

Women's Social Interests



UNITED ASSOCIATIONS AND ITS STORY

ON Wednesday the inaugural meeting was held at Beaumont House (with Mrs. Kenneth Street in the chair). Her foreword sums the situation:

"Lately the need has become very apparent for greater unity of action on the part of the women's organisations working for the advancement of women. If such a unity was achieved with advantages would accrue, not least of all in effecting the economy of overhead expenses. Instead of numerous office rents, telephones, etc., etc., one office and telephone and one set of general expenses, would be all that would be required. Through these economies funds would be available for expert, legal and other advice which was obviously greatly needed for the achievement of equality of opportunity and status for women."

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

THE first move to unite women's societies, with aims to improve the status of women, was a letter sent on

societies, with aims to improve the status of women, was a letter sent on August 13, 1929, by the executive of the Feminist Club of New South Wales, to the Women's League of New South Wales, the New South Wales Women

to the Women's League of New South Wales, the New South Wales Women Voters' Association, and the Women's Service Club of New South Wales, inviting them to send delegates to confer on the question of a possible amalgamation of these bodies.

The invitation was accepted by all the societies, and the first conference was held on August 29, 1929. The delegates present drew up a proposed basis of amalgamation, which was to be referred to the interested bodies for discussion and amendment. The societies, with the exception of the Feminist Club, amended the basis, and decided to send twelve delegates each to form a provisional committee for the United Associations, to consider the proposed basis of amalgamation, and all amendments. This committee has met six times. The basis of amalgamation was amended until all interested were prepared to adopt it. It was then submitted to the general meetings of the societies interested, together with the resolutions to amalgamate on this basis, and form the United Associations. When the societies had adopted these resolutions, the provisional committee appointed two sub-committees—one to draw up a constitution, and the other to look for suitable premises.

The constitution committee drew up the outline of a constitution, which was read on Thursday night, and submitted for provisional adoption only. A few copies have been typed for circulation among members, and can be had on application to Miss Audrey Cameron. Any amendments sent to her will be considered by the provisional committee before the constitution is finally submitted for adoption.

The premises committee has inspected many empty premises, and very good offers have been made all over the city. These offers will be considered in February, when the members will have returned to town and be ready for public work.

Mrs. Albert Littlejohn then outlined the aims and objects of the United Associations, as follows:

- (a) To achieve equality of status, opportunity, and remuneration.
- (b) To improve the legal status of mothers.
- (c) To promote the welfare of children.
- (d) To promote an equal moral standard for men and women.
- (e) To promote international peace and understanding, and foster the League of Nations.
- (f) To promote the study of social, political, and economic questions.
- (g) To support the candidature of qualified women for public office, including Parliamentary, Municipal, elective, and administrative offices.
- (h) To work for equality for men and women in all laws and regulations.

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- (i) To procure the passage of legislation necessary to the achievements of these objects.

In addressing the meeting on the aims and objects, Mrs. Littlejohn appealed for the spirit of co-operation, and the putting aside of all little per-

sonal jealousies and pettiness. "For Equality of Status, Opportunity, and Freedom," this great new organisation, with the same aims and objects embodied as those of the organisations amalgamating was formed—bringing with it those women inspired by these ideals and determined to do their best for the achievement of their objects.

Mrs. A. V. Roberts then moved, and Mrs. Vernon Allen seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:

"That the Women's League of New South Wales, the New South Wales Women Voters' Association, and the Women's Service Club of New South Wales amalgamate and form a body to be known as the United Associations, to date from January 1, 1930, and that a general meeting be held during February, 1930, to adopt a constitution, and to transact other business necessary to the commencement of the United Associations.

Mrs. Dougall-Laing moved, and Mrs. Ruby Duncan seconded, and it was carried unanimously, "That the pro-



MRS. KENNETH STREET

visional committee be empowered to carry on until such time as arrangements can be made for the general election."

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE.

The provisional committee consists of the following members: President, Mrs. Kenneth Street; hon. secretary,

Mrs. Kenneth Street ; hon. secretary, Miss Audrey P. Cameron ; Mesdames Albert Littlejohn, W. Dougall-Laing, A. V. Roberts, M. E. Liddell, P. K. Buchanan, E. Bennett, McQuillan, Vernon Allen, B. McDonald, M. Dale, E. Glanville, O. Mason, Hereford, Brain, Little, E. Gates, Murphy, Heussler, Milton Jarvie, S. Rutherford, Grantley Duncan, W. J. Millner, Misses Swain, Kelly, Phillips, G. A. Roseby, D. Shirley, M. Reid, E. Toms, A. M. Frank, N. Battye, C. I. Ormsby, L. L. Armstrong.

The constitution was then read by the hon. secretary, who proposed, and Miss Leonie Bond seconded, that the constitution as read be adopted as the provisional constitution, under which the United Associations shall operate until the general meeting in February. Carried unanimously.

A hearty vote of thanks to the provisional committee for the work they had done to bring about such a workable proposition, was accorded on the motion of Miss Elma Kelly.

WITH the advent of 1930 there will come into operation a new women's organisation — United Association.

It represents the amalgamation of three well-known coteries — Women's League, Women's Service Club, and the Society of Women Voters. The trio has behind it a record of work well and truly performed, and at the meeting held at Beaumont House last week, at which Mrs. Kenneth Street presided, a discussion of the new constitution took place, there being such enthusiasm that it augurs well for what will be when the Association gets down to business. There is much talk where women foregather, and high hopes are held by prominent workers in the field of women's activities, it being felt that the new move is an excellent one, making for consolidation of interests and a better opportunity for putting into shape much that hitherto has had to be left in the stage of discussion, hope, and conjecture.

United Association, at long last, promises women the opportunity they have demanded.