

THE VOTE

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1929

OBJECTS: To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

DR. ETHEL BENTHAM, M.P., J.P.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
THE PRISON COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.
RECOGNISE THE WOMEN POLICE!

RURAL EDUCATION. By A. M. Pierotti.
INDIAN WOMEN'S FAREWELL TO MR. G. S. DUTT.
DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.
THE CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN.

FIRST WOMAN DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE. ETHEL BENTHAM, M.P., J.P.



DR. ETHEL BENTHAM, M.P.

Dr. Ethel Bentham's victorious return as Labour Member for East Islington with a majority of 1,558, after contesting the constituency on three previous occasions, gives an insight into the determination of her character. A woman of strong convictions and of wide experience, who has devoted many years of her life to those who dwell in the back streets of our great cities, she has a very definite point of view to express.

Housing, in Dr. Bentham's opinion, is at the root of most of our social evils. Maternal mortality, prostitution, ill-health, drunkenness, lunacy—all are assisted by the appalling conditions under which the majority of the workers in this country are compelled to live. While fresh-air, light and sunshine—the first essentials of good health and happiness—are denied, it is impossible for people to bring up their children to be as good citizens as they might otherwise become.

Dr. Bentham's experience as one of the first women magistrates to be appointed, and as a member of the

Metropolitan Asylums Board, has helped to build up her conviction that nothing but a higher standard of living can remedy existing evils.

Land tenure, Dr. Bentham asserts, is the fundamental difficulty in the way of municipal and other housing schemes. Municipal or national ownership of land is the only solution. Authorities could then go ahead with their plans and provide houses at a rent possible for working people to pay. Until restrictions on land tenure are removed, it is impossible for any effectual steps to be taken. The working of estates on Octavia Hill principles relieves the immediate distress of tenants but leaves the problem of providing adequate accommodation untouched.

In her medical work, Dr. Bentham has the needs of the mother and baby constantly before her. She attributes the increase in lunacy since the war to bad conditions during pregnancy and constant anxiety arising out of the uncertainty of employment. The physique of the rising generation she views with alarm. With one and a half million persons unemployed, the children of one and a half million parents must of necessity be underfed and badly clothed: also, a large proportion of the population are denied the opportunity of providing their children with higher education or of giving them a training for skilled work. Under such conditions, each generation must deteriorate physically and mentally, and when trade revives there will not be sufficient skilled workers to meet the demand.

Dr. Ethel Bentham declares that existing conditions are striking at the health and fitness of the nation and must inevitably undermine its morals unless the standard of living of the masses is raised. She advocates higher wages, lower prices, and the courage to get to the root of existing evils.

SAVING THE MOTHERS.

The present mortality rate amongst mothers in child-birth is 4 per 1,000 births, and this rate has been practically stationary for many years. The British Medical Association has formulated a scheme, under which this rate should be materially reduced. It would cost about £2,100,000 a year, of which £1,250,000 would go in fees to midwives; but it would provide the services of a midwife and doctor for every woman giving birth to a child, the doctor being responsible for the case in all

its stages. Under the scheme adequate ante-natal and post-natal treatment would be given. The scheme would be paid for through the machinery of the National Health Insurance, and it is claimed that the benefit could be well and efficiently administered by collaboration between the local authority and the local Insurance Committee, one of which deals now with midwives and ante-natal clinics and the other with the medical benefit of the National Health Insurance Acts.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Canada sends Woman Alternate Delegate to the Assembly.

Miss Agnes Macphail (Progressive, and the only woman member of the Federal Parliament) will be one of the Canadian alternate delegates to the Assembly of the League of Nations in Geneva next month.

Young Women's Successes in Ceylon.

Prabuddha Stri (the official organ of the Women's Franchise Union) reports that Miss Savundranayagam, of Holy Family Convent, was, in the recent public examinations, awarded first place in open competition in the University College entrance scholarship examination. Miss M. J. E. Perera, a student of St. Bridget's Convent, came first in all Ceylon in this year's Cambridge Senior Examination, thus earning a free studentship at University College. She preferred, however, to sit for the ordinary entrance scholarship examination, at which she was awarded an exhibition. Miss G. C. Ebell came first in the Pre-Medical Examination of Ceylon Medical College, held in March, 1929, the subjects being Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

£10,000 a Year Woman.

Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, the first woman Assistant Attorney-General of the United States, has been appointed Counsel for the Aviation Corporation of the United States at Washington with a salary of £10,000 a year. Mrs. Willebrandt's salary is stated to be a record one for a woman.

Woman Provincial Grand Master.

Sister E. Wright (Grand Master of the District) presided at the half-yearly meeting of the Brighton District of the Manchester Unity of Independent Order of Oddfellows, held at Oddfellows Hall, Worthing, on July 19th. In her address the Grand Master said that this was the 82nd year of the half-yearly district meeting, and that it was the first time a woman had presided over a district meeting as Provincial Grand Master.

Another Woman Veterinary Surgeon.

Miss Marion Stewart, of Glasgow, is the first Scottish woman to qualify as a veterinary surgeon. She is only twenty years of age, and will not receive her diploma until she is twenty-one. There are now eight women veterinary surgeons in Great Britain.

The Hon. Lily Montagu, Doctor of Hebrew Law.

The Faculty and Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College of Cincinnati have conferred on the Hon. Lily Montagu, J.P., the honorary degree of Doctor of Hebrew Law in recognition of her lifelong service to Judaism. She is the first Jewish woman on whom this honorary degree has been conferred.

Warwick's Woman Pastor.

The Rev. Ethel Kay, of Whitby, has been appointed pastor of the Unitarian Church at Warwick.

Idaho "Sheep Queen."

Mrs. Yearian, of Lemhi, Idaho, started as a herdsman because she wanted to send her five children to college. She has now about 8,000 sheep and employs fifteen shepherds. In a good year she has made as much as £20,000, and has had a wool-clip of 70,000 lbs. Mrs. Yearian is called the "Sheep Queen," for she is the only woman who follows this career in Idaho.

Policewomen for Turkey?

The *Morning Post* states that the Governor of Stamboul has been asked by the "Union of Turkish Women" to form a corps of policewomen similar to that existing in London and other European cities. The suggestion, to which so far no reply has been given, meets with opposition from the majority of Turkish women. Nakieh Hanem, for example, head mistress of a school for girls, remarks that the police have to enter evil-smelling drinking dens and other places of ill-fame, where quarrels are frequent and the knife is used freely. "How can we ask decent women to undertake such work?" she asks.

WOMEN'S PROSPECTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

According to *The Flashlight*, the quarterly organ of the Woman's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa, women suffragists are optimistic as regards their prospects for enfranchisement. In a leading article the writer says:—"General Hertzog gave a definite promise that if returned to power at the General Election he would himself introduce a Woman Suffrage Bill in 1930. General Smuts promised that if he were returned to power he would make it a Government measure, and, as is well known, Woman Suffrage was a plank in the South African Party Platform. Labour asserts that all over the world they stand for Woman Suffrage. A simple calculation based on promises, individual as well as party, shows that there must be at least two-thirds of the present members of Legislative Assembly ready to vote for our Suffrage Bill. It is well known that many of the Nationalist members are now in favour of Women's Enfranchisement. Mr. Havenga, one of the most distinguished of the Nationalist members has publicly proclaimed his conversion to our cause, and the support of the Prime Minister ought to influence his followers. To our present members of the Legislative Assembly we make this appeal: Men of South Africa! do not make the enfranchisement of women a party question. Show the world that you esteem your women as highly as they deserve to be esteemed. Do not let us any longer have to hang our heads in shame and ignominy when we meet in an International Congress, where women of nearly all nations are enfranchised except the women of South Africa."

GERMAN SOCIALISTS AND MARRIED WOMEN'S INDUSTRIAL RIGHTS.

The Sunday Times reports that the right of married women to retain their positions in industry is advocated in a resolution passed by the National Conference of German Socialists, which has decided that it must recognise industrial equality for all women.

The adoption of the resolution followed a great deal of discussion in the Socialist Press of Germany as to the propriety of married women working for wages in cases where it is not absolutely necessary. The motion approved by the Conference read as follows:

"In order to attain the aim of Socialism—the transformation of the capitalist system of private industry into the system of social public industry—it is necessary the have the collaboration of woman as well as of man. In Germany, woman, it is true, has political equality, but she is not yet free economically and socially.

"To-day there are 11,500,000 women in industrial life, of whom 3,700,000 are married. Many persons think that to crowd these latter out of industrial life would be a means of relieving unemployment. To-day it is numerically, as well as technically, impossible to force woman out of the shop and replace her by man. Furthermore, such action would violate the Social Democracy's established principle of the right of woman to industrial labour.

"Consequently, in line with the resolution of the Marseilles Congress of the Socialist International of 1925, and supported by the Heidelberg programme, the convention recognises woman's equal right to industrial labour."

INDIAN MARRIAGES.

The Bombay correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* reports that the State of Bhavnagar has published a notification inviting opinions concerning the Marriage Age Limit Act, which it is proposed to put into force. This Act forbids the marriages of boys below 18 and of girls under 14 years of age, and allows no man over 45 to marry unless the bride be at least half as old as the bridegroom.

One caste, the Kanbis, amongst whom child marriage is much practised, is excluded from the Act as regards marriage, though cohabitation below these ages is forbidden.

THE PRISON COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

NEED FOR WOMEN PRISON COMMISSIONERS.

Once again we are in receipt of a Report of the Commissioners of Prisons and the Directors of Convict Prisons, the present one being the Report for the year 1927, and signed by Alexander Maxwell (Chairman), A. Paterson, G. B. Griffiths (Medical Commissioner), and J. Knox—all men.

During 1927 there were 43,674 receptions into prison—36,038 men and 7,636 women. These receptions are greater than the number of individuals received, because many persons are received more than once during the year, and the prison records show that 35,964 individuals (31,784 men and 4,180 women) accounted for these 43,674 receptions. The offences which resulted in the greater number of men being sent to prison were Larceny, Drunkenness, Offences against the Poor Law, Assaults, Begging and Sleeping-out, Burglary, House-breaking, etc., Frequenting, etc., Breach of Police Regulations, Malicious Damage, Sexual Offences and Indecent Exposure; and for the greater number of women; Drunkenness, Prostitution, Larceny, Breach of Police Regulations, Begging and Sleeping-out, Assaults, False Pretences, Indecent Exposure, Malicious Damage, Brothel-keeping.

The Report states that the number of imprisonments for non-payment of fines amounted to 14,921—10,743 males and 4,178 females, and adds that in a large proportion of these cases, especially in the women's cases, the offence was no doubt being drunk and disorderly. There were, however, 638 committals of young persons under 21 in default of fines, and the hope is expressed that this number will be reduced. It is urged that there should be a regular system of supervision of these young defaulters, and that a supervisor appointed by the Court should collect these fines by instalments, if necessary, so as to avoid a commitment to prison.

In the year 1927, 2,068 lads and 133 girls under 21 years of age were sent to prison (not to a Borstal Institution), some of them having had several previous convictions recorded against them. The Report expresses disappointment that sentences of imprisonment on lads under 21 years of age have not materially decreased in the last four years, and that so many lads with numerous previous convictions are sent to prison rather than to a Borstal Institution. It points out that in a Borstal Institution, where all the inmates are serving long sentences, the courses of training are graded and progressive; in a prison, where most of the inmates are serving short sentences, there can be practically no progressive or consecutive courses. At a Borstal Institution there are extensive grounds and opportunities for open-air work, exercise, and physical training; at a prison there is usually little open space, and such opportunities are small; in a prison, too, opportunities of contamination by older offenders cannot be altogether eliminated.

With regard to Borstal Institutions, the Report states that the daily average population of the institutions for boys was as follows:—Wandsworth 51; Borstal 356; Portland 416; Feltham 325; Wormwood Scrubbs Penal Class 82; while the daily average population of girls at Aylesbury during 1927 was 74.

The number of young persons under 16 who were received into prison, under the special provisions of Sections 97 and 102 of the Children Act (*i.e.*, with the certificate of the Court that a young person is of so unruly a character that he cannot safely be sent to a place of detention, or that he is so depraved that he is unfit to be so detained), was 24; 16 boys (one boy twice) and 8 girls. One boy was ordered to be detained during His Majesty's pleasure.

Of the prisoners received during the year, 491 men and 19 women were under sentences of penal servitude; 30 of these men and three of the women had also sentences of preventive detention. The daily average population in 1927 of the three convict prisons for men

was as follows:—Dartmoor 491; Parkhurst 644; and Maidstone 268. Of the women convicts the daily average number was 53—43 at Liverpool and 10 at Aylesbury. The daily average population of the preventive detention establishment for men at Camp Hill was 154. The women serving sentences of preventive detention are at Liverpool, and the daily average number was seven.

As in previous Reports issued by the Prison Commissioners a great deal is said about recidivism, especially the recidivism of women, and longer sentences, even indeterminate sentences, are advocated by the prison authorities for those women who seem unable to keep out of prison. The Governor of Birmingham Prison says he does not see what can be done with the women who come and go with unflinching regularity, unless some form of indeterminate sentence and conditional release is devised. The Medical Officer of Holloway Prison declares; "It is obvious that the present system of short sentences and fines do the women no earthly good." The Medical Officer of Liverpool Prison also stresses the hopelessness of trying to deal with these women. In proportion to their numbers the recidivism among women prisoners is much greater than that among men prisoners, and drunkenness, fighting and prostitution account for most of their convictions. Our firm belief is that indeterminate sentences or longer sentences will not cure this evil, but what is wanted is a thorough change in the prison system as it affects women prisoners. So long as there are only men on the Prison Commission, whilst we have men governors of women's prisons and men medical officers of women's prisons, there will be no appreciable decrease in the recidivism among women prisoners, simply because men do not understand women as women understand them; and we say emphatically that we shall oppose by every means in our power all attempts to increase the sentences, or to impose indeterminate sentences on women, so long as men alone are in control of our prison system and the whole of its administration. Only last month a woman, aged sixty, charged with obtaining £2 by false pretences and being an habitual criminal, attempted to commit suicide in her cell. It was pleaded on her behalf that she had been kept in one prison building for nine years, and in a written statement the woman said: "I do not want to go back to that awful detention. I do not mind doing my sentence, but it was the fear of the detention that made me try to kill myself." According to the *Sunday Express*, Mr. Oliver Barnett, for the defence, said that when a man was sentenced to penal servitude he served for a time in a convict prison and was then sent to Camp Hill, Isle of Wight, where he had a great deal of latitude. Women were sent to Walton Prison, Liverpool, where they spent three years penal servitude and were kept in a small cell there during the period of preventive detention. He declared that this was entirely inconsistent with modern theories of prison reform, and that such treatment was bound to have a morbid and deleterious effect on women prisoners. We are glad to note that the Recorder said he did not propose to add a period of preventive detention to that of the three years' penal servitude passed on this unfortunate woman; but we despair of the effect these three years will have on the woman herself and still more of those at present responsible for the administration of women's prisons. It is outrageous at this time of day that there should be no women on the Prison Commission, no woman governor at Holloway Prison to which 4,310 women were committed in 1927; no woman governor at Liverpool convict prison for women, no woman governor at any of the other prisons which have a women's section, no woman medical superintendent in charge of all these women prisoners and no woman inspector of prisons. It is more than time that the Home Office entirely altered the present anachronistic arrangements of the prison system in this country as it affects women.

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EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

RECOGNISE THE WOMEN POLICE!

Lord Byng, the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis, is asking the Home Secretary for more police—an additional 100 detectives in the Criminal Investigation Department and several hundred police constables. He considers that these are necessary to combat the increasing activities of motor bandit gangs in London and the suburbs. In the suburbs many hundreds of new houses have sprung up in various districts during the past few years, and in their shopping centres smash-and-grab raids by motor thieves are becoming almost a daily occurrence. Well-trained detectives who know the areas are needed to frustrate their successful operations and more constables are required for patrol work and to keep a sharp look-out for these undesirable visitors. This seems to us a most suitable time for an increase in the number of women police. Women police would be welcomed in the suburbs, and they could certainly do most efficient patrol work in those areas, in the various streets where too many houses are broken into by burglars in the daytime and at night-time, as well as in the shopping centres. The fact that policewomen were on the look-out for the unwelcome strangers, and could easily give the alarm if they appeared, would very substantially decrease their activities. We believe that women constables would be of invaluable assistance to the Metropolitan Police Force at the present time and they would gain excellent experience in the suburbs. Their accommodation would not be any great difficulty, and there would be no need to wait for the erection of barrack-like buildings to house them. Women police could easily secure suitable lodgings in or near the suburbs they patrolled. To be always on the spot and to have every chance of gaining a full knowledge of the locality would surely rather increase than diminish their efficiency. In the Report of the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis, 1928, it is stated that the strength of the Force on 31st December last year was 18,871 in the Uniformed Branch and 910 in the Criminal Investigation Department, making the Grand Total 19,781 men. Then follows a paragraph on Women Police, which neatly sums up and dismisses these individuals:—

"The Establishment of Women Police consists of 2 Inspectors, 5 Sergeants and 43 Constables. These are additional to the numbers shown above."

50 women police and 19,781 men police! That is not a fair proportion for London and the suburbs, especially when it is remembered that all women's organisations have for years past urged that women police in much greater numbers should be appointed; that various Departmental Committees appointed by the Home Office have recommended the employment of women police, and that during the sessions of the Street Offences Committee and of the Royal Commission on the Police, the need for women police was emphasised time and again. Closely following the small paragraph on Women Police in the Commissioner's Report is another paragraph dealing with school children. This reads:—

"Great difficulty has been experienced in maintaining beats at their full strength. One of the reasons for this

is that to assist children entering and leaving schools nearly 1,000 policemen have, four times a day, to discontinue their ordinary beat duties in order to be at the street crossings near the schools. This periodical cessation of supervision naturally becomes known in the localities concerned, and advantage of it is sometimes taken by law breakers."

No one can deny that women police would be as capable as men police in helping school children to cross the roads and to do the ordinary beats. We claim indeed that women police should have the same training as the men police, share in all the duties of the police, and have equal opportunities with their men colleagues for every kind of promotion; and we strongly appeal to the new Home Secretary, Mr. J. R. Clynes, to give special attention to this matter of women police, their position in the Force and the urgent need for their appointment, and to insist that any increase in the Metropolitan Police Force shall consist of men and women in adequate proportions, the idea of looking upon women police as "additional" to the Police Force being discarded.

A HARDSHIP TO MEDICAL WOMEN.

In a letter to *The Times*, on August 5th, under the above heading Dr. Raymond Crawford says that he is associated with a medical charity which seeks to relieve the destitution that exists in the medical as in all other professions. The charity is governed by an Act of Parliament of 1885 and an Amending Act of 1894, and both these Acts confirm the benefits to medical men and their dependents. Dr. Crawford concedes that the limitation in the original Act is intelligible because the medical woman had then scarcely come into being, but contends that it is less intelligible that the limitation to the male sex should have been perpetuated in the Amending Act, for by that time medical women had become recognised, and, indeed, welcomed by the public and the profession. He further states that only recently his Council found themselves fettered under these Acts by the terms of the will of a benevolent testatrix, and he is strongly of opinion that the hardship to medical women and their children—and the hardship is real enough—is due to the fact that the words "medical men" have become a stereotyped form, and that what is really intended are the words "medical practitioners." At the present time, in face of the wording of the Acts on the Statute Book, Dr. Crawford's Council is powerless to give any benefits to medical women and their dependents. He says that the British Medical Association is building up a special fund for this purpose, but that is necessarily a slow process. He therefore expresses the hope that by bringing this matter to the attention of the laymen and women to whose continuous help the work of his Council owes so much, they will see that in their wills the wording will be such as to cover medical women as well as medical men. We ourselves hope that the wording of the Acts above mentioned may be altered in another Amending Act at an early date, so that medical women may be equally eligible with their men colleagues to receive benefits under medical charities.

WOMEN'S TWO JOBS!

How often have we been told that if women enter public life their homes and their husbands must suffer! *Equal Rights* now puts another side of the case. Mrs. William Schilling is staying at home in Minnesota, managing Spring Brook Farm, while her husband goes to Washington as a member of the new Federal Farm Board. Mrs. Schilling has eight children. Another woman in Minnesota who managed her husband's business was Mrs. Theodore Christianson, who ran a country newspaper belonging to her husband while he stood for and held public offices, up to the governorship of the State. We are not told if Mrs. Christianson in any way neglected her home, but according to all accounts she made a great success of her husband's newspaper.

RURAL EDUCATION.

By A. M. PIEROTTI.

For a short time it appeared that the Government did not propose to take immediate steps to implement the Labour Party's pledge to raise the school-leaving age. Fortunately, that danger has passed and educationists are now wondering what action Labour will take to ensure a full and free education for all children. A Liberal Government introduced the system of compulsory primary education; a Conservative Government set up a Committee whose recommendations, if carried into effect, would have established an excellent scheme of free post-primary education; and, upon this framework, it is hoped the present Government will establish that high road from the Nursery School to the University which has long been the aim of true educationists of all parties.

Sir Charles Trevelyan has said: "To be liberal without waste, to be daring without recklessness, will be our method." The question now arises—will his discrimination between liberality and wastefulness coincide with that of the progressive section of the teaching profession? Will he, for instance, consider it liberal, wasteful, or merely just, that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work? Will he deem it daring or reckless to insist that men and women have equal opportunities for promotion in the teaching profession and in the administrative posts? At the present time, notwithstanding the fact that the majority of teachers are women, there is not one woman Director of Education in the whole of England and Wales.

Above all, will the President of the Board of Education think it liberal or wasteful to insist that every child, whether in an urban or rural school, be in the care of a fully-trained teacher?

In the Board of Education Report for the year 1927-1928, it is stated that 8,158 supplementary teachers were employed in the schools. Six of these were in charge of classes with over 60 children on the register, and 180 in charge of classes of between 50 and 60 children.

INDIAN WOMEN'S FAREWELL TO MR. G. S. DUTT.

Last Saturday afternoon a very successful meeting was arranged by Indian women at the Lyceum Club to bid farewell to Mr. G. S. Dutt, an Indian magistrate of Bengal, who is returning to India at an early date. Mr. Dutt is the author of "A Woman of India," being the life of his wife Saroj Nalini (Founder of the Women's Institute Movement in India), which we reviewed in *THE VOTE* last May. Saroj Nalini died just at the time when her powers of service were at their height, and Mr. Dutt has continued her work, devoting his life to the development of Mahila Samitis (Women's Institutes) throughout the rural districts of India and Indian women in London seized the opportunity of giving public recognition to his work last Saturday.

Lady Tata received the guests, among whom were Miss Lena Sorabji, Sir Sankaran Nair, Dr. Paranjpye, Mr. and Mrs. H. Sen, Miss Dastur, Dr. Annie Besant, Professor Geddes, Mrs. Geikie Cobb, Mrs. Cecil Cobb, Miss Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Westbrook, and many young Indian men and women University graduates. After tea, and a short musical entertainment, which included the beautiful playing of the old Indian instrument Dibruba, or Heart-Compeller, by an exceptionally skilled artiste, Lady Tata paid a warm tribute to the work of Mr. Dutt in memory of his wife, and to the value of the women's institutes in the life of the people of India. She wished him a pleasant voyage and renewed success in getting more of them established.

Dr. Annie Besant also paid her tribute to Mr. Dutt in keeping his wife's memory green on the other side of death. She stressed the difference between the struggle of British women for equality of rights and opportunities of service with men, and the struggle of Indian women, if it could be called a struggle, for the same equality. British women had the laws of the land against them; Indian women had no such laws against them—only the obstacle of custom. India had great traditions of service

When it is remembered that supplementary teachers have no training or qualification for their work, and are mainly employed in rural areas, the extent to which the education of the rural child is sacrificed to "economy" can be appreciated. In addition to the supplementary teachers, there is an army of over 30,000 women and 2,000 men uncertificated teachers; and, of these, some 700 are head teachers. Here again, it is mainly the rural school which suffers, as uncertificated head teachers would not be tolerated in a large school under a progressive authority.

The Labour Party is reputed to be paying special attention to the rural problem. Women teachers—for rural education is mainly a question for women teachers—are wondering whether rural education will be admitted as part of the "rural problem," or whether the Government will be content to leave the education of rural children in the present deplorable state. There is the classic example of the clergyman school manager who, when an additional teacher was required for the younger children, suggested that his cook should undertake the work as she "had a way" with children. There are village schools with no kind of apparatus for drying the clothes of children who have had to walk to school for miles in the rain; many have no accommodation for the children to have their dinner at school although the distances are too great for them to go home in the middle of the day; some have no water supply; and for playing-fields they are frequently dependent upon the good-will of a neighbouring farmer.

These conditions are not good enough for any children, and they need not be if the authorities are prepared to spend a reasonable amount upon securing properly qualified teachers and suitable school buildings. It would be farcical for a Government to spend money on raising the school-leaving age to 15 years if the education of rural children is to remain in the present unsatisfactory condition.

among women in the past, and the women of India today were rising up to follow these traditions, and in some cases had now even greater opportunities of public work than British women.

Dr. Drummond Shiels (Under-Secretary of State for India) who came a little late, but had travelled up specially from the South Coast to be present at this meeting, said he had read Mr. Dutt's beautiful memorial to his wife and had been exceedingly impressed with the invaluable work being done by the Women's Institutes in India. Their real success came because Indian women themselves were managing them and doing all the work connected with them. They were sweetening the lives of so many who were not too happy in India, and he was glad to give whatever support he could.

Dr. Abdullah Suhrawardy, speaking as a Mohammedan, also paid tribute to the value of this movement in India. He said that Hindu, Christian, Mohammedan and Parsee women all worked together to make it a success. It was entirely undenominational, and throughout the villages and rural parts of India was doing an enormous amount of work for the uplift and amelioration of the people.

Responding, Mr. Dutt, who was received with great enthusiasm, said he had deserved no thanks; he was merely on the Executive Committee of the Central body which was helping to establish women's Institutes in India. He paid generous tribute to the work of others on that committee. The Women's Institute movement in India was not in any way a rival to other movements there working for the uplift of the people. There were 750,000 villages in India, and at present 215 Women's Institutes. The movement had been started by his wife in 1915. It had succeeded, but they were having a great struggle with financial and other practical difficulties. The educational and material value of this movement in the life of the people was very real, and the work was going on.

DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.

11th JUNE, 1847 — 5th AUGUST, 1929.

On August 5th, representatives of all women's organisations were present at Golders Green Crematorium to bid a last Farewell to Dame Millicent Fawcett, who had been their well-loved co-worker, their counsellor, and their friend through so many years of the struggle for the enfranchisement of women. The very great majority of people are now far away on holiday, notwithstanding which the little church was filled with those who were conscious not only of the loss of a great leader of a great cause, but of a great personal loss. Dame Millicent Fawcett was indeed a great Englishwoman, and everyone who came in contact with her will be justly proud of having known her, but she had also the gift of inspiring great personal affection among everyone with whom she worked, and it was that feeling of affection which was uppermost in the minds and hearts of all who attended her funeral service. The sun shone brilliantly as her coffin, laden with flowers, was carried into the church, through the open doors of which could be seen the beautiful green of the gardens outside and still more flowers. The Master of the Temple conducted the simple service—his reading sounded like a conversation among friends. Dame Millicent's favourite hymns—"Bless'd are the Pure in Heart" and "The God of Love my Shepherd

is," were included in the service, together with the ninety-first Psalm, and at the conclusion the choir sang Brahms's Requiem, "Blessed are the Dead." Outside, many friends lingered to take a look at the lovely wreaths which had been sent. They formed a rainbow garden and were most exquisite in colour and beauty. Afterwards they were carried to the Golders Green War Memorial, where their cards and messages could be read at leisure by the general public.

The Women's Freedom League was represented at this service by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Dr. Knight, Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, J.P., Miss F. A. Underwood, Miss Hurry, and Mr. E. G. Clayton; and we sent a wreath in the colours of our League.

The Press have paid very warm tributes to the life and work of Dame Millicent Fawcett. Among the tributes we liked best were those of *The Woman's Leader*, in which Miss Rathbone and Mrs. Ray Strachey each wrote a very fine article, *The Times*, the *Manchester Guardian*, the *Morning Post*, *The Nation*, the *Daily News*, the *East Anglian Times*, *The Scotsman*, and the *Glasgow Herald*. In the *Manchester Guardian* also were very appreciative and touching tributes from Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Lady Astor, Mrs. Swanwick, and other distinguished women. Dame Millicent Fawcett has passed on full of glory and honour.

THE CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN.

Organiser and Speaker: Miss Lilian Lenton, assisted by Mrs. Adair, Miss F. R. Lenton, Mrs. Scott, and Miss Eunice Scott.

The fourth and last week of our Clyde Campaign ended somewhat dimly. Our final meeting was to have been on Friday night, and we were looking forward to a large audience and a lively evening, but all was spoiled by the weather. We were on the Rothesay Pier Head with our wagonette at the usual time, where we waited patiently for over half an hour for the rain to subside, but it was useless—we had to give up and go home.

On Tuesday also, in Largs and Millport, heavy showers rendered impossible our usual meetings, but those who were selling our papers and collecting bravely carried on in the wet—with more success than one would have expected, considering the difficulties.

During the last week, therefore, we have again held only 13 out of our proposed 16 open-air meetings, but as usual we have sold 1,000 "Votes" and hundreds of pamphlets.

Altogether, during the four weeks we have spent on the Clyde, we have taken 54 open-air meetings, 24 at night on the Pier Head at Rothesay, and 30 during the day at Largs, Millport, Dunoon, Helensburgh and Gourack. We have sold over 4,000 "Votes," over 1,000 pamphlets (which include "The New Humanism," by Laurence Housman, and "The Power of Women in the Church," by Miss Eunice Murray), besides taking over £20 in collections.

On the whole we have found the public sympathetic and interested—a little inclined to suggest at first that we now "have all that we want," an illusion easily dispelled. Our demand that a woman should be able to retain her own nationality even if she marries a foreigner was much appreciated in some quarters. One lady came to us with a doleful tale. She is British born, of British parents, and has never been outside Britain, but years ago she married an alien. Almost immediately he deserted her—he has never maintained her, but still his nationality is hers—she is no longer a British subject, whenever she changes her address she must notify the police. Now she occupies uncomfortable lodgings in Glasgow, but hesitates to change them as she resents so strongly these visits to the authorities. She has tried to become naturalised, providing 17 substantial references, but of course cannot do so, for in these respects she no longer exists as an independent being—she is married, and "man and wife are one," and that one the

man. We gave her hope, showing that through woman's influence in politics a Bill will doubtless soon be passed rendering such cases as hers impossible.

Two nights this week have been taken up with those unpleasant subjects so difficult to deal with effectively at open-air meetings—the prevalence of assaults on little girl children and the remedies we suggest, also our demand for an equal moral standard. With regard to the first point a man horrified us by saying that these offences are more common in this country than on the Continent, and giving as his reason that abroad "more facilities are provided for men," so that they are not tempted to attack children. Surely men are not as bad as that?

To subjects such as these crowds listened with sympathetic understanding; both men and women agreeing that, but for the double moral standard, the White Slave Traffic, with all its horrors, would not exist; for if it were not for the demand it would be to no one's financial interest to create or organise the supply.

Let us hope that the time will speedily come when it will be unnecessary to speak of these things.

I think we may claim that our Campaign this year has been a success. For this the grateful thanks of the Women's Freedom League are due to those friends who have so willingly given up their holidays to help us—to Miss Eunice Scott, who worked hard the whole month, to Mrs. Ash, Miss Jones and Miss Ritchie, who gave us their services for three weeks, and to Mrs. Adair, Mrs. Scott and Miss F. R. Lenton, who took the places of those three for the last week. All have shown untiring energy and enthusiasm, selling and collecting daily. Further, Miss Eunice Scott, Mrs. Ash, and Miss F. R. Lenton have been particularly useful in taking the chair at the meetings—a very necessary bit of work. I only hope that if we have another Clyde Coast Campaign they will again come forward with their kind assistance.

We are also very grateful to those members and sympathisers who have been so kind as to send donations towards our expenses—to Miss Harvey, Miss Jacob, B.Sc., Miss Jane Thomson, F.E.I.S. Miss Kate Thomson, Mrs. A. W. Thomson and a gentleman who prefers to remain anonymous. On this point I should like to add that further donations will be greatly appreciated, and should be sent to 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

LILIAN LENTON.

Women's Freedom League.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Tuesday, August 20th, at 8 p.m.

North Kensington and District Branch. Meeting to arrange Winter programme of work, at 94, Cambridge Gardens, W.10.

Wednesday, August 28th, at 4 p.m.

Social Afternoon for London Members at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Margaret Wynne Nevinson, J.P., L.L.A.

Thursday, August 29th, at 8 p.m.

Brentford and Chiswick Branch. Dance at 56, Harvard Road, Gunnersbury, in aid of Branch funds. Tickets 1/3.

Thursday, August 29th, at 8 p.m.

Barnsbury and District Branch. Meeting. Place to be announced later.

Monday, September 2nd, at 3 p.m.

"Fair" Sub-Committee at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Thursday, September 5th, at 3.30 p.m.

Brentford and Chiswick Branch. Meeting at 56, Harvard Road, Gunnersbury. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle: "Marriage and Slavery" The meeting will be followed by a Dance at 8 p.m. Tickets 1/3, in aid of Branch funds.

Thursday, September 5th, at 7.30 p.m.

Hackney and District Branch. Meeting. Place to be announced later.

Friday, October 4th, at 7.30 p.m.

Dinner at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speeches by Delegates to the Berlin Congress. Tickets 3s. 6d. each, from the Secretary, Minerva Club.

Saturday, October 5th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Thursday and Friday, November 14th and 15th, 3 to 9.30 p.m.

Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Saturday, November 16th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

Saturday, September 14th (Proposed date).

Middlesbrough Branch. Picnic for members and friends.

Monday, October 14th.

Middlesbrough Branch. Whist Drive, at the Grey House.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

September 2nd to 15th.

Women's International League. International Summer School in Lepence-Visegrad, Hungary. Subject: "Effects of Public Economics on the Interior and Foreign Politics of Different Countries."

Sunday, October 13th, at 11 a.m.

The Hampshire House Discussion Circle, Hog Lane, King Street, Hammersmith. Speaker: Miss Marian Reeves, on "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

October 14th to October 18th.

National Council of Women. Annual Meeting and Conference in the Albert Hall, Manchester.

Thursday, October 17th, at 3 p.m.

Women's International League. Reception to the two women delegates of the British Government to the Geneva Assembly at Aubrey House, Aubrey Walk, W.8. By kind permission of the Misses Alexander. Tickets 2/6 each, which will include tea.

Wednesday, October 23rd, at 3 p.m.

Women's International League. Meeting at the Friends' House, Euston Road, to discuss the report of the work of this year's Assembly.

Wednesday, October 30th to Saturday, November 2nd.

National Council for Mental Hygiene. Conference at the Central Hall, Westminster, on "Mental Health."

Wednesday, November 13th.

Women's International League. All-day Conference on "Opium."

TO "THE VOTE" READERS.

Vols. No. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 14 of "The Vote" are urgently required by the Women's Freedom League. The gift of any or all of these volumes to Headquarters would be much appreciated. Many thanks for odd numbers already sent.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

APRONS AND OVERALLS STALL.

The Misses Underwood, Mrs. Turriff and Miss Brewer are again undertaking the Aprons and Overalls Stall at our Green, White and Gold Fair, to be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, November 14th and 15th, and they will be very grateful to friends for help in making this Stall a success—donations to buy material, material to make aprons and overalls, or finished aprons and overalls. Gifts in money or in kind should be sent either to the Misses Underwood, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, Mrs. Turriff, 28, King's Avenue, New Malden, Surrey, or Miss Brewer, The Shieling, Vale Road, Claygate, Surrey, by whom they will be gladly acknowledged.

LORD CECIL AND THE EQUAL RIGHTS TREATY.

Lord Cecil of Chelwood, who is a member of the British Delegation to the Assembly of the League of Nations, has received officers of the Six Point Group, who had asked him to discuss with them how best to facilitate the passage by the League of the Equal Rights Treaty. This Treaty was first launched at the Pan-American Conference in 1928 and later in the same year at the gathering of nations to sign the Kellogg Peace Pact. Its major Article runs thus:—

Article I. The Contracting States agree that, upon the ratification of this Treaty, men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the Territory subject to their respective jurisdictions.

Lord Cecil received the representatives of the Six Point Group sympathetically and discussed various methods of approaching the League. Among precedents alluded to by the representatives were the Labour Charter stating that men and women shall receive equal pay for work of equal value; Article 7 of the Covenant of the League stating that all positions in and in connection with the League shall be open equally to men and women; the international work done by the League in dealing with the Traffic in Women; the Equal Rights Treaty presented at the Pan-American Conference. The possible attitude of individual nations towards the Equal Rights Treaty was considered, and stress was laid on the necessity of presenting the international aspects of the Equal Rights Treaty so that it should come within the scope of international business intended to be done by or through the agency of the League of Nations.

CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH.

The National Council for Mental Hygiene, in association with the Joint Committee of the National Council for Mental Hygiene and the Tavistock Square Clinic, have arranged a Conference on Mental Health, to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, from Wednesday, October 30th, to Saturday, November 2nd.

The Inaugural Meeting will take place on Wednesday evening, October 30th, at 8.30 p.m. The following day, at 4.30 p.m., there will be a discussion on Sex Education, and at 8 o'clock the same evening on The Personal Equation in Industry. On Friday, November 1st, at 4.30 p.m., there will be a discussion on The Child and the Parent, and at 8 o'clock that evening on Delinquency—a Problem in Mental Hygiene.

Group discussions, to which the general public will also be welcomed, will be held as follows:—Thursday, October 31st, at 6 p.m., for Magistrates and Probation Officers, on "The Working of the Juvenile Courts"; Friday, November 1st, at 2.15 p.m., for Public Health Nurses and Social Workers, on "The Relation of their Work to the Mental Health of the Community"; and on Saturday, November 2nd, at 11 a.m., for Parents and Teachers, on "The Problem Child at Home and in School."

Tickets for the above can be obtained from the Conference Secretary, 51, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

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