

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMEN ENGINEERS.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

WOMEN AT THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

WOMEN AND JURY SERVICE.

WORK OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE.

THE WOMEN OF FINLAND.

DEFINING THE INDEFINABLE.

WOMEN ENGINEERS.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY,

HELD AT OLYMPIA, SEPTEMBER 15-17, 1927.

Readers of THE VOTE will remember, on Friday, July 24th, 1925, we published some account of Miss Haslett, Secretary to the Women's Engineering Society, and on January 1st, 1926, an account of Mrs. Willson, the President, well known for her successful building schemes. This week Miss Partridge is included, as these three women have, with Dr. Purves as first Chairman, and Mr. Alan Johnston and Mr. Houblon as fellow-directors, formed a new company, to be called Electrical Enterprises, Ltd. Miss Partridge has been for some years working on the supply of electricity to small towns and villages which are out of the range of any central supply. She is a director of the Exe Valley Electricity Company, the Dulverton Electric Lighting Company, and M. Partridge & Company. Electrical Enterprises, the new company with which she is associated as director, is an enlargement of the work to which she has given her time. It is designed to supply small towns, villages, or groups of villages with electricity for light and power at a cost within the reach of all. The company will have, it is expected, a considerable bias towards the encouragement of the use of electricity for domestic purposes, and the alleviation of some age-old discomforts and drudgeries in cottage life. One proposal is that the cost of wiring, so often a prohibitive item to the cottage tenant and one refused by the landlord, will be borne by the company, who will charge a rental of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per switch per week. Miss Partridge

has found the chief difficulty in electrification is the finding of the capital for the unavoidable initial outlay. Sometimes there will seem to be no one in a village who cares sufficiently to invest. Another village sees the benefit, and raises the money without difficulty. She has found the better working-class most sensible of the position. The agricultural worker, on the other hand, in spite of the increasing use of more and more complicated machines in his work, does not connect up the supply of electricity with any part of it.

Miss Partridge, even when at school, planned to be an engineer, and gave her chief attention to mechanics and mathematics. For a few brief weeks she was a teacher, but was offered a post in the office of a consulting engineer, which was at once accepted, and the teaching ended. The second firm with which Miss Partridge worked was a testing engineer, and the third a technical engineer, from which she started her own firm, and



MRS. WILLSON.

MISS HASLETT.

MISS PARTRIDGE.

is now director of four altogether.

There can be no doubt that a big field lies ready for this kind of work. The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1926, provides for the co-ordination and encouragement of bulk supplies, the distribution or retailing being largely left to private enterprise; and the new company, following on the lines previously laid by M. Partridge & Co., will acquire distributing powers, and will retail electrical energy where and when bulk supplies are available. The directors hope to provide

openings for women in the business of electricity supply and to encourage women to enter these new services. They feel that they will be particularly valuable in introducing to rural homes the benefits to be derived from these modern services.

WOMEN ENGINEERS IN CONFERENCE.

The Women's Engineering Society held their Fifth Annual Conference on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week, and succeeded in lifting it out of the customary sameness of Annual Conferences by arranging a diversity of entertainments, each with its peculiar attractions. The local was Olympia, where the Shipping, Engineering, and Machinery Exhibition was being held, and Crosby Hall, beautiful Hall of Residence for students of all nations. The Conference opened with a Presidential Address by Mrs. Willson, M.B.E., well known for her success in carrying out building schemes satisfactory to investor, builder, and occupier alike. On Friday morning, the biscuit and cake works of Messrs. McVitie and Price were visited, and the members were entertained at lunch in Olympia by the Exhibition authorities. After lunch came a debate between Miss E. M. Kennedy (director of J. B. Stone & Co., Ltd.) and Miss V. Holmes, B.Sc. (Eng.), A.M.I.Mech.E., etc., on the "Relative Importance of Commercial and Technical Engineering under Present-day Conditions." This led to a discussion in which many points of interest were raised. A visitor from the Argentine voiced a wish that British engineers would manufacture goods, cheaper and less durable, for such markets as lay in the Argentine, where a rancher, after a good year, can buy a cheap article, and in his next good year can afford to scrap it and buy another. This market, she averred, was entirely supplied by countries other than Britain, who continues to produce only the best and most durable and highest-priced. Another speaker described the conflict in the mind of an engineer on receiving two simultaneous appeals, one to repair a defaulting dynamo, and one to install all sorts of fancy fittings for a wealthy client. Shall she be technical and attend to the dynamo, or commercial and rope in the big order? The conclusion of the whole matter was that the ideal engineer was a technical man with a commercial friend.

On Friday evening, the Society gave a dinner at the Lyceum Club to entertain women aviators, motorists and motorcyclists. Mrs. Willson presided, and the guests who spoke were: Mrs. Elliott-Lynn (aviator), the Hon. Mrs. Bruce (motorist), and Miss M. Cottle (motorcyclist). Colonel the Master of Sempill, Chairman of the Royal Aeronautical Society, seconded the toast of "The Guests," proposed by Mrs. Willson. Among the guests were such well-known names as Miss Cordery, who has just motored round the world; Miss Lister, famed for Brooklands feats; Miss Spink, noted hill climber; Miss Foley, team-mate with Miss Cottle and Mrs. McLean in the recent International Motor-cycling test; Mrs. Maurice Hewlett, true pioneer of aviation; and Miss O'Brien, who has just secured a commercial licence for flying, the second woman to do so.

Mrs. Elliott-Lynn, as aviator, gave great credit to motorist and motorcyclist for their mastery of a more difficult medium, but at the same time urged them "to give up these earthy things."

On Saturday, the members made an official tour of the Exhibition, and lunched at Crosby Hall, their temporary headquarters. In the afternoon, Miss Cummins, B.E., B.Sc. (Eng.), employed by the Land Commission in the Irish Free State, read a paper upon a scheme of electrification, centring upon the Shannon water-power project, a marvellous scheme and project to emanate from that country of marvels—Ireland,

OUR ANNUAL GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.

To be held this year on
**WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,
 NOVEMBER 23RD AND 24TH,**
 at
**THE CAXTON HALL,
 WESTMINSTER,**

from 3 to 9 p.m.

To be formally opened each day at 3 p.m.

ON WEDNESDAY BY
Mrs. ELLIOTT LYNN.

Chair: MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

ON THURSDAY BY
THE LADY BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH.

Chair: MRS. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P.

Entertainments:

DISPLAY OF OPERATIC, CLASSICAL AND
 CHARACTER DANCES

(by pupils of Miss Grace Woollacott of Wimbledon).

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24th AT 6 P.M.

CONCERTS. COMPETITIONS. GAMES
 CHARACTER READING.
 PHRENOLOGY. NUMEROLOGY.

Teas and Refreshments at moderate prices served in the
 Lounge and Gallery.

Teas from 3.30 to 6 p.m.

Refreshments after 7 p.m.

Other Societies and Friends taking Stalls:—

The Alliance of Honour (The Women's Section).
 Barclay Workshops (for Blind Women).
 The British Commonwealth League.
 The Dewdrop Curtain Co.
 The Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee.
 The St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.
 The Nine Elms Settlement.
 Miss Burwood (Beads).
 The Baroness Halse De Ville (Devon Stall).
 Miss Ida Stamm (Veloutine Work).

Tickets—1/10 (including Tax) the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day 1/2 (including tax)—will shortly be on sale at 144, High Holborn, or from the Societies and Friends taking Stalls.

All Communications and Gifts (also applications for Stalls) should be sent to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Fair Sec., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women's Splendid Swims.

Miss Edith Jensen, of Kolding, is the first person to swim the Sound from Sweden to Denmark, a distance of 17 miles. She entered the water last Friday near Malmo, at 6.30 a.m., and landed at Klampenborg, to the north of Copenhagen, at 7.15 p.m. Miss Jensen recently tried to swim the Channel.

Miss Millie Hudson, the South African girl swimmer, started from Cape Gris-nez last Friday morning on an attempt to swim the Channel, but had to abandon the attempt at midnight, after having been 13 hours in the water. She was carried out of her course by a strong current, and the cold made it impossible for her to continue when she was only eight miles from Dover.

Women Veterinary Surgeons.

The oldest veterinary college, the Royal, in Camden Town, has decided to advance with advancing civilisation, and now admits women students to its courses qualifying for membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The first woman to qualify for the M.R.C.V.S. was Miss Cust, sister of Sir Charles Cust, the King's Equerry.

Women Cricketers.

The Women's Cricket Association, only formed a year ago, has had a remarkable first season. It achieved a fixture list of 50 matches, only four of which were scratched, and a Cricket Week, the success of which indicates that it must become an annual fixture. The membership has grown rapidly.

Women Grocers.

At the Grocers' Exhibition and Market, the item that seems to attract most public attention is the part played by the women. In the display of goods, the decoration of stands, and in all the competitions, women are to the fore. Last year, the competitions were largely won by women entrants, and this year the number of entrants is greatly increased, rousing prophecies of winning women also increasing.

Women Town Criers.

At the Deal, Walmer and Kingsdown Royal Regatta, women are being invited to compete in a Town Criers' Competition.

NATIONS WHO SEND WOMEN TO REPRESENT THEM AT THE LEAGUE.

This year sees advance in the number of women delegates sent to the League of Nations as representing their country. The number is absurdly small, and the actual position of the women far from satisfactory. The fine work done by those women who have been given a chance should surely open rather than close the door to others. Our own country, so ably represented by Dame Edith Lyttelton, still gives her the subordinate position of a substitute delegate; Germany has retreated from full delegate to technical adviser, Dr. Baumer, former delegate, having been replaced by Madame Lang-Brumann as technical adviser; Madame Lang-Brumann is a professor in Munich University, member of the Reichstag, and specialist on infant welfare. Australia sent Mrs. Moss, of Melbourne, a well-known social worker; Sweden sent again Madame Bugge-Wicksell; Norway, Madame Larsen-Jahn; Denmark, Madame Forchhammer; Roumania, Made-moiselle Vacaresco; Holland has sent Madame Kluyver, a secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Finland sent the President of the Finnish National Council of Women, Madame Hainari; and Hungary sent Made-moiselle Rosenberg, but only as technical adviser.

Woman Preacher.

Miss Dorothy Robson, after 15 months' probation, has preached the required trial sermon and is now accepted as a Wesleyan local preacher on the Boston (Lincs) Circuit.

Woman Director of Trust Company.

Mrs. R. Pauline Hartley, who was last week re-elected to the Board of the Belgravia Trust Company, is said to be the only woman director of a trust company in England. She is also co-editor with her brother of *British Industry and Finance*, a weekly journal.

Women as Cinema Censors.

The Dawn wonders why all the proprietors of picture shows have given evidence against the inclusion of a woman on any picture film censor board. Perhaps it is the same reason as moves a criminal to object to women on a jury.

Australian Women and Commissions.

Australian women are pressing strongly for the appointment of women upon two Royal Commissions, announced by the Federal Government, to deal with (1) Child Endowment; how to bring it about—an examination of its possible effect on industry and Australia generally; and (2) the Federal Constitution—its powers; the working of the Constitution since Federation; constitutional changes considered to be desirable.

Shipping Companies Help Scholarship.

The Peninsular and Oriental, the Orient, the Blue Funnel, the New Zealand Shipping, and the Shaw, Savill and Albion arrange to give a certain number of free passages to graduates desiring to continue their work abroad. This year, Miss A. M. Ogilvy, of Melbourne University, receives one of these free passages.

American Women Lawyers.

The American National Association of Women Lawyers held their Annual Convention in Buffalo, at the beginning of this month, and endorsed a resolution pledging members to file formal protest whenever and wherever laws are proposed for the regulation of workers, based upon the individual and not upon the nature of the work.

THE FAMILY.

The *Catholic Times* of September 9th prints substantial extracts from the address of M. Duthoit, as Chairman of the "Social Week," recently held in France. The subject chosen by M. Duthoit was "The Family, the Essential Fact in the Problem of Woman-kind," and opened by the assertion that "the wisdom of the centuries proclaims that the chief vocation of women is in the family." He then went on to admit and to deplore that women, married and unmarried, were to-day obliged to obtain their livelihood by working outside the family. "This," he said, "is the new fact in woman's life that has been thrust upon her by our individualistic economic system. The logic of Catholicism," he continued, "is to examine these movements, combat them when women and the family are to be victimised, and support them when women and the family draw from them new force.

"Two things we say to feminists. If by feminism you affirm the personality of women, and, secondly (and this is as important as the first), you affirm her womanly personality with all the rights and duties which flow therefrom, then we are with you; we are then not only permitted, but commanded to be feminists.

"But if you lose sight of the fact that man and woman are two complementary beings, called upon to multiply the human race, and if you deny that a mutual and proportionate service by man and woman must be given in family life, then we are not feminists and we are not only permitted but commanded to combat you."

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd, 1927.

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Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

WOMEN AND JURY SERVICE.

According to the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, "any judge, chairman of Quarter Sessions, recorder, or other person, before whom a case is or may be heard, may, in his discretion, on an application made by or on behalf of the parties (including in criminal cases the prosecution and the accused), or any of them, or at his own instance, make an order that the jury shall be composed of men only or of women only, as the case may require." In the early days of women's admission to the jury, this discretion was not infrequently exercised, and rightly did not fail to draw indignant protests from organised women. Latterly, women have had little cause for complaint in this matter; but last week a defendant, who was on trial at the Old Bailey on charges of obtaining money by false pretences, asked Mr. Justice Finlay if he might have a jury of men only, as he would rather be tried by men. Instead of falling back on the right to exercise his discretion, Mr. Justice Finlay threw the responsibility on to the defendant by telling him that he was entitled to challenge any of the jurors that he liked, and is reported to have said: "Do you desire to challenge all the women?" The defendant replied emphatically, "Yes, I do"; and on the direction of the Clerk of the Court the four women, who were among the jurors to be sworn, left, and their places were taken by men. In civil cases, an individual juror can only be challenged for some cause, such as infancy, old age, alienage, conviction of crime, or partiality. In certain criminal cases, however, a defendant can challenge peremptorily individual jurors, and need not show any cause. If the accused is charged with murder, or any other felony, the number of his challenges is limited to 20, and if with treason to 35. It does not seem at all right to us that women should be challenged just because they are women and replaced by men. If the numbers of women were anything like equal to the numbers of men on jury panels, and the right of challenge insisted upon, it would be fair if the place of any one person challenged was taken by the next on the Jury List. But the numbers of men and women on jury panels are by no means even approximately equal, because of the present necessary property qualification. A juror must be "a person who owns property or pays rates; a householder or shopkeeper in the City of London who owns personal estate worth £100; a resident in a county or borough owning £10 a year in real estate or rent charge; or £20 in leaseholds; or a householder in a county or borough assessed to the poor rate at not less than £30 a year in Middlesex and the County of London, or £20 in other counties, and occupiers of houses with not less than fifteen windows." Women who possess any of these qualifications are considerably fewer than men, and if women are to take an equal share with men in jury service, some other qualification should be substituted. The Women's Freedom League has for several years pressed that the only qualification for jury service should be political enfranchisement. On that qualification, when women have equal franchise with men, the liability to jury service would be equally shared by men and women. If then the right to peremptory challenge was upheld, men and women alike could exercise their full right to challenge members of the jury 20 or 35 times, as the case may be, the place of anyone challenged being filled each time by the next on the list, without anyone feeling any sense of unfairness in the proceedings. But we protest emphatically against judges suggesting that *all the women* should be challenged!

WORK OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE.

The Fifth Committee of the League of Nations held sittings last week in Geneva. This Committee, which deals with social and general questions, discussed the League Report on the White Slave Traffic, and showed a strong sentiment in favour of the publication of Part II of that Report. We congratulate Dame Edith Lyttelton, British substitute delegate to the Assembly, on her protest against light punishments being meted out to men guilty of assaulting little children. "It is a disgrace that in my country," she declared, "they are punished less than forgers or thieves!" Dame Edith said she felt that the age of consent must be raised, licensed houses abolished, and the situation of women improved. She strongly advocated the more general employment of women police, who were doing wonderful work, and she denounced those people who made money out of the temptations and obsessions of their fellow-mortals. Frau Lang-Brumann, a member of the Reichstag, announced that licensed houses are to be abolished in Germany from October 1st. A Hungarian delegate said that all such houses in his country will be closed next May. The French delegate said he could not yet declare that France would certainly abolish licensed houses, but France was, nevertheless, moving towards abolition; and the Committee unanimously adopted a resolution requesting the League Advisory Commission on the Traffic in Women and Children to examine as soon as possible the desirability of recommending to all Governments the abolition of these houses, which facilitate and even provoke the white slave traffic. It is interesting to record that, in the discussion on the League Report on the White Slave Traffic, Dr. Brookes, the South African delegate, expressed disappointment that the question of women's wages had been considered by the Council as outside the scope of investigation by the Committee, as he felt that a great deal of the evil they were endeavouring to fight was due to the extremely low wages paid to women, and sanctioned in certain cases by public opinion, which made it impossible for women without support to earn an honest living.

BUYING JUSTICE.

We congratulate Major Graham Bell Murray on winning his appeal against his conviction for being guilty, while drunk, and a fine of £2 and five guineas costs, imposed by Mr. Mead at Marlborough Street Police Court, on August 29th. In allowing the appeal, Sir Robert Wallace, K.C., Chairman at the London Sessions, said: "We think Major Murray is entirely vindicated." This is another case in which the whole evidence against the defendant was based on police evidence only. Major Murray was stated by a police constable to have annoyed a woman; but the woman who was said to have been annoyed did not come into Court to substantiate the charge. Only in that way could the charge have been proved according to all traditions of British justice. The law in this respect is in urgent need of alteration. Major Murray was a man of means, and was able to be represented legally and to afford the costs of appeal. Every week numbers of women and girls, entirely without means, are charged and convicted in our Police Courts for annoying or molesting men. The charge against them is based on police evidence only, and, not having the necessary money to contest the case, or to appeal against their conviction—in fact, to buy justice—they have to pay their fines or go to prison. We again protest that this is an intolerable injustice. Again and again has this matter been brought before the present Home Secretary and before previous Home Secretaries, and, in the interests of good law and the best traditions of British justice, it is high time that the present law regarding our streets was altered.

THE WOMEN OF FINLAND.

By ELEANOR DELBANCO.

Finland's women can boast of having been the first to get the vote, but a long campaign preceded the victory. The first half of the 19th century saw the dawn of the movement. The need of education, as the first step to free women from a wretched condition, was published in books, expressed on platforms, by a number of eminent women and men. The great value which Finland sets on education is the natural outcome of a poor country. There is a significant inscription on the Helsingfors Studenthuse (belonging to the Corporation of Students): "Given by the Fatherland to its Hope." Schools are cheap. Parents pay for one child, £2; for two, only £3 a year. During the three summer months schools are closed, but to make up for it pupils have to work on an average 50 hours a week during the winter. Then country children have to find their way to school on skis or skates; if fortunate, in sledges.

Everywhere we met during the holidays numerous girl students, always recognisable by the university cap: white, with black band and gold lyre.

It follows that the booksellers have the finest shops. To wander through these and find the latest and best books of the world, not only in the original language, but in excellent translations into Finnish and Swedish, is a great pleasure; besides, one can get Finnish literature, in cheap or costly editions, translated into three or four different languages.

The women of Finland are not beautiful. The Mongolian type (high cheekbones and slanting eyes) is prevalent; nor do they attempt to help out the lack of beauty with the aid of powder, lipstick, or any other kind of feminine adornment; even the headdress of the national costume (a crimson ribbon, embroidered with gold, tightly drawn across the forehead) only intensifies the hard features. And yet to see them striding along, bare neck and arms bronzed by sun and sea air, is pure delight, for they have superb grace.

The spirit of co-operation is strongly developed, and unites the activities of the women. In 1911, Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg founded the National League of Finnish Women, to which 20 societies were already affiliated in 1925. Nearly all the societies work in one way or another for the welfare of children.

In the hot summer months, when between sunset and sunrise the earth has no time to cool, even the middle class lives in cottages and chalets outside the town, either in the forests on the banks of lake or bay, or on islands. I was told that, before the schools close for the holidays, these fortunate families ask the Director of the National or Board Schools to recommend them a child of the poorer class as a companion for their own to share with them the joy of open-air life in healthy surroundings.

Amongst the activities of Finnish women I like to mention weaving. This ancient art has always been kept alive; every cottage owns its handloom. Hand-woven tablecloths, bedspreads and rugs, all brightly coloured, form a warm contrast to the sombre background of timber walls and floor, for one rarely finds a stone dwelling outside the big towns. To see weaving done in a most elaborate style, one must visit a famous workshop in Helsingfors, where, under ideal conditions, about a dozen girls are busy sending the shuttles with lightning speed through the warp, fashioning from silks and wool, linen and gold threads, gorgeous fabrics for furniture, curtains, wall hangings and carpets.

Haunted by the fear of jealous neighbours, Finland keeps a very big army, quite out of proportion to its sparse population. Consequently, women get jobs which England granted them only in war time. Hundreds of girls are employed in the banks; in neat uniform they serve as ticket collectors on trams, as inspectors of gas and electricity; they are the attendants in the dining cars; even on our boat from Hull to Helsingfors they took the steward's place and also managed the galley (cook-room). But I met no police-women, and was told there was no need for them. That women can take care of themselves I realised when I saw (and heard) a sailor's ears being vigorously boxed by a girl whom he had evidently annoyed. And this in broad daylight on the fashionable Esplanadgatan of Helsingfors.

The women's movement is going on, there are still obstacles to overcome, and certain rights are withheld; to gain these, they feel, depends on themselves. Patiently they advance their cause, faithful to their watchword: "Through Duties to Rights."

THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE MARKET.

Under the above heading, the *Evening Standard* recently published sets of figures showing that women hold a larger proportion of stock in a selected list of the larger American corporations than do men. The *Evening Standard* deduces from this that women therefore own these corporations, and therefore control enormous issues influencing the economic and industrial life of the country. While not following the *Evening Standard* quite so far, we would believe with it that the American system of income tax assessment, under which the incomes of husband and wife are not added together for taxation, accounts in part for these large holdings in women's names. Over here, a wife's income is taxed as if it belonged to her husband, a system not encouraging to the income of wives.

Figures given by the *Evening Standard* are as follows:—

	Percentage of Women Stockholders.	Percentage of Men Stockholders.
American Telephone and Telegraph Co. ...	54	39
Westinghouse Air Brake ...	52	41

Pennsylvania Railway ...	50.38	47
National Biscuit Co. ...	50	45
Norfolk and Western Railway ...	48	45
General Electric Co. ...	47	42
American Sugar Co. ...	47	43
Pullman Co. ...	46	39
Southern Pacific Railway ...	49.53	44.99
Eastman Kodak Company ...	45	45

and it further gives the following as the values of stock held by women in the corporations named:—

American Telephone and Telegraph Co. ...	£176,000,000
Pennsylvania Railway ...	£45,000,000
Union Pacific Railway ...	£23,800,000
United Fruit Company ...	£22,300,000
Pullman Company ...	£17,000,000
American Sugar Company ...	£8,400,000
Southern Railway ...	£7,800,000
Pittsburg Plate Glass Company ...	£7,600,000
Chicago and North-Western Railway ...	£7,000,000
National Lead Company ...	£4,000,000

OUR BOOK REVIEW.

The Ethics and Economics of Family Endowment. By Eleanor F. Rathbone, M.A. (Sharp.) Price 1s. 6d. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This able essay is the Social Service Lecture of 1927. The essay is divided into "Theory" and "Practice." The population of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is roughly 43,000,000, and of these 11,000,000 are under 14 years of age.

Wages of men are roughly fixed at a sum sufficient to cover the minimum needs of existence for a "normal family" (parents and three children), but at any one time only about 6 per cent. of the men are responsible for these "normal" households, so the vast majority of households, with no wife, no children, or more than three children, have either more or less than their bare sufficiency.

Family endowment attempts to level up part of this inequality. It claims that it would benefit the nation by better nourishment and health of its young citizens and its women, and, by increased production due to happier home life, lessened mental strain and fear, and diminished frequency of strikes, etc.

It has been suggested that the minimum wage for an adult should be enough for two people—the worker and the person who keeps house (wife, husband, daughter, mother, housekeeper, or landlady)—wives having a more assured claim than at present on their husband's wages, and the minimum wage being equal for men and women wage-earners.

It is interesting to hear how family allowances work out in other lands, though we cannot fail to see differences between other countries and our own.

It is more or less in force in the Irish Free State, Australia, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Sweden and Switzerland. In our own country it has, of course, been applied to the fighting forces.

The Public Services show the widest extension of the principle, to all State employees in France, Germany, Holland and Norway. In France and Holland teachers also have equal pay for equal work, and the Irish Free State Act of 1925 introduced it for new entrants (with equal pay for men and women, except in the Post Office).

In the mining industry it is practically universal throughout France, Belgium, Austria and Jugoslavia, and partial in Germany, Holland, etc., the allowances being paid directly by the employers, at a cost of about 6 per cent. or less of the wage-bill.

Other family endowment schemes are "Equalisation Funds" in France, Belgium, etc., a number of firms agreeing to pay into a pool from which the allowances are paid out monthly, and usually to the wage-earner's wife.

In Germany, family allowances have lately been partially dropped, the reasons being apparently connected with the peculiar financial difficulties of that country.

In Australia, in 1919, the Federal Government appointed a Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, a "fair and reasonable wage" for the frugal comfort of the "normal" five-person family. After minute investigation, the Commission unanimously reported the requisite sum to vary from £5 6s. 2d. in Brisbane to £5 17s. in Sydney. The Prime Minister referred to the Commonwealth statistician, who declared that the whole produced wealth of the country would not supply such an amount.

It was then pointed out that this sum provided for 2,500,000 non-existent wives and children, would not provide for many children in larger families, would ruin industries and inflate prices, proceeding in a vicious circle, and a basic wage of £4 for man and wife, with allowances for children, was adopted in the Public Services of the Commonwealth.

In New South Wales, an Act was passed in March, 1927, extending family allowances to all persons in New South Wales (men and women), whose household income approximates to the male basic wage. This

will cover some 400,000 children (Australian born), the cost, about £5,000,000, being met by a levy on employers, at present 3 per cent. of their wage-bill.

New Zealand adopted last year a limited Family Endowment Act, the cost to come out of the Consolidated Fund.

Miss Rathbone does not pretend that Family Endowment is free from drawbacks. The principal of these seems to be "where is the money to come from?" but the subject is a very interesting one to all women, and in this book the case in its favour is put most clearly.

E. K.

DEFINING THE INDEFINABLE.

As the weeks pass and the month of February draws nearer, with its Opening of Parliament and its King's Speech, more and more wild and contradictory do the efforts of journalists and politicians appear in trying to define that indefinable thing, the woman's vote, in trying to classify women as women, instead of realising that a woman's vote is as undefinable as a man's vote, that women cannot be politically classified as women any more than men can be politically classified as men. Both are infinitely varied and variable in their political whimsies.

We find then the Conservatives, who for months have seen danger to their Party in the voting strength of thousands of industrial women, are beginning to believe that the prospect is not so fraught with danger as it at first seemed to them. The *Western Mail* says "some of the best organisers on the Conservative side . . . do not accept the fears of the pessimists who think the franchise extension will be bad for the Party." On the other hand, the *Empire News* says "The political organisers are becoming greatly alarmed at the prospect, now revealed" (September 18, 1927!) "that if the 'Flapper Vote' is passed, the next General Election will be absolutely controlled by the crosses recorded by the new girl voters." This may be as meaningless as it is pompous, but I do not know, as I do not understand.

At the Conference of the National Union of Conservative Associations, to be held at Cardiff on October 5th and 6th, the *Evening Standard* reports a resolution on the agenda, drawing the attention of the Government to the grave anomaly created by the continued extension of the franchise to those who hardly pay any taxes at all. A new angle of attack, and one that may well turn home again.

Then we have Labour, less well represented in the Press, but making up in pungency what it lacks in quantity, full of indignation that the daughters of the idle capitalist, themselves idle and parasitic, etc., etc. Then we have a great number of papers, more concerned with circulation than with political Parties, who accept the equalising of the franchise, for good or for ill, trusting Mr. Baldwin's undertaking, but who make some wonderful calculations as to the number of women who will become voters in 1928. They divide them up into professions, trades, wives, mothers, daughters, over 21, under 25, over 30, every possible thing and age that a woman can be, and then proceed to predict the effect of so many of this kind and that kind—voting.

When one realises that the effect of ten years of partial enfranchisement has not been noticed by the general public, who do not connect results with causes, it seems odd to try to thrill them up by prophecies, on the one hand involving the downfall of the British Empire, on the other the hasty arrival of the millennium. We know that the valuable increase in constructive social legislation, recently apparent in British politics, is due to the entrance of women into the political world, due to the fact that a sufficient number have had votes to attract the attention of Parliamentarians and statesmen. The equalising of the franchise will have no greater spectacular effect to excite the public, but the one prophecy that can be based on the experience of the last ten years and can be made with certainty is that releasing women from inferiority of franchise will be invaluable for the good of the country.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.

Telegrams:—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, September 24th, at 3.45 p.m.

Minerva Club and Mid-London Branches.

"At Home" at the Minerva Club. Tea,

4 o'clock. Members and Friends invited.

Songs, Recitations and Games. Further

details later.

Thursday, September 29th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at

Highbury Corner, arranged by the Women's

Freedom League. Speaker: Miss B. M.

Pearson, and Miss Olive Beamish.

DARE TO
BE FREE.

Saturday, October 1st, at 3 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at Hyde Park, arranged by the Women's Freedom League. Speaker: Miss Beamish.

Thursday, October 6th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at Highbury Corner,

arranged by the Women's Freedom League. Speaker: Miss Sparkman.

Friday, October 7th, at 5 p.m.

Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, October 7th, at 8.30 p.m.

Vote-Sellers' Supper and Autumn Rally. Dr. Knight, Miss Rodgers.

Saturday, October 8th, at 10 a.m.

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

Wednesday, October 12th, at 3 p.m.

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

Wednesday, November 2nd, at 4 p.m.

Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tea and Politics-up-to-

date.

Thursday, November 3rd, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at Highbury Corner,

arranged by the Women's Freedom League. Speaker: Mr. Lawry.

Wednesday and Thursday, November 23rd and 24th, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Green, White and Gold Fair at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.

PROVINCES.

Friday, September 23rd, at 7 p.m.

Middlesbrough Branch. Whist Drive at the Gray House, Linthorpe.

Tickets, 2/- each.

Monday, September 26th, at 7 p.m.

Portsmouth. Annual Meeting, at 2, Kent Road.

Friday, October 7th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford. Public Meeting in Hempsted Street Hall. Speaker:

Miss M. I. Neal. Chairman: Mrs. Miles.

Friday, October 7th, at 8 p.m.

Rye. Public Meeting at Old Hope Anchor Inn. Speaker:

Miss M. I. Neal. Chairman: Miss B. Ilhouse.

Monday, October 10th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead. Members' Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, September 23rd, at 6.30 p.m.

Minerva Club. Public Speaking Class, Course A. Miss Lucy D. Bell.

Sunday, September 25th, 3.30—4.45 p.m.

Guildhouse, Ecclestone Square, S.W.1. Speaker: The Rev. G. A.

Suddert-Kennedy, M.C., on "The State Church."

Sunday, September 25th, at 6.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. "Jack Straw's Castle," Hamp-

stead Heath. Meeting arranged by St. Joan's Social and Political

Alliance. Speakers: Miss Fitzgerald, Miss Feilden, Miss Butler-

Bowden.

Saturday, October 1st, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Miss Lucy

D. Bell on "House of Commons Oratory—Past and Present."

October 5th, 6th, and 7th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Exhibition of Home Crafts, at the Imperial Institute, South

Kensington. Admission 1/-.

October 11th—14th.

National Council of Women. Annual Meeting at the Town Hall,

Bournemouth.

Monday, October 31st, at 8 p.m.

Bexley Heath Congregational Guild Lecture Hall. Debate on

"Equal Franchise." Proposer: Miss Marian Reeves. Opposer:

Miss Carthew.

Thursday, November 3rd.

Council for Representation of Women in the League of Nations,

Annual Meeting at Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street.

Saturday, December 17th, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club. Debate between Dr. Marion Phillips and Miss

Marian Reeves on "Protective Legislation for Women," at the

Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

BRANCH NOTE.

PORTSMOUTH.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, September 26th, at 2, Kent Road, at 7 p.m. Business: Annual report, financial statement, election of officers, plans for winter work, any other business. Members are earnestly requested to attend. The annual subscription is now due.

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

WOMEN IN ANCIENT INDIAN SOCIETY.

In the *Indian Social Reformer* in August, Mr. S. G. Mandre compares the position of women to-day with what ancient writings indicate as her position in ancient days. Mr. Mandre seeks to discover sanction for the present treatment of Indian women. He begins with what he calls "the unpleasant side," and quotes from the Rigveda to show that there the subjection of women was firmly insisted upon; in the Arthashastra of Kautilya he finds certain accomplishments are permitted to be learnt by women, but, as he rightly comments, the "motives are base." Mr. Mandre then quotes from a variety of ancient writings, codes, etc., and finds no evidence at all of subjection in any sense approximating to present-day conditions. He ends with these words, after quoting some ideal verse on woman: "That is the ancient ideal of womanhood. And that was her status in days of yore, and ought to be so to-day also."

ASSAULTS ON CHILDREN.

The *Kent Messenger* reports that a man, a bootmaker, of Headcorn, was recently charged in the Bearsted Police Court, before Mr. J. Barker (in the Chair) and Mrs. G. Foster Clark, with indecently assaulting a girl of twelve. The mother stated that at about 9.30 a.m. on August 27th she was informed by a confectioner that her daughter was in the habit of spending money frequently. On asking the girl where she obtained the money, she began to cry. Later, her daughter told her that prisoner had given her the money. The girl gave evidence, stating that some time after Easter she went into prisoner's shop with two other girls. Witness then spoke of the assault. Prisoner was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

From the *Manchester Guardian* we learn that another man, aged 28, a patient at a local hospital, was sentenced to two months' hard labour, at Southport last week, for assaulting an 8-year-old girl. He kissed the child, and a woman hit him. He ran away, but was caught. He had six previous convictions for indecent assault and one for common assault.

COLD-SHOULDERING THE WOMEN.

In an article on the Irish Free State elections, in *The Observer* last Sunday, under the above heading, the writer says:—

"The poll did not fall far short of the June average. On the whole, women appeared to do their duty better than men, in spite of the fact that all Parties conspire to reduce women candidates to a minimum. Labour, for instance, which is supposed to be sympathetic, has never put forward a woman, and on the death of Countess Markievicz, Mr. de Valera promptly elected a man for the vacant seat. This boycott is part of the inevitable reaction. But the reaction is rapidly working itself out, and I have an idea that the first leader who grasps the fact that the women's vote is an asset as well worth bidding for as that of the organised worker or the organised farmer will probably steal a long march on his rivals."

EQUAL FRANCHISE AND CARDIFF CONFERENCE.

Various resolutions, dealing with the extension of the franchise to women, appear on the agenda paper of the 55th Annual Conference of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, to be held at Cardiff, October 6th and 7th. One resolution asks for the franchise of all women at the age of 21. Another submits that 25 is a much more suitable age than 21 for the franchise of women and men; one suggests that the vote should be given forthwith to all women of 30. Yet another resolution, "while offering no objection to the Government's proposal to confer on women the same occupational and residential franchise qualifications as already provided for men, considers that the age-limit for women voters should be 25."

AGE OF MARRIAGE IN KASHMIR.

The Maharajah Sir Hari Singh, of Kashmir, has sanctioned a new law prohibiting the marriage of girls before they are 14 years of age, and of boys before they are 18. Other progressive Indian States having a similar law are Baroda, Kotah, Gondal, Mysore and Indore. In England, the legal age of marriage is still 12 years for girls and 14 for boys.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The Headquarters Office of the International Council of Women has recently been transferred to 117, Victoria Street, S.W.

FRIDAY,
SEPT. 23,
1927.

THE VOTE

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FRENCH ALPS.—Furnished Chalet to let. View Mt. Blanc, Seven beds, bath, inside sanitation.—"E.C.F.," 31, Meadhurst Road, Leicester.

DORSET COAST.—March to Sept. Two sitting-rooms; kitchen; three bedrooms, beds—four single, one double; bathroom (h. & c.); garage. Bridport Station, 2½ miles. Golf links and sea, 10 minutes.—Miss F. RENDALL, 6, West-cliff Road, Shipley, Yorks.

YORKSHIRE MOORS.—Apartments. Sitting and 1 or 2 bedrooms; inside sanitation; bath; garden.—ROBINSON, 6, South View, Eldwick, Bingley, Yorks.

NEAR FOLKESTONE.—Three friends offer a charming holiday home; large garden; tennis; garage.—Miss HASLAM, The Grey House, Lyminge, Kent.

BATH.—Member desires holiday guests. Good centre; music; bridge; own car; bath h. and c. Terms reasonable.—Apply 2, Lower Oldfield Park, Bath.

SARK, CHANNEL ISLANDS.—Cottage to let, furnished. 2 reception; 4 bedrooms; oil-cooking; farm produce. June, July, 4 gns. per week; August, September, 5 gns.—STEWART, Dixcart, Sark.

BATH.—2 miles, ¼ hour by tram. Vegetarian Guest House. Large garden; plentiful fruit; electric light. Good excursion centre. From £2 5s.—TOLLEMACHE, Bathaston.

BOSCOMBE, Bournemouth, 39, Parkwood Road. Comfortable Board-residence; 2 mins. cliffs; good locality. Terms from 2½ gns.—MISS MILLER.

EDUCATIONAL.

"AUTO-EDUCATION," 46, Gt. Russell Street, W.C.1. DR. JESSIE WHITE invites parents and teachers to consult her as to Teaching Appliances.

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POST as House Keeper or Cook. Experienced in Hostel management and institutional catering. Applicant suffers from deafness.—Miss C. SPROSON, 58, Castlecroft Rd., Finchfield, Wolverhampton

MISCELLANEOUS.

CLOTTED CREAM, 3/- lb., post free. Furnished House to let at NEWQUAY, 5 rooms; also Flat—Apply SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.

TO LET.

MISS CRYSTAL EASTMAN, who is returning to America for some time, wishes to sublet, furnished, her comfortable seven-room Maisonette, at 6, Upper Park Road, Hampstead. Quiet; sunny; convenient. Moderate rent.—Tel: Primrose Hill 3716.

HAMPTON COURT.—Near Palace, facing river. Furnished Flat for two; garden; no attendance.—Write "K," 238, Evering Road, Clapton, London.

CARAVAN, furnished, to let. Sussex.—Apply NEWMAN, 26, St. Ann's Terrace, St. John's Wood, N.W.8.

TO THE OWLS AND OTHERS.—Large, beautifully furnished house given up to workers, ladies, 5 minutes from Hyde Park. Hot and cold water in bedrooms; 25/- bed and breakfast (liberal), 2 in room, lounges.—Box 123, "THE VOTE" Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

22, OLD BURLINGTON STREET, W.1.—Furnished Suites and Bedrooms, attendance; quiet; central. Gerrard 3101. Terms moderate.

BARNES, S.W.—Well-furnished Half Flat to let, sitting-room, single bedroom, use kitchen, bath (geyser), phone, gas fire, electric light, garden; charming outlook; close river; 12 minutes Kensington Gardens, 10 minutes Barnes Common. Suit business or professional woman. Terms, £2 2s. weekly, nett.—Apply Box "H.N.," THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

SURREY.—Rest Cure or Residence. Two (only) guests or semi-invalids wanted, in comfortable, artistic, modern cottage. Delicious Reform Food. Delightfully sheltered and sunny in winter. Garage, but no car.—"Woodhaven," top o' Box Hill (London 20 miles).

SMALL, convenient, furnished OFFICE in Bedford Square. Rent £35 per annum. Seen by appointment only. Write—MRS. WHITE, "Gravels," Radlett, Herts.

RYE, SUSSEX.—Very comfortable winter quarters at specially reduced terms offered to one or two ladies or gentlemen. Modern equipment; quiet and sunny; would suit literary or artistic people. Between November and March.—B, THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

CLUBS.

HAMPSTEAD.—Lansdowne House. Rooms, unfurnished, for Ladies only, with Club advantages. Rent 15/- to 30/- per week.—Apply SECRETARY, Lansdowne House, Lyndhurst Gardens, Hampstead, N.W.3.

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

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 0377.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, September 25th, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture The Rev. G. A. Studdert-Kennedy, M.C.: "The State Church." 6.30. Dr. Albert Schweitzer: "The Hospital at Lambarene."

FOR SALE.

NEW Brick Bungalow, double-fronted, square bays; verandah; six rooms, bath (h. & c.); inside sanitation; Co.'s water; good bus service; pretty piece woodland; ¾ acre. Price freehold, £650. £500 mortgage obtainable.—MOCKFORD, Eastcote, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent.

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

HOTEL.

MONTAGUE HOTEL, Montague Street, Russell Square, London, W.C.1. First-class accommodation; room, breakfast and attendance from 7s. 6d. En pension from 3 guineas.—Phone: Museum 4660. (Highly Recommended.)

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

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I enclose £ : s. d. as my first

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Minimum Annual Subscription 1/-