# WOMAN'S LEADER AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XXI.	No. 29.	Twopence.	REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.	Friday,	August 23, 1929.
CORRESPONDED Dame Millicer Control	CONTENT CASE FOR EQU. NCE :— nt's Funeral; The C NMENT NOTES	PAGE ALITY . 222 hristian and Birth . 223	woman's movement Miss Beaumont was version. Asked at th she answered "That of woman suffrage s of her career will b	eath of Floren has lost one a born femine e age of 14 wh women shou he gave herse e found in an	nce Margaret Beaumont the of its most devoted workers. nist, and never needed con- lat reform was most necessary ld vote." And to the cause lf without stint. Particulars nother column. In addition umont was a warm supporter
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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### One Step Towards Peace.

At the time of writing, the financial issues of the Hague conference still hang precariously in the balance. It is doubtful whether the old Dawes' plan or a duly revised Young plan will govern the mutual relations of Germany and her creditors. But on the political side a definite advance has been made. Discussions between the French, Belgian, German, and British Foreign Secretaries have resulted in a general decision in favour of evacuation of the Rhineland, and the British Government has taken the further step of announcing that the withdrawal of British troops will be begun next month and completed by Christmas, whatever may be the outcome of the financial Whether the French Government will co-operate discussions. n a simultaneous withdrawal remains to be seen. If they do a situation may arise which will cause some measure of consternation in Germany; for we are well aware that in many quarters, evacuation by the British alone would be regarded as a greater calamity than no evacuation at all. Such fears and scruples may blunt the keen edge of our joy at Mr. Henderson's announcement. They cannot, however, destroy our deep satisfaction at the termination of British responsibility for the continuance of an armed menace within the framework of peace. Our German critics are, at any rate, political realists enough to know that further delay on our part, whatever its real motive, would under no circumstances be "counted unto us for righteousness" in any cross-currents of future recrimination.

#### The Institute of Pacific Relations.

Two British women—Dame Edith Lyttelton and Dr. Eileen Power—are among the delegates to the Conference of the Institute of Pacific Relations which is to meet at Kyoto in October. At the meeting a few years ago at Honolulu Mrs. Catt was a delegate from the United States but no women attended from Great Britain. Dame Edith has done very useful work as a delegate to the League of Nations Assembly, and this opportunity of studying problems in the Far East will be of great value to her future international work, whether official or unofficial. Miss Eileen Power has already some knowledge of The East, and during her voyage round the world as holder of the A.K. Fellowship, she contracted a deep interest in China and resolved to return one day.

#### Woman Magistrate Appointed in Prussia.

It is interesting to note that Frau Clara Israel, who is head of the welfare department of the Young People's Bureau in Charlottenburg, has been appointed as a magistrate for the district. She is the first woman to hold the office of magistrate in Prussia.

ont the vorkers. ed conecessarv le cause rticulars addition ipporter no came amazing and was ongenial work she gave of her best. Though she wanted a college career, she left Newnham at the end of her first year to keep house for her father. Though she detested speaking in public, she spoke regularly for equal suffrage until it was won. Any shirking of what she conceived to be her duty—whether it was a matter of work or the frank expression of a difference of opinion on a matter of principle—was altogether alien to that upright and sincere character. It was this beautiful sincerity that not only enhanced the pleasure of working with Florence Beaumont but, added to many other gifts of character, made her both respected and beloved by her colleagues. Miss Beaumont was a convinced Anglo-Catholic; and it is hoped to arrange a service at the Church where she regularly worshipped.

#### A Denationalized Wife.

The position of a British born wife married to a foreigner under the operation of our existing nationality laws, finds unfortunate illustration in the case of Signora Rosselli, formerly Miss Marion Cave, of Uxbridge, who has suffered abominable and undeserved coercion as an Italian subject. It will be remembered that some weeks ago, Signor Rosselli, late lecturer in Economics at Florence, managed to escape to Paris from an island prison, where he was suffering imprisonment for the political crime of opposition to the Fascist Government. He was there informed that measures of reprisal were likely to be taken against his wife, who was, as it happened, an expectant mother. These threats have since matured in the arrest and imprisonment of Signora Rosselli. No formal charge was made against her—there was none to make—she was given no opportunity for defence, nor was she allowed to see a lawyer. Signor Rosselli has told the Press that his wife is " a woman of great courage and strength of mind." His own courage is established by his political activities. An old tradition of friendship between Great Britain and freedom-loving Italy is typified by the union of these two courageous young people and we hope that the articulate public opinion of the civilized world may be mobilized for their protection against further persecutions and reprisal. We cannot, in view of the emphatic and circumstantial declarations of the persons intimately concerned in the affair, take very seriously the statement of the Italian Embassy that Signora Rosselli was never arrested at all.

#### Women and the Veterinary Service.

It has recently been urged both from inside and outside the veterinary profession that the care of sick animals provides a field in which women have shown outstanding ability. We are therefore somewhat surprised to learn that there are at present only eight women vets. in the United Kingdom. Is this because young women in search of careers have not yet woken up to this particular new opening, or is it because nominal freedom of entry has proved on experience to be vitiated by intangible prejudices? We do not know.

#### Women Inspectors of Schools."

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From both London and Manchester comes news of interesting appointments of women to the inspectorate of schools. The London County Council has a good record in this respect for all positions on the Education Inspectorate (except certain posts for women's work) are open to men and women alike, and the scales of salary attaching to the positions are the same for both. Miss E. Stevenson, who has just been promoted to the post of senior woman inspector will, however, receive a salary of just over £1,000 (bonus included), a high salary for a woman. It will be remembered in this connection that Miss Philippa Fawcett has for some years filled the important post of Assistant Education Officer to the Council. The Education Committee of the Manchester City Council last week went one better in deciding to recommend the appointment of a woman as deputy chief inspector, with the same salary as a man.

#### Women in Friendly Societies.

Women have not taken a very conspicuous part in the work of Friendly Societies in the past. It is therefore interesting to learn that for the first time a woman, Miss G. Abbott, of Sheffield, is standing for the Executive Committee of the Sheffield Council of the Order. Miss Abbott has not only inherited her interest in this Order, as her family have long been connected with the Sheffield Branch; her own work has marked her out as a prominent Forester. We wish her success and hope that she may in due course become High Chief Ranger. As women become more independent and as their wages and salaries gradually approximate more closely to those of men, they are certain to take a more active share in the Friendly Society movement.

#### The Royal Commission on Licensing.

We understand that the list of names issued as members of the Royal Commission on licensing questions is not yet complete, and that nearly as many again are to be added, making about twenty in all. So far only one woman has been asked to serve-Mrs. Barton, Secretary of the Woman's Co-operative Guild.

THE POSITIVE CASE FOR EQUALITY.

The strongly signed feminist appeal for legislative sex equality in relation to the Government's promised Factories Bill upon which we commented last week, emphasizes a positive phase of the Equalitarian case which is of peculiar practical significance at our present stage of political development. It was in the first place an appeal for the incorporation in the promised Factories Bill of the Washington Hours Convention establishing a universal 48-hour week, which the present Government has already announced its intention of ratifying. This would in effect limit the hours of women, but it would do so as part and parcel of a general definition of standards applying to men and women alike, without sex discrimination. It was in the second place an appeal for such overhauling of existing legislation with regard to night-work as would base any necessary limitations and prohibitions upon the industry other than upon the sex of the worker. But this is an appeal which involves the assumption that night-work is an "evil" demanding 'limitation and in some cases prohibition for men and women alike ". It is, so runs the document in question, " certainly desirable that night-work should be regulated.'

Here then, is an appeal which bears the signatures of leading representatives of all the existing feminist organizations, and may be said to reflect what might be called the orthodox attitude of modern feminism to the question of industrial regulation. And it is obvious enough that it is wholly consistent with that constructive ideal of a " national minimum of working conditions for which the present Government professedly stands. It is true that among its signatories appear the names of a number of unregenerate individualists—such for instance as Miss Cicely Hamilton—who are apt to look askance at any move towards legislative standardization, preferring to allow individuals to make their own bargain with life even at the imminent risk that the Devil may take the hindmost. But equally prominent among them are a number of persons intimately concerned with the development of a social policy consistent with the assumption that each member of the body politic is his brother's keeper. A former Labour M.P., the wife of a member of the present Ministry, and a Labour parliamentary candidate are also among the signatories of this appeal. Apart therefore from the positive quality to which we have already drawn attention, the presence

Mrs. Barton is a good appointment. She represents the women of one of the most important of working class movements, and she has had previous experience of similar work, including a commission appointed during the war by the Liquor Control Board. But we confidently hope that the names of several other women will be added. On a large commission of twenty members dealing with a subject upon which women have every reason to feel strongly it is unthinkable that they should only have one representative. There will be no difficulty in finding women with a background of knowledge on this complicated subject who have at the same time the judicial outlook and nonpartisan judgment so essential to the investigator.

#### What England Thought Yesterday ...

On Monday of this week the spindles and looms of Lancashire started work again, and the three weeks stoppage in one of our vital export industries came to an end on a basis of unstable equilibrium pending arbitration. Thanks to the Ministry of Labour a board of arbitrators is now at work, with the willing assent of all the various sections involved. To the unenlightened outsider it seems hard to account for the long time-lag which has intervened between the development of the wage deadlock and this obvious first step towards its release. Were the masters anxious for a breather, to relax overhead charges, and clear surplus stocks? Were certain sections of the operatives not averse to an enforced holiday during the opening weeks of Is a rooted horror of outside interference part and August ? parcel of the incorrigible conservatism of the Lancashire cotton industry? We do not venture our opinion. We can only join with all our fellow countrymen in great relief at the thought that once again the product of the American and Egyptian cotton plant will resume its tortuous horse-drawn progress in and out, in and out, of the congested centre of Manchesterfrom spindle to warehouse, from warehouse to loom, from loom to warehouse, from warehouse to finisher, from finisher to warehouse . . . paying, it is to be hoped, a precarious wage, profit, dividend, or interest charge to the multitudinous sectional interests concerned in its handling.

of these particular signatories is a certain guarantee to the superficial observer that their demand for equality of treatment is something more than the cry of reckless individualism that people shall be allowed to lie on beds of their own making. It is, in fact, identical in principle with the demand which Miss Mary Macarthur, perhaps the best friend that the working woman has ever had, opposed at a pre-war Trades Union Congress to the blunt request for the bag and baggage exclusion of women from certain industries.

It would seem, on the face of it, superfluous to explain at length an implication so obviously borne on the face of a very simple and lucid exposition of policy. But hard experience suggests, in this case, the necessity for continued emphasis on the obvious. It may be that in the past the case for legislative equality has become indentified with the individualist outlook, and has as a consequence chosen to express itself in a negative attitude to the achievement of legislative standards. Thus the removal of restrictions from women's work has been urged with a more emphatic gusto than the imposition of identical restrictions upon men's work. As a result, a peculiar degree of animosity not altogether free from wilful misunderstanding, has been generated among those advocates of legislative safeguards, who are not particularly solicitous for the economic advancement or improved status of women qua women. This was very clearly shown during the recent sessions of the International Alliance for Women's Suffrage in Berlin, whose deliberations on the pros and cons of industrial protection for women, taken in conjunction with the independent propaganda of the Open Door Council, occasioned a positively hysterical outburst on the part of the German Social Democratic Party who succeeded in convincing themselves that a malicious attack was being made by capitalistic middle-class women on the hard-won standards of the workers.

We do not anticipate a similar degree of misunderstanding in this country, but there have been, in the past, indications of its embryonic existence. And it may be that these have been generated by the way in which the equalitarian case has been presented, and by a tendency on the part of its advocates to ride roughshod over the complex social and industrial implications of their demand

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### DAME MILLICENT'S FUNERAL.

MADAM,—The anthem sung at the end of the funeral service over Mrs. Fawcett was not "Bach's Requiem"; it was a passage from Brahms' Deutsches Requiem. I wondered whether Mrs. Fawcett liked it so much because she knew it so well, when the Cambridge University Musical Society studied it for nearly a year under Sir Charles Stanford and per-formed it at Cambridge Guildhall under the conductorship of Dr. Hans Dichter Richter. H. M. SWANWICK.

#### THE CHRISTIAN AND BIRTH CONTROL.

<text><text><text><text><text> M. D. S.

MADAM,-I have read the review of Dr. Edward Lyttelton's book on the subject of birth control and I confess to a feeling of confusion—the writer is certainly severely critical and implies that the author contradicts himself in his very earnest desire to emphasize the harm resulting from contraception. The arguments of the review to which I refer (WOMAN'S contraception. The arguments of the review to which I refer (WOMAN'S LEADER, 9th August), leave mein a state of " confusion worse confounded." I can only suppose they are too subtle for the ordinary brain of the plain Christian, and I welcome with delight the suggestion, made I believe by the author himself, that a fly-leaf paper containing instruction " setting forth in *simple* language: he Church's ethical teaching on this, and other aspects, of holy matrimony". I have not read Dr. Lyttelton's book, so dare not pass judgment as invited by the writer of the review on his or her arguments for and against contraception, nor can I venture to weigh their material, or spiritual, value, but may I suggest that many besides myself are beginning to realize how weakening to our faith in God besides myself are beginning to realize how weakening to our faith in God is the idea that men and women bound together in the sacred bond of matrimony can, by any impulse, or considered desire of their own, frustrate the Will of God in the matter of child-bearing. We are constantly being told (nay I had almost said we are being bullied into believing) that it is our duty as citizens to uphold the teaching of the birth-control propaganda by all the legitimate means in our power. To put it plainly we must openly denounce large families and praise the one child parents (though from the bottom of our hearts we pity the "only child"). Is it very out of date to profess, as thank God some of us still do, in an all seeing and all wise Providence to whom we may leave the matter of families and nations. He will certainly "overshadow" (see last verse of hymn 210 A. and M.) those who ask and receive His blessing upon their marriage union. those who ask and receive His blessing upon their marriage union "A PLAIN CHRISTIAN."

MADAM,-I have read with interest, Dr. Lyttelton's letter and also his book. His argument, however, appears entirely unconvincing. In view of the ancient civilization of the East, to state that civilization depends upon monogamy appears perhaps a little rash and rhetorical. If we grant this, however, to say then that "contraception if unchecked is grant this, however, to say then that contraception if uncrecked is bound to distroy monogamy " is a statement not only unproven but improbable. If monogamy is to be destroyed it can only be because there is a general desire for promiscuity—and to make this supposition is surely to take a very low view of human nature. Dr. Lyttelton's argument is frequently by no means clear (e.g. p. 93), but the main thesis seems to be that certain beliefs and practices are alone leftward benea by definition, beliefs and practices are

but the main thesis seems to be that certain beliefs and practices are alone lofty and hence, by definition, beliefs and practices contrary to them are base. The warranty for the lofty beliefs is the New Testament. It is, however, not particularly clear that the New Testament has any bearing upon the matter, although such passages as that a *bishop* shall be the husband of one wife and that it is better to marry than to burn, seem to be of dubious interpretation. The Catholic doctrine insists upon the ideal of intercourse solely for the purpose of generation. A Catholic priest, however, recently informed the writer that, were medical authorities in a position to demonstrate (as in his opinion they were at present not able to demonstrate) that intercourse for purposes other than generation was desirable for health i.e. natural, the

opinion they were at present not able to demonstrate) that intercourse for purposes other than generation was desirable for health, i.e. natural, the Church would doubtless revise its doctrine. Dr. Lyttelton falls between the two positions. He forbids contraception not on reasoned and condi-tional grounds, but absolutely (the authorities he cites for its being "dis-gusting" are, by his own statement, rather disreputable). On the other hand, he permits intercourse, of a kind which on p. 86 seems morally little better than manslaughter, obviously not for the purpose of generation. His book fortunately, thanks to the extravagant and inhumane con-clusions which he himself draws, contains its own best refutation. It should, however, be said that saintly men in the past have concientiously justified even stranger actions, such as not suffering a witch to live, by arguments exceedingly similar to Dr. Lyttelton's.

GEORGE E. G. CATLIN, Professor.

#### NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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#### FLORENCE MARGARET BEAUMONT-1876-1929.

We deeply regret the death on 16th August of Miss Florence Beaumont, suddenly at a nursing home in Leeds. Miss Beaumont has had a long and very honourable association with the National

Union, for many years as an Officer of the Yorkshire Council and after she came to live in London as a member of its Executive Committee and an Officer of the Kensington Society for Equal Citizenship As Honorary Librarian and as a very acceptable speaker, Miss Beaumont became well known to our members all over the country and she was greatly missed both at Headquarters and by the Societies when she resigned after the Council Meeting in 1927. In recent years she was Hon. Secretary of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee up to 1928; Hon. Secretary of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations ; Hon. Secretary of the Open Door Council ; Acting Assistant Treasurer of the Open Door International, and a member of the Executive of the National Council of Women. She stood as a Welfare Candidate for the Kensington Borough Council last year.

Few women of her age have given such long and unflagging service to the cause of feminism and her premature death has come as a shock to her colleagues past and present. Her friendly readiness to undertake any piece of work that had to be done even in the dull routine of a busy office, as well as more responsible tasks, will not soon be forgotten at the Headquarters of the National Union and her keen and kindly personality will live long in the memories of her many friends and fellow workers.

#### PERSONAL.

Members of our Societies who have often heard Miss Milton speak effectively at Council meetings will be sorry to learn that she has been very ill at a private hospital in Bath, but is now making slow progress towards recovery. We send her our best wishes and hope that before long we may see her amongst us again.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT NOTES.

#### SCHEMES FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

The Hull scheme for the administration of Public Assistance includes the co-option of four of the guardians from the two existing Boards of Guardians, and when the scheme was before the City Council, Miss Theilman, J.P., moved an amendment to make it compulsory that two of the co-opted members from each Board should be women. She referred to the valuable work done by some of the women guardians, and said they had no guarantee that the Boards would nominate their women members. The proposal was carried by 26 votes to 24 votes. The scheme for the County of Nottinghamshire arranges for a Public Assistance Committee of 35 members, of whom 25 will be elected councillors, and three of the co-opted members are to be women. The county is to be divided into five areas, and those already allotted for assessment purposes have been selected

It is now possible to give further information respecting other proposed schemes of local authorities. The Cornwall County Committee will consist of 39 members, of whom 13 will be co-opted. The existing Boards of Guardians are to be invited to submit the names of two of their members, one being a woman. Following the method adopted in other counties, the present assessment areas have been taken and Guardians' Committees with a membership of 15 to 25 will be established in each area. Thirty-four councillors and 10 co-opted members will form the Cardiganshire Committee, and at least four of the co-opted members are to be women. Three women are at present serving on this County Council. Guardians' Committees will be set up in four districts. The Durham scheme provides for a committee of sixty persons, 20 of whom will be co-opted members and 10 at least of the latter are to be women. At present only one woman is a member of the Durham Council. Guardians' Committees will be appointed in the 10 districts and four or five women will be among the additional members.

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L ADY, whose daughter (aged 20) is anxious to train in House Property Management, would be glad to hear from Woman Estate Manager, willing to take pupil. Opportunity to attend lectures preparatory to the Surveyor's Institution Examination desired; please state terms, and approximate date when pupil would be required.—Box 1,558, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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#### AUGUST 23, 1929.

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