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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LANDSWOMEN.

Report & Statement of Accounts, 1920.

Council.

The first Council Meeting of the National Association of Landswomen was held at 80, Pall Mall, on December 18th, 1919. At that meeting Delegates were present from 52 Counties where Associations of Landswomen had been formed or were in process of formation. The Provisional Committee which had been called together by the Women's Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture to undertake the preliminary work of the promotion of the County Associations presented their Report, which was adopted. Resolutions were passed agreeing that a National Association of Landswomen should be formed, with headquarters in London and branches in the Counties, and that its objects should be

1. To form an Association of all women interested in agriculture and horticulture, for the purpose of encouraging and developing upon sound economic lines the part they take in the industry.
2. To voice the needs and opinions of women engaged in agricultural and horticultural pursuits.

That the benefits should be

1. Co-operation among women in the agricultural industry.
2. Co-operative purchase of clothing.
3. Agricultural and educational information.
4. Social and recreative facilities.

After discussion, it was agreed that for the first year the N.A.L. should be affiliated to the Women's Farm and Garden Union, at an affiliation fee of £5 per county; That an N.A.L. Sub-Committee of the W.F. & G.U. be formed, having eight members elected by the N.A.L. Council, who should also sit on the W.F. & G.U.

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Executive, and three members appointed by the W.F. & G.U., and that this Committee should manage the affairs of the Association. A ballot was held, and the following eight were elected: Mrs. Assheton, Miss Baker, Miss Chambers, Miss Fawcett, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Hobbs, Miss Simpson, and Mrs. Streatfield. These elected members met first on January 8th, but the first full meeting of the Committee was not held till January 15th, the three members appointed by the W.F. & G.U. being Mrs. Balfour, Mrs. Bridgeman, and Miss Macqueen.

Committee, Office, and Officers.

At its first meeting the N.A.L. Committee appointed Mrs. Streatfield to be Chairman and Miss Baker Hon. Sec., and agreed that Mrs. Alexander should be offered the post of Outfit and Financial Secretary, that she should work at 72, Victoria Street, where the outfit was stored, and that a room should be taken in the W.F. & G.U. Office at £20 per annum, where the administrative work of the Association should be done by the Hon. Sec. Later the W.F. & G.U. allowed the Association the service of a half-time typist. In February a Finance and General Purposes Committee was appointed, which has met six times. Great satisfaction was felt when in February Princess Mary consented to become Patroness of the Association, and in April Lord Selborne consented to become its President, Mr. Charles Adeane its Hon. Treasurer, and Lord Ernle, Lady Denman, Lord Lee, Lady Sandwich, Mr. Owen Hugh Smith, and Dame Meriel Talbot its Vice-Presidents. Unfortunately Mr. Adeane is obliged to resign the Treasurership as he is unable to attend the meetings. The Committee is most grateful to him for the help he has given the Association during its initial stages. In November Miss Baker is resigning the Hon. Secretaryship, and Miss Alexander is obliged at the same time to give up the Outfit Secretaryship for six months. Miss Purves has been appointed to undertake both the Outfit Secretaryship and the administrative side of the work until Miss Alexander returns, and is to have two clerks to assist her. The N.A.L. Committee has met ten times.

Clothing.

The Committee has been fortunate in that it has been able to purchase, as needed, part of the remaining stock of Land Army outfits, and that Miss Alexander has been allowed to use for the despatch of these outfits the room where they are stored, at 72, Victoria Street. To her energy is due the fact that the outfit account shows a considerable profit. This profit is being used to build up a Reserve Fund against the time when the Committee is obliged to purchase stores in bulk. The Committee desires to thank the Ministry of Agriculture for the interest taken in the work of the Association and for the very practical help given. At one

time it was considered a necessary part of the arrangement that the N.A.L. should become an Incorporated Society, and the Committee had long negotiations on this subject. The difficulties were considerable, and it was found that in becoming a registered society the Association would be severely restricting its future freedom of action. Eventually, by agreeing to pay cash for all goods, the need for incorporation was obviated, and the Committee decided not to proceed further with the negotiations until the future of the Association was more certain.

Miss Alexander has been able to make several advantageous bargains with city firms, the sales have steadily increased, and the Committee feels that this side of the Association's work may be regarded with extreme satisfaction.

Badge and Membership Card.

The Committee has procured for the use of members of the Association a wheatsheaf badge and membership card with a wheatsheaf design, and these have been ordered in large numbers by the branches.

"The Landswoman."

From February to July the "Landswoman" was the official journal of the Association, but the Committee felt unable to take the responsibility of giving the seal of the Association's approval to a paper over which it had not the smallest control, and felt that a decision on this point must be made by the Council itself.

Propaganda and Press Campaign.

The Committee has issued a propaganda leaflet for use in the Counties and also to assist in an appeal for funds, both branch funds and reserve fund at headquarters, which is so much needed if the work of the N.A.L. is to be carried on. The appeal has as yet only brought in £280, but it is hoped that more may still be raised. Propaganda was also carried out through the press, and a letter was drawn up for the County newspapers which has been very widely circulated. In this way the work of the Association has become much better known. A special woman's number of the "Smallholder" was published, which devoted considerable space to the work of the Association.

Agricultural Shows.

The N.A.L. had a stall at the Royal Agricultural Show at Darlington, where the outfit was on view and propaganda literature was distributed. It has also taken with the W.F. & G.U. a joint stall at the Dairy Show, and organised a special joint milking contest for members of both bodies. In many counties, too, stalls have been held at the County Agricultural Shows, and much interest has been aroused in this way.

Co-operation with the Employment Exchanges and Clearing Sheet.

From the beginning there has been friendly co-operation with the Employment Exchanges, both in the Counties and at headquarters, and notification of vacancies and applicants are from time to time sent to the N.A.L. by the Employment Exchanges.

In May it was decided to issue a weekly clearing sheet. Notification of vacancies to be filled and applicants to be placed are received at the office, and every Monday these are tabulated and sent out again to the branches. Altogether the N.A.L. office has received notification of 427 vacancies and 371 applicants.

Insurance.

The question of a special scheme of insurance for members of the Association has occupied the attention of the Committee from its first meeting. Enquiries were made and interviews arranged with the officials of the principal Friendly Societies, and the advantages offered by the various Societies were carefully considered. Eventually a majority of the Committee decided that the scheme proposed by the Approved Society of the National Federation of Women Workers would be the most advantageous to the Association as a whole. As, however, there was a strong divergence of opinion on this subject, and as it was evident that some of the branches desired that the N.A.L. should affiliate to the National Federation of Rural Approved Societies, the Committee eventually decided that the matter must be submitted to the Council, and a long explanatory letter was sent to the branches.

Co-operation with the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

From the beginning it was clear that the work of the Association was very closely connected with that of the Women's Institutes, and at its first meeting the N.A.L. Committee resolved to approach the Institute Committee with a view to co-operation. Both bodies are associations of rural women; both aim at the betterment of rural conditions; both are organised on a democratic principle and on a county basis. The advances made were warmly met, and a similar circular was sent by the Federation and the Association urging close co-operation between the County Federations of Women's Institutes and the County branches of the N.A.L. Letters were also sent to the County Councils urging the representation of both bodies on the County Agricultural Committees which were in process of formation. The Federation also invited the N.A.L. to nominate a member to sit on its Executive Committee.

The result in the Counties was most encouraging. In no less than six counties Joint Offices were established and a Joint Secretary appointed, and in practically all the counties the most friendly relations exist.

The Scottish Women's Institutes are run on slightly different lines to the English and Welsh Institutes, but here, too, co-operation has been found possible, and it has been agreed that members of the Scottish Institutes should be allowed the right to purchase the N.A.L. outfit on payment of half fees.

In June it was found that the National Federation of Women's Institutes was about to develop the agricultural side of its work by the formation of an Agricultural Sub-Committee at Headquarters and Agricultural Sub-Committees in all the County Federations. The N.A.L. Committee felt that the existence of two Women's Agricultural Sub-Committees in the counties, very often meeting in the same office, and with the same Secretary, would lead to hopeless confusion, and in many cases to friction, and it was decided that some further action must be taken. An informal conference was held with the Chairman and three members of the Women's Farm and Garden Union Committee, when the relationship of the three bodies was discussed, and it was agreed that the work of the N.A.L. much more nearly coincided with that of the National Federation of Women's Institutes than with that of the W.F. & G.U., which is a highly centralised organisation dealing with a special class of worker only. The matter was then brought up at the Institute Executive and a Special Sub-Committee was appointed to consider it. Several meetings were held, and eventually a memorandum on the subject was drawn up.

In view of the importance of this question and of the Special Insurance Scheme, also the need for a definite decision on the question of the N.A.L. attitude towards strikes, it was agreed that the Council should be called in October instead of December.

Work in the Counties.

In December it was reported that 51 County Associations had been formed. No branches had been formed in Bedford and Shropshire, or in Brecknock, Cardigan, Carmarthen, Merioneth, or Radnor. Shortly after this the Denbigh and Cheshire branches combined to form one branch, also the Westmoreland and Cumberland branches, leaving 49 branches in all. Of these, Bucks never existed in more than name, and the Hunts, Isle of Ely, the two Lincoln branches, Montgomery, E. Suffolk, E. Sussex, and the branch for E. and W. Yorks have practically ceased to exist, leaving 40 branches at the present time. Of these, some have done very little work or are finding continued existence extremely difficult. This is especially the case in the larger counties, where the distances are great and workers far apart, or where the farms are

mostly arable and few permanent women workers are employed. It is this that accounts for the failure in Yorkshire, Lincoln, and Hunts. In other Counties the work has progressed and the membership has mounted steadily. Thirty-four Counties have framed their constitutions, and of these 18 have been forwarded to headquarters and accepted by the Committee. Specimen constitutions were sent as a guide to any Counties that asked for them, and from time to time the Committee drew up certain rules that must be included in all constitutions—

1. That the membership fee must be 4/- per annum or 1/1 per quarter.
2. That the County Committee must be elected by a meeting of branch members.
3. That all new members must be passed by the County Committee.
4. That clothing may only be sold to members.
5. That no branch may affiliate with another body without the consent of the N.A.L. Committee.
6. That when members are transferred from one county to another the transferring county should keep any membership subscription that has been paid.

Nine Counties have been able to raise sufficient funds for paid clerical assistance, 12 have a County office, 36 are undertaking the placing of their members, 13 are charging a fee for placing, 13 have special benefits for their members, such as hostel accommodation, provident funds, etc. Pembroke has opened a market club, Somerset and Warwick provide hospital letters, Middlesex has social evenings. Seven of the counties have recently sent in specimen balance sheets, and these all show a very satisfactory financial position. Warwick has raised £377 for County funds, mostly by donations and entertainments, Surrey has raised £73 by plant sales and over £40 by sale of jerseys, and both in this County and Hants the farmers have subscribed largely towards the funds. In Carnarvon, where there were only about 25 ex-members of the Land Army, the membership has risen to 155, mostly the wives of small farmers. These various branch activities have been picked at random, but they suffice to show that in many Counties the N.A.L. is a very living body.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LANDSWOMEN.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS from January to 30th September, 1920.

RECEIPTS.				£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.				£	s.	d.
By Subscriptions (Members) ... ..	...	...	...	3	8	0	To Rent (half-year) ... ..	...	...	...	10	0	0
Donations ... ..	...	...	...	289	14	0	Printing, Stationery, and Typing ... ..	...	...	...	46	1	7
Sale of Badges ... ..	...	...	27 16 1				Cards ... ..	...	...	...	16	0	0
„ Stationery ... ..	...	...	5 0 1				Postage ... ..	...	...	...	12	11	3
„ Cards ... ..	...	...	5 10 2				Travelling ... ..	...	...	...	28	13	9
							Badges ... ..	...	...	...	34	8	2
Affiliation Fees ... ..	...	...		38	6	3	Royal Show Expenses ... ..	...	...	...	24	6	0
				145	0	0	Dairy Show Expenses ... ..	...	...	...	6	5	0
							Farm and Garden Union ... ..	...	...	...	145	0	0
							Cash at Bankers and in hand	141	7	5			
							Petty Cash	11	15	1			
											153	2	6
											£476	8	3

OUTFIT DEPARTMENT.—Statement of Receipts and Payments from February to 30th September, 1920.

RECEIPTS.				£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.				£	s.	d.
By Sales of Clothing ... ..	...	...	...	157	0	11	To Purchases of Clothing ... ..	...	...	...	170	0	8
Outfit Account—Sales, 16th Feb.	...	...	...				Salaries ... ..	...	...	...	239	11	11
to 30th Sept.	8,124	13	2				Printing and Stationery ... ..	...	...	...	13	11	9
Less—Ministry of Agriculture and							Postage ... ..	...	...	...	128	3	8
Fisheries	7,162	8	7				Parcel Paper and String ... ..	...	...	...	27	6	2
				962	4	7	Carriage (Rail) ... ..	...	...	...	9	17	10
							Incidentals and Sundries... ..	...	...	...	5	0	11
							Refunded for Parcel lost in post ... ..	...	...	...	1	6	6
											594	19	5
							Cash at Bankers and in hand	518	0	7			
							Petty Cash	6	5	6			
											524	6	1
				£1,119	5	6	The Association has also Stock				£1,119	5	6
							on hand as valued by the Manager						
							at this date, £37 8s. 9d.						

I hereby certify that I have examined the above Accounts with the Books and Vouchers relating thereto and found them to be correct.

20, Bucklersbury,
Mansion House, London, E.C.,
16th October, 1920.

(Signed) M. HARRIS SMITH, *Auditor*,
Chartered Accountant, F.C.A.,
Hon. Incorporated Accountant.

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