

THE VOTE,  
APRIL 20, 1923  
ONE PENNY.

## CRIMINAL ASSAULTS ON GIRLS.

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1923

**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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## OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Women's Freedom League will hold its sixteenth Annual Conference at Caxton Hall on Saturday, April 28th. Only members of our League have a right to be present at this annual meeting, when the work and policy of the Women's Freedom League during the past year come under review, and Resolutions and Amendments sent in by our Branches and National Executive Committee, dealing with the work and the policy of the coming year, are debated and decided upon, and when the members of our National Executive Committee are elected to see that that work and that policy are carried into effect. Every member of our League who is in London on April 28th is most cordially invited to be present at this Conference, which will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until 5 or 6 p.m. The following day (Sunday) all members and friends of the Women's Freedom League are invited to a Reception to be held at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C., at 3.30 p.m. Tea will be served; there will be a little music, and it is hoped that some members of our Executive Committee, as well as some of the Conference delegates, will give short speeches on the work of our League in their districts. This is a special opportunity for welcoming new members, to make the acquaintance of and join our League, and we urgently request each of our members to bring a friend or two with them.

Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), has been appointed Chairman of the Conference, and all members will look forward to the Chairman's address, which, from long experience of Mrs. Schofield Coates and her untiring zeal in the cause of women, we are confident will strike definitely and clearly the Women's Freedom League note of No Compromise with any of the inequalities of the law or custom as between men and women, and that it will inspire us with fresh determination to renew our efforts to remove those inequalities at the earliest possible moment.

The Resolutions appearing on our Agenda have no hesitancy or obscurity in their meaning. The first resolution (for it must never be forgotten that the primary object of our League is to secure equal voting rights for men and women) calls upon the Government to introduce a Bill this Session to amend the Representa-

tion of the People Act (1918) so as to enfranchise women at the same age as men, and to remove the other disabilities upon women in connection with the Parliamentary vote, and further, to pass the Bill into law without delay. There are Resolutions expressing indignation at the deliberate evasion of the provisions of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, and demanding that the present Government shall render it fully operative; deep disappointment at the failure of the late Government to keep its promise "to remove all inequalities of the law as between men and women," and calling upon the present Head of the Government (who was equally responsible for that promise) to take steps immediately to carry it out. Another Resolution deals with the Election policy of the Women's Freedom League—to support or run suitable women candidates, approved by Headquarters and our local Branch, and, failing a suitable woman candidate, to question men candidates, carry on general propaganda, and to offer the strongest opposition to the return of those who do not definitely stand for the complete emancipation of women.

There are several Resolutions on the rights of married women. One describes the dismissal of women on their marriage from their paid work as an unwarrantable interference with the rights of human beings, and demands that neither sex nor marriage shall be considered justifiable grounds for dismissal. Another demands the separate assessment of the incomes of husband and wife, and that the latter shall pay only the ordinary tax on the amount of her own income. There is a Resolution on the right of a British woman marrying an alien to retain her own nationality, unless she specifically desires to change it; another demands that it shall be unlawful for a husband to will away his possessions, leaving his wife and children unprovided for; and yet another calls for the alteration or amendment of the law of inheritance so that both sexes shall have equal rights of inheritance.

Other Resolutions demand legislation granting both parents equal rights in respect of their children; legitimising children on the subsequent marriage of their parents; raising the Age of Consent and protection for girls and boys to 18; compelling the appearance and

cross-examination of the father in Court where a mother is charged because of the death of her infant child, and insisting upon the responsibility of a father as well as a mother for their illegitimate child; and another Resolution calls for widows' pensions.

Three Resolutions deal with Education—one with regard to Cambridge University and the admission of women graduates to full membership of that University; and two others calling upon the Government to put into operation the 1918 Education Act, at once to raise the school age to 16; and to provide for compulsory continued education—maintenance allowances to be granted in necessitous cases. There are Resolutions demanding an extension of Jury Service for women; and others dealing with Penal Reform, the abolition of capital punishment being demanded.

With regard to Lunacy Reform, one Resolution urges the Government to amend the Lunacy Laws so that early cases may be treated without certification; and another demands that a Royal Commission consisting of an equal number of women and men be appointed immediately to inquire into the treatment of patients in public and private asylums. There is also a Resolution demanding that, whenever public money is spent upon the provision of work for unemployed persons, it shall be allocated to schemes for both unemployed men and women in proportion to the numbers of men and women out of work.

There are some general Resolutions dealing with the better distribution of food in this country; an export duty on all horses sent out of this country; the protection of wild birds; and the occupation of the Ruhr by French troops. In all, there are 39 Resolutions to be discussed and voted upon by the delegates to our Conference on April 28th.

### WOMEN'S WORK IN AUSTRALIA.

By D. B. MONTEFIORE.

There is visiting Sydney at the present time Mrs. Cowan, the first woman who has been elected to a Legislative Assembly in Australia, and she represents a Western Australian constituency in that State. I had the pleasure of meeting her recently at the Queen Victoria Club, and of hearing some of her experiences, since by the mandate of both men and women voters she has been able to write M.L.A. after her name. The rather interesting part of her electioneering campaign was that, though women have been for some time enfranchised in Western Australia, they found it difficult to get an "eligibility" measure passed, and had, finally, only won it (as Mrs. Cowan expressed it) "at the point of the bayonet"—in other words, with threats, which men voters realised the women were able to back up with deeds. Then, when the measure, by the help of the Attorney-General, was passed, Mrs. Cowan was induced, sorely against her will, to contest a seat for which this Attorney-General happened to be also running; and the fact of her having defeated him has been brought up against her as "unchivalrous," after his having helped to pass the Bill giving women the right to be elected to the State Parliament. That the episode was ironically unfortunate, any fair-minded person will realise, but, at the same time, anyone who has met Mrs. Cowan, and felt her humorous, sane, and very human personality piercing through the informal little talk she gave at the Club, would understand that there is no sex triumph or unchivalrous feeling about her attitude of having beaten a political friend. To her it was a straight fight, and, having been elected by a majority of her constituency, she meant to serve, and she is serving, what she understands to be the best interests of men, women, and children. She has been told to her face by Members of the Assembly that she is not wanted there, and that they mean that the thing shall not be repeated; so she feels that a more than ordinary responsibility rests upon her to make good, so that the thing *shall* be repeated. Above all, she calls upon women to try and understand and sympathise with the responsibilities of legislators, and not to criticise them too harshly until exact knowledge is obtained of

what they have really said or done, as such very misleading reports are often scattered broadcast through the Press. Her correspondence, she says, is overwhelming, and her salary not sufficient to pay a secretary; she has had one experience of having to sit up during an all-night session, when the Opposition was "stone-walling," and she remarked quite simply that she believes she stood it better than most of the men, who were stretched about on the benches all around her, "because, you see, we women are accustomed to be up sometimes half the night with a baby or a sick husband or child, and we are more used to it than are the men." She did some sewing, and at 8 in the morning the release came!

Mrs. Cowan, who is between 50 and 60 years of age, tells some amusing stories about her correspondence. One man in the back blocks wrote of his troubles in finding a wife, because he lived in such an out-of-the-way wild part; he had been twice engaged, but when the young women saw the "shack," and realised the distance that would divide them from picture palaces, they remarked, "Not me!" and the vision of matrimony fell through. This settler's idea of one of the duties of Mrs. Cowan as a woman M.P. was to get the Government to organise a Marriage Bureau in Perth, to introduce women new-comers to the Colony to up-country settlers; and the man had worked out the idea in his letter, even to the subscribing by each settler of £5 to the expenses of the Bureau. Another man wrote that there was a quantity of gypsum on the land he was farming, which could be profitably worked, if a company could be formed. He wrote that he could not trust any man M.P. with the information he was giving Mrs. Cowan, but he told her how to go about forming the company, and gave her many valuable details about the gypsum, and how it should be worked. This anecdote seemed to me to point to the fact that men realised women enter public work not in the spirit of having an axe to grind, but for higher and more honourable motives, and I fully believe that Mrs. Cowan, though she may not, among her multifarious duties, be able to start a matrimonial bureau or float a company, will make good to such an extent that she will not only be re-elected next year, but that she will have one or two women companions in her legislative duties who will prove by their fitness for the job that they have come to stay.

### WOMEN ANCIENT AND MODERN.

The *Birmingham Post* reminds us that at the famous Bologna University, in the Middle Ages, women were admitted on the same terms as men; they studied, graduated, were given professorships and academic Chairs in complete equality with their learned brothers. Law seems to have been the chief subjects at this University, and the first woman barrister was the noble Batisia, born in 1209, who, having studied both civil and canon law, practised for many years. A mother and two daughters belonging to another noble family did likewise, and yet another who married a lawyer was able to take her husband's place on many occasions. In later years, Lauri Bossi (1711) and Anna Morandi (1716) were prominent scholars of this University, the former studying philosophy, metaphysics, general physics, Greek, and Latin.

The *Morning Post* reports that the Court of Common Council has put aside its ancient custom of refusing to issue the freedom of the City to married women, but is doubtful whether the Corporation will pass an Act of Common Council on the matter. It says that "To suggest a woman member of the Court of Aldermen is to open a difficult and intricate subject. Even were a woman eligible, it is doubtful whether she could become Sheriff, and service as Sheriff is an essential qualification for the Mayoralty. An Alderman must go forward for the Mayoralty or resign. The difficulties of a woman occupying the Sheriffalty are obvious. A Sheriff is the executive officer. Legally it is he who is responsible for the actual work of carrying into effect a judgment, and we still have capital punishment."

## THE BRIGHTON CONFERENCE.

By LEAH MANNING, J.P.

Another Annual Conference of the National Union of Teachers has come and gone—rather a dull and disappointing affair, if the truth must be told, unmarked by anything brilliant in the way of debate, and particularly unsatisfying in the way of achievement.

The Public Sessions of Conference are devoted to those motions on the Agenda which deal with general educational policy, and the first business on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings to Resolutions calling the attention of the public, through the Press, to the most vital educational questions of the day. The Resolution for Tuesday morning, "A dirge within the compass of an octave," as it was wittily designated by its seconder, Mr. Blake, was an indictment of the Board of Education on eight counts. The Resolution was moved by the Treasurer, Mr. W. B. Bentliff, and no one who listened could fail to be stirred by the passionate sincerity of his appeal. But there is a certain section of the Press which views with jaundiced eyes any attempt to further the cause of education. To Lord Rothermere and his minions, no one is disinterested; there must always be an ulterior motive lurking in the background, and when the Teachers' Conference makes an appeal on behalf of the children, the *Daily Mail* at once sees a thinly veiled artifice to secure some personal advantage to the teachers. One is glad to notice that this bitter and unjust attack met with resentment in the more responsible sections of the Press.

On Wednesday morning the important Resolution was in the hands of Mr. Conway, the new Vice-President. The terms of the Resolution dealt with the relationship between primary and secondary education. In moving, Mr. Conway called attention to the grave inequalities in the conditions governing the two branches, made a strong plea for universal secondary education, and showed the wastage which arises from allowing the two systems to run parallel, instead of welding them into a unified system, with free transference of teachers from one grade to another. Conference delegates of some years' standing will realise that this is a question on which teachers as a whole have themselves moved forward considerably during the past few years. Whilst the resolution met with unani-

mous approval at Brighton, it is only a few years since a very similar Resolution moved by the late Mr. W. Harris was received with but very scant encouragement.

The Private Sessions were amusing. Over the question of the Parliamentary report of the Executive, the report of the Examiners of Accounts, and the Executive proposal to try some form of devolution, there were some quite exciting moments. The "Floor" stood up to the Executive, who had to protect themselves behind the most rigid application of Standing Orders. But there can be little question that the real victory lay with the "Floor" every time, and the undoubted result will be a modification of the Executive line of action in certain directions.

There were two Resolutions in private Sessions likely to interest readers of THE VOTE, one calling for the immediate suspension of the policy of Equal Pay, and one suggesting that steps should be taken by the Executive to prevent the further employment of married women teachers whose husbands are in receipt of sufficient means to support them. The arrangement of the Agenda is the result of a ballot of all the associations. Both these Resolutions came out very badly, and were so far down the Agenda that they were not reached. Moreover, as they are both of a highly controversial nature, they were not "put," when the Resolutions remaining undebated were being disposed of. One wonders, as a matter of curiosity, should an Equal Pay Resolution by some strange fluke ever be reached, just how a Conference would treat it.

The constitution of the new Executive, so far as men and women are concerned, remains unaltered—thirty-one men to six women. Miss Scorer lost her seat, and Miss A. K. Williams, who was defeated last year, regained her seat for the Metropolitan district. Three other constituencies returned one woman, one constituency returned two women, one constituency nominated a woman, who was defeated, and four constituencies did not even nominate a woman. This, of course, is a deplorable state of affairs; but it is a matter entirely in the hands of the women, and easily within their power to remedy.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Women's Bar Successes.

Seven women were successful in the Easter Term Bar Examinations, held in Lincoln's Inn Hall last month. We specially congratulate our member, Miss Emily Phipps (Middle Temple), who, we understand, is the first woman to obtain a First Class in Real Property and Conveyancing. The Misses Lilian Snow (Lincoln's Inn) and Gladys Steyn (Middle Temple) obtained Second Classes in the same subject. In Criminal Law and Procedure, Miss Jessie Wall (Gray's Inn), who obtained a First Class, and Miss Ida Kelly (Middle Temple) were successful. In Constitutional Law and Legal History, Miss L. Agatha Monroe (Middle Temple) obtained a Second Class. Miss Joan Clarkson (Inner Temple) passed in Roman Law.

### No Women Rabbis.

The Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College of America has rejected the proposal for the ordination of women as Rabbis, and has agreed "that no change should be made in the practice of limiting to males the right to matriculate for the purpose of entering the Rabbinate." The decision has caused a good deal of surprise and indignation, as there is one young woman in the College, Miss Martha Neumark, who is a candidate for ordination in due course, and it is difficult to understand why she was accepted as a student of the College if the Board of Governors had no intention of ordaining her when she is ready.

### A Domestic Service Newspaper.

A newspaper for domestic servants has recently been published in Paris under the title of "The Backstairs." It was proposed some months ago by the Union des Gens de Maison, which, with its membership of 6,000 and its possibilities of 217,000 domestic servants, has been formed to deal with the bad conditions of domestic service in Paris. In addition to information on domestic matters generally, "The Backstairs" also touches on general politics, art, sport, woman suffrage, and includes some fiction.

### An Ulsterwoman in Jugo Slavia.

An Irishwoman, Miss Beatrice A. Kerr, has been appointed social welfare worker in the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. All the others holding appointments of the kind are Serbian doctors, so that Miss Kerr has the greater reason to be proud of the distinction she has well earned. She did admirable work in many wild and out-of-the-way corners of the Near East during the Great War, and had strange and sometimes amusing adventures.

### An Agricultural Expert.

Lady Mabel Smith, a sister of Earl Fitzwilliam, who is addressing meetings of strikers in Norfolk, has made a close study of the conditions under which agricultural labourers live, and during the war worked as hard as any of the land-girls. At one time she applied for a position as a road repairer, but did not succeed in obtaining it.

## THE VOTE.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
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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 a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

## THE GOOD NEW DAYS.

We do not often boast about them because we desire so much to see them still further improved, and all our efforts are directed to securing that improvement. Yet we are bound to acknowledge, when we take stock of our present position, and compare conditions to-day with those prevailing in past generations, that we have progressed towards a saner civilisation. New ideals are abroad, standards of general conduct have been raised, the public conscience can be aroused, and, although at times every social reformer feels inclined to despair because of our unspeakable slum dwellings, with their resulting physical and moral diseases; because of the blind stupidity of our present penal system, which engrains criminality into the prisoner instead of reforming the delinquent; because of our vast army of unemployed men and women at home, while there are armies abroad bent on destructive war instead of productive peace; because of a double standard of morality for the sexes, with its natural tendency for the lower instead of the higher to be accepted; and because of so much individual crime and cruelty—in spite of all this and much more, we are bound to admit that the present age is an improvement on the past. When piloting her Bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating drink to young persons under 18 in public houses through its Committee stage in the House of Commons, Lady Astor resisted an amendment moved by Mr. W. Greaves-Lord to limit the scope of the Bill to spirits and wines, and remarked that women and mothers were now a new factor in politics, and what was good enough for the good old days was not good enough for the good new days. And Lady Astor was right. All women's organisations desire to see girls and boys under eighteen years of age protected from all kinds of harm. It cannot be claimed that the present public-house is a fit place for these young people. The Women's Freedom League has also continuously worked to secure legislation to protect boys and girls from moral harm up to the age of 18; and we have pressed that delinquents under 18 should be dealt with by the Education authorities instead of by magistrates in police courts, which means, of course, that we are entirely opposed to the school life of a child ending at fourteen years. No woman who gives the matter a thought can believe that there was much good in the days when little children, at immense risk to themselves, were employed to sweep our chimneys, and to work in mines and factories for twelve hours at a stretch. We shall never be content with the position of children in this land until every child is assured of a healthy life and the best education that the country can give to it; but in these good new days the organised exploitation of little children for gain is impossible. In the good old days it was considered quite respectable for a man to fall under the table drunk several nights in the week. Few women nowadays would tolerate that degree of respectability. In the good old days the recognised position of a wife was that of her husband's chattel, and if a woman did

not marry, she was usually treated more or less as an outcast, and generally had to fulfil the rôle of unpaid, or underpaid, servant to her married relatives. In the good new days, women, married and single, are progressing, not so rapidly as we should like, but progressing surely towards an equality of status with men. Their self-respect has been called into being, they refuse to be relegated to the position of hewers of wood and drawers of water for men with less qualifications than themselves in the reconstruction of a New World. In these good new days, women are insisting with effect that no new world will be worth the trouble of building unless the women in it have absolute equality with men in regard to status, opportunities, rewards, and responsibilities. Let us rejoice in the Good New Days of the Present for the opportunity they give us to work for much better New Days in the Future.

## DISORDERLY HOUSES.

Last week Mr. Hurd asked the Home Secretary whether he had received representations from organisations of women electors as to the urgent need of further legislation, in order that punishment might fall upon both sexes in cases brought before magistrates on charges referring to disorderly houses; and what action he proposed to take? Mr. Bridgeman admitted that he had received representations on the subject, and replied that persons who kept disorderly houses were equally amenable to the law, irrespective of their sex, and he knew no reason for an amendment of the law in that respect. We think that the Home Secretary's answer was entirely inadequate, and did not meet the case. He was not asked about the people who kept the disorderly houses, but about the cases brought into Court. We all know that the people who keep disorderly houses are, when found out, punished; and we do not complain about that. Unfortunately, they are mostly women, who, still more unfortunately, run them for men profiteers, whose names are not mentioned. Our complaint, however, is that only the women, and not the men, who are discovered in these houses are brought into Court and punished. We see no reason of justice or equity in the fact that the women only are considered guilty of an offence, while the men, the partners of their guilt, are allowed to go scot-free without their names being disclosed in Court. Time after time Mrs. Smith, J.P., has raised a protest against this injustice in the Brighton Police Court; and there was a very flagrant case of this kind quite recently at Bath which aroused great indignation amongst women. In our view, an amendment of the present law is most urgently needed to deal with such cases.

## CRIMINAL ASSAULTS ON GIRLS.

We have frequently been asked by women interested in social work what is the percentage of convictions of men prosecuted for criminal assaults on girls. It is, of course, well known that the number of these criminal assaults far exceeds the number of prosecutions, because of the great difficulty in securing sufficiently accurate corroborative evidence to take the case into Court. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Frank Briant, M.P., for questioning the Home Secretary on the matter of these criminal assaults, and for sending us the copy of Mr. Bridgeman's reply, which we print on the adjoining page, and from which our readers will see for themselves the proportion of convictions to prosecutions of men accused on this charge, together with sentences passed on them. We note, also, that Mr. Briant intends asking the Home Secretary if his attention has been called to the sentence of *seven days'* imprisonment imposed at Hants Assizes last February on a man forty-four years of age found guilty of an offence against a girl of fourteen, who, as a result, is shortly to become a mother; and whether he has made any inquiry into that case.

## WORK IN PARLIAMENT.

After the defeat of the Government in the early part of last week, members found it difficult to regain their accustomed calm in the House of Commons. There has been an unusual dearth of questions of any special interest to women. Mr. Hurd (Frome) asked one on Disorderly Houses, and Mr. Frank Briant has given notice of a question concerning the inadequate punishment of a man convicted of a criminal assault, to both of which we refer on the opposite page.

Mr. Middleton (Carlisle) has questioned the Minister of Labour as to the necessity of the new investigation now being carried out by the officers of his Department into the private affairs of many of the women employes at Kew, pointing out that on more than one occasion these women have had to submit to similar investigation into their circumstances in the course of their employment with the Ministry of Labour; and that those transferred from other Departments because they were efficient workers maintaining others, had their affairs investigated by Substitution Boards, including ex-Service men in those Departments. Mr. Middleton wanted an assurance that the present investigation should be the last. Sir Montague Barlow replied that he was aware that inquiries had taken place previously, but it would be realised that personal circumstances frequently changed materially in a comparatively short time. The present inquiry was being made with the view to ensuring that only women who earned their own living, or had others dependent on them, were retained on the temporary staff. Although a further detailed inquiry would probably not be necessary, he considered that, in pursuance of the general policy of the Government in the matter, the circumstances of the officers concerned should be kept under scrutiny from time to time. In our view, this continued persecution for employment of the women at Kew by the Govern-

ment officials is entirely unjustified. If it is contended by the authorities that women should periodically submit to it, then every man employed by the State, from Cabinet Ministers to the lowest-grade Civil Service clerk, should have his intimate private affairs investigated at various times during his employment.

Last Thursday, when the Government was trying to get its Army and Air Force (Annual) Bill through Committee, its opponents used every means of obstruction within their power, with the result that the sitting continued for 21 hours, until just before noon on Friday, and the Friday sitting was adjourned almost immediately that the House met. Throughout the long sitting the members kept up to about 300, the Government supporters having evidently benefited by their lesson of the Division which went against them a few days earlier.

Last Monday there was a crowded House when Mr. Baldwin introduced his Budget. It certainly had no sensational item. *The Times* described it as "First-rate Finance," and its proposals as sound, whereas the *Daily Chronicle* condemned it as "A Mean Budget." The housewife can see nothing in it to make her burden less heavy; no reduction is to be made on tea or sugar, but many men will rejoice that beer will, with the combined help of the Government and the brewers, be 1d. per pint cheaper. The Income Tax is to be lowered by 6d.; heavier letters and printed papers are to be carried for the present rates; certain reductions are to be made in telephones; the duty of 4d. per gallon on cider is to be repealed, as well as 2d. per gallon on table waters. A Select Committee is to consider a betting tax; but, obviously, nothing is to be set aside this year by the Government for education or social reforms. We do not think that there is much in this Budget to arouse great enthusiasm among women.

## CRIMINAL ASSAULTS.

On March 22nd, MR. BRIANT (North Lambeth), asked the Home Secretary the annual number of prosecutions and convictions for Criminal Assault on girls under 16 in the years 1912-14 and 1920-22, and the maximum and minimum sentences imposed in each of these four years. By the courtesy of Mr. Briant, Mr. Bridgeman's communication was sent to us, and we reproduce it below:—

### CRIMINAL ASSAULTS ON GIRLS UNDER 16.

Number of Persons Prosecuted and Number of Persons Convicted in each of the years 1912, 1913, 1914, 1920 and 1921, showing lengths of Sentences at Assizes.

#### (a) Defilement of Girls under 13.

Year.	Persons Prosecuted.	Convicted at Assizes.	SENTENCES AT ASSIZES.														Borstal Detention.	Recognizances.	Otherwise disposed of.	Juveniles Convicted Summarily.					
			Penal Servitude.							Imprisonment.															
			15 years.	12 years.	10 years.	9 years.	7 years.	6 years.	5 years.	4 years.	3 years.	TOTAL.	2 years and over 18 months.	18 months and over 1 year.	1 year and over 9 months.	9 months and over 6 months.					6 months and over 3 months.	3 months and over 1 month.	1 month and over 14 days.	14 days and under.	TOTAL.
1912	125	64	—	—	1	—	—	—	7	4	9	21	2	12	6	1	11	1	—	3	36	4	1	2	9
1913	122	72	1	—	1	—	2	1	6	—	10	21	6	12	13	7	9	1	—	—	48	2	—	1	1
1914	97	55	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	3	5	12	3	8	9	6	6	5	—	—	37	5	1	—	9
1920	59	37	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	11	12	2	9	3	1	3	3	1	—	22	—	2	1	6
1921	69	37	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	5	10	3	7	6	1	7	1	—	—	25	—	2	—	2

#### (b) Defilement of Girls under 16.

1912	223	89	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	11	20	2	18	19	5	2	82	—	6	1	1
1913	258	99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	14	14	11	18	16	3	5	86	2	11	—	2
1914	204	91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	13	17	17	16	4	—	78	—	12	1	2
1920	137	53	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	9	9	8	2	4	1	44	2	7	—	2
1921	125	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6	8	9	7	6	2	—	43	—	4	—	—

NOTE.—The figures for 1922 are not available.

**WOMEN ENGINEERS' CONFERENCE AT BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY.**  
**APRIL 11-14.**

"This Conference has proved that women engineers are essentially practical and have a sound grip of the realities and principles of engineering."

This was the encouraging verdict of Professor F. W. Burstall, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Birmingham University, at the close of the second day's proceedings, when Miss Entwisle, A.M.I.E.E., had read a technical paper on "Some Considerations in Commercial Electrical Design."

The Society's Annual Report, read by Miss C. Haslett, the Secretary, gave a stimulating account of the year's work, showing, among other progress, the increased training facilities for the would-be engineer, and expressing the appreciation of the Society for the good-will and co-operation of the leading Engineering Institutions and academic bodies.

**Women Engineers in France.**

It must be considered a very definite sign of the times that a Conference of Women Engineers was offered hospitality by one of the leading Universities, and the gathering was yet more significant by the fact that Monsieur and Madame Laurent, directors of the Ecole Technique Feminine, were present as representatives of the French Government.

Madame Laurent gave an interesting lecture, with lantern illustrations, dealing with the training of women engineers in France. The two principal engineering schools of Paris—corresponding to our engineering sections of the Universities—are open to women, as well as the Ecole Central des Arts et de Manufactures and the Ecole Supérieur d'Electricité.

**American Woman Specialist.**

An unusually bracing discussion was probably lost by the illness of Mrs. Gilbreth, who is well known in New York as a specialist on the Science of Industrial Management. She is the author of several books on the subject, and her paper on the present occasion dealt, though in rather general terms, with the progress of standardisation in industry, and the increase in specialised methods of production, the elimination of "waste" of human energy, and what she summarised as the study of the "One Best Way to do Work."

Professor F. W. Burstall, on the other hand, in addressing the delegates at the opening of the Conference, had traced a brief history of mechanical engineering, from the Babylonian civilisation, when "muscular energy" was the only form of power known, to modern times, when mechanical power tends to reduce the human unit almost to an automaton. This he believed to be in direct conflict with the primitive human instincts, and he pointed out that past history and the study of psychology have shown us with almost absolute certainty, that if we defy those primitive instincts we cannot crush them, and in time they will inevitably crush us.

The strenuous labours of the delegates included the tour of the General Electric Co.'s works at Witton, and that of the Wolsely Motor Co., as well as an interesting couple of hours in the engineering laboratories and shops of the University at Edgbaston.

LEN CHALONER.

**GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.**

Our Annual Green, White, and Gold Fair has been fixed for Friday and Saturday, November 23rd and 24th, in the Basement Hall, at the Central Hall, Westminster. In addition to many attractive Stalls for Provisions, Cakes and Sweets, Jumpers, Handkerchiefs, Woollies, Children's Clothing, Overalls and Aprons, Toys, Underclothing, etc., there will be a good Musical Programme and Competitions.

Messrs. Weldons and Co., 30-32, Southampton Street, Strand, W.C.2, have offered a prize of Two Guineas for the best Camisole made from one of their Patterns. The Competition is open to members and non-members. The entrance fee for this, and all other competitions, will be 6d., and competitors may use any materials they wish.

All exhibits for Competitions should be addressed to the Hon. Fair Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, and sent not later than November 15th. Particulars of other Competitions will appear later.

(Hon. Fair Sec.) ELIZABETH BERRY.

**THE WORKING GIRLS' FRIEND.**

Mr. John Shrimpton, founder and director of the Homes for Working Girls in London (Incorporated), who died at Bournemouth on April 15th, in his 86th year, was the pioneer in helping poorly-paid girls to be independent. In 1878 he started his first Home; seven others have been gradually added.

**EDUCATIONAL UNION FOR THE REALISATION OF SPIRITUAL VALUES.**

**HOLIDAY CONFERENCE AT ILKLEY, YORKS,**

August 4-18, 1923.

Dr. Rudolf Steiner will lecture on Education in the light of Anthroposophy. Teachers from the Waldorf School, Stuttgart (of which Dr. Steiner is Educational Director), will take part.

For particulars apply to the Secretary—  
ILKLEY EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE,  
46, GLOUCESTER PLACE, W.1.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.**  
**LONDON AND SUBURBS.**



**DARE TO BE FREE.**

Monday, April 23rd, at 8 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting for Members only, at 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W. 3 (by kind permission of Mrs. Harverson). Conference Business.  
Friday, April 27th, at 2.30 p.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.  
Saturday, April 28th. Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall.  
Sunday, April 29th, at 3.30 p.m. Tea and Reception at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, to Delegates, London Members and Friends.

Visitors specially invited.  
Thursday, June 7th, 2 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Garden Fête at "The Hill," Hampstead (kindly lent by Viscount Leverhulme). Women's Freedom League, Green, White and Gold Stall.  
Friday, July 6th, Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, Westminster. Further particulars later.

**SCOTLAND.**

Friday, April 20th, at 8 p.m. Edinburgh. Special Branch Meeting at 44, George IV Bridge, to discuss Conference Resolutions and instruct Delegate.

Friday, May 11th. Glasgow. Branch Meeting, Delegate's Report of Conference.

**PROVINCES.**

Tuesday, April 24th, at 8 p.m. Southend-on-Sea and District. Public Meeting at St. John Ambulance Hall, 76, Queen's Road, Speaker: John W. Burrows, Esq. Subject: "Education."  
Wednesday, April 25th, at 3.15 p.m. Portsmouth. Members' Meeting at 2, Kent Road. Business: To instruct the Delegate how to vote at the Annual Conference. Any other business.

**OTHER SOCIETIES.**

Wednesday, April 25th, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Neave-Hobbs, Hon. Sec. N.W.C.A. Subject: "The Duties of a Chairman."

**BRANCH NOTES.**

**GLASGOW.**  
A Meeting of the re-formed Glasgow Branch of the League was held on Friday, April 13th, at the Central Halls, Bath Street, Glasgow. This was called by the London Organiser, Miss Brimson, with the object of appointing officers, and voting on Resolutions for Conference; also for appointing delegate to attend the Conference in London. Miss J. Thomson was voted into the Chair for the evening. Miss I. McLelland, formerly Organiser for the Scottish Council of the Women's Freedom League, who had been approached previously by Miss Brimson and agreed to act as Hon. Secretary, was unanimously appointed, and Miss R. McDougall was appointed as Press Secretary. Later in the evening, on the recommendation of Miss J. Thomson, Miss M. S. Thomson was appointed President. It was agreed to ask Miss McLelland to serve as the Branch delegate to the Annual Conference on April 28th. The members were extremely interested in the Secretary's and Political Reports, which were read, and felt that a great deal had been accomplished by Headquarters throughout the past year. The Resolutions were then read and discussed, and the delegate instructed how to vote.

The next meeting was fixed for Friday, May 11th, to hear the Delegate's Report of Conference.  
(Press Secretary) R. McDUGALL,  
West End College, Peel Street, Partick.

**MIDDLESBROUGH.**

The Annual Meeting was held in the Suffrage Rooms on Monday, the 9th inst., at 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., presided. The report of the year's work was satisfactory. It is pleasant to be able to record that the Branch is out of debt, the balance-sheet showing cash in hand of £6 2s. 1d. Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., was re-elected President. Mrs. Wallace, Secretary, Mrs. A. Wright, Treasurer, Mrs. Crowther, VOTE Secretary, Mrs. Harrison, "Fair" Secretary, were re-elected. Special thanks of the Branch are due to Mary (16) and Alice (12), the daughters of Mrs. Crowther, for their splendid work in connection with the sales of THE VOTE.

The next meeting will be held on May 7th, at 3 p.m., at the Suffrage Club.  
(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. E. A. WALLACE,  
231, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road.

**WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE**

The Women's Local Government Society, in co-operation with the Manchester Women Citizens' Association, is arranging a Conference for Women Councillors, Guardians, and Magistrates at Manchester on April 25th and 26th. The Conference will be held in the Council Chamber by the kindness of the Lord Mayor, who will preside at the morning session on April 25th.

The programme is one of special interest to all concerned in Local Government administration, and includes such varied subjects as Prison Reform, Smoke Abatement, Education, Children under the Poor Law, the Child Delinquent, and Women House Property Managers. The speakers include Mr. Sparley Hey and Lt.-Col. Gater, Directors of Education for Manchester and Lancashire respectively; Mr. Alexander M. Paterson, Chief Inspector of Borstal Institutions; Councillor E. D. Simon, and Mrs. Edwin Gray, J.P. The Governor of Strangeways Prison, Major The Hon. H. FitzClarence, M.C., will preside at the session dealing with Prison Reform.

**TREASURY LIST.**

**NATIONAL FUND.**

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1922, £38,966 13s. 4d. £ s. d. £ s. d.

Amount previously acknowledged ..... 41 14 3  
Special Emergency War Fund:—  
A Friend ..... 5 0 0  
Women in Parliament Fund:—  
Mrs. McQuitty, per Mrs. McCracken ... 2 6

Spring Sale:—  
The Hon. Lady Parsons, J.P. .... 2 2 0  
Nurse Blake ..... 10 0  
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Mrs. Sadd Brown ..... 5 0  
Miss Read ..... 2 0  
Mid-London Branch ..... 1 0 0  
Stall Takings:—  
Toy Stall ..... 1 18 0  
White Stall ..... 8 7 0  
General ..... 6 13 6  
Household ..... 4 4 7  
Pound ..... 4 15 9  
Montgomery Boroughs Branch ..... 7 8 9  
Miss Burwood ..... 1 3 6  
Breathing Alphabets, per Dr. Lewin ..... 11 6  
Auction ..... 15 1  
Refreshments ..... 7 7 0  
Competition, per Miss E. Berry ..... 0 17 0

Dr. Patch ..... 54 7 8  
Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. .... 5 5 0  
Chas. Coates, Esq. .... 5 0 0  
Miss Bisdee ..... 3 3 0  
Mrs. Sadd Brown ..... 2 0 0  
Minerva Café ..... 1 8 3  
Mrs. E. Bennett ..... 1 13 6  
Miss Hare ..... 1 1 0  
H. S. L. Fry, Esq. .... 1 0 0  
Mrs. E. Rosa Napier ..... 1 0 0  
Mrs. Halley ..... 11 6  
Miss Florence Hardy ..... 10 0  
Mrs. J. McKeurtan, M.B.E. .... 10 0  
Miss M. I. Saunders ..... 10 0  
Mrs. Evans ..... 7 6  
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Mrs. Zoondelevitch ..... 4 0  
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Mrs. Purchas ..... 3 0  
Miss Gladys Ward ..... 2 6  
Mrs. Lucas ..... 2 6  
Mrs. Turriff ..... 2 0  
Miss M. M. Homersham, M.A., A.S.A.A. . 1 0  
Mrs. Alice Judge ..... 1 0  
Miss V. G. Lewin ..... 1 0  
Miss Mabel Turner ..... 1 0  
Miss Elsie Underwood ..... 1 0  
Miss Watt ..... 1 0

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Collections ..... 5 1 3  
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Sundries, per Minerva Café ..... 23 0 9  
Office Sales ..... 2 3 6  
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Manchester ..... 12 0  
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Portsmouth ..... 1 5 0  
Swansea ..... 1 10 0

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**GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.**

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,**  
**NOVEMBER 23RD & 24TH.**

**STRING BAND.**

Amateur String Players are invited to give their services to provide a Band for the days of the Fair. The Band will be under the Hon. Conductorship of Mrs. Van Raalte. Application to be made to the Hon. Fair Sec., Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY,  
APRIL 20  
1923.

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**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, April 22nd. 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden.

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I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.

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