

# University Women Unite

THE International Federation of University Women, formed to promote understanding and fellowship between educated women of different nations and to strengthen the foundations of international sympathy, held its first conference at Bedford College, London, July 7 to 9.

Delegates from sixteen countries attended. Eleven American colleges, and universities in Great Britain, France, Spain, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Czecho-Slovakia, Italy, Serbia, and South Africa sent representatives. There were also delegates from India, Australia and Uruguay.

Dean Virginia Gildersleeve of Barnard College, N. Y., shares with Professor Caroline Spurgeon of Bedford College (the women's section of the University of London), the honor of founding the new international federation.

President M. Carey Thomas of Bryn Mawr, and Dean Ada Comstock of Smith College, are members of the executive committee. Miss Jessica B. Peixotte of the University of California, Miss W. Norton Wheeler of Wellesley College, Professor Marion Whitney of Vassar, Miss Mary Leal Harkness of Parsons College, Tulane University, New Orleans, and Miss Virginia Newbomb of Barnard, are members of the international relations committee.

In her opening address Professor Spurgeon explained that the aims of the new federation were threefold: To make for international friendship; to help toward internationalism in education and knowledge; and to widen and enrich the idea of education generally.

The means by which these ends are to be accomplished, are the organization of a system of exchange lecturers and scholars of different universities; the provision of international scholarships and traveling fellowships, particularly the endowment of post-graduate and research scholarships; the establishment of clubs and hotels for international hospitality in the various centers of university life and co-operation with national bureaus of education in the different countries.

## International Understanding Promoted

Already the American Association of Collegiate Alumnae and the British Federation of University Women are in close relationship aiding in the establishment of the new international federation. It is proposed that through it modern universities may regain the power and the prominence of the centers of learning of the middle ages and be able to carry on a continuous exchange of ideas and opportunities which will tend to promote international understanding which will make future wars impossible.

As the mothers and teachers of the young, Professor Spurgeon dwelt upon women's power to prevent war. She referred to the fact that in the United States 95 per cent

of the teachers are women and declared that this being so, women's ideals and women's power would dominate the future, and that it lay with the educated women of the world to so utilize their opportunities, their learning, that the whole world would benefit and that war would be an impossibility.

It was made clear that the federation is not designed to make all universities alike. The attitude of the federation was to rejoice in the difference, but to put it in the power of students of all countries to learn and to compare with the fullest possible advantages. And in this connection the question of language came up.

This is to be embodied in the constitution but the general inclination of the university women seems to be that all students should learn at least one language other than their own. What this language should be was not discussed.

The opinion was expressed at the conference that one of the first things the federation should accomplish was the rewriting of the world's text books. History retelling the past in a light which will not prejudice the present was held to be essential to international understanding, since it is in the minds of the young that the peace of the world will be secured.

## Suffrage Planks

THE addition to the suffrage planks in the platforms of the Democratic and Republican parties, strong planks endorsing the immediate ratification of the amendment were passed at the conventions both of the Prohibition Party and of the Farmer-Labor Party.

Mrs. Ahy Scott Baker, political chairman of the National Woman's Party, attended the Prohibition Convention which met in Lincoln, Nebraska, on July 21st, and in conference with Virgil G. Hinshaw drew up the suffrage plank. Miss Emily Kay, of Minneapolis, represented the Woman's Party at the Farmer-Labor Convention, the convention of the Committee of Forty-eight and the World War Veterans convention held in Chicago at the same time.

A resolution was also passed by the Prohibition Convention urging all members of the Tennessee legislature to vote for the enfranchisement of women not only as an act of justice too long delayed, but because political power put in the hands of women would help to enforce laws safeguarding the welfare of the nation, the state, and the home.

The Farmers' National Council included the following suffrage plank among those it submitted to the Democratic National Convention:

That the platform include a strong appeal to governors of states which have not yet ratified the Federal suffrage amendment to immediately call their respective state legislatures in session for the purpose, to the end that American women may share in the decisions of the 1920 elections.

# They Say

THIS word of praise for the beauty and spirit of the Woman's Party delegation to Senator Harding, in Marion, is found in "E. M. K.'s" story in the New York Evening Post of July 22:

"In its midst of the notification ceremonies, the demonstration of the Woman's Party was like a solemn, imposing, dignified appearance of crusaders, with a purpose.

"The long line of yellow and purple banners carried by women from many states was one of the best showings made during the day. Alice Paul was in the head of the line and following in single file up the street went old and young women carrying the heavy state standards. Many of them were those who had gone to Chicago and stood picketing in the wilting heat outside the Coliseum. But picketing Harding on this cool, breezy day under big trees and with bands 'bursting in air' every few feet was another thing and caused both the advancing army and the stormed fort and fortress to bow and bow again, to say pleasant words about suffrage and shake hands."

A tendency is shown, in a certain part of the press of the country, in line with Senator Harding's statement, that "he does not care whether a Democratic or Republican state gives the 36th ratification," to maintain that the suffrage question is not a political issue. The Burlington Free Press, of Vermont, on July 6, claims:

"It thus becomes fully evident that with both the leading political parties vigorously and unequivocally advocating political justice for women the matter has ceased to be a partisan issue, on the affirmative side. It is political now merely negatively or so far as any public servant representing any political party stands in the way of the consummation of this measure of justice for one-half the adult population of the United States."

How seriously the actions of "public servants, representing any political party" affect that party is evident in other editorial comments.



From Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch, July 3

Knighthood is still in flower

The Free Press continues by quoting the Newport Express-Standard:

"Governor Clement has persistently side-stepped, zigzagged, hesitated, interpreted the Constitution against and persistently refused to call a special session of the legislature to act on the woman suffrage amendment. He has placed himself on record as standing side by side with those nullifiers of old—claiming 'state rights' were violated. He has turned aside the request of the large majority of the people of Vermont, who have repeatedly asked for a special session. Yet, behold, how he stumbleth!

"He sent to the Vermont delegation at Chicago the offer to call a special session if the national convention would favor a referendum. Is not this a case of political bargaining? Trading the State of Vermont for his own selfish viewpoint! In making this offer he has knocked away his last support in opposition to calling a special session. But, oh, how humiliating, how degrading that the Green Mountain State should be held up as a bribe in political bargaining! Governor Clement may have the courage of his convictions, but he shows a most regrettable attitude in