

provided the combination in personality needed to work with Mrs. Watt, and those responsible for forming an International Organization. The road was not always smooth, the discussion in many instances heated, the clashes of personalities strong. However the promotion of the formation of an international rural organization remained of uppermost importance.

**Miss Elsie Zimmern**, a friend of Lady Tweedsmuir, who had a miraculous ability to advise people helping them to know their own minds, provided strong leadership at a crucial time. One of the few things she had in common with Mrs. Watt (with whom she was to come to know well and work closely with), was the capacity for hard work. Even in this, the two ladies differed. Miss Zimmern, was willing to do any kind of work, from office details to typist, while Mrs. Watt, hated routine and any work related to drudgery.

In 1927, the International Council of Women's Executives passed a resolution "that a temporary Committee be formed, to consider the conditions under which women's rural organizations work."

The original Committee was, Lady Aberdeen and Mrs. Watt, both of England; Margarete Keyserlingk, Germany; Fru Falsen Gjerdrum, Norway, and Miss Zimmern, England.

The group spent a year researching the possibility with the same problems plaguing them as we experience in our own organization to-day, lack of money for travel and arranging dates for getting together for meetings.

By 1929, as a result of long hours of work, the International Council of Women issued an invitation to all rural women to send delegates to a Conference in London, to be held simultaneously with a meeting of the Executive and Standing Committees of the International Council of Women. Of the 23 rural groups invited, 21 sent delegates and the other two sent observers.

The two objectives at this Conference (1) to make Country Women aware that other women in other countries were

striving for the same ends. (2) to find a means of furthering communication and co-operation.

The question now arose, should the ICW have a rural wing within the organization? Was there need for a separate rural organization?

Through the brilliant leadership of Lady Aberdeen, Chairman, and Mrs. Watt, Vice-Chairman, the conference "feeling" was to carry on some way, some how.

The appointment of a Liaison Committee with Mrs. Watt Chairman, and strong personalities representing many countries in the world surrounding her, helped all to tackle the impossible tasks and iron out insurmountable problems.

Much had happened since the meeting in Vienna, when Lady Aberdeen moved the adoption of the annual report in 1932 when she said, "the International Country Women's movement was full of life and delight and a joy to everyone connected with it. What a power lies in the hands of country women!"

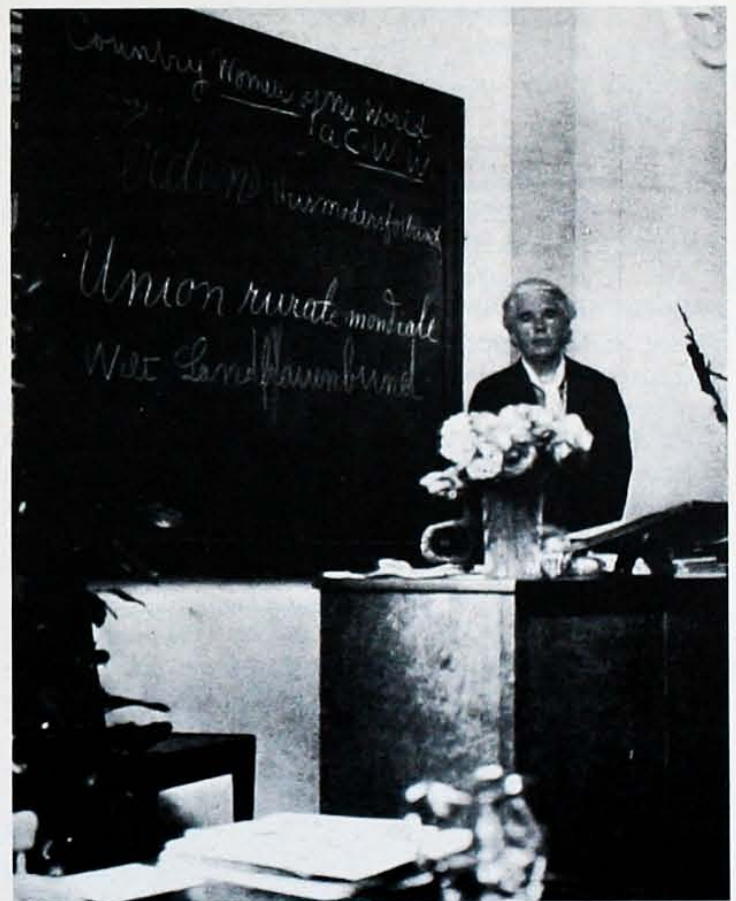
By the time the Stockholm Conference was held in 1933, a simple and worthwhile Constitution was accepted. A name was found after much thought and discussion, The idea of an association without federation was precisely what Mrs. Watt most desired, and it was adopted by the Conference.

The moment of truth — Mrs. Watt wrote on the blackboard —

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD.



*Mrs. Godfrey Drage*



*Mrs. Alfred Watt*