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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
IN THE HOME
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XII. No. 49.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1921.

PRICE 3D.
Registered as a Newspaper.

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

and all Bookstalls and Newsagents.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The Report of the Committee on Ministers' salaries has gained a larger measure of assent than such decisions usually receive. True, there are some who consider that the Prime Minister should be paid £10,000 a year; while others are distrustful of the plan whereby the salary of a Minister of the second class can at any moment be raised to £5,000 by his nominal inclusion in that indeterminate body, the Cabinet; for Mr. Lloyd George's enthusiasm for economy is suspect. But, on the whole, the Report is approved.

The Report on Members' salaries has had a more mixed welcome; unavoidably so, since the views of different schools are widely divergent. One wants no pay at all; another wants £1,000 a year, with free travelling, free postage, and free everything. No compromise can satisfy theories which are mutually destructive, and a middle course excites the equal hostility of each. But certainly the Committee have been wise in their conclusions. This is not the occasion on which to increase the money payment. On the other hand, the case for free railway passes to and from constituencies is overwhelming. At present one Member may have to pay £150 a year for his season ticket to Westminster, while another can walk there on the fine days and take a twopenny bus on the wet. However you regard the £400 a year, whether you look at it as a salary, or as a contribution towards expenses, it is unfair that it should have unequal values for a Member who sits for Caithness and one who sits for Kensington. Such an inequality is hard to defend. Free postage is different. The cost has increased since the war, but so has the cost of everything else; and the case for granting it is no stronger than that for augmenting salaries generally.

After all, the discussion on the Regulations admitting women to the Civil Service did not come on. It is understood that the Government offered to give an opportunity, but only in the last week, just before Christmas. Those Members who had the matter in hand, however, foresaw what a crush of business there would be in the last few days of the session, and wisely declined the offer. A discussion at such a time could only be perfunctory and unsatisfactory. It has been arranged that a day shall be given in February. It will be a trial of strength, and the result will be momentous for the future of women.

Now that Parliament has dispersed, it is possible that Members will take a calmer view of the attacks they have suffered from the anti-waste Press. Probably reflection will convince them that some rather foolish things have been said. Leaving on one side Mr. Remer's action against the *Daily Mirror*, upon which, being *sub judice*, comment would be improper, there are some general observations which may usefully be made. It is unreasonable to object to Press comments when hostile, whilst eagerly welcoming them when friendly. In the past, Members have been glad that the Press has given full publicity to the fact that they have voted in a certain way. For example, the vote in favour of the original Old Age Pensions Act proved valuable political capital, and all those who voted for it welcomed the advertisement which the Press gave them. It is too late to say that division lists are sacrosanct.

Moreover, it is the fact that Ministers, and private Members also, are unaware of the cry of the country for economy. It is an exceeding bitter cry. To call it a Press stunt is to disregard facts. The feeling is deep and spontaneous. Probably contact with their constituents will open Members' eyes.

Colonel Amery, in whom office has not killed a sense of humour which is all the more attractive for being double-edged, is reported to have said the other day that Cabinet Ministers, like all creatures at a low stage of physiological development, are notoriously tenacious of life. It is permissible to speculate which of his colleagues he had in mind. In any event, the saying is too good to be lost.

Lord Milner's Report on the future of Egypt will be discussed next session. The effect of it has already been made public. It is a bold experiment, but a wise one. Egypt gains practical independence. No lesser man than Lord Milner could have hoped to carry so mighty a reform.

MARY MACARTHUR.

Mary MacArthur's public life began twenty years ago when, on the invitation of an organiser of the Shop Assistants' Union, who had visited the drapery establishment in Ayr, of which her father was the proprietor, she attended a meeting of local shop assistants. She had previously studied in Germany and found herself confined in a small, Scottish town in which the tide of life was slow and uneventful. The Shop Assistants' meeting suggested to her possibilities of action and change which she accepted eagerly. She joined the Union and began to work for it with the energy she gave to all the movements that attracted her. Her life henceforward had purpose and direction, and, until her death, went forward unflinchingly to the horizons of social justice and fraternity in which she believed.

Her career was in consonance with her creed. Before her marriage she lived austerely in an L.C.C. tenement. She gave money freely to those who were in need, and in the early days of her work for the Women's Trade Union League, her desperate ardour for the women workers whom she led through strikes and lock-outs, reduced her frequently to the verge of breakdown. To go on picket duty at daybreak, as she did, when strikes were afoot, to raise money somehow for her starving protégées, to hearten the waverers, to take decisions affecting, perhaps, thousands of women, imposed a strain which only those who have had experience of disputes can appreciate. She learnt in a short time the lessons of these heartbreaking strikes of poor women, and she was among the first to espouse in their interest the principle of the legal minimum wage. Her memorable evidence in favour of this principle before the Select Committee on Home Work did much to hasten its adoption, and the splendid part she played in the agitation of the National Anti-Sweating League towards the same end did even more. Her leadership of the sweated women at Cradley Heath has passed into industrial history.

The principle of the Minimum Wage was adopted in the Trade Boards Act (1909), and the Chainmaking Trade Board, of which Mary MacArthur was a member, proceeded to fix minimum rates of wages which inaugurated a new era for the women chainmakers. It was a poignant meeting at which she declared to the women what their new piece rates were to be, and the emotion of the poor women and their enthusiasm and love for their champion never passed out of her mind.

During the ten years that preceded the war the influence of Mary MacArthur is seen in a steadily developing improvement in the lot of the working woman, due to the success of her organising campaigns and of the Boards which, in succession, were created under the Trade Boards Act. Her influence is seen also in the sections of the National Health Insurance Act which affect women and children, and in the tighter administration of the Factory and Workshop Acts, especially as regards dangerous trades and in occupations in which hours of employment were frequently and unreasonably prolonged.

But it required the war to reveal the scope and variety of Mary MacArthur's powers. At the invitation of the Queen, she became Honorary Secretary of the Central Committee on Women's Employment in August, 1914, and fulfilled her arduous duties with consummate skill. She was a valuable member of the National Relief Committee. She obtained from the Government an undertaking to fix minimum rates of wages for munition workers, and played a prominent part in the work of the Munitions Tribunals, and when the end of the war was in sight she helped, as a member of the Committee presided over by Sir John Simon, to provide the Government with a wages policy for the Armistice period. It is no secret that for these and other services she was offered a decoration which she refused.

Peace brought the General Election, in which she fought an election campaign at Stourbridge, which only failed of success because the majority of electors did not come within the influence of her charm, and eloquence. She took her narrow defeat lightheartedly. The unexpected defeat of her husband (W. C. Anderson) troubled her much more deeply, and his subsequent sudden illness and death dimmed permanently her joy in life. A visit to the United States supplied a much-needed distraction, and it was repeated twelve months ago when, as a nominee of the Government, she won distinction at the first International Labour Conference at Washington. The first signs of the malady to which she succumbed appeared shortly after her return to England. In the first hours of the New Year, in the plenitude of her power, the greatest organiser, speaker, and statesman produced by the Women's Trade Union movement, passed to her repose.

J. J. MALLON.

"THE ENGLISHWOMAN."

This week we have received, with the most profound regret, the last number of *The Englishwoman* review. After twelve years of brilliant life it has been, as Miss Lowndes puts it, "beaten by the too high and ever-increasing cost of printing, of paper, and of everything else concerned with book production." It goes out of existence, therefore, because enough money cannot be found to continue it, but not in any sense because the need for such a paper is at an end. It is indeed greatly needed, even as it was in the hottest days of the Suffrage campaign, when its work was so wonderfully useful, and its reputation so deservedly high. We lacked a Press then for the political aspirations and the serious interests of women, and we lack that Press to-day. In spite of all the parade that the commercial Press makes of its women's pages and its women's supplements, the real substance of what we need is still deplorably absent. They give us fashions in abundance and superabundance, they record society doings which are of little or no interest, they repeat recipes until we are surfeited, they dish up sentiment and wash together time after time, and fancy that by so doing they produce the mental food that women need. Commercially they seem to be in the right of it, that is to say, they secure their advertisements by writing them up, and these things pay their way, smother the bookstalls, and are perforce read. But they fail to convince us, all the same, that such monotonous and substanceless rubbish is what the female public really wants. It is what it gets, and that is another thing altogether. *L'appetit vient en mangeant*. For this reason perhaps more than any other we grieve to see any of our real Press disappear, particularly since *The Englishwoman* review, which we are now to lose, has steadily and constantly given us what no other paper has so much as attempted.

The first number of the magazine appeared in February, 1909, at a time of great political interest. Throughout its hundred and forty-four numbers it has upheld the need for the true and full enfranchisement of women, and has reviewed with width of outlook and moderation of statement the position and the possibilities of women citizens in the changing world in which we live. When it first came out it was a novelty in many ways. It was, and we believe it remained for years, the only serious shilling monthly magazine. It came to the Suffrage movement at the time when its only other papers were purely propagandist and made no appeal at all to general interests. *The Common Cause* of 1909, and *Votes for Women*, which were its chief sister publications, were very different in kind and intention. They were useful to the movement from within: *The Englishwoman* went without, and carried the doctrine (well wrapped in attractive pages) to the outside world.

Throughout its career the review has stood very high. Its notices in the general press have been uniformly favourable and appreciative, and it has always ranked as one of the real monthlies. It is a thousand pities that it must come to its end.

The editorial board of *The Englishwoman* consisted of the Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Lowndes, and Lady Strachey, and, in former years, Miss Ciceley Hamilton, later replaced by Miss Palliser. This board deserves much gratitude, and congratulation too, for the high level at which *The Englishwoman* has always been maintained. It is, perhaps, no secret to our readers that Miss Lowndes has been from the first, and more particularly since 1914, the leading spirit of the magazine. She it is, of late years almost unaided, who has kept the flag flying, she who has marked out its distinctive features and controlled its wise and vigorous policy, and her own great literary gifts have been tirelessly at its service; and she has worked early and late, in season and out, in good and bad health alike, to overcome the steadily increasing material difficulties of the enterprise. She it is who has sought for and found the valuable political articles. *The Englishwoman* has so often published; she who has borne the burden when last-minute changes in the political situation have thrown out all the plans; she who has struggled with

incomplete manuscripts, with the emergencies of faithless contributors or recalcitrant printers; and always, from every crisis, she has pulled it through. To all this has been added the intolerable burden of money raising, and we can only congratulate her in amazement upon the great measure of her success. It is a great thing to have done, to have pulled so difficult a task through twelve long years. No one can ever determine what may have been the true value to the triumph of Woman Suffrage of any of the different parts of the movement, but it is certain that among them all *The Englishwoman* has done its full share.

We mourn its loss not only because it has been of the same political colour as ourselves, but because of its own intrinsic merit. The literary and "general" features of the paper have always made it most excellent reading. The stories and reviews have been, we have always thought, particularly good, and its French reviews have been one of its valuable and unique features. *The Englishwoman* has had a long list of distinguished friends and contributors. Among them may be mentioned Mr. Galsworthy, Mr. John Masefield, Mr. Laurence Housman, Mr. Bernard Shaw, Mr. John Davidson, Mr. Maurice Hewlett, Mr. Stephen Gwynne, Mr. R. F. Cholmeley, Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, Miss Lawrence Alma Tadema, Miss Ciceley Hamilton, and several times its excellent articles have been reproduced and published separately and most usefully in leaflet form. Many of us will miss the red-covered volume very greatly indeed; nothing that now exists can in any way take its place.

There is one cause for satisfaction, however, in the announcement made by *The Englishwoman*, and that is that the annual exhibition of Art and Handicrafts organised in connection with it is to be continued, under the same management, in future years. This exhibition, which has become one of the recognised features of November in London, has grown to be more than a mere commercial undertaking. It is now a meeting place for those many women who are carrying on the traditions of craftsmanship, and a centre for the interchange of ideas as well as for the acquisition of orders. The stalls at this exhibition are taken by workers in an immense variety of materials. It displays annually the progress of the enterprise of that type of woman worker who has found or made the opportunity to use her hands and her brain and her artistic gifts all at once, under conditions of her own arrangement. These workers, who are far more numerous than is realised, carry on a most valuable warfare against the mechanical goods of mass production, and keep alive the spirit of craftsmanship in a commercially sordid age. It would have been a serious loss had the encouragement and the help that *The Englishwoman* exhibition has become, been forced to be withdrawn, and we are heartily glad that this is not the case.

It is sad to begin the new year of 1921 with such a loss as this, but it must not discourage any of us, not even those for whom it is the end of a gallant struggle against material difficulties. So much has been won that we can afford now to be hopeful even in the face of misfortune. If we look back at the progress since *The Englishwoman* was founded, and if we read over the arguments that had to be used in the early numbers of the magazine, we can measure the magnitude of the change. Many of those old articles have an almost antediluvian ring, and would make fascinating, and possibly salutary, reading, for the girls just leaving school. Other articles with their careful analysis of Suffrage policy, of Conciliation Bill tactics, and of opposition subterfuges, have a considerable historical value. Others again, especially the series of short stories and sketches contributed by Miss Lowndes, have a literary quality which makes them good reading for ever. If we are to get no more of these red volumes let us at least keep carefully those that we possess.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the topical and controversial matters which we treat under the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the principal views on each question held by differing groups of political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

THE POOR LAW.

By C. M. LLOYD.

Lady Selborne is a bold champion of a lost cause. In her article in *THE WOMAN'S LEADER*, a few weeks ago, she argued not only that the Poor Law should not be abolished, or even radically changed, but that its scope should actually be extended. She would have even old age pensions and the supplying of milk to nursing and expectant mothers, which is now undertaken by the Public Health Authorities, put under the supervision of the Relieving Officers. This is truly to be "plus royaliste que le roi"! Mr. John Burns himself, when he stood forth, in the days before the war, as the Goliath of the Guardians, never went to that length. And I venture to say that it is no more practical politics to extend the Poor Law to-day than it would be to restore the Feudal System. The Poor Law was exposed and condemned nearly twelve years ago in the Reports of the Royal Commission. It was condemned again in 1917 by the Committee which was presided over by Sir Donald Maclean, and which reconciled the differences between the Majority and Minority on the original Commission. The Maclean Report advocated the abolition of the Poor Law, and the Government has pledged itself to carry it out. Meantime, the Poor Law has dragged on its existence, sinking steadily into deeper disrepute, not only among the common people who are "relieved" by it, but among administrators, publicists, and politicians of all schools of thought and all parties.

Let me touch briefly on the main reasons why the Poor Law system as we know it, ought to be abolished. But first it will be worth while to clear up one or two misconceptions. Lady Selborne pleads for the Board of Guardians on the ground that it is, "among all our Local Government institutions, the one that is in the most direct contact with the democracy." I confess I do not understand this argument. The Guardians are popularly elected; but so are Town and District and County Councils. How is a member of the West Ham or Stepney Board of Guardians in closer touch with his constituents than the member of the County Borough Council of West Ham, or the Metropolitan Borough of Stepney? Then it is sometimes urged that there are many able people on the Boards of Guardians, who know their job and give devoted service. But, if that is to be a defence of the institution, it might with equal justice have been used in favour of the Spanish Inquisition, the Star Chamber, or the Tumpike Trusts. Would anyone to-day defend those bodies because they had able and conscientious members?

The real ground on which the Boards of Guardians stand convicted is not that they are too democratic, or that they are corrupt or incompetent, but that they are working on a wrong basis. The function of the Poor Law is to relieve destitution; the Board of Guardians is a body elected *ad hoc* to deal with destitution in all its forms, and to deal with it after it has occurred, not by taking measures to prevent its occurrence. Now it has become more and more clear that it is hopeless to try to cope with the disease in this way. The great pauper host that is relieved by the Poor Law falls into different and well defined classes. There are the infants, the children of school age, the sick, the feeble-minded, the aged and infirm, the able-bodied unemployed. The Poor Law is at a double disadvantage in dealing with them. In the first place, it can do little to get at the causes of their misery, because it cannot act until the destitution has actually occurred. Secondly, the Guardians are not properly equipped for giving the specialised treatment that each of these various classes needs. That has long been recognised, and the result has been that other bodies, such as the Local Health, Education, or Lunacy Authorities—which can take preventive measures and are equipped for giving the most suitable treatment, have steadily encroached on the Poor Law. Hence, we are faced with another serious evil—an enormous amount of overlapping, duplication of machinery, and waste of money and effort. You may find different members of the same family, and even the same individuals, being helped

simultaneously by competing authorities—a widow, say, getting outdoor relief from the Guardians, treatment for a baby at a Public Health Clinic, with another child maintained at a Poor Law boarding school, and yet another at the ordinary elementary school receiving medical care or free dinners from the Local Education Authority. How is this problem to be solved? There are really only two ways. One is that favoured by Lady Selborne, when she says, "If we do not abolish the Poor Law, all relief of distress from public funds should be under it." But that, as I have said, is not practical politics. We have slowly emancipated certain sections of the poor from the degradation of "parish relief" and the inferior services of the Guardians, and no Parliament would dare to put them back. Nor can the Poor Law be made delectable by minor reforms. There have been some attempts at reform during the past few years. The Workhouse is now called the "Institution." Paupers may exercise a vote, provided they are not in the "Institution" at the time of the election. Most, though not all, of the children have been removed from the contaminating atmosphere of the "mixed workhouse," and slight improvements have been made in some Unions in dealing with the sick. Many Boards of Guardians, too, have combined in County Vagrancy Committees, to co-ordinate the task of handling the casuals. But these are surface changes; the fundamental evils remain. And the poor still hate the Poor Law bitterly.

The other way to solve the problem is to complete the process, which has already gone far, of breaking up the Poor Law. We ought to abolish the Boards of Guardians and the Workhouses, to make the Local Health Authorities responsible for all the sick, the infants, and the infirm aged, the Local Education Authorities for the children of school age, the Local Lunacy Authorities for the feeble-minded. That does not mean a universal *régime* of non-elected bodies. It means that all the principal functions of the Guardians would be transferred to the County, County Borough, and Borough and District Councils (save only where these latter were too small to do the work efficiently).

But, it is said, you will still need a temporary place of refuge—where, for example, a tramping man may be lodged, or a deserted child given shelter, pending their passing on to employment or a training-colony or school. True, but surely this does not imply, as Major Hills thinks, that you must have Workhouses and Poor Law Guardians. Why should it? An institution of this sort managed by the Town Council of Leicester would have no more connection with the Poor Law than has the Leicester School Clinic, or the Leicester Employment Exchange. Merely to change a name will not, I admit, make much difference. But if you change the legal basis, and the spirit and the working of an institution, it will make all the difference in the world, and the old name is likely to be a misnomer. The same argument applies, too, to "home assistance" or out-relief. Such assistance, given by the Local Authority in accordance with the real needs of the individual, and not simply as a dole to palliate destitution, will ensure both an economy of public money, and a far more hopeful and scientific treatment.

One word, in conclusion, as to unemployment. I agree here with Major Hills. The problem is national and not local. The Poor Law is seen, even by its stoutest defenders, to be incapable of dealing with this task. There may have to be training colonies and "detention" colonies, with some degree of penal discipline. These would, naturally, form part of a larger organisation, in which the Employment Exchanges, Insurance, and other measures must play their part. But I do not think the police should play the prominent part suggested by Lady Selborne (she has made a slip, by the way, in saying that the Minority Commissioners recommended the transfer of the casuals to the care of the police). It will surely be time for the police to come in when we have discovered the real criminals among the homeless unemployed.

WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT.

By A. S. LEVETUS.

By an irony of fate the fact that the Christian Socialists were at the head of the poll at the recent general elections in Austria, was due to the overwhelming majority of women who voted for this party, thus turning their backs on the Social Democrats, who granted them the franchise and equal rights with men in all things.

As things are now somewhat changed, it may interest your readers to hear what the women representatives achieved during their first term of office in Parliament, and in the City Council, where they also sat for the first time since Austria was proclaimed a Republic.

To some extent, the enthusiastic work for Woman Suffrage, which had been going on for over thirty years, had been successful. The University was open to women; they could become factory inspectors, panel doctors, departmental librarians, and could hold other important appointments. Nominally, they had no political rights and could not hold public meetings for political propaganda; actually they did hold them, and the Austrian legal officials, more often than not, closed their eyes to the true facts of the case.

The chief leaders were Frau Marianne Hainisch, who is still living and working, though she is now eighty-six years old. Her work has been mainly social, and it has covered a very large sphere. Politically, it was the late Auguste Fickert, a "Bürger-schul" (elementary school) teacher, an extreme Radical, who fought for the enfranchisement of women. She was a woman of broad understanding, and with a well-trained mind. She spoke openly at political meetings, led the chief discussions, and worked for the education of working women and girls. Her courage was undaunted, and, in spite of ill health, she organised classes, lectured to working girls, and trained them in political science. Her mantle fell on Fräulein Kulka, and on Rosa Mayreder, the well-known philosopher and writer. But they carried on the work on economic and social lines instead of political.

The Women's Political Socialistic Movement began in 1889. Adelheid Popp, a young factory hand, took up the cause of her sex. In 1890 she started the "Arbeiterinnenzeitung," and was at the same time its editor and chief contributor. Falling foul of the Censor, who did not approve of the contents of her paper, she was imprisoned more than once. Other leaders were Frau Therese Schlesinger, Frau Emmy Freundlich, Fräulein Boschek, Frau Proft, who were all elected to the first Republican Parliament, to which seven women Social Democrats and one Christian Socialist were returned.

In Parliament each woman had her special department. Adelheid Popp confined herself to questions of citizen rights for women. Her aim was to bring about a reform in the marriage laws, so that Catholic divorcees could marry again, and for this she introduced a Bill for civil marriage, which, however, fell through. She was successful, however, in other important social matters, and in getting a law passed by which a man separated from his wife is bound to allow her sufficient means to live in the same conditions as during marriage. Frau Schlesinger and Frau Proft have taken up the question of the secondary education of girls, which was left to private initiative and for which no public school was available. As there is no money to build schools, girls are now allowed to attend the boys' secondary schools, and this system of co-education is working very well. Owing to their exertions, girls may now study law and theology (all the other faculties at the University have been open to women since 1899); they may also attend the polytechnic and the agricultural, botanical and commercial colleges, hitherto closed to them, where they have the same rights as the men.

Fräulein Boschek is the representative of Trades Unions, and of all female labour. Together with Frau Rauscher, and the

Christian Socialist members, she worked for and carried through the new laws for governesses, teachers, secretaries, and servants. She has also done a great deal for the wives and families of prisoners of war, and has urged the Government to pass laws for the protection of children, and to grant State aid in cases where the parents are unable to provide for their offspring. Frau Emmy Freundlich's special line is economic. She is Director of the State Food Office, leader of the Co-operative Movement, and of various consumers' organisations. She has also worked on Nationalisation Committees, and other important questions which do not only concern women. Fräulein Tusch has obtained improved conditions for women employed in the State tobacco factories, and Frau Rauscher also did important work in the last Parliament, chiefly with regard to domestic matters, prices, housekeeping, schools, and so forth.

In the present Parliament all these members have been re-elected, and one more, a Christian Socialist, has been returned. There is much to be done, and until now men and women have worked together in complete harmony, and there is no reason to doubt that they will continue to do so.

The first Municipal elections in Vienna after the downfall of the Monarchy took place in May, 1919, on the basis of proportional representation. All parties put women on their lists, as they did with the Parliamentary elections. Sixteen women Social Democrats and six Christian Socialist women thus obtained seats on the Municipal Council. The small minority parties, German Nationalists, Jewish Nationalists, and Czechoslovaks were not successful in returning women members. Among those chosen, Amalie Seidl is the veteran, consequently the honour of becoming the first woman President of the Municipal Council fell to her. In spite of all difficulties she has held her ground and gained the respect of all members, both men and women. Amalie Pölzer is doing good work as an organiser and propagandist. Among the younger members Marie Boch and Gabriele Proft are excellent speakers, always to the point, and eager and earnest workers. Käthe Königstetter, too, is an indefatigable fighter for the rights of women, and is interested in public feeding and food kitchens. Gisela Lerne has founded the organisation of women servants. All these are of the proletarian. Among those of the middle classes, Rudolfine Fleischner, Dr. Furtmüller, and Leopoldine Glöckel, wife of the late Minister of Education, and Marie Kramer are all teachers who have been working for their party (Social Democrats) for many years.

Of the Christian Socialists, Dr. Alma Seitz is a very capable woman, a good speaker, and an expert in many things. Sophie Gärtner and Josefine Kurzbauer are social workers, Marie Wielsch, wife of a medical practitioner, stands for the interests of the middle class women; Gabriele Walter and Anna Strobl are teachers, and active members of their party.

Three of the women members, Marie Boch, Leopoldine Glöckel, and Gabriele Walter have been appointed secretaries, and as such form part of the Municipal Presidency. The women members have their places on all commissions and committees in proportion to their numbers; they are especially numerous on all which concern the welfare and care, not only of the young, but of the commonwealth. They are also sent on tours of inspection to the outlying and country districts, so that they may be *au fait* with all matters and all sides of a question. Women are also very active in all the municipal districts of Vienna, and are of special value in all questions dealing with the poor, destitute, and orphans.

The most satisfactory thing in the return of women to Parliament and the Municipal Councils, is that the women work in harmony for the common good, irrespective of what political party they belong to, and all vexations and tribulations arising from party feeling are thus obviated. They have only one aim in view, namely, to do their best for their unhappy country, and to help it through this dark period of its history.

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