

THE VOTE,
JAN. 11, 1924.
ONE PENNY.

STATE REGULATION IN A BRITISH COLONY!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXV. No. 742.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, JAN. 11, 1924.

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

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FIRST WOMAN LORD MAYOR.

ETHEL MARY COLMAN, LORD MAYOR OF NORWICH.

Although English women for some time past have been proving their capacity for civic service as Councillors, Magistrates, and Mayors, this is the first occasion in the annals of the country that the title of Lord Mayor has been bestowed on a woman.

Miss E. M. Colman is the second daughter of the late Mr. J. J. Colman, Chairman of the Directors of J. & J. Colman, Ltd. She may be said to have been born into a civic family, and has lived all her time in the atmosphere of public service. Her grandfather, father, and brother all served the city as sheriffs, and both her father and brother have served as Mayors of Norwich. Mr. Colman, senior, was also M.P. for Norwich for many years, so that Miss Colman

is only maintaining and extending the family tradition. Miss Colman is an active supporter of the University

Extension Movement, the founder of which was her brother-in-law, the late Professor James Stuart. She

is a director of the London Missionary Society, and has also done valuable work as a deacon of one of the largest Nonconformist churches in the district. She is also interested in many other religious and educational movements in both city and county, and does a great deal of philanthropic work. Her keen interest in Carrow Works, famous for its manufactures of mustard, starch, blue, and other commodities, is well known, including as it does the general welfare of the workers, in which connection she has a share in editing the *Carrow Works Magazine*.

It is interesting to note that Miss Colman will be addressed "My Lord Mayor," and that her sister, Miss Helen Colman, will act as "Lady Mayoress."



ETHEL MARY COLMAN.

Other issues of this series in "The Vote":—VIII. Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, D.B.E., Mayor of Ramsgate, January 4th, 1924. VII. Councillor Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Mayor of Colchester, November 9th, 1923; VI. Miss Beatrice Cartwright, J.P., Mayor of Brackley, Northants, December 15th, 1922; V. Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Bermondsey, December 1st, 1922; IV. Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham, September 15th, 1922; III. Councillor Miss Christina Hartley, Mayor of Southport, Lancs, August 11th, 1922; II. Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton, Devon, July 7th, 1922; I. Mrs. Ellen Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Training Labour Women.

In memory of the late Miss Mary Macarthur, the woman Labour leader, a scholarship is being founded to provide education and training for women with trade union and Labour aspirations. There is to be a preliminary examination, and the successful candidate is to have a two years' training, including a period of work in trade union or political Labour movements.

Women and World Peace.

Representatives of 11 American women's organisations composing the Women's World Court Committee have laid plans for an active campaign in support of United States participation in the Permanent Court of International Justice, with the reservations proposed to the Senate by former-President Harding, and endorsed by President Coolidge.

Women in the Ministry.

Women are to be admitted as students on the same terms as men to the new college for training Congregational ministers formed by the union of Hackney College and New College, London. In a private Bill for the union of the two colleges, which will be introduced into Parliament in the coming Session, provision is made under which women will be admitted as freely as men, without sex prejudice, or any limitation being set on their numbers.

Woman Barrister Complimented.

Miss Campbell, the barrister who successfully defended three male prisoners at the Derbyshire Quarter Sessions, was congratulated by Mr. St. John Raikes, the Chairman, who said that Miss Campbell was the first woman barrister to defend a case in that Court, and he considered that she merited great credit for the manner in which she conducted her defence.

Women in the Professions.

The *Daily Mail* reports that 25 women are now fully qualified barristers, eight are qualified solicitors, 30 are qualifying as chartered accountants, in addition to several who are preparing for admission to the Incorporated Society of Accountants and Auditors; a few women have been admitted as members of the Auctioneers' Institute, whilst the number of women analytical chemists is slowly increasing.

A Bright Idea.

Mrs. Eva Holt, of Bolton, is the inventor of the diamond-shaped saucepan, which in time is expected to supersede the round utensil. The diamond saucepan conserves space on a stove, and enables the maximum of heat to be used. Thirty travellers are now on the road with the pans, and the inventor is negotiating for the sale of patent rights on the Continent and in Asia.

"The Hungry Forties."

Though news to many, it is not surprising, remembering women's close connection with food prices, to learn that the phrase, "the Hungry Forties," usually attributed to either Cobden or Bright, really owes its origin to a woman, Mrs. Fisher Unwin, one of Cobden's daughters. Her phrase has found a place in thousands of Leaders and speeches all over the world.

Exhibition "Home Weeks."

A women's section is being organised in connection with the British Empire Exhibition in May. The Queen has consented to become Patron, and the Duchess of York, President. The chief objects of the section will be to organise hospitality, more especially for visitors from the Dominions and Colonies overseas; to organise "Home Weeks," as understood in the Dominions; and to assist in promoting the fellowship of the British Empire Exhibition.

Pioneer Woman's Picture.

In order to commemorate the entry of the first woman to take her seat in Parliament, a portrait of Lady Astor, M.P., painted by Mr. Charles Sims, R.A., is to be placed on the main staircase of the House of Commons.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

(Reprinted from "The Labour Press Service.")

Five of the nine Provinces of Canada—Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario—have established a system of pensions for widowed mothers with dependent children. The first Province to enact such a measure, called in Canada the Mothers' Allowances Act, was Manitoba, in 1916, followed by Saskatchewan in the following year; Alberta legislated on these lines in 1919, and British Columbia and Ontario in 1920. Nova Scotia appointed a Royal Commission to investigate the question in 1919, which reported favourably, but so far no legislative action has been taken in this Province. Legislation has since been adopted to give a greater measure of uniformity to the various provincial Acts, and providing for reciprocity between the Provinces. The primary aim of the Mothers' Allowances Acts is the promotion of child welfare, not the relief of distress, and official statements, issued from time to time, refer to the "honourable service rendered to the State by the assisted mothers."

The British Columbia Act limits the allowance to a sum equivalent to about £8 10s. a month for a mother with one child under sixteen years of age, with an additional allowance of roughly £1 a month for each additional child. In Ontario the allowance is rather smaller, ranging from £8 a month in the towns to £6 in the country districts, in accordance with maximum and minimum amounts fixed in relation to the cost of living. Manitoba and Saskatchewan limit the amount of allowances in accordance with the annual sum voted by the Legislature; the former Province allows the mother about £2 a month for food, and about £1 for clothing, for herself, with an allowance of 5s. for food for each child between the ages of one and three, roughly £1 for children between four and six, rather more for those between seven and ten, and £1 17s. 6d. for those between eleven and fourteen. The clothing allowance for each child rises from 5s. 6d. a month to 15s. 6d., in relation to age.

The Acts are administered either through an official appointed by the Government, or a special board or commission, and some of the Acts provide for the appointment of local advisory boards to report on applications, and to visit assisted families; the Alberta measure provides for paid inspectors.

WOMEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS?

We are glad to see from *Stri Dharma* (the official organ of the Women's Indian Association) that Madras women are asking for the right to enter the Councils. The original claim of Indian women suffragists was that their sex should form no disqualification to any of the rights of citizenship. The British Parliament only granted Indian women voting power, and under the Reform Bill, women are not eligible to become Councillors. The arrangement is that changes can only be made when the Franchise Rules come up for revision in 1929. The Women's Indian Association rightly point out that things are moving much too quickly for women to remain patient for another five years before they can take their seats on the Council, and express their intention of pressing the Government of India and the Provincial Governors to make special recommendations in this matter, and secure the right to extend eligibility to women at once to become candidates for ordinary election as well as for nomination.

WESTMINSTER BRANCH.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

CAXTON HALL MEETING,

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17th, 1924, at 8 p.m.

"THE ASSEMBLY AT GENEVA, 1923."

Speaker: Mr. H. Wilson Harris.

Special Correspondent for *Daily News* at the 4th Assembly.

"THE LEAGUE AND THE WHOLE WORLD."

Speaker: Mr. Chao-Hsin Chu,

CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES AT THE CHINESE LEGATION,

D. Legate for China at the Fourth Assembly.

Chairman: THE RT. HON. LORD CHARNWOOD.

ADMISSION FREE.

Collection to defray expenses.

STATE REGULATION IN A BRITISH COLONY. INTERNATIONAL LEAGUES OF YOUTH.

The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines' Protection Society has, through its energetic campaign against the traffic in young girls in Hong Kong, disclosed a condition of affairs which a member, at its meeting held last week, declared was "disgraceful to a British Colony." The Chairman of this Society's Committee, Lord Henry Bentinck, asked questions in the House of Commons last March and April, on this matter, arising out of the *mui tsai* problem, with which it is connected; and the current number of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter and Aborigines' Friend*, the official organ of the Society, publishes a reply from the Colonial Office, which states that a dispatch has now been received from the Governor of Hong Kong, reporting on the points raised in those questions.

The Governor states that the total number of brothels in the Colony is 296, seven of which are frequented by Europeans, and that practising prostitutes are given cards, of which the following is a translation:—

Issued by the Hong Kong Government:

The British Government has for its main object the love of the people. You prostitutes: Your persons are your own. You can come or go away at liberty. If any extortion or oppression is imposed on you, you can report it to the Authorities, and you will get your wrongs redressed.

Note: The above is handed over to a prostitute on being passed. Her photograph is mounted on a separate card, on the back of which are inserted the following:—

Name of the Prostitute.....

No.....Street.....Floor.

Name of Brothel.....

Signature of Secretary for Chinese Affairs.

Date.....

The last paragraph of the letter from the Colonial Office reads:—"The Governor adds that, generally speaking, the Hong Kong method is based on a recognition of the impossibility of stamping out prostitution, and on the theory that, while completely unregulated prostitution would have the worst effects, Government control should be reduced to the smallest possible limit. Such control takes the line of prevention of actual crime, of enforcing responsibilities (on those in charge of prostitutes); of securing freedom of action to those who are allowed to practise prostitution; and of seeing that those who are for any reason considered unfit (*e.g.*, too young) shall not practise. There is the smallest possible interference with those who are supposed to know their own minds, and whose prostitution does not involve others; and Government 'regulation' becomes merely a broad supervision against abuse. It is the opinion of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs that the records of his Office and of the Police Office show that the system is not unsuccessful, and that the comparison between the streets of Hong Kong at night-time and those of almost any city at home would be all in favour of the Colony. The Colony's reputation in China also stands high; the Hong Kong 'customs are good' is a phrase constantly heard, not from the prostitutes only (when it means that their freedom is assured, and that they are accorded consideration in any trouble), but also from responsible Chinese, who speak with a knowledge of the conditions elsewhere, and a realisation of the necessity for keeping up the standard of Chinese family life."

Our comment is that this State Regulation of Vice may be considered satisfactory from a Chinese point of view, but it is most unsatisfactory from a British point of view, and it is this latter point of view which women's organisations contend should be taken by the Governor of a British Colony.

To the student of human nature, the International Youth Movement is one of the most interesting of those features of world reconstruction which have arisen out of the ashes of the late war. Eleven countries now possess one or more indigenous Leagues of Youth working for peace, and the Movement bids fair to spread to all the civilised nations, and to exercise a far-flung influence in the future.

Germany, curiously enough, had a Youth Movement as far back as 1880, but this in the main was merely a natural reaction against Bismarck's educational theories, and the consequent Prussianising of the school life of the nation. In those early days, led by Karl Fischer, the movement numbered five million strong, and great preparations were planned to free the schools from the mental tyranny of the Bismarckian régime. The war cruelly shattered these hopes and ideals; three thousand exponents of the "Real Schule" were killed, and the Youth Movement itself received a terrible setback. Since the Armistice, however, and in spite of the new miseries of the Ruhr situation, these ideals have revived again, and to-day some 40,000 adherents of both sexes, and several *Land-Erziehungshome*, or "New Schools," testify to the remarkable vigour of the Youth Movement in Germany.

The Danish Youth Movement enjoys the prestige of Government assistance, and is largely indebted for its present vitality to the self-sacrificing labours of Harmod Lannung, a Danish educationist, now, however, occupied with relief work in Russia. It was the Danish League of Youth which first put forward the suggestion of a Federation of Youth Movements in all the different countries, with an annual Conference, and that the Federation should work principally for World Peace. At the first Conference, which took place at Copenhagen, in 1921, eleven countries were represented. The idea of keeping the headquarters of the Movement in Denmark, however, had eventually to be abandoned. Geneva was tried for a time, but now the central office of the Federation is in Great Britain, under the capable management of Miss Moya Jowitt, a youthful enthusiast, who knows her subject, and has travelled widely. The second annual Conference, which took place at Hamburg, in 1922, had the effect of consolidating the Youth Movement more perfectly. The third Conference was held at Freiburg last summer.

The American Youth Movement is largely absorbed by the "National Student Forum," and its aims, in consequence, are frankly educational. It is under the leadership of George D. Pratt, jun., a wealthy American with educational aspirations. It was owing to his energy and initiative that a little band of scholars from some half-dozen of the impoverished countries of Europe were enabled to visit all the principal American Universities, whilst a deputation of American scholars will shortly make a return visit to several of the Universities of Europe. The American League of Youth owns a successful magazine, entitled *The New Student*.

Great Britain has several Youth Movements working principally for Peace, apart from the more conventional bodies attached to the various religious denominations. Of the newer ones since the war, Kibbo Kift, and the Order of Woodcraft Chivalry, are making remarkable progress amongst all classes of the community. Another, the Guild of the Citizens of To-morrow, was responsible for the novel feature of a Youth Platform at the recent No More War Demonstrations in Hyde Park. A movement is now on foot to federate all the British Leagues of Youth, in much the same way as the International Leagues are already amalgamated.

The French League of Youth possesses a remarkable leader in Marc Samgnier, a Member of the Chamber of Deputies, and a great internationalist. Its members practically all belong to the Catholic Church. It publishes a weekly paper called *La Jeune République*.

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Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11th, 1924.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

THE KING'S SPEECH.

It is perhaps the non-party organisations who can view with the greatest equanimity the present political situation, with its possibilities of the rise and fall of Governments, and the changing position of the various political Parties. The Women's Freedom League neither favours nor fears any one of the political Parties, and whichever Party holds the reins of Government, now or in the near future, our demands and our policy will remain unchanged. We have urged Mr. Baldwin to include the following, when making a statement of policy, in the King's Speech:—

(1) A measure for the enfranchisement of women at the same age as men, and enfranchising both men and women on a six months' residential qualification only.

(2) Provision of relief, training with maintenance, or work, for unemployed women, and that, whatever sum is allocated to unemployment, it shall be expended fairly amongst workless men and women in proportion to their numbers.

(3) A measure giving to mothers and fathers equal rights of guardianship in respect of their children.

(4) A measure providing pensions for civilian widows with children.

The above represent the minimum of our demands from any Government. Our readers will see from the reply received to our letter to Mr. Baldwin, that it is stated that "the impartial consideration as between women and men citizens for qualification to appear on Honours Lists, as in other matters (the italics are ours), is being strictly observed" by the Government. The recent Honours List was certainly not our idea of "the impartial consideration as between men and women"; but we will see how far Mr. Baldwin is prepared to go in the King's Speech towards securing the impartial consideration of the interests of women and men. If Mr. Baldwin remains in office, we shall continue to press upon him and his Government our demands for the equal treatment of men and women throughout all branches of our national life—politically, socially, and economically. We consider that the equal enfranchisement of men and women is of the greatest importance; that it is disgraceful that nothing has yet been done to provide schemes of work for unemployed women; that it is fully time for men and women to have equal rights in the guardianship of their children, and that it is of national importance that the State should see that widows with children have the wherewithal to bring those children up to be decent citizens. If Mr. Baldwin's Government fails, and another takes its place, we shall urge that these reforms shall be undertaken by his successors, and throughout the life of any Government in the near future—indeed, until the full equality of women and men is recognised and established in the State—we shall also continue to press for equal opportunities and equal pay for equal work for women and men throughout the Civil Service, at home and abroad, in the teaching profession, in all professions, and in industry; for the right of women Peers to a seat and a voice in the House of Lords; and for the inclusion of women as well as men in the Honours List.

"FEMALE HOOLIGANS."

Under the above heading, a quaint letter appeared last week in the *Morning Post*, signed by "A Woman of the Old School." She began by saying that certain ladies were petitioning the authorities to allow the women police to be continued at Cologne for the benefit of "our troops," and that in another direction Miss Picton-Turbervill was asking to be permitted to enter the Church, on the ground mainly that it "would do away with the double standard of morality, and raise the morality of men." She then asks if it would not be advisable to pay a little more attention to the girlhood of this country, more especially before it reaches the depths necessary for the attention of the women police, in view of the report of the Prison System Inquiry Committee, 1921, when Dr. Mary Gordon, Inspector of Prisons, says that "in that year, an exceptional year, girls were put in irons more often than all other prisoners, women and men put together" (at Borstal), and that "of the Borstal boys, who were five times as many in number, only one in 226 was put in irons, as against one in eight girls." She further asks if this "phenomenal violence" on the part of the girls "ought not to cause those women's leaders, who indulge in periodical laudations of the girls to-day, to ask themselves whether systems, ideas, and doctrines that are producing a race of female hooligans can be considered as an absolute success, or does the state of things point to a lack of moral training of the gravest significance, and of more direct importance to women than even the 'morals of our troops at Cologne'?" "A Woman of the Old School" concludes her letter by saying that "this female hooliganism is not confined to the girls of the working class," and declares that, at a recent meeting, Oxfordshire farmers said that Oxford women undergraduates, "in gathering blackberries and mushrooms," caused more damage to farms than gipsies, and when spoken to, argued that they had a right to walk on the farms! "If this is typical," says "A Woman of the Old School," "surely Cambridge is to be congratulated!"

It is a little difficult to understand what connection there is between the discontinuance of the women police in Cologne, or the prohibition of Miss Picton-Turbervill's entry into the Church, and the prevention of hooliganism, male or female; but, although "A Woman of the Old School" may read into the statement of the Prison System Inquiry Committee a charge of hooliganism against the girls in Borstal in 1921, any woman of a more modern school would be much more inclined to transfer that charge of hooliganism to the people who were responsible for putting the girls into irons as a punishment, and to the prison system which could not find better ways of dealing with those delinquent girls. We again point out that all the members of the Prison Commission are men; that at the present time all the Inspectors, medical and otherwise, of our prisons under that Commission are men; and that all the governors of women's prisons, with the exception of the Girls' Borstal Institution at Aylesbury, are men. When women become members of the Prison Commission which controls our prison system, and when women can exercise initiative in that system, we shall probably have less to complain of in regard to those who administer it, and to those who are subject to it.

We deprecate the damage done to farmers by a few Oxford women undergraduates who "go gathering blackberries or mushrooms," but has "A Woman of the Old School" never heard of damage being done to property, even at Cambridge, where the gates of a women's college did not escape the attention of some men undergraduates?

We deplore hooliganism in men or women. The aim of the Women's Freedom League is to secure the right of women to share with men all positions in public life, where education, training, and self-discipline are essentials, and where no hooliganism can be tolerated; so that we cannot be accused by "A Woman of the Old School" of helping to produce a race of female hooligans.

WOMEN TEACHERS IN CONFERENCE.

By LILIAN PIEROTTI.

Over 400 delegates attended the 16th Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Teachers at Nottingham, last week. An enthusiastic welcome was accorded by the city, and the local arrangements for the conduct of the proceedings paid a high tribute to the organising capacity of women. The opening session assumed the form of a civic welcome, attended by the Mayor (Alderman Houston) and a large number of the leading citizens, including representatives of various religious organisations, the Education Committee, Inspectors of Education, Nottingham University, and Mr. Hayday, M.P.

Although Nottingham is said to be famous for its educational facilities, a progressive spirit among the speakers was conspicuously absent, with the marked exceptions of Mrs. Dowson and Mr. Hayday, M.P. Possibly, however, the spirit of benevolent inclination, and the desire to be progressive, in the local leaders of education, provides encouragement and help to the Nottingham teachers. The meeting learned with approval that, in Nottingham, classes of sixty children were a thing of the past; and the Mayor himself did not hesitate to express his opinion that, if a woman could be found who was the equal of a man in respect of ability, personality, accomplishments, and qualifications, sex should not be allowed to stand in the way. The audience, however, were left with an impression of dubiety as to whether such women could be found. A subsequent speaker provided the retort courteous by remarking, "Seek, and ye shall find."

In her Presidential address, Miss Conway said that the year 1923 supplied much evidence of reactionary measures by opponents of educational progress; but it also revealed the fact that there was a keener interest taken by parents in the progress of their children, and a wider measure of support by the public generally for better educational facilities. The importance of the primary school was emphasised, for, instead of being the final course in the education of the majority of children, it should be the essential preparation for a course of education in a secondary school. This should be part of the necessary training of every normal child in attendance at school. Attention was drawn to the

fact that, whilst children were suffering from the evils of large classes and a short school life, thousands of fully qualified teachers were seeking employment. Further unemployment was caused by the introduction of supplementary teachers. Over 13,000 of these teachers existed at the present time, and one authority (L.C.C.), with or without the approval of the Board of Education, had put into operation a scheme by which 600 unqualified persons will be added to the list of supplementaries. The National Union of Women Teachers emphasised the need for: (1) The provision of the fullest education for every child. (2) Educational facilities from the nursery school to the University. (3) Equal opportunities for girls and boys—not only in education, but also in the choice of future careers. (4) The maintenance of an efficient teaching service. It also reaffirmed its demand for equal pay for women and men of the same professional status, and maintained that equal opportunities for advancement are necessary for women and men, in order that they may use their powers and abilities to the fullest extent for the benefit of the community.

Towards the end of the meeting, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"This Conference urges the Government to consider the existing distress among teachers who are unemployed, owing to the uneducational and retrograde policy of the Board of Education, by which arrangements are made for: (a) increasing the size of classes. (b) Imposing upon head-teachers of some schools the responsibility of teaching a class, in addition to the duties of organising and supervising the whole school. (c) Employing unqualified persons in the place of qualified teachers. (d) Postponing a general system of nursery schools. (e) Postponing a general system of day continuation schools, and thus leaving a large number of boys and girls, who are unable to obtain employment, exposed to the dangers of idleness. Conference emphatically asserts that these 'economies' are detrimental to education, will prove a serious handicap on the citizens of the future, and, therefore, in the interests of the children, and as an initial step towards relieving unemployment, calls upon the Government to make, at an early date, the Education Act of 1921 fully operative."

WOMEN'S WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST WAR.

The plans for a great International Conference of Women, to be held at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley next May, to discuss the prevention of the causes of war, are now developing rapidly. About the middle of this month, a special Committee meeting will be held in London, presided over by the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, to make preliminary arrangements and receive suggestions for speakers. Although the International Council of Women, the oldest of women's international organisations, is largely responsible for the execution of this vast project, the actual suggestion of such a Conference originally emanated from Mrs. Chapman Catt, the world-famed suffrage pioneer.

Representation at the Conference, however, will not be confined to the 31 National Councils of Women of the various countries, but will be extended to all women's international organisations, of every race and creed. In all, it is expected that at least 32 million women will be represented at the Conference. Practically every National Council in Europe will be represented, with a large contingent of women from the Overseas Dominions. Already advance guards have arrived in London to make preliminary arrangements.

A special Pavilion is being erected by the International Council of Women on the Exhibition grounds, which will be used as an Information Bureau on women's questions, and will also form a meeting-place and rest-room for those interested in women's work.

The literature of various women's organisations at home and abroad will be on sale there.

The keynote of the Conference will be the development of the international mind, in individuals and in Governments, so as to make war an impossibility in the future. The methods of its acquirement will be discussed on each of the four days of the Conference, May 5th-8th, and will be further amplified at three public meetings on May 2nd, 6th, and 8th. The Conference will take place at Hall No. 4, on the Exhibition premises, and will be limited to representatives of the various Societies taking part. The languages used will probably be English, French, and German.

The first day will be allotted to principles of international education, in schools and colleges, and among citizens generally. The teaching of history and geography from the international standpoint will be discussed, the interchange of teachers and students between the different countries, and intellectual co-operation between the nations. The development of the international mind in individuals, and in trade and finance, will occupy the second day, and on the third there will be a discussion on the application of existing international conventions. The last day will be devoted to discussing the promotion of the international mind in Governments, by means of the establishment of an all-inclusive League of Nations, universal reduction of armaments, and the adjustment of the Diplomatic Service to modern conditions.

WOMEN AND THE HONOURS LIST.

We give below copy of our letter of January 2nd to Mr. Baldwin on the above subject, and copy of the reply received, dated January 7th:—

"SIR,—The Women's Freedom League views with keen disappointment the fact that no woman's name in this country appears in the recent Honours List. We note that this List comprises a Viscount, 3 Barons, 5 Privy Councillors, 10 Baronets, and 66 Knights—all men. In addition, 28 men have received the Order of the Bath; 20 men the Order of St. Michael and St. George; 13 men have been made Knights Bachelor; 1 man has had bestowed upon him the Imperial Service Order; 13 men the Star of India; 33 men the Order of the Indian Empire; and 8 men and 2 women the Kaisari-Hind Medal of the First Class for public services in India.

"We understand that the names of those appearing in the Honours Lists are people who have rendered public service to the State, and we cannot but think that there are many women in this country who are as fully deserving of this recognition of their services as some of the men whose names figure in the recent list. In our view, the State, in the matter of the Honours Lists as in other matters, should act impartially as between its women and men citizens, and we therefore urge you to consider if it is not possible to include in the next Honours List some women who have rendered public and distinguished service to the State.

(Signed) F. A. UNDERWOOD."

"MADAM,—I am desired by the Prime Minister to reply to your letter of the 2nd inst., and to assure you that the matter to which you call his attention has in no sense been overlooked.

"The impartial consideration as between women and men citizens for qualification to appear on Honours Lists, as in other matters, is being strictly observed, the same criterion being extended to both, namely, real service to the community. Several instances of this have already occurred, as you will, no doubt, remember.

(Signed) ROLAND WATERHOUSE."

KENYA FRANCHISE.

The Kenya Constitution has been passed. All adult Indians, male and female, are given the communal vote. Qualifications are unnecessary. Arab adult males, resident for two years in the Colony, able to read and write Arabic or Swahili, are given the vote; but Arab women are excluded from the franchise at the wish of the Arabs, and the tests stated were imposed at the desire of the Arabs. According to *The Times*, the principle adopted, in accordance with the decision laid down by the British Government in the Kenya White Paper, is that the franchise is exercised by communities voting separately. The new Bill provides for the election of eleven Europeans, five Indians, and one Arab as members of the Legislative Council, which will, however, still possess an official majority. Kenya belongs to the East Africa Protectorate, and the granting of the vote to Indian women in Kenya will act as a further incentive to our suffragist friends in South Africa to secure votes for women there.

A NOTED HEADMISTRESS.

We regret to record the death of Mrs. E. Woodhouse, formerly Headmistress of the Sheffield and Clapham High Schools of the Girls' Public Day School Trust. In September, 1878, Mrs. Woodhouse was appointed head of the Sheffield High School, when it had 40 pupils. In 1890, new premises had to be acquired for 400 girls. From 1898 to 1912, Mrs. Woodhouse held the appointment of Headmistress of Clapham High School, where also her delightful personality and her very special gifts made the appointment an extraordinarily successful one. Her retirement was marked by the foundation of the Woodhouse Scholarship at Clapham, subscribed by her friends. Later, she was elected to the Council of the Girls' Public Day School Trust, on which she proved an invaluable colleague.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Life of Mrs. Humphry Ward. By her daughter, Janet Penrose Trevelyan. (Constable.) 12s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This book is the story of the remarkable achievements of a very great Englishwoman, told by her daughter with appreciative sympathy, and a charming grace of style. Every reader interested in English literature will delight in the introduction to the Arnold family given in the chapter on Mary Arnold's Childhood, and to the intellectual giants appearing in the next chapter on Life at Oxford from 1867-1871. In 1872, Mary Arnold was married by Dean Stanley to Mr. T. Humphry Ward, Fellow and Tutor of Brasenose College, who in 1880 joined the staff of *The Times*, when they removed to London. By that time, Mrs. Ward had written and published a good many serious essays, as well as a story for children, and she had taken a very active part in the work of the "Association for the Education of Women," which resulted in the foundation of Somerville Hall, Oxford. In London her active literary life began in earnest. Three of her novels were published by 1885, and in 1888, *Robert Elsmere* took the whole world by storm. This book was more discussed, and drew forth much fiercer criticism than Mr. Balfour's later book, *The Foundations of Belief*, and induced Mr. Gladstone to write his famous article in the *Nineteenth Century* on "Robert Elsmere and the Battle of Belief." More than a score of novels followed, each one of which bore the unmistakable mark of Mrs. Ward's undoubted scholarship. Through all these years, Mrs. Humphry Ward struggled constantly with ill-health, but she found time and strength to carry through the Passmore Edwards Settlement, to establish the Invalid Children's School, the Settlement Vacation School, and the Children's Play Centres, with which her name will always be connected, and in all of which she showed extraordinary organising and administrative ability.

The chapter on Mrs. Ward and the Suffrage Question cannot fail to interest members of the Women's Freedom League. Mrs. Trevelyan deals very sympathetically with her mother's attitude on this question. We, who were brought up in a different school, and in an entirely different atmosphere from Mrs. Ward, cannot help thinking that her historic sense, which was so invaluable in other directions, failed her lamentably in this one; and it is difficult for us to realise how this great champion of intellectual freedom, where orthodoxy was concerned, should use her great powers against the political freedom of women, especially as she was one of the pioneers in getting the Universities to open their examinations to women, and was a keen advocate of women taking their full share in all Local Government work. Moreover, her experience of the workings of the minds of men politicians left a good deal to be desired. However, Mrs. Ward remained to the last a doughty opponent of women's political enfranchisement; but we are justly proud of her as one of the most distinguished authors of our age, and as one of the most enlightened and capable social workers on behalf of the poor and physically defective children of London. F. A. U.

The Commonweal, January, 1924. (Commonweal Press, 82, Victoria Street, S.W.1.) 1s. net. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This is the first number of a new monthly magazine of enlightenment and progress, under the Editorship of the Hon. Norah Hewitt. The Foreword reveals that this new publication is dedicated largely, though not entirely, to the *New Woman*, an analysis of whose psychology is closely interwoven with the introductory itself. Reference is made to the recent Imperial Conferences, and to the incongruous fact that the feminine element was entirely lacking at these gatherings, in spite of the fact that its titular heads represented millions of women citizens. The presence of one woman in the Imperial Conference on Education is mentioned, as having represented Egypt. This reference, of course, is intended for Miss Ridler, of Palestine.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, January 14th, at 3 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting (Members only) at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3 (by kind permission of the Misses Berry).

Friday, January 18th, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, January 19th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, January 30th, at 8 p.m. Hampstead Branch Social Gathering, open to non-members, at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind permission of Mrs. Harverson). Speaker: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., on Proportional Representation. Chair: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P. Music. (Refreshments can be obtained at a small charge.) Three minutes from Hampstead Tube Station.

Saturday, April 5th, Caxton Hall, Westminster. Women's Freedom League Seventeenth Annual Conference.

SCOTLAND.

Tuesday, January 15th, at 7.30 p.m. Glasgow. Public Meeting at the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street. Speaker: Miss Isabel C. Hamilton, Member of Education Authority of Glasgow, &c. Subject: "Equal Pay." Professional and Business women are cordially invited.

Saturday, January 26th, at 6 p.m. Glasgow. Whist Drive in the West End College, Peel Street, Partick. Tickets 2/6.

PROVINCES.

Friday, January 15th, at 5.30 p.m. Hastings. Members' Meeting at Glenroyde Hotel, Wellington Square. Subject: "Resolutions for the Annual Conference."

Wednesday, February 20th, at 8 p.m. Brighton. Public Meeting at Hove Town Hall. Speaker: Miss Elsie E. Morton, M.B.E. Subject: "The Need for Women Members of Parliament." Chair: Miss Hare.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, January 16th, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Major H. A. Grove. Subject: "Free Trade."

Tuesday, January 29th, at 8 p.m. Kingston-on-Thames. Theosophical Lodge. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood, on "Brotherhood—from a Woman's Point of View."

BRANCH NOTES.

SWANSEA.

During the autumn, the Swansea branch arranged two lectures on women's questions, which were held, by kind permission of Mrs. Hutton, at 9, Sketty Road. On November 21st, Mrs. Morris gave an address on "Rescue Work," which those who were present enjoyed very much; and on December 12th, Mrs. Fuller, one of our members and a Poor Law Guardian, gave an interesting account of the work of the Poor Law Guardians.

Before the Green, White, and Gold Fair, a display of the goods contributed was held, as usual, at 9, Sketty Road, and we were able to send up a good contribution to Headquarters, although not so large as last year's. We are indebted to all those who helped in any way, either by sending goods or by collecting them. During the General Election, the Women's Freedom League questionnaire was sent to the seven local candidates, of whom five replied satisfactorily to all the questions, and among the five were the three candidates who proved successful.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss C. M. JELLEY, 14, Carlton Terrace.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGH.

The Rummage Sale for Headquarters will be held in February. Miss Alix M. Clark will be glad to receive contributions when she is in town, next week.

CONFERENCE OF WOMEN COUNCILLORS, GUARDIANS AND MAGISTRATES.

This Conference, which was postponed on account of the General Election, will now be held on Wednesday and Thursday, January 16th and 17th, in the Board Room of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. The subjects to be discussed are: "The Problem of the Unemployed Juvenile," "The Work of Public Libraries with Special Reference to Children's Departments," "Probation," and "The Utilisation of Poor Law Hospitals by Private Paying Patients." On Friday, January 18th, visits will be paid to H.M. Prison, Holloway, the London County Council Trade School for Girls, Camberwell Infirmary, Camberwell Scattered Homes, and other institutions. Tickets for this Conference (which is being held under the auspices of the Women's Local Government Society) should be taken in advance from the Society's office, 19, Tothill Street, S.W.1, the price being: Single sessions, 1s., and for the whole Conference 3s. If applicants wish to visit any of the institutions, they should state which, when writing for their ticket. The visit to Holloway Prison is restricted to women magistrates.

WOMEN ENGINEERS' CONFERENCE.

Miss C. Haslett (Secretary of the Women's Engineering Society) writes to inform us that the dates of the Conference at Manchester are April 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and that the city is prepared to give it a very warm welcome, the Lord and Lady Mayoress giving a reception in their honour one afternoon.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Unemployed Women.

The Government Unemployment Grants Committee has turned down a proposal made to the Bradford Corporation by the local Labour Party for a scheme for relieving unemployment among women by the setting up of municipal laundries, and sewing and tailoring departments. The Corporation suggests to the Labour Party alternative schemes for reorganising training classes for girls under 18, controlled jointly by the Education Committee and the Ministry of Labour, and home-making classes for women unemployed, run by the Education Committee in conjunction with the Central Committee of Women's Training. If municipal authorities themselves decide that certain proposed schemes of work for either men or women cannot be undertaken, that is a matter to be settled in the locality; but we certainly protest against any Government Committee refusing to sanction any schemes of employment for women, if they have nothing to do with domestic training.

Work—Not Relief.

Ashton-in-Makerfield District Council (Lancashire) has decided to support the following resolution being sent to the Government:—"That it would be far more advantageous to the unemployed if the Government made definite grants of money to the various local authorities, to be expended on local utility schemes, rather than pay out the money by way of doles." The Lambeth Board of Guardians and the Lambeth Borough Council have together come to an arrangement to spend money on public works, instead of outdoor relief. The Guardians had estimated that in the current six months they would require £26,000 for outdoor relief, and they suggested to the Council that it would be better to spend the money on useful work. A joint Committee has prepared a scheme to spend £15,540 on road repairs, and £12,958 on sewers. This arrangement will enable the Council to do these necessary works without having to borrow the money.

Physical Culture.

The *Morning Post* reports a meeting of the Eugenics Education Society, held last week at University College, when Mrs. Hodson, the Secretary of the Society, gave an address on the Teaching of Hygiene. Mrs. Hodson said it was impossible to overrate the importance of women's work in physical culture. When once the education of girls was brought to the grammar-school level in England, this side of their training was made an integral part of school life. It had been undertaken in a manner and spirit beyond criticism—strictly scientific in its ideals and its practical execution. It had broken away from "military" and "game" tradition; it had arranged systematic training based on a sound knowledge of anatomy and physiology; and finally it had organised the profession to maintain a high standard in technique, teaching ability, "sports," and game traditions.

Women's Wages.

The Hat, Cap, and Millinery Trade Board (England and Wales) have fixed the minimum wages for women workers at 7d. per hour, and the piecework-basis time rate at 8d. an hour. The National Union of Distributive Workers are making an application to the National Industrial Council for the soap and candle trades for an increase of 9s. for men, and 5s. for women. We wonder why they fail to ask for an equal increase in the wages of men and women?

Our Prison System.

At a meeting of Birmingham Justices, held last week, it was reported that "silent labour" had been abolished in the cells at Winson Green Prison. A man who was accused of theft at Durham Quarter Sessions was stated to be 67 years old, and to have served nearly 40 years in prison. He still had a year and 70 days of another sentence to complete, and he was ordered to complete that period, and to serve a further 14 days on the present charge.

Housing Conditions in Ludworth.

"Housing conditions in Ludworth are most appalling," declared a member of the Durham Rural District Council at a recent meeting. "One hundred houses have been condemned, and young people who are getting married have to live with their parents." The Sanitary Inspector declared that, with regard to housing conditions, Ludworth was the most horrible place he had to visit.

GIRL CHAMPION SWIMMER.

In our issue of THE VOTE, July 20th, 1923, on page 231, we mentioned the fact that one of the daughters of our member, Mrs. Harrison, formerly of Letchworth, and now in Buenos Aires, was a champion swimmer, and for a short time in February, 1923, was woman World Champion for time (21 hrs. 40 mins.). We now learn from a notice in *The Times* that Miss Lilian Harrison, who is only nineteen years of age, has swum across the Rio de la Plata from Colonia, in Uruguay, to Punta Lara, in Argentina. She reached Punta Lara on Saturday at 9.47 a.m., after 24 hours 19½ minutes in the water. The distance covered was 26½ miles. Tiraboschi, who swam across the English Channel last August, accompanied her for part of the way.

DR. LEWIN BROADCASTS.

Dr. Lewin, a specialist in nasal hygiene, broadcasted a 15-minute Health Lecture on "Nose Breathing," at 9.15 p.m., last Wednesday evening, from Marconi House. She was asked to do this by the Programme Master, because of the success of a previous lecture which had been given by another Health Lecturer on "The Care of the Eyes."

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, January 13th. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "Our Christian Faith: The Mind of God."

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