

THE VOTE,
OCT. 12, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

A CAMPAIGN OF INJUSTICE.

C. NEAL.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, OCT. 12, 1923

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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A CAMPAIGN OF INJUSTICE. By C. Neal.

GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

CONCENTRATE ON WOMEN POLICE!

A Conference of representatives of organisations specially interested, to discuss the question of Women Police and the conditions of their service, was convened by the National Council of Women, on Thursday of last week, at Caxton Hall, and was attended by representatives of all the well-known women's societies, including the Women's Freedom League. At the close of the meeting, two resolutions, urging an increased number of Women Police in the Provinces and in London, were carried unanimously.

Mrs. George Morgan, who presided, reminded the audience that it had been the privilege of the National Council of Women to be one of the pioneers of the work for Women Police in this country. The need for police supervision in parks and open spaces, and for the protection of women and children, was brought to the notice of the Council 14 years ago, but it was not until 1914 that women patrols were started as a voluntary effort to deal with the moral conditions engendered by the war, when Sir Edward Henry, who was then Head of the Metropolitan Police Force in London, immediately recognised their value. This voluntary work established the fact that Women Police were absolutely essential for dealing with conditions in cinemas, parks and open spaces, public lavatories, etc., and for the protection of women and children. The body of women in the Metropolitan Police Force, numbering 120, appointed under Sir Nevill Macready, who equally recognised their value, had now, however, been reduced by the "Geddes cuts" to only 20 for the whole of London, a thickly populated area of 700 square miles, and inhabited by at least five million people. This was an absolutely absurd number to cope with the hundreds and thousands of women and girls in the Metropolis. The present conditions in Hyde Park and other open spaces, recently discussed in the Press, were entirely due to the disbandment of London's Women Police. A tribute was then paid by the Chairman to the eloquent speech on the need for Women Police which Dame Edith Lyttelton had recently made at Geneva, in the Assembly of the League of Nations.

Miss Edith Tancred reminded her audience how the policewoman had fought her way to official recognition step by step through the years of the war. The pass-

ing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act of 1919 made her position as a member of a police force legal. The Committee of Enquiry on the Employment of Women on Police Duties, of 1920, defined her duties, status, and conditions of service. The Home Office and Scottish Office circulars of March and May, 1921, respectively, standardised her pay, and her inclusion in the Police Pensions Act of 1921 established her position.

But in February, 1922, this hardly-won position was swept away, when the disbandment of the Metropolitan Policewomen Patrols was recommended by the Committee on National Expenditure, on the evidence of Mr. Shortt, the then Home Secretary, in spite of the fact that only eight months before he had publicly declared in the House of Commons that the Women Police were "exceedingly valuable." The women referred to numbered 111 at that time, and it was only after months of agitation that the miserably inadequate number of 20 women was retained. A month later, in March, 1922, the Home Secretary met the Joint Central Committee of the Police Federation at the Home Office, and the towns represented agreed to adopt a recommendation for the removal of all women police officers. Although, in many cases, the representatives returned to their towns and retained their policewomen, a staggering blow had been dealt to the movement, from which it had never recovered.

In September, 1922, 47 Police authorities in England, and three in Scotland, employed between them 272 policewomen—Provincials 144, Metropolitans 114, Scottish 14. After the recommendations of the Geddes Committee, 12 Police authorities gave up their policewomen, and six reduced their numbers, resulting in a loss of 35 Provincials, 94 Metropolitans, and one Scottish. To-day, 35 Police authorities in England, and two in Scotland, employ between them 122 policewomen—Provincials 89, Metropolitans 20, Scottish 13.

Out of 28 replies to a questionnaire recently sent out by the National Council of Women to the Police Authorities in England and Scotland employing policewomen, the following information was obtained:—Fourteen Police Authorities pay their women below the scale recommended by the Committee of Enquiry on the

Employment of Women on Police Duties; 12 pay them on the Report Scale, and two above the Report Scale. (Scale—Constables, 60s.-80s. weekly; Sergeants, 80s.-102s. weekly.) Fourteen Police Authorities pay the women rent allowances, varying from 1s. to 10s. a week. Fourteen make no rent allowance. All but five Police Authorities provide uniform and plain-clothes allowance, from £9-13, and all but four provide boot money at 1s. a week. Seven Police Authorities (Sheffield, Durham, Liverpool, Huddersfield, Sunderland, Bootle, and Reading) have not placed their women under the Provisions of the Police Pensions Act. The hours of duty in most cases are 7-8 daily. Duties performed include searching, escort, and custody of women prisoners, investigation and inspection, attendance in Court. Common lodging houses and licensed premises are not inspected by policewomen. Two of the policewomen wear plain clothes, the rest are in uniform. Qualifications, in 17 instances, were undefined. Where defined, age (25), height (5 ft. 7 in.), health, education, and marriage are specified. Leave is the same as for men police, viz., one rest day weekly, and 12 or 14 days annually. Office accommodation is usually provided. With regard to power of arrest, the 20 Metropolitan Women Police have been sworn in and given the power of arrest, but the number of Provincial policewomen sworn in has remained practically stationary—37 in 1922, 36 in 1923—clearly proving that the unattested women have been the ones to be dismissed.

Cordial thanks, added Miss Tancred, were due to the Chief Constables who had so courteously provided this information, which could not have been obtained in any other way. The nature of the information received revealed the need for stabilisation and standardisation amongst Women Police.

Lady Astor urged the representatives of women's Societies present not to rest content with sending in resolutions to the Home Secretary, but to put in personal work as well. She herself intended to concentrate on the need for more Women Police, in the coming Parliamentary Session. If these resolutions were to produce fruit, a great deal of hard work would be needed. The immoral forces of the country were highly organised, as was evident by the recent flippancy in the Press commenting on the Bishop of London's condemnation of behaviour in the Parks; the moral forces must be organised as highly. The question of Women Police was not a Party question, but a moral question. The present Home Secretary was in favour of Women Police, and only needed to be backed by public opinion in order to move in the matter. It was up to the women of the country to stir public opinion on this point.

UNEMPLOYED CHILDREN.

In addition to 918,700 men and 228,100 women registered as unemployed, there were 44,300 boys and 40,900 girls so registered on September 24th. The National Federation of Class Teachers, at its Annual Conference held at Birmingham last week, passed a resolution directing the attention of the Board of Education and the Government to the prevalence of unemployment among children between 14 and 16 years of age. The mover of the resolution urged that children who had been thrown straight into unemployment should be taken back to school and cared for. A further resolution insisted that, in the interests of education and national welfare, it was essential that "a real Board of Education" should be constituted at the earliest possible moment, to be composed of representatives of local Education Authorities, those engaged in the administration of education, and representatives of the teaching profession.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Women's Conference at Edinburgh.

Over 650 delegates will attend the Annual Conference of the National Council of Women at Edinburgh next week, when the special subject under consideration will be "The Call of the Children." Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., will preside at a Public Meeting on Education. Amongst the receptions will be one given by the Lord Provost and Magistrates in the Royal Scottish Museum. During the week the foundation stone of the Elsie Inglis Memorial Hospice will be laid by Lady Novar.

Catering Trade Campaign.

A campaign for the organisation of catering trade workers was launched under the auspices of the Trades Union Congress General Council, in co-operation with the five trade unions concerned, last Tuesday, in Essex Hall, Strand, when two mass meetings were held, one in the afternoon and the other in the evening. The speakers included Miss Margaret Bondfield, the new President of the Trades Union Congress.

Model Welfare Centres.

Next Saturday, at Birmingham, will be opened the first of the four Model Welfare Centres in England, which are being erected with the aid of grants from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. These Centres are to embody a definite policy—the education of mothers in matters connected with the health of young children, not the treatment of disease. The new building in Birmingham stands in the centre of one of the most populous parts of the city. It has been constructed and equipped on the most modern lines at a cost of about £25,000.

Dutch Women Senators.

The Dutch Upper House of Parliament was recently elected for the first time in its history by the system of proportional representation. The old Chamber included one woman, a Socialist, who also sits in the new Chamber, and has a woman colleague in a Roman Catholic Senator.

Woman Mayor for Colchester.

Mrs. Alderton, J.P., has accepted the Mayoralty of Colchester, and will be the city's first lady Mayor. Mrs. Alderton, who is vice-chairman of the Women's National Liberal Federation, contested S. Edinburgh at the last General Election.

Brentwood Girls' School.

Brentwood Urban District Council last week decided, "because the economic position has now been restored," while the price of building materials has fallen, to rescind their resolution opposing the building of a £20,000 secondary school for girls at Brentwood.

Girl Factory Owner.

Miss Peggy Chapin, who, until recently, was a short-hand-typist in Chicago, started making sweets on a corner of her sister's kitchen table, and selling them to friends. She now owns a sweet factory, doing a business of £600 a month.

Women's Appointments.

Dr. Winifred Warner has been appointed ophthalmic specialist for Kingston elementary schools. Miss E. M. Law has been appointed woman sanitary inspector and health visitor in Kensington.

THE VOTE STALL.

PLEASE HELP!

Will every Reader kindly promise a Contribution?

Donations or Saleable Articles of every description will be welcomed.

WOMEN AT WORK IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

(Continued.)

D. Women on Permanent and Temporary Advisory Commissions.

In addition to the six Committees of the Assembly mentioned on page 306, there are various permanent and temporary Commissions at work within the League, which have been set up as a result of certain resolutions passed by the Assembly at its Annual Meetings. At the First Assembly, in 1920, it was decided that women as well as men should be asked to serve on these Commissions, and six Commissions at present include one or more women members:—(1) The Permanent Mandates Commission, constituted in December, 1920—upon which Fru Bugge Wicksell (see page 290) sits as the only woman member, with eight men—is concerned with the well-being and development of peoples in territories formerly controlled by enemy countries, and now assigned as mandatories to other nations. Fru Bugge Wicksell sits on this Commission in the interests of the women and children living in these mandated territories. (2) The Permanent Health Commission, constituted in June, 1921—upon which Dr. Josephine Baker sits as the only woman member, with 15 men—is doing very valuable preventive work, especially in connection with stamping out epidemics in post-war Europe, and also in interchange of information regarding international standards of hygiene. (3) The Commission on Deported Women and Children in Asia Minor, constituted in February, 1921, consists of only three persons, Dr. Kennedy and Miss Cushman, of Constantinople, and Miss Karen Jeppe, of Aleppo, and was set up by the Assembly as a result of a special report concerning the

wholesale deportation of women and children by the Turks, during the war. These women and children were then still in captivity in Turkey and Asia Minor—20,000 Armenians alone, in addition to 300,000 Greeks and Syrians. The difficulties met with by this Commission have at times been almost insurmountable, but already some thousands of these unfortunate people have been rescued. (4) The Commission on the Traffic in Opium, constituted in February, 1921, upon which Mrs. Hamilton Wright sits, the only woman member, with 12 men, is concerned with the suppression of opium and other dangerous drugs. (5) The Advisory Commission on the Traffic in Women and Children, constituted in January, 1922, upon which seven women now sit, with an equal number of men members—Miss Baker (Great Britain), Miss Grace Abbott (U.S.A.), Mme. Avril de Ste. Croix (France), Dr. Paulina Luisi (Uruguay), Dr. Estrid Hein (Denmark), Baroness de Monténach, and Mme. Studer-Steinhauslin (Switzerland)—is concerned with the suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children, formerly known as the White Slave Traffic, and the abolition of State Regulation of Vice. (6) The Commission on Intellectual Co-operation, constituted in May, 1922, upon which Mme. Curie-Sklodowska and Dr. Kristine Bonnevie sit as the only two women members, with ten men, is concerned with the development of international co-operation amongst the brain-workers of the world, exchange of knowledge, and the protection of scientific property.

Dr. Josephine Baker.

Dr. Baker received her medical training at the Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmary, where she obtained her M.D. She then spent a year in the New England Hospital for Women and Children, at Boston, Mass., afterwards returning to New York City, where she practised privately for several years. Quite early in her practice she entered the employ of the Department of Health, in New York City, as a school medical inspector, doing research and investigatory work of a special character in connection with practically all the sections of the Department of Health. In 1907 she was made Assistant to the Commissioner of Health, and a year later was appointed Chief of the newly created Division of Child Hygiene. In 1914, she gave up her private practice in order to devote all her time to this municipal work for children. Her title is now Director of the Bureau of Child Hygiene, the first bureau of its kind in the world. Dr. Baker has written widely on all topics connected with the health of children, and public health work in general. She also lectures on Child Hygiene at Columbia University, New York University, and Bellevue Hospital Medical College, and is a member of numerous medical and hygienic societies. In 1917, the degree of D.P.H. (Diploma of Public Health) was conferred upon her by New York University.

Miss Karen Jeppe.

When Miss Jeppe was appointed, in 1921, as a member of the Advisory Commission on Deported Women and Children in Asia Minor, she had already had over 20 years' experience of Armenians, and of the Near East. Danish by birth, and a teacher by inclination, she was impelled by a strong inward impulse, whilst still only a young woman, to go out to Urfa, in Mesopotamia, and assist Dr. Lepsius in his well-known work of succouring the hapless Armenians. There she spent several years teaching the Armenian children in Dr. Lepsius' orphanage, instructing them in various handicrafts, and evolving her own system of phonetics in teaching the Armenian language, which was later adopted in Armenian schools over the whole of Mesopo-

tamia. She also trained a number of Armenian teachers to carry on work in the neighbouring schools. This quiet, educational work, however, was fatally interrupted by the war, and the terrible sufferings of the Armenians from 1915 onwards completely broke down Miss Jeppe's health for the time being. In 1921, she went to Aleppo, a Syrian town under the French Protectorate, and here she commenced her dauntless work of assisting Armenian women and children to escape from the Turkish harems and the tents of the nomads, where they had been imprisoned for so many years.

Miss Annie Baker.

Miss Baker, Secretary and Director of the International Bureau for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children, is one of the pioneers of the movement, having entered the office of the National Vigilance Association in 1887. This Association was founded in London in 1885, under the administration of the late Mr. W. A. Coote, and until 1898 its activities in the suppression of vice were purely national. In 1899, however, the first International Congress on this subject was held in London, and was attended by delegates from all the capitals of Europe. The International Bureau was then created as the headquarters of the movement, and has ever since been maintained as such at the expense of the National Vigilance Association. In succeeding years, Conferences and Congresses arranged by the International Bureau were held in different countries, resulting in an International Agreement in 1904, which provided for the International Protection of Women and Girls, and an International Convention of 1910, which provided for the punishment of traffickers. In June, 1921, the League of Nations called an official Conference, the proceedings of which were opened by a Report made by Miss Baker on behalf of the International Bureau, and which resulted in the appointment of the Permanent Advisory Commission for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children. Miss Baker, who has been identified with every step of the work, sees in the establishment of this Commission the harvest of the labours of men and women pioneers of this movement in every country.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 1923.

EDITORIAL.

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

TEACHERS' PENSIONS.

The Departmental Committee on the Superannuation of School Teachers, which was appointed following the recommendation of the Geddes Committee, issued their Report last week. The Geddes Committee urged that, pending such an inquiry, a 5 per cent. levy should be paid by the teachers. The teachers' case was that they accepted the Burnham salary scale on the understanding that the non-contributory pension system would continue; but a Bill imposing such a levy was passed by Parliament, which, however, was limited to two years. Now one of the principal findings of the Departmental Committee, over which Lord Emmott presided, is that teachers should continue to contribute to their own superannuation fund, on a basis of 5 per cent. of salary. In regard to this matter, the Committee state that "women teachers are relatively better paid than women Civil Servants, and their salaries reach a high proportion of those paid to men teachers. There is, therefore, less need for any sex differentiation in the rate of pension."

Other recommendations of this Report are that the pecuniary benefits, as given by the Act of 1918, should remain unaltered, except that in cases of long contributory service a supplementary death gratuity would be payable; that there should be no devaluation of "back service," and that the whole cost of such service should be borne by the State. A Central Superannuation Fund is recommended to meet the cost of "future service." This fund would be under the management of the National Debt Commissioners, and it is into this fund that the annual contribution, equal to 5 per cent. of salary from each teacher, would be paid. The Committee state that they are advised by the Government Actuary that the combined contribution of 10 per cent. was not only necessary on the whole, but was appropriate to each sex. In addition to the 5 per cent. payable by the teachers, the Committee propose that the balance should be divided equally between the local authorities and the State. Further, the State, besides bearing the whole expense of the administration, should guarantee the solvency of the fund during the intervals between the periodical valuations. The Committee also recommend that the existing requirements of thirty years' service should be modified, the minimum being reduced to ten years, and that "qualifying service" should be abolished except in special cases. The Committee suggest that, if the teacher has given five years of "recorded" service after the age of fifty, the pension should be claimable at sixty, or as soon thereafter as the five years are completed; but that, where this condition is not satisfied, the age should be sixty-five. Any teacher who withdraws from service before benefit has accrued should have the option of claiming repayment of his or her contributions with 3 per cent. compound interest, the teacher's rights under the scheme being thereupon cancelled.

The Committee conclude their Report thus:—"We believe that, if our solution is studied in the spirit in which it has been framed, it will be accepted on its merits, as offering a just and reasonable settlement of an important question, harmonising the difficult interests involved, and placing the superannuation of teachers on a sure and permanent basis."

We invite readers of THE VOTE who belong to the teaching profession to send in their views on the Report of this Departmental Committee.

HOUSING DIFFICULTIES.

In town and country the housing shortage is little short of scandalous, and the means taken to deal with this problem seem to us to be hopelessly inadequate. We learn that 20,000 houses have been authorised by the Ministry of Health under the Housing Act, 1923, to be built by local authorities, and 15,500 by private enterprise, making a total of 35,500; but what is that number compared with the number wanted throughout the country? In Birmingham alone, 50,000 people are suffering from the evils of overcrowding. The number of applications for houses on the Corporation books is 15,360, and, as houses there are only being built at the rate of 1,200 a year, some of these applicants are likely to have to wait many years for better accommodation. Most of these applicants are at present living in two rooms. It is stated that 3,852 of them have no children, 3,212 have one child, 5,295 have two children, and 3,006 have three children or more, some of them having as many as seven children—the father, mother, and seven children having to live all together in two rooms! Even in working-class houses where there is a room to spare, the occupier is afraid to let it, because, once people get in, it is almost impossible to get them out; and prospective mothers cannot find rooms at any price. In Canning Town, an occupier of a house which had four rooms and a scullery was last week summoned at the local police court. It appears that he slept in one room with his wife and three children; four daughters slept in a second room, and four sons occupied a third room. The fourth room was let to another married couple who had five children under ten years of age. An order was made to abate, within a month, the nuisances complained of by the Medical Officer of Health for West Ham. The order was certainly justified, but is it likely that any of the occupants of that house will find other accommodation in the district? The Report published recently by the Medical Officer of Health for Surrey revealed some appalling cases of overcrowding in that county. We are glad to see that in one corner of it—Beddington Corner—the inhabitants last week attended a meeting and passed a resolution, urging the local Council to take immediate steps to remedy the present overcrowding. At that meeting the Rev. James Bevan, of All Saints' Church, is reported by the *Surrey Comet* to have said: "Speaking of people who have to eat, sleep, and sit in the same room all the time, I am not going to sit down and see little children with half-paralysed bodies living in conditions which I should be sorry for a dog to live under. I would rather pay another 1s. rate than see one pinched-up face brought about by bad housing."

WHY PRISON FOR THE MENTALLY DISEASED?

A case came before the Recorder at Liverpool Sessions, last week, of a man who had been convicted as an "incorrigible rogue." The Recorder is reported to have said in Court: "This case has given me considerable difficulty, all the more so because I had a similar case before me a year ago, when I had to pass a very heavy sentence. I was so struck by the fact that that was more a mental case than a criminal one, that, after sentencing the prisoner, I wrote the Home Office, asking if they could do anything. Beyond getting an acknowledgment of the letter, I have not heard from them, so I presume that the Home Office is not interested. It is obvious that sending men suffering from mental disease to hard labour again and again is not a thing that should be encouraged."

To the man he said: "As you have already been sentenced to six months, and been two months in custody I do not propose to add to your punishment. . . . If you come before me again, I shall, unless the law is altered, have to send you to 12 months in prison."

We sincerely hope that neither the Recorder nor the Home Office will be content to let this matter of the prison treatment of mentally diseased persons remain where it is at present.

WIVES OF ALIENS.

It gives us great satisfaction to record that the subject of the nationality of married women has secured a good deal of consideration and publicity during the past week. Seventy-four women's organisations (among them the Women's Freedom League) appealed to the Imperial Conference to consider this matter; and at the Thirty-Second Conference of the International Law Association, held in the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn, on October 4th, Dr. E. J. Schuster, K.C., dealt admirably with this question. He reminded those present that before the beginning of the nineteenth century there was no rule in existence in any country under which a female person, on her marriage with a citizen of another country, definitely lost her original nationality. Under British law, marriage—down to the coming into force of the Aliens Act, 1844—had no effect whatever on the wife's nationality. Section 16 of that Act provided that a woman of foreign nationality who married a British subject became a naturalised British subject; but a British woman who married a foreigner still retained her British nationality. It was not until the Naturalisation Act, 1870, that a British woman who married an alien was deemed an alien under British law. A slight indication of altered views was discernible in the British Nationality Act, 1914, which provided that the wife of a British subject, who ceased to be a British subject during his marriage, might retain her nationality, so that if a British husband on the day before his marriage with a British wife became naturalised in a foreign country, the wife lost her British nationality; but if her husband became naturalised in a foreign country a day after the marriage, the wife might retain her British nationality. The possibility of a difference in the nationality of husband and wife was therefore already recognised by British law. Sir John Butcher had introduced a Bill to provide that a British woman should not lose her nationality by

reason of her marriage with an alien, and that an alien woman should not acquire British nationality by her marriage to a British subject. The consideration of this Bill had been referred to a Joint Select Committee of both Houses, who had not yet presented their report, although it had been stated that the five Commons Members were in favour of the Bill, and the five Lords Members opposed to it! The American "Cable Act" of 1922 was the first modern statute which, as between husband and wife, established complete independence with reference to nationality. Under that Act a woman citizen of the United States who married an alien might, at her option, retain or lose her American citizenship; but a woman of alien nationality who married a United States citizen did not automatically become an American citizen. She could, however, acquire naturalisation in the United States after a residence there of one year instead of five years, as is the case with other aliens. The Chairman of this Conference, Lord Phillimore, did not agree with all Dr. Schuster's conclusions. He could not conceive of a Queen Consort of foreign birth not becoming an English woman, nor of a foreign woman married to a peer not becoming a peeress. From the political point of view, he could understand the State saying it had no objection to its women who married foreigners remaining British, on account of the influence they would have on their foreign husbands; but he could understand the State saying also that, if an Englishman married a foreigner, the wife must become English too. Our own view is that Lord Phillimore's opinions in this matter are a little too insular. We claim, as organised women in all countries are now claiming, that a woman, whether married or single, should have exactly the same right as a man to retain or change her own nationality. It is not right that any adult person should automatically have to forfeit her birthright.

A CAMPAIGN OF INJUSTICE.

By C. NEAL.

Week by week, in local and other papers, there is noticed the report that some or other local Education Authority has followed the evil example of others, and has decided to terminate the engagement of its married women teachers. This prejudice against married women in a profession which gives a comparatively good monetary return is of very old standing. Many of the old School Boards had embodied in their regulations a clause to the effect that no woman teacher would be allowed to remain in a school beyond three months after her marriage, and, further, that marriage without due notice of the impending ceremony having been given to the Authority would be met by instant dismissal—as though marriage were a crime! In rural areas, where the difficulty of obtaining and retaining teachers was greater than in towns, married teachers were welcomed, especially as it was often convenient to make a dual appointment of husband and wife, who could occupy the school-house, and who could between them do all the work connected with a small mixed and infants' school.

Whenever, however, there has been a shortage of teachers, as sometimes happens through there being no control of the supply, married women who were formerly teachers have been implored to return to the profession. This was naturally the case in war-time, when every available teacher, married or otherwise, was required to take the place of the men serving with the Forces.

The end of the war, however, brought a different state of affairs. Men teachers returned from war service, other ex-Service men were intensively trained for the profession, and synchronising with this came the great economy campaign, which gave the enemies of education, helped by certain sections of the Press, the opportunity to demand the cutting down of educa-

tion expenses. In response to this demand, classes were increased in size, teachers were dismissed, newly qualified teachers leaving the training colleges could get no posts. Unemployment amongst teachers during the last few years has been as great relatively as among the so-called working classes, with the added disadvantage that there is for members of this profession no form of Unemployment Insurance. And amongst the first teachers to be dismissed, in nearly every case, were the married women, irrespective of their efficiency and experience, and consequently without any regard to the loss they might be to the education of the country. The sole factor which determined their dismissal was that they were married, and so, presumably, had husbands who were able to "keep them."

If the reason assigned for the dismissal of married women teachers is the necessity of providing employment for the large number of young teachers now out of work, then it may very fairly be argued that, as unemployment is general just now in practically every trade and profession, all those who have already gained for themselves a competence, or who have someone to fall back upon who is able to keep them, should be deprived of their employment so as to provide vacancies for the unemployed, who, presumably have no such competence or support available; no person of either sex should be allowed to continue in paid work if they are possessed of private means sufficient for their sustenance. If, again, the reason given for the dismissal of the married woman teacher is that her services are, for the sake of her family, needed in her home, then that principle should be applied all round, and a general rule made that married women should not be allowed to do work beyond that of caring for their houses and families, and the social duties connected with them. That, at any rate, would be fairer than the present position, in which the pre-

justice operates chiefly against women teachers, women in the Civil Service, and women doctors in public posts—that is, chiefly against the women who are in comparatively well-paid posts for which the training has been long, arduous, and expensive. The very Education Authorities that dismiss their married women teachers do not hesitate to employ married women as school cleaners and caretakers, though there is certainly as great unemployment amongst women capable of this work as amongst teachers. Again, no protest is raised against the work of married actresses or singers, though it is probable that their homes see far less of them than do the homes of married women teachers. At the same time, we see from Press reports that unemployment is prevalent at present amongst actresses and entertainers of all kinds, and the same principle of refusing employment to married women for the sake of the younger unmarried ones might be put in force—with an enormous resultant loss of talent to the world.

The injustice of dismissing women teachers because they are married, is the greater because their compulsory retirement often prevents them from obtaining the pension to the provision of which they have been contributing. In the Civil Service, women retired on marriage receive back a certain proportion of their superannuation contributions in the form of a marriage "dowry"; for teachers no such provision is made. They stand the chance of losing every penny they have contributed to the pension fund, because they are not allowed to complete the number of years of service necessary to qualify for a pension. Numerous cases of hardship have occurred lately in which women within a year or two of the necessary thirty years' service have been dismissed, and so have lost not only the pension to which they should have been entitled (for a pension is admittedly of the nature of deferred pay for services rendered), but also their small savings as well.*

The unemployment amongst young teachers, which provides the chief excuse for dismissing married women, is artificial and unnecessary, and has been caused entirely by the Board of Education itself. The passing of the 1918 Education Act showed the necessity of a much larger number of teachers than those obtainable at that time. Everything possible was done in 1918 and 1919 to obtain recruits for the profession; these recruits were virtually given promises of certainty of employment under good general conditions. The recruits were obtained, and it is they who now fill the ranks of the unemployed—it takes between four and five years to become a teacher; but if the 1918 Education Act were put in force, there would be wanted every teacher available, married women as well as newly qualified men and women. There are at present in the elementary schools 31,000 classes with more than 50 children, and 7,000 classes with more than 60 children. Education in such circumstances is impossible. If classes were reduced to 40-45, the school age raised to 15, and the continuation schools that are necessary to put our education system on a level with that of other progressive nations established, then there would be, not a surplus, but a great dearth of teachers.

And, beyond everything, there should be acknowledged the inalienable right of every woman to decide for herself the way in which her life should be spent. Marriage should not debar her from following the profession for which she has been trained if she herself wishes to continue in that profession; the arrangement of the household work is a matter for her and her husband to decide, not for bodies of employers. It is bad economics for the State to lose the services of so many women towards whose training it has paid considerable sums of money, and it is a distinct loss to the nation that so many women should be compelled to resign the highly skilled work for which they have been expensively trained, and to undertake instead of it the domestic duties which could often be performed by people incapable of the higher work, and whose training has been less costly.

*The Teachers' Superannuation Scheme was contributory from 1898-1918, non-contributory from 1918-1922, since when it has become contributory again.

Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES' CONTEST IN MIDDLESBROUGH

This week Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., has begun her campaign as a candidate for the Middlesbrough Town Council in Grove Hill Ward. This ward includes most of the municipal houses, and there are about 1,300 votes in the new garden village. We whole-heartedly wish Mrs. Schofield Coates complete success in this campaign. The women's cause stands to gain in every way by her return to the Council. Her zeal, and her years of work for better education of the children and better housing accommodation for the people, are well known both inside and outside that district, and we urge all our members and friends in the locality to help in every way possible to secure her election. The Committee Room is at 132, Waterloo Road, where intending helpers are invited to report at once.

MRS. CLARK'S CONTEST IN SOUTHEND.

We are delighted to learn that our old member, Mrs. L. M. Clark, is contesting the Southchurch Ward, in November, for the Southend Borough Council. Mrs. Clark has been adopted by the Labour Party. She has taken a working interest in the affairs of this Ward for several years past, and for the past year has been a regular attendant at all the Borough Council meetings. She is a member of the Southchurch Ratepayers' Association, and a member of the Mayor's Distress Committee.

GREEN, WHITE, & GOLD FAIR.

To be held this year on

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd & 24th,

at

THE CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,

from 3 to 9 p.m.

To be formally opened each day at 3.30 p.m.

ON FRIDAY BY

THE LADY AMHERST OF HACKNEY.

Chairman: MRS. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P.

ON SATURDAY BY

MISS LILIAN BARKER, C.B.E.

Chairman: DR. OCTAVIA LEWIN.

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The Friends' Relief.
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The Food Education Society.
St. Dunstan's.
The Westminster Health Society.
The British Esperanto Association.
The Montessori Society.
The Stonehenge Woollen Industry.
The Hampstead Arts and Crafts Shop.
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Madame Buie (Egyptian Industries).
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Teas, Suppers, and Refreshments at Moderate Prices.

Tickets (including tax) 2/6 the first day until 5 o'clock, after 5 p.m. and on the second day 1/3, including tax, from 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, or any of the Societies taking Stalls, and at the doors.

All communications and gifts should be sent to Miss E. BERRY, Hon. Fair Sec., at this office.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

Telephone—MUSEUM 1429.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—

Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P.

VOTE Sales Department—Hon. Head: Miss ALIX M. CLARK.
Literature Department—Hon. Head: Mrs. PIEROTTI.
General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Monday, October 15th, at 3 p.m. "Fair" Sub-Committee at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Thursday, October 18th, at 3.30 p.m. "At Home," at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square (corner of Coram and Hunter Streets). Tea 3.30.

Mrs. Juson Kerr will speak on the "Tea and Sugar Boycott Scheme," at 4 p.m. Chairman: Mrs. Mustard.

Friday, October 19th, at 3 p.m. Political Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, October 29th, at 7 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Northcroft. Subject: "Women at Work in the League of Nations." Chair, Mrs. Dexter.

Friday, November 2nd, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, November 2nd, at 8.15 p.m. Public Meeting at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Subject: "The Unemployment of Women." Speakers to be announced later.

Saturday, November 3rd, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, November 5th, at 3 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3 (by kind permission of Dr. Knight).

Thursday, November 8th, at 3.30 p.m. "At Home" at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tea 3.30. Lady Rhondda will open a discussion at 4 p.m. on the "Domestic Service Inquiry." Chairman: Miss Morton, M.B.E.

Wednesday, November 21st, at 7 p.m. Mid-London Branch. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Subject: "The Present Policy of the Ministry of Health with regard to Infectious Diseases." Speaker to be announced later.

Friday and Saturday, November 23rd and 24th. Central Hall, Westminster, Green, White, and Gold Fair. To be opened on Friday, at 3.30, by The Lady Amherst of Hackney, and on Saturday, at 3.30, by Miss Lilian Barker, C.B.E.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, October 19th, at 7.30 p.m. Edinburgh. 44, George IV. Bridge. Speakers: Dr. Lewin (London), "The Teaching of Citizenship." Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), "The Political Situation."

Saturday, October 20th, from 3 to 5 p.m. Glasgow. "At Home," in "Ca'doro," Union Street. Collection. Tea. Speaker: Dr. Lewin (London). Subject: "Nasal and Personal Hygiene."

PROVINCES.

Friday, October 12th, at 7.30 p.m. Middlesbrough. National Union of Teachers. (Middlesbrough Teachers' Association). Public Meeting in Town Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

Thursday, October 18th, at 7.30 p.m. Wallasey. A meeting will be held at Parisian Café, 211, Seaview Road. Speaker: Mrs. Anderson. Subject: "The Endowment of Motherhood."

Wednesday, October 24th, at 7 p.m. Darlington. Durham County Union National British Women's Temperance Association. Temperance Hall. Speakers: Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., and Dr. Courtenay Weekes.

Thursday, October 25th, at 3 p.m. Bexhill. A meeting will be held at Glynne Hall Hotel. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P. Subject: "The Urgent Need for More Women Magistrates." Chairman: Councillor Mrs. Meads.

Thursday, October 25th, at 7.30 p.m. Hastings. Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., will speak on "Can Women Stop War?" Chairman: Mrs. Strickland. Place of meeting to be announced later.

Friday, November 9th, at 7.30 p.m. South Bank. National Union of Teachers (North Cleveland Teachers' Association). Public Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

Wednesday, November 28th. Brighton. A meeting will be held in Hove Town Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Chairman: Miss Hare.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, October 24th, at 7.30 p.m. Margate Pioneer Society. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Woman, the Unknown Quantity."

Thursday, October 25th. Harwell, Berkshire. Women's Institute Group Meeting. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Women's Activities Abroad." Chairman: Mrs. Walter Coates.

Monday, October 29th, at 8 p.m. Women Citizen's Association, Stoke Newington. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "How I Can Help My Borough."

Sunday, November 4th, at 7.30 p.m. North London Debating Society. St. Pancras Reform Club, 15, Victoria Road, N.W. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Should Married Women Work?" Admission Free.

BRANCH NOTES.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

The Middlesbrough Branch of the Women's Freedom League opened their winter session on Monday, October 1st. Mrs. Schofield Coates occupied the Chair, and Mrs. Hughes was elected Secretary *pro tem*. The financial statement was held over owing to the absence of the Treasurer. Mrs. Crowther gave a report of work and sales of THE VOTE, and this was very satisfactory. Mrs. Crowther was thanked for her splendid work, and asked to take over the work again, which she has consented to do. A letter was read from Miss Underwood dealing with the work of the League. The Secretary was instructed to write local M.P.s, also the Chairman of the Guardians, dealing with the question of the dismissal of Dr. Alix Jeanne Churchill, and also to send forward the resolution *re* unemployed women to the Prime Minister and Heads of Government Departments. The winter programme was arranged, and the Secretary instructed to write for speakers on the subjects dealing with the Life of Lord Shaftesbury, "Smoke Evils," "How to deal with the Milk Problem," and other items of interest to women. Meetings are to be held on the first Monday of every month at 7.30. A special meeting is to be held at "Agercroft," by kind permission of Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., on November 19th, when members are asked to bring their gifts to our Green, White, and Gold Fair. We had a good attendance at our opening night, when three new members were enrolled. Deep regret was expressed at the loss of the Middlesbrough Branch had sustained through the death of Miss Hawkins, one of our oldest members and a splendid worker for the women's cause.

(Hon. Sec. *pro tem*.) Mrs. HUGHES.

PORTSMOUTH.

The Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 3rd, in the Committee Room at 2, Kent Road, at 3 p.m. Mrs. Poole was elected Chairman for the meeting. After the minutes and correspondence had been read, the Secretary read the annual report. This showed an increase in the membership. Eight public meetings had been held during the year, and fortnightly work parties during the winter. The Branch had been invited to send delegates to various local conferences, and to take part in two deputations. Letters asking for information had been sent to the Town Clerk, the Clerk to the Justices, and to the Board of Guardians, all of which had been courteously answered. Help had been given to the four women candidates for the Board of Guardians. Goods had been sent to the annual Green, White, and Gold Fair, and £5 to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Three dozen copies of THE VOTE have been taken weekly. Resolutions on various matters had been sent to members of the Government, the local M.P.s, and to the local authorities. Thanks were given to all the members who had kindly lent their rooms for work parties, and to Miss Peacock for her help with the secretarial work. It was with great regret the members accepted the resignation of Miss Peacock as Press Secretary. Mrs. Whetton was re-elected Hon. Secretary, and Mrs. Brading very kindly undertook the office of Hon. Treasurer. Plans were made for the winter's work, the announcement of which will appear in THE VOTE.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

HAMPSTEAD.

A meeting of the Branch was held at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3 (by kind permission of the Misses Berry), on Monday, October 1st, at 3 p.m. It was unanimously decided to send a resolution in respect to the Guardianship of Infants Bill, to the local Member, Mr. G. Balfour, urging him to support the Bill; and to send a copy of the resolution to the local paper, stating that it had been sent to the local Member, asking his support for the Bill. The meeting also adopted a resolution relating to unemployment among women, which was sent to the Viscountess Astor, M.P., Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., and to the following Members of the Cabinet:—The Rt. Hon. S. Baldwin, The Rt. Hon. Neville Chamberlain, The Rt. Hon. Sir Montague Barlow, and The Rt. Hon. E. F. L. Wood. Arrangements for the Hampstead Stall at the Fair were discussed, and it was decided that Miss Goodliffe, Miss Vibert, Miss Lyndon, and Mrs. Harvey James should be at the stall, assisted by other members of the Branch. Contributions of money, handkerchiefs, and "white elephants" for the stall will be most welcome, and should be sent to Miss Berry, Hon. Secretary, before November 15th. Gratefully acknowledged: Miss Berry 10s., Miss Goodliffe £1, Mrs. Harvey James 5s., Dr. Knight £1, and Miss Vibert £1. The meeting concluded with tea.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

WALLASEY.

This Branch is arranging a series of monthly whist drives and lectures, the first of which will be held on October 18th, at 7.30 p.m., at the Parisian Café, 211, Seaview Road, when the speaker will be Mrs. Anderson, on "The Endowment of Motherhood." The Branch recently passed unanimously and sent the following resolution to their local M.P., and to other women's organisations in the district:—"That this meeting strongly protests against the recommendations of the Anderson Committee, especially the clause dealing with the employment of women in the Civil Service. It considers that the composition of the Anderson Committee was not representative of the best thought of the country; that its findings were biased, and only represented an old-fashioned and very limited section of the community; that it failed to grasp the main point in women's claims, viz., Equal pay for equal work."

FRIDAY,
OCT. 12,
1923.

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, October 14th. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "Christ Triumphant: II. In Business."

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance *pro tem*. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional £4 4s.

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