

INTERNATIONAL BONDS.

WOMEN IN OTHER LANDS.



MISS A. B. WHITHAM, B.A.

"And what did you like best?" I asked the question frivolously after half an hour's conversation on the beauties of Europe through Australian eyes. Miss A. B. Whitham laughed and cried accusingly, "You're as bad as the American woman who asked me, 'Now, what is your dominating impression?' Imagine being asked that after London, Rome, Florence, Paris, Genoa, Brittany, and the rest of it! I had to confine myself to the Paris Conference of the International Suffrage Alliance. Of that one did get 'a dominating impression.'"

Miss Whitham, with Miss Anna Meuz and Miss E. A. Allen, represented the Women's Non-Party Association on the Australian delegation from the Australian Federation of Women's Societies for Equal Citizenship, and her experience of the world gathering of brilliant women was vivid and delightful.

SEX EQUALITY.

"A tremendous number of subjects were dealt with, and the criticism was made that the conference was not so valuable as that of last year because of attempting to do too much. I think perhaps there was something in that; but the work done was wonderfully interesting. I was on the committee on family endowment, with Eleanor Rathbone as Chairman. She is now the recognised leading authority on this subject, and was called away to England suddenly to discuss whether something of the kind could solve the coal wages trouble. It was a controversial subject, and was strongly opposed by several countries on the ground that it would bring down wages. In France there is a measure of family endowment which is carried out by the manufacturers in the different districts pooling their liabilities. Resolutions in favour of some form of family endowment were finally passed. It is, of course, merely an expression of opinion. There are tremendous difficulties in an international organization, where the countries represented have widely different conditions, but the main benefit of a conference is that it brings all these women of different countries together, and is educational and stimulating. You have heard, of course, of the split on the question of restrictive legislation for women. The British delegates were strongly against it. They gave evidence of really ridiculous discrimination against women at night work. Arranging flowers for big dances was one. It is delightful work, eminently suitable for women, but the point was that those who undertook it had to come at 9 o'clock or so and put the finishing touches. Under the restrictions on night work for women, they lost their employment. For a while there was no one to do it, and then men were brought over from Belgium. It sounds as if there should have been a way out of it, of course. It would never have bothered us in Australia, I'm sure. But several instances of the kind were quoted, and the British delegates made a strong point of these protective restrictions being used to bring down women's wages.

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY.

"The German delegates were equally strongly in favour of restrictions, and brought terrible photographs showing women working in mines when they were obviously unfit to be there. In such matters as these, where countries have such different conditions, an international association can scarcely make resolutions for all.

"The spirit of international friendship is quite a real thing. I met a delightful Dutch woman at the conference, and she invited me to stay with her in Holland. She lived in a 'village,' or suburb of the Hague, and I spent a most pleasant weekend there. She and her husband are examples of the Continental skill and enthusiasm in learning languages. They spend their holidays, probably, in a different country every year, and before they go they study the language. They were then learning Spanish at Biarritz, in preparation for a visit to Spain. I said when I took leave of her how very kind it was of her to ask me, a stranger from another country, to stay with her in her home. She said, 'But you belong to the Internationale. That surely is quite enough. What is the good of the Internationale if we can't all be friends?'

Meeting people from different countries was always fascinating. In the train going to Genoa we travelled in the same compartment with an Italian man, a very pretty Russian girl, who was travelling with a German, and a Spanish monk. We talked all the way, and they were most interesting, especially the monk. He told us about the theological colleges of Spain.

and their methods of teaching. 'We set out,' he said, 'with no prejudices at all. We are going to study the religions of the world, from Bhuddism to Mohammedanism, to find out what religion we are. Then, after we have studied all, we find we are Catholic.'

"Another Dutch youth talked of everything in the universe from religion to marriage. He was of the opinion that 99 per cent. of marriages were unhappy. We asked if he were not putting the average a little too high, but he was very serious and positive. 'Most people,' he said, 'have nothing in common when they marry. Now it is quite different with my wife and myself. We have absolutely everything in common. Our marriage is quite ideal, a striking exception to the general rule.' He looked so very young that I ventured to ask him how long he had been married, and he replied very gravely, eight months.

"But to go back to the conference. The woman who charmed me most was Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Ellen Wilkinson, the M.P., is a darling. We had two Parliamentary nights, and she flew over from England to address us. Lady Astor couldn't come because her children had the measles. Miss Wilkinson asked us to have tea on the terrace of the house with her, but it was raining, and we had to have it inside, to our great disappointment. On another occasion I heard Miss Wilkinson with Rose Macaulay at a debate for charity. The subject chosen by the committee was 'Are women becoming too obtrusive?' and none of the speakers took it very seriously. Miss Wilkinson said that the one aim of the women in Parliament was to become less obtrusive. They wanted to be treated as members of Parliament, and the public insisted on regarding them as women members of Parliament, and making a ridiculous fuss of every little thing they said. Even when she went home to Middleborough, her native town, she found huge newspaper placards, 'Middleborough's Woman M.P. has Hair Shingled!'

AT GENEVA.

"I had a very interesting time at Geneva though I arrived there too late for the assembly. I stayed at the hostel of the International League for Peace and Freedom. There were most interesting women there from all parts of the world. One English girl told me some very amusing stories of Lloyd George. She was very anxious to get him to read Keynes's book on the 'Economic consequences' of the Peace, and at last he said he would if she would come to breakfast and discuss it with him afterwards. After she had left him she suddenly remembered that the book contained a scathing attack on Lloyd George himself. She went to breakfast in fear and trembling, not knowing how to get out of it, but she found that Lloyd George was so tickled at all the things said in the book about Clemenceau and the others that he quite overlooked the things said about him.

IN HOLLAND.

"At Amsterdam I was a delegate to the conference of the International Federation of University Women. The most interesting of many discussions was that on the married woman and a career. Delegates who spoke pointed out very clearly that the whole question depended upon the

lists of the ruling wages and the price of provisions, a table of exports and imports, revenue, and a list of "selecting agents." The number of agents is 253, there being 143 in England, 16 in Wales, five in the British islands, 36 in Scotland, and 33 in Ireland. The publication also contains a map of Australia, and views of the Town Hall and Post Office, a herd of mixed cattle, a flock of sheep under a gum tree, and the waterfall at Morialta, these being taken from Marcus's hand-drawn sketches. At a meeting of the Philosophical Society this evening Professor Lamb will read a paper on "Angular momentum and the rotation of solid bodies," illustrated by the gyroscope; and Mr. T. D. Smeaton will explain the principle of Varley's induction electrical machine.

MAIL 8-1-27

PROFESSOR HOWCHIN

Eighty-two on Wednesday

Mr. Walter Howchin, F.G.S., Emeritus Professor of Geology in the University of Adelaide, will celebrate his eighty-second birthday on Wednesday.

Born at Norwich, England, a son of the manse, he was for some time a minister of the Primitive Methodist Church in England and in South Australia. Nearly half a century ago he was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society, London. After filling the position of secretary of the Adelaide Children's Hospital for 15 years he became lecturer in geology and palaeontology in the University in January, 1902, and was honorary professor from 1918 to December, 1920, when he resigned. The professor is among Australia's eminent geologists, and though he is no longer of



PROF. HOWCHIN

the University staff he is too keen a scientist to discontinue altogether his scientific interest and work. His knowledge of the geology of this State far exceeds that of any other South Australian. His book, "The Geology of South Australia," was published in 1918, and he is the author of many papers on geology and palaeontology.

For upward of 40 years Prof. Howchin has edited the annual volume of the Proceedings of the Royal Society of South Australia, a volume prized in scientific circles and in the world's libraries. For many years Prof. Howchin was local secretary of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1913 he was awarded by this association the Mueller Medal for researches in natural science, and he also holds the Clarke Memorial Medal from the Royal Society of New South Wales and a coveted honor from the Geological Society of London.

on the directorate are Messrs. Wallace Bruce, A. G. Rymill, and W. A. Holden. The industry undoubtedly owes its success to the ability, foresight, and energy of the managing director. A man of advanced ideas he has shown that he is able to apply them to the benefit of the State and the company.

He was educated at Prince Alfred College and the University of Adelaide. When the motor body business was begun he went to America and there gained experience which has been of great value to the company. Mr. Holden is a member of the Council of the University and of Adelaide City Council.

Mr. W. A. Holden (director and production manager) is a younger brother.

How Business Grew

No clearer indication of the importance of this industry and its value to the State can be given than the figures showing its accomplishments. The idea of the business arose when Holden & Frost took in motor hood repairs and subsequently undertook the building of one or two bodies.

The construction of bodies had been developed by the late Mr. H. J. Holden to such an extent that in 1917 a company was formed by the late Mr. Holden, the late Mr. Charles Irwin, and Mr. E. W. Holden, who was managing director. The business of Mr. F. Hack was acquired, and the building of the King William street premises begun. The business received its impetus when motor chassis were admitted at the pre-war tariff, and a heavy duty was placed upon bodies.

Realising that in such a venture standardisation was essential the company set to work to build the business on those lines. The first order received was for the building of bodies for Dodge cars for Australia.

Its growth was so rapid that the concern was reformed into a public company in 1921, Mr. E. W. Holden retaining his position as managing director.

It is interesting to note that most of the 1917 employees of the company are now foremen.

In 1921-22 the company, with an output of 4,190 bodies, paid £75,869 in wages and salaries, and made a profit of £34,355. The turnover was then £357,643. Figures have progressed until during the last financial year with a turnover of £2,251,281, 32,398 bodies were produced, the bill for wages and salaries was £652,566, and the profit £196,404.

Those figures will be greatly improved upon during the current year.

Huge Modern Plant

The plant at Woodville, established three years ago, has been continually growing, and is now being reorganised and extended so that when the magnificent brick building in King William street is vacated about the end of March the company will have a plant so arranged that operations toward the building of all classes of standardised motor bodies will be performed progressively and continually from one end of the vast building to the other.

This is the busy season, and two shifts are necessary to cope with the demand for motor bodies. During the week before Christmas £19,000 was paid in wages and salaries, while last week the cheque was £14,000. It is significant that while this money is spent in South Australia about 90 per cent. of the output of the company goes to the other States.

To perform the thousand and one operations necessary to make a motor body the company has plant and buildings to the value of £350,000 established on 28 acres of land at Woodville. A space of 100 acres is available for extensions. This industrial township with its present complement of 3,000 employees turning out 500 bodies a week is intersected with good roads top dressed with bitumen. Beauty in environment has been provided so far as possible by the planting of lawns and ornamental shrubs.

For the convenience of employees there is a canteen on the property. Three special trains packed with Holden's employees arrive at and depart from the company's siding morning and evening. For convenience in handling freight more than half a mile of railway line runs into the property.

Continually the search is for more efficient methods, and the extent to which this has been achieved is shown by the fact that production costs have been reduced 50 per cent. One instance concerns timber. The quantity on hand has been reduced from 4,000,000 feet to 1,000,000 feet, although output has more than doubled and drying kilns effectively withdraw the moisture before the timber is used.

REG. 11-1-27

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

From The Register, Tuesday, January 9, 1877.

We have been favoured by the Immigration Department with a copy of a handbook for emigrants proceeding to Adelaide, published in London for free distribution. It contains 16 pages of letterpress of those portions of Mr. Marcus's work relating to the extent and physical features of the colony its climate and resources, the land laws, mines and mining, pastoral pursuits, and other matters. At the end of the work are