WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions' Bill.

The above Bill has now been printed, together with a Memorandum explaining it, and a Report by the Government Actuary on its financial provisions. The main points of the Bill stand, of course, as outlined in the Budget, but many interesting and important additional points are dealt with in the Bill which must be carefully considered when judging the scheme as a whole. We are told, for instance, that the option is to be given to a person who has hitherto been compulsorily insured, and who leaves employment, to become a voluntary contributor on paying a double contribution. In spite of the many draw-backs attaching to a voluntary insurance scheme, this will prove useful to many who leave off being employed persons and set up small businesses of their own, but whose income is no larger than when a wage earner. The scheme provides for the central administration by the Ministry of Health, with assistance from local authorities in certain cases, and powers are given to have the pensions paid through the Post Office. The Actuary's Report makes fascinating reading to those who enjoy playing with figures, and interesting forecasts are made as to the probable changes in the total insured population, it being assumed that this will reach its maximum in 1960. We shall publish next week an article giving greater details with regard to the Bill itself. There is nothing in the text of the Bill to make us change our mind with respect to either the appreciation or criticisms of the scheme expressed in these columns both in our last issue and to-day

The League of Nations,

The League of Nations has a heavy month ahead of it. The conference for the adoption of a draft convention on the international control of the traffic in arms meets this week. It includes four non-member states—U.S.A., Germany, Turkey, and Egypt. The Committee on Intellectual Co-operation starts its meetings early next week in Paris to adopt the regulations for the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation offered to the League by the French Government. The new Committee on Traffic in Women and the Protection of Children will hold its first meeting at Geneva on 20th May. In the last week of the month the Committee dealing with mutual assistance among States in cases of national disaster will meet under the presidency of the President of the Italian Red Cross, also the Economic Committee which will deal principally with proposals for the abolition of prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports.

The 48-hour Week,

The debate last Friday on Mr. Buchanan's Private Member's Bill to introduce the 48-hours' week on the lines of the Washington Convention did not carry matters any further. His Bill is admitted, even by supporters of the Convention, to be open to criticism as being too rigid, and the difficulties of bringing it into line with existing agreements in this country, to which the Home Secretary referred, are not to be denied. But the opposition of the Government goes deeper than that. Sir A. Maitland spoke of the Bill as handicapping British industry in competition with countries that work far longer hours, but he also spoke of the competition in hours as being likely to have results as deplorable as the race in armaments before the war. These seem curiously contradictory arguments. The only way to limit the race in armaments is by international agreements, and the only way to prevent the competition in hours is also by international effort. It is unnecessary to labour the point that the success of the movement for international labour legislation depends largely on the attitude of this country. Quite apart from the merits of this particular convention or this particular Bill, many people we think will regret that the Home ecretary's speech showed no recognition of the possibility that the ratification of the Washington Convention may be in the long run a protection to, rather than a tax on, industry.

Labour Women's Conference.

We have received a copy of the first agenda of the National Conference of Labour Women which is to be held at Birmingham on 27th and 28th May. The first resolutions on the agenda refer to Equal Franchise and Widows' Pensions. They urge the granting of equal franchise to men and women at 21, and the granting of widows' pensions on a non-contributory basis. Then there is a large group of resolutions dealing with questions of Health and Insurance. The one standing in the name of the Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations urges amongst other things the application of the principles of the Washington Maternity Convention; there are also several resolutions demanding an extension of ante-natal and post-natal care of mothers, and demanding that information on methods of Birth Control should be given when necessary. The inclusion of the dependents of insured workers is also amongst the aspects of Health Insurance which will be considered. Amongst the miscellaneous resolutions the most interesting from our point of view are those dealing with the questions of employment and equality for men and women. We are glad to see, from a resolution in the name of the I.L.P., that it "realizes with dismay that the right of women to an equality of opportunity with men in industries and professions is being increasingly menaced. The Labour Party, or at least certain sections of it, is certainly not free from blame in this respect. We can well understand why one of the Women's Sections has sent up a resolution urging the Labour Party "to deal stringently with any representative of the Labour Party who does not support sex equality, economically, educationally, and politically." And the next resolution on the agenda is one deprecating the employment of married women whilst the unemployment amongst men and unmarried women is so great! It will be interesting to see from the debates how widespread the belief in economic equality is amongst Labour women. Other subjects to be dealt with are Housing, Health in the Schools, Food Supplies, Emigration, International questions, Education and Unemployment.

Women's Unionist Organization.

We regret to see that the agenda of the Annual Conference of the Women's Unionist Organization contains no reference to any specifically women's questions. Questions such as

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Housing, Unemployment, Empire Trade, Licensing Reform, or other subjects on the agenda, are of course of the greatest importance and interest, but, though these general questions should be considered by every women's political organization, we cannot help feeling that it is unfortunate that the Unionist women show in their agenda no recognition of the existence of any problems that particularly affect women. Are subjects such as Widows' Pensions, Women's Employment, or Equal Franchise of no interest to them? International questions and the League of Nations are also conspicuous by their absence from the agenda. The attitude of the Government on such points must necessarily be influenced to some extent by the line taken by the women of their own party, and we feel the Women's Unionist Organization is missing a great opportunity in failing to give any lead to the Government.

Work for Women.

A correspondent writes: With the record this week of nearly a quarter of a million unemployed women and girls registered at the Employment Exchanges of Great Britain, and a known deficiency of paid positions for professional women whose worklessness mainly does not appear in the official figures, it is good news that there is at the moment an unfulfilled demand for women workers on the land. How long this state of affairs may continue cannot be foretold, since employment fluctuates as much in agricultural occupations as in factories. I am, however, informed by the Women's Farm and Garden Association that requests are at present being made to them from farmers and other employers for women workers. This demand comes from Somersetshire, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Shropshire, and Kent mainly for women to tend cattle and to undertake dairy-work. There are at present an insufficient number of applicants enrolled at this Association to fill these vacancies. All these positions are, however, skilled jobs for which trained and educated women are necessary. From the Channel Islands has come a request for some women "to look after goats," which is not the insuperably difficult task that popular imagination suggests. And from the Isle of Wight there comes a demand for farm-hands," women of the industrial type. In Ireland, too, there seem to be occasional openings for women gardeners, but these at the present time require Protestant employees. The training for agricultural or horticultural work is now fairly accessible, as besides the six well-known Agricultural Colleges in Great Britain and the nine Horticultural Colleges, there are many reliable private Centres for such instruction and practice.

Taxation

The following figures were given in the House in reply to a question as to the amount of taxation per head in the United

	TAXATION 1				
	Direct.	Indirect.	Total.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d. 3 11 4		
1913-14*	$\tilde{2}$ 1 1	1 10 3	3 11 4		
1924-25	10 4 6	5 1 11	15 6 5		
1925-26†	10 1 7	5 4 2	15 5 9		
*	Includes the presen	nt Irish Free S	tate.		
	Estimated				

End of the Women's Local Government Society.

On 28th April, the W.L.G.S., at an extraordinary general meeting of its members, decided on the voluntary winding up of the Society. We publish elsewhere a short account of its history and the scope of its work. It has done magnificent work in a field in which even now much remains to be done, but if the Society finds that local women's societies prefer to affiliate to national organizations whose activities are not confined to local government, it is wise to recognize the signs of the times and fall in with them. But that there is still an urgent need to interest women in local government questions and to get more women on the local government authorities is beyond question. We hope that the nationally organized women's associations and local women citizens' associations, etc., will realize that the passing of the W.L.G.S. leaves a heavier responsibility with them.

Policewomen for the West Riding.

The West Riding Standing Joint Committee, on the advice of the Chief Constable, has decided to appoint two women police. The Chief Constable said he had not been in favour of the employment of women in the West Riding force, and he was still against their employment throughout the Riding. He was inclined to think, however, that it was advisable to have two women police attached to Headquarters so that they might be used for inquiries in cases of a delicate nature in which women

and children were concerned. This will hardly satisfy the enthusiasts for women police, but it is at least a beginning. We notice the salary to be paid to the women is to be 60s. rising to 80s., as compared with 70s. rising to 95s. for the men.

Miss Violet Markham.

We are glad to see that Miss Violet Markham has been elected as the first woman member of the Chesterfield Town Council. With her wide knowledge of local needs, and her interest in housing and other schemes for social betterment, Miss Markham will be an invaluable member of the Council. It is customary to congratulate a successful candidate. We would rather congratulate the Chesterfield Town Council.

The Mistress of Girton.

We deeply regret to hear of the resignation of Miss Phillpotts, the Mistress of Girton. She has a distinguished reputation as a scholar of ancient Scandinavian history and literature, and has shown herself to be no less successful as an administrator than as a teacher. Both at Westfield College and at Girton she was a thoroughly successful and much loved head. She has now given up her position as head of Girton to return and live with her father owing to her mother's death. Everyone will join in sympathizing both with Miss Phillpotts and with Girton.

Control of Collecting Charities.

The announcement that the Home Secretary has appointed a Committee to consider and report whether any form of super vision is desirable over collecting charities will, we think, be generally welcomed. There are three women members of the Committee—Miss N. Adler, Miss Dorothy Jewson, and Mrs Hilton Philipson, M.P. Amongst other members are representatives of the Charity Commission of the British Hospitals Association.

Women in the French Municipal Elections.

The Bill giving French women the right to vote and stand as candidates at the French municipal elections, though it has passed the Chamber, has unfortunately not yet been adopted by the Senate, so that women were debarred from voting at the elections which took place last Sunday. Nevertheless, they played an unusual part. About 80 women "candidates were put forward pro forma in Paris for propaganda purposes. Though they cannot be elected, permission was given for their appeals to be placarded alongside of those of the real candidates on the special hoardings used for the purpose. French women have had comparatively so little opportunity of taking a prominent part at elections, that the appearance of these pseudocandidates should have considerable influence.

Questions in Parliament.

ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRES.—In reply to a question from Colonel Woodcock urging the prohibition of questionnaires to candidates at General Elections, Mr. Locker-Lampson stated that though personally he would be glad to see this reform introduced, he feared "it would hardly be so popular with the electors as with the candidates."

Women's Franchise.—In reply to questions from Mr. Morris and Commander Kenworthy, the Prime Minister stated that no Committee had yet been set up to inquire into the question of women's franchise and that no decision had been reached as to the terms of the proposed Committee. He reminded members "that this Parliament is still young."

Women in the Ministry of Pensions.—Mr. Pethick-Lawrence asked the Minister of Pensions what steps have been taken in his Ministry to carry into effect the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Reorganization of the Civil Service in so far as they relate to the employment of women, with special reference to the injunction that women should be given full and liberal opportunities for proving their fitness for the higher work of the Civil Service, and that it should be the duty of Departments to see that this is done?

Lieut.-Colonel Stanley: In connexion with the regrading of the staff of the Ministry, following on the recommendations of the Joint Committee on the Reorganization of the Civil Service, one post for a woman assistant principal, seven additional posts for women staff officers or higher executive officers, and four posts for women executive officers were created. Since then an additional post for a woman staff officer has been authorized and filled.

THE BUDGET.

There has been time now to consider more carefully than when off to press last week, the merits and demerits of Churchill's Budget. A second and third reading of the ch serve to strip it of some of the glamour which its carefully ed phrases and sparkling epigrams at first produced, a our which, contrary to what is usual, appears to have ared those who read the speech more than those who actually ed to it. We intend frankly to criticize Mr. Churchill's get, and we hope that those of our readers who might, hat account, feel inclined to accuse us of anti-government will turn back to our drastic criticism of Mr. Snowden's get last year-a criticism chiefly relating to his lack of ision for the social services. No doubt our carping spirit lers us an easy butt for those who ask if we could have done er ourselves. Well! well! modesty prevents us from ding guilty to what our self-confidence would otherwise led us to confess; but then, is not Budget-making a urite hobby of every worthy citizen, fit only to be compared oss-word puzzles

return to Mr. Churchill—certainly his Budget will live in bry; not on account of his remission of income tax, nor of his ling with the super-tax; not on account of his flirtation protection involved in his re-imposition of the McKenna es and the tax, "only a little one," on hops; not on account is historical researches, which may have accounted for the umptuary duties" (new style) on silk; but pre-eminently on ount of the announcement relating to the return to the gold dard, and next on account of his considerable extension of ial Insurance. 1925 will in future rank with 1819 as the years ng which, each time after a great war, the gold standard re-introduced. It is extremely interesting that this period uld have been so nearly the same on both occasions. Even se who had opposed the early return to the gold standard as things have worked out, little to object to; with the and worth 19s. 11d. in America, with the readiness of the minions and other European countries to follow our lead, seemed an imperative obligation on this country to accelerate eturn to the industrial and commercial stability which, with present range of knowledge, appears most easily to be ined with a currency based on gold. Even Mr. Keynes, h his demand for a "managed" currency, recognizes inevitability of this step.

To turn next to Social Insurance. That the Government in its first year of office should have thought fit to devise a considerable extension of our present scheme deserves nothing but praise. It was a bold decision and unexpected in view of the fact that previous statements with regard to insurance had referred to "some time in the life of this Parliament."

Nevertheless, we are bound to admit that the scheme as presented appears to us in many respects a very faulty and inadequate one. We welcome the lowering of the age for Old Age Pensions and the removal of the means limit for those over 70, but it is when we turn to those parts of the scheme which affect widows and children, and when we realize the exclusion of the large number of women and children belonging to those classes whom it is claimed are being brought within the purview of the scheme, that the gaps and weaknesses of the new proposals become most evident.

To take first the rate of benefit proposed for widows with children, it is perfectly obvious that 10s. per week for the widow, 5s. for the first child and 3s. for every subsequent child are utterly inadequate and will not remove from widows, who have no other resources, the need to apply to the Poor Law or of facing semi-starvation or overwork. Those evils of overlapping, etc., which already result in the case of unemployment benefits, from the rates being insufficient of themselves to maintain the family, will be perpetuated in the case of widows' pensions if the rates proposed are not increased.

Secondly, it appears to us very regrettable that provision for the children stops at the age of 14½. No child is self-supporting at this age, and we feel that it is specially important to encourage the children of widows, already suffering from the disability of having no father, to remain at school as long as possible. To stop their pension at the age of 14½ is bound to result in thrusting them immediately on the labour market, no provision being made even for children living under those local authorities who may raise the school leaving age.

Thirdly, with respect to the proposal to give 10s. a week to every widow, we are bound to point out that a demand for this has never been put forward so far as we know by any woman's organization, or by anyone else. In our correspondence column we print a plea from Miss Helen Fraser in favour of a pension for the childless widow. We admit that her case, especially if she is elderly or infirm, is indeed a hard one, but it appears to us a bad distribution of whatever sum is being provided for widows, to give pensions to able-bodied women with no children and to fail to make proper provision for widows with children. Moreover, the subsidizing of the younger women in the labour market at the cost of their unmarried sisters will constitute a real grievance for the whole body of women workers who already find it difficult to spare their weekly contribution, and will probably have a deleterious effect on the rates of wages for women workers. The inclusion of the "childless" widow adds enormously to the expense of the scheme owing to the fact that four out of every five of all widows have no dependent

Perhaps the greatest disappointment of all is that in a scheme, which the Chancellor claims will relieve from insecurity 70 per cent of the population, no provision is made to give sickness benefits to the wife and children of insured persons, or to give allowances to the dependents of men who are ill or disabled. Once more, therefore, we find that the needs of the wife and mother in the home have not been considered.

We welcome the fact that the old age contributory pensions at 65 should be the same for men and women, and are anxious to see the principle of equal benefits for men and women extended throughout the whole sphere of social insurance.

One more point; it is held by many supporters of Family Allowances that the most desirable way in which these could be introduced is by their inclusion in a social insurance scheme, by means of which the children should each receive an allowance to which contributions had been made by the employed, the employers, and the State. It may not be many years before we shall be called upon to consider the extension of Social Insurance in this direction, and we are glad to see our contemporary *The New Statesman* making a similar suggestion.

HOUSING IN RURAL AREAS. By AMY SAYLE.

This subject is wide enough to form the basis of almost limitdiscussion. We might begin by discussing the history and wth of the English system of house and land tenure-the ment of rent in the form of service by a villein to his lord. development of this custom under the manorial system, l its present manifestation in the existence of tied cottages farms, and the frequent though decreasing provision of rente cottages for gardeners and chauffeurs in the grounds of untry houses. We might also discuss political and fiscal blems—the Corn Production Act, for instance, and its bearing wages, and therefore on the ability of rural workers to pay reased rents, together with all the varying agricultural icies of our varying British Governments. I propose, howto say little on any of these subjects, but to deal with the tual condition of housing in rural areas to-day, and to submit ne suggestions for its betterment. In this endeavour it ems to me essential to find answers to the following questions:

- 1. What are the houses let at weekly rents in rural areas like? Are they better or worse than "weekly property" in towns?
- 2. Are there already enough country cottages for the people who work in the country?
- 3. Is the provision of healthy homes for families easier or more difficult in the country than it is in towns?
- 4. What has been and what may be done to solve the rural housing problem?

First, then, what are country cottages really like? The town-dweller's mind-picture of a country cottage—probably originating in a coloured print of Ann Hathaway's cottage at Stratford-on-Avon—is of a low, wide-fronted house, with a thatched roof and over-hanging eaves, diamond-paned windows, and a profusion of roses and honey-suckle. Cottages of this kind certainly exist—the *Daily Mirror* of 25th October last depicts an election incident at the door of one in Hertfordshire—but they

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are comparatively rare. Cottages in the country are of many kinds and types—they differ externally as widely as do the "big houses" of the county families. They differ not only in different counties—Yorkshire and Devonshire, for instance—but also within the same village. Almost the only villages in which the cottages show a marked degree of uniformity are the so-called "Model Villages" such as Little Gaddesden in Hertfordshire, built or rebuilt by a single landowner. These villages form the greatest possible contrast with the typical English village, having sprung into existence "according to plan" and regardless of financial loss to the owner.

In the typical English village, the appearance, construction, and internal arrangement of the cottages reflects very closely the history of industrial and social development in that village All over the country, but especially in Warwickshire, Shropshire, and Herefordshire, many half-timbered black and white houses, dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (some even older), are still occupied. Two Herefordshire villages, Eardisley and Pembridge, consist almost entirely of such cottages, the framework being of black timber, and the intervening walls of whitewashed hair plaster or of wattle and daub. Such cottages, if they are structurally sound, are in some respects better than many built much more recently. They all have a really roomy kitchen—called a "house-place" in North Staffordshire- and a "back-place" which is frequently much larger than the scullery of the most spacious Council cottage. In some country districts—round Lichfield and in parts of Worcestershire—the size of the "back-place" is due to the tradition that every cottager had a pig to salt, and that he must have a brick and stone slab in the "back-place" upon which to salt it. (I have seen at least one very old cottage with what appeared to be two sculleries, one of them the "brew-house of bygone days.)

The question of the size of the scullery—like that of the provision of a "pigs-cot" to each cottage in Worcestershire—is one on which local feeling may run very high. I have a vivid recollection of an old railwayman, a native of Streathay, near Lichfield, wrathfully declaring, anent the new Addison cottages: "There's no room to salt a pig in those places. If I had the 'artchetek' here what planned 'em, I'd 'ang 'im!"

That old man was living in one of the older cottages in that hamlet, built probably about a hundred years ago. There were only two bedrooms in it-one of them really a landing-and the door between the two was only 5 ft. 6 in. high. The pitch of the gable roof gave a height of 7 ft. 3 in. from floor to ceiling in the middle of each attic, sloping abruptly to 3 ft. 9 in. at the eaves; only quite near the centre of the room could a grown-up person stand upright. My old friend made no complaints on this score, however, and in this attitude I think we have a clue to the most general and the worst defect in our oldest cottages: our forefathers did not expect, or get, any measure of comfort, privacy, or fresh air in their bedrooms. (Some of us remember a passage in Kingley's "Yeast".) In old gabled cottages, the attic space is almost invariably divided into two "bedrooms, the first being a landing entered directly from the box-staircase from the kitchen, and the second being only accessible through the first. The height of the intervening door varies, in the oldest and most picturesque cottages, from 4 ft. to 5 ft. 6 in. in a row of cottages in the village of Pembridge, popularized on picture postcards, it is 4 ft. 9 in.

In such bedrooms the size and position of the windows aggravates the general discomfort and unhealthiness. The bottom of the window-frame is usually only 1 ft. 9 in. above the floor level, the window-frame being 1 ft. 9½ in. high, and containing two panes, each about a foot square, only one of which opens. It is quite impossible to ventilate a room adequately by means of such windows, apart from the depressing effect of not being able to see out of them.

Cottages of this kind, however, should not be condemned, closed, and demolished out of hand. They were solidly built by men who knew their job, even though they did not know the use of metal nails or rivets. If the main timbers are sound and the plaster or daub can be made good, if the walls can be made damp-proof and there is a supply of fit drinking water which can be connected to a new sink in the "back-place"—if a porch can be added, with a new staircase out of it on one side, and a fuel shed and earth closet on the other, the whole being built of similar materials to those originally used for the cottage—then the bedroom difficulty can be surmounted. It is only necessary to remove and raise the roof, making a new (Continued at foot of next column.)

TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.

CHAPTER XXII.—PICKING UP THE PIECES (continued).

The generosity of the Hadassah women in the United States has already been referred to: they have supplied more than 50 per cent of all the clothing needed by the children in the orphanages. We were taken to the Central Administrative Office of the Orphan Committee. It was a model of good organization and order. Parcels, each containing a complete suit of clothing for a child of a given age and size, were neatly tied up so that they could be sent to any required destination at a moment's notice. The whole work struck us as admirably done: the organization was complete, but always kept in subordination to the central human interest of turning these

orphaned children into good citizens. Mrs. Solomon, wife of one of the members of the Administration, is the happy mother of a very lovely baby, and as a thankoffering for this little son she has instituted in Jerusalem a her own expense a pure milk distribution scheme for babie and nursing mothers, founded on the now well-known principles of the Goutte de lait in Paris: it is in the poorest part of Jerusalem, and every detail in connection with it is faultlessly and daintily I once heard the present Bishop of Chester, when h was Vicar of St. Pancras, say that he was "informed by his medical friends that there was as much difference between domestic and surgical cleanliness as there was between respect ability and holiness." If this was an appropriate comparison in England, where the standard of domestic cleanliness is fairly high, something more would be needed in Jerusalem, when among the Arabs of the poorer classes it is miserably low. About fifty mothers attend and receive the milk daily from Mrs. Solomon's centre; no distinction is made between the races the pure milk supply is equally open to all. Unless absolutely destitute each mother makes some contribution toward

weighed and the effect upon their health in other respects is marked and is extraordinarily satisfactory. I believe that this fact and the mere sight day after day for some months of the meticulous care to keep the babies' bottles and their contents absolutely clean must have a very good educational effect upon the poor mothers in teaching them the value of keeping impurities out of their children's food. A milk distribution system among poor mothers is also being carried out at the Hadassah Hospital a fine building, in charming grounds, close to the Russian enclosure in Jerusalem.

the cost of what she receives: the children are periodicall

I do not want to produce the impression that none but the Jews are doing work in Palestine for the raising of social conditions there. I have placed these Jewish activities first because I saw them first. The Jews are certainly pulling their weight and perhaps something more in advancing the Ship of State out of the whirlpool of war and bringing it into calm waters. I shall postpone to another chapter a brief account of what I have to say of educational and other invaluable social work in Christian hands in Palestine.

(Continued from previous column.)

dormer window in each bedroom, and re-arranging the internal partitions. It may be quite possible to make three bedrooms on the floor-space originally occupied by two, or to include an upstairs bathroom.²

Apart from the artistic and historical value of the best sixteenth and seventeenth century cottages, it is well worth while to reconstruct and preserve them from the utilitarian point of view. It actually costs less to reconstruct such a cottage than to build a new one, and the economic rent is therefore low. Such cottages are usually very cheap to buy, and are often let, unaltered, at about 2s. 6d. per week. There is another great advantage in reconstructing an old cottage: the garden is already made and stocked, and is often unusually large. Should any reader wish to use a sum of say £300 for the public good, I suggest that the purchase and reconstruction of one of these cottages would be a practical contribution to the solution of the housing problem in a small village.

Next week I shall describe another kind of cottage, and suggest how that, too, may be improved.

1 This is one of a series of weekly articles which will extend over a period of

ARBITRATION: PAST AND PRESENT.¹ By K. E. INNES, B.A. As was pointed out in a recent article, arbitration is a very

cient method of settling political disputes. Through the ddle ages people of reputed wisdom and high position were m time to time asked to pronounce arbitral decisions to tle quarrels. Thus in our own history Saint Louis, a king France renowned for his wisdom, was called in to decide a oute between Henry III and his barons. The Pope, from his tion and presumed disinterestedness, was a frequent arbiter. 1291 a treaty of absolute arbitration was made between of the Swiss cantons, who from tribal enemies became in a strongly conscious nation, though retaining the racteristics of their separate racial groups. The provision de was that in case of dispute the "wisest" should decide. In the 120 years before the War the practice both of individual of arbitration and the number of arbitration treaties eased enormously. In forty to fifty years after the John treaties of 1794, the United States settled several questions sue with other American States and with European Powers arbitration, while from 1842 to 1871 thirty-five prominent estions between the U.S.A. and Europe were thus settled, between 1871 and 1910 over 125 disputes in the new and old world were referred to arbitration. A criticism frequently le is that these did not concern questions which would have to war; in point of fact they dealt again and again with the kinds of question that have repeatedly done so, though solution was usually found by the reduction of the questions a strictly judiciable form rather than by their submission arbitration on general principles. Thus disagreements ttled between 1871 and 1910 included disputes about financial estions, boundaries and frontiers, and territorial questions.

over the Newfoundland fisheries was satisfactorily removed.

Meanwhile the usefulness of the Hague Court, set up in 1899
by the conference summoned by Czar Nicholas II, increased.

Among questions referred to it and amicably settled was that
of indemnity by Russia for the firing on our fishing fleet in the
North Sea during the Russo-Japanese war (1904–5).

1871 the "Alabama" indemnity award was given against

at Geneva: in 1903 the Alaska boundary was settled, and

1909-10 a long-standing grievance between us and the U.S.A

Its usefulness was not ended by the establishment of the Permanent Court of International Justice. It remains as an alternative Court to which disputes may be referred, and in 1923 it settled a serious dispute between the U.S.A. and Norway about the seizure of Norwegian shipping, giving the verdict in favour of Norway. One feature which should be emphasized is that no International abritral award had ever been disputed, though judgment has frequently gone against the more powerful of the parties to the quarrel.

In the years immediately preceding the War, the United States again led the way over treaties of arbitration in the Wilson-Bryan Treaties. The signatories to these promised before going to war to submit any dispute between themselves and America to investigation and arbitration. The pledge did not even exclude questions of national honour, and the treaties were signed by France and ourselves among the Great Powers as well as by thirty-four smaller Powers. They were renewable after a term of years, and, among others, we have renewed our treaty, but none of our Dominions have entered into these agreements.

It was therefore not a new idea that was embodied in the Covenant of the League of Nations in Articles 12–15, which lay down the obligation for the submission of all disputes either to arbitration or judicial settlement or to investigation by the Council for a recommendation if the decision is unanimous. The advance lay in the making of provision for some form of arbitration (in a wide sense) in every case, and the pledge to accept the award except where the Council after investigation was not unanimous. Here there was a loophole for war which was stopped in Article 4 of the Protocol, where it is stipulated that if the Council fails to reach unanimity it shall itself submit the dispute to arbitration and the signatories agree to accept the award.

Further, by Article 36 of the Statute setting up the Permanent Court of International Justice, provision is made for the settlement by peaceful means of all judiciable disputes between those who accept this particular article. France has ratified; Canada has expressed willingness to do so with some allowable reservations; we, so far, have refused.

THE PROBLEM OF POPULATION RESTATED.

Professor Carr Saunders has rendered a very signal service to the popular study of social and economic problems by the production of a marvellously readable and comprehensive survey of the problem of population.\(^1\) All the more valuable is his service when one remembers the deplorable fact that this particular problem—this essential starting-point for all thoughtful discussion of production, distribution, and consumption—this fundamental concern of human well-being, physical, æsthetic, and moral—is of all problems most obstinately, persistently, and ignorantly ignored by persons who deal in the conditions of human welfare. For such evasion Professor Carr Saunders has removed the last possible excuse. His book is inexpensive, a couple of hours will carry the reader through it from cover to cover, and anybody of average intelligence can perfectly well understand it.

His main thesis is roughly, modified by a century or so of illuminating experience, that of Malthus writing in 1799. It is, of course, in a compressed form, the thesis of his own larger work, Population, published in 1922, and unaccountably omitted from his present bibliography. The natural unchecked power of man-kind to multiply and replenish the earth is greater than the power of the earth to provide a sufficiently elastic material environment and a sufficiently spacious æsthetic environment for the maintenance of a maximum (and this maximum is relative to current social organization and technique) life standard. As a matter of fact, however, the capacity for multiplication has never, during the recorded course of history, been pursued unchecked. Its nearest approach to such expansion is to be found during the nineteenth century in those countries which underwent a process of rapid industrialization or commercialization. Meanwhile, is checks there must be, to what checks shall mankind submit There is the historic check of infanticide. There is the universal and variously operating check of infant mortality. There is the mediaeval check, coincident with the spread of Christianity in the Western world, of late marriage and celibacy: the 'prudential check' advocated by Malthus. Upon the historical or present efficacy of positive starvation, war, and emigration as effective checks, our author casts some doubt. Meanwhile there is the new check to which the present age has introduced civilized communities: contraceptive birth control. Here is a matter which Professor Carr Saunders touches very lightly; in its technical and ethical aspects not at all. But he supplies (and we commend this fact to our readers) the essential back ground for its intelligent discussion.

So much in praise of his achievement. Let us add a word of perhaps disproportionate criticism. In analysing with necessary brevity the human motives which lie behind the recent spread of birth control in this country, he overstresses the initiative taken by the husband under purely economic stimuli. In our opinion precedence should be given to the strong and growing initiative which is being taken, and for reasons not purely economic, by the women. And in support of this generalization we would call his attention to the events of last year's National Labour Women's Conference, when without a lead, indeed without any sign of encouragement from their official leaders, the rank and file of Labour Women passed a resolution criticising the action of a Labour Minister of Health in maintaining certain restrictions upon the diffusion of birth control information. Again, we believe that his handling of the problem in its international aspects would have gained completeness if he had laid stress upon that aspect of the population question which is suggested by Professor Adolf Wagner in his Agrar-und Industriestaat; the potential disharmony between the economic internationalism of an industrial age and man's failure to evolve any corresponding political forms. Indeed, might not such a consideration have led on to the ominous speculations of Professor Graham Wallas in the opening chapter of his Great Society: the contemplation of our economic environment, whose complexities, conditioned by the multifarious needs of a swollen population, have outgrown the controlling power of human nerve and human brain M. D. S.

FEMINISM IN INDIA.

It is interesting to learn that recently there was a procession of Sikh women round the Golden Temple, and speeches demanding equal rights with men under the proposed Gurdwara Bill, which provides the machinery for the management of the Sikh shrines.

¹ There are several cottages not far from Redditch in which wooden pegs only are found.

several months.

² Detailed descriptions, specifications, etc., of reconstruction of this kind may be obtained from the Rural Housing Association, 3 Bedford Square, W.C. 1, and from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and Cottages, 20 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. 2.

Contributed by the Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C. I.

¹ Population by Carr Saunders. The World's Manuals. Oxford University Press. pp. 111. 2s. 6d.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

The number of Summer Schools shows no signs of decreasing. Of special interest to readers of this paper is the Summer School for Magistrates and Citizens organized by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, of which details as to the speakers and lecturers are now available. It will be held at St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford, 25th August to 8th September. The programme promises to be as interesting as that of the School held two years ago, which those who attended it know is high praise. The lecturers include such experts as Captain Reiss on Housing, Mr. J. L. Cohen on Social Insurance, Mr. Walter T. Layton on International Finance, Mr. Brailsford on the Labour Party, Miss Constance Smith on Women's Industries, Dr. Marie Stopes on Birth Control, Miss Eleanor Rathbone on Family Endowment, Professor Carr Saunders on Population, and many others. A special section, of which Miss Margery Fry is convener, is being arranged for magistrates, and the needs of visitors from overseas are being carefully studied. Apply for details to the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. We have also received a notice of the Temperance Summer School, organized by the Temperance Council of the Christian Churches. which will be held at High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Herts, 9th to 12th June. Particulars can be had from the Summer School Secretaries, the Temperance Council for the Christian Churches, 110-112 Abbey House, S.W. 1. An interesting form of Summer School which will afford an opportunity to study the League of Nations at work is promised by a tour to Geneva during the meeting of the Assembly, which is being organized by the League of Nations Union. A party will leave London on 4th September: there will be lectures and visits to the Assembly and the International Labour Office. Other parties will leave on 11th and 15th September if there are sufficient applications. For details apply to Mrs. Innes, B.A., International Study Group, 29 High Oaks Road, Welwyn Garden City, or to the Secretary, League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.

THE WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

The following account of the work of the W.L.G.S. and the reason for its winding-up has been sent to us by Miss M. S. Kilgour who, together with Miss Leigh Browne, has been so closely identified with the work of the Society:

In 1888, when the Society was formed, it was little more than a Committee for promoting the return of women as County Councillors. In 1893 it became "The Women's Local Government Society for promoting the eligibility of women to elect to and to serve on all local governing bodies.' In 1907 women became legally eligible even to County and Borough Councils (the last fence, as it were); and in 1914 the provision of the residential qualification for candidates for County and Borough Councils largely increased the field for the selection of candidates; both these measures were the Society's own Bills brought to fruition in Parliament by the tact and the perseverance of the late Dr. Shipman, M.P. In 1918, the united efforts of women's societies secured an improved Local Government Franchise for women. Therewith the original legislative aims of the Society may be said to have been attained, and henceforward effort was mainly directed to secure the actual participation of women in local government by virtue of the new opportunities available. In 1914 the Society was incorporated with a Memorandum of Association, which set forth objects co-extensive with all that women can do to promote good local government.

It is clear that the concentration of purpose of the Society was essential for the legislative success sought and attained But it seems that such concentration does not offer to the younger generations the attractiveness of wide aims which concern much besides local government. Hence other national societies of women have a far larger number of local bodies of women affiliated to them. The Women's Local Government Society, now no longer adequately supported by workers and funds, has judged it better to relinquish to others the great practical work which remains to be done; and those who have hitherto promoted the Society's cause, viz., the co-operation of women with men in local government as essential for just and efficient administration, urge that the cause must ever be vital and entreat that it may receive still wider support.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EOUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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SUMMER SCHOOL FOR MAGISTRATES AND CITIZENS. ST. HILDA'S HALL, OXFORD, 25th August-8th September. ADDITIONAL LECTURES

The Status of Women

Miss Constance Smith, Chief Woman Inspector of Factories, who is well known to students who have attended our previous Summer Schools, will speak on "The Present Position of Women in Industry

League of Nations and International Affairs.

Mrs. Layton will speak on "Security and the League of

Walter Layton, Esq., C.H. Editor of the *Economist*, will speak on "Questions Relating to International Finance." Mr. Layton is well-known to students of our previous Summer chools for his lucid and interesting treatment of this com-

Political Party Ideals.

Professor John Stocks, whose interesting lectures at Portinscale Summer School will be remembered, will speak on "The Functions of Parties under Representative Government.'

PERSONAL

We should like to offer our sincere sympathy to Dame Millicent Fawcett on the death of her sister, Mrs. Salmon, also to Miss Deneke (our former Hon. Treasurer) on the death of her father, and to Mrs. Van Gruisen who has recently lost her brother, Mr. Godfrey Isaacs

DEPUTATION TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH ON THE WIDOWS', ORPHANS', AND OLD AGE CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS BILL.

The N.U.S.E.C. is asking the Minister of Health to receive a deputation of women's organizations to lay before him the views of the National Union of the Government's proposals on the above Bill, more especially to draw attention to giving adequate pensions to widows with dependent children. Secretaries of societies are asked to send in resolutions to the Minister of Health asking that the pensions to these widows should be increased.

INAUGURAL MEETING OF WESTMINSTER S.E.C.

It is a strange fact, that here, in Westminster, "that most important of all constituencies," haunted by the shade of John Stuart Mill, once its Member, there is no Society for Equal Citizenship. Westminster is also the home of Lady Astor, and she is kindly lending her house at 4 St. James' Square, for a meeting to be held on 13th May, at 5 p.m., to inaugurate a Westminster Society for Equal Citizenship

Lady Balfour of Burleigh will take the Chair and the speakers will include Miss Helen Fraser and Mrs. Hubback.

Tickets may be obtained by any one residing in Westminster from Miss Dutch, 8 Berkeley Street, Berkeley Square, W. 1, who is acting as Hon. Secretary pro tem.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

FARNWORTH AND KEARSLEY W.C.A

A united meeting of Women's Organizations was held at the Mill Hall, Farnworth, on Monday, 27th April, to urge the Government to do all in its power to bring about the vital reform of Pensions for Widows with Dependent Children. Councillor J. White, J.P., Chairman of the Farnworth U.D.C., presided. The resolution was moved by Councillor Mrs. Agnew, J.P., of Bolton W.C.A., seconded by Mrs. Wilson, Farnworth Labour Party, and supported by Mrs. George Brown, representing the Liberal women, and Mrs. Steel, the Conservative women. There was a good attendage in spite of several other counter attractions. The women, and Mrs. Steel, the Conservative women. There was a good attendance in spite of several other counter attractions. The speakers were all excellent and to the point, the Chairman most sympathetic, and the audience interested. The resolution was carried unanimously. It is very much hoped that this will not be the last meeting of women of all parties on questions of a similar nature, and the success of this meeting mises well for such action in the future.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

MAY 8, 1925.

The Chancellor's Budget proposals referring to Widows' Pensions are aroused the deepest interest among women's societies, and the consultative Committee lost no time in considering them at some length neir April meeting. The main criticism was directed towards the equate rates, and some members of the Committee felt that these it be increased without further expense by eliminating pensions to bodied young widows with no dependent children. It was also also urged that the age up to which children could receive pensions ld be raised to 16 years. The contributory method was criticised, ows in need of assistance.

very important discussion took place on the proposed Factory

A very important discussion took place on the proposed Factory gislation, and there was a sharp cleavage of opinion between those no were opposed to protective legislation for women, and those who felt was the only practicable method of achieving equality of conditions men and women in industry. Some societies hold that to class men with young persons, and to legislate specially for their protection, and impede proper Trade Union organization and handicap women in e industrial market. In their view any restrictions imposed should be and on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker; and the decent conditions for women were in the past only secured by State rvention, there was no reason why this should continue to be accepted the right method for to-day. Other members pointed out that the nen's Trade Unions, who were faced with the actual problems of men's employment, were themselves foremost in demanding factory slation on these lines. The meeting, however, was agreed on the urgent essity for the introduction of a Bill to amend as well as to consolidate

Other subjects considered were the Admission of Germany to the League Nations, the Bill to enable Peeresses to sit in the House of Lords, Equal y in the Civil Service, the Separate Taxation of Married Persons' comes, and special relief in taxation for widows with unearned incomes under (500).

It was decided to hold the Annual Meeting of the Committee on 7th July.

MISS HELEN FRASER'S POLITICS.

The Times of May 5th published the following extract from letter from Miss Fraser to the Prime Minister:

"Some months ago, finding myself no longer in agreement with certain policies of the Liberal Party, I resigned my membership. I have found myself increasingly in general agreement with the Unionist programme, and I desire to join the Unionist Party. I am taking this step now as the extended Insurance Scheme in the Budget is on lines with which I am in accord, and, as it is evidently to be a matter of somewhat acute controversy, I should like to define my position and take my stand at once. I shall be glad if you feel able to accept my services."

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The National Council of Women will hold an International Week, 8th to 12th June, to meet the delegates from the Conference f the International Council of Women now being held at Washington. There are various social functions arranged for and two public meetings, one at the Church House, Westminster, on 12th June, to hear reports on the various sections of the Conference; the other, which will be held jointly with the Save the Children Fund, on the Declaration of Geneva, will ake place on 11th June, at the Central Hall, Westminster.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

The National Federation of Women's Institutes, which continues to grow and develop at an incredible rate, is holding s ninth annual general meeting on 19th and 20th May. The esolutions cover a wide range of subjects: Rural Industries, Transport of Produce, the Litter left by Picnics in the Country, and Young Farmers' Clubs are amongst the questions of special interest to country women to be considered. Of more universal interest is a resolution deploring the stationary nature of the igures of maternal mortality, and one urging greater facilities or the education of the mentally afflicted.

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WAITING LIST.—The names of suitable would-be Residents will be placed on the

Applications to the Wardens of the respective Clubs.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"CHILDLESS WIDOWS AND PENSIONS."

MADAM, -I should like to be permitted to comment on the contention, quite widely made, and used by Mrs. Hubback in her Times letter of 30th April, that the "childless young widow" should not be in the

Everyone of us is agreed that the sum planned for the widow and children is inadequate. The author of the Budget no doubt agrees but a beginning must be made somewhere, and we can find by experience how the scheme works actuarially and what is needed to make it adequate, We do not know all the figures worked on for the scheme, but we do know that the number of childless young widows in this country is very small. The marriage figures show that widows marry again in large proportions and those remarrying, automatically lose their pensions though the children retain theirs. One's views on young widows and work does not cover the case. The practical commonsense thing is to look at the scheme all round and see that we begin on a line that gives what is contracted and contributed for, and so work out a plan that will, in years to come, eliminate the need for Poor Relief altogether for this whole purpose.

It will be agreed that a young widow, incapacitated in any way, though childless, needs help and any arbitrary elimination of all childless young widows would be most unfair. Admission of the rights of some and not administrative machinery to deal with the cases fairly, thereby adding to our charges. Apart from incapacity, a woman who has been married ten or fifteen or twenty years (the latter in my view in many cases might still be termed "young") does not and cannot drop back into work so easily, and, even if she has no living children, might have in some cases the handers and a great track of the precision as

easily, and, even if she has no living children, might have in some cases other burdens and as great need of the pension as a woman with a child. Let us take another example. A young widow has one child. The child dies just after she gets the pension, or within a short period. Is the pension to be taken from her because she is now young and childless, or is she to get it, because she had the child? If so, what of the childless widow at the husband's death who had had a child.

And what is "young"? When would a widow cease to be young? We should, if we eliminated the young childless widow, have to fix an age when the childless widow ceased to be "young" and did qualify. In this event, are the widows whose husbands die while they are below the age to be allowed to come into the pension when they reach the qualifying age or are they to be shut out absolutely?

The husband might die only a year before, six months before, a week or two before the qualifying age. What kind of difficulties and feelings would this create?

One last point—is it really seriously argued that the sum claimed by childless young widows would be an amount that kept from them would add materially to the pensions of widows with children? Our figures show this to be a contention that has no relation to facts.

show this to be a contention that has no relation to facts.

The sensible amendment is not to deny the childless young widow a pension, but to take the alternative of paying her a sum down for her rights. This would give her something to tide her over, and assist her to plan and arrange something sensible for her future.

I am not yet persuaded that the world is so fair to the woman worker and provides her with so many chances that it is any great scandal to give even a widow who has not borne a child or children, or if she has, has lost them, some sum to help her when she loses her husband, when that husband and probably she herself have contributed for such a purpose.

Helen Fraser. HELEN FRASER.

Madam,—This is Animal Week. Last Sunday Miss Maude Royden preached a sermon in the course of which she remarked that the reputation this nation has justly won for being friendly to animals, more so perhaps than other nations, places upon us a heavy responsibility. While refusing to examine the utmost implications, of, for example, the creed of the vegetarian, she urged that each person should make himself responsible for pressing forward at least one reform of the many so grievously needed if we are to lead the way in friendliness to the dumb ones. The reform which needs more organized public opinion brought to bear on it at the moment is the abolition of the infamous traffic is old horses. May I pass on her proposal to your readers? It is, that each should do something (through their Member of Parliament or through their minister of religion or through their local press) to secure that any inquiry to be held in regard to this traffic shall be held in public. "Voiceless" was our telegraphic address in the pre-vote days: the animals are voiceless was our telegraphic address in the pre-voic day.

for ever unless we lend our voices in their dear cause.

A. Helen Ward.

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS.

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COMING EVENTS.

THE LABOUR PARTY.

MAY 27 and 28. National Conference of Labour Women in the Town Hall, Birminghan MAY 27. Public Meeting (evening). Speakers: The Right Hon. Ramsay MacDonald, M Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Mr. Thomas Johnston, M.P., and Dr. Marion Phill Councillor Mrs. Howes in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs. Howes in the Chair.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

Night Annual Macring in Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W. 1. Morning

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Edinburgh W.C.A. MAY 13. 8 p.m. Public Meeting in Royal Society of tts Hall, 117 George Street. "The Treatment of Mental Disorders." Speaker: W. M. l'Alister, Esq., M.A., M.B. Chairman: Sir John R. Findlay, K.B.E.

Hereford W.C.A. MAY 19. 3 p.m. Annual Meeting. Speaker:

Ilkley S.E.C. MAY 14. 3 p.m. Members' Meeting in Wesleyan Ladies' Parlour, Delegates' reports of Council Meeting.

Kensington and Paddington S.E.C. MAY 11. 3.30 p.m. 50 Porchester Terrace, W. Miss Alison Neilans on "The Moral Question in Singapore."

Malvern S.E.C. MAY 19. 8 a.m. Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser.

Westminster S.E.C. MAY 13. 5 p.m. Inaugural Meeting at 4 St. James Square, v kind invitation of the Viscountess Astor, M.P. Speakers: Miss Helen Fraser and

WOMEN'S UNIONIST ORGANIZATION.

MAY 14 and 15. Sixth Annual Conference, at Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W. r.

MAY 15. 2,30 p.m. Mass Meeting at Queen's Hall. Speakers: The Right Hon. Sir
William Joynson-Hicks, Bt., M.P., and Major The Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, M.P.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. r. Sunday, roth May. 3.30, Music; Lecture: H. Wilson Harris, Eaq., on "The Press and Inter-national Relations." 6.30, Dr. Leonard Browne, of the Tavistock Clinic.

BIRTH CONTROL. — Miss Stella Browne addresses Women's Societies on Birth Control, Ethics, History, Practical Methods. Afternoon and evening engagements. Fares only required in payment. — Address, c/o New Generation League, 31 Palace Street, S.W. 1.

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