

READY FOR THE BREAKFAST!

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXIX. No. 975.

(Registered at  
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1928

**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 WOMEN OF THE AIR.

IN PARLIAMENT.

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WIDOWS, ORPHANS AND OLD AGE CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS ACT.

BOOK REVIEW; "The Road to Buenos Ayres." (H. Sheehy Skeffington).

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

## MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY

*The  
Birthday Fund  
will be Presented.*

*Mrs. Despard will  
give her  
Victory Birthday  
Address.*

*Mrs.  
Pethick - Lawrence  
will take the  
Chair.*

**PARTY** Reception,

*Songs—Music,*

*Refreshments,*

*Ices,*

*Strawberries  
and Cream,*

*Welsh Produce  
and Pound Stall  
(Montgomery Boroughs  
Branch)*

*Flower Stall  
(Hampstead Branch)*

**Wednesday**

**7.0 p.m.**

**JULY 4th**

All our members, readers and comrades, new  
and old, will rally to the  
Victory Birthday Party.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

## Woman Sculptor's Work.

The new marble statue of Sir William Blackstone—completed on the death of Mr. Paul Bartlett by the sculptor's widow—has now been finally placed in position in the Central Hall of the Law Courts.

## Woman President of Liberal Association.

Miss Winstanley is the first woman to be appointed President of the Cardiganshire Liberal Association.

## The First Ascent.

Miss Murphy, accompanied by two guides, has made the first ascent of Mont Cervin this year.

## Glasgow Woman Doctor of Philosophy.

Glasgow University has conferred on Miss Mary McAlpine, B.Sc., the degree Ph. D. (Faculty of Science). She is the first woman to receive this degree in Glasgow.

## Woman's Appointment in India.

Daw Me Me Khin, B.A., is the first woman to be appointed as Assistant Registrar to an Indian Court, the Rangoon High Court in Burma.

## The Women of Ceylon Demand the Vote.

A suffrage organisation to demand the vote has been formed by the women of Ceylon.

## A Plucky Traveller.

Mrs. Diana Strickland, who some years ago crossed the Belgian Congo on foot, has now accomplished a perilous journey across the widest part of Africa in a motor-car. She set out from Dakar, on the West Coast of Africa, with one mechanic, to undertake a 6,000-mile journey to Cairo. The mechanic fell out, and this dauntless woman continued her journey alone. Africa has never been crossed in this manner before.

## Disaster to Woman Aviator.

We regret to hear that Mrs. Charles Tillotson, Nebraska's first woman aviator, has met with disaster while preparing to land.

## Women in the Reichstag.

Thirty-one women members were returned to the Reichstag in the recent German elections.

## Zealous Women Voters.

The newly-enfranchised women in the Province of San Juan have shown up in the recent election for the new President of the Argentine in the proportion of four women to each male elector!

## Equal Suffrage Demanded in Porto Rica.

The Suffrage Society of Porto Rica are demanding that an amendment be added to the Organic Act of Porto Rica, enfranchising women equally with men.

## Japanese Women and Politics.

Women speakers were in great demand during the recent elections in Japan. Mrs. Kaneko, of the "Women's Suffrage League," spoke 69 times in 18 days! Some of the speakers travelled many miles on horseback through violent snowstorms to fulfil their engagements.

## FRENCH WOMEN AGAIN REPULSED.

The demand made by M. Martin in the Senate, that the private Bill for instituting votes for women should be discussed on July 6th, was rejected by 176 votes to 123. M. Martin reminded the Senate that the last discussion of the subject had been in 1922.

## WOMEN IN BUSINESS.

Miss Hartley, headmistress of Ackworth School, has publicly expressed the opinion that fathers should take their daughters into their own businesses as the most satisfactory entrance to a business career. It too often happens that, while sons are taken into their father's businesses as a matter of course, daughters are left to find inferior posts for themselves, which lead them nowhere.

## THE WOMEN OF THE AIR.

The Women's Section of the Air League of the British Empire organised a thoroughly successful luncheon to the Atlantic Fliers at the Criterion last Monday. The Duke of Sutherland presided, and in proposing the toast of "the Guests" said that a few years ago it was considered wonderful for a woman to drive a motor car. Since then women had invaded every sphere of life considered sacred to men except the Atlantic flight, and now Miss Earhart had overcome that. In seconding this toast, Lady Heath said how specially pleased women were that a woman had taken part in bringing together more closely the two great English-speaking peoples. In replying, Miss Earhart said she would like to see people as interested in discovering a new type of 'plane as a new car. She would like to see father and mother packing up children and a picnic lunch, and going up in a 'plane for a day's outing. Lady Astor, M.P., proposing the toast of the Chairman, said the feat of their guests once more proved that it took more than courage to do great things; it took character. She hoped the flight would really bring the two English-speaking peoples a little closer together, for the peace and prosperity of civilisation really depended on these two great nations.

Among the four hundred guests were young women as well as young men who are training for the air.

## DAME HENRIETTA.

Last Saturday the beautiful Hampstead Garden Suburb came of age, and throughout this week the celebrations will continue and will include pageants, dramatic, operatic and choral performances, folk-dancing, sports and tennis tournaments, and a horticultural exhibition, and will conclude with a carnival and illuminated procession. At the opening ceremony last week, Dame Henrietta Barnett was presented with an address and a bouquet on behalf of the residents. She is at present Chairman of the Garden Suburb Trust, was its pioneer, and has been the active director through all its twenty-one years. Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, President of the Board of Trade, Lord Lytton, Lord Burnham, and others all paid tribute to Dame Henrietta's wonderful idea of town planning. This lady celebrates her own seventy-ninth birthday this week but showed that she was anxious for still more work by suggesting that they should adopt a London district where the conditions were the reverse of all that was in the Hampstead Garden Suburb, and then determine to push and push until the slums were abolished.

## MRS. PANKHURST.

Many members of the Women's Freedom League, including Mrs. Despard, Dr. Knight, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Mrs. M. W. Nevins, J.P., Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Reeves, Miss Berry, Mrs. Zangwill, Miss Isaac, Mrs. Turriff, Mrs. Hornibrook, and Miss Underwood, were present at the funeral service of Mrs. Pankhurst, held at St. John's Church, Smith Square, Westminster, on June 18th. A wreath in the colours of the League was sent: "In memory of a gallant fighter for freedom, from the Women's Freedom League."

## THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS

(Jus Suffragii)

is an international record of the woman's movement, which is unique in its scope. Every woman with a wide interest in world events ought to be a subscriber. Send 6/- for a twelve months' subscription (post free) to—

## THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

190, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1, England.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

## Street Offences Committee.

MR. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark), on June 21st, asked the Home Secretary the total sum of public money that has been expended to date in consequence of the appointment of the Committee on Street Offences? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: £647 8s. MR. DAY: Have this Committee completed their deliberations? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: They have completed taking evidence, and I believe they are sitting to-morrow to consider their report.

## Metropolitan Police (Instruction).

MR. GARDNER (Lab., Hammersmith, N.) asked the Home Secretary if, in view of the numerous recent dismissed police charges, he will state what is the amount and, in general terms, the nature of the instruction given in procedure and evidence in the police training school? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: In the course of training for Metropolitan Police recruits, special attention is paid to the subjects mentioned. The course at the Training School for candidates lasts normally for ten weeks, but may be extended to 17 weeks; after appointment to the Force, the recruit has further instruction in his division for six months or more, and the greater part of this instruction is in police evidence and procedure, including 25 lessons specifically devoted to the subject in the candidates' course, and practical instruction and attendance at police courts and police stations under the guidance of experienced officers. I should like to add that the dismissal of a case should not be regarded as reflecting on the capacity of the officer presenting the evidence.

## Aliens (Domestic Servants).

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., E. Middlesbrough) asked the Home Secretary whether aliens entering domestic service in this country under a permit are liable to deportation if they leave that particular employer, however unsatisfactory conditions may be; and whether such an alien has any right of appeal or can application be made to transfer to another employer in a similar type of service?

LT.-COL. SIR VIVIAN HENDERSON (Under Secretary, Home Office). Permits for aliens who wish to enter the United Kingdom for the purpose of employment, whether domestic service or otherwise, are issued by the Ministry of Labour and not by the Home Office. No objection is raised, as a rule, when an alien who has been permitted to come here for domestic service wishes to transfer to another employer in the same capacity. But each case has to be considered on its merits. MISS WILKINSON: Do I understand, in that case, that the police are outside their jurisdiction in telling a domestic servant who wishes to leave her employer that, if she does so, she will be deported to her country of origin? SIR V. HENDERSON: I cannot understand any such circumstance arising. If the hon. member has any particular case in mind, perhaps she will communicate with me.

## WOMEN CALLED TO THE BAR.

Last week the following women were called to the Bar:—

*Lincoln's Inn*: Dorothy Wolfe, B.A. (Hons. Oxon), of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

*Inner Temple*: Miss H. E. Vaisey and Miss S. V. Devadoss, of Girton College, Cambridge.

*Middle Temple*: Mrs. Mary J. Clarke, M.A. (Liverpool).

*Gray's Inn*: Sophy Sanger, Mathematical Tripos, Part 1, and Moral Science Tripos, Part 2, Cambridge University; Katherine M. E. F. Sander; Phyllis L. M. Blake, B.A., Newnham College, Cambridge.

## ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

Prepaid classified, 1½d. per word. Discount allowed for series, particulars of which will be supplied on application.

## WOMEN AND MAGNA CARTA.

Magna Carta, which has always been regarded as the foundation of British liberty and was the embodiment of the 48 "Articles of the Barons," was accepted by King John on June 15th, in the year 1215, and several copies of it were sealed by him on June 19th the same year at Runnymede, near Staines. This Charter, which has been confirmed by succeeding monarchs, was written in Latin, the word Homo applying equally to both sexes. The most important Clause in it is: "To none will we sell, to none will we deny, to none will we delay the right or Justice," and, as Mrs. Carmichael Stopes points out in her "British Freewomen," there were then no doubts in the minds of the people, no quibblings in the Courts of Law, as to whether or not it extended to women. Last Sunday, Magna Carta Day was celebrated at Runnymede by the Magna Carta Commemoration Committee, and *The Times* reports that Lady Ravensdale, a baroness in her own right, who was the principal speaker, said she was convinced that by that commemoration and the response it received from other countries like America on the same date, loyalty and devotion to the cause of freedom were enhanced in people's hearts. Standing together in that commemoration there surely flowed from their souls a great emotion and a desire to see a perfect England and a perfect world. A standard had been set for the world which must never be lowered. She endeavoured to carry on adequately the heritage the barons had handed down in the Charter, though possibly her position was more nebulous than theirs, for she was a peeress without a seat in the House of Lords. The peeresses needed a Stephen Langton to excommunicate the distinguished barons who barred the door to women. There was all the more reason for untiring rebellion and protest until they could gain entry. She was proud to be the first woman to speak on that historic ground.

Last Sunday was the 700th anniversary of the death of Stephen Langton, who took a leading part in the movement by which the Barons compelled King John to agree to the provisions of Magna Carta.

## LADY MARGARET HALL.

FIFTY YEARS' RECORD.

On June 22nd, 1878, a scheme for founding a Hall of residence for women students in Oxford was drawn up. Of its founders at least two have lived to see its jubilee—Bishop Talbot, then Warden of Keble, and his wife. The first Principal and godmother, Dame Elizabeth Wordsworth, D.B.E., M.A., D.C.L., is an even more memorable figure. Lady Margaret Hall, which was named after Margaret, Countess of Richmond, mother of Henry VII, was not opened until October, 1879.

The Principal had, at first, only nine students—six of whom are still living. Ten years later the number was still under thirty. Lady Margaret Hall, which now contains four blocks, has accommodation for 120. Classics were at first barred to women. The right to sit for Moderations was won in 1884; "Greats" was closed to women until 1890. When the barrier was down, Dame Emily Penrose and Miss Barbara Bradley proved that women could take Firsts even in this select examination, and women students began to study for the full degree course, although 50 years had to pass before Oxford consented to confer degrees on women. Since 1920, all women who hold the necessary qualifications are entitled to append B.A. to their names. The first Principal of Lady Margaret Hall, now in her 88th year, is still a member of her council.

## WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT FUND.

This fund is still open and contributions are very necessary. They may be ear-marked for any party or any woman candidate. At the moment Miss Keynes is standing for Epsom division of Surrey, and would be very grateful for all help, election date, July 4th.

E. KNIGHT.

144, High Holborn.

Hon. Treasurer.

## THE VOTE.

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 FRIDAY, JUNE 29th, 1928.

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### 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.

### THE NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The League of Nations at its 1927 Assembly decided to hold a Conference to deal with three questions of International Law, one of which is nationality, including the nationality of married women. The date of this Conference is to be fixed at the League Assembly next September, and it is likely to take place some time next year. The question of the nationality of married women is one in which women's organisations have been deeply concerned for many years. They realise that it cannot be satisfactorily dealt with by national action alone, and for many years the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship (to which The Women's Freedom League is affiliated) has urged the League of Nations to summon a Conference to deal with the question. It is of vital importance that women should be fully represented on the Conference which the League has now decided to summon on the subject of nationality, including the nationality of married women. Each Government will probably be asked to appoint one or more delegates who may be attended by advisers. In February, 1925, general agreement in the House of Commons was secured for the following Resolution moved by Major Harvey, the Unionist Member for Tames:—"That, in the opinion of this House, a British woman should not lose, or be deemed to lose, her nationality by the mere act of marriage with an alien, but that it should be open to her to make a declaration of alienage." At the time Mr. Locker-Sampson (Under Secretary, Home Office) said that the Government did not want to resist the Motion, but pointed out that it was quite impossible to pass legislation on the subject until they had the assent of the self-governing Dominions. The Resolution agreed to in the House of Commons was communicated by the Government to the Dominions, and in November, 1925, the Home Secretary informed the House that replies on this question had been received from the self-governing Dominions with the exception of the Dominion of Canada. The question came up at the Imperial Conference last year, but nothing definite has been decided. Our view is, in common with that of all other women's organisations, both national and international, that a married woman should have the same right as a man to retain or to change her nationality, and it is for the pressing forward of that view that women are needed at the International Conference. It is quite possible that Governments will decide to appoint only special jurist experts in international law as full voting delegates. In that case it is all the more necessary that women should be appointed as Technical Advisers. We also urge that if Governments need experts to put forward the legal point of view, women's interests can only be safeguarded by women with expert knowledge of them—by women chosen by women's organisations to represent those interests. Women's organisations therefore should be asked to send representatives to this Conference. The Inter-American Commission of Women, of which Miss Doris Stevens is the Chairman, is also working hard on this question of the nationality of married women. The essential thing, of course, is for the women of all countries to unite and refuse to leave the question of the nationality of married women to be decided entirely by men.

### WOMEN POLICE.

Last week, an interesting discussion on "Women Police" took place at a meeting of the National Council of Women, held at Portsmouth. Lady Emmott, the President of this Council, reminded her audience that there were no women police in Portsmouth, and recommended Portsmouth women to go on a deputation and worry their City Council until they had women police. Women have, of course, done this time after time. Our own Branch at Wallasey has for some years past followed this plan, and with no result. The Watch Committee will do nothing in the matter. Our view is that there should be legislation making it compulsory on Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees to appoint women as well as men police. In December, 1925, Miss Ellen Wilkinson introduced a Bill on these lines in the House of Commons, and it secured a First Reading. Nothing further has been done in Parliament on this matter. Yet there is a crying need for women police throughout the country. Women want to see them in London—in Hyde Park and in other parks and open spaces in the Metropolis, as well as in our streets, and women want to see women police in the Provinces. All the Home Office has done in this direction is to issue Circulars, which have not resulted in the addition of one policewoman! In Portsmouth it was stated that there had been women police and they had not been a perfect success. It is quite possible that the authorities did not want them to be; and in this connection Mrs. Rose Parker made an intriguing suggestion—that women should choose them, and that for this purpose women should be co-opted on to the Watch Committee. We are not prepared to agree with that suggestion. Women should see that suitable women are elected to local governing bodies, and then insist that some of their number should be placed on the Watch Committee. That is certainly a matter for women to work for, but the straightest and most satisfactory way to secure women police is to have legislation, making it compulsory on the Watch Committees to appoint them. We shall then not hear any complaints because policewomen have not attained perfection. It will be the business of the Watch Committee to appoint properly trained and suitable women, just as it is now their business to appoint properly trained and suitable men.

### CHILD MARRIAGE IN INDIA.

The Government of India, as the result of debates in the Legislative Assembly, and in fulfilment of the pledge given last March by Mr. James Crerar, Home Member, has appointed a Committee to inquire into the law relating to the Age of Consent. This Committee consists of four men and two women—Mrs. O'Brien Beadon, Superintendent of the Victoria Government Hospital, and wife of a retired police officer from the United Provinces, and Mrs. Brij Lal Nehru, wife of the Assistant Auditor-General and a niece by marriage of the Pundit Motilal Nehru, the Swarajist leader. For many years the Women's Indian Association has worked continuously to secure the abolition of child marriage and to raise the Age of Consent for married girls to sixteen; but this reform has been consistently opposed by the orthodox Hindus on religious grounds and by the Government, who hesitated to assent to legislation which it believed to be in advance of public education and of public opinion. Yet public opinion is certainly changing on this subject in India, and the reformers will welcome a thorough investigation into the question of the Age of Consent. We send the best of good wishes to our friends in India for the success of their gallant efforts to secure this much-needed reform.

### VICTORY BREAKFAST!

As we go to Press, we learn that the Royal Assent will be given to the Government's Equal Franchise Bill on Thursday, June 28th. If it is given that day, our Breakfast at the Hotel Cecil will take place on Tuesday, July 3rd, at 8.45 a.m. All applicants will receive their tickets in good time—price 4s. 6d. each.

## TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

### WIDOWS, ORPHANS & OLD AGE CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS ACT.

Last week, at the Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting, Miss Underwood was in the chair. She said that the Government's Equal Franchise Bill had passed through all its stages in both Houses of Parliament, and now awaited the Royal Assent. Equal political voting rights for men and women would now be the law of the land. In introducing Mrs. Townsend, Miss Underwood said that their speaker that afternoon was a journalist, a keen suffragist, and the prospective Labour candidate for the High Wycombe Division of Buckinghamshire.

Mrs. Townsend said that the Widows, Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act might sound rather a dull subject for a fine afternoon, but she felt that it was of great importance, and should make a special appeal to every woman. Every working girl came under its provisions from the age of 16, and that was surely a reason why women's organisations should pay special attention to it and consider whether it ought not to be amended. She thought that it needed amendment, and that it contained many anomalies. Under this Act, which came into operation in 1926, widows received 10s. a week, together with 5s. for the first child and 3s. for other children under the age of 14, and 7s. 6d. a week was allowed for orphans—children without either father or mother. Mrs. Townsend said it was not every widow who received this pension. She must have been the wife of an insured worker, and her husband must have been under 70 at the date of his death, and he must have paid 100 contributions, or been insured for three years, paying an average of 26 contributions per year. If these conditions were not fulfilled, neither the widow nor the children would receive pensions. Mrs. Townsend stressed the fact that there have been long periods of unemployment for men in many distressed areas, which made it impossible for them to fulfil the conditions, and this was specially hard on the widows and children when the man died. The speaker also said that widows whose husbands died before the Act came into operation did not benefit under its provisions.

The Old Age Pension part of this Act came into force in January of the present year. Mrs. Townsend said

that a person must have been insured for a period of five years to get an Old Age Pension at the age of 65, or they must have paid on an average 39 contributions during a period of three years. The wife of an insured man could only get this pension at the age of 65 if her husband had also reached that age. Mrs. Townsend knew a woman of 73 who could not claim this pension because her husband had not yet reached the age of 65. The speaker contended that women who were contributors before their marriage were treated unjustly under this Act.

The Old Age Pension Act of 1908 was entirely on a non-contributory basis, and the cost was borne by the National Exchequer—the 5s. a week given to a person of 70 was a free gift of the State. It was true that under that Act there was a means limit, and that there is no means limit under the Contributory Pensions Act; but under the latter the whole cost of these pensions will ultimately be borne by the workpeople and the employers. Industry at present was in a bad way, and yet it was having this extra burden placed upon it.

At the close of Mrs. Townsend's address, the Chairman expressed the great pleasure of all present to have Mrs. Despard among them, and Dr. Knight appealed for a special collection. Then followed many questions and a long discussion, in which the Government's Contributory Pensions Act was fully supported by some and criticised by others. It was felt that where anomalies exist these should be taken up by women in Parliament. Miss Reeves said that the anomaly which she would like to have altered was that a woman who was herself an insured person before her marriage could not qualify on her own contributions for her Old Age Pension at 65, and Dr. Knight agreed with her.

The Chairman announced that there would be no Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting on Wednesday afternoon, July 4th, as we were having Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party at Caxton Hall that evening, and expected to see all our friends there; but we should be back at the Minerva Club on Wednesday afternoon, July 11th.

### A PLUCKY ATTEMPT.

We offer our congratulations to Miss Gleitze on her courageous attempt to swim the Irish Channel from Donaghadee to Portpatrick, a distance of 21 miles. Although the temperature of the water was only 44 degrees, and Miss Gleitze was seriously attacked by cramp, she did not give up her attempt until she had been in the Channel seven and three-quarter hours and had swum 23 miles. If Miss Gleitze shows the same persistence in trying to swim the Irish Channel as she exhibited in her conquest of the English Channel, success should crown her endeavours.

### LONDON UNIVERSITY AND THE EXTENSION OF THE FRANCHISE.

At present, all male graduates of the London University who are British subjects and have passed the age of 21 are eligible for admission to the Register of Parliamentary Electors. Under the Equal Franchise Bill, all women graduates will have the same right.

Graduates of the University who are resident overseas are entitled to register and to vote by proxy in Parliamentary elections. As soon as the Equal Franchise Bill is on the Statute Book, about 600 women graduates will be automatically added to the Register, and there are a further 1,400 who will become eligible.

## VICTORY BREAKFAST

HOTEL CECIL

8.45 FOR 9.0 A.M.

BOOK YOUR SEATS AT ONCE.

Tickets 4/6

## OUR BOOK REVIEW.

*The Road to Buenos Ayres.* By Albert Londres. Translated by Eric Sutton. (Constable & Co., Ltd., London.) 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This is the frankest—at times cynical and brutal—exposure of the so-called White Slave Traffic I have read. It is told journalistically, as a report by a special correspondent sent from Paris to the Argentine to study this world-wide, world-old evil, where it appears most luxuriantly to flourish to-day. It is a fitting supplement to the scientific Report drawn up for the League of Nations Committee and recently reviewed in these pages. While the former is detached, objective, and studiously impersonal as a Blue Book, this volume is subjective—written in the first person throughout—passionate and sensational as a "dime novel"! Yet the conclusions of both are identical, namely, that the traffic in the bodies of women and girls—aye, of mere children—exists to-day on a greater scale than perhaps ever before, that its ramifications are widespread, involving every country and every stratum of society, and that its roots are economic and its feeders those who set out to exploit women's weakness for the benefit of men's lust and greed. As Theodore Dreiser, the distinguished American novelist, sums up in his introduction: "Abolish Poverty, and you abolish White Slavery" is the conclusion of this work, as it is of "Human Merchandise." And from both it is also clear that the inferior status of women is closely linked with commercialized vice. For it is shown more nakedly here than in any other treatment of the theme (save perhaps in "Mrs. Warren's Profession") that Prostitution is preferable in the eyes of many women to life-long drudgery in factory or at wash-tub, that Vice often pays its clients better than Virtue, and that the majority of the women involved in this foul traffic remain there voluntarily—after the "breaking-in" process is over—because the selling of their bodies is the easiest and most profitable way of living open to them. The jargon of the trade, the army of "souteneurs," the terrible "Red Light" district of Buenos Ayres, the graft and corruption of Police authorities, the connivance of ships' officers, of Customs' officials—all is described in detail, and every *i* is dotted. "Casa Francesca" is grimmer than any scene in Dante's "Inferno"—Poles, Argentinians, French, Brazilians, all are in the picture. The regulated houses, with the regulation curtain, number in Buenos Ayres several thousand; their clients stand in queues. According to the author's calculation, one French prostitute (they are almost all French here, so that Frenchwoman and prostitute appear to be synonymous in this "fair city") earned 28,642 francs in her first week! A municipal councillor in Corsica, an engineer on board a ship, and a Methodist clergyman are mentioned as among those who draw dividends from the traffic. Monsieur Londres, being French, spares us much moralizing. He studies and reports on the Traffic as if his paper (*Le Petit Parisien*) asked him to study and report on the Cotton Traffic or the Rubber Industry, narrating the facts as he finds them, without apology. He is cynical about the League of Nations and its efforts. New regulations, stricter supervision, jail for the pimps and procuresses, suppression of brothels—all these measures he deems insufficient. He sums up thus: "As long as women cannot get work, as long as girls are cold and hungry, as long as they do not know where to look for a bed, as long as women do not earn enough to allow themselves to be ill . . . girls will enlist, whatever you do. . . . Burn the brothels and lay a curse upon their ashes. You will have only made a bonfire and a futile demonstration. The responsibility is ours; we cannot get rid of it."

H. SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON.

## THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League was held at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, on Saturday, June 23rd, those present being the President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence (in the chair), the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Ayton (Darlington), Miss Alix M. Clark (Montgomery Boroughs), Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), Mrs. Drummond (Glasgow), Miss Anna Munro, Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Reeves, Mrs. Zangwill, and the Secretary. Regrets for inability to be present were received from Mrs. Bigland, Mrs. Dexter, and Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester).

Reports were considered, discussed and adopted from the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Organising Secretary (Mrs. Whetton), the Secretary, and from the Political, Literature, and Vote Sales Departments. Reports of work done and planned in our branches were also considered, and arrangements discussed for our Clyde Coast Campaign, which will again be in the charge of Miss Lenton.

The requisite support has been secured for the following resolution, which the Women's Freedom League has now sent forward for the agenda of the National Council of Women's Annual Meetings in York next October: "That the National Council of Women demands equal opportunities, equal conditions, and equal pay for women and men in the professions, in industry, and throughout all branches of our national life. It calls upon all progressive women to unite in preventing the imposition of special restrictions upon the work of women, and to fight side by side for the right of married women to undertake paid work."

Arrangements for the Equal Franchise Victory Breakfast at the Hotel Cecil were discussed. No speech is to be more than three minutes in length. From the chair Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence will thank the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, and the Government for introducing the Equal Franchise Bill, and for carrying it through all its stages into law. Lady Astor, M.P., will give thanks to "The Men who have Helped Us," and Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, M.P., will reply. Mrs. Stedman will speak to "The Pioneers!" Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D., to "The Women of the Future," and Mrs. Despard to "The Women's Freedom League." Women and men Members of Parliament have promised to be present, as well as a great number of well-known workers in the suffrage cause.

The Committee offered its warmest thanks to Dr. Knight for attending the meetings of the Tribunal of Inquiry into the Savidge case. As soon as the Report appears, the Women's Freedom League will arrange a public meeting to discuss the findings of this Tribunal and police methods generally.

Slips of Lady Iveagh, M.P., and Mrs. Runciman, M.P., are being added to our pamphlet on British women Members of Parliament. Mrs. Marion Holmes' pamphlet on Josephine Butler is having a good sale from our office, and readers of THE VOTE are urged to recommend it to their friends.

The Committee sent its very warm sympathy to Dr. Lewin in her recent serious motor accident, and expressed great pleasure at the news of her continued progress towards health. Messages of sincere sympathy were also sent to Miss Vibert (Hampstead) and Mrs. W. R. Williams (Newtown, N. Wales) in their illnesses. The Committee further sent its very sincere sympathy to Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, and to Mrs. Goulden Bach, Mrs. Pankhurst's sister.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, Saturday, September 29th.

## THE VICTORY BIRTHDAY FUND.

Please send your contribution as soon as possible so that there shall be no confusion on Wednesday next, and make it as large as possible and worthy of the Victory.

E. KNIGHT.



## WHERE TO GO.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, July 4th.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date. No meeting.

Wednesday, July 4th, at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party at Caxton Hall.

Victory Breakfast.

Hotel Cecil, 8.45 a.m. for 9 a.m. Tickets 4/6. Date.—As soon as possible after the Franchise Bill receives the Royal Assent.

Friday, September 28th, at 5 p.m.

Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, September 29th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

## PROVINCES.

Friday, June 29th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. A Garden Meeting will be held at 62, Albert Road.

Saturday, June 30th.

Middlesburgh. Summer Outing to Wensleydale and Swaledale.

Wednesday, July 11th, at 3 p.m.

Portsmouth. Garden Whist Drive at 14, Festing Grove. Tea. Tickets 1s. 6d. Indoors if wet.

Wednesday, July 11th, at 7.30 p.m.

Rye. A Branch Meeting will be held at the Mint Tea Rooms (by kind permission of the Misses Boiello).

Mrs. Joan Cather will speak on "Women and Peace." Chair: Miss White.

Saturday, July 21st, at 3.30 p.m.

Hastings. A Garden Meeting will be held at "Rossiana," Pine Avenue, Ore (by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Prelooker). Miss F. A. Underwood will speak on "The Life of Josephine Butler."

## SCOTLAND.

Saturday, July 14th, at 2.30 p.m.

Garden Fair at Heriot Hill House, Canonmills, to be opened by Mrs. Blair, of Hoprig Mains, Macmerry.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, July 2nd, at 8 p.m.

Speech Club. Debate at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. "That Woman's Entry into Public Life is Beneficial to her Sex." Opener: Miss G. Madden. Opposer: Miss Bourchier.

Monday, July 2nd, at 6 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Open Meeting at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, W., on "Restrictive Legislation and the Wage-earning Woman." Speaker: Mrs. Elizabeth Abbott. Chairman, Miss Monica Whateley.

Thursday, July 5th, at 9 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Reception at Crosby Hall, to meet women Members of Parliament and others.

Friday, July 6th, at 8.15 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Dinner at Criterion. Tickets, 3s. 6d. each.

Friday, July 6th, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Conference at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi. "Some Problems of Government in Relation to Women within the British Empire." Chair: Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Speakers from all parts of the British Commonwealth. Admission 1s. each session.

Saturday, July 7th.

British Commonwealth League. Garden and River Party at Bray (by kind permission of Mrs. Eccles-Snowden). By Motor Coach from 17, Buckingham Street. Tickets, 7s. 6d.

Sunday, July 8th, at 10.30 a.m.

Mass at Westminster Cathedral, offered by request of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

Wednesday, July 18th, 3.30 to 8.30 p.m.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Garden Party at Cliveden, Taplow, Bucks (by kind permission of the Viscountess Astor, M.P.). Tickets 5s. each, including entrance and tea, from N.U.S.E.C., 15, Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W.1.

Saturday, July 21st, at 3 p.m.

Conference on "The Eleventh International Labour Conference at Geneva." To be held in the Drawing Room, London Central Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1. Speakers: Mr. E. L. Poulton, O.B.E., J.P., Mr. J. E. Herbert, I.L.O. Staff, Geneva, and Captain L. H. Green, M.A. Chairman: Sir Atul C. C. Natterjee, K.C.I.E., High Commissioner for India. Tickets 1s., including tea. Apply Mr. G. A. Innes, London Regional Federation, L.N.U., 43, Russell Square, W.C.1.

Friday, July 27th, to Friday, August 10th.

Women's International League. International Summer School in Westhill Training College, Selly Oak, near Birmingham.

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

## Testamentary Provision.

Dear Madam.—May I try to answer one or two points raised by Lady Balfour of Burleigh in her speech on Testamentary Provision for wives and children, reported in your last week's number.

Lady Balfour thinks that a man should not be forced to leave money to his wife after his death, because wives, or rather widows, should be self-supporting. Lady Balfour and those who support her have, however, overlooked certain important points; in the first place there seems to be forgotten that the proposals sponsored by Lord Astor on behalf of the N.U.S.E.C. referred to both spouses and not to widows alone. Secondly, the logical conclusion of saying that a man need not leave any of his estate to his widow because she should be economically self-supporting, is such that the various laws should be abolished by which a husband is bound to maintain his wife during his life-time. Although the National Union recognises the urgent need of married women to have the right to seek paid employment if they wish, at the same time it is certain that a large portion of married women, at any rate at the time when they are bearing and rearing children, will always rather concentrate their work in their homes. (I doubt whether Lady Balfour herself, when her children are small, would wish to be forced to earn her own living in the name of the economic independence of the married woman, even though she is in a position to provide adequate substitutes at home!) By the time their children have grown up sufficiently to need their care no longer, a large proportion of the mothers will have lost much of their skill and value in the labour market, and will be greatly handicapped if, and when, they attempt to re-enter.

It is in recognition of these facts that we are asking that a husband should not only support his wife and dependent children during his life-time, but that they should not be left after his death in a position of want, and that he should be compelled to make adequate provision for their maintenance out of his estate. Similarly, a husband accustomed to sharing his wife's income—in certain cases he may be unable to support himself—should also have a claim on part of her estate after her death.

May I take this opportunity to point out that next session Lord Astor proposes to carry the campaign further and to introduce a Bill based on the Testators Family Maintenance Acts in force in some of the Dominions, which provides that where adequate maintenance has not been provided by a testator to the wife, husband, or dependent children, these may apply to the Courts for a reasonable share in the estate.

We hope that this will have the wide support of women's organisations and of women voters.

Yours faithfully,

EVA N. HUBBACK.

Chairman of Parliamentary Committee, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

## BRANCH NOTE.

BRADFORD.

It is probable that there will be a "Victory" Dance, on or about July 11th. Details in next week's VOTE.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

On Sunday, July 8th, at Westminster Cathedral, the 10.30 a.m. Mass will be offered, by request of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, "In thanksgiving for the enfranchisement of women." All members and friends are invited to attend.

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## TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**64**-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Est. 1879.

## REST AND HOLIDAYS.

**B**RIGHTON.—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.

**F**RENCH ALPS.—Furnished Chalet to let. View Mt. Blanc, Seven beds, bath, inside sanitation.—"E.C.F.," 31, Meadhurst Road, Leicester.

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**N**EAR FOLKESTONE.—Three friends offer a charming holiday home; large garden; tennis; garage.—MISS HASLAM, The Grey House, Lyminge, Kent.

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**P**UBLIC SPEAKING.—Lectures, classes, and private lessons. Saturday Speech Club.—Miss LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tel.: Museum 4791.

**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, July 1st, 1928. 6.30. Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., M.P.: "The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ."

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