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WOMEN'S FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON THE

POSITION OF WOMEN IN ALL COUNTRIES,

AND THE

Programme of the League,

AT THE

WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL, LONDON, S.W.,

16th and 17th JULY, 1890, at 8 p.m.

THE arrangements for holding this Conference are now complete. At the First Sitting on the evening of the 16th July, Mr. JACOB BRIGHT, M.P., will preside. This Sitting will be devoted to the consideration of the Position of Women in Different Countries.

Miss COBDEN, L.C.C., will preside over the deliberations of the Second Sitting on the evening of the 17th of July. This Sitting will discuss the Programme of the Women's Franchise League.

The proceedings will be opened by Mr. R. B. HALDANE, Q.C., M.P.

FIRST SITTING, 16th JULY.

President ~ ~ Mr. JACOB BRIGHT, M.P.

Resolutions.

That this Conference is of opinion :—

- (1). That the disabilities, disqualifications, and restrictions imposed by law and custom upon women, as compared with men, are unjust, injurious, and degrading to women, and are also, directly and indirectly, a grave and lasting detriment to men and to society generally.
- (2). That the development of civilisation and the progress of humanity individually and collectively render it imperative to accord to men and women equal access to the opportunities of life,—political, social, and industrial.
- (3). That it is, therefore, just and necessary to place men and women in a position of equality in respect of public and personal rights and duties.
- (4). That urgent need, accordingly, exists for women to obtain, on the same conditions as men :—
 - (a) Right to elect and to be elected to all public bodies,—parliamentary, municipal, and local.
 - (b) Rights of property, contract, succession to property, divorce, custody of children.
 - (c) Admission to education,—elementary, technical, and higher—to the professions, and to industrial occupations.
- (5). That it be referred to the Executive Committee of the League to take such national and international action as may be found possible in order to give practical effect to the above resolutions, and for that purpose to enter into communication with the International Committee appointed by the International Council of Women held in Washington, 1888, and at Paris, 1889, in order to arrange for continuous and concentrated international work.

SECOND SITTING, 17th JULY.

President ~ ~ Miss COBDEN, L.C.C.

Resolutions.

That this Conference approves of the Programme of the Women's Franchise League, which proposes to secure for women the full rights of citizenship, and to apply to men and women in all the relations of life—public, social, industrial, and personal—the principle of equal and impartial justice.

That this Conference further approves of the measures promoted by the League, being :—

(a) Mr. Haldane's Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, which provides :—

(1). In all Acts of Parliament relating to the right to vote at parliamentary, municipal, local, and other elections, words importing the masculine gender shall be deemed to include women.

(2). No woman shall be subject to legal incapacity from voting at such elections by reason of coverture.

(3). No person shall be disqualified from being elected or appointed to, or from filling or holding, any office or position, merely by reason that such person is a woman, or, being a woman, is under coverture.

(4). This Act may be cited as the Women's Disabilities Removal Act, 1889.

(b) Dr. Hunter's Law of Divorce Amendment Bill, to give to husband and wife equal rights of Divorce.

(c) Sir Horace Davey's Devolution of Estates Bill, to simplify and equalise the law relating to the devolution of estates.

(d) Proposed Amendment of the Guardianship of Infants Act, 1886, to give to mother and father equal rights in respect of the guardianship of their children.

That this Conference further pledges itself to use its best endeavours to obtain wherever, and as speedily as possible, the adoption of enactments framed on the lines of the foregoing principles and measures.

COUNTESS SCHACK, }
MRS. PANKHURST, } *Hon. Secs.*

8, RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.

JULY, 1890.

Amongst those who are expected to take part in the proceedings will be :—

Mrs. CADY STANTON (U.S.A.) and several other American friends, RUKMABHAI (India), Mr. D. NAOROJI (India), M. FRÉDÉRIC PASSY (Paris, Membre de l'Institut), M. C. RICHEL (Paris, Collège de France), M. JULES E. SARRAGEN et M. ERNEST ALLART (Famelistère de Guise), M. L. A. BARNIER (Nimes, Correspondant de "L'Avenir des Femmes"), COUNTESS SCHACK (Germany), Miss HAGEMANN (Germany), Mme. FISCHER-LETTE (Germany), Mme. VENTURI (Italy), M. BAJER (Denmark, Member of the Danish Parliament), Mme. BAJER (late Présidente des Femmes Progressistes), Mme. JOHANNE MEYER (Présidente des Femmes Progressistes de Copenhagen), Mlle. SYNNESTVEDT (Denmark), M. F. T. BORG (Sweden, Member Swedish Parliament), Mme BORG (Sweden), and a number of representative English ladies and gentlemen.