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British Commonwealth League.

(“To secure Equality of Liberties, Status, and Opportunities
between Men and Women in the British Commonwealth of Nations.”)

Women and Oversea Settlement

AND

Some Problems of Government

BEING

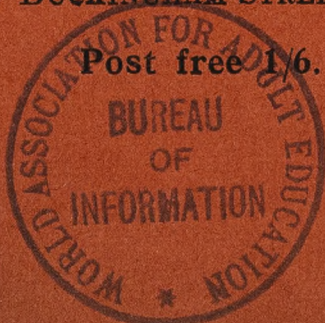
A Report of Conference

HELD

June 22nd and 23rd,
1926.

Headquarters: 17, BUCKINGHAM STREET, ADELPHI, LONDON.

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British Commonwealth League.

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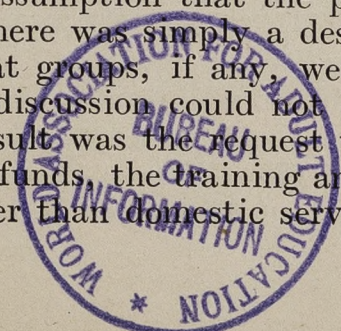
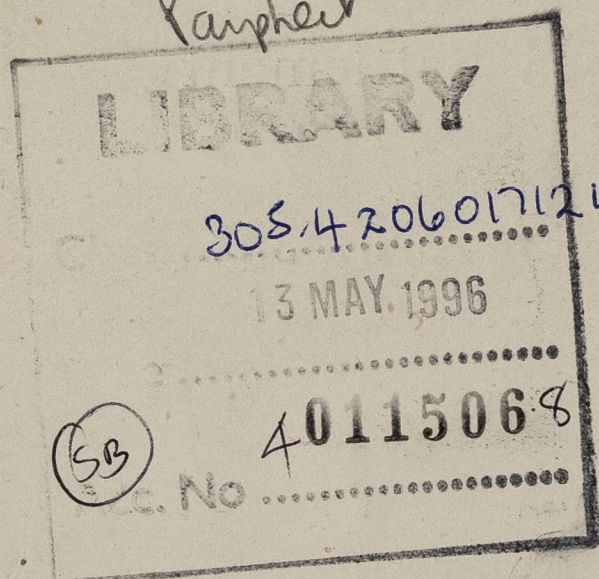
Conference on (A) Women and Migration (B) Problems of Government.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The work of the British Commonwealth League has now been done for rather more than one year, and during that time two Conferences of Empire interest have been carried through. The first dealt with the Political rights of women within the British Empire, and the second took up the examination of the part played by women in the problems of Migration. The whole position in regard to Migration is in a state of flux; it seems certain that the Imperial Conference must pay some attention to the situation in general, and to certain details of the work as well. Thoughtful women are not the only persons to lay stress on the importance of the work of women in handling Migration problems: no conference on the subject can afford to underrate the necessity for securing the people of right personality of both sexes. The League however, in its approach, desired to examine with an open mind the actual position, and to enquire whether there were sufficient competent women in responsible posts, whether there was enough attention paid to the needs of a group very hardly pressed since the war, the educated woman of enterprise and spirit, and whether a demand for funds for training women of all classes who might desire to go overseas was justified.

The Conference was prepared for over a period of seven months in the following ways. A. A questionnaire was sent to all the societies Oversea affiliated, and to certain Migration groups, covering the ground for discussion. B. The great Migration Departments in London were personally visited, and asked to supply information and to send representatives. C. The groups dealing with the Migration of women, voluntary societies and organised bodies like the Salvation Army, the Fellowship of the Maple Leaf, and so on, were approached, and invited to send representatives to a preliminary Conference which was held on April 13th. The English women's societies were circularised and the groups amongst them specially interested in the problem of women and Migration were asked to co-operate.

There was no assumption that the position of women was being overlooked, there was simply a desire to know the facts, and to consider what groups, if any, were effectively handling the position. The discussion could not be conclusive, but one very satisfactory result was the request to set up a committee to examine into the funds, the training and the assistance available for women other than domestic servants who might desire



to go overseas. It was felt that the strongest possible backing ought to be given to organisations which overlook the care of women in general, but though the League is prepared to examine problems propounded to it by interested societies along this line the League itself is not primarily concerned with welfare work as such. It is concerned that the power and useful co-operation of women shall be utilised to the utmost, and that no large section of women shall be left without the means of making its needs felt in relation to the work of Migration.

But the work of the Conference did not end with the consideration of these problems. The Committee felt very strongly that the other aspect of Migration, when the woman settler is or becomes a member of a group employed in governing other races, ought to be examined. Privilege cannot stand without responsibility. For this reason a special section was inserted to consider the problems attaching to contact with less advanced races, and with other races. It was felt necessary to stress the moral responsibility of settlers, and also of communities, to members of other races, both as to forms of government and to social problems. It was also felt necessary to stress responsibility to the wandering member of the British race, who may be without ties in a new country. For such members may work great damage to their own and to other races if they have no means of recreation or of fellowship, but live in a dangerous loneliness. The great problem of the peoples of mixed race who have sprung from casual relationships was outside the scope of discussion, but the responsibility of the Commonwealth citizen woman could be and was stressed.

Finally the Conference had before it questions of interest for immediate and direct action, in regard to representation at the Imperial Conference, specific demands in special directions like the Franchise and nationality of married women, and particular problems like the question of reciprocal affiliation orders within the Empire.

It seems clear that the work of the British Commonwealth League in providing a forum for the discussion of the problems common to women within the British Empire is likely to prove of increasing interest. It is a difficult matter to arrange for the proper representation of the different States and Dominions, and our work in this direction has hardly begun. But the Conference was exceedingly interesting, and opened up great vistas of possibility.

THE FOLLOWING SOCIETIES APPOINTED DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE.

- Australian Federation of Women's Societies for Equal Citizenship.
- Association for Social and Moral Hygiene.
- Association of Post Office Women Clerks.
- Association of Assistant Mistresses in Secondary Schools.

- British Legion—Women's Section.
- British Social Hygiene Council Inc.
- Catholic Women's League.
- Central Bureau for Women's Employment.
- Child Emigration Society.
- Church Army.
- Federation of Women Civil Servants.
- Fellowship of the Maple Leaf.
- Girls' Friendly Society.
- League of the Church Militant.
- London Society for Women's Service.
- National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child.
- National Council of Women—Hornsey Branch.
- National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.
- National Union of Teachers.
- National Union of Women Teachers.
- Nova Scotia—Office of the Agent General.
- New Zealand Groups of the League.
- New Settlers' League of New South Wales.
- Six Point Group.
- St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.
- Society for Promoting the Employment of Women.
- Scottish Council for Women's Trades.
- Sisterhood Movement.
- The Women's Institute.
- Queensland Women's Electoral League.
- Victorian Women Citizens' Movement.
- Women's International League.
- Women's Indian Association.
- Women's Election Committee.
- Women's Non-Party Association of South Australia.
- Women's Union of Service of New South Wales.
- Women's Reform League of New South Wales.
- Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia.
- Women's Enfranchisement Association of South Africa.
- Women's Freedom League.

The Representative of the Bermuda Woman's Suffrage Society was unfortunately ill, and the official delegates from Tasmania were prevented from attending, as were the representatives of certain migration groups. We were very fortunate in getting most able help from the officers of Canada, New Zealand, Rhodesia and Nova Scotia. To our great regret the offices of South Africa and of Australia declined to send representatives. The Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women was in close touch, and with the consent of Mr. Amery, Miss Gladys Pott, of the Oversea Settlement Department provided a very complete summary of the administrative position in England.

British Commonwealth League.

Telephone: Regent 4375. 17, Buckingham Street,
Organizer: Adelphi,
MISS M. CHAVE COLLISSON, M.A. London, W.C.2.

CONSTITUTION.

Name.

British Commonwealth League.

Object.

To secure equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Methods.

1. To study—
 - (a) The rights and status of women in the British Commonwealth of Nations.
 - (b) The extent and use of political power in relation to issues affecting equality in Empire citizenship.
2. To take such action as may be necessary to achieve the object.

Membership.

Membership shall be open to—

(a) Any regularly constituted Women's Society in any part of the Empire which is in agreement with the objects of the League.

(b) Individuals in agreement with the object. They shall be called Associate Members.

There shall be a Headquarters Group of Associate Members.

Overseas Members of affiliated Societies or Associate Members shall be eligible to membership of the Headquarters Group.

Finance.

Societies affiliating shall pay a subscription of One Guinea per annum.

Associate Members shall pay a subscription of not less than 2s. 6d. per annum.

Overseas Members desiring to join the Headquarters Group shall pay a minimum subscription of 2s. 6d. per annum.

Council.

The business of the League shall be conducted by a Council, to consist of the Honorary Officers, one representative of each affiliated society, and one representative of the Headquarters Group of Associate Members. The Council shall meet annually to elect its Honorary Officers and ten members of a Standing Committee.

Standing Committee.

Each Society affiliated to the League and to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance may appoint a member to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee shall have power to co-opt from time to time additional members not exceeding in number one quarter of the number of the whole Committee.

Officers.

The Honorary Officers shall be President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and the Chairman of the Council.

Vice-Presidents.

Vice-Presidents shall be appointed by the Council.

Nominations shall be submitted from the affiliated societies; not more than one nomination shall be accepted from each Province or State.

NOTE.—The League has been formed to carry on the work formerly done by the British Dominions Women Citizens Union and the British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

THE FUTURE IS MADE NOW.

British Commonwealth League.

“To secure equality of Liberties, Status, and Opportunities between Men and Women in the British Commonwealth of Nations.”

WHAT IS IT?

The **British Commonwealth League** is a Society formed to deal with issues of Equal Citizenship within the countries ruled under the British flag. This involves the task of bringing women citizens to understand the meaning and extent of their political power. The grouping represented by the British Commonwealth exercises enormous influence in world politics. The influence and claims of the Woman Citizen must be understood and exerted in this political sphere.

The **British Commonwealth League** represents the re-organization of two much older bodies: the British Dominions Women Citizens Union and the former British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. It has therefore a fine tradition of public service to follow and maintain.

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

The **British Commonwealth League** is needed because an International body cannot devote to Empire issues an undue proportion of its time and funds.

Citizens come and go from Overseas. Other bodies do splendid work in looking after them socially. Most of these bodies are constitutionally bound to avoid issues of political citizen education. The League is non-party and non-sectarian, but it believes in political education, and aims at giving every woman who comes from overseas the opportunity of realizing what her demand for citizen equality means in terms of power. It aims also at helping the English citizen woman to realize the enormous reservoir of strength and help through educated opinion and common action on issues of Equal Citizenship which lies in the British citizen women from Overseas. **NO OTHER BODY DOES OR CLAIMS TO DO** this special work of building up a strong **WOMAN'S EMPIRE POLITICAL** power to be used for good.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The programme includes:—

1. Conferences.
2. The establishment of a women's non-party political centre. From this centre, where contacts will be made from all parts of the Empire, women will meet leaders and each other, and will be directed to other bodies in which they have a special interest. The League hopes to act as a clearing house and strengthen existing societies.
3. Luncheons to consider and hear views from the Overseas and English citizen leaders.
4. Gatherings where views on the important issues affected by the demand for Equal Citizenship can be plainly stated and personally discussed. Steady work for representation on all bodies where Empire policy is laid down.

The League needs money and active personal help.

- You can help:—
1. As a Headquarters Member.
 2. By a Donation.
 3. By promising to subscribe to our Three Year Fund for a Centre. Many women like to help steadily over an extended period.

Write or call to see MISS COLLISSON (Sydney); 17, Buckingham Street, Strand. Telephone: Regent 4375.

**RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE CONFERENCE OF
THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE, JUNE
22nd and 23rd, 1926.**

Migration.

This Conference representing (the societies participating) urges upon the respective Governments of the British Commonwealth of Nations the necessity of insuring that both in the drawing up and in the administration of all their schemes concerning the migration and placing of women there shall be an adequate number of well-qualified women holding positions of responsibility, both salaried and voluntary; and calls upon women's organisations to further this decision by every means in their power.

This Conference urges that in any schemes agreed upon by the Imperial Conference for the further development of organised migration, equal representation be allotted to women and men on the governing and subsidiary bodies which deal with the question as a whole, and that in the event of any enquiry, evidence be taken from experienced women.

This Conference supports the Australian Societies in urging the importance of placing women who possess first hand knowledge of Australian conditions in control, both in England and in the various States of Australia, of the migration of women to Australia: and urges the commonwealth and State Governments to make such appointments as early as possible.

Opportunity.

This Conference representing (the participating Societies) calls upon the Standing Committee of the British Commonwealth League to set up a Sub-Committee to carry on further enquiry into the funds, the assistance and the means of training available for women other than domestic servants who may desire to migrate.

Moral Responsibility.

This Conference recognises the Moral Responsibility laid upon Citizens of the British Commonwealth in regard to members of the less advanced races within its boundaries. It urges upon the constituent Societies the duty of examining the problems which this responsibility involves, with a special view to:—

- (a) The study of laws which function in regard to vice so that discrimination may not be unjustly exercised against one sex only.

- (b) The methods employed, especially in mandated territories to safeguard women of those less advanced races.

This Conference recognises the Moral Responsibility laid upon citizens of the British Commonwealth in regard to members of the British race for making adequate social provision for the reception, accommodation and recreation for men and women migrants (students, employees, etc.) to and from all parts of the Empire and also at the ports for the officers and men of the Mercantile Marine.

This Council welcomes the First Report of the Advisory Committee of the Colonial Office on Social Hygiene, defining the Government's attitude to social hygiene in Singapore, and urges that the question of conditions in Hong Kong should be referred to the Advisory Committee.

Imperial Conference.

This Conference recognises the necessity of securing to women the fullest measure of opportunity for the exercise of their rights and duties as citizens of the British Commonwealth, and therefore urges upon its organised Societies the importance of pressing for the appointment of women as members of the groups which handle, investigate, and decide upon problems of Commonwealth policy. In particular this Conference urges constituent Societies to press for the inclusion of full women members of the Imperial Conference now approaching. This Conference respectfully requests the ministers assembled for the Imperial Conference to include upon their staffs qualified women members.

League of Nations.

That this Conference bearing in mind the excellent work done by the substitute delegates urges upon the legislatures of units within the British Commonwealth which send delegations to the League of Nations the importance of sending full delegations, and requests organised women to press for the appointment of at least one full woman delegate in each case.

Affiliation Orders.

That this Conference desires to call the attention of the Imperial Conference to the need for reciprocal legislation in regard to the enforcement of affiliation orders, so that an order made in one part of His Majesty's Dominions may be enforced in any other part.

Franchise.

This Conference respectfully calls the attention of the Imperial Conference to the loss of status imposed on enfranchised women when settling in those parts of the Empire where women are unenfranchised as in South Africa or where they are only partially enfranchised as in Great Britain, and begs them to confer as to the best method of remedying this injustice.

Nationality.

The Conference welcomes the actions of the Imperial Parliament on February 18th, 1925, and of the Australian Commonwealth Parliament on February 25th, 1926, in adopting in both cases without a division the following resolution:—

“That in the opinion of this House a British woman shall not lose or be deemed to lose her nationality by the mere act of marriage with an alien, but that it shall be open to her to make a declaration of alienage,”

and urges the legislatures of the other self governing Dominions and of India to pass similar resolutions.

It further welcomes the statement of the Prime Minister of Australia that he will bring the above resolution to the notice of the Imperial Conference, and urges the representatives from the different parts of the Empire assembled at that Conference to recommend legislation giving effect to this resolution.

That this Conference congratulates the Governing body of the Tropical College of Agriculture of Trinidad on bringing the College into line with the generality of collegiate institutions in civilised countries, and giving to women full rights of access to college courses.

This Conference expresses its approval of the principle of Care Societies for Girls on similar lines to that of the Big Brother movement.

CONFERENCE.

at the

ROOMS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS, JOHN STREET, ADELPHI.

JUNE 22nd and 23rd, 1926.

10.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.

PROGRAMME.

JUNE 21st, MONDAY. Criterion Restaurant, 1 p.m. Special Luncheon to Women Members of Parliament.

Speakers: Viscountess ASTOR, M.P., Miss ELLEN WILKINSON, M.P., The Duchess of ATHOLL, M.P.

MIGRATION SESSIONS.

JUNE 22nd. Opening Address. MRS. CORBETT ASHBY.

10.15 a.m. *Subject:* “THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION” :—

(a) In England. Miss GLADYS POTT, O.B.E.

(b) Overseas. Miss WHITHAM (S. Australia), Mrs. BELLAS (South Africa). Miss DAVISON (Canada.)

11 a.m. **RESOLUTION.**

Mrs. COBLEY, Women's Auxiliary Immigration Council, West Australia.

11.15 a.m. “ENGLAND'S NEED.” Lady GALWAY, O.B.E.

“THE EDUCATED WOMAN.” Miss HELEN FRASER (London Society for Women's Service).

“OPPORTUNITY in Victoria.” Miss FRANCES TAYLOR Victorian Women Citizens' Association.

2.15 p.m. *Chair:* Miss ADA BROMHAM, Australian Federation of Women's Societies for Equal Citizenship.

“OPPORTUNITY for Women in Canada.” Mr. J. BRUCE WALKER, Director of the Canadian Department of Immigration and Colonization.

A special greeting by The LADY FORSTER, O.B.E.

2.45 p.m. “OPPORTUNITY in South Africa.” Mrs. GIPSON
 ,, ,, Tasmania. Mrs. ECCLES SNOWDEN.

,, ,, New S. Wales. Mrs. GLANVILLE, J.P.

JUNE 23rd.

10.15 a.m. “OPPORTUNITY in New Zealand.” Mr. SANDFORD, The Director of Immigration.

,, ,, Rhodesia. Mr. J. A. T. WALTERS, Land Settlement Office of Southern Rhodesia.

,, ,, Nova Scotia. Miss D. MALCOLM.

11.45 a.m. "MORAL RESPONSIBILITY." Miss MAUDE ROYDEN.
Miss ALISON NEILANS. Mrs. LAKSHIMIPATHI, Mrs. MAC-
GREGOR ROSS.

PROBLEMS OF GOVERNMENT.

JULY 23rd, 2.15 p.m.

2.15 p.m. The Imperial Conference. Miss COLLISON.

Commonwealth Women and the League of Nations.

Commonwealth Women and Nationality. Miss
CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN.

Commonwealth Women and Reciprocal Affiliation
Orders. Miss MUSSON, National Council of the Un-
married Mother and her Child.

Commonwealth Women and Equal Franchise.

4.30 p.m. Reception. Miss E. A. ALLEN.

JUNE 24th.

10.15 a.m. Business Meeting and
Annual General Business Meeting of the British
Commonwealth League.

British Commonwealth League.

CONFERENCE

ON

Women and Oversea Settlement

AND

Some Problems of Government

Held June 22nd and 23rd, 1926.

FIRST SESSION: June 22nd 10.15 a.m.

MRS. CORBETT ASHBY, *President, in the Chair.*

OPENING ADDRESS.

MRS. CORBETT ASHBY: Ladies: As this is a business Conference you hardly want a speech from the Chair, but would rather hear Miss Gladys Pott who is an expert. However, I would like just to say a word of greeting on behalf of the British Commonwealth League to all those who have taken the trouble to come to this Conference. As British women we of the Empire have to face two very different points of view. I shall be glad to hear if visitors to this country from Overseas agree with me that there are two broad roads of opinion, both of which present great difficulties in this country. We have what you might call the old-fashioned Empire view of this country. We have to improve the people who have the idea of patronising the Dominions, of talking to them for their good, of feeling thoroughly superior in every way. They have a hopelessly old-fashioned idea of those parts of the Empire which they themselves have not visited. With these people we can only be patient and educate them gradually in the right way, as we all appreciate their warm sympathy and interest and their realisation of the enormous importance of every part of the British Commonwealth. On the other hand I believe we have a very serious educational work to do among those people whose sense of the independence, and real value, and equality of every part of the British Commonwealth leads them to feel shy of showing any practical interest in the internal affairs of Overseas or of

their relations with the Mother Country, and these, I think, are by far the most hopeful and most helpful people with whom we can possibly deal. A good deal of sympathy will have to be shown them by visitors from Overseas and a great deal of trouble will have to be taken in getting into contact with them. There is a large section of the community in this country whose idea of equality with Overseas leads them to be very shy in showing this practical interest. They feel that the Dominions are really independent self-governing nations, tied with a very close spiritual tie, with a tie to the whole country which is extremely difficult to translate into practical machinery. They need to have their personal interest aroused in those internal problems. Each of the Dominions has its own internal problems which are very different one from another. These difficulties must be explained to them, and the special needs of each part of the Commonwealth have to be clearly put and then I believe we shall see growing up in this country an enormous revival of interest and an enormously increased feeling of real solidarity. We must have an organisation—a League of Nations means that the self-governing countries of the British Commonwealth are an important factor in world business and world problems.

It is a fact that countries go into groups. You have a perfectly solid block in the Scandinavian countries who invariably hold together. On the other hand, you have a really quite formidable group of South American Republics who sometimes take the lead from their ancestors, Spain and Portugal. The British Delegation always meets with them for consultation and they nearly always act together, but I feel that the British Delegation in Geneva is not really sufficiently large to put forward in Great Britain and in these Dominions the real need of co-operative action along the same lines. In the old days when anything went wrong with national or international politics you could refer to women as the innocent victims in the matter, but now that we are full citizens and voting citizens we are equally responsible with the men for anything that goes wrong, or anything that goes faultily or badly, and we members of the British Commonwealth have a very direct responsibility towards ourselves, and towards each and every part of the Overseas Commonwealth. One of the most important of our problems in relation to each other is this movement of population from the centre to the edge that is attacking the most over-populated part—the home country. It is of enormous importance how this outward stream of population is regulated. It presents difficulties. You want the best of our population quite naturally, and do your best to get it. On the other hand you must face the fact that a very large proportion of the best of our population can win their way at home without undertaking the hazardous journey abroad under new conditions. They do their very best and in spite of the terrific competition find their place at home and can make a success of home life. Now, it is quite clear that you will refuse

to take the least efficient part of the population, but I do feel that in the competition for the mass of population which lies between the less efficient and the more efficient there must be a certain amount of give and take to make the inefficient more efficient, but on the other hand, there must be a certain amount of generosity on your part in taking less than the very pick. There is a stream of population which I think in the interests of the whole world we must get more fairly distributed. Now, I have experience, not only in London but in the British countryside, and I think there is no doubt that the hindrance to emigration is the attitude of the women themselves because they do consider the intense loneliness which faces them when they go overseas as pioneers and naturally dread it.

We have to consider emigration from the point of view of women who go out accompanying the men emigrants: we must also I think as a Woman's Organisation take into account the women who go out independently and not attached already to any family, but as a single entity. There are of course those who come under the Domestic Servants' category, but I would like the opinion of the Overseas people, the Delegates present here, whether it is not also vital in the interests of the country that there should be educated women with the whole of the wealth of training of this country, and whether something good cannot be found also for them Overseas, because they give a contribution which other people cannot give and their children may be able to develop it. It is most desirable to have a nucleus of highly educated women simply in order to bring a special contribution into the national life overseas and that is one of the problems we have to face to-day. Do you want these women, and how are you going to get them Overseas, and what sort of training should they be given?

Now I do not want to keep you any longer, but I do want you to feel the tremendous interest we all take in the Commonwealth, though we sitting at home are extraordinarily dumb in our expression of opinion. We have an extraordinary pride and confidence in the future of the Commonwealth, and a tremendous admiration for the contribution which each part of that Commonwealth brings to the whole, and the fact that an Imperial Conference is meeting so soon shows that there is a very rich field of interest and enthusiasm ready to wake our efforts if you can really get hold of us and shake us up."

MIGRATION SESSIONS.

Mrs. ASHBY then formally opened the sessions on Migration by calling upon the first speaker, Miss Gladys Pott, O.B.E., Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women, and representative of the Oversea Settlement Department, to speak on The Position of Women in Planning and Administration in England.

MISS POTT: I am looking forward really to a much more

interesting day from my own point of view after I have given the short address which I am privileged to give you from this platform to-day, because I hope that from all the delegates Overseas we shall learn how to understand the question of emigration, especially that of the more educated women and girls of Great Britain to Overseas Dominions, of which I have just seen a little bit, but seen enough to show me what immense possibilities there are for women of all types and grades if they have the right character.

What I have been asked to speak about this morning is the position of women in planning and administration here in this land of Great Britain, and I take it the planning and administration in all things connected with emigration—that is our subject.

I will put before you briefly the history of the present position as regards State-aided emigration in this Mother Country. Before the Great War there was no State-aided emigration from Great Britain. There was of course aid given by the various States and Provinces of the Dominions to people they specially wanted, both men and women, but there was no special policy of the British Government with regard to assisting migrants from this country to go the Colonies or other parts of the world. It was left to Societies and individuals to encourage or discourage as they thought fit and to the individual to make up his or her mind whether they should leave this country. Beyond the statistics from shipping companies of the numbers that went we had no figures. Nothing was done by the Authorities in the matter. It was regarded as each individual's own business to make up his mind as to where he was going.

In 1911 and 1912 there was set up what is generally regarded as the Dominions Royal Commission—a Commission to enquire into the trade, resources, commercial and other points of view with regard to the resources of the whole Empire. It was a travelling Commission and was still working when the War broke out and it continued to work and presented its report in 1917. In that report a whole section was devoted to the question of the distribution of the population within the Empire and a subsection of that section was devoted to the question of girls and women. That Commission reported and recommended that the policy of the British Government should be continued and that there should be a section of the Department of State responsible for giving up-to-date information concerning emigration, and that encouragement should be given to those who decided to leave their country and settle overseas, and not go to foreign countries. That report having been presented to the Houses of Parliament was immediately taken into consideration, and in 1918, before the Armistice was signed, an Advisory Committee was set up composed of representatives of a large number of well-known Voluntary Societies which had dealt with emigration for many years past, officers of state, women as well as men. Just after the Armistice was signed that Advisory Committee wa

still in being and it was decided to offer free passages to men and ex-service women who desired to take up life in other parts of the British Empire on demobilisation. When that policy was financed this Advisory Committee advised the Minister of State for the Dominions that in order to be in a position to give useful advice to ex-service women and to the wives of ex-service men who might be contemplating going overseas and taking advantage of these passages it was necessary that enquiry should be made into women's labour in the various Dominions in order to find out and report after personal investigation as to what the conditions were that would affect women and how far the Great War had affected pre-war conditions. At that time two women were sent to Canada and Australia to make this enquiry. I was sent to Canada and that was the first visit I ever paid to that great new country and I am glad to say that at least one of my audience was amongst those who went to Australia. The Canadian Mission took six or seven months. Those who went further afield took longer. In 1919 that Canadian Commission came back. The Colonial Office was still negotiating with the Advisory Committee as regards the question of State-aided emigration. In 1919 that very large and rather unwieldy body which consisted of about 50 people was dissolved and a small Committee was set up termed the Overseas Settlement Committee. At that time it was not a separate Committee, but it was composed of a certain number of officials representing members of Departments of State and people of knowledge and experience of this great question of emigration. Inasmuch as the Secretary of State, the Parliamentary Secretary and Home Secretary were fully convinced of the necessity of having women in the centre of their Councils, in the very beginning there were women on this big Advisory Committee and upon this smaller Committee, women who were selected because of their knowledge of conditions overseas and the peculiar circumstances connected with the migration of women as apart from that of families and men.

This Committee continued to operate till 1922 when there was the passing of the Overseas Settlement Act. During that time I myself went to India and I was asked by the Authorities at home to come back through Southern Rhodesia and South Africa in order to bring a report from those two countries. There was no official emigration to South Africa but at the same time it was fully appreciated that it might be desirable to have a personal investigation.

When the Empire Settlement Act was passed in 1922, this Committee became a Statutory Committee and became a part of the great Department of State known as the Dominion Office. This was composed of officials representing certain departments: the Board of Trade, the Ministry of Labour, the Dominion Office, the War Office, and indeed all Departments of State which dealt with individuals who were likely in any way to migrate. There still were also attached to it private individuals who were there

by virtue of their expert knowledge and experience of this great problem of overseas settlement.

Now we want to come to the question of women, and I would stress this very greatly, as I think it is hardly realised in this country the immense step the British Government has taken in relation to women in this question of migration.

When I was suddenly asked to go to Canada in 1919 I had had nothing whatever to do with Canada or emigration, but I had always been very anxious to see that great land. I confess I was wholly and completely ignorant of the whole subject, but when I came back from Canada I found a certain group of well-known voluntary Societies who before the War had dealt with the problems of the migration of women, and had set up through their own individual efforts a very fine organisation for the protection of the single women migrant. This group of societies had been in communication with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and had asked whether any grant could be given them to reconstruct their activities which had fallen to the ground during the War. The result of these negotiations was that even before the Empire Settlement Act was passed this group of Societies was told that if they would only come together as one body and be registered as a legal society under Articles of Association, they would have a grant of public money to enable them to start their organisation again and should be recognised by the British Government as an Organisation in connection with the migration of women. At first the grant was only promised for two years but during the course of that two years that group of Societies was given official recognition as the acting Women's Branch of the Oversea Settlement Department, which is a Department of State, and in the Articles of Association a whole section is devoted to the policy to be pursued by that Society, so long as they are acting as the Women's Branch of the Oversea Settlement Department. Now I think this was a great triumph, a great departure from precedent. I know of no precedent for a Department of State taking into its Councils a large body of women who are acting in a voluntary capacity and not as Civil Servants and to whom that Government Department looks for advice and help in all questions relating to women and children in migration. It was set forth in the Articles of Association that this Society "shall be the advisory body to the Department of State upon all questions relating to women and children."

It seems to me that this is a subject which should be fraught with enormous possibilities for women who are interested in this question of distribution of population and it is hardly understood enough by the majority of women, even by those who are very interested in the question of emigration. They hardly appreciate what enormous responsibilities and influence that has given to women who will get in touch and keep in touch with that small Council and Committee which occupies an office under the roof of a Government Office; all papers in connection with women come

to that office and are passed for advice and investigation to this Council of Women.

One of the conditions attaching to this Grant was that the Government Department should consult the Chairman of the Executive who should be responsible to the Government—the Treasury—for the expenditure of the Grant given out of public money. I myself was put in as liaison officer and by virtue of that appointment I am enabled to stand here and say something of the Dominions to which I was sent.

In 1923 the Australian Commonwealth Government, tired of answering questions about the conditions existing said in effect to the British Government "You had better send a delegation to come out and see for themselves." A delegation was sent in 1923 composed of representatives of all great Departments of State connected with emigration, and a woman was attached to that Delegation, and I had the good fortune to be that woman and went to Australia and New Zealand and saw the conditions of men and women in that huge Commonwealth.

I have tried to point out therefore in giving you this brief resume, how from the very first women have been included in the planning which led up to the passing of the Empire Settlement Act, and since then in its administration. I have no experience of other Departments of State except during the War when I was attached to the Department of Agriculture, but I can say from my own personal experience that with regard to this great question of distribution of population, the women's side has not been neglected by the British Government, but the Government has taken an unprecedented step in taking into its Councils and State Departments women representatives in an advisory capacity who have experience of conditions overseas. The Oversea Settlement Committee has appointed three regularly elected members:—Mrs. Harrison Bell, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Dame Meriel Talbot and myself.

Before I conclude I would just like to draw your attention to what seems to me to be one of the great advantages of this whole Organisation, that is to say the organisation of the women in the Councils of the men in the Government offices in connection with migration. It is the welfare, the children's side, the human side, which is going to make your Empire a success in organised emigration. It is easy I think to say we have too many people here, too few there—so easy on paper, but how immensely difficult, indeed impracticable, to try to put that procedure into practice, treating each individual as a human entity. I am quite certain that most of the failures in the past came about because there was no proper welfare organisation for the reception and settling in that new country of the new-comer, and it is this welfare side I venture to think my sex is the most efficient in carrying out. Another thing, we have here at work a principle of co-operation between the voluntary agency and the official department. Without that co-operation I believe the welfare

side of such a movement as this cannot possibly be efficiently developed. The poor Government Official can do a great deal, whether a man or a woman, but there are a multitude of things a Government Official cannot touch, and it is those things the human agency acting not as a Government but in co-operation with the Government Officials can step in and put to rights. I believe the British Government has set a most admirable example that women must be in this thing as well as men and that it is just as essential to have women as well as men.

In answer to a question from Miss Collisson as to how the Society was constituted, Miss Pott explained that the three bodies, the British Women's Emigration Association, the Colonial Intelligence League and the South African Colonisation Society, joined together as one body at the end of the War and were generally known as the S.O.S., but when they were recognised by the Government they at once took steps to enlarge the Council and asked to stand for election women representing the various War Services, the G.F.S., the Mothers' Union and all societies who would accept the invitation, so as to get a representative Council. They hoped that other bodies would come in, such as the Salvation Army.

When asked as to whether women as an Advisory Body got their advice regarded, Miss Pott said that she found that if they attached importance to the things which really are questions of principle and did not ask for smaller things that did not matter in themselves, they were far more likely to receive attention and she said they had been successful in getting members to concentrate on matters of principle. She said it was difficult of course for the people who were not themselves the administrators always to get things through.

THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION. (b) OVERSEAS.

MISS WHITHAM (Women's Non-Party Association of South Australia) said that in South Australia women had had no part in planning schemes of migration. As far as administration was concerned, there was a woman in the Migration Department to assist in dealing with women migrants.

The chief work was done by the Travellers' Aid Society: an officer of this society meets all boats, the girls are taken to the Travellers' Aid Society Lodge, and are always made welcome by the Chief Officer. The Society keeps in touch with them as far as possible. The various churches do a great deal to welcome and help all migrants, and the Victoria League, Y.W.C.A., and other bodies do most useful work. "What we feel is necessary is that a permanent matron who has intimate knowledge of conditions in Australia should be appointed to travel with the girls,

and also that women should be in responsible positions at Australia House to deal with women migrants. We feel these women require special qualification, if not Australian born they should have first hand knowledge of conditions in Australia. We feel that sometimes the picture is painted in too rosy a colour, and girls come out with notions that are seldom realised. As far as the educated woman is concerned, there are not, of course, so many openings for them as there are in domestic service, though quite a number of British women are employed in the teaching profession. What all migrants need is the power to adapt themselves to new conditions, and to look forward not backward. The Australians are very hospitable and friendly and the right kind of women receive a very hearty welcome.

Some discussion followed on Miss Whitham's speech as to whether there was or was not a capable woman official at Australia House to interview women who wanted to go out to Australia, and Miss Collisson undertook to find out definitely the names and states of any such women officials and particulars of their qualifications, if any, for the post.

The Chairman then introduced Mrs. Gipson, of the Women's Enfranchisement Association of South Africa.

MRS. GIPSON drew attention to a leader in the "Morning Post" of June 12th, 1926, which stated that in 1913, 285,046 persons left England for various parts of the British Empire; in 1924 the number had fallen to 32,217, and last year was only 105,225. Under the Empire Settlement Act of 1922 the Overseas Settlement Committee was entitled to spend three millions a year: but in 1925 the amount expended was only £497,395.

Mrs. Gipson thought this very significant; she thought the "Morning Post" suggestion that there should be in each large city of England an emigration association would be excellent, if South Africa's needs were put forward. She thought a woman Publicity Agent for South Africa would be good: such a woman to tour South Africa, enquire into openings and try to find suitable women.

In answer to a question by the Chairman, Miss Pott explained that under the Empire Settlement Act the British Government was not allowed to spend anything unless somebody spent 50% on any agreed scheme. 50% was the total, she said, to which the British Government must subscribe and the general principle was that the other 50% must be found by the Dominion concerned.

In reply to a question by Miss Picton Turberville, Mrs. Gipson said that the women were not allowed to have any share

at all in the planning of women's migration, but they are doing what they can, though the work they do is unpaid.

In reply to another question it was stated that the Secretary of the Families' Aid Society was a paid person, but of course Church workers and other people were not paid. The people who meet the boats, however, are paid officials of the Society.

The following resolution was proposed by Mrs. Cobby, Girls' Section, Women's Immigration Auxiliary Council of Western Australia.

"That this Conference representing the Societies participating urges upon the representative Governments of the Commonwealth the necessity of ensuring that in all their schemes concerning the immigration and placing of women there shall be an adequate number of women holding positions of responsibility both salaried and voluntary, and calls upon the women's organisations to further this decision by every means in their power."

Seconded by Mrs. Glanville, J.P., and carried unanimously after a suggestion by Miss Strachey that she would like the words "well-qualified" added before "women."

The chairman thought that if the resolution were accepted in principle, perhaps a detailed second resolution could be taken later.

MRS. GLANVILLE, J.P.: New Settlers League of New South Wales. I was informed yesterday at Australia House that there was already an Australian woman to look after the interests of women going out to our Colony. At any rate I would like to correct the impression that has been given this morning that there are not Australian women at Australia House. I was very pleased indeed because I know that has been a burning question in New South Wales for years that an Australian woman should be there at Australia House, and I was very happy when I was told yesterday that there was, and as to the Resolution it is a great pleasure to me to be able to second it.

MISS COLLISON: Can Mrs. Glanville tell us the names of these ladies, their degree of knowledge of Australia, the method by which they obtain their posts, and the States from which they come? It is on these points that I have been asked to enquire, and also what degree of authority they possess.

MRS. GLANVILLE: No, I am sorry I cannot. I was only informed that Australian women were employed.

THE CHAIRMAN then introduced Lady Galway, O.B.E., whose subject was "England's Need." Lady Galway was warmly welcomed by the Conference.

LADY GALWAY, O.B.E., opened her address by saying that she would have been very glad indeed to speak for a few minutes on some restricted subject such as the conditions that would have to be met by the new-comer to Australia, but the organisers were very wise, she thought, in getting someone more up-to-date to speak on that subject, as it was six years since she had left the country. The subject entrusted to her had a very splendid sound, "England's Need," and as the Conference was interested in questions of migration she would restrict the needs to that aspect. She addressed them with great diffidence because she had nothing to offer but commonplaces. Still commonplaces are things that are eternally true, which each generation in turn has found to be so, and tried to express in language familiar to their own time. The great problem of emigration was vexing the minds of the most experienced people in their midst—on one side there was the old country with its teeming population congregated in industrial centres dependent on the development of industry for its livelihood. On the other hand within the Dominions there were the great unpopulated areas with immense possibilities of wealth. The students who came fresh to the consideration of these problems always found an immediate and easy solution in the distribution of population. They knew they had not that simple problem to deal with, but the far more difficult one of the human reaction to that problem.

Lady Galway related how when she returned from Australia she spoke on these questions in a little village where she was always sure of a very friendly hearing. She was afraid when she had done that the village would be depopulated but in the course of time only one family very nearly went to Australia! She said she found the great obstacles to emigration were first of all that everything savouring of propaganda on this question was apt to be regarded with suspicion, as an interference in the right of the individual to live wherever he pleases. Then there was a surplus of women in this country who doubly resented the insinuation that they should seek a livelihood afar. Very naturally too the modern interpretation of the duty of the State, claiming that the individual has a right to life and sustenance, has a very great effect on the movement generally. The Dominions recognise that they must have an increase of population and are absolutely determined that it should come from the white races and from British parentage if possible. They do not resent the influx of population but they are determined to eliminate every element that could be considered as undesirable, and who can blame them? They have started with a clean slate and are largely at least untrammelled by those obligations which are the heritage of old nations. At the same time those who are interested in the practical carrying out of those questions are sometimes apt to regret that the standard of acceptance should be so high and that a family which would otherwise be desirable must be turned down because they won't leave the one weak link

in the group at home. They cannot see that this country should give up all its best exclusively, but there is no one who would suggest that it is not the right of the Dominions to decide who shall be its settlers. Another thing is that the conditions of work are good, the pay is good and the worker has no desire to see his market overrun by new-comers.

Everybody knows that the Australians are particularly intelligent, and they know better than anyone else that the development of their own industrial future is very important to them, and their prosperity will depend and grow in proportion with the development of the agricultural markets. In the long run the world depends not so much upon the manufactured articles but most essentially on food, and therefore the individual who comes out there, if he will not stick to the great ports of arrival but go "on the land" would find in doing his full share of work there, he would meet with no opposition or with very little. But she must return to the essential scheme which had been entrusted to her—the point of view of this country and not of the Dominions. It would be childish to imagine that people are actuated by ideals, they have gone out for ordinary human motives, they are determined to advance their own interests and give their children the best opportunity. The need of England, as she saw it, and she spoke as part of it, is to realise its best and be determined to live up to it. For the story of British settlement is the story of people with great judgment and perseverance, but as conditions change and make place for the modern State, as Government is set up, means of education are established, methods of transport developed, and a whole fabric of civilisation set up, the demands of the individual who comes out are changed. The characteristic of the situation is that in these new countries, distinguished as they may be by the signs of modern progress, there is a hinterland in which the individual who comes out must meet with difficulties.

Now success and the determination to be successful is what this country needs to impose upon us all. And success with regard to the emigration of women especially seemed to her to lie in this that she must offer the service for which she is best fitted and offer the services which are really needed. She thought they always came back to this unpalatable truth that the Dominions' principal want in the women who came out was the care and maintenance of the home, their own, or if necessary, somebody else's. There are women who could make a living on the land, and she knew several who had done quite well in market gardening near the great towns, but it was impossible to do what is called labour on the land. There was good reason for it. In all the professions there were openings for women, especially in the teaching profession. But as regards the development of educational facilities the High schools turned out year by year hundreds of most competent young women most suitable to fill desirable positions, in counting houses, shops, or any businesses.

you can imagine. The individual really competent who went out there had a very good chance. Of course no guarantee from failure could be given—that lay with oneself.

She had just one more word to say about that very difficult subject of domestic service, and that was that the housewife in the Dominions, whether rich or with small means, is usually so highly competent herself that it is useless to expect her to put up with inefficient help. She thought that the idea might be easily fostered that all one had to give to one's brothers and sisters was the work of one's hand, but she did not mean that. It would be extraordinary, she thought, if those nurtured in England who had made their ideals here and who have assimilated that long lesson of experience have nothing to give to their brothers and sisters in the new country. We really only understand things when we have taken the same steps as each other. We know very well we must have endured in their service to reach this spiritual life. It is true also of England. She is not our own until we have made her so through patience and understanding, through toil and achievement. Achievement has nothing to do with material success. It lies within us. It is awakened and kept alive by devotion to the daily task. Passing through a small township in the Dominion of Australia she was bidden to a reception and met an Englishwoman there. Her path had been extraordinarily rough, and that only explains how a woman of her reticent habits should have confided her troubles to a stranger. She had lived a life of great luxury at home and in a revulsion of feeling thought she would become an "Empire Builder." She married a man whose work lay in a small town. She had lived for years in that little house. Her husband was a failure and there remained the work of Empire Building. She had been a great musician and she told her that she missed her art and the only use she could put her music to was to play an occasional tune at a tea party. Was it any use to enquire of that lady what Empire building could be? Is it not to sow the soil and let the harvest be reaped, not in our own time, but for those who come after us?

The Chairman thanked Lady Galway, and as she was obliged to leave, a very hearty vote of thanks was passed by acclamation, in recognition of Lady Galway's kindness and of her wonderful power of speech.

THE CHAIRMAN then introduced Miss Frances Taylor, Editor of "Woman's World," and reminded the audience that Miss Taylor had visited New Guinea and worn man's costume in order to get an idea of the government of that country: that she had started and edited the first magazine run and controlled in Australia by a woman, and that she had been all over the State of Victoria and had visited every settlement in other States in order to grasp the position in regard to women settlers.

A PLEA FOR THE EDUCATED WOMEN ON LAND SETTLEMENT.

MISS FRANCES TAYLOR: The Central thought of any discussion on Australian migration problems—the thought which I would like you to pin in the front of your minds, so that you can not for a moment lose sight of it—is distance.

Australia is a country of distances: she is in a sense governed by her distances. Most of her big national problems arise out of this factor.

I have been trying very hard since I came to England to find out what are your ideas on Australia and her immigration problems, i.e., to see Australia as you see her. I have talked with a great many people and always I find that their schemes would fail because their minds have not grasped the vision of air distances. An English expert who came to Australia to look into the possibilities of settling the girls of England's land army on our farms, spoke of putting them on adjacent dairy farms so that they could talk after the work was done. It would be a brave English girl who, after rising at 5 a.m. to milk, working all day to finish with milking again in the evening, would set off on a lonely and often times muddy walk over rough roads to visit an equally tired friend some miles away.

In Paris this month a British delegate to the I.S.A. asked me why I had not discussed a problem with the Western Australian delegate before we left. I had to reply that probably for the same reason as she had not visited Russia, or Canada for a chat with those delegates. It would take less time for you to go to Canada than a Victorian to go West.

I can tell you of women and numbers of them, whose next door neighbour is 500 miles away, a little further I think than from London to Glasgow. Women 500 miles from a white woman, from a doctor and perhaps considerably further from a town. But those are the women, the very heroic pioneers of our Never Never lands in the Interior, that do not anticipate persuading Englishwomen to go and live there—at least not yet.

Still when considering any Immigration Scheme for colonising country districts, it must be born in mind that the Englishman or woman must be prepared to face a greater loneliness and isolation than he or she has known in little tidy England.

Distances, wide lands, great space, call for the pioneer. The same fine stamp as your relatives and mine who opened up our country less than a hundred years ago. Australia needs the pioneer spirit as much to-day as she did 100 years ago.

For the brave and adventurous there are great unexplored tracts to prospect and settle, for the less adventurous there are the quiet farming areas where life is quiet and to the newcomer often lonely, and where somewhat primitive conditions call for the highest qualities of courage, hard work, and what we call SAND.

Do you think we will find this type from the congested areas such as Hammersmith or Islington? No the pioneer is found only among educated people who have the vision and the initiative to win a great future for themselves. My own personal experience as far as women are concerned, is that it is the Educated Englishwoman, particularly the country woman, who is making the most splendid success. Time and time again I have been amazed at her magnificent spirit, the way she tackles her problems, the courage which she brings to face conditions which might well daunt the Australian born.

Just before I came away I motored up into the north of the State to one of the new irrigation settlements on the Murray. There I found one of your countrywomen who had gone with her husband on to a virgin block. She had kept house for him under canvas, worked beside him clearing, and later when crops came and paid, helped him build the two or three rooms which was the nucleus of their future home. Several miles of sand stretch between her and her neighbours, and in reaching her I had to extricate my car from a sand drift as high as the radiator top. We had a delightful English supper before an English log fire. She could tell me the latest political news of England. She discussed your problems with the same vital interest that you might have in them. She showed me the labour-saving devices which she had invented to eliminate drudgery. But to me, there was one almost pathetic touch. She had papered her kitchen with maps, so that while she worked she could travel her old routes. As she put it "I peel my potatoes in England and shell the peas in France." But she is happy, and nothing could make her change her life for that of her sisters in England whose lot is cast in more comfortable ways.

There is another girl, the daughter of one of England's oldest families, who up till war lived a very sheltered life. To-day with babies, husband, and household she runs as a sideline 500 fowls, the work that should fully occupy the time of a grown man. This woman is one of Australia's heroines and she is one of your countrywomen. Another is living out on the Nor'west line where the rails round out into the horizon for hundreds of miles without the deviation of one inch. Her house is of corrugated iron. She has grown a geranium in a jam tin and she is as proud of that geranium as you are of your lovely borders. Recently she gave this message to a family friend, who said "I shall tell your mother you are very brave." "Tell my mother I could not be happier." I tell this last story not because it represents at all the life of the average settler, but just to illustrate the grand pioneer spirit which your women show. They are happy because their labour is productive—because they know they are Empire builders.

In the case of single girls I can tell of an English girl who worked at house-keeping until she had saved sufficient to buy a block of irrigable land. This she fenced, ploughed, planted.

To-day she is a wealthy woman. Others who started out alone have married, linking their farms and their fortunes with their husbands.

Victoria offers splendid opportunities to the girl with practical agricultural knowledge who has a small amount of capital. In our closer settlement schemes we do not in Victoria discriminate between men and women—indeed in some of the smaller farming, such as fowls and vegetable growing, they prove more successful than men. The manager of the Elcho Training Station, which receives and trains the families that come out with small capital seeking land, stated that in his opinion there were splendid opportunities for girls who understood market gardening, but suggested that they come out in pairs. I would add this suggestion to his, and take up some other position until they have had plenty of time to grasp Australian conditions and look round.

One of the finest schemes I know for educated girls who have no capital is that of the Victoria League which sends them to selected Australian homes as mothers' helps. They become one of the family. A sort of elder sister pledged to turn their hands to anything. I have come in contact with six of these girls, they were highly capable women. The only flaw in the scheme from our standpoint is that they were popular and found doors opening to them on every hand, with the result that they did not stay long, choosing to change from State to State so that they could see Australia; in other words they became tourists. I think that now some restrictive time limit is placed.

Some one horrified me the other day with the remark "but Australia only wants domestics, and when we send them some from our congested slum areas they don't like them." I'll answer the second half first. We don't want domestics from the slum areas. They are totally unfitted for Australian ways and conditions and those that have come have begun to make slums in Australian Cities. They have grown used to living in congested space and I really believe are lonely if given a whole room to themselves and we don't want *only domestics*. There are golden opportunities for women as for men, with courage, vision and grit, in a country which will some day be the largest Empire in the world, but to-day has a population less than your London. And those that learn to know Australia never leave it. Even our "Never Never" lands received their name because those who came under their spell *never never* wanted to leave them. (Applause).

The Chairman then introduced Miss Helen Fraser, of the London Society of Women's Service.

"THE EDUCATED WOMAN."

MISS HELEN FRASER: A great deal of the subject I am going to talk on has already been touched upon by many speakers, so

that the subject has been very thoroughly opened up. I feel that already a great deal has been said that explains and makes clearer to those of you who do not know it about the position of our women here, and as Lady Galway and others have explained very fully that the need of our country, a very real need it appears to me, is to assist to get the movement of people from our country to our great Dominions which are simply sitting waiting for people and capital to help them to develop. Their migration is not consistent at all with the rate of our figures and into that country are flowing masses of people from Europe, and here in this Empire people never sit down and consider this question in all its great amplifications. We have played and toyed with it and retain the state of mind as regards the Dominions of 20 years ago, at least of 10 years ago. In every great Dominion—incidentally gained from my knowledge of the world in travelling—I cannot see why if you have a great vast continent like Australia with one person to the square mile and you have other people in the world congested intolerably, that you are going to be allowed to sit there for ever and talk about retaining it when you make no serious attempt to move your own people to it. Those are the foundations which the rest of the world sees about it and which we may frankly face. We can sit and talk politely to each other, but there are other people in the world and they are going to move in as fast as they can if we are not. I view the emigration of women in relation to the whole fundamental problem. We know perfectly well that amongst our women we have got a very large mass of women some of whom we could induce to move with the very greatest advantage, and a large section of the very best are among our middle group of people. Our working girls and women tend far more to marry and fit in with men who have the spirit of adventure—they are in the middle educated groups and that is part of my plea that the Dominions should sit down with ourselves in consultation. It is difficult for us as a governing body. We hesitate to impose anything. We offer money, but we do not even say that we will spend 3 million pounds and send people out. Our position is very difficult in this matter and we cannot act unless you really assist us and help us and try to see the position as it were partly from our angle and our point of view, and therefore, there is very great use to those of us who desire the best to speak in family council here frankly to each other from the point of view of the needs of our great countries.

If we take the figures 105,000 last year compared with 185,000, it means that a very much larger mass of people moved in 1925. Out of these 63,000 were women and 18,000 children. Now the State-aided schemes are what we women in this migration council are considering, not only what we can do to strengthen and assist the very excellent voluntary organisations which are going on—we have really admirable Boards—excellent Boards—we want to consider the whole of this thing and see what we can do with State-aided action for example in particular, and women all over

the country are willing to do this and are doing it. State-aided schemes are practically entirely nil for us except by nomination. It practically confines itself to this, what it can pay for and desire is home-help and farmers' agricultural labourers. That is your assisted passage attitude.

I look again at a country which was built up—the United States—and I notice that its policy in receiving people in the past is never a policy of saying 'only under this and that head shall you come in'; on the contrary they welcome the most skilled of our workers. So that is the tragedy—the horrible thing is that tens of thousands of our most skilled workers pour into that country and not into our own Dominions. If we were a people who were not at all developed, who were a peasant people, an overcrowded people of a low level of education, I could understand people saying 'from this land we will take the labourer and the woman for the home.' But what is the reality? The reality is that here are we as educated people training up as educated people in our country a large mass of the population. The same people want to be pioneers to places of which we are talking, and when we say to you that last year 105,000 people moved from here to the Dominions and 40,000 of these were women, is there no ground for saying back to us that these people do not in themselves create posts that justify us in saying that a proportion of these should go? From the economic point of view you get it more clearly. Suppose you have a town of 25,000 people and you move in 3,000 more, does it not mean added wealth to that community and added development? When you take people into Australia or Canada you do not provide for them—they provide for themselves. They create the wealth of the community and if you move from our country to the Dominions 86,000 grown-ups you have created in our dominion a great deal more wealth and you have therefore ipso facto created a large number of additional higher posts. The children must be educated and some thousands of teachers are needed to educate them. Grown-up people need Government Officials, doctors, nurses, etc. They bring their own justification by their very movement and their creation of wealth and I think that is the kind of thing we have to consider and face, and we do feel that this movement of our people should be considered from the Empire point of view, and what I should try to secure is a good mixture. This country should continue to do for us what it did in the past and assist us to capitalise so that we may develop, and in developing create the conditions under which all kinds of people may work. The Dominions naturally want to maintain a large proportion of their strength in their agricultural community, they must be healthy and normal. What happens is that simply because you compel people to come out in that way they come out not really intending to do it. It would be very much saner and better if we could work out schemes under which we could bring out people who are honestly going to stay on the land or the home life of the

community, and not because you have refused to open other channels, and not use it as a lever to run away on the first possible opportunity. You want women to marry the men and settle in the country. Then why not open the doors more freely to admit them in the natural way? You will secure them just as well. Let us think out schemes that will bring the women out naturally and sanely, as it were. Let them work with the men and marry and so on and develop in the way we want. That is the work of our own Society, and in the last report of the Oversea Settlement of British Women, which is intensely interesting, it seems to me that all through it I get the feeling that I myself have that this really great question of the educated woman is not adequately faced and considered and I feel that we are the very women to do it. We must feel our way, we must decide quite wisely what influence we are going to get and how we will use it. We must fight that narrow conception, that narrow economic conception, that if you bring 3,000 men out they are going to take the jobs from the 10,000 already there; that is just so much nonsense so long as capital exists. If you give them the developing chance they are their own justification and will make the country richer and more prosperous. We will arrive, I feel quite sure, at a decision that we can use that excellent type of woman that Miss Taylor and others have mentioned.

I do not know much about its land, but I do want to say that in the census before last there were 16,000 women in Canada owning and operating farms and market gardens in that country, and there you had not only that enormous number of farms, but successful women farmers. I would suggest that everywhere, and there too you would want to encourage more women to feel that they want to go on the land and there is an additional reason for you are getting the movement up from the United States of the United States farmers. Our own people are not making as much appeal as they might to the person of capital.

I know people who have worked and obtain very good results, but there is another point of view—they are living lives of interest and lives in which they are happy.

I am afraid I have been very frank in saying what we want to do, because I feel very strongly we are not going to solve this great problem of how to get out of this Commonwealth of ours the very best results. We are not going to develop the communities with all the splendid traditions unless we are going to encourage the movement of the educated woman and give her as well as the educated man a chance that is free and full and generous to give of her very best of her genius and abilities to the Dominion in which she makes her home.

There was some discussion as to the educated women being as badly in need of assisted passages as the domestic servants. Miss Fraser pointed out that Government money was being used by voters to assist the movement of our people abroad and if the

public money is to be used for the movement surely the voters have every reason to say how it is to be used, and should insist on middle-class people getting assistance. She thought it would be an extraordinary thing for our people to give assisted passages to people going to the United States; if we had developed proper schemes the skilled men and women could have been moved within the Commonwealth of Nations. (Applause.)

The Conference then adjourned for the Luncheon interval: the Chairman announced that a resolution on the Opportunity section would be taken at the end of that section, which would be in the course of the following morning.

AFTERNOON SESSION: June 22nd, 2.15 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY—(continued.)

Chair: MISS ADA BROMHAM, Hon. Organising Secretary, Australian Federation of Women's Societies for Equal Citizenship.

Ladies,

It is a privilege to have the opportunity of taking the Chair at this meeting. I must confess that I have been out of England and was not certain that I would be on the programme this afternoon, but I fully intended calling in here this morning. Unfortunately I had such a very bad crossing that I was not able to get here earlier.

Of course we realise in Australia at any rate the very great importance of the questions which are being thought of by those who are at this Conference here to-day and I am quite sure that the expert opinion of the gentleman whom we will have the pleasure of listening to presently will be a very great help to each of us in thinking out the problems that affect migration, from the best point of view. Therefore I have very much pleasure in introducing to you this afternoon, Mr. J. Bruce Walker, Director of Immigration and Colonisation for Canada in London, whose talk will be on opportunity for women in Canada.

MR. BRUCE WALKER: Madam, I crave your indulgence in my remarks and ask you to believe that I do not come to you as a professed expert on Women's Emigration, for that is an honour that I could hardly justly lay claim to. I come before you as one who has spent the major portion of his life in dealing with Emigration of Men and Women and I think I ought to have some impressions and some views that may be of use to you.

Before dealing with the task given me may I be allowed to make a few general observations. I think it may be very generally stated that if the Overseas Dominions who are prepared to receive from this and other parts of the Empire, persons to be absorbed in the national life of the Dominion, have nothing to offer them that is not as good or better than what they have at home, they are not likely to become very enthusiastic on the subject of emigration. Therefore I may say that it may be accepted as the basic principle of emigration that we must offer them either something better in the new country than they have had in the old, or why should they leave? So far as Canada is concerned it is very largely a women's country. I have no desire to make any comparisons, certainly not of an unkindly character with our other fellow Dominions, and I have even less desire to make any reflections on the Mother Country whose hospitality we now enjoy, but I should like to say as the result of a deep-rooted conviction in no English speaking part of the Empire is a woman so highly thought of, so well treated and so generously legislated for as in the Dominion of Canada.

For many years the policies of the Canadian provinces, which have the exclusive charge of social legislation, have been peculiarly under the influence of the women. I am not seeking to claim any particular far-sightedness or any unnatural wisdom on the part of our international legislators. I ascribe frankly their progressiveness to the fact that they are immediately under the eye of the provincial women, and in our Canadian provinces from ocean to ocean, we have had for a great many years a number of well-organised, well-constituted, well developed, and very aggressive women's organisations. I think it is true to say that the Organisation known as the Women's Christian Temperance Union has never had anywhere in any country a more devoted band of loyal women than it has in the Dominion of Canada, and I am going to say something which will seem to you perhaps a little extraordinary, but I am going to say it because I have the habit of saying what I think, especially if it is prudent to say it. I am going to say this, that I think the women of Canada have drilled and educated the men of Canada into the best husbands in the world. The woman is the empress in every respect in her household, and she commands an obedience and an assistance in the administration of her household that the women in England—in the British Isles—do not ever look for or command. I am not including in this rather sweeping statement our fellow dominions beyond the seas because I have no knowledge of them, but I have some knowledge of the motherland—the British Isles—the United States and Canada, and I do not hesitate in saying that the women of Canada are very fortunately situated, and they have trained the men from boyhood, generation after generation, to take an active share in many of the household duties that in this country the husband says is the function entirely of the wife. I am not going into details of what these duties are. I am referring more particularly to those little household tasks which we know in Canada as chores. Might I mention as an instance. I have been in houses in the British Isles recently where my hostess has demanded that I should leave my shoes outside my bedroom door that she might shine them. Needless to say I refused to do anything of the kind. I had been too well brought up. Both the United States husband and the Canadian husband are equally trained to the performance of these domestic duties which in this country the husband believes belong to the wife and leaves to her.

Now in our legislation also we not only have recognised the power and influence of women but we have legislated to give that power and influence force and form. You are probably aware that 4 or 5 years ago at least during the closing years of the war, the provinces of the Dominion of Canada, with one single exception, passed laws prohibiting the sale and manufacture of drink within their respective boundaries. A series of plebiscites was held. In these plebiscites the women of Canada were accorded full and equal rights with men, and the result was

that in every province but one a tremendous majority in favour of total prohibition was rolled up. The bar as we know it in this country is only a faint memory, and there are young men and women growing up in Canada who have never seen a bar and know nothing about it.

Then again, many years ago our legislators passed the Dower Law. Before that a woman's husband could take any profits there were, as a result of her thrift and her contribution to the common purse of the family, from the Bank and embark on the purchase of some Real Estate or property and in the title deed the husband alone appeared to be the owner, notwithstanding the fact that probably the wife had brought to the Marriage Settlement a substantial proportion of the amount involved in this purchase.

But you want to hear something from me about opportunities for women in Canada. So far as Domestic Service is concerned there is absolutely no limit of opportunities for women. During the months from February until the middle of June we have sent from these islands to Canada 3,000 domestic servants under the Domestic Servants' Assisted Loan plan and about 1,000 more domestic servants who have been able to pay their own way—yet the cry is 'more and still more.' Now why is it? It is because the wealth per capita is the highest wealth per capita of any country in the world. That is a very broad and very strong statement, but I make it in full view of the fact that the United States with its 110 millions of population, with the full knowledge of the British Isles' 45 million people, and yet statistical figures show beyond contradiction that the annual produce of wealth from the various sources of the sea, of the mines, of the forest, of the field, aggregate estimate, when divided per head of the population of Canada, gives a per capita wealth higher than any other country in the world. The consequence is an increase in the number of persons who need house-help, and we are also having a repercussion of another character.

What opportunities are there for educated women in Canada? Well, the answer to this is to be found in just what I have said. As the per capita of the country increases the families are coming in more and more to the finer and more intellectual employments. The parents as they become better-to-do send their children into the professions, and it is much the same now as it used to be in Scotland 100 years ago when every family had a son in training for the Ministry. To-day every family, particularly in the rural districts, has a son or daughter training in law, medicine, etc., and the result is that we are supplying the needs of educated women from our own sources, and I say perfectly frankly to you that at the moment and as things are there is not a field in Canada for educated women. And when I say that you will not misunderstand me. No one can more highly value the importance and influence of educated women upon the life of a country like Canada, but young countries like young persons are essentially

material, and we need the inspiration and the ambition and the cultural refinement of the very best class of women we can possibly get to leaven the whole mass of materialism which results from too much wealth, yet I cannot say that to-day Canada offers any field for the happy settlement and prosperity of the educated woman. I do not say by this that no educated woman should come, but I do say that Canada is turning out to-day as many teachers as she can absorb, as many nurses as she can employ, as many stenographers, women clerks and accountants as she can find employment for. Whether the work is clerical, or technical, or intellectual, she is supplying her own needs. It is only in the rougher work of the household that she finds it so difficult to train girls. I say there are opportunities, but they are opportunities of the individual and not of the masses and no educated woman in this country should be advised to go to Canada unless she has made some arrangements or has been in some communication with respect to her prospects on the other side, and I have been suggesting that the medium through which this might be done is the medium of a general council of the women of Canada who represent, as I take it, the intellectual women of Canada, just as your organisation represents the intellectual women of the Empire, and whatever difficulties there may be I have every confidence in the patriotic and independent spirit of those Canadian women: when they are approached to devise and develop a plan for the proper reception and absorption and placing of educated women in positions suitable to their education, I am sure they will respond to the request, and it is only by an individual effort of this kind based upon a fixed plan that I would advise any educated women to come to Canada.

I have also been asked about women and poultry-raising. I must talk a few minutes about that, though I know I have exceeded my time. I do not know anything more dangerous than the impression that seems so widespread, that an easy avenue of employment with correspondingly good profits opens up for women poultry farmers. Poultry farming needs an extremely difficult technical education, but I have no hesitation in saying that there is no reason why any active intelligent, healthy, British woman should not succeed on a poultry farm in Canada if she subscribes to three conditions which are too often overlooked when she contemplates entering into that business:—

1.—A knowledge of poultry-raising itself, the strains to choose, the method of feeding, the method of housing, and the kind of food to buy.

2.—The market where her products are going after she has produced them. It is foolish for a woman to go into the country districts of any country, especially Canada, and propose to start a poultry farm in a community where everybody keeps poultry. A poultry farm must necessarily be on the edge of a large city or town as that is where the market

is, but the very fact that the farm must be there, the price paid for the land must be correspondingly high.

3.—The housing of chickens. You cannot buy 150 chickens and put them out on a yard and throw them a handful of grain and expect them to prosper; they need scientific treatment and constant care. They are a source of great anxiety and they are not a source of profit unless you are able to connect up with a good market.

But there is no reason why with a knowledge of husbandry and hen-raising, with suitable land, in a suitable location, close to a market, with proper houses, so that they will be sheltered in the winter and given that measure of warmth that will enable them to continue to lay more or less throughout the winter, there should not be a market place both for the table fowl and for the eggs, and there has never happened a time when these articles could produce a ready market in the cities or towns in the Dominions of Canada.

Can a woman start on £300? No, that is not enough money. £500 at least, plus a thorough course on an experimental farm or in a training college in this country, where she specialises in poultry and with that a suitable site adjacent to a city and energy, ability, and enterprise I have no doubt that she would be able to make poultry raising a successful undertaking.

MISS HELEN FRASER: I am extremely interested to have Mr. Walker's blunt assertion of the fact that they are not prepared to consider the educated woman in any mass sense. His suggestion is that we approach the Canadian Women's Organisations who deal with this problem, and I feel that it might be useful to hear how it appears now to some of us. Mr. Walker was not here in the morning when the point was very admirably brought out that the in-coming people create great wealth and the movement of our people to these Dominions makes and creates wealth and high positions. That movement opens up a large number of educated posts. All these good posts are to be retained for the Dominion people in possession—the same people as ourselves, but the people in possession and all state-aided and public movements are merely to be for the hewers of wood and the drawers of water. I do want again to suggest to him that this is what happened in the country that is further developed on the same lines—The United States. They demanded both the manufacturers and the women in the home. They took them from Italy, Poland, Russia, etc., and filled their country with this labour, and I want to suggest that when you come to us and continue to try to draw from our people, not uneducated peasants, but an educated people of the same blood and the same stock as are building up the Dominions, I say it cannot last as a sound constructive policy because you are dealing with a superior people, you are dealing with our own stock, and I do feel that

Mr. Walker's speech in the most emphatic way—the way I like, I am glad he has been so frank—I do want to say that he is simply under-scoring what the British people want. They need people from other countries now. They must ask educated people of their own stock to come. They must find room in their plans for people of every type.

MISS MAVOR (Scottish Council for Women's Trades): The Scottish Council for Women's Trades has had in hand for the last few years a system of training girls for Dominion work and for the home, and I think a very important part is the training at home. Girls are taken from the very poor districts in Glasgow and trained in domestic work and farm work, and in the last two years nearly 600 girls were sent out to farm all over Scotland and some in England and now we are hoping to send them out to the Dominions. They are being taught at home what we hope they will find useful in the Dominions in time. We are saving our own country in the meantime thousands of pounds. We have no Government grant, but our own people come forward and help us. I cannot help feeling that it is a pity that the best of our domestic servants should go. These girls are getting their chance and they are going to help us. 80% have turned out well. They come from the very poorest of our districts in Scotland. They receive training in poultry and fruit-growing and we hope to have work of that kind carried on in our own country and also in the Dominions. These girls are getting a chance they never had before and I do think Canada is a good country for people who are young and willing to work hard. I am quite sure that the girls have got to work jolly hard to get big money, but the country is worth it. They are our own people and they are Britishers, and we want to feel the Dominions are being peopled by our own people. I think it is well that our educated people should stay at home and prepare these girls for the work they have to do on the other side. I think the work of preparation here is most important so that the girls should not go out knowing nothing. Train them and prepare them and they will make good and work hard.

MRS. SANDERSON (London Society for Women's Service): I very much welcome Mr. Walker's definite statement. We have now got down to bed-rock. I would like to know, provided an educated woman arrives in Canada and provided she was well qualified, would she be handicapped from the outset because she was not bred and trained in Canada, in obtaining any of the really good posts that are to be found there. And secondly do other delegates take the same view as Mr. Walker as to the educated woman.

MR. WALKER: Most certainly not, she would not be handicapped, there would be no disadvantage to her at all. They take

a person on what she can do, not what she is. I should also like to say that whatever people we may bring to that country we would very much prefer to bring the people of our own race from this country. We spend millions of dollars advertising Canada for the purpose of getting British people to come to Canada. Not a pound do we spend in other countries in Europe and yet we cannot keep the foreigners out. My contention about the educated woman is that before she goes out she must be sure the post is there, and I feel I am only frank and fair to you and to myself when I say that in regard to such posts as are open the pick of them have been filled by girls on the spot. It is not wise for an educated woman to go out unless she is sure the post is there when she arrives.

MISS COLLISON: I should like to ask three questions:

1.—Is a woman who is trained as a professional teacher in England, able and qualified to take up a post in Canada? Must she not take a long course at once—9 months training in Canada. Is that intended as an economic bar, or is there any real reason why a woman who is sufficiently educated and has taken a diploma, cannot take up certain work in less than 9 months. Are the posts really open on a free basis or is there an economic bar?

2.—What about the Homestead Law? The woman who has a little money—is there not something in your Homestead Law which does not give the same free privilege to the single woman as to a widow with children.

3.—What about any system of Group Settlement or Group Training of English people which would include a certain number of educated women who would fill the posts that ought to be filled by educated women.

MR. WALKER: The answer to the first question is very simple. It is just as difficult for an English teacher to find a school open to her in Canada with her qualifications as it is for a Canadian teacher to find one in England. It is just an order that exists in both countries. Your Canadian school teacher, with every qualification, comes to England, applies for a job and she cannot get that position in teaching unless she goes through a School of Pedagogy in this country. The same applies to Canada. Why? Because both countries are seeking to create a plan of teaching which is universal and common to the whole so that teachers when qualified are not at sixes and sevens as regards qualifications.

2.—The Homestead law provides that the woman who is head of a family may homestead. A young woman on her own cannot homestead, but if she is the head of a family, not necessarily the mother, she can enter for a homestead the same as a man.

3.—Group Settlement Plans.—As regards Group Settlement

plans there is every need for it in Canada, but the greatest need of all is money with which to do it. It is very difficult to get that done. We have been trying to show the British Government that instead of spending millions on the dole it is a pity that some of that money was not taken to found farm colonies in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada, but it seems a very difficult matter, it is almost as difficult to move the English politician as to move the Canadian politician but it is a feasible scheme. We hoped a group could be sent to Western Canada and formed into a Colony and according to plan that the furthest remote farm would not be further than three miles from the centre of the group. This would help towards the development of the work and offer opportunities to the educated woman, but in order to do this you have first to buy the land and that costs a great deal of money, and secondly you have got to get the people to consent to go into the community and thirdly, they have got to have a knowledge of what they are going into the community for and then you have got to get the consent of the Government of this country to give the money to enable them to do it.

MISS GILMAN JONES (Victorian Women Citizens' Movement): I gather that in the Canadian non-State Schools a great many of the teachers are English. In fact the Headmistress of one school said to me that two or three of the teachers were English women and there is no difficulty at all about their obtaining posts. In the case of State Schools each province has its own laws and it is rather difficult for a teacher to move in the Government service. With regard to teachers coming from Canada to England I do not think they are treated very differently from Australians coming to England and I know perfectly well that they can come and obtain posts in England. They cannot afford to take a whole-time holiday but they find no difficulty in obtaining a post for a term and they can do that because in England there is no compulsory registration of teachers.

MR. WALKER: Of course Education in Canada is a State matter and often in a large city there is just one private school. In Rupertsland there is a Ladies' College. Now that is a private school where people pay fees, but is only one out of a hundred schools and is the only school in that city where a teacher could be employed who had not graduated in the School of Pedagogy in that particular province. It is the same in Toronto, but I am speaking of education generally, and education is a State contract governed by every province and it is in these State Schools where the teacher would not be able to qualify unless she had spent 9 months in the school of pedagogy.

MISS WILLIAMS (National Union of Teachers): In the schools under the L.C.C. which are State Schools, I have had teachers from Canada and Australia under the Exchange System. They

may come over for a year or two and their posts are kept open for them if they want a further year's experience. The Exchange System is always adopted in these State Schools. One part of Mr. Walker's speech gave me some trouble. When I heard that women were not needed and that there was only opportunity for domestic servants I wondered whether Canada was laying up for itself the kind of thing we have in England just now. Looking down on domestic service has led to the young women of to-day thinking it is derogatory. Domestic work must be performed by an educated woman who understands the processes and reasons for the duties she is called upon to perform. She will have a joy in her work. We have some of the brightest children in our schools getting scholarships for domestic service. They will have sufficient education not to be looked down upon by the townships where they are living. I hope Canada will not make the same mistake that England has made in the past, for Domestic Service calls for the best brains.

CHAIRMAN: One of the most encouraging facts I think is that although it is felt that there is not sufficient room for educated women in the Colonies, still there are a great many women who, if they are trained and educated, can be sent out to the Colonies and they will not only be helping themselves in doing this, but they will be filling that very need which has been emphasised in Mr. Bruce Walker's speech, for educated help. It seems to me a good thing to think that there are a large number of girls who otherwise would not have the opportunity which the Dominions can now supply.

DAME MARY COOK: What Mr. Bruce Walker said about Canada applies equally to Australia. We welcome hundreds of thousands of women. We welcome the educated woman who can do and will do anything that her education has equipped her for, but we do want domestic trained girls as far as we can have them, and we shall welcome, as we always have done the Scotch girls in hundreds.

At this point Mr. Bruce Walker left.

MRS. GREENWOOD (Representative of the Girls' Friendly Society): I would like to mention the work of a School of Housecraft and I think if the Colonies are so very keen to have skilled labour they cannot do better than support this cult.

CHAIRMAN: When we are dealing with these questions we are not dealing with exceptional cases and we shall get along much better with our programme if we deal with things on general lines. After all individual cases are not the ones to come under our schemes.

There is one question which has already been touched upon and I think Miss Gilman-Jones has some information which may

be valuable to this Congress and I shall ask her to speak to you. Miss Jones is Head of the C.E. Girls' Grammar School at Melbourne. She has had experience on the Registration Board, she is President of the Headmistresses' Association and is a very keen feminist, so that she is very well qualified to deal with this topic along feminist lines.

MISS GILMAN-JONES (Victorian Women Citizens' Movement): I think other speakers have made it very clear, but I do not think it will do any harm to bring up this point again. Whether educated or uneducated, whatever her qualifications may be, it depends very largely on one's personality whether one is prepared to make the best of things. There are some conditions better than in England and there are some we do not like so well, but whether we get on or not depends on ourselves. In Australia we have 6 different States and the conditions are not exactly the same in all the States. Perhaps I had better speak about the conditions in Victoria, as that is the State I know best, and indicate where the differences are. In Australia there is a very marked distinction between the State Schools and the non-State Schools. In England you have a large number of schools that are grant-earning and are partly controlled from Whitehall or by Local Bodies. In Australia that is not so. The school is either a State School or a High School having no financial assistance from the Government. In non-State schools all teachers have to be registered: training and academic qualifications are needed. The salaries are lower for women than men. Two large girls' schools have men at the head.

Of the six Inspectors of Secondary Schools, two are women. I don't know of any Women Inspectors of Elementary Schools. There are two women and 17 men as the Council of Public Education. A distinction is made not only in salaries between men and women, but the men get more higher posts. Victoria can supply almost all the teachers it requires, and few headmistresses will appoint without an interview. A teacher of the right personality with good qualifications who can afford to wait is sure to get a post in the long run—especially teachers in French, Physics or Mathematics.

It is practically impossible to guarantee work for a music teacher.

Governesses in families are needed. The right type can command a good salary (£100—200 resident) generally £130—150). It is generally on a station, so one who enjoys country life is best. Music and French are generally required.

MRS. GLANVILLE (Women's League of New South Wales): To people who have not been in Australia the idea of States is very vague. I want to reply to the last speaker. Our schools in N.S.W. are second to none. The boys and girls are treated separately in different schools and the High Schools are a treat

for anybody to see and we turn out from these High Schools some of our best professional people. I am loyal to you and loyal to my own State when I do not press for a flow of people who wish to take up the teaching profession. I would like to stress the fact that conditions prevailing in Victoria are altogether different to the conditions prevailing in N.S.W. and some of you may not know that there is a friendly rivalry between these two States. (Laughter.)

THE LADY FOSTER, O.B.E., was then introduced by the Chairman.

I think I came in at a very opportune moment. As wife of the late Governor General of Australia I had an opportunity of seeing every State and of appreciating both Victoria and New South Wales. I had a great many friends in both states and I do not attempt to differentiate between their exact merits, but I would support the last speakers. I was very much struck with the exceedingly high standard of education that prevailed in Australia, not only in the secondary schools, but in the National Schools. Every class has remarkable opportunities of getting a first-class education. This is only by the way, because I had the opportunity of hearing the last two speakers.

What I really came for was to give you a message which I was asked to give to this Conference from the Perth Women. The National Council of Women of Western Australia, having heard that this Conference was going to take place in June, particularly wanted me to give you this message. They request your help in the "Big Sister Movement"—a movement on the lines of the Big Brotherhood. That is an idea which has emanated from Western Australia. I think in New South Wales and Victoria the Big Brother Movement has started and proved a very wonderful success. For those who do not know I will explain what it is. Every boy going out from England on arrival finds a Big Brother waiting to befriend him. These Big Brothers are drawn from every class of people and it is a wonderful testimony to Australia to see that in the list of Big Brothers waiting for their Little Brothers they have already got a waiting list (which I think is a wonderful testimony) of men in business and good positions all over the place and they are pledged to receive their Little Brothers, befriend them, see that they get a good situation and a fair chance. They do not undertake the financial support of the boy, but they do undertake that they have a good chance and in any trouble to befriend him and see him through, as if he were a relation, and it has occurred to some of our women in Australia that something on the same lines for the girls would be very desirable. We know how much more, in many senses, a girl requires this friendship and protection than a boy does, and we know one of the great difficulties for parents allowing their young girls to come out is that they may be friendless. I think the bare idea commends itself at once to our minds.

Now I do not think this Conference is the place where a thing like that can be worked out in all its details, but if you express your approval of the idea it would be eventually worked out. This Conference cannot do more than express a general approval of the idea, and I should be glad to convey to those who sent this message that I am happy to say it met with the approval of the Conference. I am glad to say it also met with the approval of the Special Committee of the National Council of Women. I think it would be a good thing to get in touch with the people in London who are running the Big Brotherhood Movement.

I think that all I am kindly allowed by your Chairman this afternoon to do is just to put the idea before you, and if you express an approval of the idea it would be an encouragement to form a movement of this kind.

The Secretary considered that a Resolution on the principle expressed by Lady Foster should be formed something on the following lines:—"That this Conference expresses its approval of the principle of Care Societies for Girls on similar lines to those of the Big Brother Movement." She considered it was heartily in accord with their principles that the Conference should express its approval of the principle and agree to such a Resolution.

It was thereupon moved by Miss Collisson and seconded by Mrs. Bellas, of South Africa, who deplored the fact that in South Africa there was no one to meet young girls who had a right to look after them and she considered it was most essential in sending girls out to a country where they might be led astray and end as derelicts, that they should have an Elder Sister to look after and guide them.

MRS. GLANVILLE, of New South Wales, stated that in Australia girls on every boat were met by members of the Y.W.C.A. and she knew of three States, New South Wales, S. Australia and Victoria, where there was not a single boat on which girls were not met and cared for. She heartily endorsed the resolution.

The Chairman thought it was not possible for them to go further than to endorse this resolution. They had a body of women dealing with matters of Emigration policy who took an interest in the new arrivals and she thought those were the organisations that should be got in touch with in order to carry this scheme.

The Resolution was carried unanimously. She then introduced Mrs. Bellas, (Women's Enfranchisement Association of South Africa) to speak on Opportunity in South Africa.

MRS. BELLAS pointed out that there was no opening whatsoever for domestic servants in South Africa. They had something like five different kinds of native labour, so that there

was no difficulty in having the ordinary household work done, in fact any woman, however poor, could always afford to pay a "boy" whom she could train for work. A woman never had to do any laborious work. In the large towns perhaps it was rather different. In Cape Town they have a coloured population and unfortunately a mixed race, and the girls there did house work; they lived at home, and were very much cheaper so that there was no need to introduce servants for that sort of work in the large towns.

As regards higher class people, they had very good colleges and universities there and girls matriculated before they left school. There were a great many lady doctors, some of whom went overseas and took degrees and came back again. There were seven lady doctors in Cape Town alone. Other women had taken up Law. There were many teachers and a plethora of nurses—many of them unemployed. There was no difficulty in finding teachers, so that there was no use sending out women like that though some private schools preferred to send to England for highly qualified teachers to take a high position.

She regretted the state of affairs because she knew it would be a good thing for England and for some of its girls to go out to South Africa, but with the competition of the Colonials she did not think there were any openings. She said as regards the better class servants in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban there were a certain number of first-class servants employed. These did not go out under any organisation, but rich people brought them out with them to work for them. So she did not think or see that there was any opening for any Organisation to bring people out to South Africa.

MRS. GIPSON (Women's Enfranchisement Association of South Africa) then spoke: It is impossible to separate the problems of migration for women from the whole problem of migration and the more so as I firmly believe it is ignorance of the conditions in South Africa on the part primarily of women that prevents migration of families as well as that of educated women. We enthusiastically desire both, for although unlike the other Dominions we do not require domestic workers, yet we do very emphatically want the educated woman, married if possible, single if not. And in order to put forward the view adequately I would like to explain very shortly the condition existing in South Africa, and following closely and intimately upon that the reasons why women of the Commonwealth should realise the truth of the statement that South Africa at the present moment desires and needs an influx of Western Europeans more than any other Dominion.

One great idea at the moment is that we realise the fundamental truth of Miss Fraser's contention that mass movement of people creates the wealth and occupations necessary to support those people. It is the soundest constructive policy and is

exactly what we want and is evidently the solution for South Africa. We want the movement of the mass of educated people, we can fill the bill, our wide spaces are crying out for the educated, not only women, but men too.

When the Dutch settlers in the latter half of the 17th century decided upon making their home in South Africa the only people to be found anywhere were a few scattered Bushmen. Besides there were the Hottentot tribes. Bushmen disappeared, the Hottentots became the servants, and their descendants to-day are what is termed comprehensively "The Coloured People," doing much of the unskilled and some of the skilled work of the country. Their numbers are roughly now about half a million.

Near the close of the 18th century the settlers came into contact with a very different race, the great Bantu tribes, the Kaffirs, who had pressed the great Hottentot tribes into the south western corner of South Africa. They raided the white settlers quietly settled in their farms west of the Great Fish River many miles distant from their own undisputed lands.

The history of the 19th century tells the story of heroic struggles on the part of the white man to retain what he had won.

In the 19th century it was the settlers who landed upon the barren beach of Algoa Bay and built the foundation of many townships in the Eastern Province. Emulating the Dutch founders of the Transvaal and the O.F.S. they trekked beyond the Limpopo and claimed the whole of Zambezia. In the 20th century the positions are reversed, it is South Africa that wants the settler. She needs him and her, not primarily because she sympathises with an overcrowded industrially tormented England (it would be a mistake to credit her with too broad a spirit of generosity) but because the European stock can only hope to hold its own by seeking accessions from abroad. The 1820 settlers were fewer than 4,000. South Africa wants more of them all. Protected by the Government from tribal wars, from famine and epidemics and living in the most beautiful climate in the world the native races of South Africa are increasing out of all proportion to the Europeans.

Area. The area of the Union of South Africa is 427,347 sq. miles, or over five times that of Great Britain. Its population is 7,294,000. Europeans 1,611,000, Natives 4,954,000, Asiatic 171,000, Mixed coloured 558,000, nearly four to one of coloured people. From 1921 to 1924 whites increased by 92,000, coloured races by 274,000. Is civilisation to survive in South Africa?

The Bantu people is not considered by us as a subject race but as children of a larger growth whom we have the privilege of helping and with the present disproportion of people that cannot be done effectively.

Race purity is as sacred as his religion to the white man in South Africa, not only that, but the Bantu, the Kaffir himself,

would have his race pure. He has nothing but contempt for one of his race who breaks the rule of purity. This is an aspect to be considered and we and they respect and like each other for these reasons. The Sahib, the good white man in South Africa realises his duty and his trust to the great Bantu race.

MIGRATION OF EDUCATED PEOPLE.

With five and a half millions of people ready and willing to do all the unskilled labour of the country it is readily seen that the "working classes" or unskilled labourers are not needed in a country. But what she cries out for is the man and the woman with some capital—the man and the woman of the educated type, people of grit and character, prepared to work and determined to make good.

The speaker said that the climate was excellent and that people with means from £600—£1000 could enjoy a delightful life. Service could be had at about £1 a month: there were good educational facilities. Income tax was 1s. in the £.

Latterly South Africa has trained many of her own daughters as teachers and nurses, so that there is not the demand for these as formerly.

ON THE LAND.

But a great opportunity for women in South Africa lies on the land itself, and already little groups of women farmers, in ones, twos and threes, are quietly making good all over the land. In the Transvaal, in Natal, in O.F.S., and in the old Cape Colony, we have ourselves witnessed first their struggles, and then their successes. As dairy managers, fruit experts, poultry farmers and bee keepers they not only are capable of running their own farms, but where lack of capital prevents this, they may be employed by farmers to manage any of the above branches of farming.

TRAINING FARMS FOR WOMEN.

For married women whose husbands desire to be farmer settlers there is an unrivalled field, and many women whose husbands have gone to South Africa, latterly have done much in the years between the planting and gathering of oranges—for example, they have made an income by their poultry and bee keeping, their flowers and their dairy. In this connection I may refer to a remarkably successful Training Farm for Women only, established and run by Miss N. Miller at Boschetto, near Harri-smith, O.F.S., Miss Miller has managed this farm for over 12 years. Prizes at Shows (13 first, etc., at 1925 Show). Here are trained Settlers' wives and girls who take up farming, some of them later managing farms or certain departments on large farms.

AGRICULTURE.

The students are examined by the lecturers from the Govern-

ment College of Agriculture at Glen, Natal, and kept up to the standard fixed by the establishment. The course lasts for one year and includes management of native servants, etc.

MISS L. JOHNSTONE SCOTT was a pioneer woman farmer and market gardener. She turned a piece of bare veld, seven miles from Johannesburg, into a glorious garden and made a thorough business success of her venture.

The Flower Farming of Natal is very largely in the hands of women. Two of them, Misses de Mole and Kisch, specialise in seeds and bulbs. Miss de Mole, an Australian, was trained by Mrs. Caley Smith, one of the foremost horticulturists of Australia. Miss Kisch is a South African. Their farm "Waverdale," 50 acres in extent, is situated near the railway. These ladies have met with a large measure of success.

MISS A. M. WILSON, Winter's Kloof, Natal, began with two acres of ground with a small house attached, and in a few years this has grown to a flourishing and well kept little farm of 22 acres with all the farm buildings necessary, the latter being put up by Miss Wilson with the help of her native boys. She has four acres planted.

The Secretary then read a short but very useful paper from Miss A. Jenner, Hon. Secretary of Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa. Miss Jenner's paper was substantially covered by the statements made by the speakers on South Africa, but the following interesting points were mentioned in addition.

1. The Rhodes Hostel exists to help women landing at Cape Town.
2. Teachers from England are much hampered by the present requirement for a knowledge of the Afrikaans speech.
3. Farming. The greatest caution must be exercised before making any investment.
4. There is no Government grant to men or women. £100 household effects may be brought in free of duty.
5. Farm Training should include a knowledge of Carpentry, Packing, Canning fruit, Flower Packing.
6. Miss Jenner thinks it undesirable to encourage women in the idea of living alone on farms. There are some farm settlements, and it might be possible to form communities.
7. It would be helpful if a woman Adviser could be appointed by the South African Government, to work in conjunction with the S.O.S.B.W.

The Chairman then introduced Mrs. Eccles Snowden, who spoke briefly on Tasmania. Mrs. Snowden thought it most opportune that the League should discuss migration. It was easy to think that Governments were to blame if things went wrong; but the number of people who could be received annually

depended on the powers of absorption of each economic system. Australia wanted good average citizens, but schemes suitable to one State were unsuitable to another.

The Tasmanian Government concentrated on the nominated system: so that the settler found himself among friends. Boy and girl migration was also favoured. The Big Brother Movement was excellent. Afforestation was likely in the future to be a source of employment. There was always work for women in domestic service. The work of migration could not be entirely departmental: voluntary societies were greatly needed to help.

The Chairman then introduced Mrs. Glanville (Women's League of New South Wales, and also New Settlers' League of New South Wales).

MRS. GLANVILLE said: Madame President, Ladies. If I were to say that New South Wales did not want women migrants I would be telling an untruth. We do want as many women as men, but I am not going to tell you any fairy story about the conditions of women in our State. I want to bear in mind that we are a young country, and a young country, like everything else young, has to crawl before it can walk. The real conditions are only now becoming known in Great Britain. The reason we are pleading for domestics is that we have to start somewhere, and because we have the need for domestics we just started right there. As I said before we are in our high-schools turning out boys and girls for all the professions. In fact very often the market is over-stocked. They will tell you there is need for educated women when at the present time there is not! I hope and trust that before very long there will be plenty of need for educated women. We want to develop our country first. We do not want to bring men and women out to our country and leave them stranded, and for that reason I am telling you the truth.

We hope that when the British Agreement, which is so generous, has been signed by every State in our Commonwealth, that the money available to us then will develop our country to such an extent that men and women will flow into that big country of Australia which needs them so.

With regard to the New Settlers' League, no woman coming into the State of New South Wales can ever be lonely unless she wishes it, because there is not a boat which comes into our harbour but it is met by men and women members of our New Settlers' League. Even on Christmas Day when a ship arrived with emigrants, men and women thought it worth while to go down and meet their comrades from overseas. That happened last Christmas Day. The New Settlers' League has an interesting body called the Welfare Committee and it is that Committee which watches over every in-coming migrant. They are not given the hand of friendship and sent away. Those people are

followed up even to this extent, that every hospital is visited wherever there are migrant patients. Not one patient coming from this country is allowed to lie alone in a hospital, and the same thing is carried into these people's homes wherever they may be. Girls coming out under the Domestic Scheme are treated in exactly the same way. There is a very fine Girls' Club and every incoming migrant girl is asked to be a member of this Club which is free. Every month these girls meet in the rooms of the New Settlers' Club, or perhaps in the open, wherever it is convenient. They meet and talk over their various jobs and how the place is suiting them, and the rest of it. The New Settlers' League is a voluntary body subsidised by the State and the Commonwealth Governments. When I tell you that 60 Societies, including Churches, are affiliated to that Body you will understand that emigration is playing a big part in New South Wales, and we are trying, at any rate, to make the emigrant feel less lonely because we realise that there are many, many miles between the old country and the new, and it is to take away that loneliness that we have banded ourselves together into what is known as the New Settlers' League. On this League every church, and I say *every* Church is represented and every denomination, and I know of no other Organisation of which I can say *every* Church is represented and not only represented but working as well as they possibly can. I think you will agree with me that the New Settlers' League is something that one can well be proud of.

I am here as a Delegate of the Women's League of New South Wales and I feel very proud of being on the Council of the New Settlers' League, and I feel it is only right to tell you what work it is doing. Of course there are other bodies who wait and welcome in the new migrant. In fact it is hardly possible for the migrant to New South Wales to feel lonely. If he or she does feel lonely—they must be lonely beings; they would feel lonely anywhere.

As for the other Organisations. Now I am on the Council of the Barnado Homes, and our Barnado girls are making good. Many of them have been adopted by the people with whom they have been placed. That is the form of migration that New South Wales is very keen about. We have what is known as the Dreadnought Scheme which brings boys out and trains them for the land. A sum of money was raised for the building of a Dreadnought, but after the war the need for dreadnoughts was over and the money was put to the use I have just mentioned.

I think because we live so far apart one gets wrong ideas quickly. We do not read about these things and I feel it would not be loyal to my own country if I did not tell you all these things that are happening. I would like to be able to say that we have plenty of room for the women in secondary occupations, but just coming out on the ship I have come across an example of a young girl coming back to England very much discouraged with

Australia. I asked her why she went out when she had nothing to go for. She said "I went out as a domestic. I never intended to be a domestic, but I went out under the domestic scheme and I sought a job in another avenue and could not get it." I said: "You are not going to blame Australia because Australia did not invite you. If you wished to work in another avenue and were not successful then you must not blame that country for it."

The Big Sister Movement has been on foot in New South Wales for some time. We have been impressed by the Big Brotherhood Movement. I had the pleasure of being present at a gathering of Little Brothers who had just come from these shores. It was a fine sight to see the little brothers waiting in the great hall. I shall never forget it. The Big Brother took the Little Brother off to where he sat but was not going to part with, and that is the spirit underlying the Big Brother Movement. Any mother can well send her boy to Australia under the Big Brother Movement, knowing that he is going to be well looked after; that men will take the place of a parent, and no boy will ever feel lonely. I think it one of the best schemes that I can ever suggest to you, and I hope before long we shall be able to have a Big Sister Movement in Australia.

THE CHAIRMAN (Miss Bromham) thought that Mrs. Glanville's speech should close the Conference for the afternoon and added that she thought in regard to Tasmania it had not been definitely stated that there were openings for women in the Textile trade. It seemed to her that in a country like England where there is such a huge manufacturing population it would be a splendid thing if there were an excess of this population here and an absence of them in Tasmania so that they could be placed there.

She also referred to a little discussion which had taken place during the afternoon on teachers generally, from the point of view of two different States. The first speaker had referred to teachers in high schools and private schools where fees were paid but did not say much that covered the general scheme of education in Australia, because it should be realised that the bulk of the children were being educated at the State Schools and not in private schools. There were two different schemes, and what applied to the teacher under one scheme did not apply to the teacher under the other.

She further said that in the State from which she came, which was the largest state in the Commonwealth, they had the biggest Migration Policy of any State. That in that State women who live in the country—married, or the daughters of farmers—who are interested in agriculture can attend the University and get the whole scientific teaching in the subject in which they are interested so that there is no difficulty in filling places from the numbers that came back each time.

The Conference then adjourned until the following morning.

June 23rd, 1926 10-15 a.m.

OPPORTUNITY IN NEW ZEALAND.

MR. SANDFORD, *Director of Immigration.*

MRS. CORBETT ASHBY: "We are very fortunate this morning in having Mr. Sandford, the Director of Immigration, to speak to us on the opportunities in New Zealand. I must apologise for many of our delegates who find it difficult to be here by 10-30 a.m., even in Summer, but many of those who are present represent a great many others, and I hope you will find it worth while to speak to them on the opportunities in New Zealand.

MR. SANDFORD: "I must thank the League for giving me the opportunity of speaking to you about our little country. New Zealand is a small edition of the United Kingdom, the only difference is that there is more sun there. If you take the latest figures published showing the death rate per 1,000 you will find New Zealand is the lowest, 8-29 per thousand, and in the United Kingdom it was 12.2. In New Zealand you have only 30 to the sq. mile, whereas in the United Kingdom you have 490 to the sq. mile.

There is another difference in the population and that is that here there are far more women than men and in New Zealand more men than women. There are about 30,000 more men than women. Included in that number of people is the Maori population—a very intelligent race, numbering 54,000, but you might be there for a long time before you really see them.

The four chief cities are Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Auckland. Although we have this very small population comparatively to our area we have not vast open and unoccupied spaces. The whole country is more or less settled. We cannot get very great distances away from the railway in any part of the country. They run from the extreme North to the South so that all places are fairly easy of access.

About 99% of the population are British. Although we have a British population people going out must recognise the fact that they are going out quite as strangers. The fact of the people being of the same nationality does not mean that you are not going to feel strange and lonely for a time. The people generally, however, are inclined to be friendly and are much more democratic than you are here.

Any person thinking of going out to settle in New Zealand, should have some contact in New Zealand before going out there. This contact is best obtained through friends and relations out there. But in these matters there are women's associations in New Zealand, the best-known of which is the Y.W.C.A.; the Victoria League now operates in New Zealand in conjunction with the Society for Oversea Settlement of British Women here. Through that Society as a rule you can get introductions that would be useful.

Of course as in other countries the opportunity for women is primarily domestic. I know that does not impress this gathering, but there is no getting away from the fact that that is the best opportunity. We are continually sending trained domestics out to New Zealand. It is not a very popular scheme with the ladies of this country. We are rather apt to steal their girls, but you have plenty of them here and many more to come along and we want them in New Zealand. Those girls who are thoroughly trained are a very desirable asset in a young country such as ours.

Now although the work is primarily domestic that does not necessarily mean that it is only the trained domestic from here that is suitable or is required in the country. Every woman who is prepared to undertake work such as companion-helps, etc., I think will find very little difficulty in finding employment, but this employment is only to be had in the country.

For the woman with a small income—I have in mind £150 to £200 a year, that income would go further in New Zealand than here. The lack of convention of course again means a saving of cost. In the cities here—in London particularly—I think it is an extremely expensive place to live, because on a limited income it is quite impossible to take part in amusements, but in New Zealand you can, on a much smaller income.

In speaking of any class of people you have got to recognise that the opportunities in any part of the world are practically the same. If you are looking for employment in any particular line here, there will be employment in the same line there. It may be more plentiful in some lines out there than here, and vice versa, but whatever class of employment is suitable to you if you get it here you can get it out there, and then you have the distinct advantage that this is a country which is over-populated and New Zealand is under populated.

Stenographers would have no difficulty whatever in obtaining suitable employment out there, but secretarial work such as is done here is very little in demand. We are not the class of people who have a personal secretary. There are a few but the number is very limited. Then so far as clerical work is concerned we do not encourage women to come out. We have more men than women; consequently to make room for the men in what they call their legitimate callings women are pretty well excluded.

Now so far as dressmakers and milliners are concerned, well qualified women with small capital have an opportunity of starting in business. They must be reasonably well qualified, but whereas with a small capital a woman has very little chance of starting a business on her own here, she would have it in New Zealand.

As to employment in stores or shops there are opportunities but I think opportunities are as good here as there.

There is another thing, if a woman proposes to come out

with the idea of getting employment almost immediately on arrival it is essential that she must have somebody there to help her to secure employment. If a vacancy occurs and there is a suitable woman in New Zealand to fill that vacancy there is always a certain amount of pull and the New Zealander is more likely to get it than the new-comer unless the new-comer has somebody to help her.

Trained Nurses. The opportunities there are pretty much in the same way as in the case of milliners, etc., in that the trained nurse would have a good opportunity of starting in business on her own account and if thoroughly qualified would find no difficulty.

School Teachers. As you know practically the whole of the education is State education. The state provides free education for everybody up to Matriculation. The whole of the teachers are State employees recruiting from Training Colleges provided by the State. The State trains girls and finally passes them in as teachers. Secondly the opportunities for the women educated here to get a post in one of these State Schools is not good. There are, however, a number of private schools for girls, and in these vacancies do from time to time arise. I know the S.O.S.B.W. have from time to time opportunities of taking women through them. These positions I am sure will appeal to the educated woman.

Farm Girls: In this country girls apparently fairly well trained have an opportunity of obtaining employment on farms but New Zealand does not appreciate them. Our farmers want men. Why I do not know. Probably because the man is rougher, and able to rough things more and girls are not wanted at all. Opportunity for girls in outside work is only in connection with the caring for bees and poultry. Of course in these particular industries Colonial experience is necessary. Any woman trained in bees here would I think manage on arrival in New Zealand to get some experience on a bee farm.

I think that so far as I can see I have covered pretty well classes of work and given you some idea of the country, but if I have omitted any points I shall be very pleased to supply the information.

Questions were asked as to the conditions for domestic servants.

Mr. Sandford stated that domestics who got the assisted passage must intend to remain permanently, and must not marry under one year. Agricultural labourers were under the same conditions as to permanency, but could marry as soon as they liked. A married woman without her husband, or a husband without a wife were not accepted. The men used to be taken ahead, but it had been found most unsatisfactory. Families were taken together.

A short paper from DR. HELEN BAKEWELL, of the New Zealand Health Service, was read on "Opportunity in the Medical Profession." Dr. Bakewell covered the following points:

1.—In all the professions in N.Z. the supply of local persons available has during the last four or five years exceeded the demand. This is true of both sexes. War stimulus urged numbers into the medical profession. "From 1922 onwards they have found opportunities to practice dishearteningly few." It seems probable that this will re-balance itself.

2.—*Present Opportunities* vary with the individual. For the young graduate coming to New Zealand and seeking a post as house surgeon, there is nothing. The positions are few in number and there are still many hospitals which will not admit women to the staffs. Women come to England to take post graduate courses as a rather poor substitute for hospital experience.

For the young doctor who has obtained the necessary experience and wishes to start in private practice there are some opportunities, but not many. Those that do offer, are in the country districts, what we call the back block area, and I strongly recommend anyone who contemplates such a practice to be sure that she fully realises the conditions before she takes the plunge.

The life is lonely, roads are bad, very bad in winter. Communication is difficult and distances are great. A 15—20 mile journey at night over a bad road is an ordinary occurrence. In many cases too they are unopposed practices, which is not always desirable from a woman's point of view.

The most favourable opportunities are those for women who are experienced and who are successfully climbing the professional tree. These, I do think, would find openings in the towns, but unfortunately these are also the ones who naturally do not desire to come to the colonies. Nor is it as easy for them to adapt themselves to the different kind of life.

Two years ago a woman doctor from the United Kingdom commenced a practice in a New Zealand town. She was an excellent surgeon and was rapidly acquiring a large practice. The domestic problem however, was more than she could bear. She had three housekeepers in a month. She felt that the success in practice could not compensate for the domestic misery—and she returned to England.

I should mention the Government Departments as a field for women's work in medicine. The larger proportion of officers of the School Medical Division are women. The Director of this work for the whole of the Dominion is a Woman—and in an application for this particular work one's sex is rather an advantage than otherwise. A woman is also the Organiser of the Ante-natal work in the Dominion.

It appears to me that there is rather more scope for dental practitioners. There are not many qualified women dentists. A number of girls are being trained under the Government Dental Division as Dental Nurses for the School Clinics. The scope of

their work is limited for they are not intended to be qualified dentists—but as far as their work extends, they perform it admirably.

I would also like to state that the population of the *whole* Dominion is only about 1-10th of that of London itself—so that opportunities, under the best circumstances, are bound to be proportionately fewer. This is also a matter that time, and successful emigration, will better.

DR. BAKEWELL further mentioned the Flock House Scheme.

In response to a request MISS GLADYS POTT gave a short explanation of the Flock House Scheme of which there was one for boys and one for girls in New Zealand. The Government had a large sum of money remaining over from the Wool Pool which was in the hands of the Government during the War and that belonged to the farmers in New Zealand who had contributed to the Pool. They decided that a portion should be used for bringing out boys and training them for 6 months, as they wished to mark the appreciation of New Zealand for the various forms of Naval and Mercantile Marine Service which had kept New Zealand free during the war from the perils of war. And so they decided that this money should be used for the sons of naval men of some kind. The scheme has been in existence for two years and was named Flock House Scheme, as Flock House was the name of the farm to which the boys were sent for training. At the end of last year they decided to use a portion of the money for girls in the same way. The first party of girls sailed last March, about 17 in number, and were drawn from the sisters of the boys who had already gone out and they also had to be the daughters of someone connected with the Navy or Mercantile Marine. Only yesterday (the 22nd June) the second party sailed, and in future they will take 6 girls every three months so as to keep Flock House full. But you will notice that it is confined to daughters and sons of people connected with the sea and as they have to be below the age of 18 years each month that passes makes it more difficult to find candidates for the posts. The scheme provides an outfit costing £50, all incidental expenses, free passage, six months free training, and places each candidate out in approved farm homes and keeps in touch with them until the girl is 21 or the boy is 20.

Miss Pott declared that it was a most generous scheme, and she was glad to have this opportunity of making it known and only wished that every other Dominion could do the same because the girl is taught part of the outdoor work as well as the indoor and she has an opportunity of doing the outdoor work.

The Chairman then introduced Mr. J. A. T. Walters of the Land Settlement Department of Southern Rhodesia.

Mr. WALTERS said: Pioneering is long over in S. Rhodesia

the census reports show that male and then female population is rapidly approaching equality of numbers. The black man supplies the whole of the manual labour required. But there is some scope for white domestic servants: they are in demand, but the number of people who can afford to bring them out is limited and they are apt to get married quickly. There is a steady demand for women typists, clerks, etc., but it is largely supplied locally. The second generation of Rhodesians is in evidence too for the Civil Service. The teaching profession is one of the most fruitful fields of opportunity in Southern Rhodesia: the difficulty is to get the teachers who are sufficiently highly qualified. Drawing, dancing and games are assets. Nursing is also full of opportunity: but the nurses also marry.

The Land. There are several lady farmers in Rhodesia, and some are doing very well indeed; but there is not much opening for independent women, as the African native resents being ordered about by what he considers to be the weaker sex. It is quite possible and usual for lady farmers to have men managers. For the same reasons dairying is not taken up outside the farmers' families.

I am not encouraging, but I can say this with confidence: if any woman has a position to go to, or a friend who will put her up as a guest for a time, she will not be sorry or a loser.

MISS MALCOLM—Nova Scotia (A new Settler): I wish to congratulate the League on the work they are doing.

We have all sorts of inhabitants—descendants of the old French Settlers, Scotch, and English and a tremendous lot of loyalists who came up after the American Independence was declared. There is really old civilisation there. It is not like Africa and some of the other Colonies where you are thousands of miles away from everybody. There are lots of beautiful farms and farm land waiting to be bought up. People have gone off to the United States with the idea of making money and have left these beautiful farms and think they will become better off in the towns and gather wealth. This is a narrow-minded, short-sighted policy because most of the inhabitants have decided that the country is better and the thing is to go out and get these farms while they are still available. If any enterprising women go out they can take a course at Truro and they can probably adapt themselves and do better than in a colony not so civilised or so far developed.

Another point is that we are the nearest colony to England and we are developing markets with the West Indies. A Trade Treaty was discussed in Ottawa last year, and I believe we are going to have a new opening for our goods to be sold all through Bermudas and the West Indies, but we are very much behindhand in the race for putting Nova Scotia before the public and getting the right people.

At the present moment we are still struggling against the

preference difficulties. We have beautiful apples and get a wretched price for them. I believe we get $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a lb. and in London you pay 4d. or 6d. and the middleman gets all the money, but these things are being put right.

We have the great advantage of being near England and we have Bermuda not three days journey away. If you have a good year you can lock up your farm, you can go to Bermuda and the West Indies. I am sorry to say our Bermuda representative is ill in London and so not able to come and talk to-day, but I spent the last two winters there myself. I do not see the point in going to one end of the world without seeing what the possibilities are. I managed to get a very good appointment in Bermuda. It is supposed to be a most expensive place to live, but if you know how to do it, it is not. If you arrive there and look round there is not much doubt that any educated English woman can get some work, pay her expenses and get a jolly good time. There are all sorts of sports, tennis, golf, sailing, etc., the whole Winter. That is a benefit you cannot get in England. Bermuda may seem rather far away, but when you have travelled as far as Nova Scotia you do not mind going a little further.

We want to start a kind of Empire Settlement House to allow women to come and see how they like the place before they buy. We have such a tremendous lot of enterprising women at home just now, if they came out and had a look round they would probably decide it is a place to start. There are lots of small towns. I travelled over with an English girl, a teacher of music and there are all sorts of things that one can do.

Two English women from Devon are running a tea-shop and there are any amount of openings of that sort. Unfortunately there are no nominated schemes at present unless domestic ones. There are so many advantages which people do not know anything about at all that I think the more we talk about Nova Scotia the better.

Why we were persuaded to go to Nova Scotia was that we read a very clever article written by a person on the "New Poor" after the war and he said the country for the "New Poor" was Nova Scotia, you get so much for your money, a tremendous amount of freedom and a chance of living. In our own case we have a very nice little farmstead of our own and for which we pay just about as much as you would pay for a small furnished flat in Kensington, and depending on your own enterprise you can make any amount more out of your life. For instance you could open a small jam factory. This is one of my own reserve schemes so I am giving it away. I have so many farm schemes that I cannot touch jam at the moment but there is a tremendous prospect in it and a Tiptree factory would do splendidly.

It seems a pity to overlook a beautiful province like this just because it happens to be near and is not talked about enough.

The Chairman announced that this was the close of the time allotted to the Section on Opportunity, but there were two

Western Australian speakers to come, and she thought it advisable to wait until they had spoken, when the Opportunity Resolution could be taken with the other Resolutions. *Agreed* that this be done.

The section of "*Moral Responsibility*" then opened.

MISS COLLISSON read the following letter from MISS MAUDE ROYDEN:

Dear Miss Collisson,—I am most deeply disappointed to have to ask you to cancel my engagement to speak to the British Commonwealth League Conference. I believe that the subject you have met to discuss, and the sense of responsibility that links us together as citizens of a great Empire, are things so important that it would have been a very great privilege to take part in your proceedings.

The Race Question—especially when it becomes the Colour Question—is the world's greatest and most urgent problem at this time. Since, over so vast an area we white people, British people, are in the position of the governing race, the greatest responsibility is ours. It is good to think that women are tackling the subject so seriously and I wish all success to your deliberations. With very sincere regret at my absence.

Believe me, yours very truly,

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

A vote of sincere regret for Miss Royden's absence and its cause was immediately moved from the Chair and passed unanimously.

MISS COLLISSON then asked permission to speak to the heading Moral Responsibility. She could not presume to take Miss Royden's place, and Miss Royden had suggested a far better representative, Miss Alison Neilans, to deal with the subject: but she thought the conference ought to understand that the Committee of the League felt very strongly that when in tackling the problems of "Opportunity" they must also tackle those of "responsibility." The British Commonwealth was responsible for peace and order amongst many very varied civilisations—its members linked in this League ought to aim at helping the members of those civilisations who were themselves, like the highly educated Indian women, capable of doing their own work and do it with a sense of strong womanhood behind them—and they ought to aim at helping the members of less advanced civilisations to know the best and not the worst side of Western power. They knew little of conditions in many of the places governed under the British Flag—they ought to try and learn, and place on record their moral convictions of duty in the matter.

The Chairman then called upon Miss Alison Neilans (Association for Social and Moral Hygiene) to speak.

MISS NEILANS: I think you can imagine what I felt like when Miss Collisson said to me "Will you take Miss Royden's place and speak on Moral Obligation?" But I had asked Miss Collisson a few days ago if I might move a resolution about Hong Kong calling upon the Government to apply the Singapore Report to Hong Kong. The following is the Resolution:—

"This Council welcomes the First Report of the Advisory Committee of the Colonial Office on Social Hygiene, defining the Government's attitude to social hygiene in Singapore, and urges that the question of conditions in Hong Kong should be referred to the Advisory Committee."

That Resolution is probably not very clear to you and it is that I would like to explain. The Society of which I am Secretary has been in existence for 50 years and during the whole of that time our work, apart from our work in England and on the continent, has been to abolish the system of Government regulation of prostitution in the Empire. My society is responsible in this both to the native women and the women in the country where our soldiers and young men are going out. I would like to say here that one of the most encouraging things perhaps that one can bring to your notice to-day is that the attitude of the British Government has absolutely changed within the last 30 years. It is not 40 years since the British Government in India was employing paid women to act as procurers to provide attractive women for the British troops. Our Society had a request from Singapore for help in this matter. The Bishop of Singapore appealed to us because they were going to introduce an abominable system of State regulation of vice enslaving the Chinese women. There was a very bad standard indeed in the Strait Settlements which had a demoralising effect on the young men who go out from this country. What happened was this, the Government was persuaded to set up an Advisory Committee and had before it a report from a group of doctors in Singapore devising a new scheme to be brought forward saying that it was absolutely necessary in a place like Singapore that it must be kept healthy. What it meant is this, that there is an enormous shortage of female population in Singapore and constantly men are being brought in, Chinese and Indians and others, to do work and labour, etc., and what you get is a male population of something like 7 men to one woman and that raises the most extraordinary sex problems naturally when dealing with races who do not regard things as we do. The Government went into this and appointed a Committee, and my Society had a representative, and in addition there were representatives, medical and others, of all the great State Departments. This shows that the difficult and long work of the Society to which I am now Secretary had really had an effect, and the work which is being taken up now by other Societies is not without its result.

Here we had this Commission. It has issued its report now.

I cannot go into all the details of it, but it absolutely turned down the scheme for recommendation of State regulation, swept aside all arguments and declared they must improve the social conditions in Singapore and the migration of female with male Chinese, improve the houses, and provide recreation facilities for European and Chinese. That I think is a very important thing. I do hope that will be proceeded with. It lays down a scheme for Disease Laws, providing free treatment of Venereal Disease on the same lines as we have here. It was suggested to the Government to appoint mixed Commissions of Europeans, Chinese and Malays to enquire into the social conditions of the poor. I want you to call upon the Government to carry out these recommendations. I do not think I need say any more, except in India, the parts we hold in China, the Strait Settlements, the Federated Malay States there is this challenge to the moral standards at home. You are making a different type of young man who is going abroad, and the attitude he will take to the women of other nations will be enormously affected by the work we do at home. You call upon them to show a standard which will not disgrace the British race when it is abroad. It has taken 50 years to do all this, but I think it is worth it.

The Resolution was seconded by Mrs. Neville Rolfe and carried. It had been slightly amended on her suggestion.

The Chairman then introduced Mrs. Macgregor Ross, who had lived many years in Kenya, to speak on Moral Responsibility in regard to Kenya and move the Resolution.

MRS. ROSS: I must describe the kind of women who live in Kenya because our problems vary with the number and kinds of people.

In Kenya Colony practically speaking, there are no poor amongst the European people, that is, practically all the men and women there have some sort of comparatively good regular income or capital behind them. Then the women consist of settlers themselves. I was very interested to hear that in Rhodesia women settlers are not encouraged apparently and there are very few on their own. In Kenya there are more and I would like to disagree with the point that the African despises white women if they are alone. I think if you ask any white woman working alone they would not say that. It depends entirely to my mind on the white woman. It is not a question of sex, but of individuality. There are comparatively few women settlers of course, but they seem to me to be making good. I know some who are doing very well, they are not sitting waiting, they are really producing something. The wives of settlers are of course a bigger body, they have an enormous influence in the country. The other Europeans there are Missioners' wives and Officials' wives. There are no official women there except nurses and also

the women in Government Schools. There are a few other women engaged in education and a very few in medicine—indeed not more than two. There are of course Hospital Nurses, and a certain number of women doing office work and in European shops. A point to remember is that the whole European population is only 12,000 according to the latest census and the number of Indians about 22,000 and of Africans $2\frac{1}{4}$ millions.

I want to deal with the question of moral responsibility from two points of view. The responsibility to our own race and responsibility to Africans. First of all I think I am going to use a phrase a great deal mis-used. I think British people who are there have to keep up their 'prestige.' It is a horrible phrase when it means that by keeping up your prestige you must lord it over others, but if we are out there as a Governing Race we have to see to it that we live up to that. I am told for instance that it lowers one's prestige to be seen working in a house. I have done all sorts of work but never lost my prestige. The Africans are immensely influenced by the personality of the people they are working for and they respect you if you are friendly with them and just and treat them fairly. That is why I feel we have a responsibility if we go out there in realising that we have to do some useful work in the world. Perhaps the chief responsibility the women have is the bringing up of their children. The majority of the European women there are the mothers of children and they have an extraordinarily arduous time, and if any of you are thinking of going out to Kenya because you think it is a care-free country I hope you will disabuse your mind of that. A woman with children has to think of the lack of schools, the large distances between farms and towns, the poorness of English Schools, the sun above and snakes below.

There is indeed a very great deal still to be done. Then there is the added anxiety and struggle that your child should be brought up healthily. It is tropics—a beautiful climate no doubt, but there are various disadvantages from the point of view of health which are added to the difficulties which we have in this country in bringing up children healthily. It is sometimes called a white man's country, but that depends on your definition. I think a white man's country is a country in which Europeans can bring up their children without continued deterioration, and so far I do not think that has been proved to be the case in Kenya. You see the necessity of having capital so that you can go home at regular intervals and bring your children as well.

(2) *Responsibility to Africans.* Here I believe the women have a tremendous part to play. First of all by example. The African is looking at us very critically from the point of view of individuals. They watch us to see how we are behaving to husbands and children. What is the relation between us socially. They are learning from us all the time whether they want to or not. It is extraordinarily easy for some people when they lose

touch or get away from the public opinion of this country to let themselves run riot, and you do find in countries like Kenya that some people who behave with ordinary decency at home do not do so out there, because they have not got the pull of public opinion. I think women going out there have to remember that it is so easy to lose touch and outside control when they are away miles from other white people. Also I think it is up to the women out there to be continually on the alert to see that laws, for instance, and regulations are not passed through which are unjust to the African. It is very difficult it seems to look round the whole question when you are actually on the spot, and it is very difficult to keep in touch with questions affecting other countries. Your energies are sapped—if you have children you have so little leisure and it is very difficult indeed to get the right books which will take you away from your own immediate surroundings and give you a broader outlook, and therefore it is very difficult to keep your eyes open all the time to see what laws or regulations might affect the African badly. But I do want to appeal to the European that they would try to ask themselves always what is going to be the final effect, or the effect in a few years of any laws that may on the surface appear wise at the time.

The white woman out there is on the same basis exactly as regards franchise as the white man and so her responsibility is very great. I feel as to women of this generation, that we have one huge task before us; that is to try to get Peace in our generation. That is the idea thousands of women are going for now. The Race question is one of the most important, largely because it is going to affect the whole peace of the world, and here it is that women come in most magnificently. By their attitude, their example, they can create an atmosphere of friendly co-operation, then we in our generation will be doing an enormous thing to solve that problem of race which we find throughout the world.

Mrs. Ross had much pleasure in moving the Resolution on *moral responsibility*.

"This Conference recognises the Moral Responsibility laid upon Citizens of the British Commonwealth in regard to members of the less advanced races within its boundaries. It urges upon the constituent Societies the duty of examining the problems which this responsibility involves, with a special view to:—

(a) The study of laws which function in regard to vice so that discrimination may not be unjustly exercised against one sex only.

(b) The methods employed, especially in mandated territories to safeguard women of those less advanced races."

The Chairman then introduced Mrs. Lakshmi pathi, B.A., of the Women's Indian Association, to speak on Moral Responsibility to India, and to second the Resolution.

MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI: President and Ladies,—I consider it a great privilege indeed to be able to speak to you on the question of moral responsibility with reference to conditions obtaining in India and elsewhere.

As the health and welfare of nations depend upon the standard of moral life maintained in each country, to the modern mind the subject of public health and laws relating to public morals has become a matter of great interest and study. The principle of moral and social responsibility has begun to be recognised by individuals of either sex but the national governments of different countries have not as yet found it a matter of urgent necessity to put a stop to the socially pernicious system of prostitutes leading to the corruption of youth and the traffic in women. Though both in Great Britain and Holland certain excellent results have been achieved by voluntary methods yet stricter measures passed by State legislation should be adopted in every country, for the repression of the system of prostitutes, and for combating venereal diseases as they eat into the very vitals of national life and well-being.

Recently at the Paris Session of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress the committee on the equal moral standards and against the traffic in women passed certain resolutions condemning all systems of state encouragement of prostitution, according to which prostitutes are licensed or registered and subjected to periodical compulsory medical examination. It further condemned the system of brothels and other houses of ill repute to be morally indefensible, medically useless and socially pernicious. What the National governments ought to be able to do now is to carry on a vigorous campaign against venereal maladies by the diffusion of information and biological and public instruction based on the knowledge of natural science. Further, the method of public instruction based on the principle of moral and social responsibility of each individual is bound to have greater effect on the life of a nation than what the police or health authorities can achieve either by compulsion or arbitrary means. It is not until the people realise their own sense of moral responsibility and how each individual has to give his or her share in the healthy building of a nation, that an efficient moral standard of life could possibly be set up. It is therefore incumbent upon both people and the state to move with one mind having a common purpose in view, of rooting out the social evil of prostitution in order to bring about a healthy atmosphere.

In India at present the moral standard of life is not very satisfactory as venereal disease is largely prevalent, closely bound up with the life of the nation, particularly with that of the mother and child. I believe that a very high % of the population suffer from this malady and it grieves me to mention that the state has not yet adopted measures to fight out this disease either by propaganda or public education or by the provision of free hospitals and clinics where infected persons could seek treat-

ment. In large commercial centres like Bombay, Madras and Calcutta it is astonishing to find men making it a profession to maintain brothels and houses of bad repute where women of various nationalities are kept to corrupt the youth. If people only knew the harm done to young men and women by the continuance of brothels and the consequent evils they would sooner agitate and induce the government to abolish them by means of legislation.

In the case of emigrants, very often unmarried young men and women, going out to Kenya, Malay States and South Africa, no protection is afforded by the State against their getting into bad ways. I have come across several sad instances in emigration depots where young women have been on mere impulse, led astray by the enticement of young men. After a little while she very often finds herself in utter helplessness and deplorable condition as she is socially ostracised. The man does not marry her but simply abandons her leaving her in a precarious condition and in financial distress. Either the state or the emigration settlement should afford facilities for the protection for the woman. It is not only the woman that contributes to the moral standard of life but it is largely due to the man's share of responsibility. Both men and women are therefore mutually responsible for the healthy well-being of a nation.

In India there is a community of women called the Deva Dadis who were originally dedicated to temples for service to God and carried with them a spirit of service to God and humanity. Later this sacred institution originally meant for a good purpose was abused, resulting in a social evil at the present day as these public women are made to believe from childhood that it is no sin to lead such infamous lives. Foreigners very often go away with the idea that the institution of Deva Dadis has been sanctioned by Hindu religion and as such the government cannot interfere with it. Let them understand that it has degenerated into bad practices and Hindu religion is unworthy of owning it as a religious institution.

I would like to mention here how venereal disease was first introduced into India as it was purely of foreign importation and not indigenous to India. This disease is called Pharangi Rogi: when the early European settlers came to India they got terribly mixed up with the Indians, so that today we have a fairly large community of people known as the Anglo Indians who neither can go with Indians nor with Europeans. If those early settlers had realised their sense of moral responsibility to their own country and to those Indians, India would have kept purer blood.

I have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The chairman then introduced MRS. SWAMINADHAN, of the Women's Indian Association, to speak to the Resolution.

MRS. SWAMINADHAN thought the position in India had been

made quite clear by the speaker who went before her and said she had no further suggestions to make, but she hoped everybody would help on this question of social hygiene which she considered was essentially the work of women.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

MRS. NEVILLE ROLFE, Delegate of the British Social Hygiene Council Incorp., suggested an amendment to this Resolution and said:—

Two or three speakers have stressed the point that our Moral Responsibility with regard to our Overseas development is not limited to divers races but should include members of the British race overseas and that is a point which has been omitted from this resolution. It is the standard to which we educate our boys and girls who are the future officials, administrators, wives of civil servants, etc., and it is really essential that we should recognise our moral responsibility to those who are of our own race. When I was out in the East I was struck by the *laissez faire* attitude of English women to young men who came out. As an example, there were two young men—University boys—who came out to take up a job. When they arrived they were told on reporting themselves to take up quarters in a bungalow. They were never spoken to by anyone; no white women had anything to do with them. Well it is a sad thing to say that in 6 weeks time these two boys were in the V.D. ward of the hospital. The only women they had spoken to were the wrong women. This is the responsibility of British women in the Colonies. And on the other side we should recognise our responsibility to the Mercantile Marine. What are we doing to look after our men? They say that the only women who speak to them from the moment they leave till the moment they get back are the wrong sort of women, and I want to make an appeal to women to bring this point home to all educated women—those who are going out, and those who are out. It is a big responsibility. We must open our homes and keep in touch with the men and women who go out to overseas, and I want to move an amendment to the Resolution read. I think the words “members of their own race as well as” should be introduced. And I also think it might embody a clause providing increased facilities for young migrants and *members of the Mercantile Marine*.

Discussion took place, in which speakers said that to distinguish between one race and another in the matter of Moral Responsibility was a mistake. The British were frequently accused of so doing. The Secretary replied that she had drawn the Resolution as it stood, on behalf of the Committee, for them she welcomed the amendment, but felt that as the section was intended to consider Responsibility in its two aspects, she thought

two Resolutions would be more significant and more suitable because more solemn.

Finally, agreed that the Resolution as proposed be carried, and that Mrs. Rolfe be asked to draw a resolution covering her points. The meeting guaranteed that it should go through, and the Conference adjourned for the Luncheon Interval.

AFTERNOON SESSION, June 23rd.

Chair: MRS. IBBOTSON HUTT.

The Chairman remarked that before passing to the business of general resolutions, the Conference had still to hear two Western Australian speakers. (Applause.)

She then introduced

MRS. COBLEY (Women's Immigration Auxiliary Council) who said: I am not a public speaker, but I would like to press home the point that in Western Australia—I cannot talk for the Eastern States—we are specially in need of women in relation to work among girls and to push forward the necessity for women officials. There are now men at the head of the Emigration Office who place and control the girls. It should be a woman at the head, and I believe and rely on this Conference to do its level best when I have gone back, and now I would like to mention some of the work that the Women's Auxiliary Council is doing amongst women migrants especially in maternity. We have an Honorary Maternity Officer in connection with our Auxiliary Council. She meets every boat, at least every boat which goes to the Emigration Home at Fremantle and gets in touch with expectant mothers and always recommends them to go at once to the King Edward Memorial Hospital, to which our own Red Cross subscribed so generously a few years ago. And when they go up into the Bush this Office continues to keep in touch with them until the baby arrives. We supply the whole outfit for the babies. One lady supplies every flannel petticoat. In cases of sickness if mothers and babies are drooping it is reported at once to the President of the After-Care Society—Mrs. Cecil Andrews, who gets in touch with the Red Cross Society, who thoroughly inquire into the case and if necessary send them Roboleine, or whatever is necessary for them. And it is the same with the children. They are well looked after. Schools are provided in most of the groups and teachers are appointed to go out there. They are of course mixed schools, but you cannot expect anything else in a group. There are something like 138 groups and each group contains from 50 to 60 families. And through the agitation of the W.I.A.C. we have practically got a general hospital which takes maternity cases. So you see our voluntary workers are doing a beautiful work amongst the women migrants, and not only with the women, if the men are ill they always write to our Council and we give them advice. Trained people and those who have experience in the work do all they can for the men, but of course if they leave the groups it is understood that the W.I.A.C. cannot assist them any more because we have a small subsidy, and if we help them when they leave we feel we are working against the Government.

Again on the girl question I just want to press home the fact that they are really in need of your support and there is one point especially that I would like to put before you and that is

the travelling out to South Australia from London:—The Bibby Line, our own boats and the P. & O. Branch Line. There is one line running to Albany by which I think the bigger portion of the girls are sent. It is a 16 hours run from Albany to Perth and these women and children are sent that way and then have to come all the way back to Fremantle, whereas on the other boats they are within 5 minutes walk of the Emigration Home. The journey up is full of trouble for the women and girls, but I cannot say anything because they are under the control of Emigration Officers. With the last boatload, through our agitation, there was a woman sent down from Perth to meet them. She travelled first-class on the train and the girls travelled third-class. This is not what we want. We want a woman to travel up and down with the girls.

It was proposed that Mrs. Cobley should frame a Resolution on these lines.

The Secretary thought that any resolution must be on general lines, and have the approval of all the Australian delegates; particular work must be dealt with by the special State Women's Organisations.

It was related by a member of the Girls' Friendly Society, that the Society had just bought a Caravan to go round and visit these Groups and that they had been asked to run a Sunday School where the children might get some religious education.

On the question of a woman representative at Australia House Miss Collisson said that she understood the position to be that general law and arrangements were in the hands of the Federal Authority, but that once the settlers landed, they came under State law.

After discussion the following resolution

“This Conference supports the Australian Societies in urging the importance of having women who possess first hand knowledge of Australian conditions in control, both in England and in the various States of Australia, of the migration of women to Australia; and urges the Commonwealth and State Governments to make such appointments as early as possible”

was proposed by Mrs. Cobley, seconded by Mrs. Glanville, and carried unanimously.

MISS BROMHAM (Australian Federation of Women's Societies for Equal Citizenship): I take it that the point upon which we are endeavouring to collect information is that particular point on the Agenda—Opportunities for Women—and I take it we are still on that point, and I just want to say briefly that the Dominion which we represent—Australia—is a very huge one and we are almost as cut off from each other in the various states of Australia as people in England are from the people of Russia from the point of view of distance and as each State has its Migration Policy you will understand that we from one State can hardly

really our point of view will be the Western Australian point of view of opportunities for women. As at the present time our State of Western Australia has the largest and most progressive emigration policy perhaps it will be of interest to you this afternoon. Having listened to the speakers from the various Dominions I quite agree with one of the things most of them have emphasised and that is to have emigration for educated women. All women used to domestic and not the professional life, who are ready to go out to a country such as ours and are determined to make good, there is no power on earth that will prevent them from making good. When we are dealing with the Emigration Policy of a Government it is a different matter but when we undertake to ask people to come to our State and undertake to bring them there we must take the responsibility in regard to them.

I am not a member of the W.I.A.C. although we have a representative from our Organisation on that body as most Women's Organisations have, but I do know that that Council has done very valuable work in many ways, and I think we ought to be careful that we do not, as a Women's Organisation, do any more than deal with the principles of emigration and not with bolstering up the bad effects of a migration policy when it is put into effect in our own Dominions. And I say and know this that we have to begin at this end on our Emigration Policy if we are going to put it on the right ground we must in dealing with women migrants have some woman representative here who should have the chance of dealing with the migrants before they are sent out to Australia. That is where the real cause of most of the trouble begins and you can quite understand that men who are dealing with women would not be in the same position as a woman in touch with the need of Australian women would be if she had the chance of selecting and sending out those women migrants. I am sure one of the things that we will have to undertake will be to get some representation for the women at this end in selecting and giving opportunity to women who go out to Australia.

Now there is another thing I would like to say in passing and that is that there is not sufficient representation at the other side and I think we should have a grant to effect this. Although I must say things are gradually becoming better. The Emigration Committee has just lately had official recognition from the Government as a Committee. Previously they were a Committee working privately but now they have been officially recognised.

It is a thing I did not know myself until this afternoon that these women were sent that long journey without a woman in charge and I think it is a matter we can get rectified at the other side if we go about it in a business like manner and I hope we will all press for it.

Although, of course, like all other States and most of the other Dominions, with the exception of South Africa and those Dominions who have a big native population, we say that we need Domestic emigrants I want to point out about Domestic Service in Australia that girls who go out as domestic servants are not in any sense in the same position so far as I can see, as the ordinary women domestic worker in England. A girl who goes out and takes up domestic work—and many of them do—and goes into the country districts, in most instances if the girl is the right class she is received into the homes as one of the family. You will find that the Domestic worker in Australia, although she may go to the home as a stranger more or less, would be taken into the family to a very great extent and would not be regarded in the same way as the domestic servant in a family in England. Now that alone helps to a certain extent to get away from the idea that domestic servants are a class set apart, and I think that those who go out as domestic servants would find more congenial surroundings than they have enjoyed in their old country. There is a great levelling up as well as a levelling down and when we talk about domestic migrants to Australia we do not set them down as a separate class.

There is one other thing and that is this—our University arranges twice a year for a course which can be taken by any woman in Western Australia who is interested in any of the various subjects which come into the life of the country woman, such as dairying and butter-making, bee-keeping, etc. That is a free course and all the woman has to do is to say that she can take the course and come down to the Centre where it is going on and if they are not able to afford to live at the Centre their Organisation arranges that they are taken as guests by someone during that time.

The point I want to make is this, that if a woman came out to Australia as has been suggested by some speakers, without experience or local knowledge in some particular avenue of farm work there is nothing to prevent such a woman getting that experience free and getting a scientific education of the very highest standard at a very low cost to the woman. I think that does away with some of the points raised by other speakers that it is useless for a woman to go out to and take up work of which she does not know anything. I am not sure that the opportunities are there of course—that is purely an individual matter. It is perfectly useless to send people out unless they are prepared to do their part and I am quite sure that the Dominions are ready and willing to do their part and welcome and help all those who do come to our shores. I do not feel that so far as our State is concerned we should take a pessimistic point of view about migration because I think that the opportunities are there but I think at the same time that there are some avenues more open than others. Still I think until we

find what we can do we need not hesitate to suggest that women come to our country, if they are prepared to fit in I think they will find in that case that things will work out all right.

THE CHAIRMAN then said that they had now to deal with General Resolutions. To expedite business, these would be read, and put through one after the other. The first was on the opportunity Section. The following resolution

“This Conference representing (the participating Societies) calls upon the Standing Committee of the British Commonwealth League to set up a Sub-Committee to carry on further enquiry into the funds, the assistance and the means of training available for women other than domestic servants, who may desire to migrate,”

was proposed by Miss Whitham (Women's Non-Party Association of South Australia), seconded by Mrs. Ivan Sanderson (London Society for Women's Service) and carried unanimously.

The next resolution was on the Imperial Conference. It ran:

“This Conference recognises the necessity of securing to women the fullest measure of opportunity for the exercise of their rights and duties as citizens of the British Commonwealth, and therefore urges upon its organised Societies the importance of pressing for the appointment of women as members of the groups which handle, investigate and decide upon problems of Commonwealth policy. In particular this Conference urges constituent Societies to press for the inclusion of full women members of the Imperial Conference now approaching. This Conference respectfully requests the ministers assembled for the Imperial Conference to include upon their staffs qualified women members.

MISS COLLISSON pointed out that representation in the Imperial Conference meant representation on the body which dealt with the problems of Empire. They knew the composition of the Imperial Conference, and recognised that until women were chosen as Ministers they could not be the chief representatives. But they could be included on the staffs, and this was what the League desired.

The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Bellas and carried unanimously.

A further resolution on the Imperial Conference and Migration read as follows:

“That this Conference urges that in any schemes agreed upon by the Imperial Conference for the further development of organised migration equal representation be allotted to women and men on the governing and subsidiary bodies which deal with the question as a whole, and that in the event of any enquiry evidence be taken from experienced women,”

was carried nem. con.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

THE SECRETARY read letters of apology from Mrs. Swanwick, Mrs. Coombe Tenant and said that she had approached Mrs. Ogilvy Gordon, but Mrs. Gordon had regretfully declined. She said: “I feel that I would like myself to put this question of the Commonwealth and the League of Nations forward in a few words. I had the good fortune to go to Geneva last year for a short time and did a little business for the League and for the women there. At the League of Nations, as you know, substitute delegates can be appointed. I was lucky enough to get the chance of attending a meeting of the League. At this meeting I saw sitting in their places on the floor two very competent women—the Duchess of Atholl and Mrs. McKinnon. I hope the time will come when there will be full women delegates. You may feel that it does not matter very much whether you are a full delegate or a substitute, but it does make a difference because the status is not the same. But failing full delegates we must try to send substitutes wherever possible. The Commonwealth, as you know, is the largest and most influential Group in the world at present and it should be well represented at Geneva. I do not deny that our Statesmen are good and that they work with the best intention in the world, but they have other things to look after, and I do think we should push to have a woman delegate at the League of Nations.

Resolution:

“That this Conference urges upon the legislatures of units within the British Commonwealth which send delegations to the League of Nations, the importance of sending full delegations and requests organised women to press for the appointment of at least one full woman delegate in each case.”

Proposed to amend this by inserting “bearing in mind the excellent work done by the substitute delegates” after the word “Conference.”

After a division of delegates on the voting, carried in the amended form.

THE CHAIRMAN then introduced Miss Wolfe Murray, a well-known journalist and first woman worker in the Lobby of the House of Commons.

MISS WOLFE MURRAY: I have been asked to move this Resolution. I chanced to go to the West Indies on the same tour as that undertaken by the Empire Parliamentary Delegation and I travelled with them as far as British Guiana, and then

on to Trinidad, and the other islands, finishing up with Bermuda. But while at Trinidad I went over the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture which I knew was not at all anxious to admit women. No one believed that I would venture to go there, but on the contrary, I was invited to luncheon and went into all the points very carefully. The College at Trinidad is an attempt to set up an Imperial college to teach Tropical Agriculture for the whole empire and it welcomes students from so far away as South Africa, the Straits Settlements and elsewhere. They have at present only 38 students all of whom are men and they were not at all anxious to admit women, but the Oversea Committee of International Suffrage, which was the forerunner of our own British Commonwealth League, pointed out to the Governing body that there were a good many planters in the world who were women and that it was essential that they should be trained. In discussing these things with the Principal Master he said that the College itself is the admitting authority, and so long as no woman expects a job automatically simply because she gets her diploma, then they will no longer object to have women. That has been confirmed by the Governing Body here in London and I have great pleasure in moving this Resolution.

"That this Conference congratulates the Governing body of the Tropical College of Agriculture of Trinidad on bringing the College into line with the generality of collegiate institutions in civilised countries, and giving to women full rights of access to College courses."

Seconded from the floor and carried unanimously.

At this juncture a Resolution to cover Lady Foster's previous speech was put and carried.

"This Conference expresses its approval of the principle of Care Societies for Girls on similar lines to that of the Big Brother Movement.

The Conference then passed to Equal Franchise.

MRS. GIPSON (Women's Enfranchisement Association of South Africa): I only want to urge upon the women of the Conference the claim of South Africa to their very great sympathy, and if possible their help in passing this resolution urging the Imperial Conference to consider the claims not only of the woman already resident out there but those women who leave their own country and come out.

The following Resolution was read:

"This Conference respectfully calls the attention of the Imperial Conference to the loss of status imposed on enfranchised women when settling in those parts of the Empire where women are unenfranchised as in South Africa or where they are only partially enfranchised as in Great Britain, and begs them to confer as to the best method of remedying this injustice."

CHAIRMAN: I am afraid we cannot do anything but pass this Resolution. The Imperial Conference will say that it is a matter of internal economy like Ontario, but we must do much to get it further and bring before the Conference the fact that the women of South Africa are not enfranchised even after 33 years work.

In answer to a question as to whether there was very great opposition to granting women the Vote in South Africa,

MRS. GIPSON said: I would like to reply by saying that the demand is as great as this, that at every Session of Parliament Suffrage is brought forward and I think it was about 18 months ago the Suffrage Bill passed the second reading for the first time. This time it passed through the second reading and was in the Committee state when the Smuts Government was dissolved and the new Government under Gen. Hertzog came in and a deputation of representative women representing 20,000 women were received by the Premier. He made a long speech saying that he was personally in favour of Woman Suffrage but would not grant facilities for a Government Bill or would not allow a Clause to be added to the Franchise Bill which was being recognised, and would not touch woman suffrage until the native question had been settled, and that is the position to-day. Since then our women have not been satisfied and the House Committee for women's suffrage has now brought in a private bill asking that the whole question of women's suffrage be considered and that a select committee be set up for this purpose. This select committee has not yet reported. It is still taking evidence so far as I know.

MISS E. A. ALLAN (Women's Non-Party Association of S. Australia) pointed out that she, in common with other full fledged voting Australians, could get no vote in England during the period of her study for a Doctorate, which lasted several years. She felt it an absurdity that women paying income tax and competent to vote in Australia were in that position. She had pleasure in moving the resolution.

MRS. GIPSON heartily seconded the resolution from the point of view of unenfranchised South African women who had to play a great part in developing their country, but had no vote. Carried unanimously.

Affiliation Orders were next considered.

The CHAIRMAN introduced

MRS. HUBBACK (Parliamentary Secretary to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship), who said: I am sorry I am late, but there was some misunderstanding about the time and I do not know whether Miss Musson's apologies have been given to you yet. She was to have moved this resolution this

afternoon, but was called away and very much regretted she could not come, but as Miss Musson and I have worked on this subject for some time she asked whether you would allow me to move it in her place.

“That this Conference (of Societies participating) desires to call the attention of the Imperial Conference to the need for reciprocal legislation in regard to the enforcement of affiliation orders, so that an order made in one part of His Majesty's Dominions may be enforced in any other part.”

I need not explain the need for affiliation of this kind to anyone who has done any work for the unmarried mother and her child. We all know the distress which arises in cases where the father goes away to a foreign country or to any of the Dominions.

We cannot deal with reciprocal legislation here but only reciprocal legislation in the Commonwealth. When we first began by asking for this legislation—legislation by which an Affiliation Order made in this country can be enforced anywhere in the British Commonwealth, or an order made in the British Commonwealth can be enforced in this country against men coming to this country, in 1920, we were told it was a difficult question to get anything done because it was not until then that the Maintenance Facilities, &c. Act was passed. That Act was only passed in 1920, so we tried at the same time to get a similar act for Affiliation Orders. We were met by a reasonable suggestion, but we did not at the time see how this other act could be worked, but now we have had time and we know reciprocal legislation has been passed nearly all over the Empire. The very great and glaring exception is Canada. We are told by the Colonial Office and Home Office that a very considerable number of cases have been dealt with.

It is not possible to get information as to the extent to which Maintenance Orders have actually been paid, but we know that the Act, or the administration under the act is working well and therefore we feel and hope you will agree, that the time has come when we should press further. Affiliation cases are more difficult to prove than separation cases and a more obvious act should be passed. The first act I have reason to believe is working well and we should make a real effort to get it to apply to Affiliation Orders.

Proposed by Mrs. Hubback. Seconded by Mrs. Glanville. (Women's League of N.S. Wales). Passed unanimously.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The CHAIRMAN then introduced Miss Chrystal MacMillan (Chairman of the Committee on the International Woman Suffrage Alliance) on the Nationality of Women.

MISS CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN: I think you all have in your

hands the resolution I have been asked to move to-day on Nationality, so I will not trouble to read it but take the few minutes at my disposal to describe the urgency of the resolution.

As you all know it was not till 1870 that the British woman was deprived of Nationality on marriage, but since that date women of Great Britain lost their nationality and it is sad to say Australia and New Zealand adopted the same line as the British Parliament.

At the first meeting of the Colonial Conference efforts were made to have the different parts of the British Empire come together, and this subject has come up at a number of Imperial Conferences, and the general line of policy adopted both by the British Government and the Government of the Dominions has been to recommend that the legislation throughout the Empire should be the same with respect to nationality. This resulted in the passage through the British House of Commons and throughout the Dominions, except South Africa—and the adoption of the same act which, with certain small exceptions, declared that the woman should be deemed to be the same nationality as her husband.

At the time this policy was adopted one of the reasons given was that other countries dealt with their women in that way, but we are very glad to say that a great change is beginning to take place. Many of the Colonies and South America have always given women their nationality, and in the last few years the United States, Russia, Rumania, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and Iceland have all passed legislation giving women the right to retain their nationality. Some of these countries have gone further than this, but the fact that all these countries have passed this legislation since 1918 shows that the tide has turned and now we can go to our legislators and say that so many countries are doing this—‘won't you give British women this right too.’

We have had the matter discussed in the Imperial Parliament, but the most important and recent action taken was the Resolution in February 1925 in the following terms:

“That in the opinion of this House a British woman shall not lose or be deemed to lose her nationality by the mere act of marriage with an alien, but that it shall be open to her to make a declaration of alienage.”

I was present at the Debate and was interested to note that not a single member spoke against giving women their choice of nationality on marriage. And Mr. Pethick Lawrence supplied the British Oversea Committee with funds to telegraph to all the Societies in the Dominions to see that a similar law should be passed in the different Dominions' Parliaments and this year Australia passed the identical resolution without a Division and the Prime Minister stated he would bring the matter before the Imperial Conference. (Applause).

I had a letter forwarded to me from the Alliance Office which I got last night which announces that New Zealand has

also passed a resolution, but I have not had time to ascertain what that is. I gather it is the same as this and I would like to ask that we should ascertain if New Zealand has passed the identical resolution. (Note—It was not passed.)

It is only within the last week or ten days that the British Government has stated in the House of Commons that this matter will be dealt with at the next Imperial Conference and that the question of the nationality of married women will be discussed, and this shows, I think, how urgent it is to pass this resolution.

I do not know how many of you here are actually representing Societies in the Dominions, but I think it would be of great importance when this Resolution is passed that you should write on behalf of your Governments to your respective representatives in London asking them to put forward this point of view when the Imperial Conference meets this year. The Reso'ut on runs:

The Conference (of the Societies participating) welcomes the actions of the Imperial Parliament on February 18th, 1925, and of the Australian Commonwealth Parliament on February 25th, 1926, in adopting in both cases without a division the following resolution:

“That in the opinion of this House a British woman shall not lose or be deemed to lose her nationality by the mere act of marriage with an alien, but that it shall be open to her to make a declaration of alienage,”

and urges the legislatures of the other self-governing Dominions and of India to pass similar resolutions.

It further welcomes the statement of the Prime Minister of Australia that he will bring the above resolution to the notice of the Imperial Conference, and urges the representatives from the different parts of the Empire assembled at that Conference to recommend legislation giving effect to this resolution.

You see legislation cannot be introduced into any Dominion Parliament or Home Parliament until the Imperial Conference recommends it and I think in this way this Resolution is rather different to the others you are dealing with and I therefore hope you will all urge upon your representatives at the Imperial Conference to recommend legislation on these lines through the Parliaments throughout the Empire so that in future British women will have the right to retain their Nationality irrespective of the Nationality of the husband.

MISS RHODES, Women's Union of Service of New South Wales, seconded this resolution which was passed *nem. con.*

MRS. RENWICK: I was a member of the National Council of Women in 1924 and in Dunedin we passed a resolution to the same effect and we had a deputation to Mr. Massey who promised to put it through. However, he died before it was put through, but I believe they are still urging the New Zealand Government

to pass it.

The following Resolution, as drawn up by Mrs. Neville Rolfe, was seconded by Mrs. Hylton Dale, and carried *nem. con.*—

“This Conference recognises the Moral Responsibility laid upon Citizens of the British Commonwealth in regard to members of the British race for making adequate social provision for the reception, accommodation and recreation for men and women migrants (students, employees, etc.), to and from all parts of the Empire and also at the ports for the officers and men of the Mercantile Marine.”

Mrs. Ibbotson Hutt then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Collisson and her staff. Miss Collisson had worked exceedingly hard to place the League on a sound footing and it was largely due to her constructive efforts that this Conference had been arranged. Carried by acclamation.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby declared the Conference closed and the meeting adjourned to tea.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

The incidence of the General Strike and consequent dislocation obliged the Standing Committee to cancel certain proposed social functions in connection with the Conference, but certain of them were carried through. The Conference was preceded by a Luncheon in honour of the Women Members of Parliament at the Criterion Restaurant. Every seat available was taken, and almost all the guests were Overseas women. The Duchess of Atholl, M.P., Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and Viscountess Astor M.P., were the speakers, and the President was in the Chair. Greetings were given from the Women's Indian Association, Australian, New Zealand, Bermudan, South African and Canadian affiliated groups, members of each group rising in turn as the greetings were read. The tables were charmingly decorated and excellent general arrangements under the direction of Miss Solomon and Mrs. Guy Innes, Chairman and Treasurer of the Hospitality Committee, worked with perfect smoothness. This is the first occasion on which an Overseas Luncheon has been arranged in honour of the British English Women M.P.'s, and very great enthusiasm was shown.

The Public Service Section of the Forum Club extended a most kind invitation to our Overseas delegates to an evening reception in the charming club rooms, and our thanks are due for a delightful opportunity.

We had not again approached Lady Astor, as she is so consistently generous to women's societies, but she very kindly herself invited our Overseas Delegates and our Officers to two gatherings at 4, St. James' Square. The opportunity was greatly appreciated, and as usual the unusual beauty of the flowers, the pleasant band and the opportunity of meeting leading personalities contributed to provide unusual pleasure.

Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., invited a party of ten to tea on the Terrace, and though rain unluckily drove us indoors, the pleasure of seeing over the House of Commons under her leadership and the opportunity of definite personal contact with herself were highly prized.

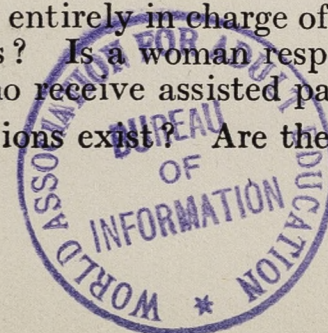
An informal tea was held after the Conference at the rooms of the Royal Society of Arts in order to allow Delegates the chance of talking together and of meeting the President, and finally invitations were issued to a garden party in the charming two hundred year old garden attached to the home of Mrs. Ibbotson Hutt.

M. CHAVE COLLISSON,
Organiser.

APPENDIX.

QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO OVERSEAS SOCIETIES.

- (a) Through what channels are immigration schemes prepared? Have women so far played any part in the preparation of such schemes? If so, what part? Is it practicable to ask for a further part?
- (b) Do women play any part in the administration of schemes when set on foot? Officially or unofficially?
- (c) Are there discriminations against (a) Women immigrants as such? (b) Young married couples? Can a married English woman enter your country with an independent passport, or is the consent of her husband necessary? Can a woman immigrant claim rights and concessions where they exist for men, such as balloting for land, taking up land, receiving building loans?
- (d) Do training or settlement schemes for women exist? What proportion of public money is spent on them in comparison with schemes for men?
- (e) What arrangements are made to safeguard your immigrant? Do women play any part in plans for the care of (a) Youths; (b) Girls?
- (f) Are there opportunities for women in gainful occupations other than domestic service? In what occupations? Is there discrimination against the young married woman or young widow?
- (g) Is there any *general* feeling that with the influx of young men there should be an influx of women too? This is a serious problem for England. What is the opinion of *your group*?
- (h) Is there any arrangement for the transference of benefits paid in insurable occupations here under any scheme of National Insurance in your country? Is there any suggestion of an arrangement in regard to pensions paid here to widows, and the transference of contributions to the credit of an immigrant? Should this in your opinion be done?
- (i) Are there any obstacles in feeling or possible usefulness to a flow of women with secondary education to your country? Women used to industrial life?
- (j) Do you feel present methods of selection training and reception to be satisfactory? Do you suggest any changes, in law, in policy or plan.
- (k) Are women doctors usually or entirely in charge of the examination of women immigrants? Is a woman responsible for the selection of emigrants who receive assisted passages?
- (l) What "follow up" organisations exist? Are they, so far as can be gathered, effective?



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