

would be a terrible calamity for the women teachers of the country if they had no authoritative women to appeal to in the difficulties of their profession. If men had not made themselves so often ridiculous she might think that they had done so now for the first time. She did not agree with Mrs. Bunting that half a loaf was better than no bread. She did not think they were getting even half a loaf; they were offered merely a grain of unground Indian wheat without any water, or yeast, or fuel. They had got as little as the Government dared offer to them.

Lady Frances Balfour did not think that that would be a wise amendment to pass. Women, it was true, would be no longer eligible for election upon School Boards, but neither would men, because School Boards would no longer exist.

Mrs. Broadley Reid said that her amendment did not refer to School Boards, but to the educational authorities.

Lady Frances Balfour thought the power of the bodies upon which women might serve under the Bill had been too much minimised. She wished greatly that women might be elected to the bodies that elected the educational committees, but that at this moment was not possible. She thought they should go forward, taking the Bill as far as it went, in the spirit in which it was offered—the genuine desire of the Government that women should help in the education of the country. She thought the Government had a claim on the sympathy of everybody who cared for education in the difficulties in which they were placed. She moved the rejection of the amendment.

Miss Clifford seconded. The preamble was rejected by a majority of ten votes.

In this connection there appeared to be some confusion in the minds of delegates as to the difference between Educational *Authorities* and *Committees*. The Education Bill will, if it passes, abolish School Boards, and it will, in Boroughs, make Town Councils the Educational Authority. Women serve on School Boards on the same terms as men, but are not eligible for Town Councils. Hence women cannot be elected by the people, as they should be, on to the Educational *Authority*—that is, the Town Council—but must be squeezed in on to the Educational *Committee* by the vote and consent of the Town Councils. We, of course, supported Mrs. Broadley Reid's preamble, and are of opinion that women would do well to stand aside in educational matters until they can take their share of this national work by right and not by courtesy. It is this humble "thank you" for crumbs which makes it possible for male legislators to withhold the whole loaf. Resist unjust legislative diet, and they will not dare to let us starve.

#### REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN ON BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILS.

Miss Louisa Stevenson, Edinburgh, moved, on behalf of the Women's Local Government Society:—

"That, in view of the proposal of the Government to entrust the control of education to County and Borough Councils, the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland urges the Government to introduce without delay a Bill to render women eligible to serve on such Councils."

Speaking to the resolution, she asked what opportunity the members of the Town and County Councils would have of learning the fitness or aptitude of women

in their respective districts for carrying on their work. She thought they might learn a great deal from the action of these same bodies when called upon to appoint members of their technical education committees. Of the 110 Councils who were authorised to appoint women to their technical instruction committees only fifteen had availed themselves of the opportunity. There were those who thought that the position of women was advanced enormously by the proposals in the Education Bill, but she was afraid she could not agree to that. The only satisfactory solution of the problem was that they should do everything in their power to secure that women should be made eligible as members of Borough and County Councils. It was, she thought, open to regret that the Government did not pass a Bill of that kind before bringing in their Education Bill. There was not such an enormous amount of efficiency in the public service amongst men that the world could afford to do without any help, however small, that might be possessed by women.

Miss Leigh Browne seconded, and the resolution was adopted by a large majority.

#### THE PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Miss Louisa Stevenson, Edinburgh, moved, on behalf of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies—

"That without the firm foundation of the Parliamentary franchise for women, there is no permanence for any advance gained by them."

It would, she said, be nothing short of disastrous if the country were to lose the services of so many efficient women whose whole time and lives were occupied in ministering to the comfort of the poorest of the land. She could not understand why the extension of the franchise had been so long in being passed. The country required the services of women, and work of the highest importance was left undone because women had not the Parliamentary vote.

Mrs. Arthur Francis seconded, and the resolution was adopted. There were three or four dissentients.

The adopting of this resolution by the National Council is an immense step forward upon the part of the Union—for which let us be thankful.

#### WOMEN AS INSPECTORS OF PRISONS.

Mrs. Sheldon Amos proposed—

"That it is most desirable that women inspectors of prisons should be appointed in the interest of the women serving their sentences, and the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland now assembled in Edinburgh record their obligation to Mr. Ernest Flower, M.P., and offer their support to him in his thoughtful exertions to procure this needed reform of prison management."

Miss Lidgett seconded.

It was also, on the motion of Mrs. Percy Bunting (on behalf of the Legislation Sectional Committee of the National Union of Women Workers), seconded by Miss Greenlees, Glasgow, agreed to emphasise the need of women inspectors for inebriate homes.

#### BARMAIDS.

Miss Gray, on behalf of the Industrial Sectional Committee of the National Union of Women Workers, moved—

"That this Council urges its members to use influence with all licensing magistrates to take into consideration the possibility of making the grant-

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