THE

WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The New Session.

Forecasts as to the legislative programme for the new Session re already appearing in the daily Press. The Times, whose Political Notes' are usually so accurate as to count almost as official pronouncements, states that it is understood that the arrangements for the new session are being made with a view to a dissolution as soon after 1st May as parliamentary business permits. This would involve an election following early in The Government will then have to complete its legislative business by Easter, reserving the few weeks after the Easter recess for the Budget resolutions and the Finance Bill. As has been announced for some time, the Government is hoping that substantial progress will be made with the Rating Reform Bill by Christmas, but owing to the comprehensive and controversial nature of the Government's proposals, the progress may be slower than has been anticipated, and it is believed that a curtailment of the Christmas recess is not unlikely. A special Rating Reform Bill will be introduced for Scotland, but it is expected that the measure will be drafted on somewhat broader lines so as to prevent too prolonged a Committee Stage. For the rest, a Public Works (Loan) Bill, an Expiring Laws (Continuance) Bill—to include the prolongation of the London Traffic Act and the Rent Restriction Act—an Imperial Wireless and Cable Bill, and a Bridges Bill are expected. Although *The Times* makes no announcement of it, the Home Secretary has already referred to the Children Bill which he wishes to introduce, and there is an excellent chance that the Government may introduce a Bill to raise the minimum legal age of marriage. Among those Bills which are to be postponed to the next Parliament are the Factories Bill, and the Bill dealing with the reform of road traffic. We hear of the postponement of the Factories Bill with regret, but with no surprise. The old cry that industry cannot afford improvement in the condition of the workers is once more being raised. The sufferers from the postponement of new legislation will be chiefly those workers, for the most part women and young persons, who owing to weak industrial organization are still exploited by the less conscientious or more hardly pressed employer, and work the ten-hour day which was first laid down

Women in the Political Parties.

The election of Miss Susan Lawrence as Vice-Chairman of the Labour Party means that she will be Chairman next year and will preside over the Party conference. We have no reason to complain that women are being ignored in the councils of the political parties; it was rumoured in the Press last week that Lady Iveagh is to be asked to second the address to the throne when Parliament reassembles.

Women in Coal Mines.

An account of the conditions under which women work in coal mines in India is given in the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for 1927 (which can be obtained from the High Commissioner for India, London, price 4s.), in the hope that official opinion will be stirred up. Photographs are shown of heavy coal wagons being pushed along by pairs of women; others show women emerging from a pit carrying baskets containing 60 lb. of coal, which has had to be brought up an incline of from 150 to 250 feet, and has to be carried up a further slope of 50 feet with a gradient of about one in two. Rather more than a quarter of all the workers in Indian coal mines are women, and in spite of proposals having been put forward for the abolition of women's labour underground, owners continue to raise objections which the report considers frivolous. "During the year," says the Chief Inspector, "the question of female labour in mines was again under discussion and advanced a further stage. Draft proposals were put forward for a gradual reduction of the employment of women underground in the coal and salt mines, leading to elimination at the end of a period of seven years. By the representatives of the larger coal mines the proposals were accepted, but without enthusiasm, and with the suggestion that the period within which the gradual reduction is to be effected may be extended. The owners of the smaller coal mines persisted in their attitude of strong disapproval." We publish a letter from the Open Door Council on this subject.

The Josephine Butler Centenary in India.

A correspondent has sent us an interesting account of a purdah meeting held under the auspices of the Madras Branch of the Social Hygiene Cocncil and the Women's Indian Association to commemorate the centenary of Josephine Butler. The Chairman was a Hindu widow who is the head of a Hindu widows' home and the proceedings opened by the singing of a Sanskrit hymn. The first speaker, Dr. (Mrs.) Muthulakshmi, who spoke in Tamil, is a member of the Legislative Council in Madras, where she is promoting a bill for raising the age of consent. Another speaker, a woman doctor, spoke with fierce indignation of the miserable condition of the Devidasis (prostitutes) and rebuked any possible levity on this subject. So long as the Hindus tolerated this evil, she said, their religion was a whited sepulchre. A second meeting of men and women was held in Madras the following day.

"England, My England."

Nearly all of us, consciously or unconsciously, have a deep love for England. It is most lovable. Therefore it is a matter for rejoicing that the Conference at 'Leicester last week on "The Preservation of the Countryside" proved a great success. It was promoted by the National Trust Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Scapa and other societies with the co-operation of those energetic organizations known as the Ramblers' Clubs. One of the most remarkable features of it was the exhibition of photographs of certain beautiful objects, and of a large number of (to use Miss Royden's word) "uglies". Among the ugliest of the uglies were representations of enamel advertisement signs—tobacco, bicycles, petrol, cocoa, distemper, all of which commodities some have sworn to forego for ever, at least till their owners put on the white sheet of repentance. The conference is to become an annual event, for there was a resoluteness about the delegates which bodes ill for offenders. Among the women's organizations represented were the Women's Institutes, who have done yeoman service especially in the matter of litter, and the National Council of Women. It is greatly to be desired that women should give every support to the organization of public opinion in this great cause.

"Blatant Vulgarity."

The Prime Minister and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald were among those who sent messages and neither minced their words. Mr Baldwin called on public opinion "to save the country from the atrocities now too often committed." Mr. MacDonald spoke not only of "atrocity" but of "abomination," "blatant vulgarity, 'horror," and he mourned that because of such things "the genii loci are banished never to come back again," and "the lover of the countryside finds himself wandering about it like a bereaved soul." "Where," men will say, "is this England that we read of in the old poets from Chaucer to Rupert Brooke?

to save which the young men went to die in the Great War.' The reply will be "Oh! those who survived destroyed it in the ordinary way of business and public improvement. They had no alternative." Thus did Professor G. L. Trevelyan convey to his hearers something of the passionate grief all great historians must feel at the things which happen to-day.

Feminine Characteristics.

A correspondent has called our attention to the following record by a political diarist quoted recently in The Times 'Aug. 7, 1821. The Queen of England died to-day at 10.25 p.m. as the result of an internal inflamation. This princess had acquired a sad and deplorable notoriety. She had abandoned the qualities characteristic of her sex, patience, submission and resignation, for a system of audacity, effrontery, and brayado, which gradually alienated from her the goodwill of those who at first sympathized with and supported her claims. The Queen in question is, of course, the unfortunate Caroline, wife of George IV, against whom unsuccessful divorce proceedings were instituted. Concerning the general manner in which she reacted to the brutalities of her royal spouse, various opinions exist; and it may perhaps be conceded that discretion was not her strong point. But if, as our diarist suggests, she abandoned the qualities of "patience, submission and resignation" and if these qualities were in 1821 "peculiar to her sex," we have reason to be grateful to her. It indeed was true that they were thus abandoned. And on the whole we feel that "audacity, effrontery and bravado" were under the circumstances a desirable substitute. But were the qualities of "patience, submission and resignation "ever peculiar to her sex? In vain do we search the pages of history and mythology for confirmation of this easy generalization. We find only widespread evidence of a masculine desire that they should be.

Are Women Persons?

This question has a familiar ring. But it is not yet answered. Five prominent Canadian women are, we are told, coming to London to make a direct appeal to the Privy Council against the ruling of the Supreme Court that under the British North America Act women are not persons and are therefore not eligible for the Canadian Senate.

An Interesting Appointment.

The Council of the British Association has appointed Miss Gertrude Caton Thompson to conduct an investigation into South African archæology with special reference to the origins of the prehistoric ruins of Zimbabwe. Miss Thompson has already had considerable experience of similar research in Egypt and Malta, and will take up her work in South Africa early next year.

Women in Business.

Miss Helen Marjorie Walker, daughter of the late Sir Francis Elliot Walker, has been appointed under the will of her father as sole managing director of the Campsall and Earliham Estates Company, Ltd. Sir Francis states in his will that his daughter is to hold the position with the same powers as he himself held. We hope old-fashioned fathers will be duly impressed and take daughters with business capacity into their business with them and test their powers.

A Woman Workhouse Master.

The widow of the late Master of Holgall House, Mrs. Gaines, an institution under the Middlesbrough Board of Guardians, has been appointed matron in charge, in succession to her husband. Mrs. Gaines was previously matron. While glad that the Middlesbrough Guardians have the good sense to recognize the abilities of a woman to hold a place of authority, an increase

of salary of £50 appears to be rather inadequate for her doubled

Sportswomen's Rights.

It is announced that the strict ban on women taking part in motor trials and races is almost certainly to be removed before the end of this year. Hitherto they have been permitted to imperil their lives as passengers in racing cars and on racing cycles so long in fact as the matter of their life and death depended on the skill and coolness of a man, not on their own. In future their own nerve, their own cool judgment and accurate eyes are to be their protection. We shall welcome the long delayed act of elementary sportsmanship on the part of their male colleagues and in doing so we pay once more our homage to Lady Heath, who has not only again added to her own laurels by her new altitude record, but has by such achievements and by voice and pen done all in her power to break down the hoary taboo against the woman of mechanical sport. Another woman's success in the world of sport has to be recorded. Miss M. E. Foster, the only woman, was the only one of the nine competitors who "beat the century" by 101 points out of 105 at the rifle shooting match at the London and Middlesex meeting recently. Miss Foster, who thus won the President's prize, has already a distinguished record in rifle shooting, having won the silver jewel in the South London Club Championship match as well as the Club's Jubilee Challenge Cup.

Time and Tide.

We congratulate our contemporary Time and Tide on the increased size which brings it into line with other weekly reviews. Though it does not claim to be a woman's paper, it is directed and edited by women, and after eight years of existence it has established a place for itself in periodical literature. With more space available, it hopes to deal more fully with current topics and literary subjects.

Municipal Election Notes.

The Wrexham and Whitehaven Councils have unanimously invited their two present Mayors, Mrs. Edward Jones and Miss Helder, to accept office for a second year, and both ladies have agreed to do so. Welshpool will also elect a woman Mayor this year, the Council having invited Mrs. J. H. Davies to be Mayor of the Borough. Mrs. Davies will be the first woman Mayor of Welshpool and also the first woman to fill the office in mid-Wales.

It is probable that Mrs. J. M. Richardson will be the only

woman candidate in Huddersfield at the forthcoming elections. In Manchester Miss Dorothy Porter, the daughter of a former Lord Mayor, is standing for the Didsbury Ward in the Liberal

The Edinburgh Women Citizens' Association is supporting the candidature of Miss Annie M'Gregor, the Association's Hon. Treasurer for the past ten years, at the forthcoming City Council election. Miss M'Gregor has had considerable experience of administrative work, having formerly been superintendent of the women's section of the accountant's department of the General Post Office, Edinburgh. Miss M'Gregor will also receive the support of the Morningside Ward Liberal Association. Mrs. Freda Gembles, a nominee of the Edinburgh Trades and Labour Council, is also a candidate for the Council.

The Bolton Women Citizens' Association has adopted the following resolution which has been sent to the three political parties: "In view of the ever-widening powers of Local Authorities and the close association of those powers with health, housing, education, and everything concerning home life, it becomes increasingly necessary that women should co-operate with men in the administration of civic affairs. The Bolton Women Citizens' Association therefore earnestly appeals to all the political parties to give full consideration to the question of nominating suitable women as candidates at the forthcoming municipal elections." In view of the type of woman some times selected by the political party we should be inclined to put the all-essential word *suitable* in italics!

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 woman'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.

"THE WELFARE CANDIDATES."

In recent articles in this paper our Local Government correspondent, Miss Bertha Mason, has endeavoured to impress our readers with the magnitude of the opportunity which lies before them in the forthcoming Borough Council Elections. In London, as she points out, the elections have an especially pressing significance, because they are triennial, and when once they are over, voters of the London Boroughs cannot hope for any periodical influx of new blood such as the annual elections of the county and non-county boroughs in England and Wales make possible. We heartily endorse every word of our Correspondent, especially the plea she puts forward for more women, both in London and in the provinces. It is indeed disappointing that the number of women on councils increases so slowly though each election as it comes offers a new possibility of some accession to their ranks. We cannot believe, however, that the slow progress is entirely due to the apathy of women we are convinced that the present electoral methods which in many boroughs tends to paralyse local interest and initiative are largely responsible, and we fear that no marked improvement can be effected until these methods are fundamentally changed.

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Nearly every one is agreed in principle on the importance of women on Local Governing Bodies, but the difficulty is to secure really suitable candidates, women with experience and above all women with a definite objective and courage to make straight for it in face of difficulties. Such women do not as a rule find it very easy to run as candidates. They don't fit well into the party machine, and unless they have some strong non-party organizations behind them, their chances are almost nil. this reason we admire the sporting effort of the six candidates who have grouped themselves together on a non-party platform in one of the Kensington wards. This group consists of five women and one man. They belong to different political parties but they stand or fall on the principle that Borough Council affairs should not be the cockpit of party politics. Two of the candidates are experienced members of the medical profession, and one has served as the Medical Officer of Health of a London borough. Two have taken a prominent part in connection with housing reform, and another has taken special interest in the abolition of the smoke nuisance. All six have shared in the life of the Borough, and are known as public spirited citizens. Incidentally it may be worth while mentioning that so far as national politics is concerned, they include representatives of all three political parties

The ward to which they offer their services consists largely of

a so-called working class population, and it has the unenviable reputation of a high infantile mortality rate—the highest in the Borough. In their joint election address which has just been issued, this group place efficiency and the welfare of the community before party. They stand for an advanced housing policy; for the extension of the health services and for equality between men and women in regard to conditions of service under the municipality. The three planks of this platform will surely make a special appeal in this year of grace 1928, when women have at last entered their full inheritance of

But whatever the outcome of this gallant enterprise may beand we earnestly hope it will be crowned with success—it is impossible not to feel that the very experiment itself is worth while. In a ward where only one in three of the voters has hitherto taken the trouble to go to the poll to select their representatives, there is clearly something wrong. We cannot believe that men and women in a district where social conditions press heavily upon them could show such utter indifference if the bearing of civic government on their lives had been adequately brought home to them. There is unfortunately a fairly universal feeling in many parts of London, and it is not absent in other parts of the country, that the dominance of party is such that local elections are a mere matter of form. This gives a very special educational value to this gesture of responsible good citizenship in Kensington. If the six candidates with no party or any other axe to grind, are successful, those who sent them there will appreciate their complete independence to serve the best interests of their constituents, and whether they are successful or not an active door to door campaign on the lines indicated will provide a magnificent opportunity of educating the ordinary citizen in municipal affairs.

We conclude by hoping that these experimenters in practical citizenship will receive wide support not only inside the Borough, but that workers interested in the improvement of London government who are not committed to work elsewhere will rally around them from other parts of London. In such a campaign it is house to house work that does the trick. This triennial election is the only obvious opportunity of bringing the average voter in touch with the government of his borough. Its success will be a threefold triumph. It will mean the return of five women; it will mean the return of a group of six candidates with excellent qualifications, on a platform which our readers at any rate will heartily approve; last and not least it will strike a blow at the tyranny of party politics in local government.

POLICE INQUIRY.

The Royal Commission on Police Powers and Procedure, held its first public session on 10th October. Sir Ernley Blackwell, head of the Legal Department of the Home Office, was the witness. The second session was on 15th October, when Sir William Horwood, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, was examined. Lord Lee of Fareham is the Chairman. Miss Margaret Beavan (Lord Mayor of Liverpool) and Dame Meriel Talbot are the only women on the Commission. In opening the public proceedings the Chairman said :-

"They were not appointed as experts nor as representatives or delegates of any outside body or organization. They were in effect a British jury, consisting of men and women of the world, who were uncommitted in advance to any views, legal, moral, or political, arising out of the inquiry, and they started with completely open minds with regard to their ultimate verdict.

He wanted to make it quite clear that the Commission would not endeavour to restore that confidence (between police and public) by the use of whitewash, but by discovering and removing, so far as they could, the causes of friction and complaint so far as they existed and remembering always that lawabiding citizens, who were the vast majority, did not wish to see the police discredited, although the criminal classes no doubt would like nothing better, and it would certainly not be the purpose of the Commission to play into their hands.

Both Sir Ernley Blackwell and Sir William Horwood affirmed that there was no practice approaching "third degree" methods. On the other hand, both admitted that they had received complaints of such methods being used. Sir Ernley even went so far as to say: "I have not the smallest suspicion that anything like improper pressure is used." On this the Saturday

Review commented: "This statement is almost incredible If he has not, then he is one of the few people in the country

Sir William-Horwood said the allegation of "third degree" was almost invariably made now in murder cases. He held that the new Regulation as to questioning potential witnesses whose own character might be involved would in many cases defeat the ends of justice. (Apparently no one asked Sir William Horwood what he understood by "the ends of justice.") It seems that the Home Office meant this rule to apply only to exceptional cases while Scotland Yard believes it to apply now in all cases However, since it is not yet part of General Orders it does not apply in any case.

The Commissioner of Police has not much opinion of women police. He thinks women prefer to make even the most intimate statements to men, and that women officers cannot get the truth out of women as a policeman would get it from a man. He would never hand over the entire charge of a case to a woman police officer. Asked "Why is she not competent to carry a case through?" by Miss Beavan, he replied on the lines of Dr. Fell: I am quite sure she could not. I am responsible and I must form my own judgment."

Sir William Horwood said the police looked to the Street Offences Committee to clear up the unsatisfactory position concerning evidence of annoyance. He thought it would be a good thing if the powers and duties of the police were more clearly defined in these offences.

Sir Leonard Dunning (Chief Inspector of Constabulary) will' be the next witness.

HOUSING IN WESTMINSTER. By G. W. CURRIE.

No apology is needed for referring as often as may be necessary or useful to the housing problem in Westminster. Our readers will remember that early last year the Rev. Francis Boyd, one of the Westminster Survey Group, and his Parochial Church Council lodged a statutory complaint under Section 10 of the 1925 Act. This test case demonstrated that the statutory procedure was cheap, quick and effective, and that no amount of inside manœuvring by ward politicians could render it nugatory. It was reported at the time that the results were quite satisfactory and indeed led to further representations on a much larger scale which were satisfactory also. In such matters official evidence is always useful and the following extract from the report for the year 1927 (published during the holidays) of the Medical Officer of Health for Westminster shows exactly how the City Council's own record of the matter stands. On p. 55 we read "A formal complaint under Section 10 of the Housing Act, 1925, was received in February. It concerned 20 houses in the Victoria Ward. As required by the Act, the properties were visited forthwith by the Medical Officer of Health, and a full report was prepared and considered by the Public Health Committee. A copy of the complaint was forwarded to the London County Council as required under Section 25 of the Housing Act. . . . In all except two cases the conditions which gave rise to complaint were satisfactorily dealt with within three months of receiving the complaint. The work entailed in consequence of a statutory complaint such as has been described adds greatly to the ordinary duties of the Public Health Department. As regards the administrative side, there is increased correspondence, interviewing, and special reports to be made, while the visits of sanitary inspectors in this instance numbered no fewer than 208.

The Medical Officer's report with reference to the further protests is even more interesting: "In a number of instances he was unable to find confirmatory evidence of the conditions which had lent themselves to such vivid and appealing descriptions in the report published only a few months before . . ."

In other words, no sooner does a landlord grasp the fact that Mrs. Barclay and her partner, Miss Perry, are on his track than he begins to put things right. This is exactly what the Chelsea Housing Association found out two years ago. No wonder that "confirmatory evidence." was conspicuous by its absence "a few months" later.

Section 10, which ensures "a visit forthwith" is clearly the procedure to adopt. The 20 houses in question must have been in a pretty bad way by the time an energetic Medical Officer of Health like Dr. Shinnie found 208 visits required.

However a natural feeling of some annoyance may be stirred up in the minds of a Public Health Committee by such an exposure as the Westminster Survey Group brought about in these cases (and we understand that, to begin with, the Committee were really unaware that Mrs. Barclay's comments were well founded it is clear that Section 10's procedure in the hands of an energetic Medical Officer of Health affords the protection of an oppressed tenant. If a case were to arise of a local authority failing to take appropriate action, there is a clear right of appeal direct to the Ministry of Health. We can scarcely imagine resort to such an appeal being needful in Westminster. If Chelsea, Kensington and Fulham Councils would similarly rouse themselves, Mr. Chamberlain's problem in West London would be greatly eased.

THE CAUSE.

Our readers will welcome the timely appearance of Mrs. Oliver Strachey's *History of the Woman's Movement*, of which a review will shortly appear in these columns.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER EVERY FRIDAY. ONE PENNY.

SPECIAL TERMS FOR SOCIETIES

NATIONAL LIBERAL FEDERATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

With the close of the Liberal Conference at Yarmouth, the country now has before it the programmes of the three political parties on which the general election of 1929 should be fought, unless some sudden red herring is drawn across the trail.

The conference was well attended, business-like, and enthusiastic, and the long programme was adopted with hardly a change. Women played a rôle at the conference which seems hardly credible to those of us who remember earlier conferences at which a few wives of leaders sat on the platform, and the local women's organization gave the tea and coffee at the reception to the delegates. Women seconded resolutions and moved amendments; associations in the constituencies sent many women among their delegates and in the test division on this new feeling of equality, namely adherence to the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value, the voting was 116 for 60 against. Owing to a misunderstanding several supporters were absent at the time, but it was most noticeable that it was the younger men of the party, and all the women (save a new bride!) who voted for the equality principle. Under the twothirds majority rule the amendment was lost by one vote, but the strength of the vote, nearly two to one, is significant of a deep change. In any case the party is not likely to go back on its manifesto at the last election in favour of all-round equality between the sexes.

It was clear from the debates and the speeches of the leaders that the Liberal party stands first and foremost for a vigorous peace policy of arbitration, progressive disarmament, the evacuation of the occupied areas, and of an energetically friendly policy with the United States.

The second great object of the Liberal party was clearly defined as the recovery and maintenance of our Free Trade system, which has made us the greatest partners in world trade, and the systematic support of the work of the world economic conference for the freeing of international trade from prohibitions, restrictions, bargaining tariffs, and other obstructions. Public economy in administration which was bracketed by The Times along with "noises of motor vehicles" as finding no time at the Conservative conference, was dealt with early in the programme, preceding the resolution on rating reform. This set out the Liberal alternative to the Government proposals, viz. transference to the State of the whole burden of unemployment (since unemployment is a national problem), the restoration of the road fund while increasing the share of road costs born by the fund, redistribution of local services between the State and the locality, the gradual transfer of assessment to site values.

After sound finance and free trade the question of unemployment was dealt with on the lines of great constructional works, directed by a national committee financed by a treasury board of national investment whereby the total productive capacity of the country might be increased by improvements in roads, canals, harbours, afforestation, slum clearance, electrical power scheme.

To relieve workers and employers the premiums payable by both for unemployment insurance should be reduced to a figure corresponding to benefits received.

Under education the party declared for a break in the type of school at 11, school leaving age of 15, part-time day continuation schooling to 16, and part-time education up to 18, with a steady increase in the provision of secondary school places.

The industrial resolutions, resolutions on coal and agriculture followed the conclusions of the great inquiries undertaken, conciliation in industry, acquisition of mining royalties, provision for transfer of surplus labour, and provision for research were the main items.

In agriculture the party believes in security of tenure, the development of credit facilities and transport, co-operative marketing and research.

Clearance of slums, bold town and regional planning, special attention to the housing needs of large families with prior claim to help by any subsidy, remedies for the grievances of lease-holders were the practical points tackled under housing.

Temperance reformers reached an admirably practical compromise on immediate legislation, and electoral reform by proproportional representation or the alternative vote were the subjects closing the session.

The rousing welcome given to Sir Herbert Samuel on all

occasions shows that he as well as Mr. Lloyd George has struck the imagination of the people. Mr. Lloyd George's magnificent speech on peace and disarmament roused enthusiasm to white heat.

OCTOBER 19, 1928.

At the morning session Mr. Lloyd George dealt with problems of government under the present group system. The Liberal party is and will remain independent of both other parties. If returned with a majority over both parties a Liberal government will carry out its programme, if the Liberals are the largest group they will, as a government, carry out so much of their programme as they can, in the face of Socialist and Conservative pacts. If they are one of the two smaller groups they will throw their whole voting strength against any measure of protective tariffs or any measure of socialism, but will naturally vote for any measure introduced by any party which carries out reforms to which Liberals are pledged. In no case will they repeat the experiment of 1924, when they placed the Labour Government unconditionally in office.

The real need at the next general election, as I see it, is that the electorate should steadily vote for a programme they believe in, rather than against a programme they dislike. Such constructive voting must be a powerful guide to legislation undertaken by any party which after the general election may be called upon to form a cabinet.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY.

OBITUARY. CHIEF INSPECTOR CHAMPNEYS.

In the early summer of 1916, Chief Inspector Champneys joined the ranks of the then Women Police Service. After a very short time in London, she was sent up to an explosive munition factory in Wales, where the writer of these words was stationed. From the first moment of seeing her one was impressed with the certainty that she would go far in the movement which her years of experience on a Board of Guardians and work among girls had fitted her so well to serve.

The autumn of 1916 saw her promoted to the rank of Sub-Inspector and sent on to control the policewomen in another factory; less than a year later she was called to the headquarters staff in London, where she remained until the early summer of this year. It was the chief inspector's work in London to direct the benevolent department of the service, alongside of this she sifted out and investigated cases for the Dames Dawson Memorial Home at Hythe, for mothers and babies,

The affection with which numbers of unfortunate girls held her is illustrated by an incident of the other week, where a girl burst into an officer's room at headquarters with a wreath and "What shall I do without her, and how can I get this up to Notts, I pawned my wedding ring to get it." Also outside the Sutton Church at the service, where colleagues in their blue and silver uniforms formed a guard of honour, a young mother waiting with a baby in a pram and a toddler at her side, had come to pay tribute to one who had befriended her. The inspector's power on a platform was great, it was no unusual thing for her to be speaking most days in the week, for she was in great demand, both at large town meetings with the Mayor and Chief Constable by her side as well as smaller meetings in the villages of England. Up and down the country she travelled, with loving unselfishness, thinking only of the movement she served, and the desire to help in the safe-guarding of young people and innocent assaulted children, wishing to open the eyes of the unseeing, to educate the ignorant in these matters, by so doing to influence her hearers and public opinion as to the need of policewomen.

Chief Inspector Champneys will be missed by all who came under the influence of her friendship or turned to her for advice or comfort. The inspector was no respecter of persons, whatever the need of those who came to her she gave of her best, whether down and outers needed help, boys and girls assistance, colleagues advice, society folk explanations or a pal desired her company for a jaunt the response was always forth-

Just to look at the Chief Inspector was helpful, such goodwill to mankind beamed from her face and such happiness, contentment and inner peace was written on her countenance. Surely all who knew this great hearted woman's capacity for work and desire for service, may feel comforted in the thought that even now she is carrying on with increased experience in the Great Beyond.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EOUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss Elkanor Rathbonr, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Miss Macadam.

General and Parliamentary Secretary: Mis. Horton.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

Telephone: Victoria 6188.

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

Our Societies will already have received copies of the questionnaire for the forthcoming Borough Council Elections. We print it below, however, for the benefit of individuals whom we much hope will put the questions to the candidates, either by word of mouth or by letter. Further copies can be sent from Headquarters gratis if stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. A similar questionnaire applicable to London Borough Councils will be published next week.

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.
1ST NOVEMBER, 1928.

1. Will you support the application of the principle of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, so that a woman shall not be disqualified on account of her sex from any post or office under the Council, including the higher responsible posts—medical, educational, and administrative?

2. Will you oppose the compulsory retirement on marriage of women employees of the Council?

3. Will you endeavour to secure the appointment of an adequate representation of women on all Committees and Sub-Committees of your Council, either as elected or as co-opted members?

4. Will you support equal pay for equal work and equal opportunities of training, entry and promotion for all men and women employed by the Council?

5. Will you endeavour to provide equal facilities for girls and boys in general, technical and industrial education and in particular in connection with day trade schools?

6. Will you urge your Watch Committee, or your Standing Joint Committee for County Police to carry out the recommendations of the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Employment of Women Police, 1924, and to appoint women police in your area?

7. Will you, for houses built by the Council, endeavour to secure:—

i. The appointment of qualified women property managers? ii. Rent Abatement for tenants with children?

8. Will you endeavour to secure the strict application of the regulations with regard to smoke abatement?

9. Will you endeavour to secure provision for a complete Maternity Service, in so far as it is within the province of your Council, to comprise the programme as recommended by the Ministry of Health, including Domiciliary Midwifery, Ante-Natal Supervision, Administrative Action in connection with Puerperal Inspection?

10. Will you, in any scheme for the training or relief of the unemployed, include provision for women as well as for men, and will you pay special regard to the claims of those, whether men or women, who have dependents?

CANVASSERS' CLASS.

At the well-attended class held on Friday, 12th October, at Headquarters, Lady Horsley and Miss Beaumont spoke on what they were standing for as two of the six non-party candidates in the forthcoming Borough Council Election in Kensington. Miss Macadam then gave an outline of the general principles of canvassing. This was followed by questions and a keen discussion, and a number of those present volunteered to undertake work in the St. Charles Ward of Kensington.

CLASSES ON ELECTION WORK.

As a result of the demand for instruction in methods of election work, which this meeting has shown to be widespread, the N.U.S.E.C. is planning a course of classes on the many aspects of work during an election, in the hope that it will be of use to women of any or no party, who wish to work at the next General Election.

KENSINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTION.-ST. CHARLES WARD.

The Candidates

The six non-party candidates who are standing on a programme based on that of the Kensington and Paddington S.E.C. are the

following: Dr. Constance Beach and Dr. Arthur Kenwood Matthews (who has lived for 20 years in Kensington), both of whom practise in the neighbourhood; Miss Beaumont, who is already well known to our readers as an enthusiastic worker for Equal Francise; Lady Horsley, who concerns herself largely with questions of temperance, and is a frequent speaker for the League of Nations Union; Lady Maurice and Mrs. Houston, who are both connected with the work of the Housing Association, the former being a member of its Advisory Council. We hope very much that St. Charles Ward will return such a band of experienced workers whose addition to the Local Council would prove invaluable.

The Committee Room.

The Committee Room for the six non-party candidates is now open at 184 Ladbroke Grove, daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and all offers of help with canvassing or clerical work will be very gratefully received. It is delightful to see the colours of the N.U.S.E.C. carried into every corner of the Ward by workers and canvassers, and to see the familiar red, white, and green on the posters and leaflets and decorating the Committee Room.

RECEPTION TO DAME EDITH LYTTELTON, D.B.E.

A private and informal reception is being given by the N.U.S.E.C. in honour of Dame Edith Lyttelton on Tuesday, 13th November, at 4.30 p.m., at 50 Porchester Terrace, W. 2, by kind permission of the Hon. Mrs. Franklin. We are looking forward to this opportunity of hearing from Dame Edith an account of the work of the League, particularly that in which she has been taking such an active part.

AND AGAIN!

The Summer School at St. Hilda's College this year proved such a success, and so many of the students present at it signed a letter requesting the Executive Committee to arrange for another school to be held next year, that the Committee has decided to make provisional arrangements for the holding of a 1929 Summer School. The exact date, of course, has yet to be fixed, but many of our readers may care to keep it in mind when planning their holidays for next year.

SOUTH WALES AREA GROUP OF WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS.

By Marion Staines.

An all-day Conference on the work of the N.U.S.E.C. was held at Cardiff in the Y.W.C.A. hall on 2nd October. In view of the fact that one of the main objects of the Union-the equality of the franchise-had been achieved, it was felt it would be useful to consider its future work. This was done chiefly at the morning session, when Mrs. Coombe Tennant, J.P., who presided, and Miss Macadam from headquarters in London, were the principal speakers. Delegates from Aberdare, Abertillery, Ebbw Vale, and Newport reported on the work in their areas, which in spite of financial strain and the difficulty of getting speakers was remarkably successful.

Mrs. Coombe Tennant, in an admirable speech, laid stress upon the point that though we had obtained the franchise there was still much work for Women Citizens' Associations to do. She thought it would be best to concentrate on a few points. such as: (1) The right of married women to undertake paid work; (2) Women Police; (3) Women in Parliament. She regretted that no member of the South Wales Area Group was on the Executive of the N.U.S.E.C.

Miss Macadam, in a speech that gave great pleasure to all her hearers, gave a detailed account of the work that is now being done by the N.U.S.E.C. If there were any members present who had been inclined to think that the time had come to dissolve the Union, they must have been convinced that they had not realized how much remained to be done in the woman's cause. Certain matters, such as family endowment and birth control, at present included in N.U.S.E.C. policy, upon which difference of opinion exists among Societies, were hardly touched upon, the time of the session having been spent upon noncontroversial matters.

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Alderman A. J. Howell) and the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Howell) were present at the luncheon held at the Dormie Café. In his speech the Lord Mayor made an eloquent plea for more women in municipal public life. Short speeches were made by Mrs. Coombe Tennant, Miss Macadam. Dr. Tasker Smith of Newport, and Miss Barke (Chairman of the executive of the Area Group), who suggested more coordination between the various women citizens' associations

and headquarters upon pieces of work, upon which united action might be taken.

The afternoon session dealt with "Restrictive Legislation" and "Married Women and Paid Work." Mrs. Coombe Tennant was again the president and the two speakers were Miss Macadam. representing the N.U.S.E.C., and Mrs. White, a member of the Open Door Council, who had come down from London for the meeting. The difference between the absolute equality views of the latter and the equality advocated by Miss Macadam, seemed to be very slight, but both speakers made excellent speeches on the subject under consideration. A good discussion

Miss Collin, chairman of the Cardiff W.C.A., presided over the evening meeting. She pointed out the changes in the position of women which had been brought about during the last twenty years and gave some interesting reminiscences.

Mrs. Coombe Tennant, speaking as a magistrate, stressed the need for more women police, and Miss Macadam outlined the reforms that women had been able to carry through as the result of the partial franchise of the last ten years.

Miss Ethel Gage spoke as one of the young women who would be voting at the next election for the first time. "The new voter: her responsibilities and opportunities," was the special subject of the evening meeting, and everyone agreed that it was a fitting close to a most successful conference.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

KINGSTON, MALDEN, SURBITON AND DISTRICT.

A most successful and interesting informal conference convened by this

A most successful and interesting informal conference convened by this Association was held on Tuesday, 2nd October, at Kingston-on-Thames, for the purpose of discussing "How parties may sink their own differences in order to secure the best Local Government representation," and was of an entirely non-political character. All the local political and non-political bodies of women, with one exception, were represented.

Miss Marion Berry, of N.U.S.E.C., gave a most interesting opening address, which was followed by a keen discussion as a result of which some very useful suggestions were made, the most important being that the conference should be the forerunner of similar gatherings for co-operation between the bodies represented in working for a greater and more efficient representation of women in Local Government activities.

It certainly proved to those who had assumed the responsibility of arranging the conference, that a sinking of political differences could but have the desired result by effecting the necessary education in Local Government work of women best qualified for service in such a branch of our present-day government.

our present-day government

PRESTON W.C.A.

At the opening meeting of the Session, on 1st October, a large audience was addressed by Miss Tancred on the subject of Women Police. Miss Tancred gave a very interesting account of the history of police women, and emphasized the necessity for their employment, so that they could carry out those protective and preventive duties in connection with women and children, which are universally admitted to be better performed by women.

STROUD URBAN WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, 3rd October, Miss Macadam visited Stroud and gave a most interesting address on the work of the N.U.S.E.C. The audience was representative of all parties, classes, and sects, and the keenest interest was displayed in all the points. Many questions were asked and answered, and the meeting undoubtedly gave a great impetus to the work of the W.C.A. in Stroud.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WOMEN IN INDIAN MINES.

Madam,—The following is a resolution upon the proposed exclusion of women from paid work in Indian mines, adopted by the Open Door Council, and forwarded to the Government of India to be considered by the Governor-General in Council on 1st October.

The point which will perhaps most interest your readers is the statement which we append to the resolution, made by Mrs. Margaret Cousins, for many years the honorary secretary of the Women's Indian Association—one of the most enlightened and progressive of women's organizations, with many branches in India. tions, with many branches in India.

Protest against the Denial to Women of the Right to Earn Money Under-

"Protest against the Denial to Women of the Right to Earn Money Underground in India.

"The Open Door Council, while not opposed to such regulation of employments and processes as is based on the nature of the work, and not on the sex of the worker, protests against the action of the Government of India in proposing to exclude women from work underground, so limiting the area of paid employment open to them.

"The Council fully recognizes that such work is arduous and disagreeable for both men and women, but points out that the denial of the right to enter a paid employment leads to much more serious consequences than working underground.

"To turn out of their present paid employment the women now working underground as is proposed under the regulations is cruel; to forbid the future entry of all women into this employment is unjust as it puts them at a disadvantage as compared with the male worker.

"The closing of a paid employment to women tends to drive them into and helps to keep them segregated in the lower paid processes of industry.

'Such a limitation on the freedom of women to contract—a limitation "Such a limitation on the freedom of women to contract—a limitation not imposed on male adults—lowers the status of women as earners and as individuals. A similar limitation on any group of male adults would be recognized as an injustice, an attack upon their status, and a hindrance to their economic progress. The same evil consequences follow from any such limitation placed on women.

"Loss of status is not protection, but is the condition which makes possible the exploitation of its victim."

Report of Representative of Indian Women's Association After Investigation. "Our Indian Women's Association Representative, who inspected women's conditions in the Indian coal mines, recommended that we should press for improved conditions for both men and women in the mines, and not press for the compulsory stoppage of women workers in them, as she said conditions of home-life were so unsatisfactory above ground that there would be happier, more natural and more moral life if husband and wife continued to work together."

NORAH BROWNRIGG,

The Open Door Council, 3 Bedford Sqcare, W.C.

OCTOBER 19, 1928.

TOLERATED BROTHELS IN THE FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

Madam,—May I be allowed in your valuable paper to protest against the tolerated brothels allowed to be carried on in the Federated Malay States, Straits Settlements, India, etc., by the free men and the free

States, Straits Settlements, India, etc., by the free men and the free women of this country.

To earn one's daily bread by living a life of shame is surely deplorable, but for the Government of a country to force young girls to earn their bread in this way by allowing houses of ill fame to exist, is far more deplorable, and far more to be reprobated.

Tolerated brothels, too, are an intensified source of venereal diseases, as the keepers of brothels naturally welcome all clients, no matter how contagious they are. Louis Fiaux in his book, Les Maisons de Tolerance (third edition, 1896), shows from French official statistics from 1812 to 1889, also from Belgian and Russian official statistics, that girls in these houses have always been far more diseased, and so far more contagious than a corresponding number of girls, also registered, but living by themselves in their own rooms. He also remarks that the greater the number of healthy girls put in these houses, the greater eventually the number of people infected with venereal disease by these houses. No wonder venereal diseases are rampant in Singapore, with its two vice areas containing 500 brothels! (358 of these houses sell Cantonese girls only).

No law, as that of March, 1927, of the Federated Malay States and

No law, as that of March, 1927, of the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements, ordering the imprisonment of girls for refusing to be examined for the sooner or later inevitable venereal diseases, or for otherwise shutting the girls up somewhere when found diseased, can lessen the great volume of venereal disease due to these numerous brothels. Instead, by thus aiding and abetting this trade in young human beings,

this law will only increase these inevitable diseases.

All brothels and all regulations, whether by law or not, for making brothels healthy for customers, are in direct conflict with the moral law. Moreover, Great Britain has signed and also ratified not only one, but three International Agreements for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children, and had adhered to them for the Straits Settlements, Singapore, its chief town. Therefore, Great Britain should act in accordance with these International Agreements, as well as her Colonial Governments, and so make illegal all brothels in British Colonies.

F. K. POWELL.

We are glad that Miss Powell has raised this important question. It is We are glad that Miss Powell has raised this important question. It is one in which women's organizations have been much concerned of recent years. At the Annual Council Meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship this year, the following resolution, moved at the instance of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene was passed:—

That this Council of the N.U.S.E.C. has heard with deep regret that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has sanctioned an amend ment of the law in the Federated Malay States concerning the com

pulsory examination of certain prostitutes, which is, in effect, a reinforcement of the existing system under which a very large number of brothels are officially recognized by the British Government.

"This Annual Council regards this new legislation as entirely contrary to the recommendations of the Colonial Office Advisory Committee on Social Hygiene which recommended that the Government 'should frame its policy now with a view to making possible at the earliest frame its policy now with a view to making possible at the earliest practicable date the suppression of all brothels whenever their existence

This Annual Council calls for the immediate suspension of this new "This Annual Council calls for the immediate suspension of this new enactment and urges the British Government to call together again the advisory committee and to put before it all proposals dealing with prostitution which are being or may be made in the Federated Malay States, the Straits Settlements, Hong Kong, Malta, and Cyprus."

It is hoped that the matter will be raised in Parliament during the next

THE LIBERAL CONFERENCE.

Madam,—Your readers will probably have seen in the daily Press that an addendum to a resolution on Industrial Affairs moved by me at the National Liberal Federation Conference on 12th October, on behalf of the South Bucks Liberal Association was not accepted.

The addendum ran thus: The principle embodied in Article 427, § 7, of the Treaty of Versailles that "men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value" should be supported in all national and international legislation," and it was proposed by me, and seconded by Mrs. H. A. I. Eisher

I wish to make it quite clear to your readers that the addendum obtained a large majority, and only failed to obtain the two-thirds majority ruled

by the chairman to be necessary, by two votes, the voting being 116 for the addendum and 60 against. It was extremely unfortunate that Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the Women's National Liberal Federation, who had promised to speak for the addendum, was under a misapprehension as to the time at which the motion was to be discussed, and had left the hall, and that no other prominent feminist among the Liberal women (with the exception of Mrs. Price, of Farnham) came forward to take her place. Lady Fisher-Smith and Mrs. Arthur Johnson, both of whom would have supported the addendum, were unavoidably prevented from being at Yarmouth, and no one but myself, Mrs. Fisher, and Mrs. Price, gave it any verbal support.

and Mrs. Price, gave it any verbal support.

That such an important addendum should have failed to find a place on the party's programme, by only two votes, will be a matter for profound regret to all who have the interests of the professional and industrial woman really at heart.

It is, however, greatly to be hoped that a majority of nearly two to one in favour of this principle will give a lead to the party executive, as showing them the large amount of support for the principle among the delegates present.

WINIFRED LE SUEUR.

Beech Hill, Farnham Common, Bucks.

[We share Mrs. Le Sueur's regret that her amendment was lost by so few votes. We hope all Liberal women will see to it that the principle of equal pay for equal work is brought before the Conference another year. Mrs. Le Sueur probably remembers that in the recent Liberal Election Programmes the party decelared its adherence to the principle of economic equality between men and women, so this no doubt remains the policy of the party in spite of its put being included in the particular policy of the party in spite of its not being included in the particular resolution before the conference this year.—Ed.]

EXHIBITION OF QUILTS BY "QUILT WIVES." Little Gallery, 5 Ellis Street, S.W.1.

Further particulars have now been announced of the Exhibition organized by the Rural Industries Bureau, 27 Bedford Square, W.C. 1, of the quilts made by the Quilt Wives of Wales and Durham, referred to in a previous issue. There are many women in the colliery villages of South Wales and Durham who are anxiously awaiting orders. Not only quilts, but quilted dressing gowns, slippers, cushions, etc., can be made. The Rural Industries Bureau is anxious to be put in touch with quilters in the villages they have not yet reached, as it is hoped for a real revival of this ancient and interesting industry.

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE'S CLUB-ROOM.

The British Commonwealth League has established a Clubroom for its members and their friends, and the room was formally opened on Friday last by Viscountess Elibank. There was a large gathering, and Mrs. Sharp, who presided, warmly welcomed those present and spoke of the objects of the League in linking together women within the Empire. They had long felt the need for a Club-room and their hopes were now realized.

Lady Elibank, Chairman of the Empire Circle of the Lyceum Club, said that the literary and dramatic side of life for women in the Dominions was still overlooked, and with a view to stimulating this the Empire Circle was offering a prize for a play dealing with some historic event in the Dominion's history. The plays would be judged by a special committee and the prize one probably produced in London. Should the effort be successful similar steps would be taken in the direction of poetry and

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COMING EVENTS.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

OCTOBER 23. 7 p.m., 17 Buckingham Street, Strand. Luncheon. Mme Rieder.

"Mexico and its Women."

EDINBURGH ENFRANCHISEMENT CELEBRATION (ORGANIZED BY WOMEN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES

OCTOBER 31. 8 p.m. Usher Hall, Edinburgh. Mass Meeting. Speakers: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Laurance Houseman, Esq., Dame Katherine Furse. Chair: Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

OCTOBER 24. 1 p.m. Hotel Cecil. Victory Luncheon. Chair: Viscountess Rhondda. Speakers include Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Miss Doris Stevens (U.S.A.), Mrs. Abbott, Miss Alison Neilans. Tickets 5/. 7 p.m. Caxton Hall. Victory Celebration. Reception, Speeches, Music. Dramatic performance, "How the Vote was Won," by Cecily Hamilton and Christopher St. John. Tickets 2/4.

GUILDHOUSE W.C.A.

OCTOBER 22. 3 p.m. Miss Helen Ward. "My visit to Liverpool Cathedral" (lantern slides).

KENSINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

OCTOBER 24. 8 p.m. Ladbroke Hall, Ladbroke Grove, W. Public Meeting in support of the Borough Welfare Candidates. Chair; Major-General Sir F. Maurice. Addresses by the Candidates.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Preston W.C.A. OCTOBER 22, 7.30. Tokio Cafe. Miss Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E.

British-American Women's Crusade."

SIX POINT GROUP.

OCTOBER 23. 5 p.m. 92 Victoria Street. The Viscountess Rhondda, "International Feminism." Chair: Lady Balfour of Burleigh."

SOCIETY FOR OVERSEAS SETTLEMENT OF BRITISH WOMEN.

OCTOBER 31. 3 p.m. Great Hall, Church House, S.W. r. Public Meeting on Oversea Settlement for Women. Speakers: Lady Gaulway, Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery, Esq., M.P., W. Mackinder, Esq., M.P.

MORLEY COLLEGE FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

OCTCBER 25. 8 p.m. 61 Westmister Bridge Road. Professor Baker, M.A. "The 9th Assembly of the League of Nations." Chair: Dame Edith Lyttelton, D.B.E.

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