and this register shall be open to inspection.

CHAPTER II.—GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held once a year at an interval of not less than 10 and not more than 15 months either at the place and time where the All-India Women's Conference is held or at some other place and date to be fixed by the Executive Committee. Notices of such Annual General Meetings shall be given if possible six weeks or at least one month before the date fixed, and such notice shall specify the business to be transacted. Members of all grades shall be entitled to attend and to vote on any question that may be submitted to the meeting for determination.

CHAPTER III.—GOVERNING BODY

1. From and after the first Annual General Meeting the Governing Body shall consist of :

- (i) the President, the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Assistant Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Assistant Secretary, if Honorary Assistant Secretary and Honorary Assistant Treasurer are required;
- (ii) nine members elected by the Association from amongst the members of the Association in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (4) below;
- (iii) fifteen members elected by the Standing Committee of the All-India Women's Conference in accordance with paragraph (3) below. These members will be elected by the Standing Committee before the Annual General Meeting of the Association but will not join the Governing Body until after the Annual General Meeting.

2. Of the nine members elected by the Association, one shall if possible be a woman M. L. A., one shall be a woman connected with University work, one shall be a woman connected with Secondary Schools, one shall be a woman connected with Primary Schools, one shall be a woman connected with Training Colleges and Classes and four shall represent the general body of the members of the Association. Should it not be possible to elect a member from the class of women M. L. A. then, until it is so possible, there shall be five members on the Governing Body representing the general body of members of the Association.

3. Of the fifteen members elected by the Standing Committee, at least three must be from the Indian States.

4. All members will be elected for three years subject to one-third retiring by rotation each year but being eligible for re-election. The members to retire after the first and second year shall be determined by lot. In every subsequent year those who have been longest in office shall retire. The vacancies thus created each year shall be filled, in the case of those elected by the Association, by election, by nomination and postal ballot in such manner as the Governing Body shall prescribe by Bye-laws from time to time and in the case of those elected by the Standing Committee by election in such a manner as the Standing Committee shall arrange. Such election shall be held prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

NOTE:—The following resolution was passed at the last Annual Meeting

of the All-India Women's Education Fund Association, held in Delhi, on the 15th of March 1935:—

“Resolved that the present method of election to the Governing Body be so altered that from 1936, instead of election by rotation, the entire Governing Body shall be elected every three years. The procedure of nomination and election shall remain the same as heretofore. Retiring members of the Governing Body shall be eligible for re-election.”

5. The Governing Body shall have power to co-opt persons having expert knowledge in some branch of the Association's work *ad hoc* for the consideration of some particular matter specially affecting the Association's work. The number of persons so co-opted shall not at any one time exceed five. Any co-option shall cease at the will of the Governing Body.

6. Casual vacancies among members of the Governing Body occurring between any two annual elections shall be filled by the Governing Body: and any person so chosen shall retain her office so long as the vacating member would have retained the same if no vacancy had occurred. Similar vacancies occurring among the members elected through the Standing Committee of the All-India Women's Conference shall be filled by the Standing Committee. But no action of the Governing Body which may be otherwise valid shall be rendered invalid by reason of any such vacancy remaining unfilled, provided however that the number of vacancies so remaining unfilled shall not at any time exceed three. An absence of twelve months out of India shall constitute a vacancy.

7. The Governing Body shall hold its Annual meeting on the same day and at the same place and immediately after the Annual General Meeting of the Association, or at such other place and time as the Executive Committee may decide. The Governing Body shall, at the Annual Meeting, elect from among themselves a Chairwoman who will preside in the absence of the President and Vice-Chairwoman who in the absence of the Chairwoman shall conduct the duties of the Chairwoman and exercise her powers. In the absence of both at any meeting such meeting may elect its own Chairwoman, from those present. Any vacancies in these offices occurring during the year shall be filled up by the Governing Body.

CHAPTER IV—COMMITTEES

1. The Governing Body shall at its annual meeting elect an Executive Committee of eight members besides the office-bearers from among the members of the Association, of whom at least four shall be members appointed to the Governing Body as aforesaid in Clause 1, paragraph (iii), of Chapter III. Any vacancies in the elected members of the Executive Committee occurring during the year shall be filled by the Executive Committee.

(a) This Executive Committee will perform the current duties of the Association and such other duties as the Governing Body may prescribe. The transactions of the Executive Committee shall be duly recorded and laid before the Governing Body at its next meeting for information or conformation. In case of emergency the Executive Committee may perform any duty and exercise any power of the Governing Body. The Executive Committee may appoint any Sub-Committee and delegate to it any powers which may be necessary, but the proceedings of such Sub-committees shall in every case be reported for information or confirmation to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall meet at such time and in such places as they think proper and at all their meetings four shall form a quorum.

2. The President, Chairwoman, Vice-Chairwoman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Assistant Treasurer shall be *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee, and the Honorary Secretaries shall be *ex-officio* members of all Sub-committees.

History of the All-India Women's Conference

1. Origin of the All-India Women's Conference—

The All-India Women's Conference owes its origin to a circular letter from Mrs. Margaret E. Cousins who, in the autumn of 1926, as Secretary of the Women's Indian Association, Adyar, Madras, addressed an appeal to women all over the country to form local committees and hold Constituent 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, I am glad to say is still one of our very active members), made use of this appeal as the basis of two articles which were published in *Stri Dharma*, the monthly magazine of the Women's Indian Association, and it was after this that Mrs. Cousins took up the matter in the way I have just described. Her appeal met with a wide and enthusiastic response, and Constituent Conferences were held in 22 places during the months of September to December, 1926, and the First All-India Women's Conference was 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. In addition to re-affirming most of the Resolutions of the First Conference, notable Resolutions were passed relating to Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarada's Bill for the restraint of Early Marriage, which

was at that time under consideration, as well as urging the Government to give representation to women in the Central Legislature, so that they might be able to express their views on pending measures affecting the interests of women and girls. The Second Conference was noteworthy also as the origin of the All-India Fund for Women's Education.

3. The Third Conference—

The third Conference, that of 1929, was held at Patna, with Her Highness the Dowager Rani of Mandi as President. It was on this occasion that the scope of the Conference was definitely widened to include Social Reform and a separate Section for Social Reform was created to work on lines parallel to those of the Section concerned with Educational Reform. Three Sub-Committees of the Educational Reform Section were appointed to carry on work throughout the year in the following directions :

- (a) The drafting of a special curriculum for schools, based on the ideals underlying the Resolutions passed by the Conference,
- (b) The revising and creating of new text books.
- (c) The investigation of the conditions of the training of teachers in all parts of India. Under the Social Reform Section also a Sub-committee was appointed to carry on the campaign to raise the age of marriage.

4. The Fourth Conference—

By 1930, when the Fourth Conference was held in Bombay under the Presidentship of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the increased efficiency of the organization had become very noticeable; and the Honorary Organizing Secretary (Mrs. 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 propoganda, 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 set back owing to the disturbed conditions of the times, the keenness of members to tackle that among the other many difficult problems of the day, was intensified rather than diminished.

6. The Sixth Conference—

It was in 1932, when the Conference had Madras as its venue, and its President was Mrs. P. K. Ray, that it was clearly seen that although the constitution of the Conference debarred it from taking part in *Party* politics,

it could not, if it were to perform its function of establishing women in their rightful position in the state and in society, avoid concerning itself with politics in the widest sense of the term. The status of women in the new constitution of India, particularly in relation to their fundamental rights, their representation in the various bodies and the conditions of their enfranchisement, was a matter of vital importance not only to politicians, but to the whole country; and it was overwhelmingly felt that every opportunity must be taken before the constitution was actually drawn up in details, to impress upon those concerned in framing it, the views of nearly half of those who would have to abide by it when framed. To this end, in April 1931, a representative meeting was held in Bombay, under the Presidentship of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the outcome of which was that the All-India Women's Conference, the Women's Indian Association, and the National Council of Women in India, conjointly drew up a Memorandum to be placed before the Franchise Sub-Committee of the Round Table Conference. In May this Memorandum was submitted to all the Constituencies, with an invitation to them to give their considered opinion upon the views stated therein, and again in its final form, before it was actually submitted to the Franchise Committee, the Memorandum was circulated to the Constituencies, from which no dissentient opinion was received. I need hardly remind you that the essential points which were decided to press in the Memorandum were as follows :

- (1) Equal rights and obligations of all citizens without any bar on account of sex.
- (2) No disability to attach to any citizen by reason of his or her religion, 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 Presidency of Lady Ramanbhai Neelkanth. In the work of the preceding year, that of representing the viewpoint of Indian Womanhood on the constitutional question had remained uppermost, owing to the fact that the Indian Franchise Committee was occupied with its labours in India during the cold season of that year, and the Standing Committee of the Conference felt it obligatory that it should continue to press the views laid down in the Memorandum presented the year before to the Round Table Conference. Nine members of the All-India Women's Conference gave evidence at various centres, that of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Chairwoman of the Standing Committee) being specially noteworthy for the firm stand which she made upon the principles laid down in the Memorandum in spite of the fire of searching cross-examination. From the point of view of immediate results, however, those efforts were, alas ! in vain, and the publication of the Communal Award was the signal for an outburst of protests from our Constituencies.

The work of the Social Section went forward a pace; in many Constituencies the earnest practical efforts towards the removal of untouchability and caste restrictions proved conclusively, to those who have eyes to see, that women are not—as they are usually supposed to be—the custodians of orthodoxy and conservatism. In many of the States Constituencies as well as those of British India there was a strong movement in favour of providing for divorce in Hindu society, and its equalisation for men and women among Muslims. The promotion of the cause of Swadeshi and of indigenous industries was also a very important feature of the year's work, as was also the number of instances in which members of the Conference were successful in contesting on terms of equality with men, elections for seats on Municipal Corporations and academic bodies of Universities.

The opening of the Lady Irwin College for women, at Delhi, on November 10, 1932, was the event of the year in the Educational Section,—concrete evidence of the value of the work which had quietly and steadily been proceeding since the starting of the Education Fund four years ago. Important as was that event, however one must not allow it to overshadow all the other less spectacular day-to-day work of members in the Constituencies, for without that real underlying zeal for the educational uplift of women,

throughout the land, in villages as well as in towns, in quite devoted care and service, as well as in laying of foundation-stones and presiding over public meetings, our Conference would have never grown into the solid 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 in 1931 and 1932, to gain the equal status, had completely failed. It became necessary therefore to frame a second Memorandum, in which, while it was reiterated that the proposals contained in the first Memorandum provided the only satisfactory solution, the White Paper proposals were examined and a clear statement made as to how far they could be regarded as even an adequate 'second best' or not. This Memorandum was submitted to the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the British Parliament, and later, three elected members representing our Conference, as also the National Council of Women in India, and the Women's Indian Association, were invited to London to give evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Suffice it to say here that through Memorandum II and the firm stand taken by our delegates in giving their evidence, we showed that, while willing to adopt an accommodating attitude in regard to details during the period of transition, we stood immovably for the principle of equal status, and against that of communal and special representation.

One very useful outcome of the political work outside India has been the many contacts that our delegates made with women's 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 ever 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 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 courses 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 News papers 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 Earth-quake 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.

MESSAGES

"I have grown old giving messages. Still if you need one from me I can only say that until women establish their womanhood, the progress of India in all directions is impossible. When women whom we call 'Abala' become 'Sabala', all those who are helpless will become powerful." Mahatma Gandhi

"It is with the greatest pleasure that I send my greetings and my message of good wishes to the All-India Women's Conference under the able guidance of Mrs. Cousins. I feel confident that this session will register a notable advance in the furtherance of our cause and I hope that the consolidation of our efforts and the adoption of a practical programme will be the features of the coming year. I wish the Conference all success."

H. H. Maharani Setu Parvati Bayi of Travancore

"It behoves us as women, awake to our high duties and responsibilities to translate our ideals into actions and our dreams into realities for the progress and freedom of India."

Shrimati Sarojini Naidu

"With regard to the wish of the Women's Conference Her Highness much regrets that she will not be able to come to Ahmedabad for the Conference. Her Highness has donated Two Thousand rupees towards the same and sends her best wishes to the organisers of the Conference which she hopes will be a great success."

Secretary To H. H. The Rani Saheba of Bhavnagar

"Regret cannot attend. Lately am not well. Wish every success."

H. H. The Maharani of Baroda

"Deeply touched by kind thought and remembrance. Broken health prevents attendance Conference but shall be with you, dear sisters, in spirit. With best wishes prayers for every success."

H. H. The Maharani Sucharu Devi of Mayurbhanj

"I wish the Conference success in its important deliberations under Mrs. Cousins."

Lady Mirza Ismail

"Nothing would have afforded me greater pleasure than meeting all my friends at the Conference once more and taking part in its deliberations at an important and critical period of the history of our Motherland. I am sorry,

however, that I am deprived of that pleasure as I am thousands of miles away from my home and I have to content myself with my sincerest good wishes for the success of the Conference and for the continued usefulness of its work throughout the coming year."

Lady Abdul Qadir

"What message could I send better than wishing the Conference great success."

Maharani Lalita Kumari of Vizianagaram

"You have my good wishes for the Women's Conference. I have always felt strongly that whatever major questions we may have to consider in India, this must be considered in relation to the problem of the women's progress."

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

"I send you my greetings and my best wishes. I fully hope, under your (Mrs. Cousins') guidance the Conference will be a great success."

Mrs. Brijlal Nehru

"I wish the Conference every success."

Mr. M. R. Jayakar

"To the women of India assembled in Conference at Ahmedabad, I send my salutations and sincerest wishes. It is my prayer that your every attempt and effort towards progress and perfection be crowned with success, but may our vision of equality and freedom be tempered with dignity and wisdom; May your dauntless courage, selfless devotion and your indivisible unity serve as an inspiration to your country and to the world; may God guide you and help you in your glorious purpose."

H. H. The First Princess of Hyderabad

"Hearty congratulations to Conference on its founder presiding; wish glorious success."

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi

"Best wishes for success Second decade Women's Conference devotion blessings to its Eleventh President."

Dr. James Cousins

"I greet you, my sisters, and wish you happiness. Remember that Mother India is watching you : the world is watching you. I am sure, you will be worthy daughters of this great and ancient Country, our Motherland"

Diwan Bahadur Har Bilas Sarda

"Her Highness has asked me to convey to you her best wishes for the success of the Conference."

Private Secretary to
H. H. Maharani of Porbunder

"I trust that the Conference would be able to give its quota in the work of awakening the women of India and to lead the power they possess into the right channels. I wish every success to the Conference."

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

"I wish your Conference every success."

H. H. The Maharani Saheb of Navanagar

"The Liaison Group in England sends warmest greetings to officers and delegates assembled at the Annual Session. In expressing their admiration for the work already achieved by the women's movement in India, the Group renews its pledge to support the aims of the Conference and to promote in all parts of the British Commonwealth a better understanding of and sympathy with the work that Indian women are doing for educational and social reform and to gain equal status and opportunities."

The Liaison Group of British Women's Societies
(British Commonwealth League, Six Point Group,
Women's Freedom League and Women's Inter-
national League-British Section.)

"Best wishes for the success of the Conference."

The National Council of Women in India

"The National Y. W. C. A. of India, Burma and Ceylon extends its greetings and good wishes to the All-India Women's Conference. The place and contribution of women in the field of education and social reform has been proved of paramount importance in the world today. May the united efforts of all of us women bring good will and happiness to our country of India. God's blessing be upon you all."

National Y. W. C. A. of India

"The Women's Advisory Council on Indian Questions of Great Britain send warmest greetings to All India Women's Conference members assembled at Ahmedabad and wishes them a successful session and a prosperous year's work. This Council believes that the forces of progress in India will be greatly strengthened by the increased number of women voters and representatives in the Legislatures and looks with confidence to the part that

ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

organised women of India will play in the future of their country."

The Women's Advisory Council on Indian Questions
of Great Britain

"The British Commonwealth League is glad to take this opportunity of conveying its congratulations to the All-India Women's Conference on the comprehensive Memorandum on the Status of women sent in to the League of Nations, and to note that Indian and British women are at one in their desire to see equal status for men and women established throughout the world."

The British Commonwealth League

"Greetings."

Edinburgh Women Citizens

"I send my warmest greetings to the All-India Women's Conference members, and wish them a very successful session."

Lady Dorothy Halifax

"Sorry can't attend. Wish Conference every success."

H. H. The Dowager Rani of Mandi

"Wish Conference every success. Sorry unable to come, Love and best wishes."

Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji

"Greeting Completion decade. Fitting President Cousins. Triumphant success attend deliberations."

Miss A. Khemchand

"Greetings."

Miss Meliscent Shephard

"My heartiest greetings to all members of the All-India Women's Conference assembled at Ahmedabad. May they have a very happy and successful Conference and be encouraged to even greater effort in the future and may our Liaison work by promoting a greater friendship and understanding between the women of both our countries, enable us together to serve the cause of world peace at this time."

Mrs. Grace Lankester