

WOMEN AND THE NEW SESSION.

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

VOL. XV. No. 2.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1923.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR POSTAL SUBSCRIBERS:—BRITISH ISLES, 6/6; ABROAD, 8/8.

FROM

THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO., LTD., 62 OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W. 1.

Contents :

	PAGE		PAGE
WOMEN AND THE NEW SESSION	11	THE CHILD AND THE SCHOOL	12
THE RESULT OF AN EXPERIMENT	11	HOUSEHOLD ADMINISTRATION. By Ann Pope	13
THE LAW AT WORK: POLICE CELLS	12	CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS	14

NOTES AND NEWS

The New Session.

Before the next issue of this paper appears Parliament will have reassembled, and the House, as yet comparatively untried, will be face to face with topics of such world-shaking importance that it is no exaggeration to say that the new session promises to be one of the most momentous in history. The results of the French occupation of the Ruhr and of the failure of the Lausanne Conference cannot as yet be adequately realized, but there is no doubt of the inflammable nature of problems to be handled. At home, unemployment still casts its blight over the land, and plans for reduction in its amount and for relief of the sufferers must needs play an important part. In our "News from Westminster," which will be resumed on 23rd February, these and other matters of general interest will be dealt with week by week. A summary of the hopes of the session concerning problems which are women's "special concern" appears in another column of this issue.

Women Constables.

The Home Office has issued an announcement with regard to women police in the London Police District, which states that in accordance with the decision announced by Mr. Shortt, when Home Secretary, the number of women patrols to be retained will, for the present, be limited to twenty, including a proportion of higher ranks. The patrols will be allocated to those divisions in the Metropolitan Police organization in which their services can, in the opinion of the Commissioner, be most usefully employed. They will form part of the ordinary establishment of the division, and will work under the direction of the superintendent and his officers in the same way as male members of the force. Provision will, however, be made whereby, without prejudice to the ordinary responsibility of the superintendent, the welfare and general conditions of service of the women police, wherever stationed, will be brought within the purview of the senior woman police officer of the force, and for this purpose all necessary facilities will be afforded both for inspection by that officer and for representations to her through the prescribed channel of communication on the part of members of the rank and file. She will have the rank of inspector, and will also be taken into consultation in regard to the recruitment and promotion of women police. The women patrols are being sworn in as constables. They will thus have exactly the same standing as male members of the force. It will be understood, however, that they are not expected to undertake any duty which they

may be physically unfitted to carry out. The term "woman constable" will in future be used instead of "woman patrol." It is gratifying that the status of women police is to be the same as that of men, but we hope that their numbers will be much increased before long.

The Work done by the Women Police.

In this connection it is interesting to note the following figures in order to appreciate the work done by the former women police: Total number of persons assisted by the Metropolitan Women Patrols during 1921, 49,813. This includes: women prisoners searched, 1,089; women prisoners escorted, 322; attempted suicides watched at hospitals, 58. In a statement in which these figures are given, the Medical Women's Federation observes: "Presumably the greater number of the persons 'assisted' were women and children, and it is known that 6,465 girls had shelter and beds found for them by the women patrols. In their welfare department, 1,131 girls and women were placed in voluntary homes and hospitals, thus relieving the State of a heavy charge for their maintenance by the rates or in prison."

Policewomen in Northern Ireland.

In industrial centres such as Belfast and Derry the protection of young children is a most urgent question. The widespread unemployment, following the years of expansion in the ship-yards and mills, leaving thousands of young men idle to loaf in the streets and parks, has complicated the problem. The Belfast Women Citizens' Union and the Derry Women's Citizens' Association have renewed the agitation for a force of women police, with uniform, reasonable pay, and full power of arrest. The demand has been strengthened by the excellent work of the two policewomen already in Belfast and by the efficiency of the women searchers, policewomen trained in Great Britain, employed by the Northern Government during the disturbances. Successful meetings in Belfast and Derry were addressed by Commandant Allen, O.B.E., of the Women's Auxiliary Service and late Women's Police Service. In Derry the Women Citizens' Association, with the help of the women J.P.s, has secured an effort on the part of the united magistrates to obtain the appointment of a policewoman in the cells. Miss Allen especially dwelt on the importance of this, and also on the really preventive work done by uniformed policewomen with power of arrest, on duty in the parks. She also pointed out that

