

WOMEN'S
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THE WOMAN'S LEADER AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XX. No. 22. One Penny.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, July 6, 1928.

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Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers: British Isles and Abroad, 6/6.

Common Cause Publishing Co., 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Le roi le veut.—At long last.

On Monday, 2nd July, just after 6 p.m., the Royal Assent was given to the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act, henceforward law of the land. So closes a campaign which has lasted over 60 years, to secure the Parliamentary and Local Franchise for women "on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men". The end came so quietly; it has been for so long anticipated with certainty that with the general public it has passed almost unnoticed. The papers of Monday morning did not for the most part even record it as one of the day's events. Yet the news will penetrate, if it has not penetrated yet, to the women who belong or who have belonged to the Suffrage Movement in every corner of the civilized world. And beyond? Will Charon remember to carry the tidings over the Styx to those on the other side who have so good a right to know it?—to Mary Wollstonecroft, Lydia Becker, Helen Blackburn, Emily Davison, Constance Lytton, Isabella Ford, Edith Palliser, Emmeline Pankhurst,

"And many more whose names on earth are dark
But whose transmitted effluence cannot die
So long as fire outlives the parent spark".

And if the news does reach them, will they care? Or are they like some of the survivors, so immersed in the tasks of the present as to have forgotten the aspirations of the past? Or do those fiery spirits only survive in the flame they have kindled in other spirits? Even so, that is an immortality worth having.

A Happy Ending.

The picturesque formal ceremony which took place when the Royal Assent was given to "The Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act and other Acts" was the final scene of a long drama enacted on the Parliamentary stage off and on for a period of over sixty years. Dame Millicent Fawcett, Miss Agnes Garrett, Mrs. Despard were present with representatives of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, including among the present officers those who had served in past years, Mrs. Swanwick, Miss Catherine Marshall and Miss Kathleen Courtney. Representatives of the Freedom League and St. Joan's Social and Political Union were also there wearing their respective colours. In the lobby afterwards there were quiet friendly congratulations and outside the last suffrage demonstra-

tion took place—a mild, gentle, but happy close to a stormy story—when the little group was photographed. Later in the evening Dame Millicent Fawcett spoke to a large unseen audience from 2LO¹; suffragists who were present in the House of Lords or listened to Dame Millicent must have felt a well of thanksgiving springing up in their hearts for the recognition at long last of their hopes.

Punch and Ourselves.—An Equal Franchise Number.

We propose to issue next week a special number in honour of the Equal Franchise victory which will be celebrated at the Garden Party at Cliveden next week. Articles by well known suffragists will appear and we hope to be allowed to reproduce the perfectly delightful cartoon "Free and Independent" and the frontispiece "Equal Franchise" by Bernard Partridge, which appear in the current number of *Punch*. The Equal Franchise victory, which has so far almost escaped comment in the daily Press was not overlooked by our loyal friend Mr. Punch and we think every reader will wish to possess and treasure the copy in which appears the last of a historic series of cartoons in favour of the suffrage movement. We feel honoured that *Punch* has selected the final extension of the franchise as the subject of the frontispiece of Volume CLXXIV—January to June, 1928. It portrays a see-saw with the man high in the air and the woman still on the ground! We take this opportunity of thanking the Editors and Artists of *Punch* for their never failing support and venture to suggest that they might reproduce in some convenient form all the drawings in the series.

The Police on Strike.

Last week the Home Secretary confessed to the House of Commons that whereas the normal rate for charges of indecent behaviour in Hyde Park was 30 to 40 a month, not a single charge was brought during the whole of May. Being clearly unable to ascribe this remarkable phenomenon to a sudden improvement in public morals, he invited Honourable Members to "draw their own conclusions"—adding that the affair was not ascribable to any instructions given to the police, since none had been given, and that it was causing him the "gravest anxiety". It must, we fear, cause all of us the gravest anxiety; for the fact is that with respect to this particular aspect of their duties, the Metropolitan Police are virtually on strike. It is a strike directed against the public in reply to public criticism of their over-zealousness on certain recent occasions. Whether the police are in a position wholly different to all other employed persons with regard to the "right to strike" is a matter of some controversy; though on balance public opinion is ready to affirm that they are. But whether or no this is the case, it remains true that the matters now at issue between the police and the public (or certain sections of the public) are at the moment *sub judice* in two separate tribunals: the Savidge Commission and the Macmillan Committee on Street Offences. It would therefore, we think, have been better tactics, so far as the police case is concerned, to have awaited the verdict of both these bodies before taking concerted unsocial action of this kind.

A Force Making for Peace.

What will be the probable effect of the complete enfranchisement of women in Great Britain? was among the questions put by a pressman to Colonel House during his London visit.

¹ Dame Millicent's speech will be printed in next week's issue.

'Keep fit on
cocoa'

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OF CHOCOLATE

Write
Cadbury, Bournville
about Gift Scheme

He answered it, as was of course intended, with reference to the results of the similar measure of adult enfranchisement adopted by his own country in 1920. There had, he asserted, been no appreciable difference with regard to party groupings; but as a rule women were in favour of peace measures. This verdict coincides with the strongly expressed opinion of the *Economist* (supported by American opinion, to which we referred it for corroboration) that the recent withdrawal of the U.S.A. big navy programme was materially assisted by the active peace propaganda of organized women voters. It is, we are aware, often very easy to believe what one passionately wishes to believe, and it may be urged that we are for that reason disproportionately prone to believe this. But, week by week, more unprejudiced persons tell the same tale.

Baby Week.

The Queen has sent a message to the National Baby Week Council expressing her interest in the activities associated with Baby Week. Her Majesty especially alludes to the emphasis which is this year being given to the reduction of the heavy rate of maternal mortality. The best way to save the babies is to save the mothers and one of the most encouraging features of social progress of the present time is the concentration on this aspect of social welfare.

Women in Medicine.

Lady Barrett spoke out at the recent presentation of prizes at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine for Women. She said that blows had been aimed at the opportunities of women for medical education and that three schools had simultaneously closed their doors against women students. Equal opportunity for women in experience, work and service must, she said, be won back again. Readers will remember that a joint committee of women's organizations was formed as the result of the conference held recently on women in the service of hospitals. This joint Committee has now got to work and is arranging deputations to hospital boards which have decided no longer to admit women students. The first of these will be received by King's College Hospital this week.

Local Government Reform.

It would be premature to express views on the Government's proposals for reform in Local Government published at the close of last week. They must later be examined in detail in these pages, for they carry with them the prospect of sweeping changes in the Local Government of this country. The intention is to submit legislation to Parliament as early as possible in the Autumn Sessions so that women's organizations cannot afford to lose any time. The proposals in so far as the new scheme relates to the Poor Law have often been discussed in these columns and it may here be noted that provision is specially made for the co-optation of women as well as men of experience on to County or County Borough Councils to which it is proposed that Poor Law administration will be entrusted.

Light and Leadership from the Gold Coast.

We learn that the Civil Service Dinner Club of the Gold Coast has recently decided to open its membership to women officials, and to African civil servants who hold staff appointments. There are, of course, quite a number of women officials engaged among other things in medical and educational work; so that the change of rule is in their case no mere empty formality. In the case of Africans, the practical reality of the change is perhaps more dubious. They are rare visitors to London where the club holds its meetings. But in principle, as regards women and coloured officials, both habitually outcasted by reason of the fortuitous accident of sex or race, the change is a notable one. We have frequently remarked in connection with the development of women's activities in the academic world, that men will work with women more readily than they will eat with them. But here we have, from the Gold Coast, a notable disproof of this generalization. The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, commenting on the occurrence, remarks that "in Kenya and Rhodesia it may possibly be denounced and in the Union it may not be believed."

Archæological Discoveries by Two Women.

Two women, Miss Caton-Thompson and Miss Elina Gardner have, since 1924, been engaged in research work under the auspices of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain in the Fayum Oasis in the heart of the Egyptian desert, an area hitherto singularly ignored by archæologists. The Egyptian Government has shown itself fully alive to the value of their

researches and the Minister of Public Works recently supplied some necessary labour which the expedition had been unable to afford. An article with attractive illustrations reprinted from the *Egyptian Gazette* describing the discoveries which have already been made, has been printed under the title "Discoveries in the Northern Fayum."

The Senior Suffragist.

Dame Millicent writes: "Mrs. Pennington, who celebrated the hundredth anniversary of her birth on 26th June, has throughout her adult life been one of the staunchest friends of the cause of Woman's Suffrage. She is as keenly interested in all the developments of the movement to-day as she was sixty years ago. She retains her mental and physical vigour to an extraordinary degree and it is delightful to have the opportunity of discussing with her the events of the day. She was always for suffrage and for the higher education of women and she was a supporter of Mrs. Josephine Butler from the very beginning of her heroic struggle for Social Purity. Her house was for many years a centre of all good social work. Our greeting and our cordial gratitude go out towards her."

King Amanullah's Verdict.

On his return to Kandahar last week, King Amanullah of Afghanistan made a brief speech on the subject of his recent Western tour. It was, he said, undertaken primarily with the object of studying progressive methods of administration. In this connection he had been struck with the fine part which women were playing in the national life of many of the countries which he had visited, where they were closely identified with all progressive movements. It must, we think, demand a certain measure of perspicuity, to see this notable feature of Western civilization through the glitter, the artificiality, the portentous ceremonial, and the language barriers with which that civilization surrounded the King of Afghanistan on his triumphant progress through Europe. Perhaps it was ceremonially symbolized for him by the single small robed figure of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, enthroned upon the apex of a vast civic administrative system. But at any rate, he has seen it. And we hope that through his traveller's tales it may shine from West to East, subduing the memory and the significance of the tank displays, the torpedo practices, the ten-course dinners, and the eternal rich red carpets.

Invidious Discrimination.

Sir J. Crockett, a prominent Northampton boot manufacturer, celebrated his birthday last week by making a generous present to his workpeople. Every man in his employment received £3, and every woman 35s. Straws, it is generally acknowledged, show the way of the wind. Small occurrences such as this demonstrate certain aspects of the economic position of women. "To those that have, it shall be given."

A School for Voters New and Old.

Summer Schools are now legion and deal with every subject under the sun. The Summer School of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship this year has selected Democracy as its keyword and problems of modern democracy will be reviewed by members of the three political parties. Another group of lectures will deal with the "Woman's Movement," now passing into a new phase; still a third with the most recent developments in International Questions. Groups of "students" old and young, interested in different subjects, will naturally fall together and it is expected that there will be groups of magistrates, of members of local authorities, possibly even of potential candidates for Parliament! There will also be practice classes for speakers and if desired on Parliamentary procedure and election work. A quiet week in an Oxford College before the rush of the autumn's work begins is an alluring prospect which will, we hope, attract many "new" as well as old voters. There are no barriers of any kind whatever—age, sex, or politics, and a very interesting and delightful time is expected.

The Darlington Tragedy.

A disaster that threw a whole village into mourning and left nearly fifty children motherless, calls for our deepest pity. The circumstances of the recent Darlington accident—a happy excursion of members of the local branch of the Mothers' Union—are peculiarly sad. The heroism of the victims while awaiting rescue, some of whom died before help was available, is the only gleam in the blackness of a tragedy seldom equalled in our island. We wish to extend our sympathy to the stricken village.

THE END CROWNS ALL

AND THAT OLD COMMON ARBITRATOR TIME, WILL ONE DAY END IT.

For sixty years we have thought and worked and prayed for this free citizenship for women and now we have it, at least as far as political conditions can give it to us.

Well! looking back, as I can, over these sixty years, I can say that they have been happy years: we have felt from year to year that our cause has made way towards our ultimate goal. Of course, there have been ups and downs, but still we could always feel that we were making steady progress: a sure source of happiness. But we have had still another, in the scores of friends we have made, of every shade in politics and comprising all sorts and conditions of men and women. I can remember, of course, and remember gratefully, the great people, who have befriended us, Prime Ministers, Secretaries of State, Bishops and commercial magnates: and also the leaders of the Labour party, especially as it was a dozen years ago.

I do not think there has ever been a great political reform which has been carried through from its inception to its complete success with such a minimum of physical violence. Even when the "militants" were at the height of their militancy they shed no blood either of man or beast; such physical suffering as was involved in their strategy, they bore themselves, they did not inflict it on others. They showed in more than one instance that they were prepared to lay down their lives for the cause of women's freedom.

For this at any rate we "sing, rejoice, and give thanks". Mark Twain once wrote of the women suffragists of his own country: "in 40 years they have swept away an increasingly large number of unfair laws from the Statute Books of America. In this brief time these serfs have set themselves free—essentially. Men could not have done as much for themselves in that time without bloodshed; at least, they never have, and that is an argument that they didn't know how". The great blot of negro slavery could not, or at least was not, removed from the American nation without the cost of four years of civil war and the death of one of the greatest leaders and statesmen that America or any other country has ever known. This fact has sunk so deeply into the political mind that I have heard the text: "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin" quoted as if it proved that bloodshed was a necessary preliminary to any great advance in national wellbeing. The Quakers have all through their history stood out for the opposite theory in politics and social organization and I think I may fairly say that they have proved their case a great deal more successfully at any rate than the promoters of reform by violence have proved theirs. Nevertheless, the two policies of Reform by violence and Reform by peaceful persuasion will probably continue to make their several appeals. I was at a suffrage meeting at

WHISPERS FROM WESTMINSTER.

DAWN AND NOONTIDE.

We spent last week discussing the Finance Bill, the guillotine motion for the Rating and Valuation (Apportionment) Bill, and that medley of compromises the Shops Act, and to-day in the midst of a discussion on the question of the de-rating of Sporting Rights, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod came with a message to His Majesty's faithful Commons to attend at another place to hear the Royal Assent given to forty-five Acts of which number three was "Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act, 1928."

As we spent a whole day and night on Wednesday until 7.5 a.m. and saw the dawn rise on the river, it was fitting that we should begin this week by celebrating the noontide of the day of Equal Franchise. It was a pity that Mrs. Fawcett arrived to take her seat just a moment too late to hear the quaint Norman French declaration by the Clerk to their Lordships' House, which signified the triumph of the movement she had done so much to promote. All members who stood behind Mr. Speaker at the Bar were conscious that in appealing, as most of us will, to 50,000 souls at the next election, that as Mr. Probock said of second division clerks, women are also God's creatures. The Finance Bill is of particular interest to women in that there are two new taxes affecting buttons and enamelled hollow-ware. It seemed to me that those responsible for the Bill had not counted on the strenuous opposition which a group of Free Trade members put up against these fresh impositions. The schedule of new indirect taxes, affecting the home grows at a great rate.

the height of the militant activity and one of our Parliamentary friends was firing away in strong condemnation of the militants, when the voice of a working man came from the far end of the hall: "They've rose the country, Sir", and I think we all felt that he had hit the nail on the head.

The extent of the work of conversion which was needed to bring the leaders of the Liberal party to a belief in their own principles was the more remarkable because when we went among the rank and file in the constituencies we found much more support of women's franchise from the Liberals than from the Conservatives. The ordinary Liberal in the constituencies gave us help and encouragement. What was the miasma which changed him into an enemy when he entered into the charmed circle of the leaders of the party? We can perhaps infer what it was from such books as the letters of Lady Frederick Cavendish which was published about a year ago. She was living in Mr. Gladstone's family almost as an adopted child. She was his niece and by her marriage became the daughter-in-law of the then Duke of Devonshire. We can see from her letters that she could see nothing in the demand of women for the protection of Parliamentary representation but what was "entirely odious and ridiculous". How she arrived at this opinion has not been clearly revealed; but there can be little doubt that she reflected the dominant tone of the family in which she was an adopted child; and this tradition of hostility to the enfranchisement of women was handed on in official Liberalism until it was broken by Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Grey. In the Conservative party the tone of its upper circles was entirely different. Family circumstances caused the late Lord Salisbury (the great Prime Minister) to have to earn his living by his pen. This withdrew him a great deal from the ease and luxury of the very rich and probably produced a life-long impression on his character and outlook on life. He, and also the Conservative Prime Minister who had preceded him, Benjamin Disraeli, had known what it was to be poor, and I cannot help feeling that this was part of their political education and that it helped them to understand what the industrial and social problem of women often was, and how their exclusion from even the least scrap of political power added to their difficulties. These two, often at variance on other matters, were allied in their support of the enfranchisement of women and they were followed by three other Conservative Prime Ministers all of whom have given our cause their constant and most valuable support. To have had five Conservative Prime Ministers in succession, all supporting our cause, has been a really great asset in the later stages of our work.

MILlicent G. FAWCETT.

motion, and the Government gave half a day more than they had originally intended and as a result got half a day, for a Liberal member who happened to have the only amendments in order on the paper did not move them, and the Chief Patronage Secretary must have blessed him as four more Bills were accelerated during the remainder of the sitting. On Friday we wrestled with the Shops Bill, a series of compromises make a delicate balance which the slightest piece of rough handling might have upset.

In the course of the debate there was a sharp passage of arms between Miss Ellen Wilkinson and Mrs. Mabel Phillipson. Male members were amused when the Member for East Middlesbrough sharply accused the Member for Berwick of the offence of muddle-headedness. These two ladies seem to be temperamentally anti-pathetic, and I had better leave it at that.

Monday saw us discussing the guillotined Rating Bill, and like the blind fury with the abhorred shears the closure on Clause 2 fell at 7.30 before half the agricultural M.P.s had had their say, while the amount of discussion as to the small man business made it quite obvious that without the guillotine there would have been no Bill this Session. Meanwhile Black Rod came, and I think, as a matter of history, I will append the laconic words of the Commons order paper.

2nd July, 1928. The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod being come with a message the Chairman left the chair. Mr. Speaker resumed the chair. Message to attend the Lords Commissioners; the House went, and, having returned, Mr. Speaker reported the Royal Assent to—

1. Teachers (Superannuation) Act, 1928.
2. Cotton Industry Act, 1928.
3. Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act, 1928.

So the week saw daybreak on the Terrace and noontide for the franchise movement. This week's smile was during the discussion on Clause 13 of the Finance Bill. It must be remembered that the Government Whips are able to work their supporters in relays, and that none of the Members for York, City of London, or Great Yarmouth who had amendments down to that particular clause were in their places.

Mr. Paling scored a real Parliamentary bulls-eye when he remarked, in broadest Yorkshire, "Government Whip brags of shift system but this time he's gotten wrong *men* on wrong *shitt*."

GREEN BENCH.

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THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE.

There is an unpretentious little theatre in the West End of London that is almost an answer to prayer. Most of us have searched fruitlessly for "something suitable for children," that is different from the Circus and the Royal Naval and Military Tournament—both excellent in their way, but not touching quite the same chord as "a real theatre." Pantomime we most of us pass by, at any rate for the very young, who are not able fully to appreciate the subtle humours of mothers-in-law, lodgers, and income-tax papers. In despair, last Christmas holidays, being still unenlightened, I took a nine-year-old to his first dramatic performance, solely in order that he might not feel out of it in subsequent discussions at his preparatory school. The most successful joke of the evening, and one that lived with us for many weeks, was the page-boy's carol: "Cinderella! I can smell'er!" Do you wonder that when I heard a description of the Children's Theatre (81 Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue), I picked up my refined nine and seven-year-olds, and convoyed them thither? We were not disappointed. The page-boy's lyric has apparently been forgotten, exercised by the delightful programme that was put before us. We have been again since that day, as soon, in fact, as there was a change of programme, and we are all more enthusiastic than ever. Each entertainment consists of two short plays, separated by excellently chosen and dramatically presented sea chanteys, songs, ballads, and children's poems.

The Dutch Doll is our favourite play, because there is a life-size mechanical doll (admirably acted, this) which is being played off as a real girl. The sight of this "doll" eating its dinner, and having been crookedly placed, eating its astonished neighbour's food, dancing, and gracefully waving its hands and flicking the noses of the uninitiated, was such a success that I spent a considerable amount of time and energy in picking up nine-years-old from the floor, and in rescuing seven from the clutches of his tip-up chair, which really did tip up when he flung himself back in his frequent uncontrollable laughter. He chuckled on happily, with his knees meeting his chin, until I was at leisure to attend to him. It is a most satisfactory show. Those who take part are in the front ranks of their profession, and the show is timed at the child's hour of 5.45 till 7.30, to enable them to get back to their parts in other theatres. One name will serve as a sample, that of Brember Wills. The lighting, colouring, music, and dresses are beautifully produced; nothing is slipshod or inartistic; there is obviously no "anything will do for children" attitude. The atmosphere is charming; the audience joins in announcements from the stage when they are as familiar as the daily "Five minutes interval if you please!" And be it noted that the division of the audience is from side to side—cheap seats on the left, dearer ones on the right, so that a one and twopenny ticket holder is as likely to be in a front row as the plutocrat with five and ninepence (children under 12 are half these prices). Great care is taken so that the elder children shall not find the performance inspid, and yet that the youngest shall not be frightened. [The toy-pistol used in "The Coasts of High Barbary" is the smallest obtainable, and is fired off in the dressing-rooms!] This item, by the way, is perhaps the best of all—no, the Milne "Old sailor my grandfather knew"—no "Soldier, soldier, will you marry me?"—NO! "The Redskins' Revenge!" Well—please go and decide for yourselves.

It would be tragic if this alternative to cheap picture houses were to close for lack of support. But this is the fate with which it is threatened. It has no money for advertisement, and is in fact now running at an actual loss, although the artists take only an expenses fee. It most certainly deserves the support of all good feminists for the reasons given above, and also because the managers, Miss Joan Luxton and Miss Agnes Lowson, the secretaries, the stage manager, the pianist, the costumiers, and all the actresses, are women.

C. U. F.

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HUMANITY AND LABOUR IN CHINA.¹

Much water has flowed under Chinese bridges since Dame Adelaide Anderson paid to China the "industrial visit" which, with its sequel, stands recorded in this deeply interesting volume. Indeed, so devastating and destructive have been the torrents of civil war, of regional revolution, and counter-revolution, in many parts of the Chinese Empire during the past three years, so completely has Western public opinion become absorbed in watching the stupendous spectacle of the renaissance, amidst immense suffering and disorder, of the oldest surviving civilization of Asia, and calculating the effect of this transformation upon the civilization of the world at large, that the remarkable movement in Shanghai between 1922 and 1925 towards the reform of labour conditions in industry is in some danger of being already forgotten. Yet this was a movement, not merely of passing importance and interest, but of abiding significance for the economic future of China—and more than China. As such it must appear to anyone who is at pains to read these pages carefully and with an open mind.

The movement was initiated by a group of women—British, American, and Chinese—whose hearts had been stirred by the wretched conditions under which Chinese workers were employed in those modern factories, organized on Western models as far as mechanical production is concerned, to be found in growing numbers both in the Treaty Ports and in purely Chinese provinces. Especially were they moved by the sufferings of the child workers in such factories. To read the result of their inquiries, embodied in the grave and well-balanced Report of the Child Labour Commission which was set up by the Municipal Council of Shanghai to investigate the subject, is to be carried back eighty years and more, to the "Commissions" of the early nineteenth century and the campaigns of Ashley and Sadler. For, with a few honourable exceptions, China, while importing the latest type of machinery has at the same time reproduced faithfully the ancient evils of the factory system in its earliest and worst phase—exhausting hours of labour, night work, indifference to questions of health and hygiene, exploitation of the labour of women and children of tender years. The foreign manufacturer, who by some imperfectly instructed Western writers and propagandists is accused of having initiated these practices, did not in fact introduce them, but, unfortunately, made no attempt to discourage them by adopting the higher standards enforced by legislation in his own country. The Chinese manufacturer being there before him, he developed his own undertaking in China on parallel lines.

Dame Adelaide speaks of the enterprise of the pioneer group of reformers as "explicitly Christian". Largely organized to begin with by the Y.W.C.A. of China, it soon enlisted the sympathy and help of the Chinese Christian Council and, backed by the Women's Clubs of Shanghai, found understanding and support, not only in the Municipal Council, but among the best of the employers, both British and Chinese. Wisely, since the Child Labour Commission had need of expert assistance in its difficult task, its promoters appealed to Dame Adelaide to lend them her wide knowledge and experience, and she hurried from Australia to their help. When the Municipal Council accepted the Commission's Report with its proposals for regulation of Child Labour and prepared to submit these to the ratepayers of Shanghai for approval it seemed that the first step in industrial reform had been taken. Chinese opinion in outside influential quarters appeared favourable; the Edict of Peking, if ineffective, was at least a gesture of sympathy; certain Provincial Governors showed signs of inclination to follow the lead given. But apathy is often a more fatal enemy than ill-will at such moments. Attendance at the first Ratepayers' Meeting summoned to endorse the Child Labour Law was too small to furnish the needful quorum; before the second could be brought together, the 30th May, 1925, had come and gone and common action between the foreign Municipal Council and the conductors of purely Chinese industry was felt to be out of the question.

Such a defeat, on the threshold of victory, was a painful check to the forward movement. But none of the leaders in that gallant advance have shown, then or since, any signs of despair; least of all the writer of this book. While she admits that the Chinese must work out their own salvation in industry as in politics, she also believes that the British in China may yet, by way of co-operation, powerfully hasten and assist the evolution of public opinion on industrial questions. That belief

¹ *Humanity and Labour in China*, by Adelaide M. Anderson, O.B.E., M.A. (London: Student Christian Movement, 1928. 10s. 6d.)

might, in 1926, have been deemed a forlorn hope; in 1928 we can see signs of its justification which should bring relief to every student of world politics. For with the humanizing of Chinese industry is bound up not only the future of millions of Chinese workers and of China itself, but that of the industrial welfare of a world which has become economically interdependent.

CONSTANCE SMITH.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

POLICE (WOMEN).

Viscountess Astor asked the Home Secretary how many of the women who were employed as women police at the time when Sir William Horwood was appointed Chief Commissioner have ceased to be so employed, and have been replaced by others.

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: The strength of the Metropolitan Women Police, which was 105 when the Commissioner was appointed, was reduced in 1922 to 20, as a measure of economy. It has since been increased to 50. Sixteen of the 20 women who were retained on reduction of establishment were serving on the date of the Commissioner's appointment and are still serving.

Viscountess Astor asked the Home Secretary what officer or officers have carried out the duties which were performed by Mrs. F. Stanley when she was superintendent of women patrols, Metropolitan Police.

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: The duties, in so far as they have not lapsed with the reduced establishment and altered organization, have since been performed by an inspector, Miss A. Claydon.

Miss Wilkinson: Are there any women in any kind of position of authority at Scotland Yard, or are they all in subordinate positions?

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: One is an inspector.

Viscountess Astor: Is it not true that nobody has taken the place of Mrs. Stanley; and is it not also true that, if Mrs. Stanley had been at Scotland Yard, there would never have been the scandal which is now going on?

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: The first part of that question is a hypothetical one; and, as to the second part, it pre-judges the decision of the Committee which is now sitting, and I am quite sure that my noble Friend would not wish to do that.

Mr. Kirkwood: Does not the evidence before the Home Secretary show that employment as police has a degrading effect upon women?

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: I have no evidence of that.

HYDE PARK (PROSECUTIONS).

Mr. Day asked the Home Secretary the number of charges for indecency brought by the police under the Hyde Park Regulations for the month of May, 1928, and how many of these charges were supported by other than police evidence.

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: The answer to the first part of the question is none. The second part, therefore, does not arise.

Mr. Day: With reference to the very large number in the previous month, I would like to ask if special instructions were given to the police to try to obtain corroborative evidence?

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: The question put to me relates to the number of charges for indecency, and the answer is that there were none in the month of May of this year.

Mr. Day: The point I want to make is that in the previous month there were 64 cases, of which only one was supported by corroborative evidence. May I ask whether the reason for this great reduction is that special instructions have been given to the police to try to obtain corroborative evidence?

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: No, Sir, the hon. Member must form his own conclusion as to the reasons for the falling off.

Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy: Does that mean, as I hope was the case, that there has been an improvement in public manners in Hyde Park, or that the police have been hampered by recent events in carrying out their duties?

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: I think the hon. and gallant Member will see that these questions are putting me in a very difficult position. The fact is clear that there was an average number of from 30 to 40 cases per month in the previous months, and since certain events there have been none, and that is what always follows in regard to similar events. I hope that before very long the police will resume their normal activities. I must confess that I cannot say that there is any change in the position of affairs.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Equal Franchise Bill.

Several questions have been put to us regarding the Local Government Franchise under this Bill and to what extent and in what way local government electors will be affected.

The position briefly is this:— The object of the Bill is "to assimilate the franchise for men and women in respect of Parliamentary and local government electors."

Under the new measure the qualifications for the parliamentary franchise will be the same for both men and women, i.e. three months' residence in premises and three months' occupation of business premises of not less than £10 annual value.

It is of the utmost importance to remember that the end of the qualifying period for the new Register, which comes into force on 1st May, 1929, is 1st December for England and Wales, and 15th December, 1928, for Scotland.

People who have not observed this qualifying period, which ends on 1st December, 1928, will not be entitled to have their names entered on the 1st May, 1929, Register, on which the next General Election will be fought.

A Warning.

At Grimbsy, at the recent elections for the Board of Guardians, a candidate was nominated and returned for two wards. He chose to represent the Scarthoe Ward, thus creating a vacancy in the Welsby Ward.

The chairman pointed out that the Board had no power to prevent a person contesting two seats. A member, Mr. Padley, gave notice that at the next meeting of the Board he should move a resolution urging the Government to bring in a Bill prohibiting anyone being nominated for more than one seat in local elections.

We are of opinion that persons coming forward as candidates for local authorities should certainly be content to contest one seat only. It is obvious that a person can only occupy one seat on the Board, and the practice of standing for two is misleading to the electors, and involves the ratepayers in needless expense.

Local Government Reform.

As we go to press a White Paper with details for the reform of Local Government has been issued. We propose to deal fully with the Memorandum in our next article.

(Continued from previous column.)

In proposing the toast of Lady Margaret Hall, the Archbishop of York, who has been 35 years a member of the Council, hoped that it would always be the case that there was no such thing at the Hall as a "pass-woman".

NIGHT CLUBS.

Viscountess Astor: Was it not General Sir Nevill Macready, the Chief Commissioner of Police, who said that women police trained and qualified under proper superintendence would be a great help in dealing with night clubs, and will the Home Secretary bear that in mind when he is considering the question of increasing the Metropolitan Police Force?

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: Certainly. Mr. Buchanan: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there is a strong feeling against women police, and will he remember that fact?

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: All relevant considerations will be taken into account.

UNEMPLOYMENT (TRAINING FOR OVERSEAS).

Sir R. Thomas asked the Minister of Labour whether, seeing that the law at present does not allow unemployment insurance to be paid to the wife and family of a man while he is training for farmwork overseas, he will consider amending the Unemployment Insurance Act to provide for this.

Sir A. Steel-Maitland: The question of providing assistance in the maintenance of the family of a married man who is undergoing training for overseas has, I understand, been considered by the Industrial Transference Board, whose report will shortly be in the hands of the Government.

ALIENS (BRITISH WIVES).

Miss Wilkinson asked the Prime Minister whether any further steps have been taken towards giving to British women married to aliens the right to retain their own nationality; and whether he can promise this reform within the lifetime of the present Parliament.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sir William Joynson-Hicks): I have been asked to reply. We must wait the Report of the Committee of Experts mentioned by the Imperial Conference of 1926, and when the recommendations of that Committee are available they will have to be considered by a further Conference. I fear, therefore, that the answer to the last paragraph of the question must be in the negative.

Miss Wilkinson: Has the right hon. Gentleman any idea as to when this Committee of Experts will report, and is he not aware that a great deal of hardship is caused to many English women by the present state of affairs, while foreign women, some of whom are quite undesirable, can obtain British nationality by merely going through the formality of marriage?

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: A Committee of the Imperial Conference dealt with the matter and we have a Committee sitting now. Owing to the differences of opinion it will be a long time before we can get a complete report.

Miss Wilkinson: As it is likely to be a long time before the matter is dealt with, can the right hon. Gentleman's Department be more elastic in its review of the cases of British women of undoubted respectability who are stranded abroad and wish to return to their own country and nationality?

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: I frequently do relax. If the hon. Member has any case in mind and will let me know about it, I shall personally go into it.

THE LADY MARGARET JUBILEE.

In June, 1878, a small group of friends of women's education, on the initiative of Bishop Talbot, met together to discuss the possibility of a woman's college in Oxford, and Lady Margaret Hall came into being. The story of the foundation of a second college, Somerville, and the close association between the two, called by Canon Scott Holland "The Unholy Alliance", because the first had a Church of England foundation, and the other was undenominational, was delightfully described in the Observer on Sunday by the present Principal, Miss Lynda Grier.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Miss MACADAM. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HORTON. General Secretary: Miss HANCOCK. Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

CELEBRATION OF THE PASSING OF THE EQUAL FRANCHISE ACT.

We hope that the Garden Party to be held at Cliveden, Taplow, Bucks (by kind permission of the Viscountess Astor, M.P.) on Wednesday, 18th July, from 3 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., to meet Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., and to celebrate the passing of the Equal Franchise Act, will be really worthy of the great occasion. The proceeds of the Garden Party will be given to the Thank-offering Fund for continuing the work for a complete equality of status, liberties, and opportunities between men and women.

We have already had many applications for tickets, and hope that all who wish to be present at the party will apply as early as possible. We have now been able to arrange without having to pay entertainment tax, and the price of tickets has therefore been altered to 5s., and after 6 p.m., 3s.; for parties of ten or more, tickets can be obtained at half the above prices. Societies who can undertake to arrange a motor coach of 32 or more people can obtain tickets at the very reduced price of 2s. each. Further particulars with regard to travelling arrangements can be obtained from Headquarters.

HALLAM (SHEFFIELD) BY-ELECTION.

To each of the candidates of this by-election a copy of our Parliamentary Questionnaire has been sent, and their answers, as usual, will be published in the local Press. Now that Equal Franchise has been attained, it is almost more important than ever that Parliamentary candidates should know exactly what is expected of them by the women of their constituencies.

THE VICTORY THANKSGIVING FUND.

We are glad to print below the first list of donors to the Equal Franchise Victory Thank-offering Fund. Though for the moment we have no Parliamentary Bill on the stocks, the activities at Headquarters show no sign yet of slackening for the summer. There is a special committee at work in connection with the position of women in India; another on women medical students in hospital; arrangements are under consideration for a special effort to get more women on London Borough Councils at the November elections; a campaign for more women Members of Parliament is about to be inaugurated; a leaflet on the new electoral arrangements for the widest possible circulation will be issued as soon as dates are available; preparations for the Summer School for women voters to be held in September are well under way. A heavy autumn campaign which will be concerned with two of the most urgent remaining points on our programme, Equal Pay and Equal Opportunities and the Equal Moral Standard, is in preparation. These and many other schemes cannot be let down and fresh funds are required to enable the Executive Committee to maintain the efficiency of the Headquarters' machinery. Please help us by sending your Thank-offering gift before the middle of July or hand it in at the garden party on July 18th.

Table listing donors to the Victory Thanksgiving Fund, including names like Anerbach, Mrs., Beilby, Lady, Bertram, Mrs., and amounts in £ s. d.

Table listing donors to the Equal Franchise Act celebration, including names like Johnson, Mrs., Jones, Miss H. M., and amounts in £ s. d.

Since the above was printed we have had a second munificent offer from Mrs. C. H. Corbett. She will give £1 for every £4 subscribed to the Thanksgiving Fund, up to a total on her side of £50. This challenge dates from July 1st and we hope very soon to be able to claim Mrs. Corbett's cheque.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MRS. PANKHURST.

MADAM.—Will you allow us, as former Militant Suffragettes, to thank you for the two articles on the life and work of Mrs. Pankhurst which appeared in your issue of 22nd June? We, and many others, were profoundly touched by your generous tribute to her character and to her share in winning the vote. Recognition such as yours, coming from an organization that differed fundamentally as to methods and tactics employed in the struggle is surely an act of unusual generosity.

Will THE WOMAN'S LEADER accept the grateful thanks of two at least of Mrs. Pankhurst's wholehearted followers? ISABEL HAMPDEN MARGESSON. CATHERINE MARGESSON.

147 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

VICTORY GARDEN PARTY

A Garden Party to celebrate the attainment of

EQUAL FRANCHISE

and to meet

DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT, G.B.E.,

will be held at

CLIVEDEN, TAPLOW, BUCKS

(by kind permission of Viscountess Astor, M.P.),

ON

WEDNESDAY, 18th JULY, 1928.

3.30 to 8.30 p.m.

TICKETS, including Entrance and Tea, price 5s. each, or after 6 p.m. 3s. each. Motor coach parties of 32 or more 2s. each. Groups of 10 or more at half price (2s. 6d. and 1s. 6d.). Full particulars of travelling arrangements, programme, etc., from 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

COMING EVENTS.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

JULY 6. 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi. Conference on "Some Problems of Government in Relation to Women within the British Empire." Chair: Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Speakers from all parts of the Commonwealth.

LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

JULY 10. 7 p.m. St. Martin-in-the-Fields. Thanksgiving Service for the Passing of the Equal Franchise Bill. Preacher: Rev. Claud Hinchliff, founder of the Church League for Women's Suffrage.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18. 3.30—8.30. Garden Party to celebrate the passing of the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Bill, at Cliveden, Taplow, Bucks (by kind permission of the Viscountess Astor, M.P.). Tickets, including tea, 5s.

Barnsley S.E.C. JULY 7. 3 p.m. St. Mary's Rectory. Garden Party. Tennis and Ping-pong. Speaker: Mrs. Stocks.

Kensington and Paddington S.E.C. JULY 14. 3 p.m. Pembroke Lodge, Edwards Square, W.8. Garden Party to meet Members of Executive Committee of N.U.S.E.C. Chair: Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Speaker: Dr. Stella Churchill.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

SUNDAY, JULY 8. Westminster Cathedral. 10.30. Mass offered (by request) "in thanksgiving for the Enfranchisement of Women."

SIX POINT GROUP.

JULY 9. 3 p.m. 28 Belgrave Square. Lady Heath, "My Flight from Africa." Admission free. Collection.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

JULY 27—AUGUST 10. International Summer School, Westhill, Selby Oak, near Birmingham. Study subject: "New Theories of Government in relation to International Peace." Particulars from 55 Gower Street, W.C.

TYPEWRITING.

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SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, blouses, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Stamped addressed envelope for reply.)

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HOLIDAYS.

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EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 100 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1, requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Holiday engagements. Registration: Employers, 2s. 6d.; workers, 1s. Suiting fee: Employers, 10s. 6d.; workers, 2s. (Victoria 5940.)

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 8th July. 6.30, Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., "The Love of God."

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NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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