

THE VOTE,
AUG. 11, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN ON ROYAL COMMISSIONS

THE VOTE

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 1922

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

III.

COUNCILLOR MISS CHRISTIANA HARTLEY, MAYOR OF SOUTHPORT, LANCS.

Councillor Miss Christiana Hartley is the daughter of Sir William Hartley, J.P., who has devoted nearly the whole of his life to the public welfare, and has a name throughout the country for his many deeds of philanthropy, and munificence to every good cause.

Public work of one kind or another has engaged the attention of Miss Hartley during the greater part of her life. She was elected a member of the Ormskirk Board of Guardians in 1907, as a representative of West Ward, Southport, and has been one of the most regular attenders, both at the ordinary monthly meetings, and the meetings of the various Committees on which she served.

At the present time, Miss Hartley is Chairman of the House Committee, a position she is occupying for a second term. The work in which she is most interested is that connected with the welfare of women and children. The boarding out of children is one of the departments of Poor Law work in her special care.

Miss Hartley became a member of the Southport Town Council in 1920, when she was the successful

candidate in a three-cornered contest at a bye-election in North Ward, Birkdale. On that occasion she was the nominee of the Liberal Party, but had the support of a large number of Unionists. Since her election she

has proved herself one of the most useful members of the Corporation, and is at present a member of the Health Committee (on which she has done excellent work as Vice-Chairman), Wages, Town Planning and Improvement, Libraries and Art, and Local Pensions Committees.

Although Southport has not yet got other women magistrates, it can claim to being in the forefront of towns and cities in the country which have recognised the work and worth of women on local governing bodies. It was one of the first places in the country to return women members of the Board of Guardians, and long before the Legislature permitted women to sit on Borough Councils, it gave places to co-opted women on committees,

and consulted them on every convenient occasion. On the political side, no less than the social, Southport's record of women workers is no mean one.



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WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The Fisherman's Wife!

A Bill designed to prevent any man from slipping away from home without informing his wife and obtaining her consent, has been introduced in the Senate of the State of Georgia. Among the safeguards which the Bill provides are the following:—"Any and all married men who shall go fishing without the consent of their wives shall be guilty of felony, and the sentence shall not be less than five years, or more than twenty years, at hard labour. Be it further enacted that if any married man shall get the consent of his wife to go fishing and fails to catch any fish, his wife shall have the right to cancel all permits in future!"

Bulgarian Woman's Appointment.

The Bulgarian Government has appointed Made-moiselle Radoloff, the legal adviser of the Ministry of Agriculture, as a member of the Italo-Bulgarian Mixed Arbitration Tribunal, which has been formed in accordance with Article 188 of the Treaty of Nouilly. This is the first time that a woman in Bulgaria has been entrusted with such an important task, and the appointment is at least partly to be attributed to the fact that Mlle Radoloff completed her legal studies in Italy.

Miss Loch's Post.

Miss Ruth Loch has taken up her new duties as Woman Establishment Officer at the Post Office, where she will supervise the work of some 70,000 women. The position carries with it a salary of £800 per year. She has served in the Post Office for many years, and has proved her ability by managing successfully the women in the Money Order Department for fifteen years. There is only one other woman, the Hon. Maude Lawrence, holding a similar position in the Civil Service, but it is expected that further appointments placing women in charge of women workers will shortly be made.

Woman Harpist.

Lady Brittain, wife of Sir Harry Brittain, K.B.E., has been asked to lead a band of harpists at the forthcoming meeting of the Welsh Eisteddfod. Lady Brittain is not only the finest amateur harpist in this country, but is also chairman of several societies, including the women's section of the London Municipal Society. Not long ago Lady Brittain won the first prize for her composition, entered under a pseudonym, in an international competition in Boston, U.S.A. Some of her compositions will be played at the Eisteddfod.

First Woman Architect.

Miss E. Cook is the first woman architect to qualify for the Architectural Association diploma, and to place the letters A.R.I.B.A. after her name. She is an old pupil of Roedean School, and has won many architectural prizes, although she is not yet twenty-four. Miss Cook has also won the medal given by the official French Society of Architects for the best English student of the year.

Mrs. Whitelaw Reid Decorated.

Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, whose husband was United States Minister in France from 1889 to 1892, has been awarded the Cross of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour for her numerous charitable acts during thirty years, and her patriotic and charitable works during the war.

A Great Actress.

Eleonora Duse will visit England in the autumn, where she will give performances for a month in a West End theatre. She is now in her sixty-fourth year, having made her first appearance on the stage when she was four years old. She was last seen in London in June, 1906, on the occasion of Miss Ellen Terry's jubilee performance.

Women Deacons.

Women deacons are increasing. "There is a growing feeling in the churches," remarks the monthly organ of the Calvinistic Methodist Church of Wales, "that this innovation is a firm step in the right direction, and should be encouraged far and near. In every society there are duties that cannot be accomplished by men with the delicacy and perseverance they deserve and demand in order to secure the maximum result."

Jurywoman's Sympathy.

When Harry Francis Marrien (26), a ship's steward, was bound over at Swansea Quarter Sessions on a charge of attempting to commit suicide, he was approached outside the court by Mrs. Katherine Cox, a member of the common jury. After rendering Marrien financial assistance she gave him her name and address, and told him that he would find in her a friend ready to help him.

Women Medical Students.

The pass lists of the University of London examinations for medical degrees, issued recently, provide striking evidence of the increasing numbers in which women are entering the profession. No fewer than sixty women students have passed the first examination, two of them with distinction in physics, while in the second examination list appear the names of forty-one more, one of whom attained distinction. Fifty-nine of these 101 successful students were from the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women.

First Woman Cotton Broker.

The first woman cotton broker in England is Miss Margaret Robertson, who has become an active partner with her brother at Liverpool. That city enjoys the distinction of possessing the first woman cotton broker, the first woman marine engineer, and the first woman chartered accountant.

Woman Diver.

Miss Margaret Naylor, Britain's first woman diver, is diving for doubloons in Tobermory Bay. The Spanish Armada treasure ship, *Almirante de Florencia*, is believed to have been lying on the bottom of the bay for nearly 350 years, and Miss Naylor, who was employed in Whitehall during the war, is assisting in the salvage operations by diving ten fathoms deep.

Woman Opera Producer.

The directorate of the Carl Rosa Opera Company have appointed Madame Doris Woodall, who for many years was a leading *prima donna*, to the position of artistic supervisor for the ensuing season. This is the first time a woman has been appointed to the company's productive side.

Woman's Record Swim.

Hilda James, an American woman, has broken the world's swimming record by swimming 300 metres, in free style, in 4 min. 33.45 sec., beating Ethelda Blich-trey, another woman, by 1-5th of a second.

Woman Conductor.

Miss Amelia Naughton, a young New York girl, has been selected to lead a band of men musicians, and made her initial appearance at a recent public concert in Carl Schurz Park. The programme included the first movement of Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony, ballet music from "Faust," a Sousa march, and patriotic airs.

Woman Attaché at Tokyo.

The first woman *attaché* to be assigned to an American embassy in the Orient is Miss Maud Miles. Her appointment to the Tokyo Embassy came in recognition of her efficiency when she was secretary to the Advisory Committee at the Washington Conference on Limitation of Armaments.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Deaths from Starvation (Children).

MRS. WINTRINGHAM asked the Minister of Health whether his attention had been drawn to the Reports of the Poor Law Commission, published in 1909, and Dr. Vail's evidence, showing the difficulties of obtaining necessary medical and Poor Law relief in some Unions; the number of children in the Starvation Death Lists from 1910 to 1918 (after which the lists were discontinued), inclusive, and also the number of children in the Starvation Death Lists for 1914? SIR ALFRED MOND replied that he was aware of the Reports and evidence referred to. The number of children under 16 years of age in whose cases a coroner's jury returned a verdict of death from starvation, or death accelerated by starvation, in the years 1910 to 1918, was 54. The number of such cases in the year 1914 was six.

Executions, Pentonville Prison.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM asked the Home Secretary whether he was aware that, when an execution took place in Pentonville Prison, which was in the vicinity of a London County Council School, notices were posted upon the gates of the prison both before and after the execution; that those notices caused unwholesome excitement in the neighbourhood, people waiting outside and discussing the subject of the notice till it was removed; and, in view of the fact that children also waited about with adults until the opening of the school, and the undesirable effects of this, would he consider some other method of notifying the public that a death penalty was about to be imposed upon a prisoner, and subsequently that it had been paid? MR. SHORTT replied that the matter had been frequently considered, and he did not see his way to modifying the existing Regulations on the subject.

Magistrates (Tuition).

SIR H. BRITAIN asked the Attorney-General whether it had been brought to his notice that, at the desire of newly appointed women Justices of the Peace, a Summer School was to be held at the University of Oxford, in one of the colleges, which had been lent for the purpose, so that some training in the administration of the law might be given to those women Justices who so desired it; whether he was aware of any similar effort being made for the benefit of any lay magistrates of the male sex who so desired it; and, if not, whether he would make a recommendation that such a scheme should be supported. SIR E. POLLOCK replied: "No, Sir. I have no information beyond that contained in this question. If magistrates of the male sex desire such tuition, it would, I hope, be open to them to make similar arrangements with the authorities at the University."

Prisons and Borstal Institutions.

SIR T. BRAMSDON asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the urgent need and insistent public demand for an inquiry into the prison system, and the administration of His Majesty's prisons and Borstal Institutions, he would consider the appointment of a thoroughly representative Royal Commission at an early date for that purpose? MR. SHORTT replied that the matter was under consideration, and he hoped to come to a decision shortly. LADY ASTOR asked if the right hon. Gentleman would realise, before he came to a decision, that no Commission could be thoroughly representative unless it had a woman on it? (*But why, we ask, should only one woman be on this Commission?*) MR. FOOT inquired if there was any possibility of that decision being arrived at before the House rose? MR. SHORTT was afraid not. There were a number of matters to be settled with other Departments before a decision could be reached.

Prison System (Suicides).

LORD H. CAVENDISH-BENTINCK asked if the Home Office would take steps to appoint an independent Commission to inquire whether the suicide rate among prisoners was or was not higher than among the ordi-

nary populations within the same periods of age? MR. SHORTT replied that in the event of a general inquiry into the prison system, the point referred to would be among the matters for consideration.

Lunatic Asylum (Women Visitors).

SIR R. NEWMAN asked the Minister of Health the number of county and borough Asylums which had no women members on the Visiting Committees of their Asylums; and how many women patients were detained in those institutions? SIR ALFRED MOND replied that, so far as the Board of Control were aware, there were 58 county and borough Mental Hospitals which had no women members on the Visiting Committee. In those institutions there were, approximately, 31,000 female patients.

Married Women Teachers.

MR. MILLS asked the President of the Board of Education if the terminating by the local authorities of the engagements of women teachers because they were married women was done with his knowledge and consent; and, in view of the fact that, since those married women teachers were unable to secure employment elsewhere owing to the present widespread policy of dismissing married women teachers, that practice of the local authorities was tantamount to suspending the teacher's certificate, which was the sole prerogative of the Board of Education, what he was prepared to do to prevent local authorities adopting that practice? MR. FISHER replied that the suspension of a teacher's certificate involved prohibition of employment in a public elementary school, and was certainly not the same thing from the teacher's point of view as failure to obtain employment. He had no authority to interfere with the exercise of the local authorities' discretion in the matter.

London Day Continuation Schools.

MR. MILLS asked the President of the Board of Education whether, in view of the fact that the Economy Bill could not be discussed before the adjournment of the House, and could not, even if subsequently approved by Parliament, become law for some months, he had sanctioned the abandonment of the London day continuation schools at the close of the present term? MR. LEWIS replied that the practical question before his right hon. Friend was whether, in the existing circumstances, he would be justified in insisting, under penalty of reduction of grant, that the London County Council should enforce the attendance of young persons at day continuation schools, in face of the considered resolution of the newly elected Council. He regretted greatly that the service of day continuation schools under the provisions of the Act of 1918, on the basis of obligatory attendance, should be suspended; but in the circumstances he did not feel that insistence would be justified.

Infant Schools (Untrained Teachers).

LADY ASTOR asked the President of the Board of Education if he really thought that it was wise to have unqualified women to teach children under six years of age? MR. FISHER admitted that, other things being equal, a trained teacher was better than an untrained teacher. He understood that the London County Council proposed to put those women through a short course of training. The experience of the infant classes during the war led one to suppose that suitable women of the required temperament, after a short training, could deal very satisfactorily with infant classes.

Teachers' Superannuation.

MR. FISHER, replying to SIR W. JOYNSON HICKS, said that the School Teachers (Superannuation) Act, 1918, required that, in order to obtain a pension, a teacher must have served for ten years in recognised service, as defined in Section 18 of the Act. Provision was made in Clause 2 of the Bill now before Parliament for the repayment of contributions to teachers who failed to qualify for a pension under the principal Act.

F. A. U.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 11th, 1922.

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 a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

WOMEN ON ROYAL COMMISSIONS.

The Departmental Committee set up by the Ministry of Health to investigate the charges made against the administration of public mental hospitals by Dr. Lomax in his book, "The Experiences of an Asylum Doctor," has presented its Report. Readers of THE VOTE will remember that the members of this Committee were Sir Cyril Cobb, M.P. (Chairman), Dr. Percy Smith, and Dr. Bedford Pierce. At the time of its appointment, the Women's Freedom League urged, in the public interest, that its membership should be enlarged. We specially advocated that women should be included on it, on the grounds that there are at least as many women as men patients of unsound mind in these mental hospitals, that there are over 30,000 such women patients in borough and county mental hospitals which have no women on their visiting committees, and that there are a great number of women nurses concerned in their administration. We said plainly that this Departmental Committee appointed by the Ministry of Health would arouse no public confidence in its findings, and we think our statement is quite justified. Sir Cyril Cobb claims that the result has been to disprove the majority of Dr. Lomax's allegations, that substance has been found in some of the charges, and that the investigation has been worth while, as it has disclosed several respects in which asylum administration was deficient. Dr. Lomax, quite properly, we think, refused to give evidence before this particular Committee. In an interview with a *Times* correspondent last week Dr. Lomax said, "The main evidence which I was prepared to bring in support of the allegations that I made against our asylums system, and which I refused to bring before this Committee, is still untouched, and it is upon that that the verdict must ultimately rest, as regards the adequacy of our asylum administration. This evidence I am still prepared to bring before a Royal Commission, which alone is adequate to investigate the subject." We entirely agree with Dr. Lomax in this matter, but claim that women as well as men must be on this Commission—women who have had experience as doctors in mental hospitals, and in the work of administration of these hospitals. We hope, too, that the general public will support us in our demand for an equal number of women with men on the Board of Control, and for women superintendents to be in control of women's mental hospitals, and of the women's sections of general mental hospitals. There is also a growing demand for the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the conditions of our prison system. Such a Commission is urgently wanted, for the more we hear about this prison system, the more ashamed we are of its barbarous anachronisms. We insist that women shall be on any Royal Commission which will investigate the conditions under which women prisoners live and are punished. No person of common sense can agree that men alone should impose and review these conditions and punishments. It is monstrous to think that there are no women Prison Commissioners, when these Commissioners have the entire prison system under their control; that men, and not women, are Governors and deputy Governors of women's prisons and women's sections of prisons, that there are no women chaplains, only one woman inspector of prisons, and so very rarely a woman doctor to attend to women. All these points must be investigated by a Royal Commission, and there must be definite alterations as the result of this investigation.

WOMEN INSPECTORS' SALARIES.

In presenting the Estimates Committee's Report, Sir Frederick Banbury (the Chairman) drew attention to the fact that the number of Women Inspectors under the Board of Education had been increased, and that their salaries had been raised. In the opinion of the Committee, those salaries were much in advance of the general run of salaries received by women in the educational world, and they could be reduced without injuring the work. In dealing with this criticism, Mr. Fisher reminded the House that in May, 1920, it accepted a Resolution to the effect that:

"It is expedient that women should have an equal opportunity of employment with men in all branches within the United Kingdom, and under all local authorities, provided that the claims of ex-Service men are first considered, and that they should receive equal pay."

Mr. Fisher said, that attitude was to some extent modified on August 5th, 1921, when the following Resolutions were passed:—

(1) That women shall be appointed to, and continue to hold, posts in the Civil Service within the United Kingdom, under the same Regulations, present or future, as govern the classification and (in so far as regards status and authority) other conditions of service for men.

(2) That, having regard to the present financial position of the country, this House cannot commit itself to the increase in the Civil Service salaries involved in the payment of women in all cases at the same rate as men; but that the question of the remuneration of women as compared with men shall be reviewed within the period not exceeding three years."

The decision of the House on August 5th, 1921, said Mr. Fisher, was that men and women in the Civil Service should be paid equally. With regard to the salaries of the women inspectors, they bore the same relation to the salaries of the men inspectors as obtained between men and women in the Civil Service generally. They were lower, but they bore the same relation at the Board of Education as they did in other parts of the country. It would be quite impossible to obtain the services of the highly trained and the highly educated women they required for that particular kind of work at anything like the old rates of salaries. It was desirable that the Board of Education should be in a position to secure the services of able, experienced, practical women who would command the confidence of the headmistresses of women's colleges and secondary schools. If they were to do that, then they must pay them adequate salaries, and the reason for the increase in the salaries of women inspectors from a rate beginning at £200 and rising to £300, to a rate beginning at £300 and rising to £500, was that the Board found that the lower salary was quite insufficient to attract women of the requisite status, experience, and qualifications. They had had the greatest difficulty in filling the post of Training College Staff Inspector and Elementary School Staff Inspector. At the present time they had in the ranks of women inspectors women who had been headmistresses of secondary schools, and principals of training colleges and of technical schools. It was very desirable that they should have women of that kind. Sir Frederick Banbury called special attention to the salary paid to the Chief Woman Inspector. What had the Chief Woman Inspector to do? Mr. Fisher said that she had to have an intimate knowledge of all sides of girls' education—university, training college, technical, secondary, elementary, and domestic training. She ought to be one of the ablest women in the whole country. She had control of a staff of women inspectors, who were responsible throughout the country for the inspection of every side of the education of girls. She must be able to select suitable women for the different sides, and she had to be qualified to judge of their efficiency. Mr. Fisher said he need hardly emphasise the special personal qualification which was desirable in such an officer, and submitted that the salary paid to the Chief Woman Inspector—£850, rising to £1,000 subsequently—bore a proper relation to the salary of the Chief Male Inspector, which was £1,200.

WORKING WOMEN AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

The problem of Higher Education for Working Women has recently received a decided impetus from four important Conferences, held in the spring of this year at various provincial centres, under the auspices of Ruskin College, Oxford, when, for the first time, working women themselves were enabled to put forward their particular point of view upon this subject.

Various Facilities.

As far as the working classes are concerned, whether women or men, only a very few workers, with the help of scholarships, get into the Universities themselves. But the Universities do get into touch with the workers in some degree through two methods. The first is by means of the University Extension Lectures. These were first started in 1880, one of their main objects being to provide a higher education for women. Extension Lectures have been more used by workers in the North and Midlands than by workers in the South. The second and most used method everywhere is by means of University Tutorial Classes. These are run by the Workers' Educational Association, in connection with the Universities, and are usually three-year courses. The teaching is on the same level as that given at the University. In the East Midland division these W.E.A. classes have grown very much lately. This session there are 248 women in the three years Tutorial Classes, and 225 in the one year Preparatory Classes, a total of 473, about one-third of the total of the students.

Another facility for higher education for workers of both classes is provided by the Workers' Educational Association itself. This is entirely a democratic movement, supported chiefly by workers, Trade Unions, the Co-operative Movement, Trades Councils, etc., who give financial help and have representations on the Council. One-year classes are organised, and the students in both these and the Tutorial Classes choose their own subjects and tutors.

As regards State adult education, this is chiefly confined to vocational classes, technical evening classes, etc., but it also helps financially, giving grants to classes if they carry out certain conditions. Since 1913 there has been one very useful development: the London County Council has started running what are called Women's Institutes, though these must not be confused with the Women's Institute movement in rural districts, which originally emanated from Canada. At the L.C.C. Institutes, classes are run in History, Literature, Sociology, and any subject centreing round social life.

Workers' Colleges.

Although the ordinary universities are not open to working women because of the high fees, there are workers' Colleges supported definitely for workers of both sexes, and kept for them alone. The best known of these is Ruskin College, Oxford, opened about twenty years ago by two Americans, to give to the workers a good general education, so as to fit them for doing work amongst their fellows. Special attention is paid to economics, trade unionism, etc., with the object of training men and women for service in the labour world. Many scholarships at this College are given by Trade Unions. This institution has forty men students in residence, and for the last two years a Women's Hostel has been established at Queen's Gardens, Oxford, a beautiful house with charming gardens, where twenty women students are now in residence, two of whom are married women. Ruskin College also runs correspondence courses, and by this means does very good general educational work. Morley College is another working-class college, and there are others scattered about the country. Recently the Y.W.C.A. has started a College for working women at Beckenham, Kent, where some fifteen to twenty young working women are in residence, who have the usual sort of curriculum—History, Literature, English, Economics. The twelve months' fees at Beckenham are £80, the sum

being helped by Bursaries, whilst some large London firms send their employees, and some girls get a Bursary to go with their own savings. There is also the Adult School Movement, which is definitely educational, but on a religious basis. The Adult School Union has classes (known as Winter Schools) which are held for six months of the year at Ford Cottage, York. In 1919 there were 12 students, and in 1920-21, 19. At this school the students take Bible Study, Literature, History, Social Study, English Grammar, Language and Composition, Psychology, Greek Life and Thought, a Speakers' Class, reading aloud, the duties of Chairmen, Delegates, Secretaries, etc., current events in newspapers and weeklies. The Adult School Union also runs Summer Schools, which bid fair to be a very important branch of the work in future. The Women's Co-operative Guilds are well known for their educational work for women, as are also the various Settlements, which, like Toynbee Hall, are really more like Colleges for working men and women. Woodbrooke, near Birmingham, started by the Society of Friends, gives an education, on the whole, similar to Ruskin College. There is also Vaughan College, Leicester, which carries on the same kind of work. The Home Reading Union is another educational body which works entirely through correspondence; whilst the various Working Girls' Clubs carry on a considerable amount of informal education.

State Co-operation.

In Birmingham the Workers' Union and a few other organisations have come to an arrangement with the Birmingham University, through Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir William Ashley, and Mr. Neville Chamberlain, to give political education to twenty students out of the workshops and factories. At the present time, between thirty and forty men and women are attending evening classes at Birmingham University, their expenses being subsidised.

Then there are the Local Education authorities. They have many powers which may be used, but the trouble is, the people do not ask. The Local Education authorities have the necessary power to make arrangements for higher education in their own districts. They could, if the people asked long enough and loud enough, send a student to Ruskin College, and they could also give a grant towards paying a tutor for a W.E.A. Class.

There is also the Plebs League (which was started under the auspices of the Labour College, London, which arranges classes all over the country. These, again, are definitely propagandist.

(To be continued).

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN

ROTHESAY.

Our Clyde Campaign started on July 24, Miss Alix Clark (Hon: Organiser), and Dr Lillias Hamilton (Speaker), both busy people with their own work, will be giving up their summer holidays and working very hard to spread the ideas of the Women's Freedom League among the thousands of men and women who disport themselves at Rothesay during the summer. The expense is very large, so please remember to send me your contribution to help while you are enjoying your own rest and recreation.

E. KNIGHT,

144, High Holborn,
London, W.C.1.

Hon. Treas.

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN, 1922.

Speaker: DR. LILLIAS HAMILTON.
Hon. Organiser: MISS ALIX CLARK.

Another week of the Women's Freedom League Campaign on the Clyde has come to an end. A more prosperous week than the first, as since Monday the weather has been fine—the last three days really warm. To this improvement in the weather is, in part, at least, due an increase in the number of visitors to Rothesay, and the consequently larger meetings. Moreover, both workers were able to spend half a day in coming and going to and from Millport, and more than half a day in an expedition to Ayr and back, speaking in both places—Miss Clark also selling literature and *THE VOTE*, and collecting for the Central Fund. Considering the size of Millport, the meeting held at 12 noon was fairly satisfactory, especially in view of the amount collected. The meeting at Ayr was less satisfactory, but this was probably due to the hour when it had to be held, as the return boat had to be caught to get back in time for the 7.45 meeting at Rothesay. It would appear that the hours between midday dinner and tea are the children's hours, and parents—in fact the whole family—devotes itself to the paddling and castle-building children, paddling and digging with them in the sea, or down on the wet sands. This is not conducive to a good meeting, so places nearer at hand will be selected for midday meetings for the future.

It must, however, not be overlooked that the sale of the varied literature, as well as the collecting, is an important addition to the work done at the meetings, and it is well to extend these over a wider area than Rothesay itself. Miss Clark continued her programme of explaining the object for which the Women's Freedom League was formed, and offered her papers and pamphlets for sale before introducing the speaker.

Dr. Lillias Hamilton again spoke on the necessity for increasing the food production of Great Britain as the easiest way for both men and women to save the nation's resources from pouring out of the country. Asked if we could grow £1,000,000,000 more foodstuffs in these Islands, Dr. Hamilton replied that it was not possible to say how much we might eventually be able to grow, but there were certain necessities we could not grow, instancing tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, maize, rice, cattle foods prepared from tropical nuts, from which we also obtain the oils for soap and margarine. We are at present importing nearly £262,000,000 worth of wheat. Some of that could certainly be produced in this country, but it was a question how much we could produce economically. If more pigs were to be produced, more barley would be required. It is a more certain crop here than wheat, and takes less time to mature. Experimental tests were, however, being made, by which it had been proved that crops could be nearly doubled on the same area by the use of certain seeds, given certain treatment in different localities. Very important results had been achieved in Aberdeenshire by such tests in oat production; equally important tests had been carried out at Cambridge on wheat, and other important discoveries had been made in different parts of the country. It was most important that these experiments should be increased, not curtailed. It was of indisputable advantage to increase the crop on a given area, but it was of vital importance to the State that all land should be made to produce the utmost of which it was capable. There were thousands of acres all over the country that were practically unproductive. Almost all of these could be put to some use. This was a time when all our national resources had to be secured. In 1919 it was reported that several of the forests and

grouse moors in East and West Aberdeenshire, that had, for the last three years, been used for some 12,000 to 14,000 sheep, were to be closed to sheep, and used entirely for sport. In view of the world shortage of food, this was viewed with great apprehension by the County Committees. "What is to be done if the landlords order them to be closed, as they have the power to do?" called out a member of the audience. "You who have in your hands the power of the vote, and, therefore, the making of the laws, must see to it that no man, landlord or otherwise, has the power to deprive the nation of its right to produce the utmost in food, and therefore in profit, that the land is capable of producing, employing as many men and women in natural and healthy surroundings, rather than in overcrowded cities, as it is possible to employ," was the reply. "Do you believe in Land Nationalisation?" was the next question put. "I believe in the Government requiring that the best use be made of all land, irrespective of ownership." "Do you think that farmers should have the right to purchase their farms?" "Many farmers have purchased their farms, spending more than their reserve of capital in so doing: the result has been that they have had insufficient working capital to run their farms to the greatest profit—that is, produce the interest in crops and stock."

Miss Clark thanked the audience for the courteous hearing they had given to the speaker, and closed the meeting after, as is her custom, collecting from the audience sufficient to pay for the use of the wagonette from which the workers spoke.

WOMEN AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Many men have appealed to women for their support of the League of Nations. In the constitution of that international body, the purpose of which is to avert wars, in future, by first exploring all the avenues of Peace, it is laid down that there is to be no sex barrier to any position in the League of Nations. Long ago the Women's Freedom League urged that when any country was empowered to send more than one delegate to its Assembly, one of those delegates should be a woman. The British Government has, however, persisted in treating the League of Nations, so far as its appointment of women is concerned, as a kind of international Civil Service, in which all the really responsible work is given to men; and we are not surprised to learn that the three delegates from Great Britain to the Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva next month are again all men—the Lord President of the Council (Lord Balfour), the President of the Board of Education (Mr. Fisher), and Lieut.-Col. J. Ward, M.P. The Prime Minister may also be present. As a concession, a woman (so far, unnamed) is to be sent in an advisory capacity, which means, of course, that she will not be empowered to vote; that she may be consulted, but may only speak if called upon to do so. This is not exactly the equality of opportunity which we are asking for women, although to send a woman from Great Britain in any capacity is an advance on the Government's previous practice. If there were two hundred capable women in the House of Commons, instead of only two, as at present, the Government would be forced to recognise that women should have a voice in international affairs. We have always claimed that the quickest way to remove women's political, social, and economic disabilities, as well as to secure for them their proper amount of influence in affairs at home and abroad, is to get more and more women members into the House of Commons. Women must help themselves politically; and they cannot possibly do better than to concentrate on getting as many women as possible into the next Parliament.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, September 4, at 3 p.m.—"Fair" Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.
Friday, September 8th, at 6.30 p.m.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.
Monday, September 18th, at 7 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Lucey Bell. Subject: "Public Speaking."
Friday, September 22nd at 6 p.m.—Organisation Committee, 144 High Holborn, W.C. 1.
Saturday, September 23rd, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.
Wednesday, September 27th, at 3 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge. Subject: "Travel as an Education."
Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th.—"Green, White and Gold Fair," Central Hall, Westminster.

DARE TO BE FREE.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Equal Franchise for Women.

The Prime Minister has consented to receive at the beginning of October a deputation organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, to present to him a memorial, signed by 222 Members of Parliament and a large number of nationally organised associations, including the Women's Freedom League, asking that the Government carry, before the General Election, legislation which will give women the vote on the same terms as men.

Royal Commission on the Distribution of Honours

The following have consented to serve on this Commission:—Lord Dunedin (Chairman), the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Denman, Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., Sir Evelyn Cecil, M.P., Sir Samuel Hoare, M.P., and Sir George Croydon Marks, M.P. Hitherto it has not been customary to include women in the Honours Lists, but these gentlemen will be reminded that women, as well as men, have rendered public service, and that women's qualifications to appear in the Honours Lists in future should have equal consideration with those of men.

Convicts (Conveyance to Prison).

The Home Secretary, replying to Sir Robert Newman, said that prisoners were now taken from one prison to another in ordinary clothes, not in prison garb. It had not been found possible to dispense with the connecting chain in all cases, but care was taken to avoid exposure to the public gaze, so far as circumstances allowed.

Royal Assent.

The Royal Assent has been given to the School Teachers (Superannuation) Act, 1922, and to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1922.

Bills Presented.

An Illegitimacy Bill, "to extend and amend enactments relating to bastardy and to affiliation and certain other orders; and to provide for the legitimation of illegitimate persons by the marriage of their parents; and to amend the law relating to the rate of Legacy Duty and Succession Duty in the case of illegitimate persons and their parents," has been presented by Mr. Wignall, supported by Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Walter Smith, Mr. George Edwards, and Mr. Irving, to be read a second time on Tuesday, November 14th.

A Liquor (Popular Control) Bill, "to amend the law relating to the manufacture, sale, and supply of intoxicating liquor, and to provide for the popular control thereof and of the grant and renewal of licences," has been presented by Lady Astor, supported by Mr. James Henry Thomas, Mr. Trevelyan Thomson, and Mrs. Wintringham, to be read a second time on Tuesday, November 14th.

Holiday Meals to End.

The L.C.C. last week decided to discontinue, after the summer recess, holiday meals for necessitous school children. The Education Committee reported that the Board of Education had asked the Council to aim at keeping down to £65,000 the cost of providing meals to school children. The Council's previous estimate was £117,000. The Committee suggested that, after the summer recess, holiday feeding should be discontinued. An amendment by Dr. Scott Lidgett to refer the matter back, with a view to representations to the Board of Education, was defeated. Other amendments were proposed and rejected.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

P.R. in The Irish Elections.

To the Editor of *THE VOTE*.

DEAR MADAM.—Having watched in several centres the elections to the Irish Provisional Parliament, may I state briefly what the new method of voting has accomplished.

(1) P.R. trebled the area over which contests were held. Had the single-member system been used, there would have been one panel candidate, the sitting member, in each constituency. The fight, if any, would have been always between an independent and the panel candidate. In these circumstances very few seats would have been contested, though Labour would doubtless have fought some. But under the proportional system, wherever even one independent stood, a contest over a whole county or city was assured. Thus, through the agency of P.R., the mind of Ireland was ascertained over three-quarters of the country. Without P.R. the whole panel would have gone back almost as nominated.

(2) P.R. allowed the voters to say which of the panel candidates—Treaty or anti-Treaty—they preferred. In place of being practically tied down to the panel candidate, as would have happened under the single-member system, P.R. afforded an opportunity of choosing within the panel either a pro-Treaty or an anti-Treaty candidate. The choices expressed by the electors have disclosed to the world that the Irish people are four to one in favour of the Treaty.

(3) P.R. made it possible to learn the attitude of Labour and of the Farmers towards the Treaty. Where there was a single Labour candidate, as in Cork or in Co. Dublin, and this candidate had surplus votes, the transfer of the surplus votes revealed the attitude of the Labour electors. The world knows that in Cork Labour voted fifteen to one, in Co. Dublin nine to one, in favour of the Treaty. It was P.R. which gave the information.

(4) P.R. has done justice to minorities. It is not a complete, or even a true, statement of the facts to say that P.R. saved the Republicans from extinction. The "pact," if it had operated, would have preserved them in full force. P.R. defeated the "pact," but at the same time it gave to all minorities—Republican, Labour, Farmer—their fair share of seats. In Co. Dublin, Labour polled 8,220 votes out of 51,877 votes; there were six seats; Mr. Johnson was elected as the representative of the Labour minority. In Galway, Labour polled 4,827 votes out of 36,503; there were seven seats; the Labour minority got one. Labour was not in an absolute majority in any constituency. Without P.R. it would have fared badly; with P.R. it has got its fair share. The same is true of the other minorities.

(5) P.R. has shown that the electors can express their choices among the candidates with intelligent purpose. Every one of the result sheets tells its story. This is true both of country and town areas. The election has totally disproved the assertion that P.R. is impracticable for country areas. Large counties, Galway, Waterford, Cork, etc., were single constituencies returning several members. In each of them the electors knew for whom they wanted to vote, and why.

(6) P.R. has made a real contribution towards peace. It has operated as a moderating force. P.R. has revealed to the two sections of the Irish Army what the people think on the main issue of the day. It is not claimed that this, the most sinister problem of Irish government, has been settled, but the election result has had a marked influence on the situation. The moral force of public opinion clearly expressed must act as a powerful deterrent to military action on the part of a minority. It may be that this minority may have to be put down by force, but the situation is much less difficult than it would have been if there had been but a sham election.

P.R. has turned an election, in which the electors would have been more shackled than in an English coupon election, into a most wonderful revelation of the mind of the people of Ireland. It gave electors both power and freedom. P.R. has been applied to large country areas. Rural voters as well as townsmen have used the system with high efficiency. These elections will influence profoundly future developments within Ireland, and the relations between Great Britain and Ireland. Lastly, they have again made it apparent that, in a world in the main governed by representative institutions, the method (the actual machinery) of elections is one of the most potent factors in determining the course of the history we are making to-day.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN H. HUMPHREYS, Secretary,
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