

THE VOTE,
JUNE 22, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

A MISCHIEVOUS POLICY.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 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 THREE WOMEN M.P.s.

Women's organisations in Great Britain are proud of their three women Members of Parliament—Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, and Mrs. Philipson—whose photograph, taken on the Terrace of the House of Commons, is reproduced below. Some sections of the Press still continue to discuss their looks and their dress. The same weighty organs, at the time of Mrs. Philipson's victory, sought to convey the impression that in some curious way Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham failed to give their latest woman colleague a fitting welcome by not introducing her to the House of Commons, when it was well known in other quarters that Col. Leslie Wilson (the Chief Conservative Whip) and Sir Thomas Inskip (the former Solicitor-General), because of his previous connection with Berwick, had telegraphed their offers to make this introduction. Then funny little articles appeared, warning Lady Astor that she must now look to her laurels because of the latest arrival. Had these ridiculous paragraphs been written by women, how men would have fulminated against them and heavily explained to an amused world that they conclusively proved that the writers had no poli-

tical sense! As it is, the seeds of dissension which these worthy scribes scattered have fallen on stony ground. Our three women Members have no personal axe to grind. They have all been sent to Parliament by big majorities, and there are only three of them amongst nearly seven hundred men! The great majority of the Press and the public would no more

conceive the idea that any one of these women would consider the others personal rivals than that men Members would be jealous of each other. Surely it is time that all sections of the Press should realise that such pettiness has no part in the political life of women, and that they have no right to judge women politicians by a lower standard than men politicians. We may be perfectly sure that our three women M.P.s would be much better



MRS. WINTRINGHAM, M.P.

MRS. PHILIPSON, M.P.

LADY ASTOR, M.P.

pleased if the number of women in the House of Commons were increased to 300. Their work would not then be so overwhelming, and could not but be infinitely more effective. With 300 women M.P.s, could the Prime Minister refuse Lady Astor's request to nominate a woman to the Select Committee appointed to consider improved accommodation in the House of Commons?

IN PARLIAMENT.

Married Women Teachers (Discharge).

MR. BENNETT (Mansfield) asked the President of the Board of Education the number of Education Authorities, who, to find openings for unemployed male teachers, had discharged their married female employees; and how many such employees were thus affected to date? MR. E. WOOD replied he regretted that he possessed no official statistics on that point. The only information at his disposal was that which had appeared from time to time in the newspapers, from which he gathered that in some 87 areas the Education Committee had recommended to the Council that married women teachers should not be employed, or should cease to be employed. Those resolutions, however, were usually subject to exceptions and qualifications, and it certainly could not be assumed that any action was designed to find openings for unemployed male teachers.

Juvenile Unemployment Centres.

LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK (Nottingham, S.) asked the President of the Board of Education whether he would, in conjunction with the Minister of Labour, consider the necessity, in view of the large number of juveniles still unemployed, for the continuance of the juvenile unemployment centres? MR. WOOD said he had been in communication with his right hon. Friend, and he understood that he had the matter at present under his very close personal consideration, but that he could not at the moment make any statement upon it. LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK asked the Minister of Education to use all his influence in favour of the continuance of the classes, seeing the great good they were doing in preventing the demoralisation resulting to young people from growing up in idleness? VISCOUNTESS ASTOR reminded the Ministers that six months ago the Government said that those classes were absolutely necessary, and that they were just as necessary to-day! MR. EDE (Mitcham) asked if the right hon. Gentleman was aware that the present sanction to the local authorities to conduct those classes ended on the 30th of the present month, and, in view of the desirability of continuing them, would he see that the local authorities were speedily warned of the Government's intentions with regard to the future? LADY ASTOR asked the Minister of Labour if he was able to assure the House, in view of the continuance of unemployment, that the juvenile centres would not be closed? MAJOR CADOGAN (Reading) asked the Minister of Labour if the reports which he had hitherto received on the juvenile unemployed centres were favourable; and, if so, whether the Government was prepared to continue the grant for a further period? SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW replied that he was glad to state that the reports which he had received on juvenile unemployed centres were generally favourable in character. The question of the continuance of the Government grant was under consideration, but he could not carry the matter further at the moment.

Adoption of Children.

MR. BRIANT asked the Home Secretary if, in view of the many cases of hardship and cruelty inflicted on children by persons adopting them, he would promote legislation making it compulsory for satisfactory references being provided by such persons, and for the formal adoption to be sanctioned by a magistrate or other authorised person or body? MR. BRIDGEMAN said he regretted that he was unable to propose legislation on the subject at the present time, but the considerations referred to by the hon. Member would not be lost sight of.

Mandated Territories (Women and Children).

MR. C. WILSON (Attercliffe) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if the Secretary of State would take steps to secure the adherence to the 1921

Convention for the suppression of the traffic in women and children of all the mandated territories in which the British Government exercised control; and, if in any case such action was not proposed, if he would state the reasons for non-adherence? MR. ORMSBY-GORE said that the traffic in women and children did not exist in the Cameroons, Togoland, and Tanganyika territory, so that there was no need for adhesion to the Convention. If any signs of such traffic appeared, legislation would be passed to deal with it, and adherence would then present less difficulty. As to Palestine, though he had no evidence that such traffic existed, the necessary legislation would be passed, but probably not until peace was concluded with Turkey. It would then be possible for Palestine to adhere to the Convention.

Imperial Conference (Education).

CAPT. WEDGWOOD BENN (Leith) asked the President of the Board of Education why no woman was appointed among the representatives of the Board of Education at the forthcoming Imperial Conference on Education? MR. EDWARD WOOD replied that the delegates appointed by the Board of Education were the Board's principal administrative officers and their librarian and information officer. Some of the Board's principal women officers would, he hoped, attend during the discussions of the Conference. CAPT. BENN then inquired if there was any reason why, on a subject like Education, women should not be fully qualified? MR. WOOD said there was no reason at all, but the Board was represented by its principal officers, and those principal officers were men!

According to a notice in The Times, June 5th, the Board of Education is to be represented by Sir L. Amherst Selby-Bigge, Mr. Edmund K. Chambers, Mr. A. E. Twentynan, and Sir A. T. Davies; the Scottish Education Department by Dr. G. MacDonald and Mr. F. R. Jamieson; and Northern Ireland by Mr. A. N. Bonaparte Wyse and Mr. L. McQuibban. All our Dominions, with the honourable exception of Palestine, are being represented solely by men, Palestine sending Mr. H. E. Bowman and Miss H. Ridler, the latter of whom is Principal of the Women's Training College in Jerusalem, and Inspector of Girls' Schools in Palestine. During the war Miss Ridler was Principal of the English School opened at Cairo, in 1916, for the children of British officials who were prevented by the war from returning to England. The delegates taking part in this Imperial Education Conference are 52 men and one woman, Miss Ridler.

Borstal Institutions (Camp).

SIR JOHN LEIGH (Clapham) asked the Home Secretary what was the total expense to the country last year of sending lads from Borstal Institutions to camp; and what would be the probable expense this year? MR. BRIDGEMAN replied that the cost was £158 last year. It was proposed that the whole cost this year should be borne by voluntary contributions. We think that this arrangement of sending these boys to camp is altogether excellent. We should like to know that a similar arrangement was being made for the girls.

Representation of the People Act.

MR. F. GRAY (Oxford) asked the Home Secretary if he was aware that under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, the wives of persons occupying or residing in colleges and other premises by virtue of office or employment, and single women resident in colleges or other premises by virtue of office or employment, otherwise qualified, were not eligible for the inclusion of their names upon the register of either Parliamentary or Local Government electors; and if facilities could be given for the progress of amending legislation? MR. BRIDGEMAN replied that he had no information that women were being omitted from the register in the circumstances mentioned, but he would make inquiry in the matter. F. A. U.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Great Innovation!

For the first time in the history of Cambridge University, when the Moral Science Tripos was published last week, the names of the successful women were printed on the same sheet of paper as the men. No men or women gained first class honours in the Modern Languages Tripos, but in Part II. premier honours were shared by two men and one woman. Miss E. H. Weil (Newnham). In the Classical Tripos, Part I., two women gained first class honours, and in Part II. three women obtained first classes, the Misses M. L. Farrell, L. P. Mair, and P. Weismann. In the English Tripos, Miss D. Whitelock (Newnham) obtained a First Class. In Theology, four women obtained first class honours.

Women Trade Unionists.

The National Union of General Workers, one of the largest trade unions in Britain, comprising some 500,000 members, has decided to form a women's department, which will form a branch of the National Union of General Workers, with offices at headquarters, where it will deal with all matters affecting women members. Miss Margaret Bondfield will be the chief woman officer, and will attend the General Council meetings to deal with business affecting the interests of women. She will also attend the Trades Union Congress.

Woman M.P.'s Long Service.

Miss Annie Furuhejm, who is now serving her fifth three-year term as a Member of the Finnish Parliament, one of 20 women out of a legislative body of 200, is probably the most experienced, as regards length of office, of any other woman Parliamentarian. She has recently succeeded in getting a Bill through the Finnish Diet to appropriate funds for a Swedish household school, instruction in home economics being now compulsory for Finnish girls.

More Women Lawyers.

Mrs. Helen Mihailovitch-Djoritch, who recently passed her final Bar examinations with high honours in the Court of Appeal, Belgrade, is the first woman in Jugo-Slavia to qualify as a barrister. Both the President of the Court of Appeal and the President of the examiners congratulated her warmly on her success. In South Africa the first woman lawyer has also appeared—Miss Nene Gefien, who recently took the oath when the Transvaal Supreme Court admitted her as an Advocate.

Newcastle's Woman Elder.

Miss M. I. Bertram, who was recently ordained Elder at the College Road Presbyterian Church, Newcastle, is the first woman Elder in the Newcastle Presbytery. Although the Assembly at Manchester last month suspended its decision against women in the Ministry, the admission of women as Elders was accepted at Newcastle two years ago.

Women Actuaries.

Miss Gladys Gregory and Miss Dorothy Davis are the first women to become qualified actuaries and members of the Institute of Actuaries of Staple Inn. The membership was made open to women three years ago. Miss Davis is employed by the Guardian Assurance Co., and Miss Gregory is with the Prudential, and worked up in her spare time for the exacting mathematical and law tests of the Actuaries' examinations.

Women Barristers on Circuit.

Following the example of the Western and South-Eastern Circuits and the Central Criminal Court Bar Mess, the Oxford Circuit Bar Mess has now decided to admit women barristers on the same terms as men. A woman barrister has just been elected to the Oxford Circuit. So far, however, no woman has been elected either on the North-Eastern or Midland Circuits.

Woman Dramatist's Plays.

"The Outsider," which received such an enthusiastic reception at St. James's Theatre, recently, is not Miss Dorothy Brandon's first play. She was part author of "Araminta Arrives," at the Comedy, some two years ago. "The Outsider," however, is much stronger stuff, and has been pronounced the most noticeable play written by a woman since "A Bill of Divorcement."

Woman Metallurgist.

Miss C. F. Elam, who took Honours in the Science Tripos of Cambridge in 1915, has now been elected to the Freshfield Fellowship for Metallurgical Research, at the Royal School of Mines. Miss Elam's work formed the subject of an interview in THE VOTE of January 14th, 1921.

Votes for Turkish Women.

A committee has been formed by thirteen educated Turkish women to organise a movement to claim the right of a political vote for women. It will shortly hold a congress in Constantinople to discuss the best means of obtaining the vote "peacefully."

Women on Hospital Committee.

The Committee of Management of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital have resolved that women shall be eligible for election to the Committee. Lady Cooper and Lady Lester are the first to be elected.

Woman Pilot in Air Race.

A woman will be among the competitors in the big air race for the Grosvenor Challenge Cup to-morrow (Saturday). She is Mrs. Oliver Atkey, who will fly her own DH6 machine, and is the first woman pilot to enter for an air race.

Woman Revenue Collector.

Mrs. Mabel G. Reinecke, of Chicago, has been appointed the first woman collector of internal revenue in the United States. She will be responsible for £34,000,000 annually.

A Royal Patron.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York has accepted the invitation of the Scottish Women's Hospitals Association of the Royal Free Hospital to become the first President.

A British Tribute.

A British flag, to be hung in the cell which Miss Edith Cavell occupied at Saint Gilles Prison, has been given by admirers and fellow-workers of Miss Cavell, including Madame Ada Bodart.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN GREECE.

The suffrage movement in Greece, which started some 35 years ago, owes practically all its vitality to a distinguished woman journalist, Mrs. Kalliroe Parren, Founder and Editor of the *Ladies' Journal* in Athens. This paper reported international accounts of women's emancipation in other countries, especially in the United States, and agitated for the right of Greek women to enter the Gymnasiums, Universities, and School of Fine Arts. After some years' struggle and opposition, these rights were conceded. Meanwhile, Mrs. Parren kept in constant touch with the world movement for women's enfranchisement, and attended Suffrage Congresses at Chicago, Paris, and Geneva. In 1898 she founded a branch of the Lyceum Club in Athens, the objective of one branch of which is the political equality of the sexes. The present progress of the woman's movement in Greece may fairly be gauged by the number of women's societies established there of recent years. In addition to the Lyceum Club, these now include the Women's Suffrage League, the Greek Women University Students, the Greek Women Socialists, and the National League of Greek Women, which comprises 250 affiliated societies throughout Greece and the neighbouring isles.

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A MISCHIEVOUS POLICY.

We cannot congratulate the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women on its Pyrrhic victory at a special Council Meeting held last Friday at Caxton Hall, when it secured 206 votes for, and 112 votes against, the endorsement of its action in supporting the following resolution:—

"The Advisory Committee having, at the request of the Third Assembly of the League of Nations, examined the question of the employment of foreign women in licensed houses, recommends that, pending the abolition of the system of State Regulation, no foreign women should be employed or carry on her profession as a prostitute in any licensed houses (*maisons de tolérance*)."

As one of the Societies affiliated to the National Council of Women, the Women's Freedom League entirely dissociated itself from this action of the National Council's Executive Committee, and stated definitely to members of the Advisory Committee, as well as to the National Council of Women, that we demand the complete abolition of State Regulation of Vice in all countries, and that we consider it a mischievous policy to try to alleviate or ameliorate any of the conditions of that infamous system. We have no State Regulation of Vice in this country, and we owe it to the memory of Josephine Butler and her splendid band of workers, who secured its abolition here, to do everything in our power to get it abolished in other countries. There are abolitionists in all countries, and if British women made their demand for its universal abolition sufficiently insistent and sufficiently strong, those abolitionists in the countries in which that system is still established would be encouraged to be more urgent in their demand to get it destroyed. We are convinced that any attempts to improve any of the conditions of this system are not only futile but distinctly mischievous. These attempts are certainly futile. If it were made illegal to employ foreign women in licensed houses, these women would speedily change their names or numbers and get transferred to other quarters. Then we have to remember that British women voters are not only concerned with the fate of the foreign women in these licensed houses, but that they have also a responsibility for native women. Whatever the improvements suggested—the refusal to employ foreign women in licensed houses, the raising the age of the women employed, the further inspection of the houses in which they are employed, or the more frequent examination of the women—we may be quite sure that the suggested ameliorative measures will be evaded either by the women themselves or by those who exploit them. These ameliorative measures not only do no good but a great deal of harm, by soothing the public conscience, and lulling it to sleep, in the case of people who have not sufficient experience to know that the suggested improvements will not be carried out at their face value. These so-called improvements will in every case tend to weaken the efforts of the abolitionists in the country where they are tried, to delay its final abolition there, and to establish the system more firmly wherever it is rooted. We may be quite sure that some of the proposed ameliorative measures emanate from interested quarters, and that the real reason for pressing them is to secure the continuance of the traffic in women. When such great commercial interests as those involved in the traffic in women are at stake, we must expect that both direct and indirect means will be used to prevent the abolition of the system of the State Regulation of Vice.

The Women's Freedom League calls upon all who agree with us in this matter to demonstrate to the minority of people who are fighting against State Regulation in those countries where it is in practice, that British women are definitely in favour of completely abolishing this system in all countries, and that they are uncompromisingly opposed to mending in any way a system which is founded and constructed upon the deepest degradation of women.

LEGITIMACY AND BASTARDY BILLS.

Last Friday, both these Bills secured a Third Reading in the House of Commons. The Legitimacy Bill, presented by Mr. Betterton, was read a second time on March 2nd, and provides for the legitimation of illegitimate persons by the subsequent marriage of their parents. In the Report stage, last Friday, Major Birchall moved an Amendment that nothing in the Act should operate to legitimate a person whose father or mother was married to a third party when the illegitimate person was born. Words to this effect were in the original draft of the Bill, but were cut out when the Bill was being considered by a Standing Committee. Capt. Bowyer, who was in charge of the Bill, resisted the Amendment for some time, but, in order to save the Bill, and after the Solicitor-General had pointed out that grave complications would arise because of the new difference which would exist between Scottish and English law on the subject if the Amendment did not go through, he eventually accepted it, although he and other Members reminded the House that no such reservation in the legitimation of children operates in various parts of the British Empire. Clause 6 of this Bill provides that "Nothing in this Act shall affect the succession to any dignity or title of honour or render any person capable of succeeding to or transmitting a right to succeed to any such dignity or title."

The Bastardy Bill, which was introduced by Capt. Bowyer, increases the maximum payment under Affiliation Orders to twenty shillings, provides for the continuation and variation of orders made at the instance of Boards of Guardians, and imposes on persons against whom an order has been made, the obligation to give notice of any change of address. The original Bill also provided that in cases where a person had been sent to prison for non-payment, the Court be given power to direct that the imprisonment should not extinguish the liability of the defendant to pay the amount due. Capt. Bowyer, however, moved an Amendment to delete this last provision. He admitted the grave hardship to the woman who, when the father of her illegitimate child was imprisoned, either because he could not or would not pay the affiliation dues, was thereby prevented from claiming those dues; but said that he was informed by the Home Office and by legal experts that this provision could not stand because of certain other Acts of Parliament now in existence, which recognised that if a man went to prison, it either wholly or to some extent extinguished the debt for which he was sent to prison. Several Members urged Capt. Bowyer to withdraw this Amendment, on the ground that, while the allowance to the mother would be increased, magistrates would have difficulty in carrying out that enactment if a man preferred being imprisoned to paying the dues. Notwithstanding these appeals, Capt. Bowyer and his supporters pressed and secured the passing of this Amendment, urging that they were told that the actual wording of the original clause would cause great administrative difficulties, and that the representative of the Home Office (Mr. Locker-Lampson), having seen the universal opinion of the House as to the merits of the clause, said that he could not accept those words, but that, if the clause were taken out, he would give a guarantee that words which fulfilled the object, but which would not entail administrative difficulty, should be inserted in the Bill in another place. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the friends of this Bill will watch its progress very carefully when it reaches the House of Lords.

WOMEN IN THE OVERSEAS DOMINIONS.

It is a curious psychological fact that, although the women of Australia and New England became politically enfranchised many years in advance of their English sisters, it is only within comparatively recent date that they have roused to realisation of the power lying behind the vote. Possibly they obtained their political freedom too easily, for possessions are usually prized in proportion to their cost. More likely, however, the reason lies in the fact that their victory was gained in days before women as a whole had awakened to consciousness of the special contributions they could bring to world progress, and that they have now been caught up in the great onward sweep for women's emancipation.

New Zealand formed an Auxiliary to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance early this year, and appointed two delegates, Mrs. Henderson Begg and Mrs. C. Raymond, to represent New Zealand women at the Rome Congress. In the South Island particularly, there has been an awakening of representative women to the need for international communion and co-operation. Australia, which entered the Alliance soon after the Geneva Congress in 1920, sent nine delegates to Rome this year, the largest delegation of women that has ever left the Commonwealth to attend a women's International Congress. They were appointed by the constituent bodies affiliated under the Australian Federation of Women's Societies, which is officially linked with the Alliance, and included Mrs. Rischbieth, J.P. (W. Australia), the President of the Australian Federation, and State President of the Women's Service Guilds of W. Australia; Councillor Mrs. Clapham (W. Australia), the only woman Councillor in Australia; Dr. Remphrey Morris (New South Wales), Mrs. Giblin (Tasmania), Miss M. A. Allen, B.A. (S. Australia), Mrs. Emily Bennett, J.P. (New South Wales), Mrs. Jamieson-Williams, B.A. (New South Wales), Mrs. Joyner (W. Australia), and Mrs. Bennett (New South Wales), Fraternal Delegate ap-

pointed by the Commonwealth Committee to deal with Indian women in Fiji.

Even though the women of the Overseas Dominions were the first to become enfranchised, they still suffer certain disabilities which have been abolished in Great Britain. New Zealand women are not yet allowed to be Justices of the Peace, the right of jury service has not yet been extended to women either in Australia or New Zealand, and it is only within quite recent date, in both these countries, that women have been permitted to stand as Parliamentary candidates. Hence the reason why these much older countries, as regards political enfranchisement, have so far returned only one woman M.P., Mrs. Cowan, of Western Australia.

At recent elections, both in Australia and New Zealand, women contested at the polls. In Australia, three women stood for the Federal Parliament—Miss Jean Daley (Labour), Mrs. Siggins (Country Party), and Mrs. Glencross (Liberal). Miss Daley, however, polled 4,572 votes, and Mrs. Glencross 3,044. These were good records, since both stood for difficult constituencies. Three women also stood in New Zealand: Mrs. Herbert, a well-known social worker, Mrs. MacVicar, a member of the Wellington Hospital Board, and Miss Ellen Melville, of Auckland, the President of the National Council of Women, who polled high three years ago in Auckland. There was also a Maori lady, who withdrew in favour of the sitting Member.

In addition to the usual interests of women and children which women all the world over are uniting to protect, there would seem to be at least two clear issues in the Overseas Dominions for which the women of Australia and New Zealand will combine to fight. One is Prohibition, which is already a foregone conclusion in New Zealand, and the other is the campaign against compulsory notification of Venereal Diseases, over which the women of Western Australia have already put up a particularly magnificent fight.

SCANDINAVIAN HOUSEWIVES.

Soon after Swedish women became politically enfranchised, "Housewife Associations" were started by them all over the country, with the object of protecting and furthering all interests connected with the home, youth, and children. These Associations are politically and religiously neutral, and consist of women from all social classes, and with widely different views of life. The members all have the same responsibility and the same rights, so that the interests of both big and small homes are well looked after.

The Associations, which are scattered over all parts of the country, in cities as well as in villages, are joined together in one Federation, with a Central Committee in Stockholm. In the three other countries of the North—Denmark, Norway, and Finland—there are similar organisations, which work on separate lines, but are united in one great Housewife Union of the North. This Union gathers together every year the leading women of the different nations in a large conference, which is held in turn in each of the four countries. The Union has also started a kind of high school for women in the art of bringing up children. The lectures are conducted under the control of the Swedish Federation, and are held in Stockholm. Another course in training in the nursing of children takes two years, being treated as a real calling; and in connection with this, two separate shorter theoretical series of lectures are conducted, which are optional. They are especially meant for women devoting themselves to social work, and for mothers. The aim is partly to deepen the general knowledge of childhood and of women's social interests, and partly to raise the standard of the nurse's calling to the same social level as, for instance, that of hospital nurses.

The idea is also to inspire students with an idea of the close connection between the great community—the State and the municipality—and the small institution, the private home, and to force on public attention how intimately the two are bound together. The welfare of the nation is in a very high degree dependent on the moral standing of the homes.

The housing question is an object of much study by these Scandinavian Associations, and the women are seeing to it that the new homes built since the war shall be more practical and modern, without, however, increased cost. Labour-saving devices are compulsory, for, notwithstanding the fact that factories nowadays are doing a good deal of the work which in former days was done in the homes, the mother, housewife, and teacher has more exacting and important duties than ever. Kitchen equipment especially is now being systematically planned in the North to economise physical energy and save the housewife as many steps and movements as possible. Several home exhibitions have been held in different parts of the country with the aim of awakening the attention of housewives as well as of experts to the social importance of this question. These exhibitions—aided by pamphlets and the Press—have worked up public opinion to obtain cheaper electric power in the home as a means of reducing the labour of housework, cooking, ironing, and so forth.

The Associations have also started many other branches of social work and undertakings, which aim at awakening and strengthening a sense of social responsibility, and at creating the capacities suitable for the purpose. The women of the homes in all these Northern countries are, notwithstanding their different national and political views, working side by side, united on the neutral platform of the home.

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

From a recent number of the *Industrial Bulletin*, issued by the Industrial Commissioner of New York State, we learn that a woman, Miss Sara McPike, has been appointed Secretary of the Department. To celebrate her appointment and to welcome back to the Department Miss Frances Perkins, who had succeeded another woman as a member of the Industrial Board, a luncheon was arranged at the Hotel Commodore, in which more than 150 of the women employees of the Department participated. One of the first women appointed as a factory inspector, Miss Josie A. Reilly, who had served for nearly 29 years, and another woman, who is Director of the Bureau of Women in Industry, were also present.

Mrs. House, of the State Insurance Fund, said that it was 45 years since she entered upon the pursuit of economic independence, and contrasted the position and prospects of women at that time with their position and prospects to-day. "Gather to yourselves courage," she urged the young women, "which puts to flight that black godmother of the world, fear; faith, that 'substance of things hoped for,' that 'evidence of things unseen'; truth, that shall light your way; and with these as your buckler and shield, follow after them."

Miss Reilly spoke briefly of the prejudice the women factory inspectors had to meet in early days, of the contempt in which they were held by the average employer who was disregarding the law, and of how, when unable to secure conviction for disregard of the law, she brought the employer to book by issuing subpoenas for all his employees, thus closing down his plant on the day of the hearing of the case, and causing him so much loss that he found it cheaper to comply with the law than to violate it.

Other interesting speeches on the work of women followed, and the women of this Department unanimously agreed that further meetings of its women members would be both enjoyable and profitable.

CANADA'S WOMEN STIPENDIARIES.

Canada can boast of three women Stipendiary Magistrates, who sit alone on the Judicial Bench and try both men and women. Judge Emily Murphy, of Alberta, who has held office during the last seven years, was the first woman to be so appointed in the British Empire. Her first appointment was in the City of Edmonton, but she now has jurisdiction over the whole Province of Alberta. The other Canadian women Judges are Mrs. Alice Jamieson, who is a Police Magistrate at Calgary, Alberta, and Dr. Margaret Patterson, who sits at Toronto. Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Jamieson are also Judges of the Juvenile Court.

In addition to her judicial duties, Mrs. Emily Murphy is a well-known author, who writes under the pen-name of "Janey Canuck," and also finds time for numerous local activities. She was President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada from 1919-21, and acted as Vice-President of the National Council of Women of Canada from 1918-23. During the war she did valuable work as a member of the War Conference of Women, held at the invitation of the War Committee of the Dominion Cabinet. Mrs. Murphy contributes to Canadian, English, and American magazines, and her novels command a steady sale. "The Black Candle" deals with the Drug Traffic, with which Mrs. Murphy has been brought into active touch, owing to her official position.

"IMPOSSIBLE?"

A 13-years-old girl, called to give evidence at Worcester Assizes of an alleged assault by a brother aged 23, declared, "I shall give no evidence until the court is cleared."

Mr. Vachell, K.C., the Commissioner, replied that he would be happy to oblige the girl if he could, but a recent Act made that impossible.

The girl, however, declined to take the oath or to give evidence, and eventually the court was cleared.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Art of Public Speaking. By Lucy D. Bell. (Routledge.) 2s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This book arrives at an opportune moment, though we are a little surprised that Miss Bell did not compile the fruits of her experience at an earlier date in her career, seeing that she has been a pioneer in teaching this art many years before women, to whom she first addressed herself, came prominently into public life.

Two causes have conspired of late years to draw women in ever-increasing numbers into the ranks of public speakers. One is the economic reason, since many more women than formerly are entering the labour market, and feeling the necessity for trained outward expression of their innermost thoughts and feelings. The other may be laid to the door of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, by means of which the majority of women in this country over thirty years of age became politically enfranchised, and able, for the first time in history, to exercise their direct influence in the affairs of State.

It would seem as if the Suffrage movement, both in our own and in other countries, was the chief factor in breaking the ice of tradition, and causing women to become articulate. The various disabilities under which women suffered roused a keen sense of grievance in all classes of the community, and were voiced with determination and persistency alike by great ladies and working mothers. Miss Bell points out that no small share of Mrs. Fawcett's wonderful achievements in the cause of women is due to her singular charm and unusual logical power as a speaker, whilst organised Labour to-day has no more forceful exponent than the passionate sincerity and eloquence of Miss Margaret Bondfield. Neither is the platform the only point of departure for modern women speakers. The pulpit also is claiming its quota of women preachers.

It must not, however, be supposed that this comprehensive little handbook is intended only for the use of women. It gives practical advice to both sexes equally, and much-needed information on technical points, such as Chairmanship, Debates and Discussions, Electioneering Methods, etc., with some excellent examples of world oratory. Miss Bell, however, pays women one neat compliment, viz., that they are more successful in public speaking than men, and this because women take more pains than men to make themselves proficient. They realise instinctively, what men seldom grasp, that speakers are made, not born.

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1923.

7.0 P.M.

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Hon. Treasurer.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

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

Monday, June 25th, at 3 p.m. Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, July 6th, Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, Westminster. Further particulars later.

Saturday, July 7th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

DARE TO
BE FREE.

Monday, July 9th, at 3 p.m. Fair Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, June 26th, at 7.30 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Meeting, 2, Kent Road. Paper by Mrs. Tanner. Subject: "Galsworthy, Novelist and Feminist." Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

Wednesday, July 4th, 3-6 p.m. Portsmouth. Work Party and Business Meeting, at 89, Festing Grove. Garden, if fine. Tea 6d.

Thursday, July 12th, at 3 p.m. Portsmouth. Whist Drive, at 36, Stanley Street. Tickets 1/6 each.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, June 27th, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Breezeil, B.A. Subject: "Against the Employment of Married Women."

FOREIGN WOMEN IN LICENSED HOUSES.

Readers of THE VOTE will be interested in reading the letter given below, from Dame Rachel Crowdy, in reply to one enclosing the following Resolution sent to members of the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women and Children, which was passed unanimously by our Political Sub-Committee, and subsequently endorsed by our National Executive Committee:—

"That the Women's Freedom League demands the immediate abolition of State Regulation of Vice in all countries, and considers it a mischievous policy to try to ameliorate any of its conditions."

League of Nations, Geneva.

June 13th, 1923.

DEAR MADAM,—I write to acknowledge your letter of May 8th, 1923, which I regret has been left so long unanswered.

I note with interest the Resolution which was passed at a meeting of the Women's Freedom League on the subject of the employment of foreign women in State-regulated houses. You are no doubt aware that at the recent session of the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women and Children, a Resolution was passed (in favour of the prohibition of the employment of foreign women in these houses) by a bare majority. On the report of the Committee being submitted to the Council of the League, however, that body decided, in view of the divergence of opinion in the Committee, to submit the views held by the members of the Committee to the various Governments, for their information, and not with a recommendation for action.

I am, Madam, your faithfully,

RACHEL E. CROWDY

(Secretary to the Advisory Committee
on Traffic in Women and Children).

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

Portsmouth is sending £5 to the Birthday Fund, so members are being asked to contribute at least 1s. each, which Mrs. Whetton will be pleased to acknowledge.

A work party and business meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 4th, at 89, Festing Grove. Garden, if fine. Tea, 6d. Proceeds to Birthday Fund.

In aid of the Fund, Mrs. Ball has kindly promised to give a Whist Drive at 36, Stanley Street, on July 12th, at 3 p.m. Tickets, 1s. 6d. each.

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

HULL.

We are holding fortnightly meetings, also a sewing meeting in view of holding a bazaar in November or December. Articles from members in other parts will be welcomed. Several new members have joined the Branch, and we are going along steadily, and looking forward to a very strong Branch in Hull. We have adopted the Housewives' Protest, and are going to restrict our purchases to the very smallest limit, trusting it will have some power to bring the foodstuffs down.

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. E. E. STOWMAN, 195, Hedon Road.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. GLADYS MIALI SMITH.

The Women's Freedom League heartily congratulates Dr. Gladys Miall Smith on her recent election to the Welwyn Rural District Council, representing Welwyn Garden City, at the head of the poll.

In Memoriam.

In ever loving memory of Emily V. Fussell, late member and active worker of the W.S.P.U., who died in a London nursing home, June 24th, 1922.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Wanted—Women Police in Parks.

At the next meeting of the Parks Committee of the London County Council the matter of appointing uniformed women police or park-keepers in the Council's parks is to come up for consideration. Lady Trustram Eve, Chairman of the Parks Committee, reported at its last meeting that Resolutions advocating such appointments for the protection more particularly of children had been received. We sincerely hope that the Parks Committee will secure the appointment of an adequate number of women police in all the parks and open spaces under the control of the L.C.C.

Mrs. Thomson Price.

We are glad to see the following reference in the *Daily Graphic* of June 12th to our old and valued member, Mrs. Thomson Price, or Mrs. Samson Price, as she is better known to her City friends. Her gallant work for our paper, THE VOTE, in its early years of struggle is remembered with gratitude by members of our VOTE office:—

"THE COMPANY MEETING, WOMAN.

"A lot of nonsense is talked about business women, most of whom are surrounded by men. One of the exceptions is Mrs. Samson Price, who will be known by sight to many shareholders sufficiently interested in their investments to attend the meetings of the companies in which they have shares.

"Who is that woman?" I have heard, more than once, at a company meeting, when a very matter-of-fact person has stood up and been very critical of the management, quoting facts and figures, or, on the contrary, been very eulogistic when she has approved of them.

"Mrs. Samson Price is invariably seen at Harrod's annual meetings; you may have heard her critical of the policy of Slaters, the restaurateurs, until, some few years ago, I believe, she joined the board, and was of great service to the men directors. She has owned shares in a printing business, too, and at the annual meeting of that she has usually said something. Recently, at the annual meeting of Louise and Co., Ltd., the West-End milliners, her remarks were in the board's favour. She understands stocks and shares thoroughly, and she makes herself an expert concerning the goods sold by all the companies in which she is interested. I have seen more than one director nervous when she stood up, and shared in his smiling pleasure when he heard she had nothing but praise."

More Women Wanted in Parliament!

At the Annual Congress of the Women's Co-operative Guild, held last week at Cardiff, in discussing a Resolution on Housing, the parlour was demanded for working-class houses, and it was contended that no more than twelve houses per acre should be built. Co-operators and the Labour Party were called upon to put up more women Parliamentary candidates. We hope that Co-operative women will go further and see to it that women candidates put forward by Co-operators and the Labour Party shall not be given impossible seats to contest.

Lowestoft Teachers Still Out!

The dispute between the Lowestoft teachers and the local Education Authority, who refuse to honour the Burnham scale, has lasted since the beginning of April. An attempt was made last week to end it, but failed, notwithstanding the intervention of the President of the Board of Education, who caused a conference to assemble at Whitehall. This conference was attended by six representatives of the local authority and six of the locked-out teachers, but no agreement was arrived at. Other teachers are taking the places of those who refuse to work on reduced salaries, but many children, whose parents sympathise with the teachers who are out, are attending welfare centres where the latter are giving their services. Similar trouble has also arisen at South Shields.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH.

The village of Hundon, in Suffolk, is to be congratulated on having had our member, Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., to address a mixed congregation in the little village church one Sunday evening. Mrs. Nevinson, who spoke from the chancel steps, took for her subject, "Moral and Social Problems since the War," the Vicar announcing that this was the first occasion on which a woman had addressed a mixed congregation at a statutory service of the Anglican Church. We also take this opportunity of congratulating Dr. David, the broad-minded Bishop of Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds, who gave the required permission for this interesting ceremony. Mrs. Nevinson, it will be remembered, recently spoke at an Anglican service in a London church.

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

This Campaign opens on July 19th to August 25th, when meetings will be held on the Pier Head, Rothesay, every evening, also at Largs, Dunoon, and Millport during the day, weather permitting. We are hoping to have a good muster of helpers and workers from the Glasgow and Edinburgh Branches. We have not yet been able to fix up the principal speaker for the Campaign, but shall do so in the course of a few days. Special numbers of "The Vote" will be published, and I shall be glad of offers of help and donations towards the expenses of the Campaign.

(Hon. Organiser) ALIX M. CLARK,
The Hut, Newtown, Montgomeryshire.

FRIDAY,
JUNE 22
1923.

THE VOTE

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PENNY
WEEKLY.

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CHEAP HOLIDAYS in bracing Essex. Furnished House to Let. Accommodate five. Apply Miss THOMPSON, Warley Mount, Brentwood, Essex.

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OLD-WORLD COUNTRY COTTAGE to Let. July and August. 5 Bedrooms, 2 Sitting-rooms. Close to Common and Wood. MACRAE, Eden Bridge, Kent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, June 24th. 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture, Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "Has the Old Testament any Value for Us?"

YOUR Character and Capabilities delineated, with colours, jewels, etc., from handwriting, and date of birth. P.O. for 2/- and stamped addressed envelope to Miss Adams, Box 2, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance *pro tem*. Town Members £5 5s. : Country and Professional £4 4s.

MISS NICHOLAS, ex-Transport Driver. R.A.F. Landaulette Car for hire. Tel. Hampstead 8341. Private address: 3, Christchurch Road, Hampstead.

FOR SALE, with or without Furniture, Freehold House—13 rooms and garden, in S.W. suburb. Suitable for Boarding-house.—"R.T.," c/o THE VOTE.

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NEW THOUGHT FELLOWSHIP HOME, Highcliffe-on-Sea. Proprietor: W. S. Hooper. Own grounds, 13 acres; sun baths; lectures; tennis; concerts.—Write Prospectus.

GUERNSEY. To Let, furnished, Round Hut, beautifully situated, sea, golf links within two minutes.—THOME, Grande Rocque, Guernsey.

WEEEK-ENDS AND HOLIDAYS in Charming Country. Home comforts and good piano. Terms moderate. MRS. SWIFT, Thackeray's Cottage, Toddington, Bedfordshire.

HUT CAMP in Sussex woods. Descriptive leaflet free.—NICHOLLS, Ballinger Grange, Great Missenden, Bucks.

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HOME School on Progressive Thought Lines; Large Garden; Cricket Field; Sea Bathing; Small Classes; Special care given to backward and delicate girls; Coaching for advanced pupils. Principal: MISS RICHARDSON, B.A.

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

Name

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

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.