

THE VOTE.
MARCH 18, 1927.

THE RIGHTS OF PARENTS.

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVIII. No. 908. *(Registered at
the G.P.O.)*

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1927

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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WHO'S WHO ON THE DEPUTATION.

LADY ASTOR, the introducer of the deputation, is the first woman Member to take her seat in the House of Commons. She has represented the Sutton Division of Plymouth, as a Unionist, since 1919, and has always associated herself with the question of Equal Franchise.

LADY RHONDDA, Chairman of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, succeeded to the Viscounty in 1918, daughter of David Alfred Thomas, 1st Viscount Rhondda; is on the Board of Directors of 27 companies; is President of the Institute of Directors; joined Women's Social and Political Union, and suffered imprisonment in cause of Women's Franchise; was a Director in the Women's Recruiting side of the Ministry of National Service during the war; she is Chairman of the Six Point Group; has petitioned to obtain a Writ of Summons to the House of Lords, but failed on the interpretation of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, on which her claim was based.

MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE, President, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship; Hon. Secretary, Liverpool Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association; member of Liverpool City Council; Visitor for Charity Organisation Society for 15 years; Hon. Secretary, Liverpool Women's Industrial Council; Hon. Secretary, Victoria Women's Settlement; Member of Council of Liverpool University; member of Liverpool Insurance Committee; lecturer at School of Social Studies, Liverpool University; Chairman of Juvenile Employment Exchange (Ministry of Labour); Justice of the Peace for Lancashire; Vice-Chairman, Family Endowment Society; Member of League of Nations' Advisory Commission for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People.

MRS. HOOD attended as Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, and is also a member of the Middlesex National Health Insurance Committee, and the Consultative Council to the Ministry of Health; was National President of the Women's Co-operative Guild, 1918-19, and first woman Magistrate for Middlesex (1920); represents the Standing Joint Committee on the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child; is a member of the Edmonton Board of Guardians, and on the Board's Maternity Committee; is a pioneer in work for Maternity and Child Welfare.

MISS PARNELL, who represented St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, and spoke for the "under 30s," is the daughter of one of the original members of the Liverpool Branch of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, has herself worked in the Society for a long time, and as Hon. Secretary for three years; she is an Honours graduate of Liverpool University, an ardent worker in the woman's movement, and well known as a public speaker in Liverpool on women's questions and on peace; she is at present senior English mistress on the staff of Bellerive Convent, F.C.J., Liverpool; she comes of a long line of distinguished public men, of whom Charles Stewart Parnell, the Irish leader, is the best known.

DR. ELIZABETH KNIGHT, one of the earliest members of the Women's Freedom League, and its Hon. Treasurer since 1912, was imprisoned three times in militant pre-Suffrage days. She was also a prominent and persistent tax-resister, on the ground that there should be no taxation without representation.

THE HON. MRS. FRANKLIN, eldest daughter of the first Lord Swaythling, Hon. Organising Secretary, Parents' National Educational Society, since 1890; Vice-President, National Council of Women, 1923 and 1924; President, 1925, re-elected 1926; representative of Great Britain on the Education Sub-Committee, International Council of Women; has served for the last 20 years on the Committees of numerous societies, and has lectured in almost every capital of Europe on Education and Social Subjects, in many towns of U.S.A., at the invitation of the N.C.W. of South Africa in the Union of South Africa, and in Northern and Southern Rhodesia; has written articles on Education; on the Board of Management since its foundation of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St. John's Wood Road; Vice-Chairman, South London Hospital.

MISS FROUD, Vice-Chairman of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, represented the National Union of Women Teachers, of which she is the General Secretary; she was a member of the Women's Social and Political Union, and as a teacher joined the National Union of Teachers, where she strove in vain to rouse activity for those equal opportunities, equal status, and equal pay, which she realised were bound up with Equal Franchise; she was one of those leaders who finally left the National Union of Teachers and formed the National Union of Women Teachers, now a vast body, and in which she has been one of the most active workers.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Lady Aberdeen's Birthday.

Congratulations to the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, President of the International Council of Women, on the attainment of her 70th birthday, and our best wishes for her continued health and usefulness.

Woman Chairman of Music Hall Committee.

Miss Rosamund Smith has been recommended as Chairman for the London Theatres and Music Halls Committee.

Another Woman Member of Board of Guardians.

Mrs. Katherine Youles, the Labour candidate, has been elected to the vacant Kilburn Ward seat on the Hampstead Board of Guardians.

Woman Physical Instructor.

Last week, at a special meeting, held in Marischal College, the Aberdeen University Court appointed Mrs. Eileen Campbell as Assistant to the Instructor of Physical Training at the University. Mrs. Campbell is the first woman to be appointed to this post.

Another Injustice?

Mr. Rhys Davies, leader of the Labour Glee Singers, refuses to invite women M.P.s to join, because "you cannot run a choir of 40 men and three women. That would be an impossibility."

Quebec against Provincial Franchise for Women.

The Premier and the Opposition Leader in the Quebec Legislature were among the 51 voters against granting the Provincial Franchise to women. Only 13 members voted in favour.

Indiana favours Equal Party Representation.

The Indiana House has passed a Bill for equal representation in Party organisations, and equal opportunities of chairmanship between men and women.

Helping Girls to enter Business.

The Business and Professional Women's Clubs of the Middle Atlantic and New England States propose a junior membership for co-operation and assistance in entering business.

MEN'S WAGES AND WOMEN'S WORK.

Reading the accounts from Australia of the tour of the British Parliamentary Party one is glad to note special praise given by the Press and by the public, and special thanks added from the Marquis of Salisbury to Mrs. Tawse Jollie for a speech which she made at a conference on migration. Mrs. Jollie, of Southern Rhodesia, was the only woman delegate, and we quote from a report of her speech:—"No civilized country can carry on a high standard of living unless there is a larger population of women than men. It is a sociological truism that you must have a larger population of women than men to carry on the form of society which we call civilization. The standard of living in Australia is not as high as in many countries. It is as high for men but not for women. The working man eats three good, hot meals a day, but his wife has to cook them, and wash up afterwards. On the group settlements in Western Australia women have much to do. I bring all this forward because I do not think the men can realise too keenly how important it is for women to bring up their families, which is, at least, quite as important as bringing in fresh settlers. What you want is for the women in Australia—those already here—to be prepared to find tasks for migrant girls, and train them."

Mrs. Jollie stressed the point that no amount of high wages for men would help the women to a better standard unless means could at the same time be found to relieve them from excessive work.

Vassar and Children.

Vassar has held a Conference on Reading for Children. Women prominent in child welfare, writers, and publishers gave valuable information and suggestions.

New York and Equal Rights.

New York has rejected a Bill for compulsory jury service for women.

First Woman Bank Trust Officer.

The Hamilton National Bank in New York has, for the first time in the history of any American bank, appointed a woman, Miss Henriette Fuchs, as Trust Officer.

Woman Bell-ringer.

Mrs. Ruth Conniston, a graduate of Yale University, controls the chimes of 53 bells every Sunday, at Park Avenue Baptist Church, New York. In addition to using both hands on an upper keyboard, Mrs. Conniston has to use both feet for the lower.

Woman as Milk Inspector.

The California Department of Agriculture announces that Mrs. Marie Alamo Boden has been appointed by the city of Santa Cruz as Director of Milk Inspection.

Women Police in Hamburg.

From April 1st this year, Hamburg is to appoint women police.

Woman Member of Bangalore District Board.

Mrs. Parvathi Ammal Chandrasekhara Iyer has been nominated by the Mysore Government as a member of the Bangalore District Board. This is the first time that the claims of Mysore women have been recognised in regard to service outside the Departments of Education and Public Health.

Persian Woman's Appointment.

Mme. Heidary, Secretary to the Minister of Public Works, is the first Persian woman to be appointed as a member of a Government Commission.

WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.

The first women's Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race was rowed on the Isis on Tuesday. To meet the objection to racing for women of the Oxford authorities, the crews rowed a ½-mile course down the river and back, one after the other, being judged in style and speed. Equal points were awarded for style, and Oxford's time was 3 mins. 36½ secs, against Cambridge's 3 mins. 51 secs. The Cambridge crew rowed first, and then ran along the towing path cheering on their rivals.

SPRING SALE

Household Goods and Country Produce

At 25, WIMPOLE STREET, W. 1.

(by kind invitation of Dr. Octavia Lewin)

on

FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH.

Opened at 3 p.m. by DR. ISABEL TURNADGE

(late of Twickenham County Girls' School).

Chairman: Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

STALLS: Household and Spring Cleaning Goods—Lingerie, Overalls and Aprons—Pottery—Fancy Articles—White Elephants—Beads—Country Produce—Cakes, Sweets and Preserves.

Lecture by Dr. OCTAVIA LEWIN, at 6 p.m.

MUSIC CHARACTER READING Tea 3.30 to 6 p.m.

RECITATIONS NUMEROLOGY 3 to 7.30 p.m.

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

Men and Women Magistrates (Appointments).

Replying to MR. EVERARD (U., Melton), the ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave the number of men and women magistrates appointed in the years 1924, 1925, 1926, as follows:—

	Men	Women	Total
1924			
Counties, England and Wales ...	821	125	946
Counties, Scotland ...	463	39	502
Boroughs ...	260	68	328
Total (1924) ...	1,544	232	1,776
1925			
Counties, England and Wales ...	672	98	770
Counties, Scotland ...	249	23	272
Boroughs ...	186	43	229
Total (1925) ...	1,107	164	1,271
1926			
Counties, England and Wales ...	501	70	571
Counties, Scotland ...	343	20	363
Boroughs ...	187	31	218
Total (1926) ...	1,031	121	1,152

These figures include appointments made in the County of Lancaster by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Policewomen (Rotherhithe).

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., Leicester, W.) asked the Home Secretary whether his attention has been drawn to the remarks made by Mr. Justice Acton, in the trial of William Shillibeer, of Rotherhithe, at the Central Criminal Court, for murder, to the effect that it was quite clear that he was, in the first instance, wantonly and gratuitously insulted and provoked by a gang of boys gathered together for such purposes, and afterwards assailed by a number of these boys, who gave every indication of an intention to act together in attacking and doing violence upon him; whether the existence of this gang was known to the police before the attack on Shillibeer; how many policewomen are on the strength of the force in that Division; whether any have been on or detailed for duty in the Rotherhithe district; and whether, in view of the proved existence of at least one gang of lawless children, he will strengthen the Division of the Metropolitan Police Force concerned by the appointment of additional policewomen for special duty among children in this district? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I am aware of the remarks of Mr. Justice Acton, which appear to have been based on the fact that a number of schoolboys attacked the boy Shillibeer. The existence of the alleged gang was not known to the police before the attack in question; and the attack on Shillibeer is the only incident connected with the group which has come to the notice of the police. There are two women police constables attached to the Division, and they do duty, when occasion requires, in Rotherhithe, and there does not appear to be any present need for additional women police in the neighbourhood, nor does the case in question indicate any such need.

Electoral Machinery.

MR. BRIANT (Lib., Lambeth, N.) asked the Prime Minister if, in addition to the question of the extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as men, he is also considering the question of the reform of the electoral system? THE PRIME MINISTER: The answer is in the negative, unless the hon. Member has in mind certain minor or consequential amendments of the electoral machinery.

Electoral Reform.

MR. MACKENZIE LIVINGSTONE (Lib., Western Isles) gave notice that, on March 22nd, he would call attention to Electoral Reform, and move a resolution.

Women's Training and Employment.

Replying to MR. SHORT (Lab., Wednesbury), the MINISTER OF LABOUR said: The total net expenditure

by the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment for the year ended December 31st, 1926, was £81,673, towards which His Majesty's Government contributed £79,720.

Men's Training and Employment.

Replying to another question by MR. SHORT, the MINISTER OF LABOUR said: The total amount expended during the year ended December 31st, 1926, on the scheme for training young unemployed men, was £159,048.

House of Lords.

COMMANDER KENWORTHY (Lab., Central Hull) asked the Prime Minister when it is proposed to introduce legislation for the reform of the House of Lords? THE PRIME MINISTER: I am not yet in a position to make any statement.

Factory Inspection.

MR. SITCH (Lab., Kingswinford) asked the Home Secretary the number of factories in England and Wales; and the number of factories that have been visited by his inspectors in the two years ending December 31st, 1926? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The number of factories in England and Wales at the end of the year 1926 was 129,695. The number visited in 1925 was 102,111; and, in 1926, 101,962. The number not visited either in 1925 or 1926 was 1,290.

Lunacy and Mental Disorder.

Replying to MR. SEXTON (Lab., St. Helens), MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN said: Steps are being taken to examine the Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder, with a view to incorporating in a Bill such of the recommendations as the Government are able to adopt. It will not, however, be practicable to prepare such a measure in time for introduction in the present Session.

Sex-Disqualification in Burma.

EARL WINTERTON (Under-Secretary for India), replying to MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE, said: The question at issue was the removal of sex disqualification for the candidature for the election of Burmese women to the Legislative Council. If the report I have seen is correct, the Home Member (who, I may observe, is a Burman) opposed the motion, on behalf of the Government, on the ground that it was premature, and might well await the Statutory Inquiry. (*Another Conference, we presume!*)

Civil Service (Appointments).

Replying to MR. HORE-BELISHA (Lib., Devonport), MR. MCNEILL (Financial Secretary, Treasury) said: The Government adheres to the principle that posts in the established Civil Service should, in general, be filled either by open competitive examination, or by the promotion of an existing established civil servant. But, since the war, large numbers of appointments have been made in certain grades as a result of limited competitions which have been wholly or mainly confined to ex-Service men and ex-Service or temporary women staff, and, in accordance with the recommendations of the Lytton Committee, a general measure of preference has been accorded to ex-Service men.

Woman M.P. Teller.

MRS. PHILIPSON (U., Berwick-on-Tweed) was Teller for the *Ayes* in the second reading of the Seditious and Blasphemous Teaching to Children Bill.

Woman Franchise.

Replying to questions by MR. SPOOR (Lab., Bishop Auckland) and COM. KENWORTHY (Lab., Central Hull), the PRIME MINISTER said: As has already been announced, a statement on this subject will be made before Easter. To a further question by COM. KENWORTHY, MR. BALDWIN promised that the statement should be made to the House in the first place, and not to any outside body.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 18th, 1927.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

THE RIGHTS OF PARENTS.

On April 2nd, 1924, Mrs. Wintringham's Equal Guardianship of Infants Bill passed its second reading in the House of Commons without a division. This Bill provided that the mother of every legitimate infant should be guardian jointly with the father, for all purposes, and have equal authority, rights, and responsibilities with him in the home. Mrs. Wintringham's Bill, which was supported by Lady Astor, Lady Terington, Mr. Isaac Foot, Sir Robert Newman, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, and others, had the whole-hearted support of the Women's Freedom League. Unfortunately, it was turned down by the Labour Government, who substituted for it a Guardianship of Infants Bill of its own, which did not reach the Statute Book in that Parliament's lifetime, but was afterwards introduced and passed into law by the present Government in 1925. Instead of giving mothers equal rights with fathers in regard to the upbringing and custody of their children in the home, this Guardianship of Infants Act merely gives the mother the right to apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction in cases of dispute with the father on these matters, when the Court will decide the dispute from its point of view of the welfare of the child. Owing to a defect in the drafting of the Bill, only a mother can apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction in cases of such disputes, the father having access only to the High Court. In regard to the marriage of their children, if they are minors, the Act makes the consent of both father and mother a necessary condition to the marriage, but if one or both parents withhold this consent, the child may apply to the Court, and again the Court will decide the matter from its point of view of the welfare of the child. Under this Act, a mother, as well as a father, is empowered to appoint a guardian for the children to act for them after her death, but beyond this we never have been able to see that the present Guardianship of Infants Act has improved the position of the mother. It has been very adversely criticised by men magistrates, and last week, Mr. Hay Halkett, the Marylebone magistrate, openly flouted it. A City merchant told Mr. Halkett that he wanted to send his 7-year-old son to a boarding school, but his wife objected, and he asked what he could do. Mr. Halkett said: "You want a summons under the Guardianship of Infants Act, but you cannot have it. It is a ridiculous Act of Parliament, and places everything in the woman's hands. However, you are the sole guardian at present. Send the boy to school if you want to, and don't pay any attention to your wife. If she wants to challenge your right, she can do so under the Act, but at present you can do as you like. Being the father, you have the right to choose your child's religion and everything else, and if your wife does not like your decision, she can ask the Court to decide between you. Meanwhile, you are the master."

We wonder what chance the wife would have if she came to Mr. Hay Halkett's Court to decide between

her and her husband in regard to their son? Could anything be more prejudiced or insufferable than this Marylebone magistrate's view of the comparative rights of fathers and mothers? We hope his remarks will be brought to the notice of the Home Secretary, and an inquiry made as to whether a man who can express such biased views on a matter of law concerning men and women, is a fit and proper person to administer that law.

Another Marylebone magistrate, Mr. H. C. A. Bingley, also apparently views the Guardianship of Infants Act with disfavour. Last Saturday he was asked to give his consent to the marriage of a youth of 19 with a young woman of 21 against the will of his parents, who declared that their son was unstable and delicate, and had not the necessary means to get married. In giving his consent after hearing the parties, Mr. Bingley said it seemed to him an extraordinary responsibility to put upon the magistrates to ask them to override the decisions and views of the parents of young people in such a matter. The Act, he declared, did not give magistrates any help or direction in coming to a decision—whether they were to consider the suitability of the parties to one another, their health, sufficiency of income, or what, the Act did not say. He regretted intensely that this responsibility had been placed upon him, and he thought it was most invidious.

We have before expressed our objection to children being made practically Wards of the Court for the purpose of carrying out this Act. We want an Act which will give equal rights to fathers and mothers in the home, in regard to the upbringing and custody of their children. Our hostility to the present Guardianship of Infants Act is that it does not give the mother an equal status with the father in the home, and that it does undermine parental authority by inviting minors to apply to magistrates for consent to their marriage, when this consent has been withheld by the parents. How is it possible for a magistrate, who, for the first time in his life, sees a young person for about five minutes, to be a better judge of the welfare of that young person than his or her parents? The whole thing seems to us absurd.

MARRIED WOMEN'S RIGHT TO WORK

By the courtesy of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, we have received the text of the Married Women (Employment) Bill, 1927, which was introduced into the House of Commons on February 11th, and is down for a second reading on April 29th. This Bill provides that:—"A woman shall not be refused employment or dismissed from employment by any Government Department or Local Authority on the ground only that she is married or about to be married." In this Bill the expression, "Government Department," includes any Minister of the Crown acting as the head of a Government Department, and the expression, "Local Authority," means any public body who have power to raise money, either directly or indirectly by means of a rate. This Bill is supported by some members of all political Parties, among them being Lady Astor, Miss Bondfield, Mr. Briant, Major Hills, and Mr. Pethick-Lawrence. We sincerely hope that under this Bill it will be found possible also to include a Clause making it illegal for a Government Department or Local Authority to require prospective employees to sign an agreement to resign their posts on marriage, as we understand that this method of getting rid of married women is a very common one. To dismiss a woman like Dr. Turnadge from Twickenham County Girls' School solely because she is married and is a mother, is just to follow the dictates of blind prejudice. It is not in the interests of the ratepayers who pay her salary, nor of the girls under her charge. We specially invite our readers to come to meet Dr. Turnadge, at 25, Wimpole Street, Friday afternoon, March 25th, and they will be able to judge for themselves.

PROPOSED EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FROM IRISH JURIES.

A Bill is now being rushed through the Irish Free State Parliament to exclude women from jury service. Though Clause 3 of the Free State Constitution gives women full citizenship, and though, since 1919, Irish women are entitled to serve on juries, the Free State Government has discouraged them in various ways. First, in 1924, women were invited formally to claim exemption. A number did so, but many still remained and were summoned. In but very few instances were women who answered the summons allowed to serve in the Criminal Court (on civil juries a number did serve, because the State does not exercise its right of challenge here). When plaintiff or defendant did not exercise their (limited) right of challenge, the State did, having unlimited right in this respect. Practically all women who appeared were ordered to "stand by," not being permitted by the State to serve, because they were women. Women were thus kept days, often weeks, waiting about the Court, until finally the order was given "no women jurors need attend." Thus women's right to sit on juries was indirectly abolished, and made null and void, so that, for over three years, women have not been allowed to serve. Now, the Minister of Justice has introduced his Juries Bill, definitely excluding women from juries because, he says, women "have not availed themselves of this right," and have not justified the expense entailed! Only 18 Deputies (out of 100) were present at the second reading of the Bill, and on the third reading 49 voted for exclusion, and 19 against (the latter being mainly Labour and Farmers' Deputies or Independents, the former Government Members). Mr. O'Higgins accepted an amendment in favour of a voluntary panel of women, but this the Joint Conference of Women's Societies (representing 9 or 10 of the principal women's organisations in the Free State) have rejected for obvious reasons. A voluntary panel imposes a hardship on conscientious women at the expense of those who wish to escape service, and is, in effect, an infringement of the spirit of the Constitution, inasmuch as it establishes inequality between men and women. Mr. O'Higgins has made great play with the alleged physical weakness of women, and has stated in the Debate that, in Britain, jury service is merely nominal for women and a farce, because women are "invited" to claim exemption on grounds of illness, and therefore evade serving. If such circular were sent out here, as is sent in England, it would, he declared, be "branded as improper and indelicate"! The mysterious document thus referred to is that which states that a woman may claim exemption "on grounds of pregnancy, or other feminine ailment or condition."

According to Mr. O'Higgins (who prides himself on being "early Victorian," and who declared to a deputation that he would not like to see "his women-folk" serving on juries), only abnormal women would care to serve on juries, while in "unsavoury" cases their presence would be undesirable. Recently, in response to clamour from male stenographers, he withdrew women Court stenographers for this reason.

Efforts are being made by women who support the Government to get a "free vote" of Government Deputies on the question, for many have declared that they would, if free, be opposed to the exclusion of women. A new society, the Irish Women's Equality League (4, Eustace Street, Dublin), representing the former militant group of the I.W.F.L., has sprung up to meet the situation and to defend Irishwomen's rights from further encroachments by the Government. Mrs. Despard has, with her usual ready response to feminist appeal, rallied to our aid. Already, by Government order, married women are dismissed from the Civil Service and from all positions held under Public Boards, Technical Education Committees, etc. Women are also excluded from the higher posts in the Civil Service, while, as librarians, etc., they are given

lesser pay for the same work. In the Free State women, owing to the great part they played in the recent Irish revolutionary movement, were given, in 1922, Equal Franchise and the vote at 21 (in Northern Ireland, as in Britain, they may not vote till they are 30 years of age). Since the proposed exclusion of women from juries in the Free State, a certain section of the Press has begun to clamour for the raising of the voting age for women from 21 to 25, the *Irish People* (Kilkenny) having boldly advocated this course. Irishwomen have been roused to considerable activity, therefore, owing to their resentment at this proposed curtailment of their rights as citizens. They have called protest meetings, have conducted an active Press publicity campaign, and have been engaged in a strenuous lobbying of Deputies and Senators. Lord Glenavy, Chairman of the Senate, and Mr. Bennett, Vice-Chairman, have received sympathetically joint deputations from women's societies, while others have waited upon Mr. O'Higgins. Senator Mrs. Wyse Power, a strong feminist, introduced the deputations, and has presided over the large conference of women's societies summoned to consider the matter. It is hoped that the obnoxious measure may be held up in the Senate (it has power to delay for nearly 300 days objectionable legislation), so that the General Election may intervene to prevent its passage. Irishwomen are grateful to suffragists and feminists in other countries for the help they have given in their Press to them in their present struggle. Extracts from THE VOTE and *Equal Rights* have been used in our publicity campaign.

H. S. SKEFFINGTON.

SPRING SALE.

Our Annual Spring Sale is to be held on Friday, March 25th, from 3 to 7.30 p.m., by kind invitation of Dr. Octavia Lewin, at 25, Wimpole Street, W.1.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence has promised to preside at the opening ceremony, which will be performed by Dr. Isabel Turnadge, late of Twickenham County Girls' School, and many of our kind friends are going to assist in various ways. Among those who have promised to help with the stalls are Mrs. M. M. Abbott, Miss Burwood, Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Jacoby, Miss Lyndon, Mrs. Lindus, Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Trotter, and Mrs. Wilks.

There will be Stalls for Household and Spring Cleaning Goods; Lingerie, Overalls and Aprons; Pottery; Fancy Articles; White Elephants; Beads; Country Produce, Cakes, Sweets, and Preserves.

A charming programme of Entertainments has been arranged, and members and friends would be wise to book the date to come and hear Miss Joan Dunsford, Miss Lillian Foulis, Miss Harvey James, Mrs. Harvey James, Miss Mollie Seymour, and Mrs. Sparrow; and, lastly, Dr. Lewin has promised to give a short lecture at 6 p.m. Character Readings and Numerology will be given by Miss Wall and Miss King.

Efforts are being made to make the teas specially attractive. Miss Reeves has undertaken this part of the work, and will be assisted by the staff and members of the Minerva Club, also Mrs. Bell, Miss Myra Sadd Brown, Miss Harvey James, Mrs. Ostler, and others. Members and readers of THE VOTE are urged to invite their friends to tea at the Sale. Tables can be reserved for any number of people between 3.30 and 6 p.m.

Gifts for all the Stalls and the teas will be most acceptable. Please send some contribution to help the Sale. Gifts for the Stalls should be sent to the Hon. Fair Secretary before March 24th, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, and gifts for the teas to Miss Reeves, c/o Dr. Lewin, 25, Wimpole Street, W.1, sent only on the day of the Sale.

All communications should be sent to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Fair Secretary, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

TO ABOLISH COMMERCIALISED VICE.

Report of the Special Body of Experts on Traffic in Women and Children.

The work of the League of Nations dealing with women and children is under the direction of Dame Rachel Crowdy, Chief of the Social Section of the Secretariat. An Advisory Committee, to advise the Council in regard to the traffic in women and children, was set up in January, 1922. In March, 1923, its Second Session, the U.S.A. representative, Miss Grace Abbott, recommended an inquiry by a special body of experts into the general conditions of the traffic, to study on the spot, with the co-operation of the Governments concerned; the American Bureau of Social Hygiene financed the inquiry with 75,000 dollars. In December, the body of experts was appointed by the Council of the League of Nations, and in April, 1923, it met to consider the information collected by the Social Section and answers from Governments to a questionnaire on licensed houses, and decided to work by detailed, thorough inquiries by trained, experienced persons in limited areas, beginning in cities and countries where women are said to be sent for prostitution. The experts met six times, and drew up a valuable report, of which the first part, a concise account of facts found and conclusions formed, is now published, the great mass of evidence collected being printed in the second part, which will, we hope, soon be published, in response to an urgent demand from men and women all over the world.

Inquiries were begun in South America, then in Central and North America, and countries bordering on the Mediterranean, Baltic and North Seas, tracing back the known routes of the traffic to the West.

Countries investigated were 28, with 112 cities and districts, and 6,500 persons were interviewed, chiefly prostitutes, *souteneurs*, and participants in the commercial aspect of vice. With great resource and courage, the investigators managed to penetrate to the centre of the underworld in South America, and to secure introductions to the "right people" in centres of the traffic in other countries, discovering much that could not have been got at in any other way.

A short review is given of the history of the movement to suppress the traffic from 1869, in England, and a few years later on the Continent, the strong measures against procuration in 1885, which crippled the traffic from England (in 1882 a Government barrister reported officially that for many years a very large number of English girls, mostly under 21, had been sent abroad by deceit to brothels, the trade being carried on for fees or commissions to the exporters from the keepers of the houses), the International Convention of 13 nations in 1910, the efforts of the League of Nations and its International Conference of 34 nations at Geneva in 1921, which resulted in the establishment of the Advisory Committee of the League of Nations, later to become the Advisory Commission for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People.

The inquiry established the certainty that there is a very wide traffic now carried on, many hundreds of women and girls being transported each year from one country to another for prostitution, the majority under 21, but several years are added to the girls' ages, as procuration of minors is an offence in most countries. Children of 10, 14, 15 and 16 are also found.

Many of these girls were already prostitutes in their own country, but they are exported fraudulently to South America and other places to conditions of far worse depravity than they realise, and are under the control of their masters. There is a great demand for foreign women, because they are an attractive novelty, and are at the mercy of their exploiters in a strange country.

The traffic is supplied mainly from four classes of women:—(1) The *prostitute*, whose earnings in her own country are diminishing. These are often robbed and misled, and should be protected from the exploitation of the traffickers; (2) the *semi-professional*, generally minors, from the country or small towns, with small wages and love of pleasure and finery. A *souteneur* makes such a girl his mistress and takes her

abroad; (3) *artistes*, etc., who join travelling troupes for low-class music-halls and *cabarets*, with misleading contracts and small wages, who find it almost impossible to avoid prostitution in their degrading surroundings; (4) the worst case of all, *innocent girls*, with whom the *souteneur* contracts a real or pretended marriage. The parents are usually poor and ignorant, and the girl is taken away to a distance before she learns that she is to engage in prostitution for the benefit of her "husband."

The international traffic is a huge business, subject, like other commercial undertakings, to the laws of supply and demand. Wherever there is a surplus of men over women, a temporary market appears, as in the movements of troops and ships, and the tourist season, which brings extra population and extra money into a place, etc., and the traffickers try to have a supply of women punctually in readiness to meet the demand. The demand is also increased by the presence of notorious vice districts, the system of licensed houses and the attractions of foreign women, and by the degrading vices and perversions that foreign women can often be made to practise. The uncontrolled sale of drink in amusement resorts, where women artistes are present and obliged to press the sale of liquor as one of their duties, greatly increases demand, as does also the traffic in obscene books and pictures, and, to a lesser degree, the traffic in drugs.

The traffickers include *madames*, who manage the houses; *souteneurs*, who obtain and control the girls; and "principals," who finance the vice districts and houses, take the greater part of the profits, and lend money to their subordinates. Many lesser scoundrels hang around this network of villainy, who may secure girls and advise on the evasion of legal restrictions, lend money at high interest, manufacture false passports, birth and marriage certificates, and any official document desired, etc. The whole organisation is very loosely held together. There appears to be no regular international group, but information is passed from one to another in recognised resorts in the different countries.

(To be concluded next week.)

BOOK REVIEW.

Children's Allowances. Final Report of the Family Endowment Inquiry Committee of the Women's National Liberal Federation. Price 3d.

The Women's National Liberal Federation, in 1925, set up a Committee of Inquiry on Family Endowment, and now issues its Report. The Committee changed the title to Children's Allowances, believing that the new title more accurately describes the object of the policy it advocates. The Committee finds itself wholeheartedly in favour of a system of Children's Allowances, and, after a survey of the educational and industrial position with regard to families, goes with some detail into possible methods of applying the system. A section of the Report is given to particulars of Children's and Family Allowance schemes in operation in other countries, their methods, and their effects. Finally, the Committee tabulates definite recommendations for the putting into operation in this country of Children's Allowances, and expresses the opinion that the time is now ripe for bringing this matter into practical politics. The whole Report is a concise summary of the whole subject. H. A. A.

MEETING OF WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

The second meeting of the East Kent Women Magistrates was held by kind permission of the Mayor, at the Guildhall, Canterbury, on February 23rd. Mrs. Nevinston, J.P., L.L.A., gave the address on "The Work of Justices," which was appreciated. The Countess Beauchamp was unanimously elected as President. Mrs. Juson Kerr, Vice-President, and Miss Crook, J.P. for Sandwich, accepted the post of Hon. Secretary. The opinion was expressed that the newly formed Council was already proving a live help to the members of the Bench in the neighbourhood—and that the spirit of comradeship evoked by women Justices conferring together from time to time and making one another's acquaintances was one to be greatly valued.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Tuesday, March 22nd, at 8.15 p.m.
 Minerva Club Branch, Meeting at The Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1., to discuss Conference Agenda.
 Friday, March 25th, 3—7.30 p.m.
 Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin): Songs, Recitations, little stalls, and Dainty Teas.
 Saturday, March 26th, at 8 p.m.
 Minerva Club. Whist Drive in aid of the

DARE TO BE FREE.

Branch funds. Tickets 2/- including refreshments, from the Secretary, The Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.
 Saturday, March 26th, at 10 a.m.
 National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
 Friday, April 22nd, at 3 p.m.
 Hampstead Branch. Members' Meeting at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3 (by the kindness of Dr. Knight).
 Saturday, April 30th, at 10 a.m.
 Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.
 Friday, May 6th, at 2 p.m.
 The Women's Freedom League Jumble Sale, to be held (by kind permission of Miss Cole) at The Women's Freedom League Settlement, 2, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W. Send your parcels from now onwards to 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, March 30th, at 3.30 p.m.
 Bexhill. Whist Drive at the Albany Hotel. Hostess: Mrs. Skinner.
 Thursday, March 31st, at 8 p.m.
 Middlesbrough. Town Hall. Equal Political Rights. Public Meeting. Miss Ellen Wilkinson M.P., Miss Collicison M.A. (Sydney), and others.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, March 19th, at 3 p.m.
 The Speech Club. "Trades Unions from three points of view." Conservative, Mr. Fred Howard; Labour, Sir John Maynard; Liberal, Mr. C. J. L. Brock.
 Saturday, March 19th, at 5 p.m.
 St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Public Meeting in St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square. Mrs. Abbott on "Restrictive Legislation for Women."
 Monday, March 21st, at 3 p.m.
 The Six Point Group. Miss Smea (late Mayor of Acton) on "One of our Members as Mayor."
 Tuesday, March 22nd, at 1 p.m.
 The International Council of Women, at the Lyceum Club. Luncheon to meet Princess Radziwill of the Information Section of the League of Nations Secretariat. Tickets from Secretary, Lyceum Club, before March 19th, 3/-.
 Tuesday, March 22nd, at 3.30 p.m.
 Women's Guild of George Street Congregational Church, Croydon. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Why Women should take an interest in Municipal and Political Work."
 Wednesday, March 23rd, at 3 p.m.
 Joint Parliamentary Advisory Council. Sir Henry Hadow on "Musical England," at 25, Park Lane. The Duchess of Atholl in the chair.
 Thursday, March 24th, at 3 p.m.
 The Six Point Group. Literary Lecture, Miss Sylvia Townsend Warner on "Witchcraft." Chair: Mr. St. John Ervine. Tea 4-5. Tickets 3/6, 2/6, from Secretary, Six Point Group.
 Thursday, March 24th, at 7.30 p.m.
 Blackburn Y.M.C.A. Lecture Hall, Limbrick, Public Meeting, on "Equal Franchise." Speakers: Miss Froud, and others. Chairman: Miss A. Hunter (President of Blackburn Branch N.U.W.T.).
 Friday, March 25th, at 8.30 p.m.
 The League of the Church Militant. Public Meeting. Miss Maude Roydon on "Christ and International Relationships." Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., on "Christ and Industry." Canon Raven, D.D., on "Christ and the Ministry of Women." Chair: H. H. Judge Shewell Cooper. Reserved seats 1/-, from League of the Church Militant, Church House, S.W.1.
 Wednesday, March 30th, at 3 p.m.
 North Hackney Women's Liberal Association Meeting, at St. Michael's Hall, Northwold Road, Clapton. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "The Legal Position of Married Women."
 Thursday, March 31st, at 7.30 p.m.
 Sunderland, Subscription Library Hall, Fawcett Street. Public Meeting, on "Equal Franchise." Speakers: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Agnes Dawson, N.U.W.T. Chairman: The Mayoress of Sunderland.
 Friday, April 1st, 4—5.30 p.m.
 In aid of the Six Point Group. Miss Ada Moore's Party. Lady Rhonda. Madams Bertha Moore will tell Stories. Miss Eva Moore will Recite. Cards of admission from Miss Ada Moore, 153, Elm Park Mansions, S.W.10.
 Monday, April 4th, at 8 p.m.
 The Open Door Council. Annual Meeting in Caxton Hall. Miss Monica Whately, Mrs. Abbott, Mrs. Aldridge, and others. Chair: Professor W. Cullis.

BRANCH NOTES.

HAMPSTEAD.

A Members' Meeting was held at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3, on Monday, March 7th. Dr. Knight presided. A letter was read from the local member, Mr. George Balfour, in reply to the Resolution sent to him from the meeting, on behalf of the Equal Political Rights Campaign, at the Town Hall, on February 17th, stating that he was busy at the time of writing, and that he noted that the Prime Minister was to receive a deputation on the subject, on March 8th. If, after that, there were any points we wished to press upon him, he would endeavour to fit in the arrangement, on some date mutually convenient. It was, therefore, decided to ask Mr. Balfour to receive a small deputation. Councillor Mrs. Irene Fisher reported in regard to the delay of the Borough Council Housing Committee in securing the Sheriff Road building site, and a Resolution on the subject was sent from the meeting to the Town Clerk, to be placed before the Housing Committee. The Resolutions for the Annual Conference were read and discussed, and nominations made for President, Hon. Treasurer, and National Executive Committee. The date of the next meeting was fixed for Friday, April 22nd, at 3 p.m., Dr. Knight kindly saying that she would have this meeting at 7, Gainsborough Gardens.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

BEXHILL.

We had a very successful Whist Drive at the Albany Hotel, on Wednesday, March 2nd. The room was full. Our very grateful thanks to our kind hostess, Miss Skinner, and also to Mrs. Chamberlayne, who acted as M.C. The next Whist Drive will be held at the Albany Hotel, on Wednesday, March 30th, at 3.30 p.m.

WALLASEY.

Our branch has sent another resolution to the Wallasey Watch Committee asking for the appointment of women police patrols. This resolution, which has also been sent to 27 political, social and religious organisations in the district, is as follows:—"Great publicity having been given to complaints of unseemly behaviour by the adolescent of both sexes, the Wallasey Branch of the Women's Freedom League believe that, in the interests of those people, it is desirable that the local police force be augmented by the employment of women police for preventive and rescue work in the County Borough of Wallasey." The last occasion when a similar resolution was submitted, the Watch Committee declined to move in the matter. Since then, it has been pointed out that there is a serious shortage of police in Wallasey, and it is hoped that, in the public interest, the Watch Committee will consider the appointment of women police.

DUNOON.

Members of the Dunoon Branch turned up well at a business meeting, held in the Masonic Institute, on March 9th, when many matters had to be decided.

It will be remembered that Mrs. Robertson May and Mrs. Heddlie were elected President and Hon. Treasurer respectively, at the previous meeting. On Wednesday last, Mrs. Young was elected Vice-President, and Mrs. Smith, Olney Bank, Dunoon, Hon. Secretary.

It is hoped that the branch will actively enquire these members, who have been so very kind as to accept office.

Five ladies volunteered to take charge of the sale of THE VOTE in their respective localities, and once again we crave the assistance of all the members, hoping that each one will expend 1d. per week on this useful periodical.

There will be another meeting on Tuesday, March 22nd, or Wednesday, March 23rd, at which a speaker from Glasgow will be present.

(Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

GLASGOW.

There was a very agreeable and well-attended business meeting of the Glasgow Branch, in the Grosvenor Restaurant, on Tuesday, March 8th, when much business was transacted.

It was with deep regret that the audience heard that Miss Eunice Murray was unable to be present, owing to ill-health, but Miss Irwin, C.B.E., very ably presided in her stead.

First, the resolutions for the Conference were read, and treated as the members thought fit, much stress, however, being laid on the advisability of confining the work of the Women's Freedom League to matters affecting equality of opportunity between the sexes, and not admitting highly controversial subjects which do not bear on this point.

There was then an interval for tea, after which the branch proceeded with the appointment of office-bearers. Naturally, Miss Eunice Murray was unanimously re-elected President, and Balfie Mrs. Bell, Dr. Chalmers Smith, Lady Wilson, Miss Isabel Hamilton, L.L.A., F.E.I.S., and Miss Irwin, C.B.E., Vice-Presidents. There was some discussion about Miss Marjorie Gullan, as she is no longer in Glasgow, and it was decided that a letter should be written to her, asking if she would be willing to continue in office as the sixth Vice-President, despite her absence.

Mrs. Mosen, 158, St. George's Road, very kindly agreed to undertake the onerous duties of Honorary Secretary, and we are pleased to say that Mrs. Curdie was re-elected Hon. Treasurer.

A Committee of 12 was appointed.

(Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild. house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, March 20th, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Professor E. Gardner, Litt.D. 6.30. Maude Royden: Sir Isaac Newton, "The Glory of British Science."

MISS CONSTANCE CONNOLLY, 37, Norfolk Street, W.C.2. Specialises in circularising, printing, duplicating, and verbatim reporting. Rapid Secretarial Course for Gentle-people.

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OF INTEREST TO WOMEN CITIZENS.—The Edward Wright and Cavendish-Bentick 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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