

Work of the Los Angeles Biennial Reviewed

THE SIXTH biennial session of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs is over. Reorganization and the color question have been adjusted and in spite of the dire predictions of the last two, the General Federation of Woman's Clubs stands true to its motto, "Unity in Diversity," the stronger for its differences and representing the interests of 27,000 of the cultured, educated women of America, whose one object is the elevation of mankind.

To the 11,000 women who were privileged to attend the Los Angeles meeting and participate in its action and to the equal number that witnessed the proceedings of that assembly the dignified, intelligent disposition of the perplexing questions that came before it must not only prove the privileges that attend membership in such a body, but the great responsibility as well.

In point of attendance the convention far exceeded any of the previous meetings, in spite of the fact that it was held in the far corner of the country, everything proving that the hundreds of delegates who made the long journey across the continent were actuated by a keen, conscientious anxiety for the best interests of the Federation rather than the advancement of any sectional or factional interests or the benefits or pleasure to be derived from the trip to that region so justly famed for its climate, its hospitality and the gifts that nature has lavished upon it.

The club movement is no longer an experiment or a novelty, but has established its place as one of the important factors in modern affairs and its biennials, perhaps more than anything else, attest the progress it has made. Having established its obligations as well as its privileges, its meetings call for the best, most painstaking effort of the most earnest workers, having so sifted from its ranks the shallow and superficial and evading women capable of bearing the high responsibility that rests upon them. In these women more than any other particular did the sixth biennial excel.

Broad and Sympathetic.

There was the utter lack of narrowness and exclusiveness that has previously been so perceptible and that increase of courtesy, sympathy and broadening of the rights and views of others that is the true basis of mutual helpfulness. The Federation pin or the delegate's badge sufficed for the introduction of all in their assurance of a mutual interest, whether their wearers represented the wealthy limited association of eastern college women, artists or literary women, or the struggling little club of farmers' wives from the obscure district, banded together in the interest of household economies, the woman of advantages and her less fortunate sister standing together as sisters indeed for the uplift of humanity under the banner of a common state.

Last, but by no means least, there was the absence of jewels and gorgeous costuming that has previously robbed the biennial of so much of its seriousness, and of the helpfulness of the not infrequently superior ideas of the timid woman who shrunk from the comparison of her neat but inexpensive gown with the imported creation worn by her jewel-bedecked sisters. There was an evident respect for the fitness of things, and while few assemblies of women include the representatives of greater wealth or social position, their gowns were



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rich in material rather than in showiness and consistent with the occasion. The rule of removing hats was another step in the right direction, and greatly facilitated the business of the assembly. This same progress was evidenced throughout the social side of the convention. The social functions which have previously been one of the features of the meeting were a secondary consideration with the majority of the women, and aside from the official reception given on the evening of the opening day to the visiting women by the members of the local biennial board at the splendid club house of the Friday Morning club there was no other general formal gathering. To be sure there were brilliant receptions at the various hotels on the evening before the opening, but they were informal affairs after all, sort of reunions where the state presidents came in touch with other members of their delegation and with each other, where the women attending the biennial for the first time learned who was who and, incidentally, the woman with ambition gauged the strength and popularity of other women. As for the receptions to the different states and the dinner parties and luncheons that hospitable people have previously insisted upon giving, regardless of business meetings, important programs or anything else save their own convenience, they were hopelessly in the minority and so evidently unpopular as to encourage the belief that within the next biennial period the occasion and real object of the biennial will be so generally understood and respected as to eliminate this variety of entertainment from the hospitality of the hostess city and enable the convention to attend to its affairs with the proper voting representation present.

In the character of the other entertainment provided the visiting women the people of Los Angeles are to be congratulated. Fiesta de los Flores, the splendid floral pageant of the Pacific coast, was at once delightful and bewildering to the visitors, the apical courtesy to the club women being the provision in the parade for their president, Mrs. Rebecca Douglas Lowe, who rode with Miss Fremont, the

daughter of the "Pathfinder," in a flower-trimmed vehicle that claimed the first admiration and applause of the onlookers and, as one of the women has so happily expressed it, typified the two great branches of women, the one the pioneers that made their advancement possible, and the other that advancement itself.

The day at Long Beach and at Pasadena furnished the rest and recreation especially appreciated and enjoyed after the close attention to the week's program and contributed another measure of instruction to the ever observing and absorbing woman. Program More Catholic.

In point of interesting program it can scarcely be said that the Sixth Biennial so far exceeded the one preceding it. The speakers were not as generally from among the club women themselves but while their papers and addresses were none the less directed to club women, their subjects and interests indicated that broadening tendency, the great feature of the club movement, that has expanded to include the interests of the whole world. The educational and industrial sessions showed the achievements of women along the lines of improvement perhaps more than the others, because it has been to the betterment of these conditions more than any other that organized effort has been applied. The art, literature and music sessions were of the highest order of excellence, while the civic, forestry, audubon and programs on traveling libraries and art collections illustrated the growth of that desire to share and extend all that is good, beautiful and uplifting. While there was no program wholly devoted to Household Economics, one of the most enthusiastically received papers was that presented by Mrs. Linda Hull Larned, president of the National Household Economics association, in which she set forth the aims and attainments of that organization.

The Civil Service Reform program was something of an innovation, but after all only a natural sequence to the investigations and revelations that have been the outgrowth of the experience of women's organizations in their effort to secure the

betterment of educational, industrial or almost any other conditions. Realizing their handicap as a disfranchised class, the women have set about in a less aggressive way to attain success as well as to deserve it by awakening the members of the General Federation to the conditions that exist and the necessity of their influence in overcoming them; to educate the women to their possibilities and responsibilities, and to demonstrate to the world their ability to bear their share in an equal partnership of affairs.

Business Sessions Excel.

It was for its business sessions, however, that the Sixth Biennial was most remarkable. Confronted by the first really difficult problems that had ever come before it each supported by a determined faction, there was general apprehension as to the outcome but these two issues were met and adjusted, the defeated ones accepting the will of the majority in a manner that proved the unselfishness of their effort. Numerous plans and propositions had been informally proposed in the hope that something might be found as a substitute to avert the trouble feared from allowing the Massachusetts and Georgia propositions to come before the house, but these were with one exception, all lost sight of and the compromise plan as supported by Georgia, which included the settlement of the color question, was presented for the acceptance or rejection of the convention, upon motion of Mrs. Granger, president of the Georgia Federation.

It reads: "From a state where a club is a member of the state federation it would also be eligible to the General Federation, if recommended to its executive board by the executive board of the State Federation, the power of admission to remain, as given in article II of the bylaws." The substitute amendments that were proposed indicated various shades of compromise, but in the carrying of the original motion by an overwhelming majority the real feeling of the General Federation was manifested. So sure were the women of this that little apprehension was felt when next day, by courtesy of the house, Miss

Jane Addams of Hull house, Chicago, "the best loved woman in the convention," was allowed to reopen the discussion by proposing an amendment that would make the rejection of any club applying for membership dependent upon a three-fifths instead of a unanimous vote of the membership committee. This motion failed also, leaving it practically impossible for any club of colored women to be admitted to the General Federation.

In view of the compromise between Massachusetts and Georgia reorganization proved a minor issue and nothing was done about it.

Matters Not Understood.

Of all the matters that came before the meeting that of the new charter was the most confusing and least understood. Its provision that the Federation's headquarters should be at Washington, D. C., misled many to believe that that would necessitate holding the meetings there as well, and the shelving of the matter was a relief to the majority.

There was also some confusion regarding the Louisiana purchase memorial, the council deciding at the close of the meeting that a sum not to exceed \$500 should be taken from the General Federation treasury and used in the erection of a tablet at St. Louis as the permanent memorial of the Federation, which does away with all prospect of a clubhouse as such a memorial.

The failure of the attempt to reduce the annual per capita dues from 10 to 5 cents and the dues of local federations from \$1 to 35 cents secured to the Federation the substantial financial basis upon which it stands, with liberal funds for future usefulness.

In the election of its officers the organization again illustrated its outgrowing of all narrowness. The struggle of the supporters of Mrs. Decker for her election and, upon her defeat, their hearty transfer of allegiance to Mrs. Denison, was proof and assurance of the loyal support of which they are capable and a guarantee that they will co-operate with their president and assist her in "preserving in the midst of sordid influences our high ideals, our spirituality, and in all our work not to lose sight of the fact that we are to bring the world up to us, we are not to go down to it," as she expressed it in her address after her election.

Plans for the Future.

In spite of the criticism of those who opposed the adoption of Mrs. Emma Fox's parliamentary rules for women, as the authority of the Federation, the large vote in their favor attests the majority that would secure to the organization the opinions of the woman who, in the capacity of recording secretary, has been so largely responsible for the rulings of the fifth and sixth biennials. The decision to secure for future meetings the services of a professional reader to make all necessary announcements and readings will greatly facilitate the business of the convention and do away with much of the confusion and misunderstanding that has arisen from so many being unable to hear.

With so much of which to be proud it was fitting that among its closing acts the largest convention of the General Federation should be the adoption of a resolution that during the coming biennial period the special effort of the Federation should be devoted to the betterment of the industrial conditions of women and girls.

Episodes and Incidents in the Lives of Noted People

A STORY about the late William M. Evarts which is believed new to print is told by Adrian H. Joline in his "Meditations of an Autograph Collector," just published. It is that on one of his later anniversaries Senator Hoar wrote to Evarts congratulating him on his length of years, and the old lawyer replied that he reminded himself of the old lady who, arriving at her thirtieth page, asked her correspondent, "Please excuse my longevity."

Speaking of the late E. L. Godkin's readiness to stand on the side that was unpopular if he believed it was right and fight a losing battle to the end, the New York World says: "Some of his views were widely unappreciated and on occasions he stated them with some degree of intolerance—but he held them all honestly. O'no man who attempts to influence public thought and opinion can anything more honorable be said."

During the fourteen years Amos J. Cummings was in congress his weekly letters on public men and measures added greatly to his personal popularity. Mr. Cummings always gloried in being a "reporter" and resented being styled a "journalist." It was his aim never to indulge in personalities calculated to give offence or to inflict unnecessary wounds upon those persons who figured in his stories of congressional life. He was "Amos" to everybody in public life in Washington, from the president down to the humblest employe around the capitol. In his letters he brought into prominence the characteristics of certain men who might have lingered in congress for years without attracting attention.

A writer in Chambers' Journal relates some characteristic anecdotes of Lord Beaconsfield (Disraeli), who dearly loved a joke at the expense of others. An author who

had sent his latest effort in fiction to him received the following complimentary acknowledgment:

"I thank you for the book you sent me, and will lose no time in reading it." "I wonder what makes my eyes so weak?" a fierce radical once said to Disraeli.

"It is because they are in a weak place," was the reply.

An incident in the life of the late Lord Rosslyn shows how acute was the sense of humor in Disraeli. "What can we do with Rosslyn?" he asked of a colleague.

"Make him master of the buckhounds, as his father was," suggested the latter.

"No," replied the premier, "he swears far too much for that. We will make him high commissioner to the Church of Scotland."

One of the handsomest men in New York is George Morgan, to whom more than to any other person is due the popularity of polo in the east. He was "discovered" some twenty-six years ago in California by James Gordon Bennett, who saw him perform some wonderful feats in the saddle. Then and there the millionaire newspaper owner engaged Morgan at a fabulous salary to buy polo ponies for him and go to New York to teach Bennett's friends how to ride in the game. Morgan has been there ever since.

"John J. Smith," says the Boston Transcript, "is the oldest living negro Free Mason in this country, in age and in service. He is the only living member of African lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, from which all the regular negro lodges of Masons in this country draw their authority. He is a thirty-third degree Mason and has served in about all of the offices from the first to that degree in Masonry. He is also, with the exception of George T. Downing of Newport, R. I., the oldest living negro Odd Fellow, in age and service, in the coun-

try. He is one of the oldest members of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion church in North Russell street."

"Paul Leicester Ford," says the Philadelphia Record, "was quite a familiar figure in Philadelphia when he was gathering material for his biographical works dealing with the lives of Washington and Franklin. Much of his research was accomplished in the rooms of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, at Thirtieth and Locust streets, and there he delved into musty documents early and late, seeming indefatigable in his labors. He had a little desk reserved for his own use on the Thirtieth street side of the building, where the light was best, and there the pathetic but eager figure of the little hunchback could be seen every day for several weeks, poring over the records and copying notes with an apparently tireless energy. He lived very quietly here and made few friends, but many frequenters of the Historical society's building will recall the crouched up little man working away in the corner."

A biography of Marshal Canrobert has been published recently in Paris. Not the least interesting part of the work is that which refers to the extraordinary popular demonstrations that marked the state visit of the late Queen Victoria to the French capital. When the English sovereign with her consort and heir went to the Invalides to look upon the tomb of Napoleon the scene was one which seems to have greatly impressed the marshal, who thus describes it:

"Everybody was profoundly moved. Not a word was spoken. Each person stood gazing at the coffin and was lost in thought. Prince Albert was in front of me in the red uniform of a field marshal, at his side stood the queen and standing beside her was the prince of Wales, dressed in his

Highland costume with his velvet coat, his purse of fur and the kilt; at the right was the Prince Mathilde, whose features, so pure, standing out in the light of torches, recalled so vividly the features of her uncle. After a moment's pause of reflection, of absolute silence, the queen, with an expression on her face of severity, calmness and meditation, turned to the prince of Wales and placing her hands on his shoulder said: 'Go down on your knees before the tomb of the great Napoleon.' It was a very fine exhibition of keen political tact, as well as of fine human feeling on the part of the queen."

The Rt. Hon. Charles Owen O'Connor, better known as The O'Connor Don, who was 64 years old on May 7, would be the legitimate claimant to the Irish throne were there one. He claims to be able to trace his lineage in unbroken succession to the last of the Irish kings. His father was the first Roman Catholic member for the County of Roscommon since the Reformation and he himself succeeded to the same seat in his twenty-second year, holding it continuously for a couple of decades, until the Parnell movement drove him out of public life. He is an Irish privy councillor and held a seat on the royal commission that inquired into the financial relations between Great Britain and Ireland.

Under the care of a competent teacher speaker Clark's naturally pleasing voice has been developed into a very sweet tenor. In old days when the Montana senator was a poor prospector he was the life of mining parties; for every night he would lead a chorus as the men gathered around the camp fire. Nowadays Senator Clark shows his love of music by being a devotee of the opera. He knows and appreciates good music and is familiar with all the great musical compositions. While he can thus enjoy the classical

works, he also delights in simple ballads and he can sing nearly all of the popular songs of the day.

Senator Stewart was talking of agricultural affairs in a committee meeting and remarked that on his farm he made the finest butter in the world. "In fact," he said, "I have reduced the production of milk and butter to an exact science. My barns are fitted with the very latest sanitary appliances."

Another member asked: "And as to the financial aspects of your work. Do you reap large profits from your milk and butter?" "Oh, no," replied the senator, "I lose money every day of the year."

It is a standing source of regret to Senator Teller that he cannot tell a story acceptably. He hears a lot of them in the committee rooms and lobbies, but cannot master the knack of retelling the simplest yarn. He sat one day listening to a group of colleagues who were exchanging anecdotes. "How I envy you folks," he said. "I do wish I could tell stories, but I can't. The other day I heard a man tell half a dozen very funny things, but I don't remember one of them. But it's just as well. I couldn't tell it if I did remember."

While seated in the democratic cloak-room the other afternoon Senator Mallory of Florida called a page to him. The boy had a bunch of hair standing straight up from his forehead. "Sonny," said the senator, "you should train that cowlick to lie down or when you get married your wife will have a good place to grab." Now, the senator is as bald as a doorknob, so the best he could do was to smile when the boy said, innocently enough, but with a twinkle in his eye: "Yes, sir, is that the way you lost your hair?"