

MONTHLY NEWS
of the
**Conservative Women's Reform
ASSOCIATION.**
NEW ISSUE.

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"FOLLOW LIGHT—DO THE RIGHT."

Day Continuation Schools.

The Education Act of 1918 among its many new Provisions has given effect to the opinion for long years of those interested in Education that Elementary Schools, so called, should not cease educating at the early age of 14, but that every boy and girl between 14 and 16 should be compelled to attend a Day Continuation School for eight hours in each week, which later on will be further extended to young persons between 16 and 18 years. It is the business of local Authorities to carry out the Provisions of the Act and the greatest trouble has been taken by the Educational Committees attached to such Bodies to find out the very best method in which this can be done for the benefit of the individual and as far as possible for the convenience of the employer. It is quite obvious that in its demands on the working hours of juvenile labour this great new experiment in National Education will have far reaching effects on the Industrial and Educational world and in the consideration of the problem large Meetings of Employers and Employees have been convened, Representatives of various Trades and Industries interviewed to get all views and to establish the Schools with the least possible dislocation to Industry and Commerce.

Education Committees are strongly of opinion that between 14 and 16 the Education should be of a general character and that the curriculum should embrace such subjects as English, including History, Geography, Economics, Civics, Mathematics, General Elementary Science, Drawing, Domestic Instruction for girls, Manual Instruction for boys, and particularly physical training, which is compulsory under the Act.

As regards young persons from 16 to 18 years, the education given might have a vocational bias and include the underlying principles of various technical subjects for those coming from the Factory and Workshop, and of some of the higher Branches of Commercial Education, Economics, Banking, Commercial Law for those whose work lies in Banks and Offices.

We have to remember that we are training

young persons for a life which will contain much more leisure and shorter hours of labour and one of the aims of Continuation Schools should be to provide this part of their life training. It is hoped that the co-operative life of these Schools will be fostered by the development of many social activities such as sports and games, Clubs and perhaps visits to places of educational interest.

In order not to interfere too largely with employment it is considered best that the pupils should attend Day Continuation Schools for two half days at four hours each week and that the Schools should be established near the place of employment rather than near the place of residence. That facilities for instruction should be continuous throughout the year except in the case of seasonal trades and that the Schools should be open on Saturday mornings. The greatest difficulty of all in London has been to find premises suitable for even the numbers available when the "Appointed Day" for opening these Schools is arrived at. It is supposed that a group of 15,000 boys and girls will then be due to leave their present School and go to the Compulsory Day Continuation School and that a further 15,000 will be added every three months for a period of two years from the date of opening. In the present state of housing and the pressure of building of all kinds the question of the actual building in which these children are to be taught is a terribly difficult and intricate problem, but it is being gradually solved and in London the L.C.C. hopes to have Schools in 22 Districts (though covering a large area) ready by the 27th October, 1920, which is to be the "Appointed Day." After the difficulty of housing comes the difficulty of Teachers. Our Teachers are in numbers very far behind the requirements of our Elementary Schools even now, and it is not desired to make the matter more acute by removing them to Continuation Schools, while it has also been desired to give the older Scholars, if possible, a Teacher of the standard required by Secondary Schools. The matter of selection is going on slowly but fairly satisfactorily and a certain number of University men and women are anxious to take up this work. It is estimated that during the first year of these Schools 800 full time Instructors will be required and a further 800

during the second year.

In the anticipation of the establishment of Compulsory Day Continuation Schools, a number of large Business Houses have instituted voluntary Day Continuation Schools for their employees and it is considered that this phase of development should be approved during the present year where the arrangements made are suitable and the necessary Teaching Staff and accommodation secured. It will be essential if these Schools are to continue that a certain supervision is maintained over them, as it is the province of the local authority to ascertain that the Continuation School attended by any child is to be up to required standard. The general principle will probably be adopted that such Continuation Schools should be in relation to L.C.C. on the lines of those Schools in London which are not Council Schools but are assisted by the Council and on the Governing Bodies on which Representatives of the Council sit and inspect.

The above is an outline only of the first provision of Continuation Schools. Further Schools will be necessary very shortly and at the end of two years working 24,000 places will be required for 120,000 pupils. Five years later when young persons from 16 to 18 years of age have to be dealt with, the problem will be an infinitely greater one.

F. JEAN TRUSTRAM-EVE,
Education Committee of the L.C.C.

Impressions of Jamaica.

By MRS. SCORESBY ROUTLEDGE, M.A.

General impressions of Jamaica gathered in a few winter months, may or may not always be correct, but it is not possible to err in praising its natural beauty. Ranges of hills run along the centre of the island, culminating in the east in the striking heights of the Blue Mountains, and the John Crow Range, which are covered even to their summit with tropical vegetation. My husband who has just crossed the John Crow Range, being curiously the first man to traverse it, had to cut his way through a jungle so thick that progress could be only made at the rate of a quarter of a mile a day. Round the coast is an alluvial plain, with the capital, Kingston, on the southern shore.

The physical configuration of the island has naturally determined its various activities. In the Blue Mountains coffee is grown, and we spent Christmas on a plantation which had obtained the world's record in the price of its produce. Then we stayed for a while in the high central lands, on "pens," or cattle ranches, where the mountainous grazing country recalls at times the English Lake district. Later we set up house-keeping in hills above the northern coastal plain and looked down on a wonderful panorama of waving coconuts, bananas, and sugar cane,

bordered by breaking surf and coral reefs.

Jamaica has passed through various economic vicissitudes. Subsequent to its capture from the Spaniards, in the time of Cromwell, its size and good harbours made it one of the leading British possessions, while the wealth of its fertile fields was gained by slaves. After the final emancipation of the blacks in 1838 it fell on evil days, owing partly to lack of labour and partly to foreign competition in sugar. Now as the result of the European crisis enormous fortunes are again being made in its products; we found it scarcely possible to obtain bananas or sugar owing to high prices paid for export.

There are however two darker aspects of this prosperity—Firstly wages have not kept pace with prices. Our landlady engaged us a servant at the usual price of 5/- a week without board; while the kerchiefs alone such women wear round the head now cost about 3/-. "The result of the War" said an employer "is to make the rich richer and the poor poorer." There is happily no racial enmity—"we have solved the colour problem" say the Jamaicans "by ignoring it,"—but strikes and unrest abound, and thousands of the best of the youth are emigrating to Cuba where remuneration is higher.

The other less gratifying side is the influence of America. This is undoubtedly on the increase though the rumour that Jamaica was to be sold to the States to pay our war debts has been officially denied. Rich tourists pay constant visits, prices are quoted in dollars while the most powerful trading corporation is American, it is even said to have bought up unripe bananas and dumped them in the sea to prevent competition. All this is naturally having effect on the old time loyalty of the peasant mind; "there is so much more food" said one of our mule drivers, "in America than England."

Lord Milner has declined a request from the island to send out an imperial commission to study the position, urging that the inhabitants themselves are the people to undertake it. The Jamaicans reply that, while they will give evidence, what they need is outside and impartial help with their industrial and political difficulties. It is to be hoped the question will be reconsidered—meanwhile "wake up England."

Our Work.

A crowded meeting was held at Lady Grogan's house in Wilton Place on May 19th, to discuss the Irish Bill. Mr. Dawson of the Union Defence League and Lady Lloyd-Greame both made most interesting speeches and an animated discussion followed. The June Conference which is on the 8th is being held at Lady Selbourne's house in Mount Street and the subject for discussion is "The League of

Nations." The July Conference has been arranged for the 15th and Lady St. Helier is kindly lending her house, 52, Portland Place for it. The subject chosen is "The Divorce Laws" and there is to be a speaker for and against the extension of these, and it is hoped that members will join in the discussion to follow.

A letter has been sent by the Executive Committee to the Right Hon. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., expressing their regret that no alteration has been made in the present Budget as to the joint assessment of the incomes of husbands and wives. They consider that this method inflicts most grave injustice on married persons.

Parliamentary.

Owing to the Whitsuntide Recess, Parliamentary News is scanty. In the House of Commons, Tuesday, June 2nd was given to Committee of Supply, and Wednesday and Thursday to the Home Rule Bill. Wednesday's debate was chiefly on Clause 4 which defines the legislative powers of the two Parliaments. Although many Members thought the delegated powers should be expressly defined and all other powers reserved, Government stood firm and the Clause was agreed to, as were also the next four Clauses.

The most interesting feature of Thursday's debate on Clause 9 was Sir E. Carson's suggestion which the Government promised to consider, that the Royal Irish Constabulary should be disbanded on the "Appointed Day," and that the Irish Parliaments should be allowed to form their own police forces. The future of the Post Office was discussed; but its ultimate destination is still obscure. The Government also decided that the Post Office is to be a reserved service.

Before we leave the subject of Ireland, it may be as well to remind our readers of the recent changes in the personnel of Dublin Castle. Mr. Cope of the Ministry of Pensions has succeeded Sir John Taylor as Assistant Under-Secretary. The Under-Secretaryship is put in commission and held jointly by Sir John Anderson, Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue and Mr. MacMahon, while Mr. C. J. Gregg has succeeded Mr. Watt as Principal Private Secretary to Sir Hamar Greenwood. Moderate opinion in Ireland regard these changes favourably.

The Representation of the People Bill, conferring the franchise on women of 21, was before the standing Committee this week. Despite the efforts of Sir Kingsley Wood, the Government Representative to get the Bill dropped, the Committee decided to go on with the discussion.

It was agreed to pass Clause 1 as amended, placing men and women on an equality in regard to the age limit, namely 21, but leaving the existing forms of qualification unchanged. It was agreed that the Bill should come into operation in

1923, unless an earlier date should be fixed by Order in Council to meet electoral emergencies.

The Editor of "Monthly News" has to apologise for the omission up to the present of any mention of the Guardianship of Infants' Bill, 1920, which was recently introduced by Col. Grieg to replace the Act of 1886. Under that Act, the father of a legitimate child was the sole guardian of that child up to the age of 16, even when he is unable to support it. The new Bill provides equal guardianship and authority for the mother as well as the father, and determines that the parents are to be liable for the child according to their respective means, whether they are living together or not. Either parent is to be enabled to appoint one or more guardians to act with the survivor, and where this is not done the Court may intervene if it thinks fit. The Bill is to come up for its second reading the second week in June.

The first Annual Conference since 1913 of the National Unionist Association is to be held at Birmingham next week, and it would seem from the Agenda that there is a certain demand for a more definite assertion of Unionist principles within the Coalition. Fusion with the Coalition Liberals is not put forward for consideration.

Prominence is given to a resolution which Lord Selborne will move, asking the Government to give the Bill for the reconstitution of the Second Chamber such precedence in the order of business as will ensure the passage of the measure into law this year. Other motions to come before the conference deal with the necessity for all parties having the welfare of the Empire at heart to combine to combat the evils of Socialism; the amendment of the law relating to political levies; opposition to nationalization of land and industries; adherence to the whole policy of Tariff Reform; and the importance of re-establishing law and order in Ireland.

Here and There.

The Society of Antiquaries, on the recommendation of their Council, have consented at last to admit women members to their Society. The first two to be elected are Mrs. Strong and Miss Rose Graham. Miss Graham is one of our most active members, has our heartiest congratulations, and we are sure that the Society of Antiquaries is to be congratulated too.

Mrs. Scoresby Routledge has just brought out the second edition of her book "The Mystery of Easter Island." The book, which is the story of an expedition, first appeared in November.

OUR FASHION LETTER.

LUXURY MODES FOR SOCIAL EVENTS.

ACCORDING to the greatest experts it is the little details of dress that make all the difference between the sartorial success and failure—a fact that makes the great Ascot show of sunshades now being held at Messrs. Swan and Edgar's, of Piccadilly-circus, of peculiar interest—a well-chosen parasol doing more to complete and perfect a toilette than anything else.

Here are to be found, not only the most lovely tinsel brocade models that flash and gleam in the sun with fascinating effect, but also the new novelty sunshades that have flights of hand-embroidered butterflies fixed with fluttering wings that give the impression of just having posed on the pale-coloured lisse that covers these parasols, while fascinating effects in black and white lace, dainty pale-coloured chiffons, or frilled ribbon effects are other novelties of note.

Ostrich feathers are also going to be very conspicuously worn by the best-dressed women at Ascot this year. The fact that Swan and Edgars are able to provide lancer feather cape-boas of picturesque design dyed and shaded in practically every tone of colour to match or to contrast with dresses of all tones, has helped to popularise the craze—for nothing gives a daintier or more delightful finish to a luxury toilette than a wrap of this sort, which imparts a finish, and adds a certain amount of warmth to the transparent lace and chiffon bodices of the modern toilettes that seem to call for a covering of this kind to make them complete for outdoor wear.

HATS are also trimmed with wonderful wreaths of ostrich feather trimming, and one of the most lovely hats of the moment now on show in the millinery department of this great House is a fascinating pearl grey tulle mushroom-shaped model that has its pretty drooping brim completely covered with a magnificent mount of "weeping" osprey feathers of the same delicate shade of grey which ends in a long plume effect that, hanging over the brim behind, curls round the throat in the most charming and becoming manner.

AND if parasols, neck wear, and millinery show extravagant fancies this year, what can one say about shoes, which, thanks to the prevailing fashion for quite short skirts, must be both beautiful and elegant if they are to give the right finishing touch to the beautiful toilettes that have been prepared for the great race week of the season.

Certainly the novelty de luxe are out-door shoes made of beautiful brocades, mounted after the Langtry mode and adorned with graceful buckles of the finest paste.

From Paris comes even an improvement upon these, viz., smart walking shoes made with thick black satin backs, with fronts of black and silver, and black and gold brocade, which have been designed for wear with black lace and satin toilettes, while grey and silver brocade shoes are other absolutely new Parisian novelties that Swan and Edgars are showing this week.

BEAUTIFUL race-wraps and dust cloaks that cleverly combine smartness with utility are also to be found in these up-to-date showrooms that are catering so comprehensively for the wants of the season where luxury modes of every sort are concerned. Certainly the most attractive tussore and Shantung motor coats that will be worn to the races next week will come from the Great Corner Shop in Piccadilly.

One lovely model inexpensively priced is a coat wrap trimmed with bands of silk tussore braid, the same ornamentation appearing on the deep cape collar that is such a feature of this wrap, while in the mantle department there are plenty of navy blue, black, and coloured gabardine capes for covering race toilettes during the journey to and from the course, a notable model being a navy blue cape cleverly trimmed with broad bands and narrow strips of navy blue glacé silk and finished off with a double cape collar of the silk.

It is also worth noting that Swan and Edgars are making a great speciality of supplying "last minute" model race gowns of lovely design, which, priced from 10 to 50 gns. each, cater for the wants of all customers who, finding they have not got a suitable frock to wear any day of the great race week, can be sure of discovering

the exact model they want, whether it be for a sunny or a cloudy day, in these Salons, where any toilette bought for emergency wear can be quickly altered by a special staff of expert dressmakers, who are always at hand to do alterations and adjustments without delay.

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WEEKLY LECTURES.

Wed., 16th June. "Informal Talk" THE REV. FATHER BERNARD VAUGHAN.
8.15 p.m. Chairman ... Mr. J. Y. KENNEDY.

Wed., 23rd June. HOUSE DINNER.
7.15 p.m. "Prohibition versus Anti-Prohibition"

Wed., 30th June. "International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress" (held in Geneva) By a Member of the Alliance attending the Congress.
8.15 p.m. Chairman ... Miss M. POLLOCK GRANT.

Wed., 7th July. "Divorce Laws" Mr. PERCY HANDCOCK, M.A. (Barrister-at-Law)
8.15 p.m. Chairman ...

Invitations to Lecture given to non-members on application to Secretary.

LUNCHEONS, TEAS, and DINNERS.

Professional & Business Women's League

President: THE VISCOUNTESS ST. CYRES.

The LEAGUE has been founded to make provision for women in time of severe sickness, who earn their living in professional or business callings.

The object of the League is to get as many beds as possible in private wards in General Hospitals in London and the Provinces, where members can receive the most skilful treatment towards their restoration to health.

Members of the League are treated as private patients, and are placed in a cubicle or a private ward. Those who can afford to pay a small sum in addition to their subscription, are asked to pay it to the Hospital.

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All donations and Subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary, Miss Mildred Ransom, at the Registered Office of the League, 195-197, Edgware Road, W. 2.



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