

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

### Some Conference Remits

The following are among the large number of remits to be considered at the Annual Conference of the N.C.W., at Timaru, in April.

That death duty taxation should take into consideration the size of families, a large family being at a disadvantage with a small one.

(**Note:** The duty on an estate of more than £500 and less than £1,000 was 1% for a child. If there was more than one child, each paid the share of the 1%. On an estate of £61,000, a child would have to pay 16% in death duties.)

That the Government be asked to investigate the conditions under which food is sold, and to take steps to effect some measure of improvement under more hygienic conditions. (Refers particularly to bread, meat, cheese, and cooked foods.)

That in view of the hardships on housewives, the N.C.W. appeal to the Government to bring about as early as possible the delivery of bread at the pre-war rate of one halfpenny per loaf.

That in the case of a person of fifty years and over, whose sole income is of the "unearned" class, and does not exceed £150 per annum, such income be exempt from the payment of the Social and National Security tax. (**Note:** This applies more particularly to single women who are, in many cases, in a worse financial position than those in receipt of a Social Security benefit.)

That pensions derived from any superannuation scheme be exempt from National and Social Security tax up to the same amount as is allowed to persons receiving the age benefit; i.e., £104 per annum for a single person, and £208 for a married couple. (**Note:** The superannuitant, after having made provision for his own pension, is very often in a worse financial position than those who have made no provision for themselves, by reason of the fact that his pension is taxable, and that by contributing to a superannuation scheme, he has been unable to increase his savings.)

That the 33½% excess tax on unearned income be removed. (**Note:** This form of taxation is to be deplored—discouraging, as it does, savings from wages and salaries, and the prudent investment of the same.)

That the appropriate authority be approached with a view to bringing about a considerable improvement in the type of plays that are broadcast by the N.B.S., with particular reference to the elimination of the type of murder trail, which is sordid, and un-savoury, has no moral, literary or

## MORE LETTERS FROM BRITISH SISTERS

The following letter from Dr. Alice Gilby, of 4, Chichester Street, Westminster, London, was received by a member of the Palmerston North Union:—

"Very many thanks for your kind letter, and for sending a parcel of food for me to distribute. I will certainly do my best to see that it reaches the folks who are most in need of its contents. As the winter illnesses are now increasing, I am sure there will be plenty of patients who would gladly welcome such things as a jelly or custard powder, both of which are completely unprocurable at present. I had a personal parcel from an Australian friend last week, and it contained a jelly which promptly went down the throat of a sick boy aged four, who was refusing all food. I don't know who had the most pleasure out of that jelly—the boy, his mother, or myself to be able to give it to him. It is very difficult to find things to tempt children's appetites these days. The boy has now recovered but I think he has a strong suspicion now that jellies are to be found in the doctor's bag.

"We do appreciate the kindness and generosity of the New Zealand W.C.T.U. in sending this food for our people. Some of them have already had similar gifts from one or another of the Dominions, and are very delighted with them. A number of old people are living alone in one room in this district (we have the two extremes in Westminster, the very rich and the very poor) and they have been greatly cheered to think that someone had a kindly thought for them. To live on one ration book is not easy, and many of them are too frail to stand in queues, and at times it is a fight to get sufficient milk and fuel for them, so they do appreciate the little extras when they get them. They do thank you one and all.

With greetings and many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

A. GILBY."

Tauranga has also received a letter of thanks from Mrs. MacFarlane, of Glasgow, in which she speaks of the joy she has had in distributing the contents of a parcel sent, to many needy people.

forensic merit whatever, and must undoubtedly have an undesirable influence on impressionable young listeners.

That a list of names and addresses of Justices of the Peace be placed in a prominent place, preferably the General Post Office. (**Note:** People are often in urgent need of Justices of the Peace for signatures, etc.; and have no knowledge of their whereabouts.)

## EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF N.C.W. DOM. EXECUTIVE MEETING

At a meeting of the Dominion Executive held in Wellington in September, a letter from the Prime Minister was read, expressing admiration of the work done by the N.C.W. of New Zealand since its inception, and stating that he looked forward to further co-operation in achieving the goals that still lay ahead. It was agreed that this letter be sent out as a Press Association message.

Because of the shortage of nurses and domestic aids, it was agreed to send this remit to the Government:—"That the Government be asked to endeavour to obtain young women for household work in homes as well as in hospitals, from Holland and the Scandinavian countries."

**Pernicious Literature:** Two magazines on sale everywhere were submitted, and quoted as being the type that should be banned. It was agreed that the President should bring this matter under the notice of the Prime Minister.

**Immigration:** It was decided that the following suggestion made by Dr. Hercus, of Otago University, be submitted to the Prime Minister by the President:—"That no effective, positive policy will be forthcoming until a special department of state is created to formulate and implement a policy. In addition to the appointment of a Minister of the Crown with a portfolio, and a department with research facilities; there might be a small population cabinet, similar to the present war cabinet."

**Children's Pictures:** It was agreed that the N.C.W. commend the Kerridge-Odeon Theatres on their efforts to present suitable pictures for children, and their formation of children's clubs.

It was also agreed that the N.C.W. offer to Kerridge-Odeon Theatres its willingness to help on any matters touching this important question.

**International Council of Women:**

The following is a declaration sent out by the I.C.W. Executive meeting held at Brussels, June, 1946:—"That an Executive Committee of the I.C.W. meeting in Brussels in June, 1946, once more protests energetically against war as a means of settling international conflicts. It condemns the crimes committed against humanity and the dignity of the individual in the unsettled international conditions before, during, and after the war; and looks forward ardently to the restoration of a just and durable peace.

"It will support with all its influence international organisation created, or to be created, for the establishment and maintenance of peace.

"It demands a larger and more active participation of qualified women in government, and international organisation."