

c/o International Council of Women,
117 Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

January 8th 1929.

I am writing to call your attention to a gathering of women in London in May of this year, in the hope that you will be able to facilitate in every way you can the sending of some representative rural women from your Province to take part.

The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, who is President of the International Council of Women, is calling this Conference of rural women in connection with the Meetings of the Executive and Standing Committees which will be the first international Meeting of rural women.

There have been many unsuccessful attempts to have an International Meeting of rural women's organisations, and the considerations which have worked against such a gathering will not be so weighty in this case. The question of expense has been prohibitive, but owing to the larger body, the International Council taking the initiative and responsibility, the halls, entertaining and so on, the expense of a single conference will be avoided: to give an instance, all sessions, public meetings, receptions etc. are included in a block fee, 5/-.

Then the question of securing promises of delegates is not so anxious, as owing to their being a large number of country women representing other interests at the Council Meeting there is a ready-made nucleus. Lady Aberdeen, moreover, through her extensive European and American acquaintance has already secured promises of rural delegates from nearly all countries.

Another factor which should ensure its practical success is that our International Federations of Women's Institutes in England, Wales and Scotland are taking a great interest in the Conference. They are inviting all delegates to attend our Annual General Meeting in May which is certainly the greatest gathering of country women in the world. There will be upwards to three thousand members present next year representing over four thousand Women Institutes and, in my opinion, is the most stimulating meeting country women anywhere could possibly attend. It is presided over by that wonderful Chairman, Lady Denman and is an object lesson in itself.