

THE  
**WOMAN'S LEADER**

IN POLITICS                      IN INDUSTRY                      IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
IN THE HOME                      IN LITERATURE AND ART                      IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

**THE COMMON CAUSE**

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Contents :

|  | PAGE |  | PAGE |
|--|------|--|------|
| THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS DEMONSTRATION                          | 171  | GROWING FLOWERS AND HERBS FOR MARKET     | 173  |
| NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.                                       | 171  | SOCIAL WAGES OF THE BERLIN METAL WORKERS | 173  |
| FRENCH WOMEN AND THE VOTE : THE CONGRESS AT CLERMONT FERRAND | 172  | CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS               | 174  |

**NOTES AND NEWS**

**Frenchwomen and the Vote.**

The French Senate are to decide during the next few days whether a Bill to give women the right to vote on the same conditions as men, shall be introduced this session. The question has been in suspense for some three years, although the Chamber has approved the principle of equal franchise.

**The Irish Elections.**

The fact that only two women have been returned as Members of the new Irish Parliament must not be taken as a defeat for feminism. The elections turned on questions with which feminism as such has taken no definite side. Women's organizations, such as the Women Workers' Union, were represented in the great anti-militarist demonstration organized by the Irish Labour Party in April, but feminist organizations have stood aside from the elections, and the women candidates were nominated by the Republican Party. It might be argued that in view of the position held by the special women nominated, the party had in mind other considerations than those which influence feminists, but in any case it is unfortunate that no other party saw its way to put up women. The draft Constitution promises adult suffrage and on this basis the next elections will be taken, and it is earnestly hoped that the national position will be by that time less difficult and uncertain.

**New Bills.**

Various Bills in which women are interested have moved forward during the last week. The Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill was introduced in the House of Commons and read a first time, and the Child Murder (Trial) Bill passed the Report stage.

**American Women's Citizenship.**

A Bill has passed the House of Representatives which protects American women against loss of citizenship in their own country through marrying foreigners. American women who marry foreigners and go to live abroad lose their American citizenship if they live for two years in their husband's country. Women of foreign nationality who marry Americans will not become

Americans themselves until they have lived in the United States for a year.

**Lady Rhondda.**

As we go to press the Committee of Privileges has proclaimed its reasons for refusing to allow Lady Rhondda's claim. The Lord Chancellor in a statement of great length, said that Lady Rhondda was incapable of receiving a writ by reason of the terms of the patent itself. The patent conferred a peerage dignity upon Viscount Rhondda, and, after his death, upon Lady Rhondda, with remainder, after her death, to her heirs male. But when it came to define the incidents of the dignity so conferred, it distinguished between Viscount Rhondda and those males who might hereafter hold the dignity, on the one hand, and Viscountess Rhondda, on the other, giving to the former and, by silence, denying to the latter the right to a seat, place, and voice. Dealing with the meaning of the words of the Act, the Lord Chancellor said that the Legislature in dealing with this matter could not be taken to have departed from the usage of centuries or to have employed such loose and ambiguous words to carry out so momentous a revolution in the constitution of the House. Lord Haldane, in giving his reasons for disagreeing with the majority, said that it appeared to him to be impossible to say that the removal of the sex disqualification they had been considering was not within the purpose of the words of the Act.

**House of Lords Reform.**

It has been announced that Lord Curzon will introduce the Government resolution for the reform of the House of Lords some time before 16th July. Meanwhile the text of a House of Lords Reform Bill has been published, which Colonel Claude Lowther has introduced into the House of Commons. Major Christopher Lowther, Sir Cecil Beck, Rear-Admiral Sueter, and Sir Thomas Polson are backing it. The Bill proposes to "establish an aristocracy of brain", and the members of the new House of Lords are to be chosen by merit only, while the hereditary system is to be abolished. The existing House is to select one hundred Peers to be the first members of the new House, and these shall in their turn choose two hundred others.

Peers of the realm, other than "Lords of Parliament" are to be eligible for election to the House of Commons.

#### Unmarried Jurywomen.

Once more jurywomen have been challenged, this time objection being taken to their presence because they were unmarried women. Mr. Justice Roche, who allowed the challenge, said he thought women would be useful on the jury in cases dealing with illegal operations, and although on one occasion the challenged jurywoman was replaced by a man, on a subsequent occasion a jury on which there were two married jury women was sworn without further protest.

#### Women Inspectors.

Mr. Gwynne asked in the House about the increased number and salaries of women inspectors of the Board of Education, to which we drew our readers' attention last week. The answer was that the increase in the number of women inspectors is due to the replacement of six vacant posts of assistant inspector (men) and three vacant posts of junior inspector (men) by nine posts of woman inspector. The increase of cost from £25,911 to £29,773 is due partly to the increase in numbers, and partly, as regards women inspectors already on the establishment, to normal annual increments. Mr. Gwynne tried hard to extract a promise that, although there is a large number of vacancies in the establishment of the inspectorate, the total number of inspectors should be decreased. He was told that the existing inspectorate is a very hard-worked body of men and women.

#### The Civil Service Committee.

The Committee appointed to examine and report on the application of the principle of common seniority lists for men and women in the Civil Service, is constituted as follows: Mr. G. C. Upcott, C.B., of the Treasury, is Chairman; other members are Mr. W. G. Boys, O.B.E. (Association of Executive Officers of the Civil Service), Mr. J. R. Brook, C.B. (Association of First Division Civil Servants), Mr. W. G. Brown (Civil Service Clerical Association), Mr. E. H. Hodgson, O.B.E. (Ministry of Pensions), Miss F. E. James (Federation of Women Civil Servants), Miss N. C. James (Civil Service Clerical Association), Mr. C. E. W. Justice, O.B.E. (Society of Civil Servants), Hon. Maude A. Lawrence (Treasury), Mr. W. T. Leech (G.P.O.), Miss R. Loch, O.B.E. (G.P.O.), Miss M. Ritson (Scottish Board of Health), Miss D. Smyth (Federation of Women Civil Servants), Mr. A. W. Watson, C.B.E. (Ministry of Labour), with Mr. Herbert Gatliff (Treasury) as Secretary.

#### The Employment of Women Act.

Colonel Penry Williams asked the Home Secretary last week whether any Orders have been made under the Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Act, 1920; if so, when they will come into operation; to what industries they apply; what, approximately, is the number of people who will be thrown out of employment thereby; and what provision will be made for their maintenance. Mr. Shortt replied that a number of Orders have been made, some under Section 2, permitting the adoption of the two-shift system in particular works, some under Section 5, postponing the operation of the Act in the iron and steel, glass and paper-making industries, until 1st July of this year. None of the Orders, said Mr. Shortt, have had the effect of throwing anyone out of employment.

#### Mui Tsai.

In reply to Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, Mr. Churchill said that the Mui Tsai system is in existence in Malaya among the Chinese immigrants and colonists, and the Governments of the Straits Settlements, and of the Federated Malay States are being requested to send full reports on the conditions under which it prevails. Mr. Churchill said he was not aware of the prevalence of the system elsewhere, but thought it probably existed to some extent wherever there is a considerable community of Chinese. If on inquiry it is found that the circumstances are the same as prevail in Hong Kong, a similar course will be adopted.

#### Children's Holiday Camps.

A question was asked in the House last week about the refusal of the Military Authorities to allow the organizations for providing holiday camps for children to use unoccupied military redoubts and similar buildings, although this privilege is granted to cadet corps. Mr. Briant said that in industrial areas only an

infinitesimal portion of the children have a holiday in the country or at the seaside owing to lack of accommodation. Sir L. Worthington-Evans, in reply, said that the use of Government grounds by the general public has been found on occasion to entail much expenditure on clearance after occupation, and that he did not see his way to extend the present privileges. Nevertheless, the health of the children is important, and the saving "on occasion" of expenditure on clearance after occupation is not necessarily an economy.

#### Widows' Pensions.

A question was asked in the House last week whether it would not be possible to consider a contributory scheme of pensions for the widows of the officers and men of the Royal Navy, and to put it in hand forthwith. Mr. Amery's reply was not very helpful. He said that that subject had been discussed by the representatives at the recent inter-port meetings held under the Welfare machinery and that the Admiralty would consider it in conjunction with the rest of the requests. He himself, however, could not give any indication of what the decision would be "on such a large and difficult question".

#### Empire Settlement.

It was suggested at the recent Poor Law Conference that, in the interests of the unemployed adult who desired to migrate to another part of the Empire, authority should be given to commute the guardians' relief and the unemployment benefit into short-period maintenance training grants for suitable persons of both sexes desirous of qualifying for overseas settlement and employment. Sir Alfred Mond promised last week to obtain the views of the Overseas Settlement Committee on this subject.

#### The Treatment of Insanity.

A Government Bill is to be introduced shortly to permit of the curative treatment of mental disease without certification, and in institutions other than lunatic asylums. There are about fifty thousand people certified annually, and it is estimated that half that number ought never to be sent to asylums. Sir Robert Newman introduced a Bill into the House of Commons last week, which was read a first time, and which will enable local authorities to co-opt members of asylum visiting committees, and to provide for the appointment of women as members of visiting committees. Sir Robert Newman said that in 50 per cent. no woman has been appointed on the Asylums Visiting Committees. "When we consider," he said, "that the majority of the unfortunate inmates of these asylums are women, it is to be regretted that not a single woman should be serving on the committee in so many cases. . . . Many a man who has to put his wife or his daughter in one of these asylums would feel a considerable amount of relief in his mind if he thought that, at any rate, there were a few ladies on that visiting committee, instead of its being a committee only of men."

#### Head Mistresses.

In reply to Mr. Parkinson, who asked how many infant schools or departments have been merged into the senior school and placed under the head master, and how many women have in this way lost their head-ships, Mr. Fisher replied that during the last six months there had been thirty-seven of these cases. In twenty-six, however, the change took place upon the resignation of the head mistress of the infants' school or her retirement from the profession. In six of the remaining cases the head mistress was retained as an assistant mistress.

#### Prospective Woman M.P.

Readers of this paper will be more than usually interested in the announcement that Miss E. Picton-Turbervill has consented to stand as Labour candidate for North Islington. Miss Picton-Turbervill is too well known to our readers for any description of her work to be necessary. We heartily wish her every success.

**POLICY.**—*The sole policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is to advocate a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women. So far as space permits, however, it will offer an impartial platform for topics not directly included in the objects of the women's movement, but of special interest to women. Articles on these subjects will always be signed, at least by initials or a pseudonym, and for the opinions expressed in them the Editor accepts no responsibility.*

## THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS DEMONSTRATION.

Last Saturday was the third anniversary of the signing of the Covenant of the League of Nations, and it was celebrated in London by a demonstration in Hyde Park, organized by the League of Nations Union, and shared in by a large number of other organizations and by the foreign colonies in London. Unfortunately the day was cold and rainy; but neither cold nor rain damped the enthusiasm of the long procession which marched from the Embankment, nor prevented considerable crowds from gathering round each of the platforms, and staying under umbrellas till the resolution was put at 6 o'clock. At the women's platform (organized by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship) the crowd stayed even longer, but this was not to be wondered at, since both our women M.P.s appeared there, as well as Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Rathbone, Lord Robert Cecil, Mrs. Rackham, Miss Ward, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, and others.

The resolution, which was unanimously carried at all the platforms, ran as follows: "This meeting affirms its belief that the future peace and safety of the world depend upon the adoption by all nations of the principles of the League of Nations. It recognizes that the admission of all European nations, and especially of Germany, to the League is a matter of immediate urgency, so as to prevent Europe falling back into a system of hostile groups. It believes that the League should be the foundation of British foreign policy, and affirms the determination of the people of Great Britain to uphold peace and justice and disarmament in Europe and in the whole world."

Throughout all the speeches, by whomsoever delivered—and there were among the numerous speakers representative men and women of all political parties and of every school of thought—there ran the same note of what may be called anxious thankfulness. Everyone felt, and said, that the League had made a solid beginning in its mighty task; that the record of the first years of its existence was hopeful, and the promise of the future good. But all recognized that the moment had come when the League must take another step forward, and when it must secure within its ambit the ex-enemy Power, Germany. If this is not done, and done at once, the old balance of power grouping will begin again in earnest, and the unifying task of the League will be next door to impossible. If Germany comes in at the next Assembly, however, a great improvement in Europe may follow, and although it will be a hard test to place upon the League, yet it may well be that in that Assembly the outstanding difficulties of the moment may be resolved. More important even than the relief of present troubles, however, will be the fact that the League, with Germany in it, will remain the centre of European foreign affairs. It will be impossible, then, for such treaties as the Rapallo Treaty to be a real menace. The League, so reinforced, will continue to be the hope of the world for peace, and without that hope who can deny that Europe is doomed sooner or later to all the devastating horrors of another war?

The actual key to this position lies with Germany. In this country there is not only no opposition but actually a great desire for Germany to enter the League. In France, also, many of the leading statesmen have expressed the same view, and no reasonable person doubts that an application for admission would be welcomed at the Geneva Assembly next September. It is for the German Government and the German people to act; and if they read the necessities of the times aright they will do so without delay.

Meanwhile, in this country, the support for the League grows and grows. The League of Nations Union steadily increases at the rate of two thousand new subscribing members a week, and one new branch a day. Its influence is felt in elections and in Parliament; its educational work extends from the schools to the street corners. Its activities are continually increasing, and the belief which animates its members burns brightly. The people of this country mean, in all sincerity, to pin their faith to the banner of the League of Nations. They are glad to think that with the admission of Germany to its ranks it will be tested against the vital problems of foreign affairs. They believe that the League will stand the test, and that it must stand the test; for it is freighted with the hopes, the aspirations, and the ideals of the civilized world.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The murder of Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wilson has shocked and outraged public opinion very deeply, and the feelings which have been finding expression in the House of Commons on the matter have been echoed up and down the country. Sir Henry's views were well known, and were positive, and there is, of course, no manner of doubt that it was for his opinions that he was killed. Whether one agreed with them or not, no one who came in contact with him could find him anything but a wonderful personality, powerful, with imagination and subtlety blended with downright sincerity and charm, and his murder has caused horror and consternation and deep grief to all who knew him. Political murders inevitably give rise to political consequences, and the attempts to fix responsibility have not been, even in the face of so serious a matter, devoid of party spirit. It is, moreover, difficult to excuse Lady Wilson's attack upon the Ministers of the Crown, and the treatment which was accorded to Mr. Austen Chamberlain in her house. Everyone can realize the bitterness of her sorrow, but the spirit in which she spoke of "politicians" is harmful and wrong. Even in the most terrible public or private calamity, every citizen still owes his duty to his country; to flout its Government in such circumstances is to fail in elementary citizenship, and we cannot hold that any woman has the right to do so.

The news of the murder reached the House at question time on Thursday. Mr. Asquith, who was deeply affected, asked for information, and Mr. Chamberlain gave what he had, and moved the adjournment of the House, which was carried without debate. Members were stunned by the news, but the wrangling with which they greeted Ministers the following day had better be forgotten. Apart from this terrible event, there is little news to give of last week. Monday, the 19th, and Tuesday and Wednesday were devoted to the Finance Bill in Committee. The House sat late on all three nights, till a quarter to one on Tuesday morning, till four on Wednesday morning, and till midnight on Wednesday night. For all its wearisome sitting, however, nothing happened which calls for any special comment. The same discussions have often been heard before (and no doubt will often be heard again), and the long argument on Imperial Preference was delightfully reminiscent of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's campaign of nineteen years ago. There were numerous divisions throughout (which kept Members from going home), and each different duty involved a march through the Lobbies. The only alteration made in the measure was in regard to Clause 14, the taxation of one man companies. Everyone wishes to prevent fraudulent evasion of the tax, but the clause as drafted would clearly prevent prudent management, and is therefore to be recast and reconsidered on report.

On Wednesday, the 21st, Mr. Locker Lampson asked for the appointment of a Joint Committee of both Houses to consider the distribution of honours. Mr. Chamberlain refused it, but he is wrong to do so. Public opinion is more roused upon this matter than it has ever been before—and that is saying much. And the Peers are roused, too. On the same day the House of Lords discussed the case of one of the new Peerages, and made out a case which must be answered. And the case they took is by no means the only one. The truth is that the distribution of honours has got to the point when the real Peer is ashamed when he thinks about it, and the ordinary man is shocked at the open merchandising of seats in the Upper House.

On Friday the House considered a number of Private Members' Bills. The Gaming Bill was passed, and the Ecclesiastical Tithe Bill passed its Third Reading, as did the Bread Acts Amendment Bill, but the Local Government Officers Superannuation Bill did not get through. It passed Report, but the Third Reading was successfully talked out by Sir Frederick Banbury.

On Monday Mr. Churchill made another of his great speeches on Ireland, which some say is the best he ever delivered. The object of it was to tell the Provisional Government that the time had come when they must govern. They have got the Treaty, and they have won the elections upon the Treaty; and now they must put it in force, and must rule and control their own land. They were plain words, and it is impossible to say what will come of it. It is no easy task and it seems to depend upon whether Collins or Griffith or some other is strong enough to seize the occasion. But clearly Mr. Churchill is right. The time has come for the Provisional Government to take charge of affairs.

## FRENCH WOMEN AND THE VOTE: THE CONGRESS AT CLERMONT FERRAND.

By DENIS GWYNN.

The Women's Suffrage Congress, which has just concluded at Clermont Ferrand, was to some extent handicapped by meeting so far from Paris this year. Clermont Ferrand is a prosperous provincial town in the lower half of the midlands of France, about half-way between Lyons and Bordeaux, and the journey was longer than many of the delegates from suffrage societies were able to undertake. It was, nevertheless, a notable Congress, both for the reports on the past year's work which were laid before it by the principal leaders of the French feminist movement, and still more for the fact that it has brought into being a new feminist review, *La Nouvelle France par l'Action Féminine*, which will be published every month henceforward at Clermont Ferrand as the organ of feminist propaganda in the centre and the south of France. The first number of the new review promises exceptionally well, even though future numbers are not likely to contain so many articles by the most authoritative leaders of the French feminist movement. The article by the veteran President of the Union of French Suffrage Societies, Madame de Witt Schlumberger, would alone make the number remarkable.

But while the Congress has thus shown signs of new life in a part of France where the movement, which has everywhere required diligent organization and nursing, has been least active, the Congress met under the shadow of mourning for the death of one of the most notable of the French pioneers of feminism. Madame Siegfried, who had been for many years President of the National Council of Frenchwomen, died only a few weeks before the Congress assembled, and her place still remains to be filled. The Congress was fortunate in being able to find among those newer members of the movement who must eventually take the place of the older pioneers, a local lady barrister, Madame Fluhr-Ballofy, to whose organizing ability the success of the Congress and the growth of the movement in the midlands of France is mainly due.

The principal papers read to the Congress were the report on the position of women in other countries, read by Madame de Witt Schlumberger, and on other subjects by the chief officers of the organization. Mme. Fluhr-Ballofy, who is a member of the bar at Clermont Ferrand, read an elaborate survey of the position of women in other countries in regard to sitting on juries, and Madame Susanne Grinberg gave a summary of the legal position of married women in France. No one who has not lived in France will readily believe that French women still cheerfully submit to restrictions upon their property such as were scarcely known in England even a hundred years ago. French women, even in business, have still to obtain permission from their husbands to have an account in their own name at a bank; and in the ordinary French marriage the woman still surrenders practically all right and control over the administration of her own property. The Congress passed a strong resolution demanding that the existing restrictions on women's property rights should be immediately abolished.

But the most interesting paper of the Congress was that read by Madame Brunschweig, the general secretary of the Suffrage organization in France, on the present position of French women in relation to political rights. She pointed out that French women are still without votes even for the municipal elections, while all over Central and Northern Europe women have not only won political enfranchisement, but in most countries sit in either one or both Houses of Parliament. She showed how the progress in other countries had come in stages, while France was still at the very beginning of the development of women's rights, the most that women have obtained being a limited right to representation on certain economic bodies. If French women must graduate to the vote through similar stages of enfranchise-

ment, they might well feel that their political institutions are an insult to the women of France, in comparison with conditions in other countries. But since the war the enfranchisement of women has come quickly wherever it has been granted; as it came in Germany, in Austria, in Poland, in Czecho-Slovakia, and throughout Eastern Europe. French suffragists feel confident that the efforts which they are making now will win for them practically everything all at once; and the success of their demands at this time of day can scarcely be in doubt.

There are, however, special difficulties in the immediate political situation of France. A Bill granting women the vote has actually passed the Chambre des Députés, and if the Senate will consent to pass it, the proposal should become law almost automatically. But political conditions in present-day France are quite abnormal. The Bill was passed not in the present Chamber, but in its predecessor, and the Chamber which was elected in 1920 is admitted on all sides to be a "reactionary, sentimental" Chamber. Yet the serious opposition to the Votes for Women Bill comes not from the reactionary Chamber, but from the Senate, with its majority of Radicals and Socialists. It is they who stand most in the way of votes for French women. If the Senate would pass the Bill which was passed by the last Chamber, the question would be settled; but the Senate has gone on postponing the discussion, and postponed it again even so recently as 30th May last, the date for which it had long since been promised.

But this postponement of discussion on the question by the Senate is only a minor obstacle. The serious difficulty is the fact that if the Senate will not pass the Bill substantially as it left the Chamber, it will have to come back for complete reconsideration to the Lower House. And in the Chamber, as well as in the Senate, it will encounter opposition, although on different grounds. The paradox that the feminist agitation should be opposed by a Radical Senate arises from the fact that the Radicals believe that to give women the vote would strengthen the political influence of the priests. The older Conservatives, on the other hand, who are the most important element in the present Chamber, are afraid that political emancipation would to some extent diminish the influence of the clergy on the women of France. In either case, the opposition is due to fear—and to a fear based upon sheer abstract speculation. On the whole, however, the Catholic Church in France—which is, of course, the backbone of French conservatism—is not unfriendly to giving women the vote. The Church, generally speaking, regards the concession of votes for women as an inevitable development and is inclined to pave the way for it. The really determined opposition to votes for women comes from the impenitent anticlericals, who still cling to the policies which were enforced so rigorously and with such fatal results to France's national unity before the war. Their chief aim in politics is still to destroy the influence of the clergy, and they believe—probably with justice—that French women will be on the side of the national traditions of France against them.

After repeated postponements, it is hoped that the Bill will shortly come before the Senate. M. Leon Bourgeois, as President of the Senate, has written formally to Madame Schlumberger promising that the Bill will come up for discussion, and that if M. Bérard is unable to take charge of the discussion himself, some other Senator will be deputed to take his place. The most important resolution adopted by the Congress was that which "recalls that on 20th May, 1919, the Chambre des Députés recognized the political rights of French women, and counts upon the promise given by M. Alexandre Bérard that the Bill is to be discussed by the Senate; it takes this opportunity of appealing to the Upper House to ratify the decision of the Chambre des Députés."

## GROWING FLOWERS AND HERBS FOR MARKET.

The production of marketable flowers and herbs is admittedly a very pleasant occupation and one full of interest; but the aspirant must realize that a good deal of work, forethought, and special ability are necessary if any large measure of financial success is to be reached. Given the necessary qualifications, however, it is perfectly certain that it is an occupation which can be made highly profitable; and, moreover, it is one which is peculiarly suited to women who possess the requisite taste for the proper handling of their produce both as regards its preparation and packing for market.

Flower growing is a branch of cultivation which may be undertaken as a separate enterprise or in conjunction with the cultivation of vegetables and fruit. Combined with herb growing (which latter branch of cultivation received a great stimulus during the war, when the Ministry of Agriculture gave encouragement to the British production of medicinal herbs formerly imported from Germany and Austria), the production of cut blooms for market can be seriously considered as a whole-time occupation for the country woman.

The intending flower marketer should study the question of locality with great care before renting or purchasing land. It does not necessarily follow that because the growing of marketable flower crops has been mainly confined to certain districts they cannot be as successfully and profitably cultivated elsewhere. But it happens—as in the case of so many other specialist occupations—that the commercial flower grower has tended to settle in certain specified areas—Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Devon and Cornwall, Sussex, Kent, Hampshire, and Surrey, or in certain parts of Wales and Scotland; and these areas were probably chosen by the natural course of selection of suitable soils and climate.

Nearness to market and facilities for transporting produce thither must also be taken into account when selecting a holding, and the question of distance and railway possibilities will have to be considered in relation to the kind of flower crops which are intended to be grown. It is always well before settling upon a particular holding to make very definite inquiries regarding local market requirements, and to find out what class of plant or flowers is in greatest demand at the near-by florists.

If glasshouse flower growing is contemplated, a considerable amount of capital will have to be invested at the present time, when both labour and materials are so costly; and on a twenty-acre holding—estimating that half of this is devoted to fruit (among which the spring bulbs can be profitably planted) and the rest given over to cut flowers and herbs—a capital of at least £2,000 would have to be invested.

This does not include training fees, which, supposing the two or three years' course be taken at a horticultural college, would approximate one hundred pounds per annum. Training is very important, for in addition to practical horticulture a knowledge of commercial marketing is absolutely essential, especially in relation to the methods of grading, packing, and handling of produce. It would be wise for a student to complete her theoretical training by a few months at some establishment where flower-growing for market is a commercial success—for it may be pointed out that the best way to cultivate flowers is not necessarily the most economical.

Details of grading and packing necessarily vary with the nature of the produce and the requirements of the local markets; but this side of the business is so vitally important that any training which omits to include it in the curriculum falls very short of the desired end. In no other branch of production for market does the importance of packing and grading strike one so forcibly; for it is only by the exercise of extreme care that the most profitable returns for the fragile produce can be obtained.

The forcing of bulb blooms for the Christmas markets; of early carnations and "out of season" violets; the production of a regular supply of cut roses and bedding plants to follow on in succession, the blooming of chrysanthemums, and the raising of cuttings, can all be made profitable to the flower marketer. And though herb-growing alone cannot be said to afford a whole-time career, yet, in conjunction with other branches of horticulture, the production of medicinal and pot-herbs—not to mention the growing demand for dried herbs—can be made a very successful sideline.

Suitable soil and situation for the most sought-after medicinal

herbs, such as *Atropa belladonna* (deadly nightshade), *Digitalis purpurea* (foxglove), *Aconitum napellus*, etc., can be found by studying the plant in its native quarters. Thus the first two mentioned like a chalky soil and a damp, sheltered situation, while the majority of the culinary herbs, on the other hand, prefer an open sunny position on fairly rich and friable soil.

The Herbgrowers' Association (20, 21 Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster) will give valuable information to inquirers, and will also advise on marketing and the best methods to be adopted by prospective growers. If herbs are to be grown on any extensive scale, there must be facilities for drying the crops and for dealing with the surplus of the culinary herbs after the disposal of the main crops in a fresh condition. Almost any building can be adapted; but as certain plants require rapid drying, it may be necessary to consider the question of artificial heating. Apart from this the demands made upon garden space for herb-growing are relatively small, and a considerable output may be obtained from a very limited area, and that with comparatively little labour. Cultivation for the production of seed may be looked upon as a safe line for the small grower; and quite apart from the financial prospects of the medicinal herb-grower—which are good—there is the additional stimulus of the fact that the work is not unimportant from the point of view of national health.

E. C. DAVIES.

## SOCIAL WAGES OF THE BERLIN METAL WORKERS.

The demand for social wages in Germany arose not only out of economic conditions, but because the workers demanded, after the Revolution, that men with dependents should be better paid than single men, who were economically stronger. This idea was soon given up, except by the metal workers in Berlin, who claim to be the best organized workers in Germany. Ninety per cent. are members of the Metal Workers' Trade Union, and eight per cent. are members of the Christian Trade Union.

The method agreed upon by the Trade Union in reference to these social wages is a tax paid on each worker into a pool, by the Owners' Association of Berlin. Out of this pool allowances are paid to the worker, along with his wages. Single men are paid from 10-12 marks an hour, and a married man an extra mark an hour for his wife and for each child up to the age of fourteen. These family allowances are not paid during strike or demonstration, and are paid to the man and not to the mother.

Therefore one feels they have all the disadvantages of a system of social wages, and none of the advantages of the Australian scheme. Under it the employers were to pay, first a minimum wage to all workers, single and married, which was sufficient for a man and his wife, and a tax of 10s. 9d. per head of every worker, single or married, was to be paid into a central fund. The wives of the workers were to draw out 12s. a week out of this fund in respect of every child. The strong points of the scheme are the raising of the women's economic position, the safeguarding of the children, and the fact that, granted the employer passed on the full amount of the tax, prices would only rise 6 per cent. It was found that if wages were raised to the requisite minimum for a family of five, prices would rise 22 per cent.; thus the standard of comfort laid down as essential by the Family Basic Wage Commission would never be arrived at.

I found that there was much criticism and opposition to the German system of social wages, but many of the younger trade unionists and women's leaders felt that the Australian scheme had great possibilities, and granted adequate safeguards, would be an advance step. The present system, the Metal Workers' Union declared, depressed wages, and there was a fear that married men might be dismissed, in spite of the law now in force which makes dismissal very difficult without adequate reason. The Trade Unionists said the burning question at the moment was the stabilization of prices. All their efforts are directed towards this end. The Metal Workers' Union declare that the standard of life of the worker has been depressed 60 per cent. since the war. While other unbiassed observers hold this to be an exaggerated view, there is no doubt that the standard has been very seriously reduced. Meantime many Trade Unionists are thinking and working at the same social problems that are before us here. And they, too, feel that it is the children who have to pay the price of social injustice.

JAN. W. MACDONALD.



