

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
OF
WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

Hon. Treasurer :
Mrs. DE L'HOPITAL.

President :
VISCOUNTESS ASTOR, M.P.

Chairman :
LADY GALWAY

Vice-President :
Mrs. WINTRINGHAM.

Vice-Chairman :
Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
1925-1926.

Office :
92 Victoria Street,
S.W.1

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FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT,
1925-1926.

OBJECTS OF THE COMMITTEE.

- (i.) To collect and communicate information of mutual interest respecting the activities of the constituent Societies or the political situation generally.
- (ii.) To consult together on questions of policy and methods of action.
- (iii.) To recommend action to its constituent bodies to be carried out by them jointly or severally.

The aim of the Committee is two-fold: to provide a centre which shall serve as a clearing house of ideas; and to maintain a piece of machinery by which different groups of Societies can act together for a particular purpose without involving a dissenting Society.

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

Meetings.

The Consultative Committee held eight meetings during the year and discussed a great variety of subjects which included the following: National Health Insurance, Equal Moral Standard, Dismissal of Married Women from Employment, Export of Horses for Butchery, Women Police, Equal Franchise, Lunacy Administration, Establishment of Temporary Women in the Civil Service, Administration of the Widows' and Old Age Pensions Scheme, Legitimation of Children, the Report of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons, Women Delegates to the League of Nations, the Age of Marriage, Women Magistrates, the Need for Equality of Opportunity for Women with Men in Schemes of Migration within the Empire, Permission to give at Welfare Centres Information on Birth Control, the Report of the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry and Local Option in the Drink Trade. Several Bills before Parliament were considered and the following supported by groups of the constituent organisations of the Committee: Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Bill, 1925; Adoption of Children Bill, 1926; Juvenile Courts (Scotland) Bill, 1926; Parliament (Qualification of Peeresses) Bill, 1926. Consideration was also given to proposals for a Conference of Women to consider matters in connection with the October Meeting of the Imperial Conference."

In December and in February the Committee heard addresses on special subjects:—

1. Homecroft Holdings.

Speaker: Mrs. Atherton Smith, 17th December, 1925.

2. The Peacemakers' Pilgrimage.

Speaker: Mrs. Unwin. 25th February, 1926.

Mrs. Atherton Smith, who had worked for four years with the Friends' Council for International Service in Vienna, gave a most interesting account of the scheme adopted there under which about 20,000 people (5,000 families) had been moved just outside the city, the houses being built by the people themselves and each house having a small plot of land sufficient for the production of 30 per cent. of the settlers' foodstuffs. A fairly full account of the address was circulated with the Minutes of the December meeting.

Mrs. Unwin, of the Women's International League, gave a report on the preliminary organisation of the Peace Pilgrimage, the Societies co-operating, the Routes arranged, etc.

Parliamentary Register.

It was suggested that members of the Committee would be interested to see what progress, embodied in Parliamentary or Departmental action, could be registered in the subjects which had been before it; and accordingly such a Register for 1925, giving the dates of the Committee's discussions and of the subsequent political progress of the various subjects was drawn up and circulated to every member of the Committee. The subjects thus showing progress were 16 in number, and, though we must be careful to avoid the fallacy of *post hoc ergo propter hoc*, it is perhaps permissible to assume that in some cases at any rate the political progress and the previous discussions were not without causal connection.

GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE.

The General Purposes Sub-Committee have met regularly before each meeting of the Consultative Committee to consider applications for membership and correspondence of any importance, to draft recommendations to be submitted to the whole Committee and to prepare the Agendas for the monthly meetings.

The members of the General Purposes Sub-Committee for the current year are as follows:—

PUBLICITY.

The custom has been continued of sending to the Press short reports of the proceedings of the Consultative Committee. If sent in the name of the whole Committee no mention is made of the names of Societies supporting any Resolution, but publicity is given to the fact that the Committee is concerning itself with this

or that subject and that a large measure of support is expressed for this or that measure before Parliament.

The members of the Publicity Committee for the current year are as follows:—

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

The close of the financial year for 1925-26 finds the finances of the Consultative Committee in very low water. A balance of £120, due to the money raised by the Dance in February, 1925, was carried over from the previous year, and this, with the year's subscriptions and some special donations, has just enabled the Committee to pay its way. As a means of raising funds this year the Finance Sub-Committee suggested in the winter a Bridge Tournament to be held in the early spring, but the response from constituent Societies was disappointing, and subsequent proposals met with so little support that the Hon. Treasurer invited the Societies to send representatives to sit with the Sub-Committee and seriously to face the question of the Committee's continued existence. Four Societies accordingly appointed representatives, and the augmented Finance Sub-Committee met in May and formulated a proposal to ask those Societies able to afford it to guarantee an annual donation, for the next two years, of £10 over and above their affiliation fees.

Once again, by the kindness of nine of the member Societies, nearly all the expense of multigraphing Minutes and Agendas has been saved, and as a special and much valued contribution to financial needs the Six Point Group has remitted the charge for the room used for the Committee's monthly meetings. Four Societies now pay double subscription and six Societies and four Individual Members have made special donations to the funds. The Committee's upkeep expenses have thus for the closing year been

In response to the special appeal to make up a deficit on the current year £55 1s. 0d. has been received or promised.

HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Sub-Committee inspected a number of the subsidised houses with a view to drawing attention to the defects of the interior arrangements from the housewife's standpoint. After considerable investigation, an article embodying the results was issued to publications specially interested in Housing, and the

following amongst others made comment:— the "Daily Telegraph," the "Yorkshire Herald," the "South Wales Argus," the "British Builder" expressing approval of the criticism.

Another subject of inquiry undertaken by the Housing Sub-Committee this year was the hardship attaching to the carrying out of Slum Clearance schemes. The Sub-Committee co-opted for this inquiry Miss Jeffery, a house property manager of a Crown Lands Estate in London, and presented a Report in April, making various recommendations for mitigating the distress incidental to these clearances. These proposals were to the effect that before any clearance was undertaken a thorough investigation should be carried out to ascertain what families could be moved with least hardship, that Local Authorities should be empowered to rent suitable vacant houses for temporary accommodation, and that more attention and a larger allocation of funds should be given to management of municipal property.

There is still some demand for the Committee's pamphlet "The Housing Problem."

CHANGE OF SECRETARY.

In January Miss Kathleen Wauchope (Mrs. McIver) who had been Secretary to the Consultative Committee ever since its inception, found it necessary owing to increasing demands on her time to tender her resignation, which was accepted by the Committee with very great regret.

Mrs. E. M. White was appointed to the vacancy.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Committee took place on July 7th, 1925, at 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1. Before the ordinary business, Mr. S. W. Harris, of the Home Office, gave an address on the work of the League of Nations Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women and the Protection of Children.

WOMEN'S JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE, U.S.A.

This body and the Consultative Committee have continued throughout the year the exchange of the Minutes of their meetings. In May Mrs. Marcle, from Minnesota, Alternate Delegate of the National League of Women Voters of the U.S.A. to the I.W.S.A. Congress in Paris, called on the Secretary to discuss political education of women in England.

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

Societies affiliated during the year:—

Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastic.
Professional and Social Workers' Approved Society.
Temperance Legislation League (Women's Section).
Women's Committee on "Oxford" Liquor (Popular Control) Bill.

Resignations of member organisations:—

Association of Civil Service Sorting Assistants.
Association of Headmistresses.
Association of Hospital Matrons.
Church Army (Women's Section).
Midwives' Institute.
National Federation of Women's Institutes.
Women's League of Service for Motherhood.

The following member organisation has now ceased to exist as a separate Society:—

Women's Total Abstinence Union.

FAWCETT COLLECTION

Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations.
Statement of Receipts and Payments. 1st July, 1925, to 30th June, 1926

RECEIPTS	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, July 1st, 1925—						
Treasurer	119	9	4			
Secretary	1	6	6			
	120	15	10			
Donations—						
Mrs. Corbett Ashby	1	1	0			
Mrs. Hood	1	1	0			
Miss M. Turner		2	6			
Association of Assistant Mistresses in Secondary Schools	18	0	0			
Miss Charlesworth		2	6			
Federation of Women Civil Servants	19	0	0			
National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child	1	0	0			
Mrs. Turner	1	14	6			
Actresses' Franchise League	5	0	0			
British Legion (Women's Section)	3	3	0			
Jewish Assoc. for the Protection of Women and Girls	2	2	0			
National Union of Teachers	10	0	0			
National Union of Women Teachers	1	1	0			
Temperance Legislation League ...	10	6				
	63	18	0			
Subscriptions				96	0	0
Sale of Pamphlets				4	13	10
	£285	7	8			

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Honorarium, Secretary	150	0	0			
Rent, Cleaning, Light, Telephone and Hire of Halls	53	2	11			
Printing and Stationery	22	1	0			
Postages	14	8	6			
Sundry Expenses	2	17	10			
	242	10	3			
Balance in hand, June 30th, 1926—						
Treasurer	40	3	6			
Secretary	2	13	11			
	42	17	5			
	£285	7	8			

Audited and found correct,
E. W. CHURCH, Hon. Auditor,
8 Crosby Square, London, E.C.3
1st July, 1926.

CONSTITUTION.

I.—Objects.

- (i.) To collect and communicate information of mutual interest respecting the activities of the constituent Societies or the political situation generally.
- (ii.) To consult together on questions of policy and methods of action.
- (iii.) To recommend action to its constituent bodies to be carried out by them jointly or severally.

II.—Powers.

The Committee shall take action only when authorised to do so by a majority of the constituent Societies represented at any meeting and voting on that occasion, and shall act only in the name of those whose authority it has.

III.—Meetings.

- (i.) It shall summon an annual meeting to receive a Report of the year's work and financial statement, and for the purpose of election as hereunder.
- (ii.) It shall hold such further meetings as it may desire, either periodically or at the discretion of the officers, or at the request of not less than five constituent societies.
- (iii.) It may summon Conferences, including persons and representatives of organisations other than its constituent members, upon any particular issue of special importance.

IV.—Method of Appointing Representatives.

Societies or corporate bodies nationally organised, or of national importance, shall be entitled to send women representatives on the following basis:—

Societies with a membership of 10,000 or over shall appoint three representatives.

Societies with 2,500 or over, but under 10,000 shall appoint two representatives.

Societies with under 2,500 shall appoint one representative.

Each representative is entitled to one vote only.

V.—Finance.

Each constituent society shall pay a fee of £1 per annum for each of its delegates. Each individual member shall pay a fee of 7/6 per annum.

VI.—Method of Adding New Members.

(i.) The Committee may at its discretion invite, or consider the application of, any society or corporate body, wholly or mainly composed of women, nationally organised, or of national importance, to become a constituent member on the above terms.

(ii.) The Committee may at its discretion invite or consider the application of any woman desiring to become an individual member of the Consultative Committee. Applications to be received by the General Purposes Sub-Committee and reported to the Consultative Committee. Individual members may take part in the discussions but shall not be entitled to vote.

VII.—Election of Officers.

The Committee shall elect its own President, Chairman, Vice-Presidents, Vice-Chairman, and Honorary Treasurer for the year, and appoint a Secretary, honorary or otherwise.

Nominations for these offices, with the consent of the candidates, should be sent to the Secretary at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting.

A General Purposes Sub-Committee shall be appointed which shall consist of the officers of the Consultative Committee, and not less than five other members elected by the Committee.

VIII.—Annual Meeting.

Copies of resolutions to be proposed at the Annual Meeting shall be:—

(a) Sent to the Secretary of the Committee at least 40 clear days before the date of the Meeting, and by her circulated at least 35 clear days before that date. Amendments shall be sent at least 17 clear days before the Annual Meeting, and circulated at least 14 clear days before that date. Resolutions not so circulated may also be proposed if urgency be noted at the Annual Meeting.

(b) Placed upon the printed Agenda in the name of a constituent Society.

IX.—Alteration of Rules.

No alterations shall be made in the rules except at the Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting of the Committee, to which due notice of any proposed alterations must be given. Such alteration to be by Resolution, carried by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

STANDING ORDERS.

1. A General Purposes Sub-Committee shall be appointed, to whom resolutions, etc., shall be sent ten days before the Committee meets. This Sub-Committee shall be empowered to give priority to that resolution which in their opinion is the best for discussion. If, in its opinion, any resolution sent in is undesirable, the Sub-Committee may refer it to the sender, giving the reasons of objection and leaving it open to the sender to withdraw the resolution. It shall be in order for the sender to leave the resolution in question on the Agenda, in which case it shall be brought up at the Consultative Committee on the date requested and it shall be open to the General Purposes Sub-Committee then to state their objections and the sender to have the right to reply. The Consultative Committee may then decide whether the resolution shall be retained on or deleted from the Agenda.

The Chairman of the Consultative Committee shall have power to rule to what extent a subsequent resolution has already been covered by one previously discussed.

It shall be the business of the General Purposes Sub-Committee to consider applications for membership and report thereon to the Consultative Committee, which shall itself make the final decision by vote.

2. No business, other than that upon the Agenda, shall be taken unless urgency shall have been previously asked and granted by a two-thirds majority vote, with the exception of motions relating to the business before the Committee, such as limitation of speeches, adjournment, or the motion "that the Committee do now proceed to the next business."

3. No member shall address the Committee more than once on any motion or amendment. The mover of an original motion may, however, reply last before the motion is put, after which no other member may speak on the question. No new matter shall be introduced in the reply. The right of reply shall not extend to the mover of an amendment, but when it is carried and has become the substantive motion its mover has then the right of reply before it is put as such. In this case, the mover of the original motion has lost the right of reply, which has passed to the mover of the amendment replacing it; any member who has spoken to an amendment may speak again when it is put as a substantive resolution.

4. No member shall be at liberty to move more than one amendment on any motion.

5. The speeches of the mover and seconder of a resolution shall be limited to five minutes each, and those of subsequent speakers to three minutes, and notice shall be given by the ringing of a bell half a minute before the time limit.

6. Any member may move the Previous Question, namely, that the Committee do now proceed to the next business, and this motion shall be dealt with before any other. This motion can only be made when a substantive motion is before the meeting, and cannot be moved upon an amendment.

7. Official reports of the proceedings shall be made and forwarded to the Press.

8. A Quorum shall consist of not less than 20 members.

9. The Consultative Committee shall meet once a month when Parliament is sitting, and otherwise when considered necessary by the officers or at the request of 10 affiliated Societies.

10. The Standing Orders shall not be amended except by a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting, and after due notice has been given.

Any Standing Order may be suspended at any sitting by a two-thirds (majority) vote of the Committee.

LIST OF CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES.

Constituent Societies.	Headquarters Addresses.
Actresses' Franchise League,	146 Harley Street, W.1.
Association of Assistant Mistresses,	29 Gordon Square, W.C.1.
Association for Moral and Social Hygiene,	Orchard House, Great Smith Street, S.W.1.
Association for Women Clerks and Secretaries,	116 Pelgrave Road, S.W.1.
Association of Women House-Property Managers,	3 Bedford Square, W.C.1.
Baptist Women's League,	Baptist Church House, 4 Southampton Row, W.C.1.
British Federation of University Women,	92 Victoria Street, S.W.1.
British Legion (Women's Section),	26 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.
British Social Hygiene Council,	Carteret House, Carteret Street, S.W.1.
British Women's Temperance Association,	104 Gower Street, W.C.1.
Catholic Women's League,	116 Victoria Street, S.W.1.
Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastic	157 Great Portland Street, W.1.
College of Nursing,	7 Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, W.1.
Committee of Social Progress,	74 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.
Conservative Women's Reform Association,	Room 191, Windsor House, Victoria Street, S.W.1.
Electrical Association for Women,	26 George Street, Hanover Square, W.1.
Federation of Women Civil Servants,	35 Marsham Street, Westminster.
Food Education Society,	24 Tufton Street, Westminster.
Free Church Women's Council,	30 Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C.4.
Guild of Insurance Officials (Women's Section),	79 Queen Street, Cheapside, E.C.
Jewish Association for Protection of Women and Girls,	59 Mansell Street, Aldgate, E.
Joint Parliamentary Advisory Council,	7 Hobart Place, S.W.1.
League of the Church Militant,	Church House, Westminster, S.W.1.
L.C.C. Women Teachers' Union.	"Bousfield" L.C.C. School, Clareville Street, S.W.7.
London Society for Women's Service Mothers' Union,	35 Marsham Street, Westminster.
National Adult School Union (Women's Section),	8 Dean's Yard, Westminster.
National Association of Local Government Officers,	30 Bloomsbury Street, W.C.1.
National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child,	Caxton Hall, Westminster.
National Council of Women,	117 Piccadilly, W.1.
National Housing and Town Planning Council,	Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W.1.
National Sisterhood Council,	41 Russell Square, W.C.1.
	37 Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.2.

Constituent Societies.

Headquarters Addresses.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship,	15 Dean's Yard, Westminster.
National Union of Teachers (Women's Section),	Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, W.C.1.
National Union of Women Teachers,	39 Gordon Square, W.C.1.
National Women Citizens' Association,	92 Victoria Street, S.W.1.
Plumage Group,	22 Westmorland Road, Barnes, S.W.13.
Professional and Social Workers' Approved Society,	16 Curzon Road, N.10.
Professional Union of Trained Nurses,	62 Oxford Street, W.1.
Royal British Nurses' Association,	194 Queen's Gate, S.W.7.
Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,	105 Jermyn Street, S.W.1.
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance,	55 Berners Street, W.1.
Salvation Army (Women's Social Work Section),	280 Mare Street, Hackney, E.8.
Six Point Group,	92 Victoria Street, S.W.1.
Social Institutes Union for Women and Girls,	4 Portugal Street, Kingsway. W.C.
Temperance Legislation League (Women's Section),	Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W.1.
Time and Tide Publishing Company,	88 Fleet Street, E.C.4.
Women's Auxiliary Service,	7 Rochester Row, Westminster, S.W.
Women's Committee on "Oxford" Liquor (Popular Control) Bill,	416 Abbey House, Westminster.
Women's Election Committee,	36 Gordon Square, W.C.1.
Women's Engineering Society,	26 George Street, Hanover Square, W.1.
Women's Freedom League,	144 High Holborn, W.C.1.
Women's Guild of Empire,	24 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.
Women's International League,	55 Gower Street, W.C.1.
Women's League of the London Congregational Union,	Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C.4.
Women's National Liberal Federation,	72 Victoria Street, S.W.1.
Women Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association,	92 Victoria Street, S.W.1.
Women's Temperance Group of the Wesleyan Methodist Church,	1 Central Buildings, Westminster, S.W.
Women's Unionist Organisation,	Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, Westminster, S.W.1.
Young Women's Christian Association,	17 Clifford Street, Bond Street, W.1.

LIST OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.

Mrs. Percy Bigland.	Miss Leonard.
Miss Charlesworth.	Mrs. Wauchope McIver.
Miss Collisson.	Miss Mason.
Miss Councillor Cox.	Mrs. Norrie, C.B.E.
Miss Cox Davies, C.B.E., R.R.C.	Mrs. Northcroft.
Miss E. F. Crowdy, C.B.E.	Mrs. Sanderson Furniss.
Lady Greenwood, D.B.E.	Mrs. Turner.
Miss Griffiths.	Miss West.
Mrs. Hoster.	Miss Wilson.

PAMPHLET