Experts Discuss "Equal Pay" Rates

Realising that women have long been an important factor in the labour market, Miss Eileen Powell, who has just returned from a meeting of the Committee of Experts on Women's Work held at Geneva by the International Labour Office—says that the conference of delegates from eight countries adopted for discussion the following items:

1. Measures to facilitate the application of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value, and the development of, and "It should be realised that the need for, vocational train- ing for women in various needs sufficient remuneration regions, namely, Europe, the for herself and an additional American, Asia, and the person, whether it be a rela- tive who acts as a house- keeper or an employed housekeeper, Miss Powell Browne has been a recognized authority on women's work for many years. She has opinion that advisory bureaux, urge equal pay for more than similar to the magazine for 15 years, and she says that Women's Bureau of America, now, the gap between the could be of value in doing women's rate and the man's research about Australia's rate is closing.

The Geneva Conference ners, and as individuals, prepared a number of recom- mendations to be submitted which, for instance, relate through I.L.O., to member health to living conditions, Governments, and in turn to wage rates, and regarding the case for Miss Powell said, "We do not know what opportunities exist for women, and where there are no barriers to employ- ment why women are not em- ployed."

Miss Powell, a member of the State committee ad- ministering the Emergency Housekeepers' Scheme, inves- tigated the London County Scheme for home helps. "Unfortunately the Budget has cut the number of train- ing centres—designed to help raise the status of domestic workers—from nine to one," she said.

Wage Computation

Sir,—The proposal by W.G.F. ("Herald," July 24) that the basic-wage problem could be solved by deleting provision for a wife and child was rejected by Federal and State Courts who advocated by feminist bodies. Employers' organisations do not now sup- port it.

If the Court were to disregard considerations of family main- tenance, and confine the male basic wage to the needs of a single adult without dependants, there would come to pass a catastrophic reduction in the earnings of the majority of male workers and a corresponding effect on females.

This is because one-third of male adults are single (tempor- arily so, for the most part), about 20 per cent have no children, and a considerable number have no children under the endow- ment age. As therefore most adult males have no children and a substantial percentage no wives, endowment for dependants would still leave a very large part of the population with salaries and wages permanently much lower than at present.

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