

THE VOTE.
JULY 16, 1926.

A MOTHERS' DEATH-TRAP.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
NON-PARTY.

VOL. XXVII. No. 873.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1926

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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THE GARDEN OF EXPERIENCE.

Out of the Anguish of Pain proceeds Endurance.
From the travail of Adversity is born Understanding.
At the Shrine of Sorrow stand Sympathy and Love.
Welcome, therefore, Pain, Adversity and Sorrow,
For from these spring the most beautiful Flowers of
Life.

LOUISA THOMSON-PRICE.

Our friend and gallant colleague, Mrs. Thomson-Price, was born into a high Tory family, the daughter of a Captain in the 2nd Life Guards. She early began to think for herself, was a lecturer for the Women's Liberal Association, spoke on Suffrage (with Lord Haldane) in 1891, and welcomed John Burns when he came out of prison to establish that right of free speech in Trafalgar Square used by us to such good purpose ten years later.

For 40 years she was a busy journalist, attached for 28 years to the editorial staffs of two London dailies; but she was also an artist and a poet, writing illustrated articles for the dailies, authoritative articles for the financial press, political articles and political cartoons, designing humorous Suffrage cartoons (types of Anti-suffragettes, etc.) for THE VOTE, and contributing to it many much-appreciated articles. She edited several papers, and was Consulting Editor and Director of THE VOTE.

Already a member of the National Union, she became one of the first members of the Hampstead branch of the Women's Freedom League, and her experience and advice were always generously available.

She sat upon our National Executive Committee, took a large part in speaking and working for the League, in the Picketing of the House of Commons,

the Census Protest, Poster Parades, etc., and for many years devoted all her time at "Fairs" and parties to the exhausting art of "character delineations" for the League.

She was a member of the Council of the Society of Women Journalists and of the Journalists' Advisory Board of the Lyceum Club.

An exceedingly able business woman, she was a Governor of the Universal Cookery and Food Association, sat on many directorates, and was Vice-Chairman of the art firm of S. Hildesheimer & Co., Ltd.

Mrs. Thomson Price specialised in company law and procedure, and was a keen critic at shareholders' meetings. In 1922 she organised and presided over a Committee of Investigation into the affairs of the Smithfield and Argentine Meat Co., Ltd., under whose advice the Company was, later, successfully reconstructed.

Ten years ago she became a director of Slaters, Ltd., at that time paying no dividend, and with £1 shares at 5s. 3d. Here, too, she presided over a Committee of Investigation, being elected Deputy-

Chairman in the following year. Last May, after a discreditable attempt of a few persons to oust her from command, she was unanimously elected to the Chair, and announced a profit for the year of over £26,000.



LOUISA THOMSON-PRICE.

All this time she never missed a weekly meeting of her Board, and when too ill to walk arranged to be taken to the board-room, and by her indomitable will carried out her duties. The last few months, unable to leave her room, she still went through all the business of the week with the officials of her firm.

A wonderful union of high qualities of head and heart inspired affection and admiration in all who knew her. With all her splendid courage, self-control, integrity, boundless energy, and industry, Mrs. Thomson-Price was a most loyal comrade—cheery, friendly, optimistic, and of ready wit. She followed eagerly the fortunes of *THE VOTE*, and was delighted with our "strike issues."

We close with two verses from "The Hills of Peace," the little poem she sent us a few weeks ago:—

Behind the valley rise the hills, their peaks pierce
through the sky,
Beyond their flower-decked slopes and swards, their
summits, snow-tipped, lie;
Away from stir and stress below, and free from
strife's alarm,
The hills stand in majestic line—august, serene and
calm.

Come up from the valley to the Hills of Peace,
Let the fret and swirl and sweat and endless striving
cease,
Leave the ploughshare in the field—lay down tool
or hod,
Rise above the mists of earth and seek the Peace
of God.

The Tribute of a close Personal Friend.

It is unusual, even in these days, for a woman to wield such an influence in the business world, but in her case it was the more remarkable in that those great abilities were a treasure held in an earthen vessel of the frailest, most sorely afflicted type. Few people who heard her resonant voice speaking from a platform had any idea that to walk across a room was a painful, sometimes an impossible feat.

With unflinching courage she held to her duties to the last, and passed away able to say: "I have finished the work that Thou gavest me to do." That work has been to lift higher the banner of business integrity and to make the lot of every worker with whom she had anything to do a pleasant, healthful, interesting, and properly paid occupation.

But those who knew Mrs. Thomson-Price as personal friend and literary comrade saw another side of her jewel-like personality. It was one full of charm and unexpectedness. A little sketch, a few verses, a humorous recollection were always ready to light up the most ordinary subject. An ardent enthusiast, with very broad sympathies, she never stayed her hand when her pen could be used, nor her voice when speech could help any cause.

LUCY H. YATES.

NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS.

By MARIAN BERRY.

Turkish women's organizations working for the enfranchisement and advancement of women have formed a Federation. A woman's newspaper will be issued, and, in addition to the propaganda work for the vote, the new Federation will do its utmost to improve the present methods of relief of the poor. Public health problems, too, will receive careful consideration, as well as matters affecting the care and well-being of the child and young person. In the future, when the vote has been gained, it is hoped to take active measures in regard to the improvement of housing, the openings for women in professional and industrial life, and in support of the Temperance Cause.

THE VOTE AND THE PRESS GALLERY.

The following correspondence has taken place between the Secretary of the Women's Freedom League and the Serjeant-at-Arms:—

June 26th, 1926.

Admiral Sir Colin Keppel, K.C.I.E.,
Serjeant-at-Arms,

House of Commons, S.W.1.

Dear Sir,—At the request of my Committee I am again writing to ask if you will kindly grant permission to a representative of our paper *THE VOTE* to go to the Press Gallery of the House of Commons. While Parliament is in session we devote a good deal of space in our paper to Parliamentary news.

Now that so many women in this country have the Parliamentary vote, and we have women Members of the House of Commons, we think that a representative of a women's political paper should have the opportunity of recording in that paper a woman's impressions of the proceedings of Parliament. We have for many years asked for this permission, and we very much hope that you will find that you are able to grant it.

I venture to enclose you a copy of the current issue of *THE VOTE*.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
June 29th, 1926.

Madam,—In reply to your letter of 26th instant, I am writing to inform you, as I did through the Assistant Serjeant-at-Arms on January 27th, 1925, that your application to have a representative of *THE VOTE* admitted to the Press Gallery of the House of Commons has been noted, and when a vacancy occurs the claims of the paper will be placed before Mr. Speaker with the many others.

There is no vacancy at present.

I am, Madam,
Yours faithfully,
COLIN KEPPEL, Admiral,
Serjeant-at-Arms.

Miss F. A. Underwood.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

SIR ROBERT NEWMAN (U., Exeter) asked the Home Secretary last Thursday if he is aware that a child, six years of age, was permitted recently to be taken to Strangeways Prison, Manchester, to see his mother on the eve of her execution; and why, as this is the second execution of a woman in England during the last three years, after 15 years without such executions, he has departed from the previous practice of the Home Office in this respect? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, my hon. Friend is under a misapprehension. There has been no departure from the Home Office practice in this matter. SIR R. NEWMAN: Can the right hon. Gentleman give any reason why, for 15 or 20 years, no such execution has taken place, and now there have been two during the last three years? Were these crimes fewer during that 15 years than they are now? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: There has only been one such case since I have been Home Secretary, and it is a very disagreeable duty to have to deal with these cases. There has only been one case of a woman in which I thought it absolutely essential that the law should take its course, and this is the only one since I have been Home Secretary.

MR. PALING (Lab., Doncaster): Is it the case that there has been a greater disposition not to grant reprieves since the present Home Secretary has been in office?

HON. MEMBERS: Withdraw!

MR. SPEAKER: Questions with regard to advice given to the Crown are not permissible.

IN PARLIAMENT.

British Woman Delegate.

CAPT. WEDGWOOD BENN (Lib., Leith) asked the Prime Minister whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to send a woman as a fully accredited delegate to the Assembly of the League of Nations in September? THE PRIME MINISTER: Yes, Sir. It is proposed to include a woman in the delegation, as is usual. If the hon. Member cares to question me on Monday next, I hope I may then be in a position to give the names of the six British delegates.

Last Monday, CAPT. BENN asked the Prime Minister whether he can now give the names of the delegates to the Assembly of the League of Nations in September? THE PRIME MINISTER: I would ask the hon. and gallant Gentleman to postpone this question. CAPT. BENN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that some of the information has appeared in *The Times*? THE PRIME MINISTER: I have not seen it.

Nursing Associations.

MR. PENNY (U., Kingston-on-Thames) asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of the inability of nursing association committees to deal with the technical side of their activities, he will introduce legislation enforcing the composition of an advisory committee of local medical men in all cases in addition to the regulations for inspection now in force? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): It is clearly desirable that a nursing association which undertakes the management of an institution such as a maternity home should have the benefit of medical advice, but my right hon. Friend doubts whether it would be expedient to attempt to enforce, by legislation, such a condition as my hon. Friend suggests. MR. PENNY: Will the hon. Gentleman consider any alternative way of doing this? Seeing that these institutions rely to a large extent on local subscriptions, it would create confidence if they had local medical men to inspect them periodically. SIR K. WOOD: The hon. Member knows that in particular cases the Minister of Health has already made various suggestions for improvement. If the hon. Member has any suggestions to make, I shall be happy to consider them.

Housing (Chertsey).

COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Minister of Health if he is aware that the Chertsey Rural District Council have allowed the plans of their new houses to be inspected by two women, who have made suggestions as to the most suitable type of accommodation, and will he suggest to local authorities the advisability of obtaining women's points of view when they are proceeding with their housing schemes? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: In a manual which was issued by my Department on the preparation of State-aided housing schemes, it was suggested that in considering the internal arrangements of houses local authorities would no doubt obtain the co-operation and advice of competent women. I do not think it is necessary to make further representations to local authorities in the matter.

Housing (Statistics).

MR. H. WILLIAMS (U., Reading) asked the Minister of Health if he is now in a position to state the total number of houses completed in Great Britain in the twelve months ended 31st March, 1926? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: The total number of houses completed in England and Wales during the year ended 31st March, 1926, was 173,426—106,987 with State assistance and 66,439 without State assistance. As regards figures for Scotland, I would suggest that the hon. Member should address a similar question to my right hon. Friend, the Secretary for Scotland. MR. WILLIAMS: Is that number larger than the number for the previous twelve months? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir, considerably larger.

Sexual Offences.

SIR PHILIP DAWSON (U., Lewisham, W.) asked the Home Secretary whether he can give any information as to the approximate date of the issue of the Circular dealing with the administrative action on the lines of the Report of the Departmental Committee on sexual offences against young persons? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: The recommendations that do not involve legislation are receiving consideration; but I have been too pressed with other work to consider the terms of a Circular.

Post Office, Clerical Class, London (Girls).

MISS LAWRENCE (Lab., East Ham, N.) asked the Postmaster-General the grounds upon which his Department has recently recruited a large number of girls straight from school for clerical class posts in the London area, thus blocking the promotion of the several hundred writing assistants and members of the typing grades who have been classified by his Department as suitable for early promotion to the clerical class; whether he is aware that among these open recruits there are a certain number of very junior writing assistants who, by reason of their length of service or low standard of efficiency, have not been classified as suitable for direction promotion; and whether he will consider the grant of preference of appointment to the clerical class to those writing assistants and typists who, as stated, are fitted to perform their work? SIR WILLIAM MITCHELL-THOMSON: Writing assistants and typists with the necessary qualifications are given a substantial avenue of promotion to the clerical class; but the existence of this avenue cannot be allowed to interfere with the recruitment of the bulk of the clerical class by the normal method of open competition. The fact that certain writing assistants and typists have been successful in the competition does not, in my opinion, give any cause for complaint to their senior colleagues who have not been successful.

Passports.

COL. DAY asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what regulations exist as to the issue of passports to persons about to be married who wish to spend their honeymoon abroad; and whether he can make any statement for the guidance of persons so concerned? SIR AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: In the case of persons about to be married and wishing to leave this country immediately after the ceremony, it is the practice to issue post-dated passports in the married names, and to hand them to the officiating minister or registrar for delivery as soon as the wedding has taken place. Information to this effect is furnished to all inquirers.

[We should like to know if this practice would be adhered to in the case of a bride who insists upon keeping her maiden name after marriage.]

WHAT WE WANT.

We still have to pay the bills for our expenses of the Great Suffrage March, some £35. Who will send it in, so that the splendid piece of work can be self-supporting? If you were unable to come to London and march yourself, send your contribution and share in it.

Summer propaganda work is now in full swing; this means expense for Organisers, travelling, etc. If you cannot help by speaking, VOTE-selling, etc., send your contribution and so share in it.

144, High Holborn,
W.C.1.

E. KNIGHT,
Hon. Treas.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 16th, 1926.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

A MOTHERS' DEATH-TRAP.

The Ministry of Health, through one of its officers—Dr. Margaret Hogarth—has held a full inquiry into the cases of septicaemia which have occurred in Kingston. It will be remembered that eight deaths from septicaemia have taken place during the past year in this borough, the mothers in every case having been treated at a particular local Nursing Home or in their own homes by certain nurses from it. In a long letter received from the Minister by the Chairman of the Nursing Association, it is stated that the unfortunate events of the past few months cannot be ascribed to want of competence or diligence on the part of the Committee of the Association, but they reveal clearly that some members of the staff have proved both incompetent and negligent. Further, there was grave laxity on the part of the superintendent in the administration of the Maternity Home and of the outside midwifery practice. She apparently failed to realise the risk of permitting the same nurse to have access to infected and non-infected patients, and she even allowed a nurse who was herself suffering from septic infection to remain on duty, in spite of her manifest unfitness to continue to attend maternity patients. It is pointed out also that the medical practitioner in charge of one case appears to have failed to diagnose the condition or to recognise the patient as a source of infection. The letter further states that the Minister is compelled, with great reluctance, to recognise that members of a trained and well-qualified staff have failed in their duty to their Committee, to their patients, and to their profession, and that their negligence has contributed in large measure to the calamities which were the occasion of the inquiry. Moreover, he cannot escape the impression that the medical care of more than one of the cases which were investigated does not seem, so far as the evidence shows, to have been in accordance with the principles of sound midwifery practice.

The negligence outlined in the above letter has had tragic consequences involving motherhood in disaster. We are glad to learn that this Maternity Home has at last been temporarily closed, and that the Committee, which resigned *en bloc*, has now been reconstituted, and includes several of the old members, as it is so clearly stated that no blame attached to any members of the Committee, who have the sincere sympathy of the local public of Kingston, where their work in the district has for many years been so beneficial. A new staff is a necessity, and can be found whenever it is decided to reopen the Maternity Home, and the experience of the past year will, of course, act as a safeguard against further negligence of this kind; but the general public, and women especially, are demanding to know why the inquiry was so long delayed, and why, when the Home was clearly a death-trap, the Health Minister allowed the work of the Home still to continue.

WOMEN IN KENYA.

The Legislative Council of Kenya has recently passed a Bill imposing the death penalty for assaults on white women by natives. The Governor of Kenya has reported to our Colonial Office two extremely brutal attacks of a sexual nature by natives on European women, which occurred during the last few weeks, adding that the police have had information of several others during the year in which the victims were unwilling to give evidence, and no case could, therefore, be brought.

Commenting on this penalty in a letter to *The Times*, last week, the Archdeacon of Kavirondo, President of the Kavirondo Taxpayers' Welfare Association, puts in a plea for African girls. He states that assaults on African girls by young African males are not uncommon. The Kavirondo Taxpayers' Welfare Association (Kavirondo being a large native reserve in Kenya) supported a girl last year in an appeal to the Courts. She had been assaulted and violated by a man who wished to marry her, a man whom both her family and she herself had refused. The magistrate refused to convict, and stated his opinion that the kind of action complained of was so common, having the sanction almost of a tribal custom, that if convictions were secured most of the young men of the tribe would be implicated. It seemed monstrous to the Archdeacon and his friends, as it seems to us, that a girl—a British African subject—should appeal to the Courts for redress for such an outrage, and that her appeal should be turned down. In the last two years the Archdeacon has interested himself in five cases in which African girls wished to institute proceedings under the Indian Penal Code to obtain redress for alleged rape. In the first two of those five cases, the magistrate refused to allow actions to begin, on the ground that the Government had not informed the Council of Elders that the action complained of was an offence under the Indian Penal Code.

In conclusion, the Archdeacon maintains that the proper place to familiarise the African with civilising ideas is in the reserves, and that it is not enough to teach Africans by legal penalty that when they leave their reserves to become wage-earners they must reverence English womanhood, but that they must be taught to reverence and respect the sanctity of the womanhood of their own race. He rightly argues that there is but little good in imposing the death penalty outside of the reserves, while inside the reserves the lighter penalties of the Indian Penal Code are not enforced, and that, if our trusteeship means anything, it means that we endeavour to give to African girls the same measure of protection which we give in our Courts to our own race.

BEST WISHES TO MISS BONDFIELD!

The polling day for the Wallsend by-election, caused by the resignation of Sir Patrick Hastings on account of ill-health, has been fixed for July 21st. Miss Bondfield (Labour), Mr. A. C. Currie (Liberal), and Mr. Sam Howard (Conservative) were nominated last Saturday, and a keen contest is taking place. The Women's Freedom League sends its very best wishes to Miss Bondfield, and wholeheartedly hopes for her success next Wednesday. More women Members of the House of Commons are an urgent necessity, all the more urgent because of the recent decision of the House of Lords to exclude them from the Upper House. Every year there is an increasing amount of social legislation passed through both Houses which directly concerns women equally with men, and sometimes even more, and there ought to be women Members of both Houses to discuss such legislation. Miss Bondfield has proved her worth in the Lower House. She is an admirable administrator, and was the first woman to become a Member of the British Government. We hope that next week we shall have another woman Member of the House of Commons.

LONDON POLICE IN 1925.

The Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1925 has just been issued, and can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, for 1s. As usual, it makes very interesting reading. The paragraphs on Women Police and Police Matrons read as follows:—

Women Police.—The Establishment of the Women Police is 2 Inspectors, 5 Sergeants, and 43 Constables. One of the Inspectors is still attached to the Criminal Investigation Department in connection with offences against children and young girls. In this connection reference should also be made to the valuable work done for a number of years by Miss MacDougall, not only in the taking of statements from women, young girls, and children, but also in housing and caring for those who, pending a trial, are in need of care and shelter. The system of attaching the women to the various Divisions has continued to work satisfactorily.

The *Police Matrons* are an unestablished body, in all 252, closely allied to the Women Police. It is their duty to be in attendance at a Police Station whenever, and so long as women or children are under detention; to accompany them to Court, and to stay with them there when necessary; and to act as escort whenever it is necessary for girls or women to travel in Police custody, e.g., to reformatories, industrial schools, remand homes, etc.

The Commissioner of Police reports that a decrease in the number of crimes committed in the Metropolis is recorded for 1925. There were 15,295 cases of indictable offences as against 15,437 in 1924. The number of persons proceeded against was 10,122 as against 10,604 in 1924. Burglary and shopbreaking show a decrease, but housebreaking shows an increase. Simple larceny shows a decrease of 434 cases, but larceny in dwelling-houses (the value of the property stolen in these cases being £5 and upwards) shows an increase of 87 cases. Increases are also shown in cases of obtaining goods by false pretences, receiving and frauds by agents. There was a decrease of 42 cases of forgery, the figure for 1924 being 164, and for 1925, 122. An increase of 5 is shown in the number of cases of procuring abortion, the total for 1924 being 16, as against 25 for 1925. There is a decrease in the reported attempts to commit unnatural offences and indecency with males, but an increase of 20 is shown in cases of indecent assault on females, which were 218 in 1924 and 238 in 1925. An increase in the cases of attempted suicide is noticeable, 540 as against 506 for 1924, an increase of 34. There was an increase in the number

of crimes of violence in 1925. Twenty-seven cases of the murder of persons above one year of age were recorded, 23 of attempted murder, and 27 of manslaughter, as against 16, 13, and 29 cases respectively in 1924. There was a decrease of 3 in murders of infants under one year of age, the figure for 1924 being 12, and for 1925, 9.

The figures in respect of drunkenness show a decrease in comparison with those for the previous year. A total of 32,900 persons were proceeded against, and 29,581 convictions obtained. These figures are, respectively, 118 and 467 less than those for 1924. It may be mentioned that of the total number of persons convicted, 6,384 were females. In addition to cases resulting in the actual conviction of the offenders, there were 2,056 persons dealt with under the Probation of Offenders Act, the charges being regarded as proved. There has been a marked decrease in the number of convictions for drunkenness arising out of the drinking of methylated spirit. Whereas in 1923, 100, and in 1924, 142, persons were so convicted, during the past year only 61 convictions (30 males and 31 females) have taken place.

Lost Property.—77,570 inquiries for missing property were made by post during 1925, as compared with 80,432 during the previous year. In addition, many hundreds of personal inquiries are made daily. The restoration of property to owners shows an appreciable increase, as does also the number of articles restored to drivers and conductors. Umbrellas to the number of 65,378 were found, and amongst the more unusual deposits were a ferret, two human leg bones, a glass eye, a dog, a cat, two white mice, a parrot, and, in one parcel, a pair of opera glasses and a pair of kippers. Awards to the amount of £9,702 were paid to the drivers and conductors. The Commissioner adds that, in his opinion, the time has come when the Lost Property Office should be made self-supporting by requiring all owners, when property is restored to them, to pay a small fee to the Metropolitan Police Fund for its recovery, as it is not fair that the ratepayers of the Metropolis should have to pay for this purely personal service. In this connection it is interesting to note that, in reply to a question by Col. Woodcock (U., Everton) last Monday, the Home Secretary said that a fee is already charged in the case of articles found in public carriages, and is paid by way of reward to the driver or conductor who deposited the article. The question of charging a fee towards the expenses of the Lost Property Office is under consideration.

WOMEN PEACEMAKERS' DEPUTATION TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

At the Foreign Office, last week, Sir Austen Chamberlain received a deputation from the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage, who wished to lay before him evidence of the support in the country for the acceptance of the principle of Arbitration.

In introducing the deputation, Mrs. Acland emphasised the fact that the object of the Peace Pilgrimage was not merely to speak of the desirability of world peace, but to put before as many of our countrymen as possible the need for certain action which England might take here and now in order to throw the full weight of her immense prestige into the scales on the side of international law as against international anarchy. Mrs. Swanwick urged particularly that the undertaking by Great Britain to seek settlement of all disputes by conciliation or arbitration, without reserving the loophole of the covenant for private war, would help forward a sense of security amongst other countries and so make agreement on reduction of armaments easier. Miss Royden spoke of the remarkable success of the Pilgrimage. Mrs. Eleanor Barton said the working women of the country were ready to sup-

port the Government in any step it could take in the direction of arbitration and disarmament.

Sir Austen Chamberlain, in replying, reminded the deputation of the League of Nations' Disarmament Conference now being prepared for, and said he felt hopeful of its results, though he believed that immediate success could not be looked for. In regard to arbitration, Sir Austen Chamberlain pointed out that there were difficulties, especially for the British Empire, in the acceptance of a general system of arbitration and in the way of signing the optional clause. He dwelt particularly upon the uncertainty of naval international law. He said, however, that a review of the whole question of arbitration in international affairs was now being undertaken by the Government, and further, that the subject would be discussed by the forthcoming Imperial Conference.

In withdrawing, Mrs. Acland, on behalf of the deputation, cordially thanked Sir Austen for his courtesy in listening to what they had to say and for the interesting statement which he had made in reply.

FRIDAY,
JULY 16,
1926.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

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