

CURRENT EVENTS.

The International labour office of the League of Nations has issued "a Message to Women" signed by all eight women members of the British House of Commons. It is declared that evidence of the non-partizan character of the international labour organization is contained in the fact that the call to support its work was endorsed by members of all three political parties in Great Britain. The message says: "The international labour organization of the league has given strong impetus to a realization of many of the aspirations of the women's movement and it should be actively supported by the women of all countries and all classes." The signatures run: Nancy Astor, Katherine Atholl, Margaret Bondfield, Dorothy Jewson, Susan Lawrence, Mabel Philipson, Vera Terrington and Margaret Wintringham.

* * * *

The ministerial appointments in connection with the Labour Government in England have been completed by the following list:—William Graham (Edinburgh Central), who is one of the intellectuals of the Labour party; Frederick Hall (Normanton, west riding, Yorkshire), who is an examiner; Thomas Kennedy (Kirkcaldy), one of the ablest exponents of Marxian Socialism in Britain, and John Robertson (Lanark, Bothwell), who started to work in a mine at 11 years of age and chose the night shift for years so as to be able to go to school in the daytime.

Treasurer of the King's Household—Thomas Griffiths (Pontypool, Monmouth), a former half-timer at the tin plate works, earning fourpence a day. He entered Ruskin College when 33 and maintained himself at Oxford with his wife and family on 50 shillings a week.

Comptroller of the Royal Household—John Parkinson (Wigan), who began work in the coal mines as a half-timer at ten years of age and became a full-timer at twelve.

Vice-Chamberlain of the Household—John Davison (Smethwick), who began work in a boot shop.

All are Labour members of the House of Commons. Their court duties will be largely nominal.

* * * *

The Gleaves Doyle Memorial, which provides for four prizes for the best original essays on "How Peace between Nations can best be preserved," has been donated by the widow and family of the late William Gleaves Doyle who, at the time of his death, was European representative of the League of Nations Society in Canada. The prizes will be awarded to pupils or under-graduates in any recognized Canadian educational institution, the various classes being those under fifteen years of age, those of fifteen and under eighteen years of age, those of eighteen years of age or over, the essays to be written in English or French. It

is announced that full particulars of the competition are in course of preparation.

* * * *

It is said that Lord Haldane, Lord Chancellor in the Labour Government, will not draw his salary of £10,000 annually as Lord Chancellor, but merely £6,000 as Lord of Appeal. He will also leave the official residence to which he is entitled in the occupation of Lord Cave, who was Chancellor in the Baldwin ministry.

* * * *

The *Manitoba Gazette* of January 12, 1924, announces the appointment of the following as King's Counsel: Geoffrey Henry Walker, of Winnipeg (for many years Prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench); William Elliott Macara, of Winnipeg (for many years Registrar-General of Titles); Harry Platt Grundy, of Winnipeg; Esten Kenneth Williams, of Winnipeg; James Langstaff Bowman, of Dauphin; Charles Joseph Holland Locke, of Winnipeg; Robert Jacob, of Winnipeg; David Campbell, of Winnipeg; Archibald Charles Campbell, of Winnipeg; William Frederick Hull, of Winnipeg; Albert Charles Ferguson, of Winnipeg; John William Eldridge Armstrong, of Winnipeg.

* * * *

Everyone who has followed the fortunes of the League of Nations since its inception will regret that Lord Robert Cecil has ceased to have any official connection with it. He is replaced by Lord Parmoor in the British representation on the League. Lord Cecil's efforts on behalf of the League, first as South African delegate and president of the League of Nations union, afterward as British representative on the Council, are well known to all League supporters, and only in the last month his influence had much to do with reconciling the wide differences of opinion over the matter of the Hungarian loan.

* * * *

The Supreme Court of the United States handed down a judgment on the 28th ultimo affirming the right of a State to prevent National Banks within its borders from establishing branch establishments.

The court's decision, which settles a controversy that has shaken the banking world for many months, was handed down in the case of the First National Bank of St. Louis. The bank had demurred from a Missouri state law prohibiting it from establishing branches and, losing in the lower federal court, had appealed. The decision of the lower court was confirmed.

Eighteen states had joined Missouri in maintaining the right of the state governments to prevent national banks from indulging in branch banking. The court not only upheld that right, but held that the St. Louis bank case had been properly brought, and that the Missouri law was not in conflict with federal statutes.

Sutherland, J. delivered the opinion, from which Taft, C.J. and Van Devanter and Butler, JJ. dissented.

The opinion stated that the state law does not conflict with the laws of the United States. Sutherland, J. declared that the federal law does not contemplate the establishment of branch banks by national banks. National banks had operated for more than half a century without branches, the justice said, without any apparent detriment to their efficiency.

* * * *

A Universities' Labor Party has been organized which will select candidates to contest every university seat in Great Britain at future elections. The leaders in the new organization are Arthur Greenwood and Professor Finlay, of Manchester University, both of whom unsuccessfully contested university seats in the last election.

* * * *

The following item from the *Christian Science Monitor* is fruitful of thought for those who are wondering if they really have been furnished with a means of grace in the apostolic writings of Bernard Shaw and H. G. Wells:—

"Those who claim that the Bible is losing its hold on the hearts of men have difficulty in explaining why, as a single example, a Harvard professor, Charles T. Copeland, has been asked to read from the Bible for three-quarters of an hour to the midday crowds casually dropping into St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston, Mass. On all sides evidences point to a constant increase in the reading of the Bible throughout the world. Since the Japanese catastrophe, for instance, half a million volumes have been reproduced by photographic process and rushed through to the devastated areas. Hardly an indication that interest is on the wane."
