

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVII. No. 857.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 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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## XX.—OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

COUNCILLOR MRS. COXON, MAYOR OF KING'S LYNN.

Councillor Mrs. Coxon was the first and only woman member of the Town Council before she became elected to the Mayoralty last November, a year after her husband, Major S. A. Coxon, who acted as Mayor during 1923-4. As Councillor, she takes a particular interest in the subjects of Housing and Education.

Upon her election as Mayor she received a congratulatory telegram from Princess Victoria. Her daughter, Mrs. Bellars, acts as Mayoress, and her husband, who is recognised as an authority on ancient customs, performs the office of Director of Ceremonies. Mr. R. Taylor acts as Deputy-Mayor, and the Rev. J. Blackburn, as Mayor's Chaplain.

In her electoral address, Mrs. Coxon referred to the problems of Housing and Unemployment, and emphasized the necessity for their amelioration in the immediate future if the race was to continue in health, and efficiency. She made an amusing allusion to the



THE MAYOR OF KING'S LYNN.

looking round the Council Chamber at the photographs of past Mayors, she realised that many of the capable men and true who had held her present office would perhaps smile if they could see her there that day, or go further and protest against what might appear to them as a drastic and unheard-of innovation. But she believed that all of them who had made a similar venture would wish her well in her new and unaccustomed sphere of action.

East Anglia, so far, has shown itself most progressive in the appointment of women Mayors. One of the earliest women Mayors in these parts was Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, Mayor of Aldeburgh. Norwich, again, has the proud prerogative of being the only city in the United Kingdom to appoint a woman Lord Mayor, in the person of Miss Ethel Mary Coleman. Other women Mayors of East Anglia will

be noted in the accompanying list.

**Special issues of "Our Women Mayors":**—XIX. Mrs. F. J. Simpson, Mayor of Higham Ferrers, Northampton, February 26th, 1926; XVIII. Councillor Miss Lucy Dales, Mayor of Dunstable, January 22nd, 1926; XVII. Councillor Miss Edith Nevile, M.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Lincoln, December 11th, 1925; XVI. Alderman Miss Smee, J.P., Mayor of Acton, October 30th, 1925; XV. Dame Catherine Hunt, D.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Colchester, March 6th, 1925; XIV. Miss Margaret Wix, Mayor of St. Albans, February 13th, 1925; XIII. Mrs. Eva Hartree, Mayor of Cambridge, January 30th, 1925; XII. Mrs. Ethel Leach, J.P., Mayor of Great Yarmouth, January 16th, 1925; XI. Mrs. M. A. Mercer, Mayor of Birkenhead, December 19th, 1924; X. Miss C. Maude Eve, Mayor of Stoke Newington, November, 28th, 1924; IX. Miss Ethel Mary Colman, Lord Mayor of Norwich, January 11th, 1924; VIII. Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, D.B.E., Mayor of Ramsgate, January 4th, 1924; VII. Councillor Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Mayor of Colchester, November 9th, 1923; VI. Miss Beatrice Cartwright, J.P., Mayor of Brackley, Northants, December 15th, 1922; V. Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Bermondsey, December 1st, 1922; IV. Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham, September 15th, 1922; III. Councillor Miss Christina Hartley, Mayor of Southport, Lancs, August 11th, 1922; II. Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton, Devon, July 7th, 1922; I. Mrs. Ellen Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### London Women Doctors.

Out of 7,588 members of the medical profession practising in London, about 12 per cent. are women. The Public Health Department of the L.C.C. are now making their annual arrangements for the employment of part-time assistant medical officers, and of the 36 who are re-engaged for another year 21 are women. Of the nine new-comers four are women.

### Women Bank Officials.

On marriage, women will be required to relinquish their positions on the staff of Barclay's Bank, state the directors in announcing a new pensions scheme. They will then receive a gratuity equal to 5 per cent. of their annual salary for every completed year of service. The new scheme will come into force on January 1st next year.

### American Woman Mayor.

Seattle has, by a majority of 6,000 votes, elected Mrs. B. K. Landes as the city's first woman mayor. Mrs. Landes, who is a sister-in-law of Dr. David Starr Jordan, the President Emeritus of Stamford University, should take office on June 7th next. Seattle, it is claimed, would then be the largest city in the world ruled by a woman (the population of Seattle was 315,000 at the 1920 Census).

### Jewish Women Preachers.

"Council Sabbath" is the name generally applied in America to the Sabbath preceding Purim. It is the day on which the claims of Jewish women to their rights in the synagogue and the community are emphasized, and that particular Sabbath has been selected because of Esther's great services to her people. On February 27th the seventh annual "Council Sabbath" was observed, and in a number of synagogues Jewish women occupied the pulpits.

### Woman Barrister's Post.

The appointment of Miss Monica Geikie Cobb, barrister at-law, as deputy to Mr. R. R. Ludlow, chairman of the Court of Referees in London under the Unemployment Insurance Act, has been confirmed by the Minister of Labour, Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland. Miss Cobb was the first woman to hold a brief in England. She is a member of the Midland circuit, and is now the first woman to sit as chairman of the Court of Referees.

### Russian Women Ships' Officers.

The Soviet Government has decided to permit women to be officers on ships of their mercantile marine. One woman is to be a naval architect in State shipbuilding yards; another is appointed to be captain of a steamer. She will be the first woman to command a ship of the Black Sea fleet.

### Woman Motorist's Triumph.

Miss Violet Cordery claims to have broken 33 records during her recent motoring tests on the Monza track in Italy, where she completed 15,600 miles at over 55 miles an hour in 11½ days. Miss Cordery lives at Cobham, Surrey, and is well known on the Brooklands track.

### The Pope and Frenchwomen Voters.

His Holiness Pius XI. has sent a letter of warm encouragement to the Women's Society in Paris already instructing Catholic women on the use of the vote which must be soon accorded in France.

### Church Built by Servant.

Ewell (Surrey) Congregational Church, which has celebrated its diamond jubilee, was originally started in 1825 by a Ewell servant girl, Mary Wallis, who built a small chapel out of her savings.

### Women Cup Winners.

Women won the three principal cups at the Pony Show at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, in the section for Shetlands, Dales, Dartmoor and Exmoor types.

### A Club for Grandmothers.

The idea of a Grandmothers' Club, which meets at Browning Hall, Walworth Road, each Tuesday, actually originated in New York. "As soon as I hear you have started a Grandmothers' Club as well as a Grandfathers', I'll double my donation," remarked a New York woman to the Warden of the Robert Browning Settlement, the Rev. J. W. Graves, during his visit to the United States last summer. Accordingly the Grandmothers' Club was founded in September, and it already has 40 members.

### Women Cyclists and Track-racing.

At the recent annual meeting of the National Cyclists' Union it was decided to legalise track-racing for women, and the necessary rules were finally approved. This means that women cyclists may now compete in amateur events previously open to men only.

### Headmistress Appointed.

At a meeting of the council of St. Felix School, Southwold, Suffolk, held in London recently, Miss E. M. Edghill, M.A., Headmistress of Redland High School, Bristol, was appointed Headmistress of St. Felix, to succeed Miss L. Silcox, who is retiring next September.

### Montreal Women Again Defeated.

Quebec Legislative Council has rejected a Bill, already passed by the Assembly, giving municipal votes to Montreal married women owning real estate.

## POST OFFICE WOMEN'S GRIEVANCES.

That woman employees of the Post Office (Telegraphists, Telephonists, and Counter Clerks) have many grievances was clearly demonstrated at a crowded mass meeting held at Memorial Hall on Tuesday evening, March 15th.

Miss L. M. Herring, of the National Executive, Union of Post Office Workers, proposed the following resolution: "That this meeting of London Post Office women is of opinion that the wages paid to Counter Clerks, Telegraphists, and Telephonists are not commensurate with the value of work performed, or sufficient to maintain a reasonable standard of living. It is felt that, in order to obtain adequate recognition of their services from the Department, united action is necessary, and, in order to ensure that the dissatisfaction existing amongst women members of these classes is made known, this meeting pledges itself to work continuously for that end. It further expresses the belief that the formation of a Women's Section of the Union of Postal Workers would have the effect of promoting an increased interest and enthusiasm for Trade Union activities." Miss Herring stated that wages at present were in no way a fair return for work given. The effect of lower wages was to place women in an inferior position in the Service. The Department always gave its most interesting work to those who received the highest pay, consequently much of the uninteresting routine work came to women.

The enthusiasm shown for a Women's Section within the Union clearly indicated that Post Office women were not content to remain in their present condition. They wished to follow the example of the Trades Union Congress and Labour Party, to hold Conferences, and to formulate their own Charter.

Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., was present, and urged upon women the necessity of getting into their Union. Dealing with the subject of Widows' and Orphans' Pensions, she stated that Civil Service women were called upon to pay 1½d per week under the scheme, but were refused all benefits. There was no reason why women should be forced to contribute to a scheme which, as far as they were concerned, was unsound. It was sheer robbery, and nothing else.

B. J.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Equal Franchise.

On March 17th, MR. GRUNDY (Lab., Rother Valley) gave notice that on that day fortnight he would call attention to the question of equal franchise as between men and women, and move a Resolution.

### Legitimacy Bill.

CAPT. CAZALET (U., Chippenham) asked the Prime Minister if the Government have yet decided when they will introduce the Legitimacy Bill in another place? THE PRIME MINISTER: My noble and learned Friend the Lord Chancellor hopes to introduce the Bill at an early date.

COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Prime Minister whether the Legitimacy Bill is likely to be brought before the House this year? THE PRIME MINISTER: Yes, Sir, the Government desire, if possible, to pass the Bill into law this Session.

Last Friday, the Lord Chancellor introduced in the House of Lords a Bill to amend the law relating to children born out of wedlock, and it was read a first time.

### Married Women (Nationality).

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., W. Leicester) asked the Home Secretary whether he has now had replies from the Dominions with regard to the Resolution passed in this House on the 18th February, 1925, with regard to the nationality of married women, and whether he will inform the House as to their contents?

SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I am informed that no communication on this subject has been received from any of the Dominion Governments since my reply on the 21st December last. MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE: Seeing that a very considerable time has elapsed, can the right hon. Gentleman give us any hope that he will do what he can to accelerate the reply on this matter? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I am obliged to my hon. Friend for calling my attention to the matter. I have already communicated with the Dominions on the subject.

### Girls' Benefit.

COL. WOODCOCK (U., Everton) asked the Minister of Labour the number of girls under 18 years of age who are now receiving unemployment benefit? MR. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour): At the 1st March, 10,457 girls in Great Britain aged 16 and 17 had claims to unemployment benefit current, but I cannot say how many of them were actually in receipt of benefit at that date. VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth): Can the hon. Member say how many boys are out of employment? MR. BETTERTON: That is not the question on the paper.

### Nurses.

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., E. Middlesbrough) asked the Ministry of Pensions how many Nurses had received pensions as a result of disabilities arising from war service; and how many had been refused pensions? MAJOR TRYON: Up to the end of February last, awards had been made to 2,542 nurses. The records of the Ministry do not enable me to give the information asked for in the latter part of the question. MISS WILKINSON: Are not all applications kept, and are they not available for purposes of record? MAJOR TRYON: Of course, we have records of the nurses who are in receipt of pension, but we have not a record of every nurse who may have applied. I have no reason to suppose nurses are not receiving as favourable consideration as any other class of applicant.

### Central Advisory Committee (Pensions).

COL. CLIFTON BROWN (U., Hexham) asked the Minister of Pensions whether he is now in a position to announce the names and qualifications of members of his Central Advisory Committee, as reconstituted? MAJOR TRYON: The Committee will consist of nine persons (including three ladies) representing War Pensions Committees, all of whom have had long and active

experience of War Pensions work, while four have, in addition, special knowledge of work in connection with the welfare and education of children; eight representatives of ex-service officers and men; and four representatives of the official staff of the Ministry, central and local. COL. CLIFTON BROWN: Is that an increase or a decrease of those appointed to look after the interests of the widows and orphans? MAJOR TRYON: I am glad to be able to assure the House that under the new system there are three women on the Committee, which I think will be a great advantage to the Committee in dealing with problems affecting women and children. The scheme initiated by the late Government provided no representation of women at all. (*We ourselves do not consider that three women compared with eighteen men is an adequate proportion of women.*)

The names of the three women are: MRS. A. HOLTBY, Chairman of Children's Sub-Committee of Hull War Pensions Committee; Member of East Riding County Council—MISS E. H. KELLY, C.B.E., J.P., Chairman of Children's Sub-Committee, Portsmouth War Pensions Committee; J.P. (Children's Court); Member of Special Grants Committee; Hon. Secretary, Children's Services Home, Southsea; Hon. Secretary, Portsmouth Branch of Navy League; Member of Local Employment Committee, Ministry of Labour—and MISS G. T. TRUBSHAW, O.B.E., Vice-Chairman of South-West Wales War Pensions Committee and Chairman of General Purposes Sub-Committee; Member of Carmarthenshire County Council and of County Education Committee; Chairman of Juvenile Employment Committee and Local Employment Committee, Ministry of Labour, Llanelly; Trustee of Welsh Troops Fund.

### Trade Board Acts.

MR. MARDY JONES (Lab., Pontypridd) asked the Minister of Labour: (1) What proportion of waitresses is shown by the result of his recent investigation in the light refreshment and dining-room section of the catering trade to be receiving wages, exclusive of tips, of 20s. per week or less; 15s. per week or less; and 10s. per week or less respectively; and what is the average amount of tips received per week by such waitresses in the light refreshment section of the trade and in the dining-room section of the trade, respectively?

(2) Whether, in view of his decision that wages and conditions in the grocery, catering, drapery, and meat distributive trades do not call for action under the Trade Board Acts, he will state what evidence is required to prove the existence of sweating in any trade?

MR. BETTERTON: The reports shortly to be published will contain a summary of the information available with regard to wages and conditions in the catering trade and the other trades mentioned, and will disclose the facts on the basis of which the Government came to their decision. MR. MARDY JONES: Will that report contain information showing not only the tips which may or may not be granted to these people, but the deductions made by the employers for various reasons out of their weekly wages? MR. BETTERTON: Yes, the question of tipping is gone into. MR. PALING (Lab., Doncaster): Is it considered there is no sweating in these trades? MR. BETTERTON: I would ask the hon. Member to wait till he sees the Report, which embraces the whole subject. The meat and drapery Reports will be issued in a few days; the other two Reports will follow shortly after.

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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.

### WOMEN—UNEMPLOYED AND EMPLOYED.

The thanks of women are due to Lady Astor, Miss Wilkinson, and Mr. Purcell, the Labour Member for Forest of Dean, for bringing the hard case of women workers to the notice of the House of Commons last week, when the Industrial conditions were discussed. Lady Astor stated that at the present time there were 200,000 women in this country registered as unemployed, and that the actual number was far greater—probably 250,000. No relief work was provided for them, and there was only one scheme—the Central Committee on Women's Trades and Unemployment—which tried to train and help unemployed women and girls. The Committee had already trained 37,330 women. Sixty per cent. of the women trained in domestic work had found domestic employment, and eighty-five per cent. of those who had been given professional training were known to have found work on completion of their training. She expressed the hope that the Government would continue the grants for the Women's Training Centres. She thought that the Government ought to do as much for unemployed women as for unemployed men. Miss Wilkinson supported what Lady Astor had said about women. At present, the training schemes for women were being starved. She also drew attention to the fact that where in the case of men one in seven was disallowed benefit, in the case of women one in three was disallowed. Further, the average period of extended benefit granted to men was twelve weeks, compared with only four weeks granted to women. They were paying on the same terms as the men, and yet the scales were weighted so heavily against them. If they were single women, they were told that they must live with their relations. If they were married—Lancashire women were accustomed to earn their own living, although married—they were told that they must live on their husbands. On the very day that women asked for their standard benefit, they were told that they were not genuinely seeking work. Mr. Purcell protested against the attitude of the Ministry of Labour in regard to unemployed women. He asked if the Ministry had thought of what was happening to a large number of these women and girls, and declared, "We have homes for lost dogs and lost cats, but there is no home for the decent woman who is unemployed!" He said that if the Government gave £50,000, £60,000, or £100,000 more to keep these women under far better conditions, it would be doing a very useful piece of work. As a matter of fact, the Ministry, by cutting unemployed people off from benefit, were almost daily and weekly destroying home life in this country. Mr. Purcell also championed the cause of the waitresses. He complained that the Ministry had not seen its way to establish a Trade Board for the catering trade, and declared that waitresses in this country were at the present time receiving in wages 7s. to 17s. 6d. per week, and that in very rare cases the wages reached 25s. a week. It would be said that in most of such cases the waitresses got tips; but an inquiry had been made into the tipping system, and in the largest shops, those which might be regarded as large company shops, the tips were the lowest of all. He stated that the average worked out under 2s., and the

better-class shop at 4s. per week. If that amount was trebled and added to the 7s. or the 17s. 6d. a week, Mr. Purcell maintained that the wages of these waitresses would still be sweated wages.

We agree with Mr. Purcell, with Lady Astor, and with Miss Wilkinson about the sorry plight of women workers; and we would point to the fact that the great mass of them are under thirty years of age, and therefore not voters. There are few waitresses over thirty, and comparatively few over twenty-five. It is these women workers who so urgently need political power. Most of them go into the Labour Market at 14 years of age, and long before they are twenty-one they are compelled to be self-supporting. We note that Lord Haldane said, in a Debate on Compulsory Voting in the House of Lords last week, that he would like to see women placed on an equality with men in regard to the vote by raising the male age of qualification to 25 and reducing the women's age to 25. We say, emphatically, that waitresses and women workers generally have the utmost need of the Parliamentary Vote and of the political power it implies at the age of twenty-one.

### LEAD PAINT BILL.

The text of the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Bill, introduced in the House of Commons last week by Sir William Joynson-Hicks, has been issued. Its object is to make better provision for the protection against lead poisoning of persons employed in painting buildings. The Home Secretary is given power to make regulations:—(a) for prohibiting the use of any lead compound except in the form of paste or of paint ready for use; (b) for the prevention of danger arising from the application of lead paint in the form of spray; (c) for the prevention so far as practicable of danger arising from dust caused by dry rubbing down and scraping; (d) for providing for the medical examination of persons employed in or in connection with painting with lead paint, and for the suspension from such employment of persons whose health is or appears likely to be injuriously affected thereby; (e) for securing that facilities for washing during, and on cessation of, work are afforded to persons employed in painting; (f) for the use of protective clothing by persons so employed, and for preventing clothes left off during work from being soiled by paint; and (g) for the distribution to persons so employed of instructions with regard to hygienic precautions to be taken.

With the foregoing preventive measures against the poisoning of men and women workers, the Women's Freedom League is in whole-hearted agreement; but we entirely disagree with the provision of Clause 2 of this Bill under which, after November 19, 1927, the employment of adult women in painting buildings with lead will be prohibited. We protest that here again adult women are classed with Young Persons. We would in every way support the general and effective protection of all workers—men and women, and the special protection of young persons; but we emphatically object to the legal exclusion of women from this work. Under proper conditions—and all workers should work under proper conditions—adult women should have the same right as adult men to share in any remunerative employment, and women should themselves have the right to choose whether it is suitable work for them and whether or not they are prepared to take any risk that such employment involves.

### GREEK LAW AGAINST SHORT SKIRTS.

According to *The Times*, the first prosecution under the new decree prohibiting the wearing of skirts more than fourteen inches from the ground, took place last Monday. A girl of 20 was arrested by a police officer in the principal street in Athens, with a skirt an inch too short, and taken to the police court, where she was found "Guilty" and sentenced to 24 hours' imprisonment. The sentence was received with derision in a crowded court.

## OUR WORK THIS SUMMER.

### The Peacemakers' Pilgrimage.

The Women's Freedom League has decided to give all possible support to this great Pilgrimage in the cause of Peace, which is to start early in May and culminate in a big demonstration in Hyde Park on June 19th.

We who live in London will write and tell our friends in the country about it and the routes of the Pilgrim bands from Edinburgh, Carlisle, Swansea, Penzance, Brighton and Cromer. In many places local Committees of combined women's organisations are already formed. Practically all the big women's Societies and the League of Nations Union are co-operating in this Peace Pilgrimage.

In any difficulty, write to the Pilgrimage Secretary, 55, Gower Street, W.C.1. All sympathisers are specially urged to join the ranks at some point and march in comradeship for the common ideal, even if only for a few miles or for a short time.

Help in the office, work, or decorations, posters, etc. would also be welcomed by the Pilgrimage Secretary, and offers of hospitality would be valuable.

It is interesting to know that a special armlet-badge is being worked out for the Pilgrims. Blue will be the chief colour of the Pilgrimage, green, purple, daffodil, scarlet, flame and white distinguishing the various routes.

The following have consented to give their names as supporters of the Pilgrimage:—Mrs. W. Arnold-Foster, Lady Balfour of Burleigh, Dame Henrietta Barnett, D.B.E., Lady Barrett, M.D., Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., Mrs. George Cadbury, J.P., Lady Violet Bonham-Carter, Lady Florence Cecil, Mrs. Despard, Dame Millicent Fawcett, The Hon. Mrs. Franklin, Miss S. Margery Fry, J.P., Mrs. Hartree, The Hon. Lily Montague, Lady Mary Murray, Dr. Marion Phillips, Miss Maude Royden, Miss S. Sanger, Mrs. Swanwick, Miss Sybil Thorndike, Dr. Jane Walker, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Mrs. Wintringham.

It has also been agreed to ask a number of distinguished men to express their support of the Pilgrimage, and to send messages which might be printed as a leaflet.

## CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN.

A comparison of the Report of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Children and Young Persons in Scotland (Price 1s. net., issued by H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.1), with a similar Report lately issued for England and Wales.

Following on the Report of the Departmental Committee on sexual offences against young persons comes the Report of the similar Committee appointed by the Secretary for Scotland, and the points of agreement and difference between the two are most interesting and instructive to note.

Both Reports naturally agree as to the administration of the law—that is, with regard to the handling of the children involved who have to give evidence. I say *naturally*, because every thinking person must agree that policewomen and matrons should deal with these cases, and women doctors if a doctor's evidence is necessary, and that great stress should be laid on medical evidence regarding the mental condition of accused persons. Also the court arrangements, the speeding-up of proceedings, and the questions of corroboration—now so often stumbling-blocks in the path of justice—should be altered to give a better opportunity for children's evidence to be more wisely treated.

A great difference between the two Reports arises, however, on the question of the age of consent. The Scottish Committee seem to have no idea of raising the age above fourteen, while the earlier Report raises it to seventeen, and the question of reasonable belief is to be abolished; and also there is the question of a girl, who consents to repeated offences, being able to be placed under detention.

A great deal more stress is laid on preventive measures, some especially directed towards parents, in this later Report, although both agree as to the need for special supervision in cinemas, parks, ice-cream shops, etc. A very wise stress is laid by the Scottish Committee on the need for good lighting in dark places, and

### Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party.

Our members and friends will be pleased to hear that Mrs. Despard has arranged to hold her Birthday Party this year at Caxton Hall, on Wednesday, June 30th, at 7.0 p.m. We shall all note the date at once in our diaries, so that nothing may prevent our participation in a record festivity.

On the following Saturday, July 3rd, our First-President will lead the detachment of the Women's Freedom League in the

### Great Combined Equal Political Rights Procession and Demonstration.

The Procession will form upon the Embankment and march with rejoicing bands and floating banners to Hyde Park, where a great mass meeting will be held, and resolutions asking for Equal Suffrage and the Political Equality of Women Peers will be passed simultaneously from 12 platforms.

So far, some 30 women's organisations have arranged to take part, including all the Suffrage Societies, the Women's International League, the Women's National Liberal Federation, the British Commonwealth League, the National Union of Women Teachers, the Women's Corporation Guild, Trade Unions, Women Engineers, Women Sanitary Inspectors, Women Clerks, etc.

Among the speakers will be Lady Astor, M.P., Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Lady Rhondda, Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Drummond, Miss Agnes Dawson, and Dr. Jane Walker.

A very great deal depends on the triumphant success of this great undertaking. All sections of women are working hard in friendly rivalry. We of the Women's Freedom League must use our best endeavours to show on the Embankment, and around our own platforms, a very large detachment of determined Suffragists, and we must educate the great mass of non-political women to join in this call for Political Equality.

the closing of dark cellars, yards and public conveniences. At the same time, this Report seems to go rather far in requiring the police to be notified of all cases of venereal disease, or pregnancy in girls under 16, as this would be extremely difficult to enforce, and might lead to children being kept from proper treatment till too late for cure or help. In both Reports proper instruction on sex matters is advised. The English Report deals more fully with special and rescue homes for the child victims of these offences; both agree on necessary changes in housing conditions, the Scottish Report going into fuller details, which again would seem difficult to enforce; and also both treat of the necessity for more drastic control of the mentally deficient.

The statistics of the English Report are rather fuller, but the percentages of increase in these crimes are given very clearly in the Scottish publication. In both there is agreement that punishment should be more equally dealt out, but it is rather painful to find that the Scottish Committee does not seem to consider that it is usually inadequate to the offence; and much more is made in that Report of the likelihood that the child may have contributed to its offence; the general principles seem to be overlaid by handling of details, for surely those men who commit such acts against young children need as severe a punishment for ruining young lives as any criminal appearing before the courts!

A general review of comparison will not allow of many important points being treated, and therefore only a few salient matters have been here noted, but for any one really interested in the Reports it would be best to read and compare them at leisure.

J. M. T.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League was held last Saturday, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1., those present being our President, Miss Anna Munro (in the Chair), Dr. Knight, Hon. Treasurer, Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), Mrs. Dexter, Mrs. Fiske (Glasgow), Miss Haugh, B.Sc., Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P. (Deal), Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), and the Secretary. Letters of regret at not being able to be present were read from Miss C. Neal (Swansea), and Mrs. Strickland (Hastings). The Committee unanimously sent a message to Miss Alix M. Clark, conveying sympathy in her long illness, and pleasure in learning that her health was improving, and expressing the hope that she would soon be with them again.

Reports were considered, discussed, and adopted by the Committee from the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary (Mrs. Whetton), the Secretary, and from the political, literature and VOTE sales departments. Since the last Committee Meeting our organisers had arranged successful public meetings in Glasgow; Edinburgh, Rothesay and Dunoon, at each of which Miss Anna Munro had spoken; another at Glasgow, at which Miss Eunice Murray was the chief speaker; at Deal and Walmer, which Mrs. Northcroft had addressed on Women's Work in the League of Nations; at Ashford, where Mrs. Mustard had been the speaker; and at Hastings, where Miss Munro had been the speaker and Mrs. Darent Harrison the Chairman; still another meeting at Hastings having been arranged for March 29th, where Mrs. Muriel Matters Porter will be the speaker and Mrs. Strickland the Chairman. The Committee was delighted to see evidence of increased activity in our Branches from reports of work submitted by the Secretaries of our Mid-London, Brighton, Deal and Walmer, Portsmouth, Swansea, Wallasey, Dunoon, Edinburgh, and Glasgow Branches. The Committee urged the full co-operation of all our Branches, both in the Peace Pilgrimage culminating in a demonstration in Hyde Park, on June 19th, and in the Equal Political Rights Procession to Hyde Park, and Demonstration therein, on Saturday, July 3rd.

Reports were considered from our delegates to meetings of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, the British Commonwealth League, the Equal Political Rights Demonstration Committee, and the Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty. Correspondence was considered from the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Headquarters, but it was decided to go further into the various reports at a future meeting of the Committee after Miss M. I. Neal had made a précis of them.

Resolutions were sent from the Committee to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the Minister of Labour, expressing dismay at the proposal to close down any Training Centres for unemployed women, and urging, in view of the continued unemployment amongst women, that these Training Centres should be developed and extended; and to the Home Secretary, urging him to appoint the Committee, proposed some months ago, to inquire into the state of our streets and into the solicitation Laws.

Arrangements for our Annual Conference, to be held at Caxton Hall, on Saturday, April 24th, were fully discussed. The Committee wished it to be made clear that this Conference was open to all members of The Women's Freedom League, although only Branch delegates, members of the Executive Committee and officials, have the right to speak during the Conference proceedings. It is hoped that all members who are in London and can attend this Conference—the Parliament of the Women's Freedom League—will do so. At the close of the Conference, at 5 o'clock, the doors will be open not only to members but to friends of the Women's Freedom League, and to representatives of

OUR SPRING SALE.

Last Friday, March 19th, Dr. Lewin again took the Women's Freedom League into her beautiful house for the Spring Sale. To the great regret of all present, Lady Buckmaster was at the last moment unfortunately prevented by illness from opening the function. Under these circumstances Dr. Lewin kindly took the chair, welcomed the audience, and introduced our President.

Miss Munro made a vigorous speech, quoting an article written by Lady Buckmaster describing the struggle of women from early ages for beauty in the home and the family. Women wanted to be able to bring beauty into the State. We still came across apathy, and were asked, What do you want now, you have your vote? But women out in the world working in the professions and industry were never more alive to the pressure of the artificial barriers that kept them from fair competition with men, and these women were determined to obtain the political equality which was the guarantee of equality in other directions, and to obtain it at the earliest possible moment. Now was the time for our great united fight.

Round the room were attractive stalls laden with good value in spring-cleaning requisites, household linen and kitchen treasures, charming pottery, and an array of useful pincushions, pretty lingerie, jumpers, woollies, overalls, children's garments, flowers, jam, cakes, sweets, apples, fancy articles, dolls, books, etc.

At intervals, our kind and generous artistes gave a charming entertainment; recitations from Miss F. Potter, Miss Mollie Dutchman and Miss Mary Lyne, with songs from Miss M. Prelooker, Miss Stevens and Miss Winnie Walsh.

At five o'clock, Dr. Lewin delivered a most warmly appreciated lecture on "The Hygienic Ladder."

The new-born baby, said Dr. Lewin, held a proud position upon the topmost rung of the ladder. An animal was in the same happy condition; but whereas the animal retained its place, the baby with advancing months and years all too often sank rung by rung to the bottom of the ladder, and then had to begin the slow and painful upward journey and retrace its steps towards health.

There was no reason why the healthy baby should not become a healthy child and adult if the laws of nature were followed—much harm came of dirt and neglect; the tattered handkerchief was a vital necessity, also a breast pocket in which to tether it; loose handkerchiefs got lost or dirty or mixed, and spread infection; the cavities of the head must be kept clean at all times to allow the brain to be properly nourished and able to give its best endeavours.

The home, the school, and the State must all pull together in the difficult task of securing for every young person the practical training and the healthy surroundings which would place our nation upon the topmost rung of the Ladder of Hygiene.

We give heartiest thanks to all kind helpers, to the Stallholders: Dr. Lewin and Mrs. Dudley Heathcote (Pottery and Pincushions); Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Trafford Williams (Underclothing); Mrs. Lindus (Fancy); Mrs. Delbanco (Household); Miss Jamieson and Mrs. Berger (Produce).

Special gratitude is due to Miss Wall for most kindly working hard the whole afternoon and evening in giving her excellent character readings to a long queue of clients. The refreshment arrangements, in the hands of Mrs. J. R. Knight, Miss Lyndon and Mrs. Pierotti, were eminently satisfactory, our thanks to them including Mrs. Shore, Mrs. Beville, Miss Sadd Brown and Miss M. Prelooker, who served the dainty teas, and all the kind friends who sent cakes, etc.

Very special thanks are due to Miss Berry for the hard work of organising the Sale, and our League once again expresses its sincerest thanks for, and great appreciation of, Dr. Lewin's generous and never-failing kindness and hospitality.

other women's organisations, when we hope to have a special speaker and disclose our plan of work for the coming year.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.



LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, March 26th, 3.30-5.30 p.m.  
 "At Home," at Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C. To meet Mrs. Corbett Ashby (President, International Suffrage Alliance). Collection for the funds of the Paris Congress.  
 Tuesday, April 13th, at 3 p.m.  
 Hampstead Branch. Member's Meeting at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3 (by the kindness of Dr. Knight).

Tuesday, April 13th, at 6 p.m.  
 Mid-London Branch. Members' Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C. To vote on Conference Resolutions and appoint Delegates to the Conference.

Saturday, April 24th, at 10 a.m.  
 Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Wednesday, June 30th, at 7 p.m.  
 Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall.

Saturday, July 3rd.  
 Great Combined Equal Political Rights Procession and Hyde Park Demonstration.

PROVINCES.

Friday, March 26th, at 3 p.m.  
 Ashford Branch. Members' Meeting at the Hempsted Street Hall.

Monday, March 29th, at 7.30 p.m.  
 Hastings Branch. Public Meeting at the Grand Hotel. Speaker: Mrs. Muriel Matters Porter. Subject: "Has Woman Creative and Constructive Ability?" Chair: Mrs. Strickland.

Monday, April 12th, at 7.30 p.m.  
 Middlesbrough Branch. Member's Meeting at Agecroft, Linthorpe Road.

Wednesday, April 14th, at 3.30-5.30 p.m.  
 Portsmouth Branch. "At Home," at 142, Laburnum Grove, Hostess: Mrs. Cory. Music. Tea 6d.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, March 27th, at 3 p.m.  
 Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. Debate: "That each Nation should independently settle its own Industrial Problems." Opener: Miss Bourchier. Opposer: Miss Stella Johnson.

Monday, March 29th, at 5.45.  
 Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Subject: "Citizenship—National and International."

BRANCH NOTE.

"Equal Franchise" was the subject of a paper read to members of the Wallasey Branch of the Women's Freedom League, by the hon. Secretary, Mrs. Andain, on Tuesday of last week. Mrs. Francis Williams, B.A., presided. The meeting was well attended, and an interesting discussion took place at the close. The following resolution, which was passed unanimously, has been sent to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, and the local M.P., with a covering letter:—"This meeting of the Wallasey Branch of the Women's Freedom League calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law, during this session, a Bill conferring the Parliamentary vote on women at the same age and on the same terms as men have the vote."

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT.

Our concert at Nine Elms Baths, on Thursday last, proved very helpful from more than one point of view. Much-needed funds will accrue. New voluntary workers presented themselves. A movement, with the Mayor of Battersea at the head, to raise larger sums was inaugurated; and last, though by no means least, a good evening's entertainment was given to over 500 Nine Elms people. Our children proved their right to be in anything connected with Despard House by smuggling themselves in, against every arrangement made to keep them away. Mr. Merratt acted as stage manager, and the Mayor of Battersea took the chair. For the music in general, we are indebted to the Guildhall School of Music and Miss Hymans, one of its Professors; and personally, to Miss Daphne Serre, Miss Doreen Bustoll, Miss Elsie Learner, Miss Gale, Miss E. M. Jones, Mrs. Foulsham, Miss Katharine Mapple, and Mr. Edwin Jones. Mr. French, Miss Buckingham, Mr. Andrew Smith, The Misses Stutchbury, Mrs. Ganley, Mrs. Frew, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Edwards acted as stewards, and a group of Nine Elms Borough Councillors and their families supported the Mayor and Mayoress. Mrs. Ganley proposed, and Mr. Delbanco seconded, a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, and to the Borough Council for the free use of the Hall in which the Concert was held. Our street Carnival is definitely fixed for Saturday, July 10th.

IN SYMPATHY.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Miss Brewer, the Hon. Sec. of our Thames Valley Branch, in the loss of her mother, who died after a long illness at 2 Myrtle Cottages, The Rushell, Ditton, on Saturday, March 20th.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1925, £43,514 4s. 11d.

	£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged	24	18	3
Special Emergency War Fund—			
A Friend	3	15	0
Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P.	1	10	0
Miss Lucie Dales	1	1	0
Mrs. F. G. Hamilton	1	1	0
Mrs. A. Stewart	1	1	0
H. S. L. Fry, Esq., M.A.	1	0	0
Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence	1	0	0
Mrs. Unna	1	0	0
Miss Enid A. W. Leale	14	6	
Miss Newsome	13	6	
Per Miss Lenton	11	7	
Mrs. E. Ellison	10	6	
Mrs. Lucker	10	6	
Miss M. I. Neal	10	6	
Miss D. Barrs	10	0	
Miss Bisdee	10	0	
Mrs. Budd	10	0	
"E. & G."	10	0	
Miss M. Fussell	10	0	
Mrs. Hemans	10	0	
Mrs. B. Holmes	10	0	
Mrs. Sloane	10	0	
Miss D. Olive Turton	10	0	
Mrs. Trafford Williams	10	0	
Mrs. Bell	5	0	
Mrs. Dice	5	0	
Miss E. Gulland	5	0	
Mrs. A. J. Lane	5	0	
Mrs. B. B. Laseman	5	0	
Miss K. Neal	5	0	
Mrs. Padfield	5	0	
Mrs. Vatcher	5	0	
Mrs. S. Yates	5	0	
Miss M. Murray	4	0	
Miss E. M. Macdonald	3	6	
Miss Bergman	3	0	
Miss M. Caird	3	0	
Mrs. M. Roberts	3	0	
Miss P. Ambrose	2	6	
Miss Barrow	2	6	
Miss E. H. Cope	2	6	
Mrs. Craske	2	6	
Mrs. Delbanco	2	6	
Mrs. Dorrie Dickson	2	6	
Miss Emma Duke	2	6	
Miss J. Gulland	2	6	
Miss Annie B. Howlett	2	6	
Miss D. Jewson	2	6	
Miss A. E. Johnson	2	6	
Miss J. R. Kerr	2	6	
Mrs. A. Shorrock	2	6	
Mrs. Crosland Taylor	2	6	
Mrs. A. A. Thomson	2	6	
Misses M. & D. Burgess	2	0	
Mrs. Gunderson	2	0	
Mrs. Amy King	2	0	
Deaconess Relton	2	0	
Miss Elsie M. Underwood	2	0	
Mrs. E. A. Weston	2	0	
Miss Archibald	1	10	
Miss Candlin	1	0	
Mrs. Cowdell	1	0	
Miss J. Manne	1	0	
Mrs. Fox Strangways	1	0	
Collections	3	1	6
per Miss Lenton	6	5	6
Tickets	6	8	
Sundries	6	5	8
per Literature Department	7	10	0
Telephone	2	9	
Branches—Capitation Fees—			
Deal and Walmer	13	0	
	£74	19	3

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League and crossed Barclays Bank Limited.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

The 14th annual meeting of St. Joan's S.P.A. was held on Saturday, March 13th, at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square. Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford was in the chair. The chairman urged the necessity of concentrating on the Equal Franchise Campaign, and begged all members to do their utmost to ensure the success of the Equal Franchise Meeting, to be held under the auspices of St. Joan's S.P.A., at Caxton Hall, on Thursday, April 29th, at 8 p.m., when the speakers will be: The Rt. Rev. William F. Brown, Bishop of Pella, Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., LL.D., Sir Robert Newman, Bart, M.P., Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Miss Barclay Carter, Lic-ès-L.

The Chairman also begged members to set to work at once to help with the Equal Political Rights Procession and Demonstration to be held in Hyde Park on Saturday, July 3rd.

FRIDAY,  
MARCH 26,  
1926.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Please send me THE VOTE every week, post free, for 6 months, for which I enclose 3/3.

Name .....

Address .....

THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

## 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.

**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, March 28th. 3.30 p.m. Music. Lecture. Sir Francis Younghusband, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., D.Sc. 6.30 p.m. Miss Maude Royden. The Importance of Knowing Christ."

**PUBLIC SPEAKING AND CHAIRMANSHIP.** Classes, Private Lessons and Lectures, also Saturday Speech Club. Miss Lucy Bell, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1.

## TO LET.

**FOR STUDENT OR BUSINESS LADY.** Furnished Bedroom. Lady's Flat. Southampton Row. Bath, Electric Light. Use of Kitchen, evenings. With Breakfast. 30/-.—Apply THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

**OFFICE OR STUDIO.** Well-lighted room in High Holborn—Apply "M.E.G.," THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

## BOARD RESIDENCE.

**LADY** requires Paying Guest, very comfortable modern home, Stoke Newington district. Young business or professional lady preferred. 30/- weekly, partial board.—Write Box K.B.A., THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

## CLUBS.

**ISIS CLUB**, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue (2 minutes Hampstead Tube Station). Magnificent Reception Rooms. Central heating. Sunny bedrooms. Study soil. Lectures, dancing, listening-in. Telephone: Hampstead 2869.

**PIONEER CLUB**, 12, Cavendish Place, Oxford Circus, W. 1. Bedrooms. Debates. Concerts. Town Membership, £5 5s.; Professional and Country, £4 4s.

**MINERVA CLUB**, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Museum 4791.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**DANCE PIANIST** and Accompanist. requests engagements for Piano or te Lessons or Accompanist—Apply MRS. SILVESTER SPARROW, 43 Black Lion Lane, W. 6.

**PRIMROSES** and **DAFFODILS**, 2/6 box, post free.—SELSEY, St. Stephens, St. Austell, Cornwall.

## 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.

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

**CORNWALL.**—Paying Guests received in modern farmhouse. £2 2s. week. Clotted cream 3/- lb., post free.—SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.

**RYE, SUSSEX.**—**OLD HOPE ANCHOR.** Ideal Guest House. Modern comforts; good cooking. Separate Vegetarian cooking a speciality. Write for booklet.

**TANKERTON, KENT.**—Part of pretty 8-roomed House to let, furnished artistically. Three minutes from sea, rent moderate, every convenience. Or whole house could be let for one or two months.—Write "J," 72, Clare Road, Tankerton.

**CORNWALL**, near Perranporth.—Board-residence, Lady's Country Cottage. Modern sanitation. Bath. Terms 35/-. Party 3 or 4. Breakfasts. Late Dinner. Luncheon Basket.—"A B.," 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

**LOWESTOFT** — and its bracing air: The New Dagmar Guest House will be opened for Easter. Facing sea. Hostess: MRS. FAIRCHILD.

## MEDICAL.

**PARK LODGE NURSING HOME**, Bath Road, Reading. For Medical, Nerve, Chronic, and Rest Cure Patients. Terms moderate. Phone: Reading 1948.

## Membership Application Form.

To be returned to The Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1;

Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name .....

Address .....

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

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.