

THE VOTE,
DEC. 6, 1929.

EQUALITY in the HOUSE.

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXX. No. 1,050. (Registered at the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1929

OBJECTS: To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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Reviewed by F. E. T.

XXXVII.—OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

Alderman Mrs. E. E. Wainwright, J.P., Mayor of Mansfield.

The election of Mrs. E. E. Wainwright, J.P., as first woman Mayor of Mansfield is of particular interest to members of the Women's Freedom League on account of the active part played by her in the long fight for the political enfranchisement of women. As a leading member for ten years of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, Mrs. Wainwright not only played her part in making it possible for women to hold public office, but gained knowledge and experience for her future work.

Her capable personality and organising ability brought her to the fore at the very beginning of the entrance of women into public life in Mansfield. The first woman Town Councillor, the first woman Chairman of the Education Committee, the first woman elected to the Aldermanic Bench, succession to the Mayoralty of Mansfield is a fitting climax to her distinction in municipal life.

The wife of a railway employee, Mrs. Wainwright is familiar with the needs of the large working-class population of Mansfield and has its interests at heart. She is well known in Mansfield as an ardent supporter of the Labour movement. During the war she did valuable work as a member of the Food Control Committee. In 1919, she became a member of the Mansfield Board of Guardians. Her

work has proved so valuable that she still serves on that body.

Her career as Councillor has not been uneventful. First elected in 1920, she was defeated at the poll in 1923, and again returned in 1926, after three defeats.

That the highest civic honour has now been bestowed upon her by her fellow citizens proves the value of her work and the esteem in which she is held.

Owing to Mrs. Wainwright's wide experience of social conditions and public work, in 1924, she was one of the first women to be appointed a magistrate for the borough.

Mrs. Wainwright recognises the significance of education and gives her keenest support to all forward movements in this direction. She is a governor of both the Mansfield Secondary Schools and also of the County Technical College. In 1927, she was elected Chairman of the Education Committee, which office she still holds. Mansfield is a go-ahead borough from the educational point of view, and

we can well believe that the Education Committee have shown great wisdom in their choice of a Chairman.

We congratulate Mansfield on having so able a woman as Mrs. Wainwright as Mayor, and feel confident that her Mayoralty will be a distinguished one.



THE MAYOR OF MANSFIELD.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Six Men—Two Women.

Six men and two women—Mrs. Herbert Simpson, an ex-Mayoress, and Miss Ashby, a prominent worker in the I.L.P., have recently been appointed magistrates for the City of Leicester Bench.

Second Woman Wins Seat at Richmond.

At the Richmond municipal by-election, one of the two seats contested was won by Miss Ruth Roper. Miss Roper will be the second woman on the Council, Mrs. M. Hodgson, who was elected twelve months ago, having held her seat at the recent election.

Workington's First Woman Member.

Mrs. Eleanor Cain (Socialist), daughter of Mr. Tom Cape, M.P., who defeated the Independent candidate at a municipal by-election at Workington by a majority of 136, is the first woman member of Workington Town Council.

Walsall's First Woman Town Councillor.

Miss Ada Newman, who died last week at the age of seventy-two, was a Walsall magistrate and a well-known Unionist worker, who had served at the head of the Women's Conservative and Unionist organisation in Walsall for over forty years.

A daughter of the late Alderman Joseph Newman, of Walsall, a former Mayor, Miss Newman had the honour of being the first woman member of the Walsall Town Council.

Women University Professors in Austria.

The *Bulletin* (International Council of Women) states that the first Austrian woman on whom the University of Vienna conferred the title of Professor was Dr. Elise Richter, who for many years has acted as

President of the Austrian Association of University Women. Quite recently another woman, Dr. Charlotte Bühler, has been made Professor at the same University. She is a well-known psychologist, and her profound and original studies of the psychology of the child have made her name well known not only among scientists, but also among the intelligent public in many countries. Two years ago, Dr. Bühler was appointed lecturer at the Vienna University, since when she has taken an active and prominent part in the work of the Psychological Institute of Vienna, the aim of which is to promote the education of the growing generation through a systematic study of the conditions and functions of the mind of the child.

Woman Burgess of a University.

Frau Boehm, following the unanimous decision of the Senate, has received the freedom of Albertina, the University of Königsberg, in "grateful acknowledgment of her merits with regard to the promotion of the economic and intellectual education of housewives in East Prussia, and the organisation of the Rural Women's Societies all over the country." Frau Boehm is the first German woman upon whom such an honour has been conferred.

Woman First—in Turkey!

The *Manchester Guardian* says that, from being nowhere as regards franchise, Turkish women now come first. The Angora Parliamentary Committee has modified the franchise law to read: "Every Turk, woman or man, has the right to elect or to be elected at municipal elections." President Kemal will experiment in women's political capacity on a small scale, and if he finds them sitting in the City Councils becomingly he will probably further extend the franchise in another year, giving them seats in Parliament.

GIRLS AS CRANE DRIVERS.

The *Daily Chronicle* reports that for ten years a Yorkshire firm has employed girls as crane-drivers—and found them more adept than men!

Messrs. F. J. Howden & Sons, of Hampole, near Doncaster, have employed two, and occasionally three, girls to drive the cranes on their lime works. The cranes stand at the foot of the kilns, where the limestone is burnt. They then lift the burnt limestone to a height of about 50 feet to a weighbridge and trucks. Two girls have been regularly employed there on this work for some years, while another girl assists during the busy times. Mr. D. Howden, a partner in the firm, said:—

"My brother and I were about to join up in the war-time, and as there was no male labour available we had to train girls in the work of driving cranes before we could join up. We have retained them ever since and find their delicate touch and other attributes make them more desirable in this kind of work than men."

Special Issue of "Our Women Mayors":—XXXVI. Councillor Mrs. J. H. Davies, J.P., Mayor of Welshpool, September 6th, 1929; XXXV. Miss S. B. Pettit, Mayor of Aldeburgh, March 29th, 1929; XXXIV. Mrs. L. E. Bidwell, Mayor of Thetford, March 22nd, 1929; XXXIII. Dame Maud Burnett, J.P., Mayor of Tynemouth, Northumberland, March 15th, 1929; XXXII. The Marchioness Townshend of Raynham, Mayor of King's Lynn, February 15th, 1929; XXXI. Mrs. M. B. Andrews, Uthwatt, O.B.E., Mayor of Sandwich, December 28th, 1928; XXX. Councillor Miss Justina, Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon, Dec. 14th, 1928; XXIX. Councillor Miss Robinson, Mayor of Christchurch, Nov. 30th, 1928; XXVIII. Miss Violet Markham, J.P., Mayor of Chesterfield, Oct. 19th, 1928; XXVII. Alderman Mrs. B. M. Drapper, Mayor of Deptford, July 20th, 1928; XXVI. Councillor Elizabeth Lund, Mayor of Pudsey, March 23rd, 1928; XXV. Councillor Mrs. Jenkins, Mayor of Tenby, March 9th, 1928; XXIV. Mrs. Stuart Shaw, Mayor of Lichfield, February 24th, 1928; XXIII. Mrs. John W. Greene, Mayor of Bury St. Edmunds, January 13th, 1928; XXII. Margaret Beavan, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, November 25th, 1927; XXI. Councillor Miss Hudson, J.P., Mayor of Eastbourne, June 24th, 1927; XX. Councillor Mrs. Coxon, Mayor of King's Lynn, March 26th, 1926; XIX. Mrs. F. J. Simpson, Mayor of Higham Ferrers, Northampton, February 26th, 1926; XVIII. Councillor Miss Lucy Dales, Mayor of Dustable, January 22nd, 1926; XVII. Councillor Miss Edith Neville, M.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Lincoln, December 11th, 1925; XVI. Alderman Miss Snee, 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 24th, 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.

HEADQUARTERS JUMBLE SALE.

Our Sale last Monday was very successful, much interest being taken in it by our members. For welcome money contributions, many thanks to:—Mrs. Hay Chapman, Miss Homersham, Miss Reeves, Mrs. Hugh Thompson, Mrs. K. Thomson, Mrs. Vatcher, and Mr. Williams; for desirable jumbles, to:—Mrs. Bigland, Miss Bland, Mrs. Sadd Brown, Miss Clark, Mrs. Dore, Mrs. Ewen, the Misses Farmer, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Harvey, Highbury Branch Members, Mrs. Lloyd Jones, Miss Mary Knight, Minerva Club Members, Miss Morant, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Mustard, Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Pigott, Miss Reeves, Miss Stephens, the Misses Sprentall, Mrs. Turriff, Miss Underwood, and Miss F. A. Underwood and others; and for help at the Sale, to Miss Haagblom, Mrs. Harvey, Miss Isaacs, Miss Marney, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Stephens, and Mr. Threadgold.

Headquarters hope to have another Jumble Sale in the Spring. E. KNIGHT.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Probation Bill.

MR. LOVAT FRASER (Lab., Lichfield) asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he has done anything to promote the use of probationary methods since his accession to office; and, if so, what? MR. JOHNSTON (Under-Secretary of State for Scotland): A Bill dealing with probation in Scotland is at present being prepared, and my right hon. Friend hopes to introduce it when Parliamentary time permits.

Local Government Act (Assistance Committees).

MR. GOULD (Lab., Frome) asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of the long-distance travel necessitated by the meeting of the Guardian Committees operating in county areas under the Local Government Act, 1929, he will make provision for the payment of reasonable expenses out of public funds, so that the working class shall not be deprived of proper representation on these important committees? MISS LAWRENCE (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): The expenses of members of a committee of a county council which only discharges functions over a portion of the county area are not authorised by the Local Government Act, and my right hon. Friend has no power under that Act, as it stands, to sanction such expenditure.

Prisons (Women Officers).

MR. LOVAT FRASER (Lab., Lichfield) asked the Home Secretary whether there are any women medical officers in women's prisons or sections of prisons; and, if not, whether he will consider the desirability of appointing them? MR. CLYNES: There are two women medical officers at Holloway Prison and there is a woman medical officer at Aylesbury Borstal Institution. At other prisons, where the women form only a small proportion of the prisoners, the difficulty hitherto has been that the appointment of a woman medical officer would mean adding to the staff and paying two officers to do work which can be done by one.

MR. LOVAT FRASER asked the Home Secretary if, in view of the fact that Holloway Prison is used exclusively for women and that the daily average of women prisoners in that prison throughout the year 1927 was 318, he will consider the desirability of appointing a woman governor? MR. CLYNES: When a vacancy next occurs in the governorship of Holloway Prison, there will be various questions requiring consideration, and I cannot pledge myself at this date as to the action to be taken; but the hon. Member may be sure that full weight will be given to the consideration he mentions.

Equal Pay for Equal Work.

SIR WILLIAM EDGE (Lib., Bosworth) asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury if the Government still adheres to the Resolution of the House of Commons of 5th August, 1921, with regard to equal pay in the Civil Service? MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE: The Resolution referred to says "that, having regard to the present financial condition of the country, this House cannot commit itself to the increase in Civil Service salaries involved in the payment of women in all cases at the same rate as men; but that the question of the remuneration of women as compared with men shall be reviewed within a period not exceeding three years." I would remind the hon. Member that the existing differentiation between the rates and scales of remuneration payable respectively to men and women civil servants is one of the questions to which the attention of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service is specifically directed by their terms of reference.

Children Act, 1908 (Amendment).

DR. PHILLIPS (Lab., Sunderland) asked the Home Secretary whether he is now prepared to say what action he proposes to take to put into operation the recommendations of three Departmental Committees

on Sexual Offences against Young Persons, on the Treatment of Young Offenders, and on Metropolitan Police Courts and Juvenile Courts, respectively? MR. CLYNES: Various recommendations of these Committees not requiring legislation have already been brought to the notice of the Courts. Some of the recommendations have already been passed into law, while others have been noted for legislation at a suitable opportunity. As soon as the state of public business permits, the Government is anxious to introduce a Bill to amend the Children Act, 1908, and the recommendations of these Committees are being taken into consideration in the framing of the Bill. As regards the Committee on Metropolitan Police Courts and Juvenile Courts, its recommendations do not require legislation, and steps have been taken, or are being taken, to give effect to all of them, including the recommendations in regard to the re-organisation of the Juvenile Courts in London.

Vivisection.

MR. FREEMAN (Lab., Brecon and Radnor) asked the Home Secretary the number of inspectors of vivisection experiments; whether any or all of them are men who have had a medical training; whether he will consider the appointment in future of men known to be primarily interested in the welfare of animals; and whether he will appoint some women inspectors? MR. CLYNES: There are two inspectors, both of whom have had a medical training. There are no vacancies at present, and no further appointments are in contemplation. Should a vacancy arise, the candidate with the best qualifications, irrespective of sex, will be appointed.

Hong Kong (Orphanages).

DR. MORGAN (Lab., Camberwell, N.W.) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies the number of orphanages in Hong Kong; the total accommodation available; how many, if any, child slaves have been removed from undesirable residences and placed in charge of such orphanages; and whether there is in contemplation any extension of the accommodation in these orphanages? MR. PALING (Lord of the Treasury): I have been asked to answer this question. My hon. Friend cannot be supplied with precise information without reference to the Governor. The recognised refuge for girls temporarily in need of protection is the Po Leung Kuk, which can accommodate up to seventy persons. Last year it admitted thirty-four maid-servants, or mui tsai, who had left their place of employment. I understand that orphanages and convents also will accept a limited number of such girls if vacancies exist. The Secretary of State certainly contemplates the provision of additional accommodation if it is found to be necessary.

Electoral Reform Conference.

Nineteen men and two women—Miss Megan Lloyd George (Lib., Anglesey) and Dr. Marion Phillips (Lab., Sunderland) have been appointed to a Committee to consider the subject of Electoral Reform.

Membership Application Form.

To be returned to the Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

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

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose £ : s. d., as my first

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THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 1929.

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'S BID FOR EQUALITY IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

At present only men have right of access to the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery in the House of Commons. All the women M.P.s, save one—the Duchess of Atholl—recently signed a letter to the Speaker, asking that Distinguished Women shall rank with Distinguished Men as Distinguished Strangers. "We feel very keenly," they say, "the position of inequality in which this (the exclusion of women from the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery) places distinguished visitors who come to see us in the British House of Commons. We have had, for example, visitors who are themselves members of other Parliaments. While we have to thank you for your courtesy in giving them admission to Mr. Speaker's Gallery, you will, we are sure, agree with us that it would be much pleasanter for them to occupy places in the other gallery. It would not put us in the difficult position of having to point out to them that, while men Members of Parliament from other countries may have admission, women Members cannot."

The Speaker's reply has not been published, but it is understood that it was not a favourable one, and that he pointed out that in the galleries reserved exclusively for women there were more seats than those reserved exclusively for men. The following is their distribution:

Women.—Speaker's Gallery, 30; Ladies' Gallery, 50; Serjeant-at-Arms' Gallery, 10—total, 90.

Men.—Distinguished Strangers' Gallery, 15; Special Gallery, 15; Dominions' Gallery, 10; Seats under the Gallery, 10—total, 50.

The Members' Gallery, which accommodates about 100, is open to men and women. Members can always apply to the Speaker for the admission to his Gallery of any distinguished woman, but we do not believe that the women Members will be content to let the matter rest where it is at present. They would probably be quite willing for the Ladies' Gallery to be open to men as well as to women, and the women who now use that gallery would fully share that view. We cannot see why all galleries should not be open equally to men and women. Before the war, the Women's Freedom League was asking that the Press Gallery in the House of Commons should be opened to a representative of our paper, THE VOTE. We have continued to make that request ever since the war—but without result. Women are the majority of voters in this country; there are fourteen women Members of the House of Commons; and the discussions in that House are of as much interest to women as to men. Yet no woman's paper is represented in the Press Gallery! It is true that the Speaker, asked by Mr. Pethick-Lawrence early in November last year if he could see his way to remove the ban on women in regard to seats under the Strangers' Gallery, in his reply, said that he did not know if the time would ever come when all the sex distinctions as regards the admission of strangers to the House would be done away with, but he thought the time had not arrived for making any change in the existing Regulations. He is evidently of the same opinion still. The matter is really, however, as the Speaker said at the time, one for the House. We hope, therefore, that the present House of Commons will decide that there shall be no irritating inequalities as between men and women inside the House of Commons, and that at least all its galleries shall be open equally to members of both sexes.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS BILL.

Last Friday, Mr. SORENSEN (Lab., Leyton, W.) moved the Second Reading of the Children and Young Persons (Employment and Protection) Bill. DR. MARION PHILLIPS (Lab., Sunderland) seconded it. This Bill prohibits the employment of children under thirteen, limits the working hours of young people under sixteen to thirty-eight hours a week, and of those under eighteen to forty-eight hours. It also makes it compulsory on employers to keep a register of all persons under eighteen working in their factories, workshops, wholesale or retail shops, warehouses, etc., and makes regulations for all kinds of employment in which children and young persons are engaged. The Debate on this Bill was adjourned until to-day (Friday).

The following Clauses of this Bill have been specially noted by us:—

(1) No boy under the age of sixteen and no girl under the age of eighteen may be employed as a member of an agricultural gang within the meaning of the Agricultural Gangs Act, 1867.

(2) Street trading is prohibited in the case of boys under sixteen and of girls under eighteen.

(3) For employment abroad, a licence is required for girls between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one, and for boys between the ages of sixteen and eighteen.

(4) An occupier of a factory or workshop shall not permit any girl to be employed therein or about the business thereof who is advanced in pregnancy, or within six weeks after she has given birth to a child.

We greatly regret to see the differentiation in the ages proposed for boys and girls in the various occupations quoted above. It would be in the greater interests of young workers of both sexes if the promoters of this and similar Bills would exert all their efforts to secure the best possible conditions for the work itself instead of making different conditions according to the sex of the worker. If women are ever to obtain economic equality with men, they must have equal conditions with them from the very beginning. We also think that a girl advanced in pregnancy should not be forbidden to earn her own living unless she is provided with adequate means for her maintenance.

WOMEN POLICE.

Last Monday, the Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Scotland received a deputation organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the National Council of Women, on the subject of Women Police, the Women's Freedom League being represented on this deputation by Miss Marian Reeves. The deputation urged that more women police should be employed throughout the country; further, (1) that the Police Acts should be applied universally to women; (2) that regulations should be made clearly defining the duties of policewomen, and that regulations standardising the conditions of their recruitment and training should be submitted to the Police Council; (3) that a woman inspector of constabulary should be appointed at the Home Office; (4) that a woman or women should be appointed on the Police Council; (5) that in the Metropolitan Police District there should be a considerable increase in the number of policewomen, and that the conditions relating to their employment should be restored to the position which obtained before the Geddes cut in 1921.

The Home Secretary said that the deputation had put before him some new aspects of the problem which were worthy of the closest consideration, and he promised that he would give the earliest attention to the matter. So far as he was concerned he would approach the question with an open mind.

The Secretary of State for Scotland fully endorsed what the Home Secretary had said as to the sympathy with which he had listened to the claims made by the deputation, and he promised that so far as Scotland was concerned he would carefully examine the whole position in the light of the information which had been given to him.

THE TENTH ASSEMBLY.

THE PART PLAYED BY WOMEN.

Last week, at the Minerva Club, Mrs. Bigland, in her second address on the Tenth Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva, dealt in particular with the part played by women.

This year, M. Briand—then Foreign Secretary for France—concentrated on economics. He wished to see Europe united on an economic basis. Mr. Graham, from Great Britain, also emphasised the necessity of economic co-operation, and with this end in view had coined the phrase, "Let us have a tariff holiday!" In respect to Peace, M. Briand had made special appeals to women, pointing out that despite the vigorous peace propaganda now being carried on, there were poisonous influences at work; not all men were loyally in favour of peace. At this very time children were having sown in them the seeds of hatred and revenge, and mothers could bring better influences into their lives. M. Briand made a special appeal to the women of the world because it was they who would "water the new battlefields with their tears."

More women delegates were sent to the Tenth Assembly than to any previous Assembly, and for the first time a delegate (from Australia) warmly advocated in the Assembly itself the need of more women in the various delegations. Of the English women delegates, Mrs. Swanwick knew her part so thoroughly that everyone expected her to do well. Mrs. Hamilton took the subject of the refugees. Her rôle was that of rapporteur, and her work was so efficiently done that she was complimented by the Chairman of the Commission. In giving her report she paid tribute to the fine work of Dr. Nansen. Mrs. Swanwick, who several times had spoken in the full Assembly, spoke of herself as a "habitual propagandist for peace." On this question she said that in the first place the people of the world must be at the back of their Governments, and in the second, the obligation of the Pact of Paris must be made more binding. Those who loved Peace could find her, but the ghosts of the fallen were still walking, and only by the efforts of the living to secure peace could these ghosts be laid to rest.

The Vice-Chairman of the Fifth Commission, which dealt with the Traffic in Women and Children, was a

THE DRUG FIEND AT LARGE.

Presiding at a Conference held at the London School of Economics, on November 13th, under the auspices of the Women's International League, Dr. Hilda Clark, Chairman of the Anti-Opium Committee of its British Section, stated that the subject was receiving attention in many countries by Committees formed to combat the evil of illicit traffic in manufactured drugs. It was proposed to hold an International Conference at Geneva with a view to co-ordinate action.

Mr. Lyall, President of the Permanent Central Opium Board of the League of Nations, said the amount of opium grown in China was not only sufficient to meet all requirements, but provided a considerable surplus for smuggling into other countries. Chinese public opinion was determined to suppress the evil. The position in regard to other narcotic drugs—all of which were imported from Europe and Japan—was still more serious.

In reference to the important matter of the Central Opium Board, was it right that only men should be represented? All Governments favoured control, but effective machinery was required and accurate estimates of the quantities of the various drugs necessary for legitimate purposes.

Speaking for China, Mr. Sze emphasised the opposition of the Chinese people to a traffic associated with so much evil. The Chinese People's Society devoted itself to a study of this question. The Women's Association of China, founded in 1924, was an anti-opium organisation. A powerful body, with 400 branches, it demands (1) absolute suppression of the illegitimate traffic, and (2) control of supplies for proper

medical purposes by a Government monopoly. Vigorous propaganda, which availed itself of every means of publicity in the land, was carried on. The Chinese Government had declared the traffic illegal throughout the land, but there were foreign concessions, and the general impression in China was that so long as other nations made money out of it, they did not care. The holding of this Conference in London would be an inspiration to China.

Mr. Shoran Singha, speaking as an Indian, regretted an increase in opium consumption in his country, notwithstanding a decrease in production. Women were organising to fight the evil. The only answer to the problem was "Shut the Shop." The Rev. Herbert Anderson (forty years in India) said that the official and non-official attitude to this question were very different. The Government policy was bounded by Geneva.

Mr. Charles Robertson, for many years in the Egyptian Ministry of Education, dealt with the question in that country. In some parts of Egypt, 25 per cent. of the population were drug takers, and the physical wreckage was appalling and growing worse. Egypt was regarded as virgin soil by the foreign smuggler, who created the demand he subsequently supplied. The penal law of Egypt imposed heavy penalties, but the foreign courts appeared to work in subtle opposition.

Professor Noel Baker, M.P., described what had been done at the Tenth Assembly of the League of Nations. Although the progress appeared to be slow, it was as lightning in comparison with what had been done at former Assemblies. Public opinion must be aroused; profits were stupendous, and a great international gang with a huge capital organised smuggling.

In conclusion, Mrs. Bigland spoke of the Tenth Assembly as a most interesting and useful session, in which no mean part had been played by women.

In the discussion which followed regret was expressed that the League of Nations should be deprived of so splendid a member as Dame Rachel Crowley, whose seven years' term of office expired last July. Mr. O'Sullivan had paid a fine tribute to her work, and several countries had written expressing their regret at her leaving. Overtures had been made to the Secretary-General to waive the regulation in view of the value of Dame Rachel Crowley's work, but without success.

Miss Underwood again regretted that no woman had been sent to Geneva as a full delegate, and said that if we had a woman Prime Minister or Foreign Secretary there would no longer be any difficulty. It was gratifying to note that this time one country (Lithuania) had sent a woman as full delegate.

FRIDAY
DEC. 6,
1929.

THE VOTE

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REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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