

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
NON-PARTY.

VOL. XXX. No. 1,048. (Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1929

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

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GREEN WHITE AND GOLD FAIR, 1929.

Our Fair, held on Thursday and Friday, November 14th and 15th, was universally agreed to be a triumphant success.

MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.—In introducing Dr. Ethel Bentham, M.P.—who had nobly fulfilled her promise to open the Fair on November 14th despite a particularly bad cold contracted at the all-night sitting at the House of Commons the day before—from the Chair, our President said how much it meant to women to have women Members in the House. One object of the Women's Freedom League is to get more women into Parliament, and another to secure full social as well as full political emancipation.

DR. BENTHAM, J.P., M.P.—“The Women's Freedom League, like other women's political organisations,” said Dr. Bentham, “is passing through the difficulties of a transition period.” Previously women, whatever their politics or individual views, could meet on a common platform on two big questions—(1) equal educational opportunities for women with men; (2) the Parliamentary vote. Now we have obtained the tool, we must set to work to use it.

There are still many questions on which women are not agreed. Political equality has been won, but practical equality has yet to be obtained. Many people who united to secure the tool, have different ideas as to the best method of using it.

Women Members of Parliament are faced with the difficulty of being loyal to their sex and loyal to their political parties; although women have secured the nominal status of citizens, they have not yet grown to their full stature and cannot disregard sex questions altogether. It is still necessary for women to keep in touch in women's organisations, such as the Women's Freedom League.

At the same time, women have to look at political questions not only as women, but as citizens. This is the beginning of a new epoch, which women have helped to bring about. It resulted from the blood and tears of a past generation of women. We now have before us a period of hard brain work to deal with the many issues with which we are faced.

The Women's Freedom League had done excellent work in the past, and Dr. Bentham was sure it would continue to do good work in the future. She wished it every success in raising the status of women.

MRS. LEGGE, appealing for subscribers to THE VOTE,

said it was absolutely essential for busy women to be kept up-to-date on political matters. THE VOTE, which allowed no political matter of importance to women to pass unnoticed, provided exactly what was needed. Instead of saying, with Peter Pan, “Do you believe in fairies?” she would say: “Do you believe in the future of women? And, if so, buy THE VOTE!”

DR. KNIGHT, proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Bentham and the Chairman, said that of all that plucky band of women candidates, Dr. Bentham had been the pluckiest. She was extremely delighted that Dr. Bentham was no longer a prospective candidate, but a Member of Parliament. More than this, as our first Medical Woman M.P., we had in her the best possible pioneer to found the race.

MISS MUNRO, in seconding the vote of thanks, said she would like to include the name of Miss Berry, our indefatigable Fair Secretary, on whose efforts the success of the Fair year by year depended.

MRS. MUSTARD, taking the Chair at the second day's opening, said that although London was dark with fog outside, there was brightness and colour inside the Caxton Hall. Miss Eleanor Rathbone, who was about to open the Fair, was a woman Member of Parliament of whom we were tremendously proud. She was our ideal woman Member, because she stood outside party politics. Her return to Parliament as Representative of the English Universities was a great victory for women. Her tremendous work for married women, mothers, and children had won her the sympathy and admiration of women voters.

MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE, J.P., C.C., M.P., ascribed her late arrival to a matter of great importance to women. The Nationality of Women Bill was down in the second place for the day, and should have been discussed. Unfortunately, the measure was not reached. However, Miss Rathbone was not discouraged, as there appeared to be general agreement among Members that the Bill should go through without much discussion. She thought the unanimity of the House would not have been so great if votes for women had not been an accomplished fact. All sorts of reasons would have been put forward why a married woman should not retain her nationality!

Although only five weeks of actual work have been accomplished since the present Parliament came into office, not a week had passed in which she had not been

impressed by the need for keeping women's non-party organisations together. That day the Civil Service Commission had been discussing the all-important question of equal pay for equal work; the Factories Bill would shortly be introduced; and the question of women police would come up in the near future.

In Parliament it is essential that men and women should work together on national and international questions, yet it is necessary for bodies of women to hold together to discuss their own points of view and decide exactly what they want, and see that the interests of women are not overlooked. Even if no legislative inequalities were left on the Statute Book, it would still be necessary for societies like the Women's Freedom League to remain in existence to help women to think out their problems as they arise. Real equality will be achieved when women are in a position to do their very best in the world as citizens.

Mrs. LEGGE spoke of our great advances in the last ten to fifteen years—women M.P.s and a woman Cabinet Minister—and she saw no reason why we should not eventually have a woman Prime Minister. The flag had been raised; we must raise a wind to keep it flying. The wind of public opinion was best raised by the printed page. THE VOTE was the most effective paper in educating women. She hoped all in that hall would be subscribers before leaving.

Miss M. I. NEAL, of Manchester, in proposing the vote of thanks to Miss Rathbone and the Chairman, said that it was extremely pleasing to know that Miss Rathbone's majority came from the votes of the new women voters. These women would not have been voters but for the work of the Women's Freedom League and other women's political organisations. Women were proud to have an Independent woman Member in the House. Miss Rathbone's work was not only on the floor of the House, but also in Committee Rooms.

Miss REEVES, seconding the vote of thanks, said that last year our Fair was opened by the first woman M.P. to take her seat in the House; this year we had the first suffragist leader to be returned to the House; and suffragist Members are very necessary there.

Round the Stalls.

HAMPSTEAD STALL is to be congratulated upon its variety of embroidered and coloured handkerchiefs, and its display of dainty and useful articles.

CHISWICK BRANCH had a very select and varied assortment of Christmas Decorations.

EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW BRANCHES, as usual, had a good assortment of warm, useful articles. Post-cards, signed by the Graham Moffats, were readily purchased by members of the Women's Freedom League; Edinburgh chocolate and rock was in great demand. Mrs. and Miss Winifred Graham Moffat came in tartans and patronised the stall.

FINCHLEY AND GOLDERS GREEN BRANCH made a special feature of home-made jams, cakes, and mince-meats.

MID-LONDON BRANCH AND BARNSBURY BRANCH had an attractive display of boxes of note-paper and envelopes, writing pads, pens, pencils, hand-painted calendars, etc.

PORTSMOUTH BRANCH made a good show with useful household goods, including towels and cloths of various descriptions and aluminium ware.

THE SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCHES had one of the most attractive stalls in the Fair. Useful and artistic shopping baskets, collapsible Japanese paper baskets, and dainty work-baskets were skilfully arrayed to attract the buyer. Lavender in dainty bags and sachets—sent from Ashford—was much in demand.

THE BOOK STALL had a good selection of novels and plays, and an interesting assortment of children's books.

THE CHINA STALL made a speciality of Ashtead Pottery, and did good business in teapots and jugs.

THE COUNTRY PRODUCE AND CAKES STALL had a fine show of Christmas cakes, mince pies, Christmas puddings, and preserves.

THE NASAL HYGIENE STALL, under the direction of Dr. Lewin, was a centre of much interest.

THE OVERALLS AND APRONS STALL had a particularly fine selection of smart, well-cut aprons and overalls in the latest designs and colours.

THE SHILLING STALL, with its interesting variety of pin-cushions, necklaces, bags, and glass goods, attracted many buyers.

THE SWEETS STALL did excellent business with boxes of chocolates, Turkish delight, and home-made sweets.

THE TOYS STALL had a wonderful array of dolls, animals, tea-sets, and hygienic toys.

THE TREASURES OLD AND NEW STALL had an assortment of pewter treasures, glass ware, bags, and nick-nacks. A Russian necklace, made by prisoners, was a source of interest.

THE UNDERCLOTHING STALL is to be congratulated on its selection of useful and dainty underwear.

THE "VOTE" STALL did a particularly good trade in soaps, lavender water, lavender bags, and toilet requisites in general.

Entertainments.

Both Thursday and Friday, Elizabethan Romantic and Modern Poetry Readings were given by students of Miss Marjorie Gullan's Polytechnic School of Speech Training and were much appreciated. Special thanks are due to Miss Katherine Barry, Miss Louise Ducat, Miss Louise Cottam, and Miss Clare Soper. A sketch, entitled "Playgoers," by Pinero, given on Friday by the Dramatic Group of the Practical Psychology Club of London, was much applauded. For this treat we thank Leander Porteous, Peggy Leather, Ivy Grantham, Kathleen Fitton, Ethel Watson, Anita Davis, Edith Roberts, and Arthur Nichol.

On Thursday the String Orchestra, by students of the Royal College of Music, was much enjoyed, and concerts, arranged each day by Miss T. A. Davis, added greatly to the enjoyment of the Fair. Special thanks are due to Miss Lilian Foulis, Miss Mabel J. Marx, Miss Alice Manderville, Miss Staples, Mr. G. H. Harris, and to Miss T. A. Davies, the accompanist; also to Miss F. Potter and Miss Gwen Paine, who took the collections, and to Miss Mary New, who acted as Chairman of Entertainments.

The Competition Corner of the Fair proved a great attraction. For the pleasure and profit derived from the Treasure Hunt thanks are due to Miss J. Boorman, who was assisted by Mrs. Boorman, Mrs. Creasey, Miss Frankiss, and Miss Palmer; for Magic Squares, which were most intriguing, to Miss E. M. Elliott, Mrs. Gallop, Miss F. A. Elliott, Miss D. Elliott, Miss Crawley, and Miss Crouche; and for the Mystery Stall, to Mrs. Harvey and Miss Harvey.

The Character Readings, organised by Mrs. Seymour Pritchard, who was assisted by Miss Schofield Coates, Mrs. Drawater, and Miss Burgoine, were a great success. Special thanks for Readings are due to Miss Espir, Madame Gena, B.Sc., Miss Hudson, Mrs. Platanance, Mrs. Lilienthal, and Miss Wall; also to Mrs. Peters for telling stories from tea cups.

Special Thanks.

We offer our cordial thanks to Dr. Ethel Bentham, J.P., M.P., who opened the Fair on Thursday; to Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., M.P., who opened on Friday; and to Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and Mrs. Mustard, who took the chair on Thursday and Friday respectively.

Very special thanks are due to Miss E. Berry, our Honorary Fair Secretary, who works so loyally throughout the year to prepare for our annual event. (As a small token of appreciation, on Friday, her birthday, Miss Berry was presented with a little Birthday Gift, a selection of treasures from the stalls.) Thanks are also due to the members of the Fair and Entertainment Sub-Committees.

Grateful thanks are due to the stall-holders:—Miss Lyndon, Miss Trotter, Miss Hilda James, and Miss Scott (Hampstead Branch); Mrs. Parkin, Mrs. Percival, and Mrs. Bellemaine (Chiswick Branch); Mrs. MacLeod Easson, Miss Munro, Mrs. Boxshall, Miss Dorothy Sidley, and Miss Godwin (Scottish Branch); Mrs. Legge and Miss Stevens (Finchley and Golders Green Branch); Mrs. Anderton, Mrs. Rann, and Miss Sparkman (Mid-London and Barnsbury Branches); Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Brading, and Mrs. Speck (Portsmouth Branch); Mrs. Thompson and Miss White (South-Eastern Branches); Mrs. Lindus, Mrs. Tanner, Miss Lindus, and Mrs. Rubra (China Stall); Miss Alix Clark, the Misses Codd, and Miss Joan Elias-Pritchard (Cakes and Produce); Dr. Lewin and Miss Richards (Hygiene); Miss Underwood, Mrs. Turriff, Miss F. A. Underwood, Miss Brewer, and Miss Charles (Overalls and Aprons); Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Jacoby, Miss Vere Foley, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Johnson, Miss Bellemaine, and Mrs. Pearson (Shilling Stall); Miss Mary Knight, Miss Dorothy Dix, the Misses Vera and Jeanette Craig, Miss Esther Pierpoint, Miss Joyce Starling, and Miss Flora Shepherd (Sweets);

Mrs. J. R. Knight, Mrs. Shore, Miss Hoare, and Miss K. Johnson (Toys); Mrs. Mustard, Mrs. Dore, Mrs. Maund, Miss Towse, and Miss Phyllis Mustard (Treasures Old and New); Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Boxall, and Mrs. Roper (White Stall); Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Stephens, Miss Marian Berry, and Miss M. Peirotti (Literature); Mrs. Evans, Miss Barton, Miss E. Pigott, Miss M. I. Neal, Mrs. Flowers, and Miss Lilian Armstrong ("VOTE" Stall); Miss J. M. Tooke (for help at the Treasury Table); Mrs. Antill, Miss Nicholls, Mr. Bacon, and Miss Webb (Door); Mrs. Scott (Cloak Room); Miss Reeves, Mrs. Keelan, Mrs. Ware, Mr. Yoxall, Mrs. Fisher, Miss Owen, the Misses Skinner, Mrs. James, Miss Newbury, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Scott, Miss Scott, Mrs. Park, Mrs. Hilliard, Miss Cowell, Mrs. Chamberlain, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Paul, Miss Gibson, Miss Griffiths, Miss Housden, Miss Lyon, Miss Elsie Skinner, Miss Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Bowman, the Misses Marney, Miss Haagblom, and Miss Auld (Refreshments); to Mr. Frederick Flowers (for designing notices), and to all who made our Fair a success.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League was held at 144, High Holborn, on Saturday, November 16th, those present being Mrs. Bigland, Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), Mrs. MacLeod Easson (Edinburgh), Dr. Marion Mackenzie (Leeds), Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Miss Reeves, Mrs. Zangwill, the Hon. Treasurer, and the Secretary. In the absence of Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Mrs. Schofield Coates was voted to the Chair.

Amongst the correspondence read to the Committee was a letter from Miss Agnes Macphail, M.P. (Canada), who promised to come and speak for the Women's Freedom League when she next came to England, another from Mrs. Gunasekera, telling us that she has been going about Ceylon with other members of the Women's Franchise Union, holding meetings in support of women's enfranchisement; and that the women there are doing a great deal of social and political work. Mrs. Gunasekera also hopes to come to England again at some future date, and we shall look forward with the greatest pleasure to welcoming her amongst us.

Reports were read, considered, discussed, and adopted from the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary (Mrs. Whetton), the Secretary, and from the Political and Literature Departments. Dr. Knight reported that we had a great many goods left over from the "Fair," and that "Little Sales" were being arranged in London, so that there will be further opportunities for our members and friends to purchase Christmas presents.

Mrs. Whetton's report showed that our organisers had been very active in the North-East Counties, the South-Eastern district, and in London. Mrs. Zangwill has recently addressed meetings arranged by our Bradford, Darlington, Gateshead, Leeds, Middlesbrough, Edinburgh, and Glasgow Branches, and the Committee accorded her its most grateful thanks.

Miss M. I. NEAL, who, at very short notice, had most kindly represented the Women's Freedom League at the annual meetings of the National Council of Women, held in Manchester, reported to the Committee on the proceedings, and the Committee gave her its very warm thanks for this work. The Women's Freedom League has also been represented at the Conference on "Women in India," by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Dr. Knight, Mrs. Dexter, and Miss Reeves; at the National Union of Women Teachers' meeting on "Equal Pay," by Miss Underwood; at the meeting on the "Prevention of Maternal Mortality," by Dr. Knight; and at the Howard League for Penal Reform's annual meeting, by Miss Underwood. Dr. Knight had represented the Women's Freedom League on the

British Commonwealth League Committee; Miss Reeves, on the Women Peers Committee; and Miss Underwood, on the Equal Rights Committee.

The Women's Freedom League had been represented on two deputations to the Home Secretary on the subject of the Factories Bill—the first day by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and Miss Reeves—organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and the second day by Miss Reeves—organised by the Equal Rights Committee. On both deputations our representatives had dealt with weight-lifting and with work in lead processes, and they had urged that no restrictions should be placed on the work of women which were not also imposed on the work of men, but that the best conditions of work should be given to both men and women workers. The Committee gave its best thanks to both Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and Miss Reeves for so ably representing our League on these deputations.

Correspondence was reported with the Home Secretary in regard to the Licensing Commission, women police, women on the Prison Commission, women governors of women's prisons and women's sections of prisons, and women inspectors of prisons; with the Colonial Secretary and others in regard to the *mui tsai* system in Hong Kong; with the Attorney-General on the subject of women jurors; and with Captain Cazalet in regard to the Nationality of Married Women Bill.

A report of *The Fair* appears on another page, and the Committee unanimously sent Miss E. Berry its heartiest thanks for her indefatigable work for this Fair, and for making it such a success. The Committee expressed its high appreciation of her wonderful attention to all details and of her organising skill.

The date of the next meeting of the Committee was fixed as Saturday, February 1st, and the date of our next Annual Conference as Saturday, May 3rd.

MISS HOWARD CHRISTENS A BOAT.

The Mersey Paper Co., of Liverpool, Nova Scotia, have ordered from Messrs. Earle, of Hull, an oil-burning, twin-screw vessel of 4,100 tons capacity. This ship is being christened this week by Miss J. I. Howard, Acting Agent General for Nova Scotia; her name will be "Markland," the name given to Nova Scotia by the Vikings when they sailed down that coast at about the same period as the Norman Conquest of England. Her speed will be 11 knots, she will be equipped with a complete set of cargo-handling gear to eliminate dock-side cranes, and will be fitted up in the latest manner for carrying newsprint paper. She will be completed about the middle of December, and is destined for the North American trade from Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd, 1929.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telephone: HOLBORN 9301.

EDITORIAL.

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

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE CIVIL SERVICE.

This Commission, the Chairman of which is Lord Tomlin, and the women members the Duchess of Atholl, M.P., Mrs. Ayrton Gould, Mrs. Mary Hamilton, M.P., Mrs. Lowe, and Mrs. Wintringham, has been sitting at the House of Lords this week. Among the subjects brought forward were equal pay for men and women civil servants, equal chances of promotion for members of both sexes, and women's entry into the Diplomatic and Consular Services.

Sir Russell Scott, Controller of the Establishments Department of the Treasury, gave evidence. The *Times* reports that, dealing with the question of the employment of women in the Civil Service, Sir Russell Scott said he must confine himself to explaining the main facts of the situation. The Director of Women's Establishments would speak of the subject in detail with greater authority.

Lord Tomlin asked what, if any distinction, on the ground of sex was made in the Civil Service.

Sir Russell Scott said there was no distinction in the matter of promotion where men and women were doing the same work. That was particularly the case in the administrative class. There was no distinction of sex in going up the ladder of promotion.

On the subject of differences in pay, Sir Russell Scott said that information gathered from outside occupations showed that in general women were paid less than men. Estimates on three bases had been made of the cost of introducing equal pay for men and women in the Civil Service. In each case he had taken into account merely the existing number of women in the Service. To give women now receiving less than the minimum of the men's scale, the men's minimum, would cost approximately 1½ million pounds a year. Taking the mean of the women's scale and the mean of the men's scale, the cost would be approximately £2,700,000. Applying the calculation to the maximum of the men's and women's scales, the cost would be approximately £3,700,000. Allowance was made in each case for sympathetic increases in pay which would have to be given to women employed on work which was now reserved for women.

In reply to Sir P. Jackson, Sir Russell Scott said regard must be had to two facts which tended to depreciate the value of women's work. One reason was that women retired from work on marriage, and did not make the public service their lifetime work, so that the value of accumulated experience was lost. The second reason was that we had not yet passed the age of prejudice, and there was still to some extent a prejudice on the part of men in the matter of doing business with women. The equalization of pay was a question of high policy with which he could not deal, but from the administrative point of view the only objection he saw was that the result of equalization might be to bring into the public service women too good for their work.

Lord Tomlin.—I am not sure whether I follow that. Sir Russell Scott said he thought that in any employment it was right that people should be recruited to that employment who were not ill-equipped and not too

heavily endowed for it. It would be a mistake from the administrative point of view if the rate of pay for the grade of writing assistant, for instance, were so fixed as to attract people of higher qualifications than the work required.

Lord Tomlin said that seemed to be based on this reasoning: That, having regard to general economic factors, if they raised the rates of pay for women in the Civil Service in the manner indicated, women would be given a rate of pay in excess of their value from the general economic point of view.

Sir Russell Scott agreed.

Answering questions by the Duchess of Atholl, Sir Russell Scott said that generally speaking the door was now wide open to the admission of women to all departments of the public service.

The Duchess of Atholl.—And is being entered in an increasing stream?

Sir Russell Scott.—According to the abilities of the candidates.

Mr. Goldstone asked in what department there was any considerable number of women in the administrative class.

Sir Russell Scott.—According to the abilities of the at present in the administrative class, in which there were 1,100 posts, but women were not eligible until four years ago.

Mr. R. S. Meiklejohn, a Civil Service Commissioner, gave evidence. Mrs. Mary Hamilton, M.P., asked what his view was in regard to the admission of women to the Diplomatic and Consular Services. Mr. Meiklejohn said he thought, as things were, they should be excluded. He did not think other countries, any more than this country, would like to have women Ministers and Ambassadors. Really, however, he thought he should not express an opinion.

In a memorandum submitted on behalf of the staff side of the National Whitley Council, it was stated that there should be equal pay for men and women in the Civil Service; that the House of Commons passed a resolution in August, 1921, that, while the House could not commit itself to the increase in Civil Service salaries involved in the payment of women in all cases at the same rate as men, the question of the remuneration of women as compared with men should be reviewed within a period not exceeding three years. That resolution had not yet been made effective, and it should be applied immediately.

Evidence on behalf of the staff side of the National Whitley Council was given by Mr. W. E. Llewellyn (Admiralty), Chairman of the staff side and Vice-Chairman of the National Whitley Council; Mr. J. W. Bowen, M.P., Vice-Chairman of the staff side and Secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers; Mr. George Chase (Admiralty), and Mr. A. C. Winyard (Post Office), Secretaries of the staff side.

Mr. W. E. Llewellyn was asked by the Duchess of Atholl what was the opinion of the witnesses representing the staff side as to the employment of women in the Diplomatic Service. Mr. Llewellyn said they had no particular view on the subject. They quite appreciated that in an international service it must be very difficult for one country to introduce something substantially different from the system of other countries.

The next sitting for the hearing of evidence will be held on Monday, December 9th.

JUMBLE SALE.

After the Fair the Jumble. Please collect all old garments, carpets, utensils, etc., and I will turn them into money for the League.

Miss Hoc is again most kindly organising the sale for us. Please send goods to the office at any time, or on December 2nd to the Quest, 85, Clarendon Road, W.11.

With gratitude for all contributions.

E. KNIGHT.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Local Government Act (Assistance Committees).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Minister of Health how many county and county borough councils, in the preparation of schemes under the Local Government Act, 1929, setting up Public Assistance Committees, intend to co-opt persons who were members of boards of guardians, and how many propose to co-opt up to one-third of their total number, as authorised by Section 6 of the Act, and whether he will give the names of those authorities which have decided not to co-opt at all? Miss LAWRENCE (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): My right hon. Friend has no figures which will enable him to answer the first part of the question. Forty-two schemes submitted by county councils, and fifty-two submitted by county borough councils, provide for a co-option of additional members to the Public Assistance Committee, and of these eighteen and twenty-four respectively provide for co-option up to one-third. My right hon. Friend will send the noble Lady a list of the councils who have decided not to co-opt at all.

Army Schools, India (Schoolmistress).

MISS RATHBONE (Ind., English Universities) asked the Secretary of State for War if he will state, with regard to the civilian schoolmistresses who have been recruited for temporary service in the Army schools in India, why such schoolmistresses are being graded as of lower status than nursing sisters; and, as a number of civilian schoolmistresses have withdrawn their applications for temporary Army service when they have learned the conditions under which they will be required to serve, will he say what action he proposes to take in the matter? Mr. SHAW: These ladies temporarily fill vacancies for Queen's Army schoolmistresses, and therefore are subject to the conditions applicable to those permanently appointed. The conditions attaching to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service do not apply. The conditions of service are under consideration at the present moment.

Married Women Teachers.

CAPTAIN P. MACDONALD (U., Isle of Wight) asked the President of the Board of Education whether, in view of paragraph 10 of Circular No. 1,404, he proposes to bring pressure to bear on local authorities to rescind or modify regulations forbidding the employment of married women as teachers? Mr. MORGAN JONES (Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Education): My right hon. Friend has already advised the local education authorities to take into consideration their future requirements before discharging married women teachers, and I have no reason to think that they will fail to take this advice.

Work Schemes (Women).

VISCOUNT WOLMER (U., Aldershot) asked the Lord Privy Seal how many women it is estimated will find employment under the schemes he has recently announced? Mr. J. H. THOMAS: In view of the nature of the trades in which such unemployment as exists among women is found, the benefit which they derive from works instituted with Government assistance must necessarily be in the main through increased employment indirectly resulting from such works. In these circumstances no estimate of the numbers affected is possible.

VISCOUNT WOLMER: Does the right hon. Gentleman mean to say that in his plans he has not considered trying to give employment to any definite number of women?

Mr. J. JONES (Lab., Silvertown): Can my right hon. Friend say how many old women have found an opportunity of debating unemployment?

Mr. THOMAS: I have no knowledge of the number. In answer to the first supplementary question, it is not true to say no work is contemplated. The answer clearly points out that it must be through increased employment indirectly.

VISCOUNT WOLMER: The right hon. Gentleman has no idea of the number?

Mr. THOMAS: To give any specific number would be misleading.

SIR GEORGE PENNY (U., Kingston-upon-Thames): How many will be directly employed? Mr. THOMAS: I have already indicated that. I cannot give the number, but it is bound to be more than under your Government.

Widows', Orphans, and Old Age Pensions Bill.

This Bill received a Third Reading without a Division in the House of Commons last Monday.

THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL'S BILL.

Last week, the DUCHESS OF ATHOLL (U., Kinross and West Perth) sought leave to introduce the Illegitimate Children (Scotland) Bill, to amend the law as to the duration and recovery of aliment for, and the custody of, illegitimate children in Scotland.

She explained that the Bill was to remove some of the disabilities under which the unmarried mother and her child suffered in Scotland. It provided for ensuring the custody of the child by the mother when she came to seek a renewal of aliment at the age of seven in the case of a boy, and ten in the case of a girl. It also provided that the aliment should be ensured until the child had reached the age of sixteen. Under Scottish law, both parents were responsible for the maintenance of the child in equal proportions, and the father was rarely liable for more than 4s. 6d. per week for the child's maintenance; but it was proposed in this Bill to provide that where a father was of substantial means, his contribution should be in accordance with his circumstances. Another clause gave power to the unmarried mother to make application within three months of her confinement for aliment and allowance to cover expenses of her confinement. Another provision was for the payment of aliment through a third person rather than direct by the father.

The Duchess of Atholl said that the present state of the law in Scotland was very far behind what public opinion felt to be desirable, or fair, or just, and she asked for this Bill to be accepted as a tardy act of justice. Leave was granted, and the Bill was read a first time.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

We greatly regret that there was no time last Friday afternoon to discuss the Bill presented by Captain Cazalet (U., Chippenham), to allow women marrying foreigners freedom to retain their nationality. The Annual Holiday Bill, presented by Mr. Ernest Winter-ton (Lab., Loughborough), which proposed that every employed person should have an annual holiday, with pay, of at least eight clear days, and which secured a Second Reading, was taken first and occupied all the time available. We sincerely hope that time will be found for the Nationality of Married Women Bill, and that the Government itself will move in the matter and ensure that women, whether married or unmarried, shall have the same right as men to retain or change their nationality.

The Memorandum accompanying Captain Cazalet's Bill states that by the common law the nationality of a woman was not affected by her marriage. If a British woman subject married an alien she remained British. If an alien woman married a British subject she remained an alien. By an Act of 1844 an alien woman on marrying a British subject became a British subject. By the Naturalisation Act, 1870, a British woman for the first time in British history on marrying an alien lost her nationality and became an alien; and these provisions were continued in the British Nationality and Statute of Aliens Act, 1914.

The present Bill restores to a British woman the right lost in 1870 of retaining her British nationality on

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