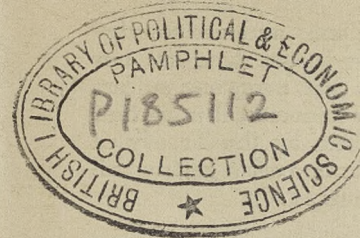


WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD



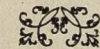
AGENDA

JC
514

for

PEACE CELEBRATION IN ARMISTICE WEEK

1929



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

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."

Address by the Speaker for 15-20 minutes.

Song chosen from numbers given above.

Mrs. A is seen sitting at a table, and *Mrs. B* comes in dressed in outdoor clothes. Eight women of different nationalities, each representing the Woman with the Basket in her own country, and one representing the League of Nations, are grouped in the background.

Mrs. B: "I have just come back from the War Memorial that was put up in our town, and, do you know, I never pass it without wondering why it is really there, especially at this time of the year, as I suppose most people do. It is strange, isn't it, that we should portray our love for those dear ones, who made such great sacrifices, in blocks of stone. I can't help thinking sometimes that the effect is not what we really wish, and I wonder whether, instead of putting up inanimate blocks of stone, which even the flowers with which we decorate them find hard and cold, we could not make some more practical demonstration to show our recognition of those sacrifices, and make some real effort for the Cause for which those sacrifices were made."

"I am sure that would be the wish of those whose memories we want to keep green, and I can't help feeling that people are not really satisfied with stone memorials and Armistice celebrations. They go to them because they want to feel that they are doing something in memory of their dear ones, but I don't believe they come away really satisfied. Don't you feel that too?"

Mrs. A: "Yes, I feel with you that these memorials become just a centre for an annual display of what at times is really a military demonstration. It certainly isn't the memorials that are going to prevent another War, and I think it is just because people are dissatisfied with things of this kind that proposals are

being made, and so many plans are being prepared to prevent any occasion arising when young people should be called on to make such sacrifices again."

Mrs. B : " Well, I don't know. There always have been Wars."

Mrs. A : " Yes, but the people have never really wanted them, and no country has real enemies, as is seen by the fact that our enemies in one war are our allies in the next. Already people are beginning to find that everyone suffers by dragging one country down, and it is beginning to be understood now that it did no good to anyone to cripple Germany as was done by the Treaty of Versailles. Our Government is trying now to help Germany by getting all the troops to evacuate the German territory in the Rhineland."

Mrs. B : " Yes, I know there is a lot of talk going on about preventing another war and about Peace. But where does it lead us? We had a Disarmament Conference two years ago but what was the result? They could not reach an agreement. Nothing really seems to be *done* about solving the problem."

Mrs. A : " But think what a gigantic task we are undertaking! We cannot expect that our first efforts will succeed right away when we are tackling such a huge problem. But every effort that is made is bringing the idea of Peace more and more before the People, and we must go on patiently from one step to another."

Mrs. B : " Well, I must say, the steps don't seem to get us very far. Look at the Kellogg Pact, for instance, that was talked about so much as being such a wonderful thing—our own country refused to sign it without reservations that made it practically valueless."

Mrs. A : " Yes, but with the return of a Labour Government to office we are looking forward to the withdrawing of those reservations, and hope in this way to take an important step nearer to Peace. Already our Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary are in touch with America in order to try and arrange another big Disarmament Conference."

Mrs. B : " Well, suppose you do get the countries to disarm, what is going to happen when there is a dispute? So far War has been the only way of settling quarrels between countries, and what can we have to take its place?"

Mrs. A : " We already have a Permanent World Court of International Justice which exists to settle disputes between nations. Several countries have already agreed to bring their disputes before this Court, and our own country has now promised to sign what is called the ' Optional Clause ' in the Statute of this Court, which means that we should bring our disputes to be settled there too."

" After all, hundreds of years ago men used to settle their quarrels by fighting and killing each other; to-day in our towns and cities Civil Courts have grown up where disputes are settled now without any force or brutality. What we want is the extension of this principle to nations so that their disputes can be settled without physical force."

Mrs. B : " Well, when you put it like that it does seem as though real plans are being made and practical propositions being put forward to abolish War and bring about real Peace in spite of the fact that things are moving rather slowly."

Mrs. A : " A lot can be done by the Education of the young. In Germany and other countries attempts are being made to eliminate false patriotism or ' jingoism ' from the school teaching. Unfortunately, in this country, led by the Public Schools, there are Cadet Corps in nearly all our higher schools, and Empire Days and Armistice Days are often used to inflame the spirit of antagonism to other peoples. A municipality like Sheffield has led the way by abolishing its Cadet Corps and by establishing a special day once a year for the Cultivation of International Friendship and Peace, and by controlling its teaching so as to appreciate the importance of International Peace. Let us hope other localities and the Board of Education itself will follow so excellent an example."

Mrs. B : " Let us hope so indeed."

Mrs. A : " As you say, progress seems slow. There will always be difficulties, but there has never been a difficulty so great that man's reason and sound judgment have not been able to overcome it. This is what we as Co-operators believe, for we are building up great national movements, and we are hoping through international co-operation to be able to solve the problems that countries are faced with, because it is only by all countries working together for the Common Good that Peace can ultimately be attained. Co-operators in every country have all got to play their part in creating a Peace Mind amongst their own people, in the belief that this will flow out in an ever-widening tide to a World Co-operative Commonwealth, which must be the goal of all Humanity."

" We women have our own International Guild, and we meet from time to time in the common cause of Co-operation, but there are thousands of years of ignorance and prejudice and superstition to be overcome. It is not ours to faint by the wayside but to work on, in season and out of season, for the glorious day when the peoples of the earth will take hands together and join in one great communion of souls for the welfare and advancement of the race. When, as the Prophet so beautifully said: ' They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. '

" I should like to ask citizens of each country to tell us what their country is doing to try and abolish War."

Then the countries step forward, and one by one say what they are doing for Peace.

United States of America : " We have set before the world the great idea of the Outlawry of War, and who knows what it will lead to. For 150 years the border line of Canada and the United States has never been overshadowed by a single fort or troop of soldiers. We have often disagreed but never been to war. Why should not all frontiers be the same?"

Sweden : " When we disagreed with Finland about the Aaland Islands we left it to the arbitration of the League of Nations. We are proud of the fact that we spend our money on the health of our people and the education of our citizens, which are among the best in the world."

Germany : " We have instructed our school teachers not to teach those things which lead to international hate. We have thrown the idea of War to the winds and are seeking the common good of all."

France : " I am sorry we have not yet got rid of the absurd fear that other nations wish to injure us and that we must prepare armaments to defend ourselves. But the thoughtful and intelligent amongst us are strenuously striving to get us to rely on amity rather than arms."

Britain : " We have agreed to submit our disputes to the International Court of Justice. We have limited our cruiser building and are hoping to come to an agreement with the United States to limit still more. We are evacuating the Rhineland as soon as possible and are pleased our neighbours France and Belgium are following our example. We hope to press measures for further Disarmament at the League of Nations. The hearts of our people are set on Peace."

Switzerland : " We consist of several nations, races and religions all living in peace with each other, and the League of Nations has come to our state to make its home."

China : " We have built up a Republic to carry out the great work of the freedom lover and Peace worker, Sun-Yat-Sen. We have a huge task before us to educate our people, but we are doing it energetically. We have happily averted war with Russia and hope to live in peace with all nations."

Denmark : " We are a small country but an educated one, and our people are prosperous. Our new Government has come into power on the promise to

carry out complete Disarmament. We are going to trust to the decency of the world. What a glorious gesture, and how I hope other nations will soon follow."

League of Nations : " I stand for the best in all of you. The League is still weak because you are weak. Armaments are not strength, they are weakness of soul due to fear of other peoples. But all peoples desire the same things, Peace, Progress and Prosperity. The League has done much to settle quarrels which have led to War in the past. Its International Labour Office is lifting up the status of workers all over the world. It has assisted International Transport and the Postal Service. It has helped to suppress the White Slave Traffic and the trade in noxious Drugs. It is seeking the intellectual co-operation of nations.

" The League will be strong when the nations are strong ; strong enough to resist Fear and to take hands together for the welfare of the world."

Three members to be chosen to read one each of the following :—

" 'Tis said the harp, in ages long ago,
Grew from the tense strings of the warrior's bow,
And thus was music born of hate and pain.
O', Soul of Man, let her be born again."

—*William Watson.*

" There is a destiny which makes us brothers,
None takes his way alone ;
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own."

—*Anon.*

" And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks : Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." —*Isaiab.*

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, renew our pledge to work for total disarmament, the removal of all causes of War, and the establishment of a new social and international order based on the Pacifist principle of co-operation for the common good."

The Countries and the League of Nations then join hands and the Chairman invites the audience to join in singing the closing song, No. 25, " These Things Shall Be."

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