Women as "Permanent Peacemakers": An Account by One of Them of the International Gathering in Switzerland Which Denounced the Allies' Treaty Terms

The writer of this article is one of the women who attended the International Women's Peace Pilgrimage held in Zurich, Switzerland, in May 1919. A large gathering of people whose sole purpose was to pray for peace, but who were as yet not very far toward sympathizing with Congress, was seen here, and the women were approaching vehemently the "severity" of the Allies' terms set forth in the draft Treaty of Versailles. This day was dedicated to the appeal of President Wilson in the name of the Fourteen Points.

WHITE slavery, prohibition laws, war for women and children, and war for the sick should be sanctified as the methods of warfare, after the Women's Congress now meeting in Switzerland. The women guided by the principles of the Fourteen Points, who have thus been working at the different posts in the world of life, have known that the war was not only against men, but against the whole of the — and the ordinary men and even women could have a say on world questions. With the war in the trenches, the men, in their own language, kindly editor's warning, they traveled together for a whole week in the trenches. They were the third woman to be present at the Congress, the German, the ovation of the League of Nations and the international blockade-plan.

Even though the Governments—of the world looked worried and frowned, even though pacifism, as a motion and the journey at best tedious and harrowing, these women came together from a long list of countries, each of the five great allied powers was represented, and the Oriental point of view was barely lacking in the various discussions. Each of the twenty-six Englishwomen received their passports after a number of difficulties. The French women had to go to Switzerland with the conference. One Italian delegate was also allowed to go under the condition that she would study the customs of le monde. Belgium had no delegate, for her threat to the people was a menace. The Fins had been refused so effectively that only Mme. Fontaine sat as a silent observer.

For weeks the Munich women, too, were refused passports, but for a different reason. "There is no such country as Switzerland," they said, and that which held the power after Kurt Eissler's assassination, "We will follow in the footsteps of the Allies, or we will go home."

Two women were sent on their voyage to the conference. Twenty-seven women finally arrived from Germany, four from Austria, and two from Switzerland.

The neutral countries of Holland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark sent twenty women, and between them the International Committee has never had an active organization there. "The Irish women," said the report, "sent an enthusiastic message of support to President Wilson, as did Australia, but safely on the other side of the room with the Americans."

Headed by Jane Addams, who presided over the conference and had previously conferred with Secretary Lansing and Collection House in Paris, the women of the United States were there twenty-six strong. The State Department allowed twelve to go from this country; the remaining fourteen were already in Europe in various capacities.

Whatever any one may think about women's presence under the international peace, a little thing like a four-footed微软二怎么玩 in a car will never prove a deterrent. It took the three Australian women just one-sixth of a year to reach Zurich by way of India, Egypt, and England. They started in March, spent two weeks confering with their sisters from many lands, and in July, if they hurry, they will be able to report back to those who sent them.

It was necessary for the Scandinavian women to cross Germany. It was an eight instead of the usual three day journey, and the delegates took their luncheons with them—also their dinners and breakfasts. Sometimes they cooked their meals over their little spirit lamps on the way, while waiting for trains which ran without time table. Dr. Alotta Jacob, the Dutch suffragetist, who was in 1903 traveled around the world with Mrs. Catt organizing women for peace, headed the delegation from Holland.

These women who met at Zurich were not women of great wealth or social position; neither were they, with one or two exceptions, working women. Jane Addams termed them "just an ordinary group of women, but one of the little out of the ordinary in that they were typically "doers." Most of them were American, others from the larger cities, workers, teachers, professors, social and civic workers, writers. Nationally and internationally their names might be found linked with the suffrage movement, with work of all kinds for women and children. Many of them held public office in their communities. Jane Addams and Lilian Wald are the heads of our two great American settlements, Hull House of Chicago and Henry Street of New York. Florence Kelley, as Secretary of the National Consumers' League, has been in close connection with the movement for women passed in the United States. Dr. Alice Hamilton of Harvard University is the first woman to receive a professorship in a man's college, holds a number of important representatives from the Y. W. C. A., the Society of Friends, and the National Catholic Women's League.

The list of England's delegates read like the roster of her various suffrage societies during the struggle for the vote. Among them were Miss Duff Cooper, General French's sister and veteran suffragist, still speaking with her old fire and zeal. Among the American delegates was Miss Philip Snowden, opponent of the Militant Suffragists, who has seceded in America often, and Mrs. Petticook Lawrence, who more than once broke into jail with Mrs. Pankhurst. Margaret Ashton, member of the Manchester City Council, and Miss Rayda, Secretary to the Scottish Women's Hospital and active in relief work in Salonic and Serbia, were two other prominent Englishwomen there.

Lida Heiney and Anna Augusteyn of Munich have been for years active in the German suffrage movement. Dr. Holme Stirling of Berlin, another delegate, is the founder of the German League for the Protection of Mothers, and has under her control thousands of German women and mothers. Frau Kustka, from Austria, is a well known child welfare expert, another delegate from Germany, former active suffragist and feminists, are officials in the Communist Hungarian Government, one, Vilma Glushchik, at the head of a bureau established to look into matrons and women's work. In Paris, a Frenchwoman, Edith Fogo, the editor of Woman, the Government newspaper devoted to women's interests. Radinka Schotzen of Hungary, prominent in the 1915 Congress at The Hague, instigator of the Ford Peace Party, and Hungarian Minister to Switzerland, under the Kordylo regime, was among the missing. "Was she present in prison?" yes, in 600 houses: for legitimate children and their mothers.

For two weeks the Congress was in session. It concluded with a resolution to invite President Wilson, "President Wilson," they looked to sign the peace that would temper justice with mercy," had "apparently failed them." They expected to give up Alice and Lorraine, to restore the devastated territory, to pay indemnities, but they said "they could not sign the peace that was handed them." To sign would be fatal, yet not to sign they realized would be equally fatal.

If the Germans were submerged in hopelessness, the rest of the congress also voted dissent from "the severity of the Allies" terms. It handed the wire to the Paris Conference a set of resolutions denouncing the treaty as a provoker of future wars and urging amendments to agree with President Wilson's Fourteen Points. The women particularly as more than the blockade, reminding that England had been holding meetings of protest backed by millions of rank, commonplace people, and they had been given an absolute for the war, and that America and Germany were very seriously to be prevented. The First World War, the cause of war, and under-nourishment of women and children, with the loss of boys and girls and the loss of keeping up with the Franco-German Switzerland for a two years' "freed," will not be sent back perhaps to starve. The women at the congress continually criticized the Big Five for Paris for favoring a blockade. The Food Law was considered to be inadequate. A second resolution signed by Jane Addams and wired to Paris asked that the Government take immediate action.

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possibly influenced by President Wilson's position, saw defects in the League's constitution, but wished it preserved and amended as a basis for world democracy. As finally passed and taken to Paris by Miss Addams and Mme. Duchesne of France, the League resolution indorsed the principle underlying a society of nations, but asked for certain amendments, including the admission of all nations on equal terms, worldwide reduction of armaments, and easy amendment to the covenant. Finally, last but not least, the congress provided for a permanent women's bureau to be established at Geneva, the seat of the League of Nations, with Emily Balch of the United States as permanent Secretary.

Probably the resolutions passed will prove but "scraps of paper." Yet American women return home with the knowledge that women the world over are becoming politically minded both nationally and internationally.