

WOMEN'S COLUMN.

In connection with the sorely needed increase in the number of women government inspectors of the United Kingdom, the following resolution appeared on the agenda for the conference, proposed by the Hon. Lily Montagu, and seconded by Miss E. C. Harvey:—

“That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, having in view the great value and importance of the work of women inspectors in respect of the safety and welfare of women engaged in industry, and the totally inadequate number of women factory inspectors and women inspectors under the Trades Board Act hitherto appointed, earnestly entreat His Majesty's Government to make such substantial additions to this number as shall enable the inspectors to meet successfully the growing demands upon their time and strength created by the continual expansion of industry and increasing industrial employment of women, and to secure the due enforcement of laws passed for the protection of the worker.”

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The Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland was held this week in Hull, and over 600 representatives of affiliated societies were in attendance as delegates, besides the ordinary public who were admitted to the ordinary Conference and Council meetings. The general subject for discussion this year was “The Children of the Nation,” and the various aspects of the question of their care and training, and the degree of responsibility attaching to the State in their regard, formed the theme for a number of distinguished and eminent speakers. The special business of the National Council began on Wednesday, the 8th October, when the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts were presented, and the re-

ports of the various sectional and sub-committees were given. The Legislation Committee had done some useful work during the year in pressing for, and successfully obtaining, the proper representation of women in the administration of the Mental Deficiency Act. At a time when women inside the civil service are demanding a wider field of activity, and claiming the right to assist in the administration of State departments in which women are concerned as citizens and taxpayers equally with men, it is of great importance that we should keep in touch and close relation with outside bodies who are making the same demand. The Association of Post Office Women Clerks has been affiliated to the National Union of Women Workers for two or three years, but this is the first occasion on which a delegate has been sent to the Annual Conference.

PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Department of Public Works has recently established a paying agency in British Columbia with Mr. C. N. McDonald in charge as agent. Mr. H. A. Wilson is accountant of the agency and Mr. J. J. Healy, assistant accountant. The office secures the prompt payment of wages and other accounts in connection with the work of the Department carried on in British Columbia, and thus does away with the delays under the previous system under which all such accounts had to come to Ottawa. The practice of local payment had been followed to a slight extent previously, but the scope of the agency is now greatly enlarged. Mr. D. McR. Minard of the accountant's office of the Department at Ottawa, has spent some weeks in British Columbia putting the reorganization in force. Mr. McDonald, the new agent, is a veteran of the Civil Service, his first appointment dating back to the 70's. He has, therefore, served under all the Canadian Prime Ministers.