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The National Council of Women of Great Britain

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

October, 1937

In presenting the Financial Report, copies of which are on the seats, I again have to mention that there is a deficit on the year's working of £135. 9s. 5d. and our debit balance on the Balance Sheet is now £387. 19s. 8d.

You will remember in comparing this year with last, that the Council's Financial Year ends at August 31st, so that the Conferences at Leicester in October 1935 and at Southport in June, 1936 came into the same financial year, 1935-36, while no conference has been held in the financial year, 1936-37. The donation from Conference receipts kindly sent to us by the Southport Branch does come into this year, but the sales of Conference Reports and Agenda, and payments for their printing, are affected.

There have been in this year no spectacular donations, but we have had some very kind help, partly from the ladies who have given donations for three years, and also from the Manchester and Harpenden Branches, and the late Miss Leigh Brown, in her will, to all of whom we offer our thanks.

The most important point in this year's accounts is the saving effected by the moving of the offices from Murray House to Gower Street. This appears not only under the head of rent, but also under Cleaning, Lighting and Heating expenses. The whole saving amounts to £203. 17s. 7d. in a complete year; the year 1935-36 was the transitional period and is therefore not correct for the purpose of comparison. The fact that our deficit on the year's working is only about £100 more than it was in the previous year, although our income from donations is less by about £370, is due almost entirely to the saving effected by this removal.

In April of this year it was found that much extra pressure on the Office Staff would be caused by arrangements for hospitality

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to Overseas guests, by the one-day Conference and Dinner to Lady Aberdeen, and also by the increase in publicity work generally, partly caused by these special Coronation year activities. It was therefore found necessary to appoint an organiser temporarily for this work, and Miss McCall was appointed. After the Conference Miss McCall was appointed permanently as half-time Press Secretary, the rest of her time being devoted to the editing of "Women in Council." This therefore will add to our liabilities in the future to the extent of £150 of her salary. We hope very much that Miss McCall's activities will result in increased membership and an increase in the number of Branches through her publicity work. Our Staff at the Office has also been increased by the addition of a second stenographer, as was foretold by the Hon. Treasurer last year.

If you will turn to the I.C.W. Account, you will see that the Lady Aberdeen Fund for the Endowment of the I.C.W. now amounts to £463. 3s. 6d. This Fund is to be kept open till June next. Recently there has been opened a guarantee Fund for the Edinburgh Conference in 1938, to which donations as well as offers of guarantee are invited. You will notice that subscriptions from Triennial Contributions nearly covered the amount of the quota which we pay to the I.C.W. and we hope that there may be more Triennial Contributors before the I.C.W. Conference at Edinburgh.

You will remember that at the Conference at Leicester in 1935 a contribution of £225 annually for the three years to 1938 was decided upon. This has been paid for two years and by April of next year, the end of the I.C.W. Financial year, the third year's contribution will have been paid. The Council have to decide upon their future commitments to the I.C.W. It is obvious from our own accounts that we cannot at present afford to promise a larger sum than this contribution of £255, especially as we are at present also raising two separate Funds, the Lady Aberdeen Fund for the Endowment of the I.C.W. and the Fund for the expense of the Edinburgh Meeting in 1938.

The £255 promised to the I.C.W. consists of 30 shares of £6 15s. 0d. each earmarked for office expenses only according to Miss Glaesel's Budget of February, 1937; and also a contribution of £52. 10s. 0d. working expenses (stationery, printing, the expenses of President and Conveners; this contribution is voluntary). It is for the Council to decide whether we shall continue our payment of £255 after 1938, or whether we can raise the increased amount suggested.

There are only two things to mention on the Balance Sheet itself: the unexpended balance of the Travelling Pool—the amount

not yet claimed by Branches for the fares of their representatives—and the fact that we sold our shares in Co-Partnership Tenants Ltd., which were given to us by Mrs. Creighton, at £50 above their estimated value. This sum has been invested in War Loan.

In the New Offices Fund account you will notice that this year (as also in the year before) we have spent about £200 from this Fund. The interest on the capital amounts to about £85 a year, and last year £300 of our stock was sold. We still have £80 of this on current account, but unless some unforeseen benefactors favour us, it is likely that next year again stock will have to be sold. I should like to feel that selling is not necessary, and I wish it could be avoided by an increase in the number of Branches, Affiliated Societies and Headquarters subscribers. There are plenty of places without Branches, plenty of Societies not affiliated to us, quite a lack of Headquarters subscribers. Will you all, members of Branches, Regional Committees, Sectional Committees, see what can be done? There has been this year a certain amount of dissatisfaction expressed with the £5 quota which is levied on every Branch. We cannot afford to do without this unless or until we have the necessary income from other sources, and particularly from the sources I have mentioned.

May I, in conclusion, offer my best thanks to the Assistant Treasurer, Miss McCulloch, for her able and efficient help.