

THE VOTE,
JAN. 4, 1924.
ONE PENNY.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXV. No. 741.

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FRIDAY, JAN. 4, 1924

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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OUR WOMEN MAYORS.—VIII.

DAME JANET STANCOMB-WILLS, D.B.E., MAYOR OF RAMSGATE.

I have been asked to write a few words to THE VOTE, in my capacity as first woman Mayor of Ramsgate.

I came to live in the town in 1911, and in November of that year joined the Education Committee as a co-opted member. Then a branch of the Women's Local Government Society was formed here by the energy of the late Mrs. Channing-Pearce (always keen for the participation of women in public affairs), and that body decided it was time to put forward a woman as candidate for election to the Borough Council. They fixed upon myself as their champion, because I possessed the necessary qualifications, which were then more stringent than now.

I cannot say I particularly desired to do this work, as my previous life had given me no training for it, and I doubted my fitness. However, I was duly elected (1913), and have sat for the same Ward ever since.

This year, by the unanimous wish of my colleagues, I have accepted the office of Mayor, and am doing my best to fill the position worthily. I take more interest in the general policy of the Council with regard to town improvements in various directions than I do in matters especially concerning women and children, though, naturally, I take my place on Committees affecting their welfare.

In my opinion, women are needed on public bodies, but I do not think we need boast as if we are doing something rather wonderful. After all, men have performed these duties for centuries, and it has been considered "all in the day's work," and not at all as something exceptionally praiseworthy.

Ramsgate's third woman Councillor has just been elected, and I hope in time each of all the six Wards will have one woman representative.

JANET STANCOMB-WILLS, D.B.E.
(Mayor of Ramsgate).



DAME JANET STANCOMB-WILLS, D.B.E.

Other issues of this series in "The Vote":—VII.³ 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.

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WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Prospective Women Candidates.

Lady Rathcreedan, of Bellehatch Park, Henley-on-Thames, has been asked to stand for the Henley Division of Buckinghamshire, which constituency is next to that now represented by Lady Terrington. Lady Rathcreedan will stand in the Liberal interest. Mrs. Corbett Ashby has again been enthusiastically adopted as prospective Liberal candidate for Richmond.

Another Barrier Down!

The Turkish authorities propose to remove from the trams the thick red curtains which have separated the seats occupied by Moslem women travellers from the rest of the car, on the ground that the curtains are carriers of disease, and merely to reserve the two front rows of seats for women.

More Women J.P.s.

Mrs. Jane Close, a member of the Board of Guardians, Mrs. Elizabeth Mark, of the Women's Citizen's Association, and Mrs. H. E. Samuel, widow of the late Alderman J. Samuel, M.P., are the first women magistrates to be appointed in the borough of Stockton.

Queer Trades for Women.

In the new *Post Office London Directory* the following women are engaged in the following unusual trades: Bath-chair proprietor, 1; beer-can maker, 1; dealers in birds and live animals, 10; boot closer, 1; chimney sweepers, 6; cowkeepers, 3; cycle maker, 1; cycle agents, 9; livery stable keepers, 2; loan and discount, 1; locksmith, 1; saddlers, 3; ticket writers, 2; wheelwright, 1; undertaker, 1.

Italy's New Decoration.

A new decoration, to be known as the "Star of Merit for Work," has been created by the Italian Cabinet. The decoration will be awarded exclusively to manual workers of both sexes who have distinguished themselves in skill, trustworthiness, and good conduct. Holders of the decoration must have been engaged in industrial labour for 25 years, and in agricultural labour for 35 years.

"Copec" Conference.

Miss Lucy Gardner, Hon. Secretary of the Conference on Christian Politics, Economics, and Citizenship, which is to meet in Birmingham next April, is largely responsible for the genesis of the idea, and has worked on the Conference for two years. Miss Gardner is a member of the Society of Friends.

Woman M.F.H.

To mark her completion of 21 years in the Master-ship of the Nevaddfaur (Cardiganshire) Foxhounds, Mrs. T. H. R. Hughes was recently presented with a diamond fox brooch, and a cheque for £284.

Women and War Work.

A Committee has been formed at Bourges for the purpose of erecting a monument in memory of the women of allied countries who gave their work, and some even their lives, during the war.

Women's World Forum.

A Pavilion is being erected in the grounds of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley by the International Council of Women, which will be the headquarters of women from all over the world, who are expected to visit the Exhibition when it opens in May.

Woman Meteorologist.

Miss E. W. Pilkington, who took over the duties of Borough Meteorologist at Buxton recently, is the first woman in England to hold a similar appointment.

Woman Surgeon's Triumph.

Mlle. Drefus-See has been selected, out of 650 competitors, both men and women, for a post as house surgeon in a Paris hospital,

WOMEN AND PUBLIC LIFE.

(Reprinted from "The North Eastern Daily Gazette.")

Two noticeable results of the entry of women into public life are: the stricter watch kept on public expenditure, and economies which have been unobtrusively effected in various departments administered by bodies on which women are represented. Last year, for example, Bermondsey had a woman as Mayor, to whom a grant of £400 for expenses was made. Of this amount she has just returned an unspent balance of £220. Again, a North Country Board of Guardians recently reduced its allowance to Guardians for expenses, on a woman Guardian showing that the amount previously allotted was more than was necessary at the present time. These examples are cheering proof that the claim put forward in the season of the Suffrage agitation (how far away it all seems to-day!), that women had their own special contribution to bring to the national life, has been justified by results. Further, they are good examples of the right way to economise in public expenditure. When a public body is bidden to revise its estimates and cut down expenditure, too often the first item on which the axe is used is the salary list, and that weapon, moreover, has a way of starting to work at the bottom of the list rather than at the top. There is a true economy and a false economy. And as woman is the keeper of the household purse, so she seems to have a knack of seeing where savings can be effected in public expenditure without inflicting undue discomfort or causing any loss of efficiency. Hence she is well fitted to take her share in spending the nation's money, and seeing that good value is obtained for every penny. A fear was sometimes expressed by reactionaries that legislation in which women had a part would be either sentimental and unpractical, or of the grandmotherly restrictive order. A favourite vision was that of a forbidding type of female—"D.O.R.A." personified—prohibiting individual liberty of action in every direction; but it must be confessed that so far there seems very little danger of such a result. Election candidates are finding that high-flown sentiments and eloquent speeches have no attraction for the women voters. These may "go down" with the men, but women are proving themselves the practical business members of the human partnership, with a keen eye on the prices of commodities and the cost of living, and other sordid but imperative topics.

NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

We congratulate the Council of the new Public School for Girls on its acquisition of Hemsted Park for the Benenden School, Cranbrook, Kent. According to *The Times*, the deme of Hemsted appeared in A.D. 993 in the Charter of King Ethelred, and an account of the Manor of Hemsted can be found in Hasted's "History of Kent." The present house is modern, but embodies part of the old structure, and electric light, modern drainage, central heating, and company's water have been recently installed. It stands on the highest point of the Weald of Kent, 15 miles from the sea. The grounds, of 147 acres, both park and woodland, are beautiful, and provide excellent playing-fields. The aim of the school is to give a broad general education. The curriculum will be planned to enable girls to qualify for a career, and at the same time to stimulate in them interests which will enable them to live a full and useful life at home. It will be possible for the elder girls who do not wish to qualify for a university career to add to a modified curriculum a course in one of the following groups of subjects:—Household training; music, art, and hand-work; carpentry and bookbinding; poultry-keeping and gardening.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD., 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1. Subscription: London Members, £3 3s.; Country Members, £1 5s.; Irish, Scottish and Foreign Members, 10/6. No Entrance Fee till January 1st, 1924. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte. All particulars, Secretary Tel: Mayfair 3932

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN FRANCE.

In the last number of *La Française*, Mme. Cecile Braunschvig discusses the recent debate on woman suffrage and the family vote in the Chamber of Deputies. She insists that these are not only two distinct questions, but that they seek to establish two utterly different principles; that to adopt woman suffrage is to recognise that every adult citizen has the right to a share in the political life of the country, which is the basis of democracy, involving the principle of universal suffrage, whereas the family vote means a plural vote, since the head of the family would have as many votes as there were young children. The supporters of the family vote, declares Mme. Braunschvig, take their stand on the question of depopulation, but, as M. Pinard pointed out, there were probably much more effective ways of dealing with that question. Some of the partisans of the family vote failed to understand why the majority of feminists were against it, as the family vote would give women the right to vote. But Mme. Braunschvig's reply to that is, that although women are perfectly well aware that suffrage propaganda has gained in some quarters, notably among parties on the Right, by the idea of the family vote, and owe some gratitude on that account, yet women claim to have the right to enter political life, not through a small door which is only half-opened to them, but through the large door of the Republicans. She says: "Let Parliament first give us the right to vote, and we will then say to our candidates what we think about the family vote. It is true that opinions will be divided, because all women, just as all men, have not the same opinion. But of this we are certain—the family vote as it was presented to the Chamber will never be accepted by women. As M. F. Bougère remarked in the Assembly, 'Why should the father alone exercise the vote for the children?' We have always said that we will never submit to this new inequality between the father and the mother. The situation, then, is this: We desire that the Chamber shall make a separate pronouncement on woman suffrage, and on the family vote. If the latter is adopted by the Chamber, and the father alone has the right to vote for his children, the Union of French Suffragists will fight against it, although it includes female suffrage. If the family vote was modified, and it was agreed that fathers and mothers should share the votes for their children, which is, however, improbable, the Union, while leaving its members full liberty to act as they choose individually, would remain neutral on this subject, as the suffrage would be accorded to men and women on the same terms."

Writing in *Le Mouvement Féministe*, December 28th, Mlle. Emilie Gourd comments on the inferiority of the married mother's position under the proposed system of the family vote, when the father exercises the vote on behalf of the children, and the mother only does so when there is no legal father, or when the father is dead. Under this system, an unmarried mother would have two votes, one for herself and one for her child, whereas the married mother would only have one vote for herself! It is curious into what absurdities politicians fall when they strive to avoid the straight issue of the equality of the sexes.

ANGLO-JEWISH WOMEN'S PROGRESS.

Anglo-Jewish women, alike with their Christian sisters, have achieved in this country a fair measure of independence and equality with men. In all Jewish communal institutions, women find their rightful place, both as members and administrators. The Board of Guardians, the Jewish Hospital, the Religious Education Board, are notable bodies in point of example, while the amount of excellent work done by such organisations as the Union of Jewish Women, and certain Committees of the Society for the Protection of Girls and Women, which are almost entirely "manned" by women, clearly prove the capacity of Jewish women for public work, especially such women

as Miss Nettie Adler, J.P., the Hon. Mrs. Ernest Franklin, and the Hon. Lily Montagu, J.P. But, as in the case of their Christian sisters, the stronghold of orthodox religion still denies Jewish women equality of office and opportunities, although tacitly agreeing to their special spiritual gifts. It is true that on the Jewish Religious Union, and in connection with the Hill Street Synagogue, there is no bar against women, while at Upper Berkeley Street, men and women sit together during Divine Worship on Sabbaths, and the screen in front of the ladies' gallery in the various synagogues is no longer universal. But against these ameliorations there are plenty of examples to the opposite. Only last year, the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College of America rejected the proposal for the ordination of women as Rabbis, and agreed that "no change should be made in the practice of limiting to males the right to matriculate for the purpose of entering the Rabbinate." The decision caused much surprise and indignation at the time, as a young Jewish woman, Miss Martha Neumark, had already been accepted as a student of the College by the Board of Governors, and naturally expected to become a candidate for ordination in due course. More recently still, and nearer home, the Council of the United Synagogue discussed the question of granting women the franchise, and the right of being elected on Boards of Management and the Council, but finally rejected the proposal by an overwhelming majority. The difficulty that seems to have impressed most of the members, and the bogey that was set up for the purpose, was the supposition, if women were allowed the vote, that they would necessarily claim to become members of the Boards of Management for which they voted, and, that being conceded, their right to become wardens could not be resisted, which would involve their taking part in the public services of the synagogue.

THE VOTE IN 1924.

Dear Readers,

THE VOTE is your own paper, issued especially on your behalf, and in 1924 we want to make it better than ever. We cannot make it a really effective organ, however, without your assistance.

WILL YOU HELP US

in whatever way you find best? Some of you write: send us short articles or stories on social or political questions which especially interest women. Others read: send us the names of any really good books with a Feminist interest, and we will order them for review. Every time you come across any particular items of news pertaining to women, pass it on to us, and we will find a corner for them in our column, "Women at Home and Abroad."

THOSE OF YOU WHO LIVE ABROAD

can help us enormously by sending us information about the progress of the Woman's Movement in your part of the world, which we will gladly add to our International news corner. We also want you to tell us about your own particular achievements, and anything you are doing to further the objects of the Women's Freedom League. In 1924 we mean to introduce a special column, in the last week of each month, on

WHAT MEMBERS ARE DOING,

and to this we heartily invite you to contribute, so that we may have the latest news of our members' activities. You can all do something, however small. Advertise, and support our advertisers. Write letters for "Our Open Column." Improve THE VOTE circulation, not only by talking about it to your friends, but by bringing in fresh subscribers. If every member will bring us in new subscribers during 1924,

"THE VOTE" WILL BECOME SELF-SUPPORTING.

With best wishes for the New Year,

Your faithful servant,

THE VOTE.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 4th, 1924.

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

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Never have the prospects for the women's cause in Great Britain been brighter than at the beginning of 1924. We have eight splendid women duly elected to the House of Commons, all of whom are keen on women's interests; a great number of our able, staunch, and tried men friends have been returned to the new Parliament, and two powerful political Parties in the State, the Labour and Liberal Parties, are pledged to work for the complete political, legal, and economic equality of women and men. Nothing could be more fortunate than this combination of forces in favour of women's emancipation. It only remains for women outside Parliament to set all these forces in action, and to keep them in action, in order to win a tremendous victory for the cause we have at heart. We urge every one of our members, and all our branches, to see that they do not fail in their part in securing this victory, for we do not think that such an opportunity as the present is likely to occur again for a long time. We recognise that very important questions, involving our policy at home and abroad, will come before Parliament, and may bring about the fall of more than one Government; but we claim that the question of the political, legal, and economic equality of the sexes is independent of these questions of policy, and that it has a prior right to be settled, because the policy pursued by our Government both at home and abroad affects women equally as much as it affects men. We therefore call upon all our branches immediately to do their utmost to make themselves a strong political force in their locality; to gather into their ranks as many women and men as they possibly can who believe in the equality of the sexes, and together work by holding public meetings, by letters and articles to the local Press, and by sending resolutions and deputations to their local Members for the political enfranchisement of women at the same age as men, and on a short residential qualification only; for the enforcement of the provisions of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act; for the equal rights of married women with married men in regard to the guardianship of their children, and the separate assessment on their own income for Income Tax purposes; for the recognition by the State of an equal moral standard for men and women; for the equal consideration of unemployment of women as of the unemployment of men; and for equal opportunities and equal pay for equal work for women and men throughout all branches of the Civil Service at home and abroad, in the teaching profession, in all other professions, and in industry. Where we have no local branch, but only individual members, we urge those members to form a branch, and work together vigorously on the lines set out above, because we firmly believe that it is possible to gain all the objects we have mentioned within the life of the new Parliament, if only the women who desire them resolutely determine to secure the real equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, for the purpose of which the various woman suffrage societies were

founded, and for which they exist. If the women who now belong to these organisations will make full and active use of the power they already have in their constituencies, we are convinced that not only will they make it impossible for women to exercise the Parliamentary vote on unequal terms, and at a different age from men, at a fourth General Election, but they will enforce the removal of most of the existing inequalities of the law as between men and women, and secure for the women of this country a really Happy New Year.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The Women's Freedom League has repeatedly protested against unequal legislation for men and women in industry, and especially against our legislators' habit of linking up women with children in making regulations in industry. We are glad to see that our suffrage friends in America are with us in this principle. In *Equal Rights*, the organ of the National Woman's Party, for December 22nd, we are told that many of the recent labour laws enacted in that country have established an identical standard of protection for women in industry, and for children in industry. The Connecticut law, for instance, reads:—

"No public restaurant, café, dining-room, barber shop, hairdressing or manicuring establishment, or photograph gallery shall employ any minor under 16 years of age, or any woman, between the hours of 10 o'clock in the evening or 6 o'clock in the morning."

It is not so long ago since the whole world believed, and acted up to its belief, in keeping women in political tutelage; the point of view of the whole world has got to be altered in regard to the economic or industrial tutelage of women. It is impossible to work for women's equal opportunities and equal pay with men in industry, if restrictions are to be put on the work of women which are not also placed on the work of men; and it is ridiculous to pretend that adult women who are capable of earning their livelihood are not capable of taking care of themselves. Women keenly resent men's grandfatherly legislation in these matters. They claim that, if night-work is bad for women, it must also be bad for men; that in that case there should be as little night-work as possible, but that what there is should not be monopolised by the members of one sex. We entirely agree with the Woman's Party in its declaration that identical legislation for women and children is unfair to both groups. It subjects women to restrictions that make it difficult to get well-paid jobs, and it prevents youth from getting the protection it needs. The Women's Freedom League agrees with the Woman's Party in saying: "Give to adult women the same freedom in earning their living that is given to adult men. Give the children the full protection they need. Having given boys and girls an equal chance to grow to maturity, let us give them equal freedom to use that maturity as they will. So the human race will reach its maximum growth."

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN TO VOTE?

General Smuts, addressing a recent meeting of the Women's South African Party at Pretoria, said that women were divided in opinion on the subject of female franchise. He, however, was prepared to stand or fall by his own opinion. He thought that the time had arrived for women to toe the line in the great political battle, and the South African Women's Party must educate women up to their duties. This is regarded as an invitation to the suffragists to bring further pressure to bear on the Government to introduce a woman suffrage measure. Mr. Partick Duncan, who spoke at the same meeting, said that Parliament would adopt the women's franchise the moment it became plain that the majority of women favoured it. Last year, a women's enfranchisement measure was defeated by one vote only. Our best wishes to our South African sisters for their full political enfranchisement at an early date!

NEW YEAR GREETINGS.

From Mrs. Despard.

As one who worked with you in the days when our valiant little ship, which has breasted so many storms, first started on its adventurous voyage, I send you to-day a word of greeting and good will. Change of circumstances (so far as the work is concerned) has driven us apart. I am still in the storm, for never has my country passed through so disastrous a year as 1923. You, dear friends, greatly through your own energy, pluck, and endurance, have entered, I hope and believe, upon smoother waters. It is strange to look back over the eventful years that have gone by since our League sent out the first issue of its little organ, THE VOTE, and, indeed, we are sometimes almost staggered by the change that has taken place in the position of women. Some who wrought finely with us have passed away. To them we send loving remembrance, with regrets that they have not lived to see the better day. Others, children then, are earnest fellow-workers with us now. To them also I send the greeting and thanks of an ancient warrior. Let them set their shoulders to the wheel, so that, before 1925 arrives, they also may obtain their political freedom. With heartiest good wishes to all League members and VOTE readers, Yours always in the great cause of human emancipation, C. DESPARD.

Miss Elizabeth Berry.

TO THE VOTE, its staff, and all its many readers and friends, I send most sincere greetings for a successful and really prosperous New Year. Much has been achieved by women for our cause during 1923. May much more be accomplished in 1924. But to do this, workers and helpers are needed to increase the circulation of THE VOTE, to work for the next Fair, and assist with all the other activities of the League. With more helpers, THE VOTE and the Women's Freedom League may do much to forward the Women's Cause in 1924.

Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

Never before have the women of this country commenced a year with hopes so high. We expect, at least, equal suffrage, an all-embracing Sex Disqualification Removal Act, equal rights for parents, adequate provision for necessitous widows and children, and either work, or a fair share of maintenance grants and training, for the army of unemployed women. These are all possible within the year, but increased and persistent effort is needed, with loud and insistent demands. This means we must have a big League, and a big circulation for THE VOTE, to make our aims well known and supported in every constituency.

Mrs. Dexter.

To hope that THE VOTE may progress in the future as it has in the past is, I think, the best wish I can send for the New Year. Its ever-increasing usefulness to the busy woman, who wishes to know all that is being done by women and for women, is a matter for congratulation to the Editors and staff. May their inkpots be well filled, and their pens well dipped, for that splendid cause the Women's Freedom League has always stood and still stands for with ever-growing vigour—"Equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes."

Mrs. Legge.

Our New Year's resolution must be to place an Equal Suffrage measure, and Educational, Housing, and Health reforms on the Statute Book during 1924. No effort must be too great or too small to assist the Women's Freedom League in raising a fund so that at any by-elections a woman candidate may be returned who will strengthen the hands of the eight women already elected.

Miss C. Neal.

The New Year opens for all women under better conditions for rejoicing and hope than have been experienced since the 1918 extension of the Franchise Act. That eight women have been elected to Parliament, and that all the women candidates had such relatively large polls, proves that women's entry into the political world is an accepted fact. The presence of these eight women in the House must influence and expedite that class of legislation which women so much desire. This is all to the good. But every feminist will realise how much remains to be done. While women are being welcomed as sharers in the unpaid work of the country—as magistrates, jury-women, Town Councillors, and Poor Law Guardians—their economic position remains as it was. Payment for work and opportunities for advancement still depend upon sex, and the advantage is always to the male sex. The great fight for women in 1924 must be to make progress towards the attainment of our goal—absolute equality between men and women not only in politics, but in economics and in morals. Only when these are obtained can we afford to relax our efforts and to rest on our laurels.

Miss M. I. Neal.

We women are beginning to see the fruits of our labour. Let our New Year resolution be to continue the good work, to fail not, and so shall we make 1924 a happy New Year—for ourselves and those who come after us.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN TEACHERS.

The Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Teachers is taking place this week at the Exchange Hall, Nottingham. On the Agenda is the following resolution on Unemployment:—

"This Conference urges the Government to consider the existing distress among teachers who are unemployed, owing to the uneducational and retrograde policy of the Board of Education, by which arrangements are made for: (a) Increasing the size of classes. (b) Imposing on the head-teachers of some schools the responsibility of teaching a class, in addition to the duties of organising and supervising the whole school. (c) Employing unqualified persons in the place of qualified teachers. (d) Postponing a general system of Nursery Schools. (e) Postponing a general system of Day Continuation Schools, and thus leaving a large number of girls and boys, who are unable to obtain employment, exposed to the dangers of idleness. Conference emphatically asserts that these 'economies' are detrimental to education, and will prove a serious handicap on the citizens of the future; therefore, in the interests of the children, and as an initial step towards relieving unemployment, calls upon the Gov-

ernment to make, at an early date, the Education Act of 1918 fully operative."

Equal Pay and Equal Opportunities find a place in the following resolution:—

"This Conference declares: (a) That the principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work is not only a sound principle, but is also the only basis for a permanent settlement of the problem of the economic and social position of men and women workers. (b) That equal educational opportunities should be given to girls and boys. (c) That all posts in the industrial, civil, municipal, and educational services be open to women on the same terms as men."

Several resolutions insist upon the right of married women to freedom of choice in their work, one of which calls upon the Government, "in view of the failure of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act to protect the rights of married women to choose their work, to introduce such legislation as will ensure this protection."

Quite early in the Agenda is a resolution urging the Government to take immediate steps to extend the Franchise to women on the same terms as men.

THE HONOURS LIST.

Men again practically monopolise the New Year's Honours List. This List includes a Viscount, three Barons (among whom is our old opponent, Sir Frederick Banbury), five Privy Councillors, ten Baronets, and sixty-six Knights—all of them being men, and a great many of them comparatively unknown to the general public. In addition, twenty-eight men have received the Order of the Bath, twenty men the Order of St. Michael and St. George, thirteen men have been made Knights Bachelor, one man has had bestowed upon him the Imperial Service Order, thirteen men the Star of India, thirty-three men the Order of the Indian Empire, eight men the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal of the First Class for public services in India, and two women, the Rev. Mother Marie Leonie, of St. Joseph's Convent, Moulmein, Burma, and Dr. Louisa Helena Hart, medical missionary, Madanapalle, Madras. No one can pretend that there is anything approaching equality in this division of Honours for men and women. We fervently hope that Mr. Baldwin's will be the last British Government which refuses to act impartially in this matter as between its men and women citizens, and we look forward to the time when women as well as men will appear in the King's Honours Lists.

Women's organisations will certainly not grudge the honour paid to Lord Robert Cecil, last month, in his elevation to the Peerage. His long and distinguished public service fully entitles him to this reward, and we congratulate Lord Cecil of Chelwood on the State's recognition of this service. We feel confident that when the question of the right of women Peers to a seat, a voice, and a vote in the House of Lords is again discussed in the Upper House, Lord Cecil will be on the side of women's representation there. We wonder if Sir Frederick Banbury went to the House of Lords in order to escape the eight women in the House of Commons, and to hold the fort in "another place"?

NEWS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

We are delighted to have better news of Mrs. Pierotti and Miss Alix M. Clark, and congratulate them and ourselves on their continued progress towards health and strength. Mrs. Pierotti has already visited us at the office, and we look forward with great pleasure to welcoming both these colleagues at our next Committee meeting on January 19th.

The Press cuttings disclose Miss Clark's return to many activities in Newtown. We note with satisfaction that she has succeeded in effecting economy on the Guardians' Christmas dinner, the cost of this now being wholly defrayed without coming on the rates. Last week, Miss Clark succeeded in getting a much-improved and modernised dietary adopted for the Workhouse inmates for six days of the week, but waged a losing battle for a more substantial Monday dinner, 8 oz. bread, 3 oz. cheese, 1 pint coffee being all that she could secure for this day, which she declared was the very poorest which they could sanction in connection with the Ministry of Health schedule. On December 27th, with the help of a few local friends, she provided a tea, a Christmas tree laden with over 200 presents, and a most enjoyable concert for the inmates of the Workhouse, the tea beginning at 3 p.m., and the festivities lasting till 9 p.m., when everybody went to bed perfectly happy.

OUR ADVERTISERS

like to know the results of their Advertisements. When writing them mention THE VOTE.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Nor All Thy Tears. By C. Nina Boyle. (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd.) 7s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

Miss Boyle has written for us a curious study of a woman's life, passed partly in the conventional circles of an old county family, partly among superstitious Breton peasants on that grim, rocky coast where the sea claims so many victims. She describes her heroine as one who has learned "to endure facts," and also plainly to acknowledge them, which is a step further than many people care to go—as her son says, "women shouldn't"! That same son feels that, though he thought his father's ideas were mostly right, yet his ways and himself were wrong; while his mother's ways were delightful, but her ideas queer. From this the reader can guess that the conflicting heredity of the family, the legacy of adventure, romance, and shame from maternal ancestors, contrasted with the stolid respectability of the English county family, is answerable for unusual happenings. One could wish, perhaps, that the canvas were not quite so crowded, that one could pause longer over the younger members of the family, and that the English relatives were not quite so narrow and unpleasant. When, however, Leen Hayes transports her family to Brittany, after her husband's death, we are plunged into a curious and most interesting history of peasant life, complicated by a weird legend of the terrible rocks of La Fourche. Leen wanted to live, even at forty-four years old, a widow with a family; she wanted life and freedom, with no fretting rules and conventions; and Fate grants her wish even more fully than she had hoped, although not quite in the way that she had expected, just as Fate so often treats us when pretending to grant our desires. Past griefs and scandals come to light, both among her people and the country neighbours, and their influence seems to be working in the present. "It is impossible to tell how, and at what time, what was bred in the bone will break out and declare itself in the flesh." The last chapter is headed "Peace," for love and devotion held all those who thus suffered together, and after many storms came calm. Still, the reader will wish that the book had been a little longer—it seems to wind up rather abruptly—and that more had been told us of the younger people's lives; a second volume, in fact, in which we might have seen the "undying love, high courage, and strong purpose" bequeathed to Leen's family brought into use in life. The dogs, Berserker and Pip, are pleasant additions to one's memories of animals in fiction, and distinctly characteristic.

J. M. T.

The House of the Treasure. By Marion Holmes. (International Fellowship in Arts and Crafts, 8, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1.) 1s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

"The House of the Treasure" is a charming symbolical play, written by our old friend Mrs. Marion Holmes, and dedicated to another old friend of the Women's Freedom League, Mrs. Tylor Loble. It was first produced by the Bournemouth Mystery Drama League in July, 1922. The motive of this little play—it consists of one scene only—is a plea for the cessation of strife among classes and creeds. There are eight characters, four men and four women, and the play lends itself easily to performance, the fee for which is 10s. 6d. We recommend it warmly to those of our readers who have an inclination for things mystical and symbolical.

F. A. U.

The Writer's and Artist's Year Book, 1924. (A. & C. Black.) 3s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This is the seventeenth year of this very excellent handbook for aspirants to a place in the literary or artistic sun, and is again edited by Miss Agnes Herbert. This year there are at least two new and important features: a list of literary prizes, and a practical talk by an eminent Presbyterian divine on the technique of the sermon. The Lists of Publishers are particularly useful, including not only British and American, but all the principal publishers in our Overseas Dominions. D. M. N.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—

Councillor Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P.

VOTE Sales Department—Hon. Head: Miss ALIX M. CLARK.

Literature Department—Hon. Head: Mrs. PIEROTTI.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, January 14th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch Meeting (Members only) at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3 (by kind permission of the Misses Berry).

Friday, January 18th, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, January 19th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, January 30th, at 8 p.m.

Hampstead Branch Social Gathering, open to non-members, at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind permission of Mrs. Harverson). Speaker: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., on Proportional Representation. Chair: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P. Music. (Refreshments can be obtained at a small charge.) Three minutes from Hampstead Tube Station.

Saturday, April 5th. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Women's Freedom League Seventeenth Annual Conference.

SCOTLAND.

Tuesday, January 15th, at 7.30 p.m. Glasgow. Public Meeting at the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street. Speaker: Miss Isabel C. Hamilton, Member of Education Authority of Glasgow, &c. Subject: "Equal Pay." Professional and Business women are cordially invited.

Saturday, January 26th, at 6 p.m. Glasgow. Whist Drive in the West End College, Peel Street, Partick. Tickets 2/6.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, January 29th, at 8 p.m. Kingston-on-Thames, Theosophical Lodge. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood, on "Brotherhood—from a Woman's Point of View."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Voteless Women.

Writing in the *Labour Press Service*, December 20th, on her Election campaign in Norwich, Miss Dorothy Jewson, M.P., says: "During the whole campaign, there was nothing more pathetic than the attitude of the young women. They came to their doors, often with two or three little ones clinging to their skirts, asking: 'Why have not I a vote?' They are old enough to bring children into the world, and to be responsible for them, and their case is an unanswerable one. But although the woman of 21 is as capable of voting as the man of that age, some five million women between 21 and 30 are disfranchised. Among these are not only young mothers, but women earning their living in factory and office, and bound to obey laws in which they have no say. A big proportion, too, of unemployed women signing at the Labour Exchange are under 30 years of age—is it any wonder they have been neglected? Again, there is no equality in the present franchise law for men and women over 30. Men can qualify after six months' residence, but women must be occupiers of premises in which they reside—or the wives of such occupiers. It is estimated that if the same six months' residential qualification were accepted for women as for men, 1½ million more women over 30 would have the vote. 'But the fact is, large bodies of working women—including numbers who occupy furnished rooms—nurses, companions, governesses, domestic and hotel servants, are altogether disfranchised, and suffer an inferior status in consequence. The time has come to sweep away these anomalies.'

Marriage and the Teaching Profession.

At a recent meeting of the Yorkshire (North Riding) County Education Committee, Canon Lawson, in presenting the minutes of the School Management Sub-Committee, said it was with great reluctance he had to propose the following recommendation: "That as the Board of Education have ruled that marriage in itself is not an educational ground upon which the consent of a local authority to the appointment of a teacher in a non-provided school can be withheld, and as the Managers of the Great Langton Endowed C.E. School still wish to appoint Mrs. M. M. Cuthbert as headmistress, the consent of the Education Committee to her appointment be given, with considerable reluctance, as from the 1st day of December, 1923, at a salary at the rate of £287 per annum, less abatement of 5 per cent." This was agreed to. We wonder if Canon Lawson has ever heard of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act? In any case, we think it little short of impertinence that he should thus express his private prejudices in this matter in regard to a public appointment.

Working of the Matrimonial Causes Act.

In the lists of cases coming before the Divorce Court in the New Year there are very few petitions for restitution of conjugal rights. This is accounted for by the recent Matrimonial Causes Act, which places wives on an equality with husbands in regard to the grounds on which a divorce decree can be obtained.

OUR TREASURY.

GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR, 1923.

Branches:—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Swansea				5	15	0
Dr. Knight	5	0	0			
Messrs. Weldons	2	2	0			
Lady Rhondda	1	1	0			
Mrs. Catmur	1	0	0			
Mrs. Sargent Florence	1	0	0			
H. S. L. Fry, Esq., M.A.,	1	0	0			
Miss Maud Fussell	1	0	0			
Miss E. Gulland	5	0	0			
Dr. George Jones	5	0	0			
Miss Kilgour	5	0	0			
Miss Malone	5	0	0			
Miss Tagg	5	0	0			
Miss D. Allwork	2	6				
Mrs. Angold	2	6				
Misses Sprentall	2	6				
				13	15	6
Rent of Stalls:—						
The League of the Church Militant.....	3	0	0			
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance ...	3	0	0			
Women's Freedom League Settlement.....	3	0	0			
Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd.	3	0	0			
The Friends' Relief	3	0	0			
The Friends of Armenia	3	0	0			
The Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency	3	0	0			
The Food Education Society	3	0	0			
St. Dunstan's	3	0	0			
The Montessori Society	1	10	0			
The Theosophical Society	3	0	0			
The British Esperanto Association	3	0	0			
The Stonehenge Woollen Industry	3	0	0			
Miss Burwood (Beads)	3	0	0			
Madame Buie (Egyptian Industries)	3	0	0			
Miss Culverwell (Handicrafts)	3	0	0			
Miss Ramsey (Roumanian Goods)	3	0	0			
Miss Phyllis Mott (East European Agency)	3	0	0			
The Misses Shuffrey (Ymagynatf Pottery)	3	0	0			
Miss Nettleton (Association for the Deaf and Dumb	3	0	0			
				58	10	0
Stall Takings:—						
White	35	2	7			
Hampstead (2)	22	5	4			
Toys	21	11	2			
Miss Hoare	10	0	0			
Scottish	12	15	6			
Glasgow Branch	1	7	6			
Miss Gilmour	10	0	0			
Miss Peggy Waugh	10	0	0			
South-Eastern	13	4	0			
General	11	12	2			
Portsmouth	10	18	0			
Montgomery Boroughs	10	6	9			
Overalls	10	2	10			
Stationery	5	9	3			
Mrs. A. A. Thompson	1	0	0			
Hygiene	5	8	0			
Pound	5	5	10			
Mrs. Lloyd	4	11	6			
				172	10	5
Side Shows:—						
Phrenology (Mr. Marshall)	3	12	6			
" (Mr. Sons)	14	0	0			
Character Reading (Mrs. Spon and Mrs. Goodall)	3	3	0			
" Street in Bagdad," per Miss Dickeson	2	18	0			
				10	7	6
Cloak Room	1	10	6			
Refreshments, per Mrs. Fisher	25	16	10			
Tickets	21	19	0			
				£310	4	9
Literature Department Stall	18	0	4			
Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd.	27	8	6			

White	35	2	7
Hampstead (2)	22	5	4
Toys	21	11	2
Miss Hoare	10	0	0
Scottish	12	15	6
Glasgow Branch	1	7	6
Miss Gilmour	10	0	0
Miss Peggy Waugh	10	0	0
South-Eastern	13	4	0
General	11	12	2
Portsmouth	10	18	0
Montgomery Boroughs	10	6	9
Overalls	10	2	10
Stationery	5	9	3
Mrs. A. A. Thompson	1	0	0
Hygiene	5	8	0
Pound	5	5	10
Mrs. Lloyd	4	11	6

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" (Mr. Sons)	14	0	0
Character Reading (Mrs. Spon and Mrs. Goodall)	3	3	0
" Street in Bagdad," per Miss Dickeson	2	18	0
			10
Cloak Room	1	10	6
Refreshments, per Mrs. Fisher	25	16	10
Tickets	21	19	0
			£310
Literature Department Stall	18	0	4
Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd.	27	8	6

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT,
2 CURRIE STREET, BATTERSEA, S.W.

The children had a very happy time at their Party this Christmas, and the gathering of them last week sent their best thanks to the ladies and gentlemen for such a jolly party. We have had one or two other parties and distributions of gifts, notably part proceeds of a collection by the Borough Council, by which considerably over a hundred of our poor neighbours got food and coals for Christmas.

A. M. COLE (Superintendent of the Settlement).

TEA PROFITS.

The *Statist* announces the following dividends made by Tea Companies:—Darjeeling Consolidated, 10 per cent.; Southern India, 15 per cent.; Gingra, 10 per cent.; Budla Beta, 15 per cent.; Assam Frontier, 12 per cent.; Dima, 20 per cent.; Buxa Doars, 10 per cent. It will be remembered that Tea Companies some time ago combined to reduce output. Commenting on the above figures, *The Statist* says: "Reduced stocks and increased dividends tell their own story."

FRIDAY,
JAN. 4,
1924.

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, January 6th. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maudie Royden. "Our Christian Faith: Belief in God."

MISCELLANEOUS.

BARGAIN—list free. Plants, Garden Utensils. Beautiful dwarf roses, named varieties, 6/- dozen, carriage paid. —MCELROY, 33, Saville St., South Shields.

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

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THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance *pro tem*. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional £4 4s.

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