

WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD

JC
515

AGENDA for PEACE CELEBRATION IN ARMISTICE WEEK



1.—SONG, chosen from Nos. 10, 14, 18, 23 or 26 in "Songs for Co-operators," or the "Internationale."

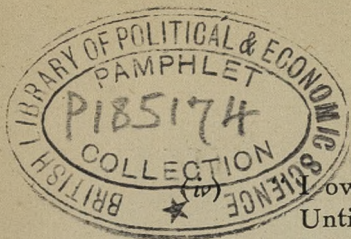
2.—DECLARATION to be read by the Chairman:—

"We are holding this meeting to-day in Memory of those who fell and suffered in order that there should be NO MORE WAR, and to renew our pledge to work for World Peace."

3.—Five members to be chosen to read one each of the following:—

FIVE SOULS.

- (i) "I was a peasant of the Polish plain ;
I left my plough because the message ran
Russia in danger needed every man,
To save her from the Teuton : and was slain.
*I gave my life for freedom—this I know,
For those who bade me fight had told me so.*
- (ii) "I was a Tyrolese, a mountaineer ;
I gladly left my mountain home to fight
Against the brutal, treacherous Muscovite,
And died in Poland on a Cossack spear.
*I gave my life for freedom—this I know,
For those who bade me fight had told me so.*
- (iii) "I worked in Lyons at my weaver's loom ;
When suddenly the Prussian despot hurled
His felon blow at France and at the world.
Then went I forth to Belgium and my doom.
*I gave my life for freedom—this I know,
For those who bade me fight had told me so.*



owned a vineyard by the wooded Main ;
 Until the Fatherland, begirt by foes,
 Lusting her downfall, called me and I rose,
 Swift to the call—and died in fair Lorraine.
*I gave my life for freedom—this I know,
 For those who bade me fight had told me so.*

- (v) “ I worked in a great shipyard by the Clyde ;
 There came a sudden word of wars declared,
 Of Belgium, peaceful, helpless, unprepared,
 Asking our aid : I joined the ranks and died.
*I gave my life for freedom—this I know,
 For those who bade me fight had told me so.*”—W. N. EWER.

4.—Three members to be chosen to read the following :—

TWO STORIES FROM EDWARD CARPENTER'S "NEVER AGAIN."

- (i) During the War a private soldier said : “ Yes, we got to be such friends with those Bavarians in the trenches over against us that if we had returned there again I believe *nothing* could have made us fight with each other ; but of course, that point was perceived and we were moved to another part of the line.”

What a criticism in a few words on the whole War.

- (ii) The Germans one day, in their trenches 30 or 40 yards away from the English, put up a blackboard on which was written, “ The English are fools ! ” written on it. The board was, of course, peppered with bullets, and went down. Presently it reappeared with “ The French are fools ! ” written on it. Being duly peppered, it went down again, and came up with “ The Russians are fools ! ” Same treatment. But when it, or a similar board, appeared for the fourth time, lo ! the inscription was “ The Austrians are fools !,” and when it appeared for the fifth time, “ The Germans are fools.” And the sixth time, “ We are all fools. Why don't we go home ? ”

I don't think there could be much better commonsense than that.

FROM “ DEATH OR LIFE.”

- (iii) “ War is a return to Barbarism. To come forth from the kingdom of darkness and death into the kingdom of light and life, humanity must establish Peace on Earth. Let us go forward with limitless expectation, with steadfast and quenchless hope. The vitality of our faith and the strength of our purpose decide the course of the world.”—MARGARET LEWELLYN DAVIES.

5.—SONG chosen from the numbers given above.

6.—ADDRESS by the Speaker for from 15-20 minutes.

7.—RESOLUTION to be moved by the Speaker and seconded from the audience.

“ We who have met here to-day, believing that War is a crime against humanity, welcome the recent proposals for the Outlawry of War and rejoice in the fact that this has now become an issue of practical politics, to be discussed by all civilised nations. We call upon the Government of this country to follow up the signing of the Kellogg Pact by the withdrawing of their reservations and to show their good faith by calling a world Disarmament Conference. We, ourselves, renew our pledge to work unceasingly for the complete Outlawry of War and the establishment of World Peace.”

THE OUTLAWRY OF WAR.

There is a throne in the centre of the platform. War enters, dressed in black and red, carrying a sword, and stands in the middle of the platform in an aggressive attitude. The countries follow and range themselves round.

War speaks :

I am Man's greatest Work on Earth,
 To Glory and Honour have I given birth.
 And the spoils of War and of Victory
 Are the fairest prizes Men's eyes can see.

What matter if lives are lost or maimed,
 If homes are ruined and women shamed ?
 For I bring all that man most admires,
 And I can fulfil all his desires.

Patriotism by me is fanned,
 And Rivalry between land and land
 Which makes the nations strive to gain
 More territory, and then more again.

Hark, then, to my battle cry
 I am War, Man's Lord and Master, I !

Peace enters. She steps forward and points to War, and speaks to the Nations.

I charge you, nations and countries all,
 Now you have heard War's battle call,
 What answer now will you give to me ?
 Is War what he has claimed to be ?

1st Nation (answering Peace) :

Hatred one man to another,
 Enmity 'twixt man and brother,
 That is War.

2nd Nation :

To children, orphan desolation,
 Or sickness, weakness and starvation,
 That is War.

3rd Nation :

Death to husbands, sons and brothers,
 Pain to daughters, wives and mothers,
 That is War.

4th Nation :

Unemployment, Trade depressions,
 Loss of savings, health, possessions,
 That is War.

5th Nation :

Plundered homes razed to the ground,
 Towns laid waste for miles around,
 That is War.

6th Nation :

Fertile fields and land destroyed,
 Famine and terror unalloyed,
 That is War.

7th Nation :

For the country desolation,
 For the people tribulation,
 That is War.

Peace then steps forward again and says :

Mankind, therefore, is agreed,
War is what it does not need.
If man wishes to be free,
War must banished, outlaw'd be.
Unite, then, Nations of the World,
With Peace's banner now unfurled.
Hence from out our midst drive War,
Usher in the reign of Law.

Peace takes away War's sword and leads him off while the countries call out together with outstretched hands "Go! we've done with you." Peace is then put on the throne in the centre of the platform.

Peace speaks again :

War has now been driven away,
And we must build in another way.
Now we have got rid of War,
What shall we use our money for ?

1st Nation answers :

Instead of slums devoid of light,
I'll build homes, beautiful and bright.

2nd Nation :

Children's nursery schools I'll give,
That bairns more happily may live.

3rd Nation :

I think the Workers need more leisure,
Holidays with pay would bring pleasure.

4th Nation :

Better schools and educational places,
More playing fields and open spaces.

5th Nation :

The widowed, old and sick need care,
Much good work I could do there.

6th Nation :

More must be done for the People's Health,
In that way I should spend my wealth.

7th Nation :

A living wage for every man,
And woman too shall be my plan.

Peace speaks :

Now it is agreed that War shall cease,
We can look forward to the fruits of Peace.
And who will deny that these will be
Far better than fruits of Victory ?
We'll build in love and brotherhood
A world founded on Justice and Good.
And thus, in true co-operation,
Joy shall come to every Nation.

Peace invites the audience to join in singing "These Things shall be."

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