

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Unemployment Insurance.

When this is in the hands of our readers Miss Bondfield will have moved the second reading of the Government's Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Bill, amending the Unemployment Insurance Acts from 1920-1929. It is unlikely that she will have succeeded in satisfying those critics in her own party who wish to see any test of genuinely seeking work completely abolished. But the Bill goes a long way towards remedying existing grievances. It proposes to reduce the minimum insurable age to 15 as from the time when the general school leaving is raised to that age, and thus ends the many abuses which have arisen owing to the exclusion of juveniles between 14 and 16. It proposes to raise weekly rates of benefit for persons under the age of 21 and to increase the benefit for a wife or other adult "dependent" from 7s. to 9s. In addition it puts the onus of proof that a claimant is disqualified on the grounds of not genuinely seeking work on the administrative authorities. Thus he will only be disqualified if it is proved that employment was available, and that he could reasonably have been expected to know it and had yet taken inadequate steps.

The Civil Service Commission.

The Royal Commission on the Civil Service opened its proceedings last week and held a series of sessions at which a representative of the Treasury, as well as members of the Civil Service Commission and representatives of the staff side, gave evidence concerning their respective functions. It was significant that immediately the proceedings opened, the question of equal pay and equal opportunity for women leapt into prominence. Speaking as Controller of the Establishment of the Treasury, Sir Russell Scott attempted to justify the differential payment of women by reference to conditions prevailing in the outside labour market. In face of such conditions, equal pay in the Civil Service would, he thought, attract the services of women of a higher grade than that required. There was, he thought, some danger of the Civil Service recruiting people who were "too good for their work." Concerning the matter of expense it would, he calculated, cost round about £1,750,000 a year to approximate the women's minimum to the men's, and to apply the same equality to the maximum scales would, he thought, cost about £3,700,000. On the following day Mr. Meiklejohn of the Civil Service Commission, the body responsible for the recruitment by examination and interview of the bulk of the Civil Service, suggested that as regards the administrative or highest grade of the Service, women managed to get in with a slightly lower university qualification than men. So far as the evidence has gone, which is not of course very far, it has shown a recalcitrant and some-

what narrow attitude to the claims of women on the part of the Treasury. But, indeed, this is none other than we expected. Meanwhile, the Commission has suspended its labours until 9th December.

Illegitimate Children's (Scotland) Bill.

As readers will see by the stop press note published in last week's WOMAN'S LEADER, the Duchess of Atholl has introduced the Illegitimate Children's (Scotland) Bill, on which the Scottish Federation of Societies affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C. and other women's organizations in Scotland, have for long been working. The Bill proposes to give the expectant mother an opportunity to claim aliment and expenses for the confinement and for making this claim before the child's birth. The amount of aliment is also increased beyond the present very low standard in Scotland of 4s. 6d. per week. The Bill, in fact, aims at securing for the mother of the illegitimate child in Scotland, treatment similar to that given to women in England.

Co-option and the Labour Party.

The *Labour Woman*, which may be regarded as the official organ of the women of the Labour Party, has published an interesting and constructive commentary on the state of affairs existing in County Borough Councils where there is to be no co-option of members on to the new Public Assistance Committees which, under the Local Government Act of 1929, will assume general responsibility for the functions of the Poor Law Guardians. The *Labour Woman* points out what we ourselves have emphasized repeatedly to our own readers, that co-option would have absorbed into the service of Public Assistance some of the women who have hitherto found more adequate representation on Boards of Guardians than on Borough and County Borough and County Councils. "That there is a strong case against co-option we admit," says the *Labour Woman*, "but we are inclined to think that, temporarily at any rate, the local authorities should ensure the service of women in the administration of public assistance by co-option." It is important that this point should be generally emphasized, but it is even more important that it should be emphasized by a responsible organ of Labour opinion, since in the majority of areas which have forsworn co-option, the step has been taken at the instance of the local Labour groups. That these were acting in accordance with the high principle of representative democracy we heartily admit. We are doubtful, however, whether in the present juncture the result may not be, in practice, an intensification of bureaucracy. Where hard-driven councillors are given suddenly, and in addition to their existing duties, the unaided responsibility of administering relief over a large urban area, it may be that an increased proportion of such responsibility will slip into the hands of the administrative officials. The principle of representative democracy would have been better served by calling into the immediate field of action the most public-spirited and sympathetic of the women guardians.

County Council Elections in Scotland.

Elections for County Councils in Scotland will take place on 4th December, and twenty-one women have been nominated. The elections are being held now owing to the changes made by the Act of last year and the abolition of *ad hoc* bodies for education. Many of the women who are standing are members of their local education authority, and some are parish councillors, the body which up to now has been responsible for the administration of relief in Scotland. In Dumbartonshire Miss Eunice Murray has been returned unopposed for the Cardross division. She was first elected at the last triennial elections and is well known for her keen support of the Woman's Movement.

Married Women Doctors.

The decision of the Birmingham General Hospital that in future married women shall not be eligible for appointment on the staff and must resign on marriage has once again brought forward the question of married women's work. A young married woman doctor had received four months leave of absence, during which her baby was born. She returned to her duties, but the Board of Management considered that the disorganization of the work of the hospital caused by the temporary retirement of members of the staff was undesirable; hence the decision for the future. Some of the leading London medical women, including Lady Barrett, Dean of the London School of Medicine for Women, and Dr. Jane Walker, have spoken strongly against this reactionary step. If ever there was a case *for* not *against* the work of married women who are mothers it is in the medical profession.

"Unrecorded Waste of Life."

The article "The Land of Drugs" in a recent issue of this paper has deservedly attracted a good deal of attention, and we are glad to print a letter from a correspondent reporting the formation of a mothers' clinic in a mining area in South Wales. We sincerely hope it will receive such a measure of support that the movement may spread in other parts of that stricken region. The third annual report of the Manchester, Salford and District Mothers' Clinic, which we have just received, confirms from its own records the sad story in our article. An analysis of 271 new cases in the past year bears out the experience of the two previous years. Out of a total of 1,013 pregnancies there are 38 stillbirths and 102 abortions and miscarriages. As the report says, colossal ignorance prevails concerning the danger and illegality of terminating pregnancies and this is bound up with a corresponding ignorance of the existence of hygienic preventive methods.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, an organization for which we entertain admiration and respect, has felt it necessary to withdraw from its affiliation to the National Council of Women in view of the resolution adopted by the annual Council meeting on 16th October relating to information with regard to methods of birth control at maternity and child welfare clinics in receipt of Government grants. This resolution it holds to be "contrary to Catholic principles and also to true feminism." We cannot agree as to the latter assumption but must, of course, accept the former. Nevertheless we regret the decision. Should Catholics withdraw from Parliament because the State recognizes divorce? In a lesser degree, perhaps, the situation is the same. Should Catholic women cut themselves off from the national councils of thinking women because they differ with them on one matter of principle, however important, when they can work unitedly about so many? We venture the hope that they will reconsider this decision.

Poor Relief and Family Limitation.

The Dunfermline Parish Council has done a very unprecedented thing in deciding to inform a consumptive recipient of relief that either he must have no more children or steps will be taken to separate him from his wife. The circumstances are as follows: The man has been in receipt of relief for himself and his family for about four years, and during that time his family has increased by three. A good deal of criticism has been levelled against the Council on the grounds that the decision implies the recognition of birth control. It is not unusual, we imagine, for Boards of Guardians or Parish Councils to refuse out-relief to married applicants in an advanced state of consumption and thus to require them to enter a suitable Poor Law institution for the sake of the wife and living and potential children. We suppose that that is all that the Dunfermline authority meant in speaking of enforced separation, and we admire its frankness in telling the man that it was his duty to have no more children. Separation in such cases involves great hardship which none of us would like. Nevertheless, we hope the Parish Council will see that he lives under conditions which will permit of adequate separation.

L.C.C. Public Assistance Committee.

The agenda for the meeting of the L.C.C. last Tuesday is of especial interest, as it included the nominations for the new Central Public Assistance and Central Public Health Committees.

The nominations, we understand, have been made purely on party lines and the six women are included among the members, two of whom only are co-opted. The women councillors are: Mrs. M. M. Dollar, Mrs. Dunn Gardner, Miss Charlotte Keeling, and Miss Rosamond Smith, with Miss Fulford (Chairman, Fulham Board of Guardians) and Mrs. Newman as co-opted members. The L.C.C. scheme allows for the co-option of sixteen persons including "some women" and we should have thought that in view of the nature of the work which will fall to the Public Assistance Committee, two is hardly an adequate interpretation of "some," especially when it is realized that only three of the women members have had direct experience in poor law administration. The Public Assistance Committee consists of forty-eight persons, and we feel strongly that more than six women should serve on this Committee, which will be responsible for the administration of institutions for those needing relief. The newly constituted Health Committee is to consist of twenty-six members of whom eight are co-opted. Five women councillors, three of whom are doctors, and two co-opted members, Miss Mabel Crout and Miss A. E. Cummins, will serve on this Committee. For many years Miss Cummins was the Almoner for St. Thomas' Hospital, and her experience in the investigation of cases will be of value. In view of the duties that will fall to the Health Committee, especially in regard to the care of the children under five, the provision of hospital accommodation, including maternity wards for women and girls, and provision for the training, supply, and conditions of labour for midwives and nurses, we fail to see how it will be possible for six women to carry out the work that must necessarily fall to them. It is perhaps too much to expect that one-half of the Health Committee should be women, but certainly four of the non-councillors should be.

Sex Classification on Jury Service.

A correspondent has sent us a cutting from a Dundee paper with an account of a recent murder trial in which the prisoner, a seventeen-year-old youth, was acquitted on a majority verdict in his favour. It is stated that the seven women members of the jury were unanimous in favour of a verdict of not guilty, while six men were for guilty and two for non-proven. We know nothing of the circumstances of the case except the extreme youth of the accused, but we feel bound to take strong exception to the publication of figures as to the sex of the members of the jury who differed as to the verdict. Speaking as laymen, it seems to us very improper to disclose any facts at all as to the individual views of the jury beyond possibly the number of those in favour of each different verdict. To call attention to the sex of the juror in relation to his or her finding is, in our opinion, indefensible. In this instance the fact that the women were unanimous on not guilty has, we understand, given rise in some quarters to the suggestion that they are too soft-hearted or sentimental for jury service. In England and Wales this indiscretion would not occur as a jury must, of course, be unanimous before a verdict can be brought in.

The Father of the House.

The death of Mr. T. P. O'Connor removes the oldest, and one of the most interesting and most popular Members of the House of Commons. So far as the cause of women's enfranchisement was concerned Mr. O'Connor's support was of recent date. In earlier years he feared that the extension of the vote to women would endanger the Irish Cause. But later in life he became a convinced advocate of equal franchise and was a member of the Speaker's Conference which led to the first instalment of the vote. We are told that as a journalist "he extended a friendly hand to his women colleagues in the mellow evening of his days." His gentle kindly nature made him a universal favourite.

Miss Lawrence's "Aristeia."

Miss Lawrence's able piloting of the Widows' Pensions Bill through an all-night sitting and on other occasions during the Committee stage of the Bill have earned her universal praise. It is, indeed, a severe test of clear-headedness, good temper, and physical prowess to undertake such a task. The Opposition, though not formidable and often mutually destructive, was unceasing, and, as our contemporary the *New Leader* puts it, it must often have been difficult to see the Kingsley Wood for the Greenwood Tree!

WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW.

The decennial census is an event which casts long shadows before and behind. Scarcely have the results of the last census been sorted and digested than a standing army of census officials finds itself deeply involved in preparations for the next. And each census involves problems of policy, for new political and statistical requirements, called forth by new forms of social legislation and control, may demand new sources of information and a regrouping of the multitudinous questions to be asked of reluctant and muddle-headed citizens. Thus it happens that in the autumn of 1929 officials are busily at work carving up the map of Great Britain into 40,000 enumeration districts in preparation for the census that will be taken in the spring of 1931, and the Registrar-General is already engaged upon the momentous question of what shall be asked and what left unasked.

The tendency is, of course, to ask more and more. In the 1921 census questions were asked concerning the delicate matter of divorce. Reference was made also to the number of a householder's dependents under 16. The Widows' Pensions Act of 1925 owed much to the precise information collected under this last head. And answers to other new questions relating to place of work in relation to place of residence, cast an illuminating ray upon one aspect of the housing and transport problem of to-day. On the other hand, a group of questions connected with blindness, deafness, and dumbness were abandoned in 1921, since these defects exist in varying degrees and the actual point where, say, deafness becomes deafness within the meaning of the census question is difficult to determine. Again, an inquiry concerning fertility was abandoned in 1921, though in all probability the question of reviving it in 1931 is likely to be raised by students of the population problem.

Meanwhile, since the matter is once more under consideration, and before the schedules are set in their final form, there are certain questions on which we ourselves are tempted to press for detailed knowledge such as is furnished by a census return. In Part II of his Decennial Report on the Census, published in 1927, the Registrar-General gave us tables and analyses of occupational mortality for *males*, also tables and analyses of fertility and infant mortality in relation to the *father's* occupation. But he gave us no tables and analyses of occupational mortality for *females*, and no tables of fertility and infant mortality in relation to the *mother's* occupation. Nor did he give us any tables or analyses of *maternal mortality* according to the occupation of either husband or wife.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

If only those who worked for great reforms could be endowed with the power—just once in a way, say on Christmas Eve—of a glimpse at future accomplished results, what a difference it would make! How some reformers would take fresh heart and others would be induced to change the direction of their efforts! Those who worked for women's suffrage in the days of the pre-war struggle could, for example, have desired no better testimony to the rightness of their insistence and no better weapon to defeat their opponents, than to be privileged to look in in spirit, for just half an hour, at the House of Commons during the past week when it was discussing Widows' Pensions. They always predicted that votes for women would transform the whole attitude of Parliament towards the needs of women and their children. Their adversaries maintained that, on the contrary, it would make little difference in that respect; men were sufficiently vigilant custodians of the needs of their own mothers, wives, sisters and children. If they too had had a taste of futurity vision, what would they have said now? A whole week mainly devoted to elaborate discussions of the details of a Bill involving—not the principle of Widows' Pensions—but how every and any excluded group of widows, however small, could conceivably be brought within the beneficent provisions of an amending and supplementary Bill; members of the two opposition parties tumbling over each other in their eagerness to prove that their particular Party was the widow's best friend; the Party in power manifestly anxious to make concessions when it could do so without upsetting the whole structure of the Bill; representatives of seaport towns, for example, passionately concerned to advocate the claims of the shore fisherman's widow and triumphant over their success in including her! In no cynical spirit the observer from the cross

Now there are two questions which, to-day, are of very great moment to women—and for that matter to the country in general. They are the question of maternal mortality and the question of industrial opportunity and its bearing on national health. We are up against the hard fact of an excessive and obstinately stationary rate of deaths in childbirth, and an equally excessive and obstinate, though less clearly indicated, incidence of maternal sickness and invalidism. The last is of course a matter of growing concern to insurance societies. We are also up against an emphatic, and essentially equitable, demand that industrial legislation shall be so framed as to impose such safeguards and restrictions as may be necessary in the case of dangerous or unhealthy occupations, without introducing the principle of sex-discrimination and artificially limiting the area of women's opportunity in relation to that of men.

Now if both these questions, or either of them, are to be intelligently and equitably dealt with in the immediate years which lie ahead of us, we need a far more exhaustive and accurate background of information than has yet been available. And such information may have both a positive and a negative value. It may open up new and fruitful lines of inquiry and it may provide such frequent coincidences of cause and effect as are likely to suggest new conclusions. On the other hand, it may discredit old easy assumptions which have become popular currency through frequent repetition and a kind of superficial probability. Legislators have, for instance, assumed very readily in the past that the mother's occupation has had everything to do with fertility, maternal health, and infant mortality, while the father's occupation is an irrelevant consideration. It may be so; but we have as yet inadequate grounds upon which to base the conclusion that it is so. In the case, for example, of occupations involving the use of white lead, from which women are excluded on the grounds indicated above, there is a growing belief that infection of the wife through the lead-poisoned husband is as potent a factor in the evil of damaged motherhood as the direct infection of the mother from her own industrial activities. But what exactly is the relative weight of paternal and maternal occupational infection? We do not really know, nor does the Registrar-General contribute materially to our means of finding out.

Therefore we urge him most emphatically, now that his census schedules are, as it were, in the melting-pot, to provide the maximum of statistical equipment for those who are tackling the difficult and allied problems of maternal mortality and occupational ill-health.

benches may well ask himself or herself whether there were no widows before 1914; whether herrings were not even then "lives of men". Yet who then troubled about them and can anyone imagine the Parliamentary scenes of the past week pre-dated by fifteen years?

On Wednesday afternoon, one of the two field-days reserved for private Members, the House devoted itself to endeavours to draw the Minister of Education on the subject of his intentions with regard to the School Leaving Age and its accompanying Maintenance Allowances. The main tangible result was the announcement that the Bill would be ready within a fortnight or so and that it would be a very short one, possibly a one-clause Bill. On the subject of maintenance allowances he was silent, save for the admission that these would constitute the chief financial requirements made necessary by the Bill.

Friday, the other private Members' day, was given over to the second reading of a Bill for making statutory an annual eight-days holiday on full-pay. The Bill itself seems rather crudely drawn and contains insufficient safeguards for obvious dangers, such as the dismissal of a workman a week or two before the completion of the qualifying period of one year. But the principle extorted "sympathy" from all sections of the House, though many speakers made it plain that their sympathy was, as usual, contingent upon the condition—"provided all the cost and inconvenience is borne by others and none of it by myself or the class or sectional interest to which I belong." The amount of time expended on this measure crowded out consideration of the Nationality of Married Women Bill, which was second Order of the day. But there too it is noteworthy that the advocates of the Bill, when canvassing the

chances of a closure on the preceding measure, were everywhere met with the assurance that a few minutes would probably suffice for them, since everyone was agreed as to the rightness of the principle. Would that again have been the attitude fifteen years ago?

As so far throughout this Session, the largest attendances and the greatest moments of excitement have occurred during question time. Relations with Russia afforded the most exciting topic, the Soviet Press having characteristically selected the moment when diplomatic relations were being actually resumed to ridicule the assumption that the pledge to abstain from propaganda would be observed. Mr. Henderson's reply—that he would know how to deal with breaches of the pledge if and when they arose—whether convincing or not in itself, had at least the note of assurance and authority which many of his colleagues lack when pressed on difficult points. The Prime Minister and Mr. Snowden, who in the past have been apt to show acerbity or querulousness under pressure, are still wearing the halos of their recent successes. Mr. Snowden positively radiated satisfaction and goodwill towards mankind when announcing the success of his Conversion Loan.

But in the solid work of the week, unquestionably the outstanding figure has been Miss Susan Lawrence, though it would be unfair to her chief, Mr. Greenwood, not to acknowledge that her salient success is partly due to women's still surviving scarcity values in conspicuous positions. Cool, clear-headed, courteous, ready—her mind seems incapable of becoming confused by anything, even by the long fusillade of an all-night sitting and some seven hours more or less continuous bombardment on most other days of the week.

Another model of administrative efficiency is the Duchess of Atholl. Her short Bill, which she presented on Wednesday, for confirming the position of illegitimate children in Scotland, was introduced in a brief, low-toned, but admirable speech, marked by notes of real feeling. As one heard those women on the Front Benches one's thoughts turned instinctively to the great woman whose services we all commemorated on Tuesday at Westminster Abbey, and to her host of followers, known and unknown. To her and to them the present opportunities of usefulness are due.

CROSS BENCH.

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WESTMINSTER ABBEY MEMORIAL SERVICE.

[By the courtesy of the B.B.C. we have been permitted to print the following extracts from the speech broadcast by Mrs. Oliver Strachey after the Abbey Service on Tuesday, 19th November.]

The Memorial Service for Dame Millicent Fawcett which took place in Westminster Abbey to-day was extraordinarily impressive and beautiful. The Abbey was thronged to the doors with men and women of all kinds, assembled from all over the country to do honour to one who was a great pioneer and a great statesman; and the service itself which was made up of prayers and psalms, hymns and music which she herself specially loved, very truly expressed the spirit of the congregation. There was no mourning or grieving; instead there was a steady note of triumph and of joy for one whose work was good work well and truly accomplished. The verses "Let us now praise famous men" from the 44th Chapter of Ecclesiasticus were exactly appropriate; for indeed, Dame Millicent was one of those who are "leaders of the people by their counsels, wise and eloquent in their instructions, living peaceably in their habitations, honoured in their generations and the glory of their times." All that great crowd had come there to prove it; men who had seen the wisdom of her instructions and women to whom her counsels had opened a new world both united "to show forth her praise".

... It seemed right, therefore, when Blake's triumphant hymn *Jerusalem* was sung, for Dame Millicent was truly one of those who try "to build Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land", and besides, the music for that very hymn was written for her by her old friend, Sir Hubert Parry, to celebrate the first Women's Suffrage victory, which he, too, had ardently desired.

Another hymn exactly fitting the thoughts of all the congregation was sung in the Abbey to-day, and that was the great Battle Hymn of the Republic "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." It was sung to the beautiful setting of Martin Shaw, and though I have already said that there was no mourning in the Abbey, it is true that there were many who had tears in their eyes when that hymn was sung.

But it was not only the hymns and the prayers and the beautiful music which were moving. The congregation itself, when one thought what it represented, was a most wonderful sight. There were, of course, the great public men of the day—Cabinet Ministers, Peers, leaders of opinion of all kinds and men representing great public bodies—Mayors in their robes, Members of Parliament, Councillors and representatives of great organizations. There were men who had worked with her in the days when the women's movement was an object of ridicule, and others who had been her friends all their lives long. These were striking enough, come as they were to do honour to her memory. But I thought myself that the women were more striking still. For they were the living evidence of the work of her life, the actual concrete proof of her greatness and of the importance of what she achieved. There they were, these women representing over 80 great national organizations—political societies, professional societies, women teachers, civil servants, nurses, engineers, and all sorts, young women just entering on their new opportunities, older women who had seen the struggle at its height, medical women and representatives of the great women's colleges in their robes and scarlet gowns—more than a thousand of them in all, typifying and actually proving Dame Millicent's life work. And then, besides these there were hundreds and hundreds of her colleagues of the days of the suffrage fight. There were women who had come from every part of England, Scotland, and Wales, some of them representing the various women's societies in more than 40 different areas; others who came because they wanted to have one last contact with the leader whom they had followed and loved so long. . . . And I felt, myself, as I tell you, that this part of the vast congregation was somehow more impressive and in a way more important, than the great public people whose names you will read in the papers to-morrow. I do not mean to belittle at all the great help which public men gave to Dame Millicent's cause. It was generous, invaluable, and essential. But I mean that the others, the humbler workers, and the women whom her work has set free, are that cloud of actual witnesses which prove her life's worth.

AM I MY BLACK BROTHER'S KEEPER? ¹

By MOSA ANDERSON.

The principle of trusteeship for the backward races which are absorbed into the British Empire has been stated by many Colonial Secretaries, and was restated as lately as 1923, in the "Kenya White Paper." In this paper the Duke of Devonshire said that it was "His Majesty's Government's considered opinion that the interests of the African natives must be paramount, and that if and when those interests and the interests of the immigrant races should conflict, the former shall prevail." Further, he stated that "this paramount duty of trusteeship will continue as in the past to be carried out under the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Agents of the Imperial Government, and by them alone."

The two points here made—(1) that the interests of the natives must be "paramount", and (2) that the home Government is the rightful protector of those interests, are not disputed in those territories which are unsuited to white colonization. In West Africa the natives are helped and encouraged to become self-supporting members of the community and to take a considerable share in administrative duties.

Quite different, however, has been the development in South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, and, now, Kenya Colony, where a healthy climate has encouraged the immigration of a large number of settlers. In the self-governing dominion of S. Africa the position of the natives is threatened in every way. The principles behind the Colour Bar legislation and behind the Native Bills which General Hertzog has been endeavouring to pilot through Parliament are far removed from such statements of principle as that made by Lord Stanley in a dispatch to the Governor of Natal in 1842, that "there shall not be in the eye of the law any distinction of colour, origin, race, or creed, but that the protection of the law, in letter and in substance shall be extended impartially to all alike."

We are now confronted with a determined bid on the part of the settlers in Kenya Colony for similar self-governing rights. They want a majority of European elected members on their Legislative Council, and they would like to rid themselves of the unwelcome control exercised by the Colonial Office. In 1927 Lord Delamere, one of the settlers' leaders, spoke of the danger that a "West Coast policy" might be introduced in East Africa if Labour ruled in Great Britain. He said: "There is only one way by which Kenya can be safeguarded and moored securely to the policy of civilization, and that is by Kenya itself having an Elected Majority." He then went on to urge the desirability of Federation, and said: "The sooner you have a High Commissioner living in this country taking over much of the power which the Secretary of State now has, the sooner will you have more control in this country and be able to avoid those dangers I have just touched on."

The Kenya settler makes no pretence of wishing to do such an impossible thing as himself act as a trustee for the natives. The fallacy of such a proposition (which had been suggested by Mr. Amery) was emphasized in October, 1927, by the Chairman of the Kenya Convention of Associations, who pointed out that "the proper meaning of trustee is one who holds property on behalf of others" and said "it would be hypocrisy to deny that of the immigrant community of this Colony hold the lands outside the Native Reserves for anyone but themselves and their posterity."

Yet this is virtually the suggestion made by Sir Samuel Wilson in a report on East African Federation just published by him. In this Report he urges accession to the settlers' demand for an elected majority in the Legislative Council, thus practically nullifying the efficacy of Colonial Office control. He rejects the excellent proposals made by the Hilton Young Commission for the co-ordination of native policy.

The carrying of Sir Samuel Wilson's proposals would mean that 2½ million natives in Kenya Colony would be reduced to a state of bondage in their own country, and that the trend of British Imperial policy in Central and Eastern Africa would be radically changed. The South African policy of domination would have prevailed over the West African policy of co-operation.

What is this policy? The settlers get land by one means or other. Next, they want labour. In order to get labour they desire the native to be heavily taxed so that he will be forced out of his Reserve to work for wages. They will certainly not encourage a policy of helping the native to produce profitable crops on his own land. Finally, they cannot be relied on to use the revenues of the country in fair proportions for the development of railways and roads and for the promotion of native education, etc. The "man on the spot" may be a good man, but the trouble is that he is an interested man.

¹ Contributed on behalf of the Women's International League.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

MUNICIPAL POLLS.—NOTABLE INCIDENTS.

The results at the time of going to press with our last article were incomplete. We have now before us more complete returns so far as political parties are concerned, but not in regard to the total number of women returned. Every year it becomes more difficult to secure *quickly* the exact number of women elected to serve on local governing bodies, as returns in the Press are mainly given in respect to political parties. Women are more and more fighting as nominees of one or other of the political parties (and less and less as independent candidates) and are returned as such. The successful candidates are mainly classified as members of parties, and names are not always in the first instance given. It takes a little time to get the names of successful women candidates from the respective localities.

Women Candidates.—From information which has reached us either through the Press or from other sources, we can report that in Manchester 10 women went to the poll of whom 3 were returned. There are now 9 women on the Council, as before the elections.

Salford.—Two women went to the poll, neither of whom was returned. There are no women on the Salford City Council.

Ashton-under-Lyne.—Three women went to the poll, of whom one was re-elected.

Cambridge.—Mrs. Hartree, at one time Mayor of Cambridge, was returned at the head of the poll in the ward for which she stood. Mrs. Webber, another member, has been returned, it is stated, without opposition at every election since May, 1919, and still holds the seat.

Leeds.—Mrs. Murphy, who was elected a member of the Board of Guardians in 1928, was returned unopposed for the North-West Ward.

Worcester.—Four women were returned. Miss Ogilvy, an independent candidate who was re-elected in the St. Martin's Ward at the head of the poll, received, it is stated, 931 plumpers out of a total of 1,142 votes.

Lady Atkins headed the poll in the All Saints' Ward. Miss Buckle and Mrs. Palmer polled well, being second on the list in their respective wards.

Mossley (Yorks).—A feature of the election was the return of Mrs. Bottomley, wife of Alderman Bottomley, who has been five times Mayor of the borough. Mrs. Bottomley was the first woman to sit on the Council, and on this occasion she headed the poll easily.

Newcastle.—Four women were returned, of whom 3 headed the poll in their respective wards.

Sheffield.—Seven women were returned.

Norwich.—Miss Mabel Clarkson, the first woman Sheriff of Norwich, was returned unopposed.

Hull.—Two women went to the poll, one of whom was returned at the head of the poll in her ward. The other failed to secure election.

Coventry.—Of 5 women candidates only one was returned.

Barnsley (Yorks).—The two women candidates, both Independents, were defeated. The Council is still without a woman member.

Chester.—The woman candidate, the *Mayor-elect*, was defeated. Had Mrs. Brown been returned, she would have been the first woman Mayor of Chester. She is an ex-Mayoress.

Stockport.—Miss Kate Johnson, who stood in the place of Mrs. Henderson (not standing for re-election), headed the poll.

Electoral Apathy.

Sheffield.—Extraordinary apathy was a marked feature of the election. In one ward, 80 per cent of the electors, it is stated, failed to poll.

York.—Electoral apathy was a factor at York, where there was a very low poll.

Manchester.—Only 107,334 electors out of 279,537 entitled to vote troubled to go to the poll, i.e. 38 per cent. This is one of the lowest in Manchester of recent years.

Hull.—"I have never known such a quiet election," said an official who had been engaged in electioneering work for five years. The polling at the various booths was very light, in spite of the glorious weather.

South Shields.—"The public apathy is unaccountable and deplorable. I shall not be surprised if we touch our lowest record figures, not because we have not canvassed the voters, but because of their indifference," a party worker observed to a representative of the *South Shields Gazette*.

Worcester.—About 10,000, i.e. 41 per cent, went to the poll. Thick fog was partially responsible, it is stated, for the poor poll. **Birmingham.**—The percentage of electors in one ward who recorded their votes was, it is stated, below 20 per cent. In several wards it was less than 30 per cent.

The Boroughs mentioned are *County Boroughs*, which from 1st April next will be responsible for the administration of Public Assistance and the care of the poor.

Women Mayors.—The election of Lord Mayors and Mayors for England and Wales took place on 9th November. The following Councils elected women:—

Chelsea	Lady Phipps.
Hereford	Mrs. Ward.
Higham Ferrars	Mrs. Simpson.
Mansfield	Mrs. Wainwright.
Sandwich	*Mrs. Andrews Uthwatt.
Stratford-on-Avon	*Miss Annie Justins.
Thetford	*Mrs. Bidwell.
Tynemouth	*Dame Maud Burnett.
Warwick	Lady Warwick.
Walford	Mrs. Broad.
Welshpool	*Mrs. J. H. Davies.
Wrexham	*Mrs. Edwards-Jones,

who has been elected to the Office three times in succession.

* Denotes re-election.

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

More than three hundred women were candidates for the Town Councils in England and Wales, and the following were elected:—

Council.	Councillor.
Arundel	Mrs. Rogers.
Ashton-under-Lyne	*Mrs. Heginbottom. C.
Bacup	Mrs. Parry. Lib. Unopposed.
Basingstoke	Mrs. E. A. Weston. Lab.
Bath	*Mrs. Cooke.
Birkenhead	*Miss Worrall. Unopposed.
Birmingham	Mrs. Downing. Lab.
	*Mrs. Longden. Lab.
	*Mrs. Wilson. Lab.
Bishop's Castle	Mrs. Bowen.
Bolton	Mrs. Lawson. C.
	*Mrs. Hailwood. Lab.
Buxton	Mrs. Bagshaw. Lab.
	Miss A. Moon, R.A. Unopposed.
Calne	Mrs. Spackman.
Cambridge	Mrs. Hartree, J.P. Ind.
Chester	Mrs. Clarke. Lab.
Chorley	Mrs. Gillett. C.
	Miss E. M. Sandham. Lab.
Clitheroe	Mrs. Hargreaves. Lab.
Coventry	Mrs. S. A. Griffiths. Lab.
Deal	Miss Rogers.
Derby	Mrs. Wheatley. Lab.
Doncaster	*Miss Hannah Clark. Ind. Unopposed.
	*Mrs. Firth. Lab.
Eastbourne	Miss Rammell. Unopposed.
	*Miss Thornton, J.P. Unopposed.
Gateshead	Miss Ruth Dodds. Lab.
Gloucester	Mrs. Edwards. Lab.
Gosport	*Miss Luckerfelt, J.P. Unopposed.
Grimsby	Mrs. Markley. Lab.
Hastings	*Mrs. Badcock. Unopposed.
	Mrs. Foxon.
Hornsey	Mrs. Barrenger. Ind.
	Mrs. Cave.
	*Mrs. Hill. Ind.
Hull	*Miss Anderson, J.P.
Ilford	*Mrs. Carrell. Unopposed.
Jarrow	Mrs. Trainor. Lab.
Leamington	*Miss Sargeant. Ind. Unopposed.
Leeds	*Mrs. Arnott. Lab.
	Mrs. Stanley Murphy. C. Unopposed.
Lincoln	Mrs. Lane. C.
Liverpool	*Miss A. McCormick. Centre.
	*Lady Muspratt. C.
	*Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., M.P. Unopposed.
	*Mrs. Whiteley. Lab.
Louth	Mrs. Marklew. Lab.
Macclesfield	*Mrs. Laird. Lab.
Manchester	*Mrs. Chorlton. Lab.
	Mrs. Gibbons.
	*Mrs. Mitchell. Lab.
Mansfield	*Mrs. Marriott. Lab.
Merthyr Tydvil	*Mrs. Edmunds, J.P.
Middlesbrough	*Mrs. Levick. C.
Monmouth	Mrs. Briggs. Lab.
Morecambe	Mrs. Bond. Ind.
Mossley	Mrs. Bottomley. Lib.
Newcastle	*Mrs. Auld. Lab.
	Mrs. Gibbin, J.P. Unopposed.
	Mrs. Newton. Lab.
	*Mrs. Taylor.
Newport	*Mrs. Poole.
Norwich	*Miss Mabel Clarkson. Lab. Unopposed.
	Mrs. Johnson. Unopposed.
Oldham	Mrs. Slocock. C.

Council.	Councillor.
Oswestry	*Mrs. Lodge. Ind. Unopposed.
Penzance	Miss Williams.
Portsmouth	Mrs. Ramsden.
Rawenstall	Mrs. Anderson. C.
Redcar	Mrs. Lonsdale. Ind.
Sandwich	Miss F. M. Rice.
Sheffield	Mrs. Ager. Lab.
	Mrs. Broomhead. Lab.
	Mrs. Cobby. Lab.
	Mrs. Gibb. Lab.
	Mrs. E. H. Miller. Lab.
	Mrs. Tebbutt. Lab.
Shrewsbury	Mrs. Murrell. C.
Smethwick	Mrs. Lennard. Lab.
Southampton	Miss Hillman. Lab.
Stafford	Miss Westhead. Ind.
Stockport	Miss Kate Johnson. Lib.
Stourbridge	*Miss Emily Francis. Unopposed.
Sunderland	*Mrs. Bell.
Thornaby	*Miss Tate. Lab.
Torquay	*Miss Wrey. Unopposed.
Tynemouth	Mrs. Brodie. Lab.
	*Mrs. Frater. Ind.
	Mrs. Ryan. Lab.
Wallsend	Mrs. Caldwell. Lab.
West Bromwich	Mrs. Jones. Lib.
Wrexham	*Mrs. McGowan. Ind.
Whitehaven	*Miss Kingswill. Ind.
Winchester	Lady Atkins. C.
Worcester	Mrs. Martin Buckle. C.
	Miss Ogilvy. Ind.
	Mrs. Palmer. Lab.

* Standing for re-election.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN SCOTLAND.

The Scottish Municipal Elections took place on 5th November and in the worst weather possible, so there was some excuse for the small polls which were as marked feature as in the English Elections. A Glasgow community was formerly stirred by a municipal election which was the main topic of the day, but the feeling now seems to be, "Oh, he'll get in whether I vote or not." Sixty-six candidates, of whom six were women, were nominated in Glasgow and two of the latter, Mrs. M'Lean and Mrs. Roberts, were returned. There are now seven women on the Glasgow Council. The percentage of voters recording their votes in Glasgow was 42.93 per cent. In Edinburgh four women were nominated and one, Mrs. Swan Brunton, was elected. We particularly regret that neither Miss M'Gregor nor Miss Gowan were returned as their co-operation would have been invaluable in the new work that lies before the Council. Women councillors were also returned in the following eight towns:—

Auchterarder	*Mrs. Gardner. Unopposed.
Banchory	Mrs. M'Rae.
Callander	*Mrs. Copeland. Unopposed.
Gourock	Mrs. Young. Mod. Unopposed.
Keith	*Mrs. Taylor.
Largs	*Baillie Mrs. Morris. Unopposed.
Laurencekirk	Mrs. Nelson.
Paisley	Mrs. Fern. Unopposed.

SOME OF THE NEWLY-ELECTED WOMEN COUNCILLORS.

Mrs. Spackman, who is the first woman to be elected to the Calne Council, is a trained nurse, having received her training at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool. She afterwards joined the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, and has held the following posts: County Superintendent for Derbyshire, five years; Inspector for South-West England, two years; and Nursing Superintendent for England, eight years.

Buxton is another town to elect women for the first time and Miss Moon, who was saved a contest, is a member of the Chapel Board of Guardians and has been a co-opted member of the Housing Committee for some time. Wallsend, too, has now a woman councillor, and Mrs. Ryan received a warm welcome from the Mayor at her first meeting last week. The establishment of a public library was an item of the Council's business and the proposal was cordially supported by the new woman councillor. At Grimsby Mrs. Marklew has been returned. For many years she has taken a keen interest in the public work of the town, especially in those branches which affect the welfare of women and children, and she is a warm supporter of the establishment of open-air schools. A third woman—Mrs. Lennard—is now serving on the Smethwick Council. Before its incorporation into Smethwick Mrs. Lennard was a member of the Oldbury Urban District Council and Chairman of the Libraries' Committee. She is a keen worker for Peace, and an active member of the League of Nations' Union and the Women's International League.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE CIVIL SERVICE.

We understand that the Royal Commission on the Civil Service will hold its next meeting on 9th December in Committee Room I of the House of Lords. The session, which will last all day, will be a public one, and we suggest that members of Societies should take this opportunity of gaining intimate and first-hand knowledge of the work of the Royal Commission and of showing that women are watching its work critically.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN BILL.

Although not unexpected, it is a great disappointment that the Bill that Captain Cazalet introduced was not reached for its second reading on Friday last.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

ILKLEY S.E.C.

The annual meeting of the Ilkley S.E.C. was held on 24th October, when the biennial election of officers and committee took place. Miss Nussey was re-elected President, and Mrs. Foster Hon. Secretary. Mrs. Millson resigned the Hon. Treasurership after holding the office for nine years and Miss Barber was elected in her place. The retiring committee were re-elected with the exception of Mrs. W. A. Tupton, who resigned after serving on the committee since the formation of the Society in 1913. The committee gained two new members, Dr. Marion Graves and Mrs. Barnett. An instructive address was given by Mrs. Hornabrook on the "Need for more Women on Local Government Bodies".

CARDIFF W.C.A.

Undaunted by the fact that she had taken part in an all-night sitting of the House of Commons, Dr. Ethel Bentham, M.P. for East Islington, gave her promised lecture at Cardiff to a largely attended meeting organized by the Cardiff W.C.A., the Cardiff Branch of the League of Nations Union, and the Cardiff Branch of the Federation of University Women. The chair was taken by the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. William Charles) and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. J. E. Edmunds, M.P. for Cardiff East, and seconded by Mrs. J. F. Rees, the wife of the recently appointed Principal of Cardiff University College.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT.

MADAM,—May I be permitted to supplement from the book of memory the tributes to Dame Millicent Fawcett?
It was consistent with her firm stand for the equal moral standard that she should preside when, many years ago, Mr. W. A. Coote, the leader of the National Vigilance Association, gave a memorable address on commercialized vice. He therein laid down that justice required that all parties to a sale should be held responsible, and Mrs. Fawcett from the chair expressed her entire concurrence. Her sympathy with younger workers, and with youth generally has been widely noticed.
But she also was solicitous for recognition of the labours of predecessors. It was she who wrote the obituary notice in *The Times* of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell in honour of the pioneer of Women in Medicine; and I would also recall that when the Stansfeld Trust was formed in Mrs. Pennington's drawing-room, Mrs. Fawcett spoke of Sir James Stansfeld as "the incomparable leader," and later presided at the first Stansfeld Lecture.

ANNIE LEIGH BROWNE.

[We greatly regret that the above letter was omitted from last week's issue.—Ed.]

MADAM,—I wonder if the annexed lines might be suitable for a little space in *THE WOMAN'S LEADER* about the time of Dame Millicent Fawcett's Memorial Service. I leave it to you.

A. F. TAYLOR.

21 St. James Street, Glasgow.

"Men make too much of mere mortality
I'd have them set gay banners floating free
Who seek expressions o'er the dust o' me

Set me sweet music swelling, not that I
Would be once thought on—while it swells the sky
But that it speaks the dreams I have adored
Defiant, majestic, rapturous in our Lord."

(J. Hamilton.)

MADAM,—The article by Mrs. Meritt Hawkes on abortion in your issue of 1st November must have stirred hundreds of your readers. Only those who are ignorant of the facts it describes can remain unmoved. May I, therefore, though the plans are in their earliest stage, say that it is hoped shortly to open a Birth Control Clinic in South Wales; that for the time being I am acting as Treasurer and Secretary of the scheme;

that we need money to run the Clinic, and that I shall be glad to send full details of the proposal to anyone who would like to have them. Mrs. Hawkes writes of Wales. The same might be said of any village and town in England where the women know no better.
(Mrs.) JANET CHANGE.

40 The Priors,
London, N.W. 3.

THE LAND OF DRUGS.

MADAM,—I have just seen your very pitiful and beautifully written article "A Land of Drugs". The picture it draws cannot be traversed and it is well that this tragic aspect of destitution should be known to the community at large. But I should like to remind your readers that not all those who feel deeply for poor "Bessie" and her kind consider that your Editorial note indicates the best way of grappling with the problem. To teach contraception as a means of relief for destitution, however acute, surely raises as many economic problems as it solves. The State may well find it a too convenient way of meeting social crises and it seems inevitable that the poor would ultimately find they had surrendered their right to parenthood as the price of maintenance. And from the medical point of view the widespread use of birth control, especially under adverse housing conditions, has its own dangers.

Perhaps a hint is given by your contributor as to another line of advance when she points out that the men regard fatherhood "as not very much their affair". But in fact it is their affair and it should not be beyond the possibility of education to make them realize this more strongly. A remedy such as contraception taught by the State to women could only have the effect of diminishing the already weakened sense of responsibility in the husband and ultimately of throwing a greater burden on the woman.

Finally there is one fact that puzzles me greatly when I am confronted by arguments such as those contained in your Editorial note. Abortion has always been extremely common among unmarried girls and work ng women (especially in the great industrial towns of the North) but it has of recent years increased greatly among married women of the educated classes who certainly know all about contraception. It is practised in and out of the medical profession to an extent which would have been incredible twenty years ago. Continental experience is similar. If knowledge of birth control diminishes abortion among working women it will be contrary to all previous experience.

LETITIA FAIRFIELD, M.D.

1 Raymond Buildings,
Gray's Inn, W.C.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

Thursday, 7th November.

MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS.

Mr. Beaumont asked the President of the Board of Education how many local education authorities have regulations limiting or forbidding the employment of married women teachers; how many married women teachers are employed in elementary schools; and what proportion this is of the whole number of women teachers employed.

Sir C. Trevelyan: I am afraid that I have no statistics showing how many of the local education authorities have regulations limiting or forbidding the employment of married women teachers. The total number of pensionable married women teachers, other than widows, in public elementary schools and centres, on the 31st March, 1929, was 11,963 out of the total of 116,771 women teachers employed, or a proportion of 10.25 per cent.

Mr. Beaumont: Is there any possibility of obtaining the figures for the local authorities who have these regulations?

Sir C. Trevelyan: I do not know that it is worth while to get a list of the authorities, but I will do what I can to find out the names.

CIVIL SERVICE (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Mr. Wise asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the terms of reference of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service are intended to enable the Commission to deal with the question of the admission of women to the diplomatic and consular services on the same terms as men.

Mr. Snowden: The terms of reference to the Royal Commission are, in my view, wide enough to enable it to deal with this amongst other questions of organization, recruitment, and remuneration in the Civil Service.

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COMING EVENTS.

B.B.C.

Wednesday, 27th November. 10.45 a.m. Mrs. A. Hamilton, M.P.: "The Week in Parliament."

Wednesday, 27th November. 10.45-11 a.m., "A Woman's Commentary," Mrs. Oliver Strachey.

Wednesday, 27th November. 3.30-3.45 p.m., "How We Manage Our Affairs," Mrs. Rackham, J.P.: "How the Council works outside our homes."

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

26th November. 1 p.m. 17 Buckingham Street, Strand. Luncheon. Speaker: Lady Abe Bailey: "Women in Aviation."

ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN.

27th November. 3 p.m. 46 Kensington Court, W. 8. Mr. E. Sharp: "Some Electrical Experiences in Australasia." Chair: Councillor Mrs. Gregory.

GUILDHOUSE W.C.A.

25th November. 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, S.W. 1. Miss E. Bartlett: "Hogarth and the Glories of English Art."

MORLEY COLLEGE FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

61 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.

22nd November. Phillip Kerr: "The United States." Chair: Sir Fabian Ware.

29th November. 8 p.m. W. Clarke Hall: "The Law and the Poor."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Acton W.C.A.—22nd November. 3 p.m. Municipal Offices, Winchester Street, W. 3. Mrs. H. Archdale: "The Nationality of Married Women."

Barnsley S.E.C.—27th November. 5.30. St. Mary's Parish Rooms. Mrs. Le Sueur: "The International O.D.C. and the Woman Worker."

SIX POINT GROUP.

26th November. 5 p.m. 92 Victoria Street, S.W. Miss D. Smyth: "Feminism in the Civil Service."

SUFFRAGETTE LECTURE.

25th November. 8.15 p.m. Caxton Hall, S.W. 1. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence: "Life and Work of Lady Constance Lytton." Chair: Miss Charlie Marsh.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

28th November. 4.30. Minerva Club, Hunter Street, W.C. 1. "The Recent Assembly (2)."

WOMEN'S PUBLIC LODGING HOUSE FUND.

22nd November. 3 p.m. A public meeting in support of Cecil Houses (Inc.) will be held at His Majesty's Theatre (by permission of Mr. C. B. Cochrane). Speakers include Miss Clemence Dane, Miss Edith Evans, Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, Mr. Short, M.P., Major Brunel Cohen, M.P., and many others.

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LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Bureau. Interviews 10 to 1, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily.

EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 190 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. 6d. (Victoria 5940.)

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 24th November, 6.30 p.m., Maude Royden: "Eternal Loss."

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