

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

THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO. LTD., 62 OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W. 1.

VOL. XIV. No. 18.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1922.

PRICE 3D.

Registered as a Newspaper.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION AT HOME AND ABROAD, 17s. 4d. POST FREE.

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NOTES AND NEWS

Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill.

It is gratifying to be able to report that this Bill passed its second reading without a division, and we should like to offer congratulations both to the supporters of the Bill in Parliament, and to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the promoters of the Bill. The debate was curiously one-sided. After an able opening speech by Sir Robert Newman, who introduced the Bill, Mrs. Wintringham followed with a speech which, in many quarters, has been referred to as the most excellent and impressive speech she has yet made. These two speakers outlined very vividly the unhappy situation both of husbands and wives, under the present law with regard to separation, and showed very clearly how they would be relieved to a very great extent under the new Bill. They both drew attention to the fact that if the clause was carried providing for a Maintenance Order being given without a Separation Order, many homes would be kept together in circumstances in which now they have necessarily to be broken up. Literally, the only opposition came from Sir Frederick Banbury, who, in a long speech, only succeeded in putting many extravagant interpretations on various points in the Bill. Speaker after speaker discounted Sir Frederick's objections on the ground that he opposed all Private Members' Bills on principle, with the one exception of the Protection of Dogs Bill—his own. Sir John Baird, speaking on behalf of the Government, pointed out that "with the general object of the Bill the majority of Members who were in the House were certainly in sympathy." He added that there was also "absolute unanimity as to the necessity of repealing the section in the 1895 Act, which obliges a woman to leave her husband before she can claim a Separation Order." There were, however, many clauses in the Bill which would require careful examination in Committee, but he hoped that it would pass its second reading in order that it might proceed to its Committee stage. So far, so good. It will now be up to the supporters of the Bill to see that it does not emerge from its Committee stage in too emasculated a form, and that the Government should be induced to give time for its further stages this session. If this is not done, we fear that there will not be very many Bills affecting the interests of women to be placed to the Government's record.

Guardianship, Maintenance, Custody, and Marriage of Infants Bill.

On Tuesday, 23rd May, a small conference was held in the House of Commons on this Bill. Among those present were the Home Secretary, the Minister of Health, the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, Sir James Craig, who introduced the Bill into the House of Commons last session, Lord Askwith, who introduced it into the House of Lords this session, and representatives of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. The Attorney-General, speaking on behalf of the Government, stated that negotiations between him and the supporters of the Bill in order to effect an agreed measure, had not been successful. The Bill, however, did contain in the view of the Government a great many points which required further elucidation. The Government, therefore, proposed that, if the supporters of the Bill should agree, a Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament should be appointed, which should have power to take evidence. In view of the fact that without the Government's support the Bill would have no chance of becoming law this session, the supporters of the Bill were prepared to accept this offer. As there will most certainly be some delay in the drawing up of the report by the committee, there will be no chance of the Bill becoming law this session; the great pity is, not that the Select Committee should be appointed now, but that, as the Government must have been aware all the time of the many difficult legal points raised, the Joint Committee was not appointed a year ago. It is, however, a matter of congratulation that a very much reduced Bill has not been forced upon the House without further negotiations with its supporters.

Adoption of Children Bill.

A Bill "to make further provision for the adoption of children by suitable persons", was read a first time last week. It was presented by Mr. Reginald Nicholson, and supported by Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Inskip, and Sir Robert Newman.

Doctrine of the Presumption of Coercion.

The Commission appointed by the Lord Chancellor, presided over by Mr. Justice Avery, to inquire into the above doctrine has

reported in favour of abolishing the doctrine of the presumption of coercion by a husband in regard to the acts of his wife. It should be noted, however, that although considerable attention has been drawn to the doctrine on account of recent cases which have been before the Courts, at the same time with respect to the most serious of crimes, murder, treason, and, according to some lawyers, robbery, and also in all cases of misdemeanour, no presumption of coercion exists at present. Readers will remember that Lady Astor's Married Women (Presumption of Coercion Removal) Bill, which is awaiting its second reading, provides that whereas the presumption of coercion for all crimes should be removed, as recommended by the Commission—where evidence of such coercion exists it should be brought forward as a defence for the wife. This is only reasonable, in view of the fact that there are undoubtedly many cases in which real coercion is exercised. What is insulting to married women under the present law is that presumption should exist without the proof, and that, as in the case of the Hon. Mrs. Peel, a wife is not able to prove whether she is or is not guilty.

The Status of Married Women.

Mr. Hinds asked the Home Secretary last week whether, in view of the unsatisfactory position of the law in regard to the contracts of married women, legislation would be introduced to deal with the matter. The answer, as usual, was unsatisfactory. Sir John Baird, who replied, said he could not hold out any prospect of immediate legislation on this subject.

Seniority Lists.

Mr. Rendall returned to the subject of common seniority lists last week and asked if the Government intends to abolish the separate establishment lists for men and women, so that vacancies shall be filled by the most efficient officer, irrespective of sex. "If so," Mr. Rendall continued, "why have women been removed from branches where they have been for some years working side by side with men, and why has the segregation of the sexes, which in many departments had been abandoned during the war, been reintroduced as a result of reorganization?" Mr. Young referred to the committee which is being appointed to report on common seniority lists, and added vaguely that Mr. Rendall's question "raised matters referring to the detailed organization of the various departments." "Speaking generally," he added "I should not regard the modification of special temporary arrangements adopted during the war period as in any way prejudicing the position." No one, of course, believes this, least of all Mr. Young himself.

The Probation of Offenders Act.

Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck drew the Home Secretary's attention to the statement contained in the report of the Departmental Committee on Probation Officers, that, out of 1,034 courts of summary jurisdiction in England and Wales, there are still, fourteen years after the Act was passed, no less than 215 courts without a probation officer. Mr. Shortt replied that the appointment of probation officers rests with the magistrates. The Home Office has on several occasions drawn their attention to the desirability of releasing offenders on probation in all suitable cases, and urged the appointment of probation officers. Mr. Shortt hoped that the Advisory Committee, which, in accordance with the recommendation in the report it is proposed to appoint, will be able to assist greatly in the development of the probation system in this country. We wish he would stop hoping and do something definite.

The Child Murder Trial Bill.

The House of Lords went into Committee on the Child Murder Trial Bill, when the Lord Chancellor moved an amendment, which was eventually agreed to. He proposed to amend clause one so as to make it clear that "where a woman unlawfully by any direct means intentionally caused the death of her newly born child, but at the time when she so caused its death she had not fully recovered from the effect of giving birth to the child, and by reason thereof the balance of her mind was then disturbed, she should be guilty of felony, or infanticide, and might be punished as if the offence were manslaughter."

Commander Haslewood.

We are glad that Mr. Amery's replies in the House last week showed that the treatment of Commander Haslewood has been

less bad than had been supposed, although it was nothing to congratulate ourselves about. According to Mr. Amery, the facts were that the Governor asked the naval authorities at Hong Kong "to induce Commander Haslewood to restrain his wife from propaganda which, in the opinion of the Governor, was being conducted on injudicious lines." Mrs. Haslewood's efforts, as our readers will remember, were to secure the abolition of the system of Mui Tsai. Commander Haslewood very courageously refused to restrain his wife, although, obviously, he must have realized that he was incurring the displeasure of his official chiefs. He was not, according to Mr. Amery, dismissed. It just happened that his temporary appointment was near an end, and, owing to his wife's illness, he was allowed leave to return to England. In view of the fact that Mrs. Haslewood's actions have now been officially followed, and that the goal for which she strove has been attained, we feel that an official apology is necessary, although we doubt whether it will be made.

Nurses in India.

Lady Reading is always trying to improve the conditions of health and nursing in India, and her last act is generous and thoughtful. Nursing sisters are often unable to take their leave in the hills because accommodation is so expensive, and Lady Reading has given one of the bungalows on the Viceregal estate at Simla to the Minto Association for the season, and the nurses will be able to have a holiday at a very moderate expense. People who know the intense relief of the "Hills" after a few months of the hot weather season in the Plains, will congratulate the nurses on their good fortune.

Women and the Law in Germany.

It is announced that a draft Bill for the admission of women to the legal profession in Germany has been approved by a committee of the Federal Council by thirty-eight votes to twenty-five. The Bill provides for the admission of women not only to judge-ships, but also to legal professions in general, such as those of public prosecutor, solicitor, barrister, notary, bailiff, clerk of the court, etc.

Continuation Schools.

Mr. Fisher has given way once more. The L.C.C. deputation was told by Mr. Fisher that he felt he had no option but to ask Parliament to relieve them of the obligation to carry on the continuation schools. This will involve legislation, and we shall probably be edified by seeing Mr. Fisher urging Parliament to repeal "the most important clause", as he himself called it, of his 1918 Act. It is hardly necessary to comment on this.

American Women Teachers.

The discriminations against women teachers in colleges and universities are being investigated by a committee of men and women college professors, acting for the American Association of University Professors. No professorship of the first class has been given to any woman in colleges for men only, while 45 per cent. of the total in colleges for women only are filled by men. Of the professorships of all ranks in colleges for women only, men hold 198, or 32 per cent., while in colleges for men only women have only two professorships of any rank out of a total number of 2,000. In the co-educational colleges and universities of the country, where 31 per cent. of the students are women, women hold exactly 4 per cent. of the full professorships, 7.9 per cent. of all professorships, and 23.5 per cent. of the instructorships. Of these women 73 per cent. in the women's colleges and 53 per cent. in the co-educational institutions receive equal pay with men professors. Those who are given less salary and lower rank than men have a difference in salary ranging from 10 to 50 per cent., with an average of 18 per cent. The Committee is demanding equal pay for equal work, and for an improvement in the opportunities for women.

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.

THREE CONFERENCES.

Voluntary societies organized for political or social purposes are very numerous in Great Britain, and they have played, and continue to play, an important part in our public life. The readers of this paper are, of course, familiar with them and with their methods of organization. Those who took part in the constitutional suffrage movement have been thoroughly well drilled in the technique of conferences and annual meetings, agendas, resolutions, and amendments, and all the paraphernalia which go to safeguard the democratic character of such bodies.

During the past week three of the important ones in which women are interested have been holding their annual meetings in London, and delegates from all parts of the country have been meeting to discuss the affairs of their own societies.

The National Women's Liberal Federation, which met under the presidency of the Viscountess Cowdray, is one of the largest and most important of the women's political bodies in the country, and its discussions, which ranged, of course, over the whole political programme of the Independent Liberal Party, showed what a very high level of knowledge and sagacity the women voters nowadays possess. Women candidates for Parliament were there, and Mrs. Wintringham—their own M.P.—and the whole gathering, in its businesslike determination, was an evidence that women are now taking part in the inner councils of their own political parties, and also that the wildest dreams of the early feminists were not wild at all.

The second annual meeting of the week was that of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, which is one of the most remarkable of the social developments which have taken place since the war. To this conference there came two thousand delegates, representing hundreds of thousands of the women who are scattered over the little villages of the countryside, and who are, through their institutes, coming into touch, not only with each other, but also with the movements of the day. The institutes are strictly non-party, but they do not shut out from their deliberations those non-party questions of social reform in which women are particularly interested. Women Police, Equal Guardianship, the Separation and Maintenance Orders, and all those other questions which are actually under consideration in Parliament were debated, and the quarter of a million organized village women expressed themselves upon them with no uncertain voice. It is not only by the decisions of their councils, however, that these institutes are having their effect upon politics; they are rousing to life and calling out the latent energies of women voters, and by so doing they are giving an impetus to every other kind of social and political activity on the part of their members.

The third annual meeting was that of the League of Nations Union, a society composed of men as well as women, and one which, like the Institutes, is in the midst of a process of very rapid expansion. This meeting was different from the other two, chiefly because it dealt exclusively with foreign affairs—as, of course, it was bound from its objects to do. The discussion of foreign affairs in a democratic assembly is as difficult as is the conduct of diplomacy by conference. It is, however, only by overcoming the difficulty that the future government of the world can be carried on, and this Union, by accustoming people to the process, and by spreading about, as it does, the knowledge necessary for its comprehension, is doing practical work over and above its regular propaganda for the League of Nations.

While these three gatherings were being held, and while the local delegates were discussing the affairs of their national organizations, the representatives of the Government were defending in Parliament their recent Genoa Conference. There is no possible parallel between the meetings of plenipotentiaries and the meetings of local delegates to a non-party society, and even if there were, comparisons are odious; but we may say this, that the more successful and widespread the work of voluntary societies becomes in all countries, the better able will their governments be to confer with each other. Educated democracy can treat with educated democracy, and the work of voluntary societies is political education.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

When the trouble with the school teachers had been settled on Monday, 22nd May, the House got through a good many small Bills, none of which call for particular comment; in fact, the whole political situation was at a standstill in expectation of Mr. Lloyd George's statement on the following Thursday. Thus, on Tuesday, 23rd May, the Navy Estimates excited only a moderate amount of interest. Speeches were made which, without disrespect to the speakers, have been heard before, and the official replies of Ministers did not travel outside the well-worn ritual. In the evening, however, as has happened before, a private Bill excited considerable tumult. The Grampian Electricity Bill is a scheme for impounding various rivers and lakes in the Scotch Highlands and turning the water power into electricity. Whatever the merits of the scheme itself may be, and these did not escape censure, strong exception was taken to the fact that the Government, which means the taxpayer, is guaranteeing two million pounds of the capital. The Bill was carried. In support of it there voted all the Scotch Members, who want to see two million pounds spent in Scotland, and most of the Labour Members, who favour expenditure anywhere; but the argument probably went the other way and the undertaking emerged in a somewhat battered condition.

On Wednesday, 23rd May, the Electricity Supply Bill, a Bill which applies to the whole country, and is not to be confused with the Grampian Bill, passed Second Reading without a division. This Bill also has not escaped criticism, but probably it will go through. It represents the dealing of the Government with the problem of power, and on the whole it is acceptable to the House. Then the National Health Insurance Bill was discussed, and not passed, and finally in the evening Mr. Hailwood asked Members to abandon the gold standard of currency at any rate for home purposes. As may be imagined, he did not persuade the House to adopt so revolutionary a proceeding, and the motion was talked out.

On Thursday, 25th May, came the much-expected debate on Genoa. Yielding to a request which was not confined to the Opposition Benches, Mr. Lloyd George spoke first, reserving himself a right of reply. His speech lasted an hour and forty minutes, of which the first hour was descriptive, and, it must be added, dull, whilst the last forty minutes were vivacious and combative. The upshot left in the ordinary Member's mind is this. Genoa has produced nothing. We have not persuaded the world to disarm, nor have we got an agreement with Russia. Indeed, neither of these two goals has advanced much nearer. But, allowing for all this, it has been immeasurably better that Genoa should be held than that it should not. Something at the very least has been done to clear the ground. Furthermore, it was necessary to hold the Conference; for until you did so you could not meet the argument that you might have got something had it been held. And, lastly, the ordinary man is struck by the courage and resourcefulness of the Prime Minister. This came out in the debate. If his first speech was pitched in a low key, he made up for it in his reply, in which he really demolished both Mr. Asquith and Lord Robert Cecil. So much was this the case that the official Opposition did not divide. The Die-Hards, however, refused to be wise and forced a division; and could only muster 26.

On Friday, 26th May, two very useful Bills, introduced by Sir Robert Newman, were considered, of which the first passed second reading. This, the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill, long overdue, will probably become law. The second, the Guardianship of Infants Bill, is the same as previous measures, and its prospects are more doubtful.

The House will almost certainly rise on Tuesday, the 30th May, and meets again in the following Monday week, 12th June.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—Ed.]

THE ITALIAN "POPULAR PARTY".

By FERNANDE SALVEMINI.

The Italian "Popular Party" was formed towards the end of January, 1919. After the November elections, that is to say, hardly ten months after its inauguration, it had 102 seats in Parliament, which it succeeded in holding in the subsequent election of May, 1921. To-day one cannot open an Italian newspaper, or read about Italian politics in the foreign Press, without being struck by the important part this young party is playing in every problem of home politics, and in all Parliamentary actions.

How is this rapid success to be explained?

The Popular Party did not appear out of the void. Actually, if not in name, a Catholic party, it was preceded in Italy by a series of catholic organizations, which date back to the first years of the Unification of Italy. But these organizations were strictly sectarian, and under the control of the church authorities, while the existing Party was immediately acknowledged by the Vatican as autonomous and free from the control of the authorities. In order to become a political party it declared itself non-sectarian, and open to everyone, irrespective of religion, who embraced its programme.

Although it is non-sectarian, it nevertheless retains the support of the secular catholic organizations, and from its inception it appeared a safe port in the storm to one section of the Italian bourgeoisie, who were terrorized by the revolutionary upheavals of the post-war period. Ready to make many concessions in order to escape the eventual inevitable crash, they straightway accepted the Party's "evangelical" programme, which was singularly daring with regard to social reforms, and in its declarations of justice and solidarity. The Party evinced little fear of the various Bolshevik incidents which characterized the electoral campaigns of several of its candidates, and promised everything which it could reasonably support of the "red" propaganda, in order to attract into its organization the mass of discontented folk, who were dismayed by the novel experiences of the war and the disillusion of the peace.

That does not necessarily mean that the Popular Party declared itself anti-capitalist, antagonistic to property, or in favour of the dictatorship of the proletariat. But it did declare itself in favour of the "proportional distribution of profits" between capital and labour. It declares that the capitalists "must accept this principle, for there is no other way of ending the fratricidal struggle between capital and labour"; it demands that the workers should have the right not only to become shareholders, but to share in the administrative control of industry. On the agricultural question, which is so serious and so complex in Italy, it extols a system of profit-sharing, which reduces landed property for the landowner to nothing more than a sort of investment at interest, practically equivalent to a bank deposit, and reserves all the profits resulting from production for the workers. The Party also supports the peasants in their demand for security of tenure, and in their policy of forced expropriation which will enable them to acquire the land they have cultivated, even in spite of the landowner's protests. This was the origin of that magical phrase, too often misunderstood, and unfortunately somewhat illusory, "*la terra ai contadini*" ("the land for the peasants"), which created such excitement, and which has, alas, been exploited by those who, profiting by the ambiguity, did not always endeavour to dissipate it. But it is obvious that the Popular Party pays a great deal of attention to the land problem. "The demands for land," says a little Popular Party propagandist pamphlet, "are not artificial . . . they voice the definite, clear, inflexible desire of the workers. If the Government ignores its duty as a legislator, it must expect the people to take the legislative reins into their own hands . . . the right of private property has never been absolute, only relative . . ." Is it not natural that in view of such statements of its policy the Party attracted the people? Up till then only socialism had spoken like that. But socialism, in open warfare with society and the church, did not offer all the guarantees, as well as all the advantages, which the new Party offered. Socialism was unpopular, it troubled the consciences of the women, it had to face a thousand obstacles, and it had not at its back the social and economic forces on which the new party could rely. The people realized all this; and the aristocracy and bourgeoisie knew well, that, however bold its social programme was, the Popular Party, in which the Catholics

were numerically strong, would remain an order-loving party, respecting the hierarchies, and capable of inculcating this respect in others if necessary.

Turning from the economic to the social and moral programme of the Popular Party, we find it supports the integrity of family life, with a fierce opposition to the law of divorce. It is claimed that this opposition is based, not on the indissolubility of church marriages (an argument which would carry weight only with catholics, and the Party is non-sectarian), but on all the ordinary secular theories which are raised in opposition to divorce. The Party advocates very specially the principle of educational freedom, apparently in its support of Common Rights, but actually probably in order to favour the private Catholic schools whose free development has hitherto been hindered by the special privileges reserved for the Government schools. According to the Popular Party these privileges should be replaced by the equal treatment of all schools, private and public, whose teachers should be paid, without discrimination, by the State, although chosen, in the case of the private schools, without State interference, and allowed to decide upon their own methods and the books needed to reach the standard set up for all alike. This problem of educational freedom, which is being discussed in all circles in Italy, is one which Parliament must soon tackle, and the growing power of the Popular Party will probably greatly influence the decision taken on this question, as well as on the question of the divorce law.

In its views on the family and education, therefore, that is to say on the upbringing and training of the future generation, the Party is conservative. This pleases the bourgeois classes, and does not alienate the industrial and agricultural classes, who do not appreciate the moral value of individual freedom as long as the economic programme is settled to their liking.

One of the great assets of the Popular Party, including as it does a good deal of secular Catholic perspicacity, is its wonderful knowledge of the conditions of the ground in which it works and of the art of making it fruitful. It knows how to resist and yet seem to give in, it knows how to get something from every new development which will guarantee its own permanence, and forward the causes in which it believes. Now, one of the new factors in social and political affairs is the emancipation of women. To-day either in competition or in co-operation, with men, women are to be reckoned with, and with this indisputable fact new problems of Rights have arisen. The Popular Party practically alone amongst the existing political parties, immediately realized the importance and potential value of this new factor. Not only did it open all its doors wide to women, admit them with the same rights and duties as men to all sections and even to the departmental and national councils of the Party—not only does it place women's franchise amongst the foremost items on its programme, but above all it pays greater attention to the organization of women than any other party, which proves the importance it attaches to them. In supporting the political enfranchisement of women, the Party also supports the reforms for which women are working, such as the declaration of paternity, equal guardianship, equal pay for equal work, and the right of working women to dispose of their own salaries, etc.

A considerable number of women—probably several tens of thousands, are attached to the Popular Party, either through their sectarian organizations (like the "Catholic Women") or through their professional unions (like the "Needleworkers") or through the "Confédération blanche du Travail". Definite statistics are not available, but there is a significant, if indirect, testimony to the Party in a report in the *Avanti* of 17th January. At the National Council of the Socialist Party, the socialist women, deploring the lack of action taken by their party in feminist matters, and anxiously impressed by the efficient and incessant action taken by the Popular Party, realized that *actually* they would consider the enfranchisement of Italian women disastrous to their cause.

What is the future of the Italian Popular Party?

Although it is so new it already has a history, and however united it appears, it nevertheless includes somewhat inconsistent elements; the Catholic aristocracy and bourgeoisie, and the sectarian organizations, on the right wing, the old Christian democracy, the young intellectuals, disgusted by the old parties,

GOAT-KEEPING FOR PROFIT.

As in the case of poultry, one must differentiate sharply between goat-farming as a "whole-time career" from which the entire income of the woman farmer is to be derived, and goat-keeping as a side line to the main occupation of the worker in the country. Were I asked which of the two I advised as a career I should unhesitatingly vote for the latter. The producer of pedigree stock with high milking records may make a most satisfactory addition to her income; but the initial outlay is very heavy, and at the present moment it is doubtful whether capital invested in this manner would bring in a satisfactory return.

Nevertheless, goat-keeping as a *side line* is an extremely profitable one; and, moreover, one of national importance in connexion with the whole milk question. That this is so has been recently recognized by the committee which the Government appointed to inquire into the subject of milk production and distribution. It is generally recognized that the average consumption of milk is very much lower than is desirable in the national health interest, in view of its great nutritive value; and paradoxical as it may seem at first sight, the consumption of milk in rural districts is lower than in the towns. The reason is not far to seek; in dairying districts the farmers send away their produce in bulk, supplying the great centres of population with certain contracted quantities; and in grazing districts the centres of milk production are often too far away from scattered hamlets to make collection and delivery a profitable business. Therefore, it often happens that tinned milk from the village shop is used as a substitute when country dwellers cannot obtain regular supplies of fresh milk from the local farmers. This is a serious state of affairs; and it is obvious that any increase of home production, even on the smallest scale, will help to improve the situation.

Now there are many reasons why a woman who has embarked upon a country career finds it inconvenient or even impossible to undertake cow-keeping; and here is where the humble goat proves an excellent substitute. The goat is easily housed and economically fed; it thrives on the roughest grass and is perfectly hardy. The relatively small size of the animal enables it to be housed under conditions which would be quite inadequate for the requirements of the cow.

In many a country homestead there are buildings which can be utilized for goat-keeping without any expenditure on the erection of special sheds. A spare loose-box or cow-byre, a disused cart-shed, are all adapted to the housing of a couple of goats, provided there is a dry floor, a weatherproof roof, sufficient thickness of walling to ensure reasonable warmth in winter, adequate ventilation, and room for comfort and cleanliness.

If it is necessary to build special goat-sheds, then a rough guide to the cubic space may be taken as follows: For two goats a shed 8 feet long, 5 feet wide, and 8 feet high, sloping to 6 feet, will be amply large enough. This space allows for the width of a manger with food-rack above and a passage-way at the rear, together with standing room for the animals. Stalled goats should not be allowed room to turn round, or it will be difficult to keep the stall clean. The cost of this initial outlay will vary with the price of timber and labour in different localities. Similarly, under present conditions, when prices of stock are varying from week to week so enormously, it is difficult to give exact figures for the purchase of goats. Good stock is essential; it is the poor milking qualities of the average goat which has hindered the progress of goat-keeping in Great Britain during the past. The British Goat Society has done excellent work in establishing a herd-book and raising the standard of milking strains; and there is a much greater possibility of getting hold of good stock to-day than was the case before registration and the keeping of milk records was established. It would be as well for women who intend to start a herd of goats to get into touch with the Secretary of the Society. On the other hand, while good stock is essential, very highly bred animals with "show points" are not necessarily the best for all beginners, and price is not an essential criterion of quality.

It is possible to get good *average* animals at a price of £5 or £6; whilst £10 or £12 will be asked for goats of guaranteed milking strains. Thus the initial outlay is not too heavy, and with sound average animals as a beginning the goat-keeper who intends to breed may hope for success from the start. A guaranteed minimum of two quarts a day at kidding-time is commonly regarded as essential by the purchaser of new stock.

repelled by State socialism, but nevertheless fiercely democratic, the trade unions, and, what is very important, the majority of the low church clergy, on the left. The "right" is represented in great numbers, and especially by women, but the "left" is politically more important, and the present head of the Party, the well-known Don Sturzo, rather favours it. If the dualism which is the result of two such very different forces does not end in shattering the unity of the Party, and if the new Pope's attitude towards it is as broad-minded and conciliatory as was that of Benoit XV, and that there is no special difficulty from that quarter, everything makes one believe that the Popular Party will play a leading rôle in Italy, and will retain its lead until another party can bring the same sense of continuity, the same realization of opportunities, and the same energy to fight for its interests and its convictions.

PALE FACES.

Have you ever waited on the suburban platform of one of London's great stations in the evening? If you have so waited, the pale faces of the many girls, who crowd and squeeze into stuffy and over-full compartments, would have made some impression on your mind.

These pale faces have been earned, with a salary, in offices. The average business hours are from 9.30 until 6. Long hours and the best. Under the stress of modern conditions we recognize the necessity for the potential mothers of the race to lead sedentary and indoor lives.

But living and working under a roof all day and every day need not mean practically a total loss of fresh air. That it does mean this is proved by the conditions and arrangements of some offices.

One office, in a narrow street not far from Fleet Street, has a large room in the basement. The window is the usual cellar one, and has no opening. The electric light is on the whole time. Where is the ventilation? Another office, also a basement, has one room with large windows of ground glass; and iron bars are fixed inside. This window looks into a small yard, at the other side of which is a wall about 60 feet high. This wall supports some railway arches. The window can be opened here, but it is not very much used because the yard is frequently needed for some work which requires the use of acetylene gas. When the window is opened this gas comes into the room in waves; so the window is shut. Thus there is no ventilation. Six people overcrowd the room. Three usually work there, but on occasions six have managed to squeeze in for hours at a time. To add to the general unhealthiness the warmth in winter is supplied by an old, leaky gas-stove. The pipe for carrying off the fumes is not sufficiently large. By sitting right underneath the window work can be done by daylight; otherwise the electric light is switched on.

To give yet another example, a wealthy stockbroker's office seems worth a little consideration. On the ground floor there is a long, narrow room, apparently a converted passage. The only windows are skylights. These have transoms, through which the air can come. But when opened, there is a steady and disagreeable draught. The result is that in cold weather they are closed, and the only ventilation is the fireplace. This is in an unswept condition, and consequently smells of soot.

Charwomen are employed, but like the domestic servant without a capable mistress, so are charwomen without supervision. A mere hurried step on the rug, or a dropped book, raises clouds of dust. The walls are distempered, but not varnished; a film of dust can be seen all over them. Little imagination is needed to realize that there is always a musty smell, and that the general condition of the room is germ-breeding.

A transom, on a level with the pavement, is a common system of ventilation. Unfortunately dust, stirred by the feet of countless passers-by, drifts in. So the benefit of fresh air gained in this way is negligible.

Much might be done to ameliorate the conditions of the workers in offices. An initial expense, which would be more than repaid by brisker and more enthusiastic work, and some common sense would make a different thing of life between 9.30 and 6.

AMY LEIGH SHERWIN.

The cost of feeding goats to-day may be reckoned at a mean between 1s. and 1s. 9d. per head per week. This must of necessity be a rough estimate, as there are many methods of feeding goats economically yet well enough to keep them in sound health and profitable condition. In the summer months goats may be almost entirely kept by grazing and browsing, and from the end of May to the middle of August good quality grass is the best staple food for milk-production, with hay as a supplement. During the winter months hay and roots are the best foods, and as goats like variety, the changes may be rung on mangolds, swedes, carrots, parsnips, potatoes, cabbages, bran-mash, and cut green fodder when available. Goats need liberal feeding, but are fortunately able to thrive on many foods which could not be given to other stock—clover and dandelions, horse-chestnuts and acorns, hedge-trimmings and young nettles, are all relished by them! Valuable pedigree stock are apt to be delicate feeders, and are constantly requiring change of diet; thus they are more expensive to keep than the hardier animal, who will thrive contentedly on the rough grazing of roadside or meadow.

It cannot be said that at the present time there is a great demand for the sale of goats' milk, except for invalids and children; but the demand is gradually growing, and will continue to do so as its value is more generally known. In the past a certain prejudice has existed against goats' milk which cannot be justified when the goats are kept under sanitary con-

ditions. If goats are milked in a cleanly manner, the milk cooled immediately after milking and drunk while fresh, there is no difference in taste between goats' milk and cows' milk. The greater value of goats' milk lies in its greater richness, its easy digestibility, and the freedom of goats from tuberculosis. From a sanitary point of view the milk of the goat is more desirable than that of the cow; and the woman taking up goat-keeping as a profitable side line should endeavour to obtain a "connexion" for the sale of goats' milk to invalids and children. Goats' milk cheeses are also coming into demand, and this is a branch of work which could be very well extended. All the "fancy cheeses"—Double Bondon, Camembert, Pont L'Evêque, Gervais, Coulommier—are best when made from goats' milk, which is much richer in fat than cows' milk; and it would be well to take a special course in cheese-making at a County Council agricultural school, or at one of the women's agricultural colleges. In course of time a very profitable post order trade could be built up; and the woman goat farmer would find it more profitable to deal direct with one of the big stores than to sell to private customers. The Women's Farm and Garden Union (offices, 23 Park Road, Upper Baker Street, N.W. 1) will always give advice to women wishing to specialize in one or other of the many branches of agricultural and horticultural pursuits; and is also extremely helpful to women farmers seeking fresh markets for their goods.

E. C. DAVIES.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Offices: Evelyn House, 62 Oxford Street, London, W. 1. Telephone: Museum 6910.

SEPARATION AND MAINTENANCE ORDERS BILL.

We feel that we have scored a distinct triumph in the fact that the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill passed through its second reading without a division. It has been a somewhat difficult task to make constituents, and therefore their Members, realize the great need for this Bill. The result of the debate on Friday, the 26th, shows, however, that this task has been accomplished. Much remains to be done, but the Bill met with such a friendly reception that our hopes rise high. An account of the debate is given in another column.

SUMMER SCHOOL.

The following is the revised programme of lectures for the Summer School at St. Hilda's College, Oxford, to be held from 19th August to 2nd September, 1922:—

SECTION A—LEGISLATION AFFECTING WOMEN.—Lecturers: Miss Beaumont, Miss K. D. Courtney, Mrs. Hubback, Miss Macadam, Miss Picton Turbervill, O.B.E., Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Mrs. Stocks, Miss Helen Ward, and others.

SECTION B—THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.—Lecturers: Mr. W. Arnold Forster, Mr. Walter Layton, C.H., Mrs. Layton, Miss Ruth Fry, Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B., Miss Helen Ward, and others.

SECTION C—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.—(For women magistrates, see separate handbill.) Lecturers: Commandant Allen, O.B.E., Miss Grace Costins, Miss Margery Fry, J.P., Dr. Glover, Mr. J. Howard Moore, J.P., Miss Alison Neilans, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., Mr. C. Rankin, Mr. T. Mott Osborne, M. A. Spielman, Esq., and others.

SECTION D—LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION.—Lecturers: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Allan Bright, Mrs. Rackham, Mrs. Ross, and others.

SECTION E—THE ECONOMIC POSITION OF WOMEN.—(1) In the Home.—Lecturers: Mrs. Hubback, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., Mrs. Stocks, and others; (2) In the Labour Market.—Lecturers: Miss Reynard, Mrs. Stocks, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, and others.

SECTION F—PARLIAMENTARY AND ELECTION WORK.—Lecturers: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Macadam, and others.

FEES.—It has been found possible to reduce the fees as follows: The School fee for the full course will be £1 10s. to members of our affiliated societies, and £2 to others. Fees for one week: £1 to members, £1 5s. to non-members. The charge for board and lodging in the College is £3 10s. per week. A registration fee of 10s. must be paid at time of booking, which will be deducted from the fee for the course.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS PROCESSION AND DEMONSTRATION.

Members are reminded that the N.U.S.E.C. will be having its own platform at the League of Nations demonstration which

is to take place in Hyde Park on Saturday, 24th June, at 5 p.m., at which Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Miss Elizabeth Macadam, Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Mrs. Rackham, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, and others will speak.

The N.U.S.E.C. contingent will be moving under its own banners in the procession, which will start at 4 p.m. from the Thames Embankment. Mrs. Henry Fawcett, whom we welcome back from a most successful visit to Palestine, will, as last year, both sit on the platform and walk in the procession.

EQUAL FRANCHISE AND UNIVERSITY MEETINGS.

It is quite clear that women students are at last becoming interested in obtaining the vote on equal terms with men. An Equal Citizenship Society was started at Newnham College in the spring, and quite recently very successful meetings have been held at King's College, Strand, Bedford College, and at the London School of Economics, at which Lord Robert Cecil's Women's Enfranchisement Bill has been discussed, and resolutions in favour of it have been unanimously passed.

NEW PAMPHLET ON EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

The new pamphlet on "Equal Pay for Equal Work" is now ready for sale, and may be had on application to Headquarters, price 2d. each.

THE NEWPORT CONFERENCE.

The Newport W.C.A. is to be congratulated on a most successful and admirably organized Conference attended by Societies in the West of England and South Wales. A brief account of this Conference is given elsewhere. The speaking at the Conference was of a very high order, and the reports given by the representatives of the Societies represented indicated a great variety of interesting and useful work. Discussions of special interest took place on the question of Women Police and on Bolshevist propaganda. A resolution moved by Lady Procter-Beauchamp on the latter subject was withdrawn after a lively discussion, in which the South Wales Societies took an active part. An urgency resolution on the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill passed unanimously on Friday morning and a telegram was sent from the Conference to Sir Robert Newman—a West-Country Member—to reach him just before the debate on its second reading. The unique feature of the Conference was the civic recognition which it received. All the meetings were held in the Town Hall. The Mayoress, president of the Newport Society, presided at the opening session, and the delegates were entertained at a delightful reception given by the Mayor and Mayoress. The hospitality of the Newport Society and the well-planned arrangements all contributed to a very successful Conference.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

LABOUR WOMEN.

MADAM.—On page 135 of your issue of 26th May is a letter from Mrs. Stocks dealing with the votes on the Family Endowment report at the National Conference of Labour Women held at Leamington on 9th and 10th May. Your previous report was quite correct, and Mrs. Stocks is mistaken in thinking that the votes on her amendment were not counted. Her amendment was put and was defeated by 206 to 49. The whole report was then put and carried by 241 to 20. The daily papers were quite correct in their report on this matter, and I do not know how Mrs. Stocks could herself have been mistaken.

MARION PHILLIPS,
Chief Woman Officer, Labour Party.

THE WOMEN'S INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Women's Indian Association has just published its first annual report, and it deserves our congratulations for the work accomplished in that time. The most important work of the Association has been in the sphere of education. The extension of the period of education for married women has been achieved by the arrangement of courses of afternoon lectures and classes held by all the branches. Next in importance to the purely educational work has been the political. The chief officers of the Women's Indian Association were members of the All-India Women's Deputation to Mr. Montagu in December, 1917, when the first demand for the extension of the franchise to women in India was made. Since then the W.I.A. has identified itself with the cause of Woman Suffrage and the removal of sex disqualification for election to all the governing bodies. Its efforts were crowned with success in Madras and Bombay and qualified women will be entitled to vote for the next General Election of Councillors in these two Presidencies. In Behar the resolution was defeated by only ten votes, but the Behar Government intends to give women the municipal franchise, and it has removed the sex disqualification from the Legal Practitioner's Act for its Province, these being directly the outcome of the interest aroused in women's rights by the strenuous six weeks' work of the Association in that Province. The Association also organized a campaign in Mysore Province for woman suffrage, which resulted in a unanimous vote in its favour by a full meeting of its Legislative Council. The W.I.A. hopes to go forward along these lines with the other provinces till the sex bar to the full representation of women is removed throughout India.

It is also their aim to obtain full opportunities for civic service, recognition and responsibility for women in all departments of local self-government. The municipal vote belongs to women in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, in the United Provinces, and in Burma, but only in the urban districts are women eligible for election to councils or boards. The Bombay branch has agitated strongly and continuously for this right to be granted to the women of Bombay City, and it has finally been able to get the Corporation to pass it and recommend it for incorporation in the Amended Municipal Act for Bombay, which has now gone before the Government for ratification. In Madras City the Association continues to press this matter upon the councillors and the public, and it expects to gain the right in the near future.

WEST OF ENGLAND AND S. WALES W.C.A. CONFERENCE.

Under the auspices of the Newport (Mon.) W.C.A., a Conference of West of England and South Wales Women Citizen's Associations was held in the Newport Town Hall on 24th, 25th, and 26th May. There were five sessions in all, the first comprising reports from every Association represented; two others were filled in by resolutions moved on subjects of vital interest to women (among others, on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill and on the disbanding of the Metropolitan Women Police Patrols). At the remaining sessions the assembly was addressed on the League of Nations by Professor Barbara Foxley, M.A., of Cardiff, on the Need for Women Councillors by Councillor Rhoda Parker, of Cardiff, on the Problem of the Mentally Deficient Adolescent by Dr. H. R. Burpitt, M.D., of Newport, Medical Inspector of Schools, and by Miss Macadam on Parliamentary Bills affecting women and children.

On the evening of the 24th a civic reception was held for the delegates, and Mrs. Coombe-Tennant, J.P. (Parliamentary Candidate for the Forest of Dean) and Miss Macadam gave addresses. Mrs. Coombe-Tennant spoke of what women could give to public life, through politics, and of the work the W.C.A.'s could do in bringing home to all women, irrespective of party, how much public affairs mattered to them. Miss Macadam also touched on the all-party nature of the W.C.A.'s, and the part they played in preparing women for service to the community.

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.
JUNE 4. Rochdale, 8 p.m. Speaker: Lord Parmoor.
Selly Oak, Birmingham, 8 p.m. Speaker: Rev. J. Hunt.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT COUNCIL.
A series of three discussion classes will be held at the office (Evelyn House, 62 Oxford Street, W.), as follows:—

JUNE 8, 5 p.m. "The Case for Family Endowment." Opener: Miss Eleanor Rathbone.
JUNE 15, 5 p.m. "Schemes for Family Endowment in Industry and under Public Authorities." Opener: Mrs. Hubback.
JUNE 22, 5 p.m. "National Schemes for Family Endowment." Opener: Mrs. Barbara Drake.

A charge of 6d. will be made for each class, and, as accommodation is limited, tickets should be obtained in advance from the Secretary.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.
JUNE 7. 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, 8.15 p.m. "Women and Religion." Speaker: The Rev. Canon E. W. Barnes. Chair: Dr. Letitia Fairfield.

COLLEGE OF AMBULANCE.
JUNE 8. 25 Queen Anne Street, W.1, 8 p.m. "Evidences of Evolution: Morphological." Speaker: Mr. Norman C. Lake, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., D.Sc.

CENTRAL BUREAU FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN, AND STUDENTS' CAREERS ASSOCIATION.
JUNE 8. Vocational Conference at King's College Hostel, 58 Queensborough Terrace, Bayswater Road, W. 3 p.m.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL WELFARE.

JULY 26 and 27. Two-day Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Right Hon. Lord Justice Atkin and Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE STATE PURCHASE AND CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

JUNE 7. East Dulwich Women's Section Labour Party, 3 p.m. "Public Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

ASSOCIATION OF HEAD MISTRESSES.

JUNE 9 and 10.—Annual Conference at the Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hackney. A service will be held on 9th at 6 p.m. at St. Giles, Cripplegate, and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress are holding a reception at the Mansion House on June 10th (afternoon) to meet members of the Conference.

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All communications to be addressed to:—Mrs. Hoster, St. Stephen's Chambers, Telegraph Street, E.C. 2.

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HOSTEL FOR VISITORS AND WORKERS; terms from 4s. 6d. per night, or 18s. 6d. per week, room and breakfast.—Mrs. K. Wilkinson, 59 Albany Street, Regent's Park, N.W.1.

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PARIS (MONTPARNASSE).—Studio-flat.—Large studio, bedroom, kitchen, entrance hall, gas, electricity, no linen. From 15th June for 4 months; 400 francs monthly; total sum paid in advance; suit one or two ladies; 1,000 francs monthly; for 3 or 4 months, from 15th June; 1,000 francs monthly; 3 beds, all modern conveniences (no linen).—Box 911, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

TO LET FURNISHED to 31st March next, or for shorter period, detached country cottage near Earlswood, Surrey; 4 bedrooms, 2 sitting, bath h. and c., usual offices, garage; moderate rent.—Apply, M., 28 Linden Gardens, W. 2.

FURNISHED FLAT, second floor; sitting-room, bedroom, kitchen; gas stove, meter; two guineas weekly; no children; reference required; no linen, plate, or attendance; near bus, station; call afternoon.—22 Marlborough Road, Chiswick.

TO LET, FURNISHED FLAT overlooking river; sitting, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, gas stoves, bath, geyser.—Write, O. Walton, 121 Cheyne Walk.

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