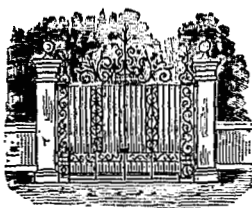


**Outside the Gates.****WOMEN.**

Mr. Grant, M.P., has given notice that on Tuesday, May 27th, he will call attention to the question of Women's Suffrage in the House of Commons and move a resolution.

It is great news that the Bill for adult suffrage, now before the House of Representatives in Australia, will probably pass without more than an academic discussion, and that hereafter over the whole of Australia every man and woman who is a born or naturalised subject of the King, and who has been six months in the Commonwealth will be entitled to vote at all Federal elections. Also personal attendance at the poll will no longer be necessary for any one living more than five miles from a polling booth, or who is absent from home on election day. With the whole great Continent of Australia enfranchised, surely the women of this country will not long be content to be negligible quantities in public affairs.

The Women's Liberal Federation at their Annual Conference, on Tuesday, passed the following Resolution, on the motion of Lady Carlisle, after a lively debate, by a substantial majority:—"This Council records its conviction that the assistance given by Liberal women to candidates for Parliament who will, if elected, vote against the enfranchisement of women, produces on politicians the impression that women are not in earnest in demanding their enfranchisement; this Council therefore instructs the Executive that the official organiser of the Federation be sent to help those candidates only who would support Women's Suffrage in the House of Commons." The resolution, which is surely founded on common sense principles, applies only to the central body and not to the local branches of the Federation.

The following memorandum on some points in the Education Bill introduced by the Government, "to make further provision with respect to Education in England and Wales," has been issued by the Women's Local Government Society, 17, Tothill Street, Westminster, and is a timely warning concerning a measure which is retrograde and reactionary. On the soundness and efficiency of the education of its people the greatness of a nation in large measure depends. If this is deficient, then the nation must inevitably take a second place to those whose education is on a higher plane. The question is therefore one of supreme importance, not only at the present time but in the future, for no less a matter than our national supremacy or decline is affected by it:—

**MEMORANDUM.**

The Committee of the Women's Local Government Society invite attention to the following outline and criticism of certain main features of the Education Bill, which would affect the present and future position of women in relation to education.

I.—The Bill contains provisions as to Higher Education and Elementary Education, and defines the former as "education other than elementary."

II.—The Bill provides for the creation of Local Education Authorities, and further provides that to each Local Education Authority there shall be one or more Education Committees to be constituted by scheme.

**LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES.**

The Council of every County and of every County Borough is to be the Local Education Authority, that is, for Higher Education.

NOTE.—Women are ineligible as members of County and County Borough Councils, and therefore no woman will be able to serve as a member of the Local Authority for Higher Education.

The Council of every County and of every County Borough may constitute itself the Local Education Authority for Elementary Education also: provided that the Council of any non-County Borough with a population of over 10,000 and the Council of any Urban District with a population of over 20,000 may constitute itself as such Authority within the area of its own borough or district. Wherever a Council avails itself of these permissive powers the School Board and the School Attendance Committee will be abolished.

Note.—Although to School Boards women are eligible on the same terms as men, yet, because women are ineligible as County Councillors and as Borough Councillors, they will be unable to serve as members of the new Local Authorities for Elementary Education, except in a few of the larger Urban Districts.

The functions that will be directly fulfilled by a Local Education Authority are highly important:—

- (a) To raise and allot money for Education.
- (b) To make the Scheme by which its Education Committee will be constituted, after the Scheme has been approved by the Board of Education.
- (c) To select and appoint at least a majority of the members of its Education Committee.
- (d) To appoint, on the nomination (where it appears desirable) of other bodies, persons of experience, and persons acquainted with the needs of the various kinds of schools in the area for which the Council acts.

QUERY.—Ought women to acquiesce without protest in these great powers being conferred on Councils consisting of men only?

**LOCAL EDUCATION COMMITTEES.**

The constitution of Local Education Committees will vary accordingly to the Scheme locally adopted.

NOTE.—It seems improbable that the co-operation of women on these committees will be adequately secured: for—

- (i.) Women will have no share in making the local Schemes.
- (ii.) The appointing bodies will consist of men only.
- (iii.) The appointing bodies will have no special qualifications with respect to education, and will therefore be the less likely to realise the need for the adequate co-operation of women.
- (iv.) The Committees appointed by the least enlightened of the Councils will be those on which the services of women of independent mind and experience will be most needed; and yet it will be precisely those Councils that will be the least likely to appoint such women.

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