

THE VOTE.
OCT. 29, 1926.

WE DEMAND EQUALITY.

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 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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EQUAL FRANCHISE—NOW!

An enthusiastic Equal Franchise meeting, organised by the Women's Freedom League, was held at Caxton Hall on Friday last, under the auspices of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee.

In her opening remarks, Miss Anna Munro, the Chairman, explained that the meeting formed part of a great campaign to obtain immediately votes for women on the same terms as they are or may be granted to men. A letter was read from Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, President of the Women's Freedom League, in which she expressed regret at being unable to attend the meeting as she was on her way to India, where she hoped to learn something of the women's movement, which appears to be making great strides in that country. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence appealed especially to the young women to take their place in the fight for women's suffrage. She urged the necessity for immediate action, since, in her opinion, if the matter were delayed for even one more Session, it would then be indefinitely postponed. Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., regretted very much that serious illness was preventing her from coming to address the meeting, but sent her very best wishes for success.

The first speaker, Mr. Frank Briant, M.P., in moving the resolution that "This meeting calls upon the Government to introduce and to carry into law next Session an Equal Franchise measure, so that women shall vote at the next General Election at the same age and on the same terms as men," said that, owing to the change in compiling the Register, the position is now much more serious than it was six months ago, and if Parliament does not take action within the next six or nine months, the women affected will be debarred from voting at the next election. It is therefore the duty of every man and woman to work for equal suffrage now.

It is often said that women of 21 years are not capable of exercising the vote; but, when any measure of franchise has been granted, it has been necessary to risk the capability of the voter, and until these women have the vote they will not learn to use it. Actually, however, the present franchise excludes many older women of high intelligence and training, such as teachers, clerks, and health workers.

Mr. Briant pointed out the present tendency in Parliament to differentiate between men and women in employment. He himself had recently opposed the

Factory Bill, in which there were certain regulations affecting women only. In his opinion, work that was too dangerous for women and young people to perform was also too dangerous for men. Women are capable of looking after themselves, and should be free to choose for themselves what they want to do.

In conclusion, Mr. Briant urged women to put all pressure possible upon their local Members of Parliament, and especially upon Members of the Government, and to say that they intend to continue doing so until women have been granted the vote on the same terms as men have it.

In seconding the resolution, Mr. Hugh Dalton, M.P., said that the Labour Party had stood consistently for adult suffrage at the age of 21 years, and he wished to make it quite clear that he would vote against any measure that sought to take the vote from men until the age of 25, even though the measure might grant equal franchise to men and women. He was of the opinion that more power of youth is needed in the world to-day, and although it is frequently said that young people of the age of 21 have not the necessary experience for a vote, youth has plenty of experience with which to fear the dictatorship of old people. One reason why the younger element should be given full voting power lies in the fact that, owing to the decrease in the birth rate since 1904, and the increased length of life, the average age of the community is increasing. In order, therefore, to keep a proper balance between the generations, it is necessary there should be a lower franchise. He also believed in one man one vote, and objected to the present law under which the University woman or the business man might have two or more votes.

Miss Monica O'Connor (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance) then spoke from the point of view of an "Under Thirty." She drew attention to the better physical conditions, the improvement in dress, and the healthier lives enjoyed by women to-day as compared with those of 50 years ago. Although, however, conditions have so much improved, there is still much to be done. For instance, in Government and municipal offices women are doing the same work under the same conditions, but only receiving five-sixths of the salary paid to men.

Quoting Mr. Briant's words that "There is not a moment to lose if women are to be enfranchised before

the next election," Dr. Knight made an urgent appeal for funds necessary to carry on the campaign.

"The House of Commons has done a number of just things, but not because they are just. They have never done anything for women unless they had to," declared the next speaker, Miss E. E. Froud (of the National Union of Women Teachers). She did not advocate militancy again at the present time, although deeds of some kind are necessary. She believed that, by organising the women who have votes and those that want them, it would be possible to bring pressure to bear upon the Government.

People interested in social work know the helplessness of women because they have no vote. In the present year the National Union of Women Teachers has spent thousands of pounds in order to try and secure for women the right to carry on their work after marriage. This question of the married woman's right to work is one which only concerns herself and her husband, and should be settled by them without the interference of an outside body. Women's organisations had also been spending much time and money in trying to get the appointment of an adequate number of women police for the protection of women and children in the streets and public parks. To-day, however, there are only just over 100 women police in the whole of the country. If all women had votes, there would now be as many women police as we wanted; but the women's demands had been brushed aside because they could not exert voting pressure.

For years women have been fighting for equal pay for equal work, and Mr. Lloyd George said they would obtain this six months after enfranchisement. To-day, in the teaching profession, women only receive four-fifths of the salary paid to men doing similar work, and the difference in increment paid to a man and a woman amounts to 2d. a day. This shows clearly that no principle is involved—the differentiation represents only the domination of one sex.

In conclusion, Miss Froud made an eloquent appeal to the young women to enter the suffrage movement. "The only way to get justice," she said, "is to make yourself a nuisance. Hold meetings, ask questions at other people's meetings, send postcards to local Members of Parliament, and do everything possible to show the politicians that women mean to have votes this year on the same terms as men have them."

The last speaker, Mrs. Anthony (Young Suffragists), another "Under Thirty," said it was her experience in different parts of the country that public opinion is in favour of granting equal franchise now, but that the opposition comes from Members of Parliament. She felt that there were two great dangers ahead: One was the Conservative Party suggestion that the age of enfranchisement should be raised to 25; and the other was the Labour Party's opposition to plural voting. She considered that women must insist on a simple measure of enfranchisement before the question of electoral reform is dealt with.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously. A. M. PIEROTTI.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman Engineer Reads Paper.

For the first time in the history of the Society of Engineers (Incorporated) a paper will be read by a woman before the members at the Society's meeting to be held in Burlington House, W., on November 1st. The contributor will be Miss A. Ashberry, A.M.S.E., who is the first woman member of the Society, and is managing director and works manager of a limited liability company. Her paper will be on "Some products of a small machine shop."

Woman's Divinity Degree.

For the first time in the 500 years' history of Edinburgh University, a degree in Divinity was conferred upon a woman—Miss Elizabeth G. K. Hewat—last week.

Twelve-year-old Novelist.

Peggy Temple, the 12-year-old daughter of Mr. Michael Temple, has had a novel accepted by Messrs. Blount & Selwyn. She is a Lower Form IV. pupil at Fosse Bank School, Tonbridge, and her story, "The Admiral and Others," contains no female character, although there are two boys in it of her own age. There is no love interest, and humour is described as the outstanding feature. Peggy is fond of poetry, despises detective stories, and confesses to having failed to enjoy stories for girls.

Woman Traveller's Death.

Miss Frances Knowles-Foster has died from exhaustion after an adventurous journey across the North Sea in a tiny yacht. Gales and high seas caused anxiety in the Baltic, and in her struggles against the waves Miss Foster broke a finger and tore an arm muscle, but pluckily carried on until she arrived back in this country.

Dulwich College for Girls.

The Board of Education is about to be approached regarding a scheme for the establishment of a Dulwich College for Girls of similar standing to the existing Boys' College. The scheme has been in abeyance for many years. A large site has been reserved in the neighbourhood of the boys' school which will permit the erection of extensive buildings to accommodate some 500 students from the outset. It will be probably five years, however, before the College is built.

Woman Builder and Bricklayer.

The alleged monotony of domestic life has caused Mrs. L. Smart, the wife of a Wandsworth builder and contractor, to exchange dustpan and brush for the bricklayer's trowel and hod, and her apron and mob cap for breeches and a strong suit of overalls. She has helped her husband build six houses, lays bricks, makes mortar, whitewashes ceilings, papers and distempers walls, and even fells trees. Her husband says she is a far better worker than many men.

Merseyside Needlewomen.

More than a hundred energetic and enthusiastic needlewomen are canvassing Merseyside for orders for darning and mending at 1s. an hour. Not only are the visiting members of this modern Dorcas Society adept menders and darners, but they are experienced cutters-out, and for the business girl who wants to "run-up" a frock in the evenings, but dreads to use the scissors, their ready help at 1s. 6d. an hour for evenings will be a boon.

Potential Woman Stockbroker.

Miss Veronica Allen, whose engagement is announced to Mr. Stanley Scott, a well-known stockbroker, has herself passed an arduous apprenticeship in her father's office at Winchester House, and has a sound working knowledge of the finance of gold-mining enterprises. We may possibly see her the first member of the London Stock Exchange, in partnership with her future husband!

Mothers' Albert Hall Pageant.

Six hundred women from all parts of the country took part in a pageant organised by Mr. Henry Millar for the Mothers' Union at the Royal Albert Hall last week. The Mothers' Union, which provided the entire audience in the afternoon, was founded 50 years ago.

Woman Mayor for Margate.

The Margate Town Council has provisionally selected Councillor Mrs. Hatfield as the Mayor to succeed Councillor T. D. Wood, who, after two years of good service, will retire on November 9th. Mrs. Hatfield was the first woman Justice of the Peace appointed in the Thanet Parliamentary Division.

Woman Councillor's Resignation.

Miss S. M. Smeed, formerly Chairman of the Acton Education Committee, and the town's first woman mayor and magistrate, is retiring from the Town Council.

PEACEMAKERS' PILGRIMAGE CONFERENCE.

A Peacemakers' Pilgrimage Conference was held at Caxton Hall recently, and was attended by representatives of practically all the Women's Societies, including the Women's Freedom League.

Lady Acland, who presided, said an indication of the success of the Pilgrimage last summer was shown in the excellent financial statement. At the Council Meeting of the Pilgrimage in July it was agreed that the question of continuing the work must be considered, and that a Conference should be held at which delegates from local committees and representatives of national organisations would discuss how this could best be done. October 13 was chosen as the date, as it came after the Assembly and just before the Imperial Conference, at which the subject of Arbitration would be brought forward. The immediate work in following up the Pilgrimage was to bring its point of view before the Dominion delegates, who would be in London for this Conference.

Miss Courtney, in presenting a Report on questions of Arbitration and Disarmament at the League of Nations Assembly, dealt with the position of Arbitration in the 1925 and 1926 Assemblies. In 1925, the possibilities of Locarno made the Assembly decide that the most profitable piece of work to do was the preparation by the secretariat of a full report on the Arbitration Treaties which were being concluded, and to present this to the 1926 Assembly. This was done, and the report showed that 71 Treaties had been registered with the secretariat. In this connection, Great Britain took a back seat. Great Britain still refused to sign the Optional Clause, though Sir Cecil Hurst, speaking on behalf of the British delegation, on the occasion of Belgium's suggestion to refer to this clause in the League of Nations' resolution on Arbitration, said that this subject would be reviewed shortly. He possibly referred to the approaching Imperial Conference.

Disarmament was being increasingly linked up with Arbitration and Security. At the 1925 Assembly of the League of Nations it was decided that if the Locarno Treaties materialised, a greater degree of "security" would be achieved, and that therefore a preparatory Committee could be set up to discuss the possibilities of a Disarmament Conference. Locarno had been signed; a preparatory Committee had been set up, and its chief piece of work had been the compiling of a questionnaire which had been circulated to members of the League. The preparatory Commission had reported on answers already received, and was instructed to hasten its work so that a Disarmament Conference could be held before the 1927 Assembly. This was a tremendous step onwards, and was cause for some satisfaction. Unfortunately, one could not be completely satisfied that the Conference would not merely lead to the stabilisation of armaments in their present proportion, but possibly Germany's entry into the League would make this less probable. In concluding, Miss Courtney said that the great need of the League of Nations was a strong moral leadership by one of the big countries. It was the duty of the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage to build up the strong public opinion which alone could make Great Britain that leader.

Lady Acland emphasised the necessity of telling the Dominion delegates the support which British public opinion had shown for Arbitration. She suggested that a Memorandum might be presented to the Dominion Premiers, and that subsequently deputations could be arranged.

Mrs. Shilston Watkins (Liverpool) moved, and Mrs. Thoday (Carnarvonshire) seconded, that: "(a) a short Memorandum should be presented to the Premiers, together with a Report of the Pilgrimage; (b) a letter should be sent with the Memorandum appealing for interviews with members of the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage Executive and others to discuss this matter; (c)

where possible, suitable women who had lived in the Colonies should be included in the interviews, since it was felt that they might have extra 'weight' with the Dominion delegates."

Lady Acland reported that the following organisations had said that they were unable to continue their support of the Pilgrimage Council. Although they were in full support of Arbitration, and would co-operate in any future national effort, such as the Pilgrimage, they were meanwhile forced to concentrate on the objects of their respective organisations:—

National Council of Women, British Women's Total Abstinence Union, Young Women's Christian Association, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, National Union of Women Teachers, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and Women's Freedom League.

Representatives of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Free Church Women's Council, and the Women's Advisory Council expressed the same opinion.

The Women's National Liberal Federation and the Friends' Peace Committee promised to continue their support.

Mrs. Shilston Watkins (Liverpool) said that she had been sent to the Conference to express the opinion very strongly that the Pilgrimage Council should not be disbanded until the aims for which it had worked had been achieved.

After an animated discussion, Miss Courtney moved that an *ad hoc* Committee should be set up to continue work for Arbitration, which would be composed of: (a) individual members who wished to serve; (b) people representing organisations which wanted to continue giving their support; (c) representatives from local Pilgrimage Committees. The Women's International League would work in close co-operation with this Committee and would give facilities, such as office accommodation, etc.

Miss Deward (Wood Green) seconded the resolution, which was then carried unanimously.

PUBLIC LODGING-HOUSES FOR WOMEN.

Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, who recently spent some weeks among the submerged women of London, and embodied her experiences in a deeply interesting book entitled, "In Darkest London" (reviewed in the VOTE of April 9th, 1926, and obtainable from 144, High Holborn, price 5s.), was the chief speaker at a drawing-room meeting last week in Sir Philip Sassoon's house in Park Lane. The object of the meeting was to initiate a scheme for providing public lodging-houses for women in London, for it is not generally recognised that of the total sleeping accommodation in London licensed by the L.C.C., less than 10 per cent. is available for women.

Mrs. Chesterton said that the L.C.C. and other municipalities ran lodging-houses for men, but they did not run similar places for women. She wanted to start a public lodging-house for women in the Central London district, somewhere between Holborn and Tottenham Court Road, where a woman for 10d. or 1s. would be able to obtain a comfortable bed. It would be an entirely non-sectarian institution, and no questions would be asked. She would also like to establish in connection with it channels through which those women who desired it could be found employment.

Other speakers were Mr. J. A. K. Cairns, Father Fitzgerald, Mr. G. K. Chesterton, Major Brunel Cohen, M.P., and Mrs. Belloc Lowndes.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29th, 1926.

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.

WE DEMAND EQUALITY.

Last week, at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women, the Women's Freedom League's resolution, calling upon the Government to introduce and carry into law without delay a simple franchise measure to enfranchise women at the same age and on the same terms as men, was carried by an overwhelming majority, and the amendment of the Aberdeen Branch of the Council, adding the following words—"provided that the voting age of both sexes be 25 years"—suffered a correspondingly heavy defeat. If women are to vote at the same age and on the same terms as men at the next General Election, it is clear that there must be no further delay on the part of the Government in introducing an Equal Franchise measure; but all that its spokesmen have promised, so far, is a Conference on the subject! It will be remembered that when Mr. Adamson's Equal Franchise Bill secured its second reading on February 29th, 1924, the Duchess of Atholl, an old time anti-suffragist, moved the following amendment: "That in view of the fact that the previous extension of the franchise was founded upon recommendations made by a Conference of all Parties, this House is of opinion that a similar Conference should be called before deciding what further alteration of the franchise is desirable." And this amendment, in a free vote of the House of Commons, was defeated by 288 votes to 72. In 1925, after the present Government was returned to power, the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary, who have certainly never been known as suffragists, secured, with the help of the Government whips, the defeat of a private Member's Equal Suffrage Bill by the promise of such a Conference.

As we pointed out at the time, this country is not governed by Conferences or Committees, but by Acts of Parliament, and our continued demand is for an Equal Franchise Bill on the Statute Book. As time goes on, we realise more clearly the mischievousness of this Conference proposal. Former anti-suffragists are now vigorously asking that the vote should be given to both men and women at the age of twenty-five. They know, as well as we do, what fierce opposition would arise in powerful quarters to the disfranchisement of all men between the ages of 21 and 25. Men in this country, whatever other qualifications were also necessary, have always had the Parliamentary vote at twenty-one years of age. Men and women can stand as candidates for the House of Commons at the age of twenty-one, and at that age peers can take their place in the House of Lords. Moreover, it has to be remembered that the great mass of the people of this country, of both sexes, begin to earn their living at the age of 14; they come under the National Insurance Act at 16; and by the time they are 21 are married. Surely, at that age, both men and women have a stake in the country! They are certainly expected to keep all the laws of the land and to pay taxes, both direct and indirect; and they are therefore entitled to have some voice in the framing of those laws and in the spending of the money of the State to which they contribute. Not only is the twenty-five-year-old red herring being trailed across the path of equal franchise, but we have Members of Parliament now telling us that what we mean by equal suffrage—the vote for women at the same age as men (21), and on the same terms as men, is not good enough for them—they want at the same time to do away with all plural voting in the case

of men, and all graduates' votes for both men and women. Apparently they are not so much interested in the equal enfranchisement of men and women as they are in a universal single vote for men and women! Then we are assured that no alteration can be made in the franchise without an accompanying system of redistribution; and another section of the community is just as confident of the need for proportional representation—all subjects for heated discussion at the proposed Conference! The position of the Women's Freedom League is this: We are convinced that the Government's suggested Conference is nothing more than an anti-suffrage proposal to defeat the further extension of the vote to women; and once again we say that this proposal is both useless for our purpose and altogether mischievous; and we reiterate our demand for an Equal Franchise measure granting the Parliamentary vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as men, and for an Equal Franchise measure to appear in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament next Session. Any further delay in this matter on the part of the Government will endanger the possibility of such a measure becoming law during the lifetime of the present Parliament; and women may again have to vote at another General Election at an unequal age and on unequal terms with men.

WOMEN AND ELECTIONS.

Next Monday the electorate will be asked to vote for members of Borough and Town Councils outside London, and we sincerely hope that women will be returned as members of these Councils in greater numbers than previously. There is an immense amount of work on all these Councils in which women as well as men should share. Moreover, these Councils employ a great number of women in various capacities, and it is only right that there should be women on them to take an intelligent interest in the work, the conditions of work, and the remuneration of women employees. We hope, too, that the appearance of women candidates at municipal elections will remind women that it is now the time to see that women Parliamentary candidates are in the field for the next General Election. This election may now come at any time, and in any case it can hardly be delayed longer than 1928. We should also like to see a woman candidate at every by-election. More women Members of Parliament means more strength to the women's movement. Women's interests in Parliament cannot be shelved indefinitely when women are in the House of Commons ready to advocate them. To secure the return of women to Parliament, long, intensive campaigns are necessary, for it is only in the very rarest of cases that women will be given the opportunity to contest any seat which is already held by a male member of her political Party. In nearly every case a woman candidate will have to be prepared to wrest a seat from a sitting member of an opposing Party. Out of our 615 Members of the House of Commons, only six are women. In view of the voluminous amount of legislation dealt with by Parliament which concerns very specially the interests of women, no one can claim that we have a fair proportion of women in Parliament, particularly when we remember that no woman is yet allowed a seat in the House of Lords. Great Britain compares unfavourably with some other countries in regard to the number of women in Parliament. Germany has 32 women M.P.s, Austria 17, Czechoslovakia 17, Poland 17, Denmark 9, and the Netherlands 7. The only way to get more women Members in the House of Commons is to see that women are adopted now as Parliamentary candidates, and then to work for them with enthusiasm and constant effort until the General Election takes place. The primary object of the Women's Freedom League is to secure equal franchise for men and women; but at the same time we work just as vigorously for the return of women to Parliament because we believe that the struggle for equality between the sexes must take place inside as well as outside Parliament.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

Over 900 delegates attended the 31st Annual Conference of the National Council of Women, which was held at the Church House, Westminster, during three days of last week. This is the first time for nine years that the Conference has been held in London.

Housing and slum clearance were undoubtedly the keynotes of this year's gathering. Two of the resolutions on the agenda were occupied with these subjects, provoking much animated discussion, whilst one entire evening was devoted to the reading of papers and consideration of the problem. Mrs. George Morgan, a Vice-President of the Council, gave very interesting particulars of the various Housing schemes up and down the country now being carried out by district Branches. Malvern Branch is specialising in flats for women workers. Eighteen flats, housing 24 tenants, were built first, and now 24 more flats, housing 36 tenants, have been constructed. Each one is self-contained, with a small garden plot adjoining. Bromley Tenants is a scheme for housing artisan workers. Twelve cottages were built first, the capital for which was largely contributed by N.C.W. members and their husbands, and now 20 more cottages are in process of building. Cambridge is converting large houses into flats for educated women. Bath Tenement Venture Scheme is an attempt to do away not only with slums but with "slum-minded" people. In this district, old houses have been taken over and converted into little artisan flats, with separate lavatories and wash-houses. A unique feature of the scheme is that the least desirable tenants are given the first preference! The rent collectors are women, who also inspect the houses, and instruct these very ignorant tenants in the use of any labour-saving devices or other necessaries in the houses, on the same lines as the famous Octavia Hill System of management. Birmingham, in co-operation with the C.O.P.E.C., is also converting derelict property, in a shocking state of dilapidation, into habitable cottages for working-class tenants. Some 50 houses, so far, have been built, whilst three old courts have been transformed into healthy open spaces, with a welfare scheme in the centre.

A resolution calling upon the Government to enfranchise women at the same age and on the same terms as men, proposed by Miss Anna Munro, and seconded by Mrs. Hubback, gave rise to some opposition owing to

an amendment from Aberdeen to the effect that the voting age of both sexes should be 25 years. The amendment, however, was eventually lost, and the original resolution was carried with acclamation.

Two Urgency Resolutions were also carried—one welcoming the new Factories Bill, but begging the Government to extend the provision of a weekly rest day and protection against overstrain from heavy weights to all workers, male and female; and the other urging the Government to make a public announcement as soon as possible of the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry into the Solicitation Laws, including the terms of reference and the personnel.

Other resolutions carried included a demand for the compulsory inclusion of a suitable number of women on the Committees directly responsible for the administration of all public Mental Hospitals, the number in no case to be less than two; a demand for the introduction of legislation at the earliest possible date on the lines laid down in the Report of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons; and a call to the Government to establish equal rates of payment as between men and women performing similar duties in the Civil Service and in the leading professions. This last was proposed by Miss E. E. Froud, and seconded by Miss Anna Munro. An eloquent plea for married women to continue in paid employment, if they so desired, was urged by Mrs. Layton, who surveyed this vexed problem from the point of view of the woman herself, the employer, and the community.

One afternoon of the Conference was devoted entirely to girls, the latest object of the National Council for Women being the establishment of Junior Branches all over the country. Miss Picton-Tubervill addressed these on the subject of "Possibilities"; Miss Bewley, Head of Rangers, Girl Guides Association, on "Adventure"; and Mrs. George Morgan on "The N.C.W. and its hopes for the future."

A special service in Westminster Abbey, conducted by the Bishop of Willesden, daily devotional meetings in the chapel of Mary Summer House, the new home of the Mothers' Union, and a splendid selection of visits and excursions to places of interest in and around London, concluded a noteworthy gathering.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

WHAT THE HOME SECRETARY SAID.

The following extracts are taken from the Home Secretary's speech in the House of Commons on February 20th, 1925, when Mr. Whiteley's Equal Suffrage Bill failed to secure a Second reading. In spite of the fact that Mr. Whiteley's Bill contained a clause specifically stating that the provisions of the Bill should become operative only on such date as His Majesty may fix by Order in Council, thus obviating any necessity for a General Election until the close of the life of the present Parliament, the following amendment to this Bill, moved by the Home Secretary on behalf of the Government, was carried by 220 votes to 153: "This House declines in the early stages of a new Parliament to accord a Second reading to a Franchise Bill, involving, as it would, a General Election, with the consequent interruption of important legislative and administrative work, and records its opinion that a considered scheme of franchise reform should be brought before this House at a suitable opportunity within the lifetime of the present Parliament."

In moving this amendment, Sir William Joynson-Hicks said: "I quite agree with the right hon. Gentleman (Mr. Arthur Henderson) that there are

terrible anomalies in the present system of woman suffrage, anomalies which mean that there are 1½ millions unenfranchised women under 30 years of age who should be voters. I agree that under the present system there are really 2,000,000 women over 30 years of age who ought to have votes, and who at the present time have not votes. There are great inequalities between men and women. That is only one consideration. For instance, there is the enormous number of domestic servants throughout the country—they have no vote. There is the enormous number of shop assistants living in—they have no vote. There is a large number of women who in all parts of the country live in furnished lodgings—they have no vote. On the other hand, the male domestic servant, the male shop assistant, and the man living in furnished lodgings, has, under the present law, a vote. These are anomalies which must be dealt with, and I say at once, will be dealt with and swept away during the lifetime of the present Parliament. . . . The country has got to face this position. To-day there are something like 2,000,000 fewer women voters than there are men voters; in other words, the country is ruled to-

FRIDAY,
OCT. 29,
1926.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

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REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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MONTAGUE HOTEL, Montague Street, Russell Square, London, W.C. First-class accommodation; room, breakfast and attendance from 7s. 6d. En pension from 3 guineas.—Phone: Museum 4660. (Highly Recommended.)

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.

NOTICES.

SUBJECTS OF FOUR LECTURES by Miss Mary Chadwick. Thursday, October 14th, "How the Understanding of Adolescence may affect the later life of Men and Women." Thursday, October 21st, "The Fear of Death." Thursday, October 28th, "Difficulties in the Care of Children." Thursday, November 4th, "Some Modern Theories upon the Psycho-Genesis of Women's Neuroses." The above Lectures will be given in the Large Hall at the College of Nursing, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Sq., W.1, at 8 p.m. Course 10s. Single Lectures 3s. Apply at above address for Tickets, or pay at door.

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 0377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, October 31st. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Dr. H. H. Turner, F.R.S. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden: "The Imitations of Christ."

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PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Lectures, classes, private lessons. Speech Club beginning October 2nd. Miss LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tel: Museum 4791.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN CITIZENS.—The Edward Wright and Cavendish-Bentinck Library contains sections on current political and social problems, including the Woman's Movement, Family Allowances, and League of Nations. Book Boxes of 20 books available for Study Circles.—Apply Librarian, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster.

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