

ONE LAW FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

A MASS MEETING AT WESTMINSTER.

Since the beginning of the war there have been a great number of instances of the determination of the Government to put women into a category as second-class citizens. The Women's Services, the Fire Service, the Civil Servants and the women working in ordnance factories and for contractors for the Government have all had to work very hard to try to remove unfair treatment in the matter of conditions of work, recognition of service, pay, pensions, etc. It took three years to establish equal compensation for war injuries for men and women. It is surely a waste of energy to tackle these injustices one by one. While we are attending to one form of discrimination against women, others are cropping up and are becoming established in our law and custom.

A campaign is starting to sweep away all the sex discriminations in our law by means of a simple three-clause Bill, the Equal Citizenship (Blanket) Bill. This is drafted with a view also to preventing the nullification of its intention, as was the case of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act of 1919, which allowed the Government, by Orders in Council, to prevent the entry of women into certain departments of the Civil Service. The Bill will establish the principle that every citizen should be upon the same footing before the law and will govern future legislation so that it shall not infringe this principle by the introduction of discriminations based on sex.

There are over 20 laws which may be presumed to be automatically amended if this Bill passes into law. A leaflet (price 2d. post free) giving details of the many injustices which will thus be set right can be obtained from the Headquarters of the Campaign, Women's Publicity Planning Association, 14, Dartmouth Street, London, S.W.1 (Abbey 1132).

A great effort will be put behind the campaign. But scarcely more effort is required to establish complete equality of men and women in our law than has been expended in endeavouring to establish most elementary rights. Women have been trying both in England and in Geneva for 20 years to win the right to retain their birth-right of nationality as a man can do unless he takes steps to change it for another nationality. This Bill will remove married women from the category of those ineligible to become naturalised British subjects alongside of minors and lunatics.

Another question which we hope to clear up by this short cut is that of the right of a married woman to her own savings and her Income Tax obligations. There is considerable indignation against the system which deducts Income Tax from a married woman's earnings which are credited to her husband for payment after the war. And this is aggravated when a married woman finds that her husband has the power to nominate any person to receive this post-war credit in the event of his death.

If women do not combine for an offensive against these discriminations they will be driven back at the end of the war into a limited number of trades, which will necessarily be very overcrowded and because they will be entirely or largely women's trades, will be very much underpaid. We are accustomed to the attitude of the Government that a woman must live upon less than that required by a man. We resent, however, the assumption that the children dependent upon a woman can live on less than the children dependent upon a man.

Yet in 1940 the Workmen's Compensation Act of that year introduces a new factor by providing for supplementary allowances for the children dependent upon an injured male workman and denying them for dependent children of a widow woman who is injured while at work.

The principle therefore of sex equality in our law must be established or there will be no end to such injustices.

We call upon women in all professions and trades to combine and to rally to a mass meeting in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, September 4th, at 2.30 p.m., to hear the Bill explained by Mrs. Rebecca D. Sieff, Mrs. Corbett Ashby and others. Tickets, 2s. 6d. and 1s., from W.P.P.A., 14, Dartmouth Street, London, S.W.1.

EMBARKATION LEAVE.

Let us pretend this week will last.
Forget the present. Re-live the past.
Away from the noise of raided towns.
Under the wings of the Sussex downs,
There is no sorrow : there is no war.
Just love and laughter as before.
Through the lattice window, the sunlight gleams
On the pewter jugs, and the old oak beams.
The tits have built in the willow tree
As they did last year. Did you ever see
The garden looking quite so gay
As it seems to both of us to-day ?
Delphiniums are a deeper blue.
Love-in-a-mist, and lupins, too.

Moonlight now on the red roof falls.
A lonely owl in the orchard calls.
Hollyhocks tap at the window pane.
Can you see the glow-worms in the lane ?
How far too quickly night is here.
(Oh ! were you ever quite so dear ?)
Unforgettable hours slip by.
Till the flush of dawn is in the sky.
Welded together inseparably
By the magic of Love's alchemy.
Slowly, we wake to Life again—
Armoured with strength, to meet its pain.

Now, you are speeding across the sea.
And I'm bathing the youngest evacuee.

H. TREVELYAN-THOMSON.

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

- "Auberon Herbert, Crusader for Liberty." S. Hutchinson Harris.
- "Sand in the Glass." An Autobiography. Michael G. Llewelyn.
- "Mary Shelley." Glynn Grylls.

FICTION.

- "The Moving Finger." Agatha Christie.
- "Daylight on Saturday." J. B. Priestley.
- "Yellow Tapers for Paris." Bruce Marshall.
- "A Museum Piece." Eden Phillpotts.
- "The Night Air is Dangerous." Sutherland Scott.
- "Murder Chop Chop." James Norman.
- "Tales from Bective Bridge." Mary Lavin.
- "Aprons of Fig Leaves." Dorothy Crisp.
- "Frossia." A Novel of Russia. E. M. Almedingen.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- "Bridging the Atlantic." Sir Philip Gibbs, K.B.E.
- "Wind of Freedom." Compton Mackenzie.
- "Outposts of Victory." Gordon Young.
- "Empire Days." Paul H. Emden.
- "Europe in Revolt." Rene Kraus.
- "War and Politics in China." Sir John T. Pratt.
- "Latin America." Preston E. James.

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