

THE VOTE.
JAN. 22, 1926.

LAUNCHING THE CAMPAIGN!

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 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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XVIII.—OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

COUNCILLOR MISS LUCY DALES, MAYOR OF DUNSTABLE.

Miss Lucy Dales is the daughter of Alderman John T. Dales, who was Mayor of Dunstable six years ago, when the present Mayor acted as Mayoress. She is the first woman Mayor of the Borough, and is a director of John T. Dales, Ltd., dubbin manufacturers, Dunstable, Beds. She is also the only woman member of the Dunstable Council, having fought three elections and been returned at the top of the poll on each occasion. Miss Dales has served on the housing, lighting, and sanitary committees of the council, and was vice-chairman of the housing committee last year. In 1920, she was the council's delegate to a conference of the Royal Institute of Public Health at Brussels. For some years she has been one of the Dunstable Council School Managers.

At one time she was keenly interested in the Girl Guide movement, and acted as District Commissioner for Dunstable until forced to relinquish these duties owing to pressure of other work and ill-health. She has lived in Dunstable 23 years.

A good deal of comment was aroused in the Press at the time of her nomination as Mayor because her father, Alderman J. T.

Dales, was the only member of the Council who opposed her nomination, and who subsequently voted against her. But, as he explained later, his opposition was only because he feared the duties involved in the mayoral office would be too great a strain on her health. We understand, however, that he has now accepted the fact of her election with equanimity and, shall we

add, secret pride in her undoubted capacity for her new position. A delightful little joke perpetrated round about Christmas time is sufficient proof of his satisfaction with the new Mayor; for his Christmas greeting card last year bore the original inscription, "From the mere father of Her Worship the Mayor of Dunstable." This missive was despatched to all

his friends, the aldermen, councillors, and officials of the corporation, and kept a close secret from his daughter, until a few days later, when a number of replies arrived by post, with the envelopes addressed, "To the mere father of the Mayor"—and the plot stood revealed.

Mr. Dales defended himself by explaining, with a twinkle in his eye, that at one time everybody used to consult him about the affairs of the municipality, but now they came to the house to discuss them with his daughter.

But the Mayor laughingly declares that her father's action is a species of revenge because, at council meetings, she treats him exactly as any other member of the council, and on at least one occasion it was her painful duty to call him to order.

"In playing this little joke," she told a local interviewer, "he seems to have overlooked the power I wield over him as Mayor of the town, and something may happen to him in return."

We have not yet been informed whether this dark threat has been realised! Dunstable is laughing, but Dunstable knows how proud Mr. Dales is to be even "the mere father" of the efficient Mayor it now possesses.



THE MAYOR OF DUNSTABLE.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women's Rights in Uruguay.

The International Council of Women's *Bulletin* for January states that in Uruguay the Chamber of Deputies is considering a Bill, which, if passed, will alter the whole status of women in politics and before the law. The Bill is due to the initiative of Dr. Balthasar Brum, ex-President of the Republic, a man of considerable importance and a good feminist. The result is anxiously awaited, especially as the provisions are more revolutionary than anything that has so far been proposed in any of the South American states.

Queen Alexandra's Memorial.

The institution of fully-trained midwives and nursing for the sick poor in rural districts, which is now so conspicuous a part of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, was due to the pioneer work of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Malleon, who founded, in Gloucestershire, the "Rural Nursing Association," which was afterwards incorporated in Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute. The county associations with districts grouped under them, which are a feature of the Institute, were part of Mrs. Malleon's original scheme.

Woman Preacher to be Ordained.

Miss Viola Hedger, who is twenty-five years of age, and entered on her pastorate of the Baptist Church, Littleover, Derbyshire, on January 10th, will be ordained and inducted there on February 3rd. During the war she was employed as a clerk at the War Office, but since then she has taken a four years' theological course at Regent's Park College, graduating B.D. in London University in 1922. Miss Hedger has already preached in many parts of the country.

Helen Keller's Tour.

Helen Keller, the world-famous blind, deaf, and dumb girl is making a tour of the United States in order to raise £400,000 for the blind. During this tour she will have an audience with President and Mrs. Coolidge. Mrs. Coolidge was formerly a mistress in a home for deaf and dumb children.

International Women Co-operators.

The International Co-operative Women's Guild has made such rapid progress that it has been necessary to separate its secretariat from that of the Women's Co-operative Guild of England, and Miss A. Honora Enfield, who was until this year secretary of both organisations, is now working exclusively at the International Guild. Mrs. Barton, J.P., has succeeded her in the English Women's Guild.

Women and Trade Unionism.

Though only formed 18 months ago, the Women's Society of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen now has a membership of 6,000. It was started after the strike of 1924, with the idea of getting the women interested in trade unionism and the political interests of men. Already 110 branches have been established.

French Honour for Italian Woman.

Mlle. Carlotta Zambelli, the much-esteemed Italian leader of the Opera ballet is on the list of the new Chevaliers of the Order of the Legion of Honour. She is the first member of the ballet to be thus honoured. Mlle. Zambelli was conspicuous for her good works during the war.

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

Miss Cheeseman's Resignation.

Miss L. E. Cheeseman, who joined the London Zoo in 1917 as its first woman curator, and who recently returned from the scientific expedition to the South Seas, has resigned her post of Curator of Insects. Miss Cheeseman's success at the Zoo was in exhibiting specimens which the ordinary non-technical observer interested in insect life could recognise in their natural haunts, rather than rare ones of interest only to specialists. She brought back from the South Seas over 1,300 rare species, and is still busily engaged classifying them. It is on account of this and other important research work that she has resigned from the Zoo.

Cheering the Duchess.

Speaking at Edinburgh last week, Sir Samuel Chapman, M.P., stated that after the Duchess of Atholl had wound up the Education Debate on Circular 1371 on behalf of the Government—a trying ordeal for anyone—she received an ovation in the lobby from 300 members, who made her pass out first. He added that he doubted if even after one of Gladstone's or Disraeli's triumphs in the House such a tribute of personal regard had ever been paid.

The Sporting Grandmother.

Grandmothers, together with mothers, aunts, cousins, and sisters, are joining the Girl Guide Movement in Associated Companies. They are the greatest help to the Movement, assisting the Guides in many ways—taking charge of refreshments at Company Entertainments and so on, and one Associated Company recently undertook a successful Household Stall at the Company Christmas Sale of Work.

London calls for University Equal Franchise.

Convocation of the University of London has passed a resolution calling the attention of the Government to the anomaly whereby in this University constituency women graduates are debarred from exercising the franchise until they attain the age of 30 years, while men graduates can exercise the franchise at 21 years.

Off to South Africa.

Miss Dorothy Maud, daughter of the Bishop of Kensington, sails for South Africa on February 11th. After a short stay in Zululand, to learn the language, she will proceed to Johannesburg to do mission work at St. Cyprian's Native Church.

Labour Women's Conference.

The National Conference of women belonging to the Labour Party will be held this year at the Town Hall, Huddersfield, May 12th and 13th.

Women as Mountain Climbers.

At the Ladies' Alpine Club annual dinner, the Hon. C. G. Bruce, of Mount Everest fame, said the best climbs nowadays were done almost as much by women as by men.

City of London Women Students.

Of the 2,500 City of London College students, 1,500 are women.

WOMEN AND AVIATION.

Women in all countries have been interesting themselves in aviation by more or less silent processes, and in comparatively indirect ways, but this year they are not only to come out into the open, but also to compete with men in a public trial of prowess and skill.

The first international display for women air pilots will, in all probability, be held this next summer, at a big aerodrome not far from Paris, where light aeroplane races, exhibitions of trick flying, and parachute descents will be made by women. It is hoped, also, that this display will be repeated at a flying ground near London. Mrs. Elliott-Lynn, of the London Aeroplane Club, England's latest air recruit, and one of her most enthusiastic airwomen, who accomplishes rolls, loops, and other aerial feats, is now awaiting a reply to a challenge which she has sent to Mlle. Maryse, the French airwoman. It is proposed that the two should compete in a demonstration of aerobatics.

Women are becoming proficient in aviation all over the world. To-day, there are at least 20 qualified women aeroplane pilots in various countries. Five are French, four Chinese, three Dutch, two English, two Swedish, two Japanese, two German, one Roumanian, and one Greek. There are also American and Russian women pilots, but the exact numbers are not available.

In this country, Mrs. Maurice Hewlett, wife of the novelist, was the first British woman to secure her licence, which she did in 1911, and after running an aeroplane factory during the war, she went out to Australia to teach flying. In 1919, Mrs. Oliver Atkey passed her qualifying tests, and three years later flew from Leeds to London, and from London to Paris and back. Lord Incheape's daughter, the Hon. Elsie Mackay, qualified as a pilot in August, 1922. For some time she owned her own machine, a D.H.9. Another enthusiastic airwoman is the Countess of Kinnoull. Commandant Allen, Chief of the Women's Auxiliary Service, is one of the latest recruits, and has recently invested in a "Moth," which she uses for week-end flights from London to her country cottage at Lympne. This spring she intends flying to the Continent, where a tour is in prospect on the subject of "Women Police."

The Stage, too, is well represented in aviation, Miss Phyllis Monkman, Miss Gladys Cooper, Miss Peggy O'Neill, and Miss Margaret Bannerman being enthusiasts on the subject. Royalty, too, is represented by Queen Elizabeth of Belgium, who is the owner of a glittering, silvery two-seater that looks fairy-like when in the air, which bears the Royal Crown and initial, and has the passenger cockpit fitted with a tiny nest of drawers to hold writing materials.

Women aviators, to-day, are chafing bitterly at the recent decision of the International Aeronautical Commission, that all professional air pilots must be men. This does not debar women from flying as amateurs or tourists, but it prevents them from accepting any fees. In one well-known case, because of this decree, a professional airwoman has had to go into voluntary liquidation. This is Mlle. Adrienne Bollond, who holds the women's world record with 1,200 hours of flight, and who was the thirteenth woman to secure a French pilot's licence, granted to her in February, 1920. The cost of obtaining the licence amounted to 40 or 50 thousand francs, and Mlle. Bollond had two aeroplanes to keep up, and mechanics to pay. Women's organisations in our own and other countries are now fighting to get this unjust measure repealed.

"HAS EMANCIPATION FAILED?"

Some of the Provincial papers are discussing the above question in reference to women, and so far as we have seen, the writers, a man and a woman, have replied in the affirmative. There is nothing fresh in the views they express. When there was an agitation against slavery, crowds of people believed, and stated

their belief emphatically, that the slaves would be so much worse off with, than without their freedom; and when it was proposed to give the agricultural labourer the Parliamentary vote, plenty of average, well-educated men said that the agricultural labourers did not want the vote; they would not use it; if they did, they would use it against the best interests of the country; and that the people who had the vote and elected Members to Parliament could look after the interests of those working men so much better than they themselves could. But are not the writers who discuss the failure of the emancipation of women a little premature? Women are certainly not completely emancipated. No woman under 30 years of age in this country, whatever her qualifications or position, can exercise a vote; advertisements still appear in *The Times*, and other papers, for headmistresses of schools, but stating that no married women are eligible for these posts. The Home Civil Service is barred against married women, and no women at all, either married or unmarried, are allowed to apply for posts in the Diplomatic, Consular, or Indian Civil Service. There is no woman Member of the Privy Council, and no woman Member of the House of Lords. The whole structure of Society is built upon men's conception of what woman's place in it should be, although we must admit that some of its old walls are now crumbling rather rapidly. When society is rebuilt upon the foundation of the absolute equality of the sexes it will be time enough to inquire about the failure or success of women's emancipation. But then—will anyone trouble about the answer? There was a time when a woman's position in this country was, generally speaking, either that of a drudge or a doll. That time has passed for ever. Women are now recognised as intelligent human beings, and, as such, they demand freedom to control their destiny. Complete freedom is still denied to them, but through every effort we make to secure the full equality of status, opportunities, rewards, and responsibilities for women with men, we are furthering the cause of freedom for women.

WOMEN "ROADMEN."

Earlier this month we reported that the Chairman of the Sheffield Branch of the United Commercial Travellers' Association welcomed the first woman member of that Branch. Last week, the Belfast Branch of the United Commercial Travellers' Association, when invited to admit women as members, decided by 20 votes to 15 to postpone a decision on the matter for 12 months. One of the men who opposed their admission said that woman's place was in the home; and another man stated that commercial travelling was a man's job; that he did not want to encourage any woman to go on "road" duty; and, further, that women commercial travellers worked for salaries that would not keep men in cigarettes! If men continue to exclude women from their trade associations, have not men only themselves to blame when women succeed in undercutting them? There are 50 women commercial travellers in the Association, and 5,000 men members.

GREEK WOMEN'S DRESSES.

Not long ago Greek women secured the municipal vote, and more recently still women lawyers who have passed the necessary examinations have obtained the right to be admitted as solicitors, and to act as barristers, and plead in the courts in the same way as their male colleagues; but last week it was decided to enforce the law prohibiting the wearing of dresses shorter than fifteen inches from the ground for all married women and girls over 14 years of age. Two women have been appointed by the police as inspectors, and offenders will be heavily fined by police magistrates. Fathers are to be responsible for their children in this matter, and husbands for their wives.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 22nd, 1926.

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.

EDITORIAL.

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

WOMEN IN THE CITY.

During the past year women have made immense strides in the commercial world. At the beginning of 1925 there were only five members of the London Chamber of Commerce; now there are 50 women members, although we hasten to add that there are nearly 60,000 men members! Mrs. Hoster, one of the first women members of the London Chamber, has been elected to the International Chamber of Commerce. Women are no longer content to be clerks and typists; they have established their own businesses, or are directors of companies, and are everywhere occupying positions of authority. It is said that 75 per cent. of the business women who are members of the London Chamber of Commerce are merchants, handling the import and export trade. Women are in iron, steel, bookbinding, coal, shipping, merchandise, manufacturing—practically everything except banking and insurance and the Stock Exchange. In times gone by, when a man died and had no son to take his place, his business was either sold or closed. Nowadays, the widow, daughter, or niece continues to carry on this business, and in a great number of cases this has been done with marked success. Big firms acknowledge that women directors are a source of strength to their board, and not long ago, on the occasion when Mrs. Thomson-Price presided over the annual meeting of Slaters, Limited, an editorial of the *Financial Times* concluded thus: "Her success, we have no doubt, may give rise to a new agitation among investors with the inspiring slogan, 'Chairmanships for Women!'" Lady Rhondda is a director of many companies, and the Baroness de Beck, who is quite a young woman, has just taken over her uncle's big wine business in the City. It is gratifying to see from London and Liverpool papers that business men generally are welcoming women's success in commerce. A few young bachelor business men are said to be afraid of the influence their women colleagues may exert in a social sense, one of them naively remarking to a newspaper representative: "As a fairly successful merchant I would, however, be handicapped if induced to marry a woman colleague who, perhaps young and fascinating, might use her wiles to ensnare me into matrimony. I am not a woman-hater by any means, but my business comes first." We hope this young man will not worry too much, but will cheer up and remember that a woman who follows business as a career does not look upon the commercial world as a matrimonial market, and that while she is pursuing her career she also will be of the firm opinion that business comes first! On the other hand, a married member of the Council of the Chamber of Commerce declared: "I am glad to see the so-called threatening tendency of women aspiring to the higher positions in commercial circles. I see no reason why the right women should not come into leadership. There are, in my opinion, many fields open for them in the higher commerce. The day may yet come when the City of London will see a woman Lord Mayor at the Mansion House." We hope that day will not be far distant, and meanwhile we wish every possible success to those women who are bent on following a commercial career.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN.

Last October we reported that the English-speaking Union had founded scholarships to be held by young business men which would enable them to spend a year in the United States to study American business methods, and to become acquainted with American life; and we then ventured to ask if the English-speaking Union would consider the possibility of extending some of these scholarships to women. We pointed out that women were entering more and more into the business life of this country, and that an opportunity afforded them to get an insight into the business methods of other countries would be an advantage to firms here, while the knowledge they would acquire of life in other countries would be generally beneficial. We still hope that this matter may be considered by influential bodies interested in commerce and the continuance of friendly relations between these two great countries. It would be well worth the while of business men in this country to give capable young women, as well as capable young men, a fair chance to study the conditions of commerce and industry in other countries. In the meantime the Education Committee of the English-speaking Union has now generously offered three scholarships to enable British women teachers to visit the United States this year—the Walter Hines Page Travelling Scholarship and two Scholarships at the Chautauqua Summer School in the State of New York. The holder of the Page Scholarship is invited to spend her summer vacation in America as the guest of the English-speaking Union. The Scholarship is of the value of £50, and complete hospitality is offered in America. To meet the remaining travelling and incidental expenses, the teacher need only provide a further £50, and her hostesses are prepared to arrange for her to study any aspect of American life in which she is interested. The Director of the Chautauqua Institution has reserved for the use of British women teachers two scholarships at the Summer School to be held in July and August. These cover the cost of lectures and classes, and also complete hospitality for six weeks. Travelling and incidental expenses to be provided by the holders are estimated at not more than £80 each. These scholarships are open both to secondary and elementary women teachers, and inquiries should be addressed at an early date to the Secretary, Education Committee, English-speaking Union, 1, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

THE TREASURY AND WOMEN CLERKS.

The Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries recently wrote to the Financial Secretary for the Treasury asking for greater security of tenure for temporary women clerks, and inquired as to the possibility of transfers in certain cases to the Ministry of Health, and they have now been informed by the Treasury that for a provisional period of two years no efficient temporary woman clerk employed in a headquarters office shall be replaced by a new entrant from outside the service. Miss Dorothy Evans, the Secretary of the Association, declared that this means that so long as the work lasts on which the temporary clerks are now employed they will not be displaced. This would be of considerable benefit to existing temporary women clerks, provided there was no attempt to get behind the offer by lengthening the hours of the permanent civil servants; but she emphasised the fact that the Association were still dissatisfied with the position in the Ministry of Health. Although as long ago as October last it was stated that the extra work there was purely temporary, the staff continued to be employed nightly on overtime, and even on some Sundays there was work at top pressure in some of the departments. Miss Evans added that if, instead of the staff working overtime, even three or four months of its work could be given to the ex-temporary women clerks, it would be better than that they should be receiving unemployment benefit, apart from the obvious moral effect of being at work instead of taking the "doie."

LAUNCHING THE EQUAL SUFFRAGE CAMPAIGN.

A large and enthusiastic audience gathered in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, last Tuesday evening, at our Mid-London Branch Meeting on Equal Franchise, which enthusiastically started this year's campaign, now going on all over the country, to secure votes for women on the same terms as men.

Miss Morton, who presided, referred to this campaign, and urged the necessity of awakening the Government to the vital importance of equal suffrage. Something more was needed than sloppy, sentimental speeches from M.P.s to their constituents. Letters of regret at being unable to be present were read from Dame Millicent Fawcett and Commander Kenworthy, M.P. Miss Morton proposed the following resolution from the Chair:—

"This Meeting, convened by the Women's Freedom League, calls upon the Government to introduce and to carry into law, without delay, a simple franchise measure granting women the Parliamentary vote at the same age and on the same terms as men."

Mr. Frank Briant, M.P., who seconded the resolution, reminded the audience that he had been an advocate of women's suffrage years before there was the slightest chance of their attaining even the small measure they had since gained, and warned us to distrust all politicians who regarded this subject not so much as a measure of justice, but as a matter affecting the prospects of their particular Party at the next Election. Once individuals began to argue on the side of political expediency, they were on the high road to moral and social degradation.

"I fail to imagine," said Mr. Briant, "how any honest man can draw any distinction between the sexes on this point of enfranchisement. People complain of the apathy of the average voter. Certainly I regret that so many men and women have not a wider outlook at 21, but are we to wait until both sexes are fully developed politically before we give them the vote? The unenfranchised women of this country, between the ages of 20 and 30, have the most vital interests at stake, as much, and in many cases more than men of the same age. Many women marry between those ages, and have to grapple with a whole set of new problems in consequence. For centuries women have been prevented from taking any share in public life, and probably there will be hundreds and thousands of women who will be slow to appreciate enfranchisement when they get it, but, as in the case of men in the past, the best way to educate women politically is to give them the vote."

The fear that equal enfranchisement would produce a great Feminist Party in the State which would sweep the mere man off the face of the earth was utterly ridiculous, continued Mr. Briant, and no revolution, as was predicted, had followed the granting of a measure of partial enfranchisement to women. The country needed the woman's point of view just as much as the man's. On moral issues women had always shown themselves more courageous than men. Indeed, if, as was asserted in Genesis, woman was made out of man's ribs, he, the speaker, was confident she had also obtained as well a large share of his backbone! The terrible problem of Child Assault, for instance, was never raised in Parliament until he, the speaker, brought it forward, and then only the two women Members of the House of Commons, Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham, had the moral courage to speak on the subject.

In conclusion, Mr. Briant paid a touching tribute to our First President (Mrs. Despard), whose singular devotion to duty, integrity, and high-minded courage had won his respect and affection ever since they had both worked together through difficult days on a London Board of Guardians. To Mrs. Despard's example and help at the outset of his public career he owed all the success of his public work.

Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., asserted that it was about time women should begin to impress upon the

public that it was not merely the disfranchisement of some people under a certain age, but the disfranchisement of a class, and a very important class of Society. The idea behind those who framed the clause which gave women the vote at 30, was to give married women the vote because they were securely tied up to some man who would influence them! In addition, a large number of wage-earning and professional women over 30 were unenfranchised, unless they possessed certain lodging and furniture qualifications to which men were not asked to conform. Every Member of Parliament, said Miss Wilkinson, was subconsciously affected by his constituents' claims, but voteless people did not matter so much.

Miss Wilkinson examined and stressed the injustices under which single women, and women married to uninsured men, suffer over the new Widows' Pensions Act. A large number of voteless women paid their contributions and got nothing out of the Act. She also attacked the proposed solution of raising the voting age to 25 years by the following arguments. Once a new Franchise Bill was introduced, it was a long time before we got another. She entirely disapproved of the disfranchisement of youth. "The world is too old already," declared Miss Wilkinson, "and nowhere have I received such an impression of age as among men Members of the House of Commons! If boys of 18 were not too young to go and fight, why need we wait until they are seven years older? There must be votes for everybody at 21."

It was not true, continued Miss Wilkinson, to say that women did not want the vote. She, personally, had been amazed at the good work done by women so far as her own Party was concerned. In many parts of the country the electoral machinery was entirely in the hands of women. A higher percentage of voters was now voting at elections than before women became partially enfranchised.

There was now a great exploitation of young women in the labour market, who gave good service in return for abominably bad pay. An inferior political status was reflected in an inferior social and financial status. This was one of the fundamental reasons why women did not get equal pay with men. Miss Wilkinson concluded by promising her audience that she intended, as soon as Parliament met, to ask the Prime Minister when his proposed Conference was going to meet, and to keep on asking at intervals. Her demand, however, could only become effective if she knew that she had behind her the whole of the Woman's Movement.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence told an amusing story of a little man who hid underneath a bed, and refused to come out at his wife's command, declaring: "I will be master in my own house!" and she compared this little man with the attitude of all governments without exception over the question of woman suffrage. Ministers of all political parties seemed fated to cover themselves with ridicule in this matter.

"What have British women done?" asked Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, "that their men are so afraid of them? In this country we have a fantastic franchise, whilst practically all over the civilized world a perfectly equal franchise has been given to men and women of 21 years of age. What, then, is the matter with the British women? Do they not share with all other women the same love of country, and regard for its highest interests? British women must combine together to sweep away this unreasoning fear which is obsessing our menfolk, and causing them to be held up to ridicule by every enlightened country."

Miss Emily Phipps, in a delightfully humorous speech, reminded the audience that nearly five million women were still unenfranchised who would be voters if they were men. Three millions of these were over 30, because they were unable to qualify for certain restrictions concerning lodgings and furniture which were not imposed in the case of men. She cited a case where 200 women teachers, thus unenfranchised, got

the vote in the teeth of their registration officer. "Even supposing women are in the majority," said Miss Phipps, "what does this matter in a democratic country? And what is meant by petticoat government?" she demanded. "Do not all our great lawyers and high dignitaries of the Church wear robes whilst in office? Are not robes therefore the garments of government?"

Miss Underwood, also speaking in support of the resolution, emphasised the fact that the importance of Equal Franchise was the foremost plank in the programme of the Women's Freedom League. The League refused to consider any other franchise measure than that of votes for women at 21 on a short residential qualification.

The resolution was put to the meeting and unanimously carried with acclamation.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Visions and Jewels. By Moysheh Oyved. (Ernest Benn, Ltd.) 6s. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This book is an autobiography of Edward Good, the watchmaker, jeweller, and seller of beautiful gems at "Cameo Corner," just opposite the Offices of the Women's Freedom League; and, with its touches of humour, pathos, resourcefulness, idealism, and proud loyalty of race, it will awaken a heterogeneous crowd of sympathies in the mind of the reader. For Moysheh Oyved, "Moses the Servant," of pure Jewish ancestry, was born in a little village of Poland, and the Oriental temperament, together with memories of pogroms and centuries of oppression, pervade all the pages of his little book. The slight sketches of the old folk of his family, of their ups and downs, and their steadfast faith and gay courage through life; of the younger members of his family, of his earliest friend Chayim as well as the other friends whom he gathered and greeted on life's journey; and of his hated schoolmasters, are delightful as they are brief. Of interest, too, is the story of the way in which young Chayim and the author, then seventeen years old, one with only the price of his ticket and a big Dutch cheese, and the other with twenty roubles, escaped from the little village in Poland, dodging Russian and German officials on the way, via Berlin, Ruhlben, and Hamburg, to London. That they fell among thieves in the underworld of London is hardly to be wondered at; but both were sufficiently sure-footed to find their way to the recognised paths of ordinary citizens. So Moysheh Oyved learnt to repair watches, and then spent his life in the collection of gems, precious jewels, commoner stones, diamond ear-rings, cameos, and beads. These he caressed, loved, and polished, weaving around each of them a romantic history, and afterwards sold them, sometimes for a profit, sometimes at a loss, and occasionally pressing them on his favourite customers as gifts, with the full joy of a generous giver. So also he collected and dealt with beautiful thoughts. He does not pretend to give the world a new philosophy, but he looks on life and sees it with the eyes and vision of an artist.—F. A. U.

The Underworld of State. By Stan Harding. With an introduction by Bertrand Russell, F.R.S. (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd.) 6s. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

In this absorbing book Mrs. Stan Harding narrates her experiences in Soviet Russia in 1920, when she was arrested as an anti-Bolshevik spy and condemned to death, and voices her claim for justice and reparation from the American Government, whose agent, Mrs. Marguerite Harrison, was responsible for her false imprisonment. Mrs. Harrison, who is a journalist and also an agent of the American Intelligence Department, had herself been arrested previously, and had only secured her freedom by promising to work for the Soviet, and to give information about foreigners visiting Russia. Consequently, when Mrs. Harding went to Russia early in 1920, as a friendly English

journalist with no political mission whatever, she was met at the frontier by officials of the Bolshevik Secret Service, and on her arrival in Moscow was thrown into prison and shortly afterwards condemned to death as a spy. True, she was offered her freedom on the same terms as Mrs. Harrison, but these terms Mrs. Harding refused to accept. As a result, she spent five months in Soviet prisons, mostly in solitary confinement in a condemned cell of the Lubianka, one of the worst prisons in Russia. Suffering great hardships from cold and hunger, and deprived of books and companionship of any kind, Mrs. Harding several times went on hunger-strike in order to call attention to her case, and she was for a time transferred to an open prison, where the conditions were better. Finally, when the British Government demanded the release of all its nationals before trading relations were resumed, Mrs. Harding was allowed to leave Russia—shattered in health, but free at last. Her case was well ventilated in Parliament and in the Press, with the result that in 1923 the Soviet Government admitted its mistake and granted Mrs. Harding reparation. But the American Government refuses to take any action in the matter, and to obtain justice in that direction this book has been written. Incidentally, Mrs. Harding has given us a vivid picture of prison life in Russia, and one can only admire her courage and endurance, and wish her good success in her enterprise. W. M. S.

Through Khiva to Samarkand. By Ella R. Christie, F.R.G.S. (Selley.) 21s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This is a most interesting and chatty account of two tours which Miss Christie made in Turkestan. She was the first woman to penetrate into many of these territories, and describes in a graphic manner the strange customs, sights, and amusing circumstances of her journeys. The book is extremely well produced, the illustrations from her own photographs being clear and of a quite fascinating sort. Her first journey was from the Caspian through Merv to Khiva, thence to Samarkand, to which beautiful and historic place she devotes some half-dozen chapters. There is no wonder Miss Christie was enamoured of Samarkand, and the names of Alexander, Bibi Khanum, and Tamerlane stalk like glorious ghosts through her pages. Her pen at this point grows quite lyrical as she writes of "old forgotten far-off things and battles long ago." Miss Christie's second journey was made from Petrograd to Tashkent; and in these chapters we are given some interesting sidelights upon Russian customs.

MEDALS FOR CAMBRIDGE WOMEN.

At last Cambridge women graduates (who are now so kindly allowed the barren honour of "titular degrees") are eligible for the Chancellor's Medals, hitherto reserved for men only, the present Chancellor (the Earl of Balfour) having given a Classical Medal for women.

Women everywhere are grateful to Lord Balfour for his generosity, and still more for his declaration that in classical learning there is no essential inequality between men and women, and that he wishes to remove the artificial inequality under which the women now suffer.

In future, if a woman is above, or equal to, either of the two best men in the Classical Tripos, she will obtain the Chancellor's Medal for which Miss Ramsey (Mrs. Montague Butler), the sister of our woman Member of the Government, who was placed above the Senior Classic of her year, was not eligible.

OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

"Women in the Factory." By Dame Adelaide M. Anderson, D.B.E., M.A.
 "What I Remember." By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P., LL.D.
 "Ancilla's Share." An Indictment of Sex Antagonism. Anonymous.
 "The Police Court and Its Work." By Henry Turner Waddy.
 May be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, January 25th, at 8 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Social Gathering at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of Mrs. Harverson). Speaker: Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, J.P., LL.A. Subject: "Some Amendments to Unjust Laws for Women." Chair: Mrs. Sadd Brown. All friends will be most welcome.

Friday, January 29th, at 8.15 p.m.

Minerva Club Branch. Conference on "Women's Work in the Home," Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Saturday, January 30th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Monday, February 8th, at 3.30 p.m.

"Fair" Sub-Committee at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, April 24th, at 10 a.m.

Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, January 26th, at 7.30 p.m.

Portsmouth Branch. Joint Meeting of Women's Organisations at The High School, Kent Road. Speaker: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P. Subject: "What Women want from Parliament."

Wednesday, January 27th, at 3 p.m.

Portsmouth Branch. Members' Meeting at 2, Kent Road. Special Business. To frame resolutions for the Annual Conference.

Thursday, January 28th, at 3 p.m.

Hastings Branch. Public Meeting at the Grand Hotel. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Mrs. Darent Harrison.

Thursday, January 28th, at 8 p.m.

Bexhill Branch. Public Meeting at the Albany Hotel, Sea Road. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "The Political Situation."

Friday, January 29th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Public Meeting at the Kempsted Street Hall. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Mrs. Kither.

SCOTLAND.

Monday, February 1st, at 7.30 p.m.

Dunoon. Social Meeting in the Imperial Hall, Argyll Street. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Councillor Mrs. MacPherson. Music. Refreshments. Collection. All welcome.

Wednesday, February 3rd, at 7.30 p.m.

Rothesay. Public Meeting in the Good Templar Hall, Tower Street. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Councillor Miss Arrol. Collection. All welcome.

Thursday, February 4th.

Glasgow Branch. Annual Meeting at the Central Halls, Bath Street.

Friday, February 5th, at 8 p.m.

Edinburgh Branch. Public Meeting in the Philosophical Rooms, 4, Queen Street. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, January 23rd, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Professor Albert Cook (Southampton University). Subject: "The Relation between Speaker and Audience."

Thursday, January 25th, at 5.30 p.m.

League of the Church Militant Public Meeting in the Church House, Westminster. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Maud. Subject: "Christ and Africa." Chair: Miss Maude Royden.

Thursday, February 4th, at 3 p.m.

St. George's Wesleyan Mission, Cable Street, E.1. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Why Women should use their Municipal and Parliamentary Votes."

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

There was a good attendance at the public meeting held on Wednesday, January 13th, at 2, Kent Road, at 3 o'clock. Mrs. Whetton presided, and introduced Mrs. Ramsay, J.P., of Fareham, who spoke on the Trevelin Report on Venereal Disease. Mrs. Ramsay dealt chiefly with the prevention clauses in the Report, and dwelt at length on the law relating to chemists selling disinfectants for prevention, urging that the law should be altered, allowing the sale by chemists. The speaker ably answered a great many questions. There was a very good discussion, the feeling of the meeting being against the prophylactic system. Mrs. Ramsay was warmly thanked for her excellent address. There will be a business meeting for members on Wednesday, January 27th, at 2, Kent Road, at 3 o'clock, to frame resolutions for the Annual Conference. Members are urged to attend.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. Whetton, 80, Festing Grove, Southsea.

EDINBURGH.

All friends in Edinburgh will have the opportunity of hearing Miss Anna Munro speak in the Philosophical Rooms, 4, Queen Street, at a public meeting which will take place there on Friday, February 5th, at 8 p.m. All will be welcome, refreshments provided, and a collection taken to cover expenses. We hope there will be as good an attendance as there was the last time we had the pleasure of listening to Miss Munro in this city.

(Org.) LILIAN LENTON.

GLASGOW.

On Thursday, February 4th, the annual meeting of the Women's Freedom League will take place in the Central Halls, Bath Street, Glasgow. Branch business will be discussed, and an address given by the Women's Freedom League President, Miss Anna Munro. LILIAN LENTON.

DUNOON.

On Monday, February 1st, a social meeting will be held in the Imperial Hall, Argyll Street, at 7.30 p.m., at which Miss Anna Munro will be the speaker. Councillor Mrs. MacPherson has very kindly consented to preside, and Miss Gallagher and Miss Campbell to help by giving us musical items. Refreshments will be provided, and a collection taken to cover expenses. All will be welcome. (Org.) LILIAN LENTON.

ROTHESAY.

A public meeting will be held in the Good Templar Hall, Tower Street, on Wednesday, February 3rd, at 7.30 p.m. Miss Anna Munro will be the speaker, and we expect that all those who liked her so much in the past will be present to hear her. Miss Arrol, Rothesay's one woman councillor, has very kindly promised to preside. Refreshments will be provided, and a collection taken to cover expenses. (Org.) LILIAN LENTON.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1924, £42,034 13s. 7d. £ s. d.

Amount previously acknowledged	377	17	2
Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund (previously acknowledged)	325	9	8
Green, White and Gold Fair (previously acknowledged)	367	19	7
Clyde Coast Campaign, per Miss Alix Clark (Donations and Collections)...	87	8	11
Special Emergency War Fund—			
A Friend	10	12	6
Organisers' Fund—			
Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck	5	0	0
"Office Expenses"	14	7	7
Mrs. Jason Kerr	3	0	0
Mrs. Baird Ferguson	2	2	0
Miss Anna Munro	2	0	0
Uxbridge Suffrage Society (Balance of Funds) per Miss Symonds	1	10	10
A. P. Busch-Michell, Esq.	1	5	0
Mrs. D. Rayner	1	1	0
Dr. Alice Drysdale Vickery	1	1	0
Mrs. Lucie Winter	1	1	0
Miss Bisdee	1	0	0
Mrs. Stewart-Brown, J.P.	1	0	0
Mrs. Fisher	1	0	0
Mrs. Hyde (Sale of Apples)	1	0	0
Miss A. E. Farmer	10	6	
Mrs. Gresswell	10	6	
Miss A. E. Bawtree	10	0	
Mrs. Sargant Florence	10	0	
Mrs. Grenville	10	0	
Miss M. Watson Petty	10	0	
Miss M. I. Saunders	10	0	
Mrs. Sidley	10	0	
Mrs. A. A. Thomson	10	0	
Mrs. Warriner	10	0	
Miss A. A. Scott	5	3	
Miss R. Eamsonson	5	0	
Miss M. Glaiher	5	0	
Miss Lenton	5	0	
Mrs. Posener	5	0	
The Misses McKinley	4	0	
Mrs. Naomi Jones	3	6	
Mrs. McGrouther	3	6	
Miss Barton	2	6	
Miss E. Berry	2	6	
Miss N. V. Goddard	2	6	
Miss Maude Rylance	2	6	
Councillor Miss Virgo	2	6	
Miss A. Wadley	2	6	
Miss Annie Dawson	1	6	
Mrs. F. G. Palmer	1	6	
Mrs. L. Archibald	1	0	
Miss E. Bruce	1	0	
Mrs. A. Hannant	1	0	
Miss Marian Holmes	1	0	
Mr. Y. A. Irfani	1	0	
Miss F. E. Ponnell	1	0	
Mrs. E. Purchas	1	0	
Miss A. Sutherland	1	0	
Jumble Goods sold	2	18	9
Collections	1	12	6
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NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, January 24th. 3.30 p.m. Music. Lecture. The Hon. Ivor Montague. "The Reform of the Cinema." 6.30 p.m. Miss Maude Royden.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND CHAIRMANSHIP. Classes, Private Lessons and Lectures, also Saturday Speech Club. New term now beginning—Miss Lucy BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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Name

Address

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