

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXIX. No. 992.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1928

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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XLIII.—WHEN I AM M.P.

LADY FRANCES STEWART, Prospective Liberal Candidate for North Kensington.

If I get into Parliament, while supporting all measures that seem to me to lead towards peace, progress, and better conditions of life, I shall hold before me four main objectives—Industrial Democracy, Educational Democracy, Better Housing, and, last and greatest, International Peace.

Industrial Democracy.—We have attained in this country to something approaching Political Democracy, though Plural Voting is a defect which still awaits removal. But our industrial system as a whole dates back to the days before universal education. The worker to-day claims, and rightly, to be regarded not as a hand only, but as a *hand with a brain*, a brain which, under present conditions, is largely wasted in his daily work, though it may find other outlets. I want to emphasise the *waste* of ability and the country's need of it if we are to hold our own in these days of intense competition.

The Industrial Policy of the Liberal Party aims at making the worker a partner, at giving him a voice in the conditions of his work, at making use of his knowledge and experience, and at giving him not only his wage, but a reasonable share both in profits and control.

The methods proposed in the Liberal Industrial Policy are practical: Works Councils, Pit Committees, Joint Industrial Councils, Wages Boards, Co-partnership, and Profit-sharing. They have been tried and tested by many of the most enlightened concerns in the country and have proved themselves sound. While retaining the skilled management and direction, which are more than ever necessary in these difficult days, they would give scope and opportunity for promotion to the able worker, and provide what we, in this country of castes and classes, still need so greatly, *More Ladders for Ability*.

Furthermore, our proposals for Co-partnership, Profit-sharing, Employee Shareholding, and the development of facilities for the small investor, are

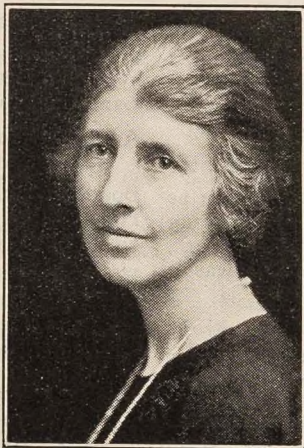
practical ways towards that wider diffusion of wealth which is so greatly needed.

Educational Democracy.—But if Industrial Democracy is to be effective, we need more and better education, and, in particular, a wider diffusion of higher education of all kinds—scientific, technical, commercial, and literary. Personally, I should like to see the educational system of this country approximating far more nearly than it does to the American system. The United States may not produce such exquisite flowers of scholarship, but her working men go to her colleges and universities in thousands, while ours go only in hundreds. College education is cheaper over there, the spirit among the students is much more democratic, and no one thinks the less of a man for doing any honest work that helps to pay for his keep and his university fees. In America, again, nearly all children go to the same elementary schools. Here, in spite of our system of Maintenance Grants (a system which I should like to see extended), the child's education is mainly determined by the means of the parents. My aim here, as in industry, would be "*More Ladders for Ability*."

Better Housing.—My third aim would be to meet the needs of the 3,000,000 inhabitants of this country who are still officially classified as living in slums. The needs of those who can pay rents of from 20s. to 25s. a week have to a great extent been

met, but our overcrowded slums are still a blot on our civilisation ; and the sum total of ill-health, immorality, intemperance, worn-out nerves and tempers, wasted education, and human misery for which the slums are so largely responsible, is so great that their abolition is a national duty.

I endorse the policy of the Liberal Party for Slum Clearance, Town Planning and Rehousing, and I should like to see the funds which the community can devote to Housing Subsidies used with the least possible delay to provide accommo-



LADY FRANCES STEWART.

dation for the poorer workers at rents within their means.

International Peace.—This is the greatest question before our generation. In General Smuts' words: "There are only two ways—the way of force, and the way of understanding. We have tried the way of force, and seen it reduce the world to a heap of ruins."

It is up to the generation that knows what war means to work for disarmament with far more zeal and conviction than we have yet displayed, and so to establish the principle and practice of arbitration

between the nations, that "the way of understanding" may be a *fait accompli* before the world recovers from the exhaustion of the last war.

I am convinced that women are resolved to do their utmost to prevent war and establish peace, and it is for this reason above all others that I welcome the increased political power which they will receive under the new Franchise Act, though I am very far indeed from belittling the value to the country of their practical knowledge of such questions as Health, Housing, and Education.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman Lord Mayor of York.

Alderman Mrs. Crichton will be Lord Mayor of York in the next municipal year, which begins in November. Mrs. Crichton will be the third woman to hold this office, the first being Miss Mary Colman, of Norwich, who was elected in 1924, and the second, Miss Margaret Beavan, the present Lord Mayor of Liverpool.

Other Women Mayors.

Miss C. Helder, of Whitehaven, and Mrs. Edward Jones, of Wrexham, present Mayors, have consented to take on a further year of office.

Miss Robinson is the Mayor-elect of Christchurch. She was the first woman member of the local Council, and is head mistress of the Priory Church Schools.

Woman Sheriff of Norwich.

Norwich, the first city in the Kingdom to appoint a woman Lord Mayor, has now appointed a woman Sheriff. She is Miss Mabel Clarkson, a member of the Labour Party.

Another Woman J.P.

Mrs. Philip Snowden has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for the County of London.

Woman Foreman of Jury.

Last week, nine men were called to serve on a Jury with three women in the High Court of Justice, and chose one of the women to be their foreman in a case affecting the maintenance of the wife and child of a man killed in a street accident last year.

Women's Success in Open Civil Service Competition.

Miss Procter-Gragg obtained ninth place in the Administrative Group Competition held last August, and is among the eleven candidates who will be appointed this year to posts in the Civil Service. In the examination the competition was very keen, but absolutely equal as between men and women.

Women's Engineering Society's New President.

Lady Moir, O.B.E., has succeeded Mrs. Willson as President of the Women's Engineering Society. During the War, Lady Moir organised week-end relief work, herself working on the week-end shift, and was a successful lathe operator for 18 months.

Women Archers.

Many distinguished women now practise archery, and they have started their own club, with a shooting ground in Knightsbridge, Lady Mellish is the President.

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Miss BARBARA BLISS, September 28, 1928; Councillor KINGSMILE JONES, September 14, 1928; Miss JESSIE STEPHEN, August 17, 1928; Dr. MARION PHILLIPS, August 10, 1928; Mrs. C. D. RACKHAM, J.P., M.A., June 15, 1928; Miss ENID LAPHORN, June 1, 1928; Miss H. M. KEYNES, May 25, 1928; Mrs. HAMILTON, February 17, 1928; Miss F. B. WIDDOWSON, January 6, 1928; Mrs. TOWNSEND, September 16, 1927; Mrs. MASSINGHAM, August 19, 1927; Miss RUBY PART, June 3, 1927; Miss ELEANOR STEWART, May 13, 1927; Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, April 29, 1927; Mrs. PANKHURST, February 25, 1927; Miss MONICA WHALEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDES, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBIVILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NESBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

Mrs. M. Dunn, Q.I.M.

The Woman Engineer reports that Mrs. M. Dunn, of Hull, is the second woman to be elected a member of the Institute of Quarrying.

Woman Lectures at Fuel Conference.

At the recent Fuel Conference held in London, at which representatives from many countries were present, one of those presenting papers was Dr. Margaret Fishenden, who dealt with "A Comparative Study of Solid Fuel, Gas, Electricity, and Oil for Domestic Purposes"

Woman Engineer Inspector of Factories.

Miss Evelyn Roxburgh, a member of the Women's Engineering Society, has been appointed an Inspector of Factories. This is the first occasion on which a trained woman engineer has been appointed in this capacity. Miss Roxburgh had her training at the Heriott-Watt College, Edinburgh, and subsequently worked at various first-class engineering firms.

Child Welfare and the League of Nations.

Mdlle. Chaptal, the founder and head matron of a Nurse's Training College in Paris, has been asked by the Council of the League of Nations to undertake an inquiry into the best means of protecting children against moral dangers. This inquiry will be carried out under the auspices of the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations.

Rhodesia's First Woman Town Councillor.

Mrs. Redrup, who rendered splendid service to the sick and wounded during the Boer War, has been elected a member of the Town Council of Bulawayo.

Woman Member in Danish Upper House.

Mrs. Elisa Petersen, President of the Danish Women's League, has been elected a member of the Landsting, the Upper House of Denmark.

Another Woman in Dutch Parliament.

Mrs. W. Van Itallie van Embden, member of the Board of the National Society of Women Voters in Holland, has succeeded Dr. S. J. L. van Aalten, who died last July, as a member of Parliament.

Woman Head of Department in Austria.

Frau Regierungsrat Margarethe Geyling, an active member of the National Council of Women in Austria, is the first woman to be appointed to the head of a department in the Austrian Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POLICE.

On October 22nd, *Sir Archibald Bodkin, K.C.B.*, Director of Public Prosecutions for the last eight years, said that all indictable offences in England had to be reported to him. He had to decide whether it was his duty to start or take over prosecutions, and had to advise Chief Constables, the police, and others, who asked for help. His was a prosecuting, not an investigating department, but in complicated and technical cases it did help the police by making inquiries, getting expert evidence, and taking statements in difficult cases. His discretion was wide. His position was not that of the Procurator-Fiscal in Scotland, who himself prosecuted. In the Vaquier case he had the murdered man's widow brought up to Scotland Yard and questioned for 11½ hours, from 11 a.m. to 10.30 p.m., with short intervals for lunch and tea, to get a consecutive statement.

Questioning Prisoners.—He had not met a case where a prisoner had been questioned about the crime with which he was charged. He thought questions, after cautioning, were legitimate and fair to the prisoner, to help him with a voluntary statement he might wish to sign, or to go into the question of warrants in other parts of the country, or as to whether he should be proceeded against as an habitual criminal, or to give him a chance of explaining something found out which might make his offence more serious, or about a quite different and grave offence of which he is suspected, but not yet accused. He did not agree with the suggestion of the Chairman and Sir Howard Frank that this was a way of "getting round Lord Brampton's ruling." It was a first-rate procedure from the point of view of the public to arrest a man upon one charge in certain cases, and when they had him safe under lock and key to question him upon another crime of which they suspected him. This had been done in some murder cases. He considered the law was inadequate in the case of serious crimes. The police had no "powers"; they had to persuade. He thought it would be an improvement to hold a preliminary examination before a magistrate to decide whether a charge should be made. He thought this was done in Canada. In Scotland the Procurator-Fiscal could compel witnesses to attend before a magistrate for precognition, and, if obdurate, they might be sent to prison. The Talbot Committee had reported in favour of some means of pressure upon essential potential witnesses. A factory inspector had enormous powers when any little accident occurred, but the police had no powers when it was a case of serious public crime, and the need arose far more often than was suspected.

"3rd Degree."—He had no evidence of this. The present way of taking statements he found satisfactory.

Complaints against the Police.—These should be dealt with by the police and in the Courts. He had to keep the expenses of his Department within the sum voted for it. He dealt with crime forensically, and went into Court to put the case fairly both for the defence and the prosecution, not to prove the police right. It was the duty of the police to detect and prevent crime. He gave personal attention to about 2,300 cases a year, about a third of them being prosecutions.

In reply to Miss Beavan as to the distinction between detention and arrest, he said a suspected person might be asked to come to the station and kept there in a waiting-room, not a cell, treated well, and given a bed and meals. As soon as the evidence was sufficient, he should be charged. There was no statute for this, but it was not illegal. It was a common-sense precaution and had been followed for many years. There was no time limit, but he thought three days was the longest time; the remedy would be an action for wrongful detention, and poor persons' solicitors were numerous.

In reply to a suggestion of Dame Meriel, that as nobody expects to obtain evidence against a maid from her fellow-servants, the same factor might operate

possibly in the case of police investigating police offences. He appeared rather shocked, and did not think they ought to compare a trained and disciplined force, eager and anxious to do its work, with two or three heterogeneous female items of society employed in a house at exorbitant wages to do as little as possible.

October 23rd.—*Lieut.-Col. H. S. Turnbull*, Commissioner of Police for the City of London, said he had a force of 1,161 police; 81 were plain-clothes detectives. **Women Police.**—There were none in his Force. Police matrons attended on female prisoners and searched them, but he very seldom had any women in the cells. There were only 207 cases of women in 1927. The City population at night was only 13,000.

Clubs.—He would like to see the right of inspection of all clubs, or, instead of simple registration, would require a certificate from a licensing magistrate, who could attach any necessary conditions, such as police right of entry. He thought it better for the Metropolitan and City police to remain two separate forces; the City police orders were the embodiment of their own ideas. Their detectives were a separate branch. The City police were a compact body, with good inspection and close supervision. He thought it desirable to organise a police force in small divisions.

Major-General Sir Llewellyn W. Atcherley, C.M.G., C.V.O., H.M. Inspector of Constabulary for the North of England, visited his areas and held inquiries once a year and oftener if needed, advised Chief Constables if any cause, but did not give them directions. Usually his advice was readily taken. If a sufficiently urgent matter was not put right, he could report the Force inefficient to the Home Office, and certificate might be refused and grant stopped. The condition of his Police Force he found now very satisfactory and very much better than it was. The new traffic duty takes police away from their proper duty—the protection of property and public; patrol duty is much decreased. He advocated the increase of street telephone boxes. The Special Constabulary during the War familiarised the public with police duties. "The civil side went in at the front door and out at the back, and saw everything and formed their own idea of the police."

Women Police.—Experienced women should take statements from women. It was not his duty to advise Chief Constables to appoint women police unless he was asked. He insisted on the domestic care of women by women—searching, washing, sleeping, etc.

Major-General Sir Wyndham Childs, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, said that police had no powers whatever in regard to taking statements. Over 99 per cent. of police statements were from witnesses; less than 1 per cent. from accused or suspected persons. A friendly witness wants only help; a hostile witness must have the truth extracted from him by the closest examination and cross-examination.

Women Police were of no use to the C.I.D. in the investigation of crime. They could take statements from young children and were admirable in getting evidence against clairvoyants and fortune tellers who swindled poor women, but they could always be borrowed from the Metropolitan Police. The C.I.D. did use other women, "who not only looked the part, but were the part."

"3rd Degree."—There was no danger of this. A serious case was always remanded for a week, and could tell his wrongs to the prison governor, doctor and chaplain, and appeal to the Home Secretary. The C.I.D. were all taught the Law of Evidence, which bars out extorted statements. Most confessions grow out of a statement that is meant to be a defence. Police duty was a dangerous occupation, especially the arrest of armed men. It was quite possible that complaints against the police might not reach him because a bullying attitude might be accepted as a part of police practice. He believed the code of honour in the C.I.D. was extremely high.

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Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 1928.

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To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Holborn 9301, London."

Telephone: HOLBORN 9301.

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 POLICE.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO WAIT.

It is very difficult to understand the attitude taken up by the National Council of Women in regard to the appointment of women police. The Council, like ourselves and all women's organisations in this country, believe in the urgent need for women police. The Home Secretary is convinced of the usefulness of women police, and has issued various Circulars to local governing authorities, strongly recommending that women police should be employed by them, and these Circulars have been treated with more or less contempt by most of them, and their Chief Constables. Departmental Committees, appointed by the Home Office, have strongly urged the appointment of more women police; and Lord Cushenden, speaking recently at the Assembly of the League of Nations, said that experience had proved the value of the employment of women police, and he was sure that public opinion in England would gladly support an extension of the system and the strengthening of the too small force of women police employed at present. In spite of all this lip-service to their value, and, indeed, to the necessity for women police, there are only fifty policewomen for the whole of London, and of that number only two are allowed to take evidence. There are considerably less than one hundred policewomen in the whole country employed outside London because, and only because, the local governing bodies refuse to appoint them. Year after year goes by, the need for the appointment of women police becomes increasingly clear, and their number remains stationary. Yet the National Council of Women year after year refuses to support the demand that the appointment of women police should be made compulsory by legislation. Under the Municipal Corporations Act, Watch Committees are now compelled to appoint a sufficient number of fit men to be borough constables. What the Women's Freedom League urges is that Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees should be compelled to include among these constables an adequate number of fit women, and that women police should be an integral part of the Police Force. Our delegate, Miss Anna Munro, moved an amendment embodying this demand at the recent annual meeting of the National Council of Women at York, and once again this amendment was overwhelmingly defeated. We can see no other way of securing the appointment of women police throughout the country, and after all the experience of this subject in recent years, we cannot understand how the National Council of Women can see any other way. One of their delegates stated that she did not think it wise to force women police upon reluctant Chief Constables. We wonder why? If public servants cannot get over their reluctance to do what is required of them, they have the opportunity of relinquishing their posts. Lady Selborne described our amendment as a "short cut" to women police all over England, and said she distrusted all these short cuts, adding: "We must not only have law on our side, but public opinion."

Our contention is that we have a great deal of public opinion on our side. What we want is the law to crystallise this public opinion and to compel local governing bodies to act in accordance with it, just as they are compelled to appoint men police and to do a great many other things for the welfare and health of the people in their locality. Lady Frances Balfour, in trying to secure the defeat of our amendment, described men as "simply trembling" because of coming events," continuing: "As we are strong, we must certainly be very merciful. . . . We are not female Mussolinis. . . . In this question it is so obviously the right thing, that we can afford to wait." This was very pleasant badinage; the Council accepted it as such, and agreed to wait. The Women's Freedom League, however, can only see that women police are very urgently needed as an integral part of the Police Force in this country; and we are convinced that the only practical way to get women police appointed is by legislation. With an Act on the Statute Book compelling local authorities to employ women police, the Home Secretary, whoever he might be, would soon secure an increase in the number of women police in the Metropolitan area.

BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

The Borough and Town Council Elections will be held next week, and we take this opportunity of sending our very best wishes for their success to all the women candidates. We are glad to know that some of our Branches are working for the return of women to their local Council. Our Portsmouth Branch is working hard together with the local branch of the National Union of Women Teachers for Mrs. Dorothea M. Barton, an Independent candidate, and we very much hope that their efforts will be crowned with success, as well as the efforts of those who are so strenuously working for the return of Dr. Constance Beach, Miss Beaumont, Lady Horsley, Mrs. Houston, and Lady Maurice, who are Independent candidates in North Kensington. Women are so urgently needed on all Borough Councils that no reader of THE VOTE should lose the opportunity of working for a woman when she has the opportunity of doing so. We note with great satisfaction that we are to have another woman Lord Mayor for the coming year—Mrs. Crichton, of York, and we look forward to the number of women Mayors being increased.

The questions which the Women's Freedom League is putting to candidates in these elections are the following:—

Will you, if elected,

- (1) Urge the appointment of women police with the same powers and status as men police, and, whenever there are women on your Council, the appointment of women to the Watch Committee?
- (2) Oppose the compulsory retirement on their marriage of women employed by the Council?
- (3) Support the opening of all posts under the Council to men and women on equal terms?
- (4) Support the inclusion of women in the provisions of any scheme of training or relief devised by your Council for the unemployed?

CARMARTHENSHIRE SETS THE PACE!

A list of magistrates for Carmarthenshire received from the Lord Chancellor last week is entirely composed of women. Until now the county has had only one woman magistrate, Lady Howard Stepney, of Llanelly. The Commission of the Peace now add six, three of whom are Conservatives, two Liberals, and one Labour. The list is as follows: Miss Annie Oldham Martin Brodie (Llanelly), Miss Agnita Annie Justina Stepney Gulston, M.B.E. (Derwydd), Mrs. Sarah Herbert (Ammanford), Mrs. Frances Mary Lewis (Llandovery), Mrs. Elizabeth Price (Berryporth), and Miss Annie Jones (Llandovery). As long as women Magistrates are in such an extreme minority this example should be widely followed.

RUSSIA IN 1928.

On Wednesday, October 17, at a meeting at the Minerva Club presided over by Miss Marian Reeves, Mrs. E. D. Mayne gave a delightful address on her impressions of a recent visit to Russia. She stressed the point that all her remarks would apply to Russia in 1928, for there were many and quick changes in Russia, and much that could be said about Russia in 1925, would not be true of that country in the present year. A few months ago Mrs. Mayne and a woman friend decided to pay an unofficial visit to Russia, unconnected with any party or society, just to see some of the things which were happening there, and Mrs. Mayne proposed to give an account of what she saw, the good and the bad, from an impartial point of view. The speaker reminded her hearers that the subject of Russia aroused the keenest emotions among people outside it, and there was a great deal of propaganda both for and against present-day Russia. Its Revolution had out-classed the French Revolution of 140 years ago; its class war was infinitely more intense, and it supplied the unique experiment of a Communist Government. Under the Communist system the Government had taken on the job of the clothing, feeding, and housing of the people, conducted all its trade and commerce, provided all its transport, as well as its amusements, theatres—indeed, everything connected with the life of the people—in addition to the ordinary services rendered by the Government and municipalities in a capitalist country, such as the education of children, public health, the preservation of order, etc., etc. The Soviet Government had taken on an overwhelmingly big job, and Mrs. Mayne and her friend wanted to see how it was being done. They travelled for five days in a Russian cargo boat of 2,700 tons, under the Russian flag. Were Communist principles put into practice on that boat? Surprised by a question put by Mrs. Mayne, the captain emphatically gave her to understand that one person only gave orders on that boat, and he was that person. Did the captain, the mate and members of the crew all take their meals together? Well, why not? Yes, it may perhaps be a little difficult sometimes, but in the course of a generation there would be no difficulty.

The two women travelled over 3,500 miles in Russia. The trains were comfortable, there being two classes—Hard and Soft—a distinction? It was conceded that some people needed an extra cushion, or a little more comfort than others. The trains were few and slow, and every passenger had his or her allotted place. There was no overcrowding, and if there was no place vacant, an extra passenger must wait for the next train, which might mean a delay of some days. The people of Russia were extremely sociable and charmingly generous—they were always willing to share with fellow passengers their provisions on the journey. Restaurants on trains were very rare, but food and plenty of water, cold and boiling, could be obtained at wayside stations. Every Russian wanted to know what his fellow passenger's work was, and all about his or her trade-union.

Mrs. Mayne pointed out that Russia had its special problems—it occupied one-sixth of the whole area of this world; it had 140 millions of people, one hundred nationalities and one hundred different languages spoken by its people, only 13% of whom lived in towns. There were three big Republics in Russia itself, and 22 little autonomies and further Republics. Russians in the bulk were not Communists, the vast majority of them belonged to no party. There were indeed only 600,000 members of the Communist Party. To belong to it one first of all had to join a local organisation; two years' probation was necessary, as well as a thorough knowledge of and zeal for Marxian and similar doctrines. The probationer was subjected to strict discipline, a member of the Communist Party not being allowed to drink, smoke, play cards or gamble, or be lax in sexual relations. Before membership was granted, five Communists must stand in support of the applicant. The Communist Party was the driving force of Russia and the creator of the Soviets. On the Russian cargo boat

there was only one Communist, and he was the ship's doctor. In Russia, divorce was easy and cheap, but the fathers were equally responsible for the children with the mothers.

Mrs. Mayne described the big hotels in Leningrad as being in a dilapidated state, and the streets of pointed cobbles in a horribly neglected condition. Private enterprise was practically barred, and all food and clothing had to be purchased from the Co-operative stores. The Government was also responsible for the publication of books, and these could be purchased at a low price at the many bookstalls. The dress of the people was decidedly working-class. There was no particular fashion, the quality of the material was poor; there were no silk stockings, and very few hats of any description. There were beautiful flower shops—working people wanted flowers, especially for holidays. Religion was no longer banned, and the printed notice, "Religion is a Narcotic for the People," had been removed from public places. Vodka was no longer prohibited, and at the present time an enormous amount of drunkenness could be seen in the streets of Leningrad. The Communists were keen on Education, and particularly enthusiastic about science of all kinds. They are aiming at establishing schools in every village, and that is a stupendous task. The children of the workers have the first chance to attend the Universities; the children of the professors and any members of the bourgeois class are only considered after all applications from workers. The standard of comfort in the Universities is very low. Medical attendance is free for all the people. If anyone is ill, that person is taken to hospital where specialists are available. The nurses have two years' training and are apparently well trained. The club, rather than the home, is the unit of the State—there are children's clubs and clubs for every kind of worker. There are very few games practised in Russia, but the authorities are keen on physical culture for the people. Each club and every institution had a Wall Newspaper—a sheet attached to the wall on which members expressed their sentiments on things in general and people in particular.

Mrs. Mayne gave a fascinating description of Moscow, that wonderful city, with its 400 churches and their glittering domes, its squares and Opera House, which was filled with working people. What had become of the middle classes and the aristocrats? Those who had been able to escape had done so: the others were not allowed to leave and eked out a miserable existence, alternating inside and outside of prison, a veritable living death.

The speaker referred to the wild troupe of Russian children at Kiev, where there had been twelve different Governments between 1914 and 1922, each overthrowing the former by force of arms. The children, without homes or relatives, had run wild, the boys-going about in gangs of ten or 14, a danger and pest in the neighbourhood. Mrs. Mayne said that in Russia at the present time the workers were the top dogs. There was a devastating espionage system directed against all who were not workers; but if anyone was a worker, he or she could do most of what they liked. She found that English people were regarded in a friendly way by the ordinary Russian, and she herself could not hate any people *en masse*, especially after her experience of their generosity and open-handedness, their hospitality and kindness. The Government in Russia was on an entirely different basis from our own.

WOMAN M.P. SILENCES OPPOSITION.

Mrs. Parker, one of the members for Derry in the Northern Ireland House of Commons, during a debate on the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, silenced the Nationalist protest against the continuation of the Local Government (Emergency Powers) Act, and caused the Amendment removing this Act from the scope of the Bill, to be defeated by 23 votes to 8.

CONFERENCE OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF WOMEN MINISTERS.

The Fellowship of Women Ministers held their annual meetings at Oxford, on October 16th and 17th, at the Church of the Chairman of the Fellowship, the Rev. Constance Coltman. There were fourteen ministers present and two women theological students. They came from all over England, one from Scotland and one from Wales, and represented the three denominations which actually have women ministers fully recognised by their churches. There are only twenty women ministers in England, Scotland and Wales. For all it is a lonely career, and the meetings brought to each of us a new sense of strength in our union with each other.

There was a public service at the opening of the meetings, and a public meeting for women in the evening at Somerville College Hall, at which four denominations were represented, the Anglican, the Congregationalists, the Baptist and the Unitarian.

On the following day the meetings were confined to members of the Fellowship. At the business meeting in the morning it was decided to hold the next annual meeting in London, at All Souls, Golders Green, early in April. Here also there will be a public meeting and a public service.

It was agreed that this meeting at Oxford was the third Conference, the first, out of which this society has arisen, having been held by the Union of Women Voters in 1926.

In the afternoon some of the problems of the ministry were discussed, under the leadership of the Rev. Edith Pickles, who is the minister of a large church in Liverpool. She said that she believed that a woman must preach a virile gospel, capable of meeting the spiritual needs of both men and women, and must not try to appeal only or very specially to women. A woman

minister had a duty to the men as well as the women of the congregation.

The problem of the married woman minister was discussed, four of the members being married, two with very young children. All the married women agreed that the experience of marriage and motherhood had proved a great enrichment to their ministry.

Some of the members had done new and interesting work. The Rev. Margaret Hardy, for instance, is starting a nursery school in her church at Leeds for the children of mothers who were compelled to go out to work. The church is in a poor district where this sort of social work is urgently needed. Admission to the school is not confined to members of the church, but is for any in the neighbourhood who need it. I have not heard of such a work being done before by any minister in his or her church, though it may have been done. It seems, however, a work particularly suitable to women to originate.

The officers for next year will be—Chairman: the Rev. Constance Coltman, B.D. Secretary: the Rev. Joyce Daplyn, B.A., 30, Pattison Road, Child's Hill, London, N.W.2. J. D.

FRAU MARIE STRITT.

We regret to record the death of Frau Marie Stritt, one of the foremost feminists in Germany. From 1890 she has actively worked for the emancipation of the women in her country, and from 1913 to 1920 was a member of the Board of the International Suffrage Alliance. When the women of Germany were enfranchised Frau Stritt was nominated as a candidate for the National Assembly on the East Saxon Democratic Ticket, but failed to secure election. She was a member of the Dresden City Council and a busy journalist.

VICTORY GREEN WHITE AND GOLD FAIR

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, November 7th, at 8.15 p.m. Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Mr. Laurence Housman on "Suffrage Memories." Chairman: Mrs. Zangwill.

Friday, November 9th, at 3 p.m. "At Home" at "Craigieburn," Ballard's Lane, Finchley, N. (by kind invitation of Mrs. Marriott). Speakers: Mrs. Bigland on "Women at Work in the League of Nations," and Miss F. A. Underwood on "The Work of The Women's Freedom League."

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 13th and 14th. Green White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. each day.

Saturday, December 1st, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

Friday, October 26th, at 3 p.m. Ashford Branch. A meeting will be held at the Hempsted Street Hall. Mrs. Price will speak on "Free Trade and the cost of living to the Housewife."

Wednesday, November 7th, at 3.30 p.m. Bexhill. Whist Drive. Albany Hotel, Sea Road.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, November 2nd, at 7.30 p.m. Glasgow Branch. Franchise Victory Celebration, at "The Rhul," 123, Sauchiehall Street. Speaker: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. Chairman: Miss Eunice Murray. Tea and Music.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, October 27th, at 3 p.m. Saturday Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 55, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That the Principle of Equal Pay is Beneficial to Both Sexes." Proposer: Miss Marian Reeves.

Monday, October 29th, at 6 p.m. Union of Women Voters. A lecture on "The Ministry of Women," will be given at 55, Chancery Lane. All interested are cordially invited. Questions and Discussion.

Tuesday, October 30th, at 2.30 p.m. Meeting on Maternal Mortality, at the Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1. Speakers: Mr. Neville Chamberlain, M.P., (Minister of Health), Dr. Fleming and others. Chairman: Lady Galway.

Tuesday, October 30th, at 5 p.m. The Six Point Group. Meeting at 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Miss Vera Brittain on "Feminism at Geneva." Chair: Mrs. Gram-Swing (American National Woman's Party). Admission free.

Wednesday, October 31st, at 3 p.m. Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women. Public Meeting on Oversea Settlement for Women, in the Great Hall, Church House, Westminster. Speakers: The Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery, M.P., W. Mackinder, Esq., M.P., Lady Galway.

Monday, November 5th, at 6 p.m. St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Meeting at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, W., on Education—"Equalities still to be Won." Speaker: Miss Froud (National Union of Women Teachers). Chairman: Mrs. Smiley, M.A.

Thursday, November 8th, 11 a.m.—6 p.m. British-American Women's Crusade. Conference on the Kellogg Pact and After, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, Mrs. H. M. Swanwick and Mr. W. Arnold Foster. Chairman: Lady Acland.

Thursday, November 8th, at 8 p.m. Guild of Girl Citizens. Public Meeting at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1, dealing with "The Responsibility of the New Voter." Speakers: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and Miss Ida Samuel. Chairman: Miss Helen Ward. Tickets 6d.

CONGRATULATIONS ON EQUAL FRANCHISE VICTORY.

Women in South Africa are still disfranchised, but the Editor of the *International Woman Suffrage News*, the organ of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated, has received the following letter from the Port Elizabeth Women's Enfranchisement League:—

Dear Madam,—At the last quarterly meeting of the Port Elizabeth Women's Enfranchisement League a vote of congratulation to the Societies for the Enfranchisement of the Women of England on the occasion of their attainment of Equal Franchise for Women was passed unanimously. I have much pleasure in forwarding this expression of our sincere congratulations and cordial sympathy with our English sisters in their great victory.

Yours fraternally,

ANNIE L. P. DORMAN,
(Hon. Sec., Port Elizabeth Women's Enfranchisement League.)

BRANCH NOTES.

MID-LONDON. A very successful Branch Meeting was held at 144, High Holborn, on Tuesday, October 16th, when it was unanimously decided that the Branch should again undertake the Stationery Stall at the Green White and Gold Fair. All members will be welcomed at this Stall any time either of both days. It is YOUR Stall—then please come and help us.

It was also decided that future Branch Meetings should be made more attractive, and, in consequence, a suggestion was made as to whether it would be possible (in view of the coming General Election, and with the thought that it might be helpful to young or new members, and of interest to the more experienced) to get a really good speaker representing the Conservative, Labour and Liberal parties respectively, to come and speak to members of the Women's Freedom League and their friends on these respective parties—the policy, and perhaps a reference to the past history and records of each. This suggestion was carried unanimously. It was therefore decided to take the Liberal party first, and that, if a good speaker could be obtained, the first Lecture should take place the first week in December. All members are urged to make these lectures known. The exact dates will be announced later. Watch THE VOTE.

May I also remind members that contributions for the Stationery Stall should be sent in as early as possible, in order to make the work easier for those responsible. (Hon. Sec.) G. FLOWERS. **BRADFORD.**

We had a very interesting, if not particularly large, meeting in the Church Hall last night. Unfortunately we chose an evening during the Council elections, and as three of our members are standing, and many others are busy helping them, our audience only about half filled the hall, which was disappointing. Councillor Miss Margaret Law, who is herself putting up for re-election, presided, and Mrs. Bigland and Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., were the speakers.

Mrs. Bigland, who has recently returned from Geneva, gave a most enlightening address on "The International Traffic in Women and Children," as investigated by the League of Nations, stressing somewhat the hopeful fact that most Governments seem now to be giving serious attention to the solving of this world-wide problem.

After Mrs. Eugene Ramsden had proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Bigland, who had to leave early, Mrs. Schofield Coates spoke of the iniquitous practice still prevailing under some authorities, whereby a woman teacher or doctor has to choose between marriage and her profession. She showed that matrimony and motherhood in no way led to inefficiency, and disputed the truth of the general impression that when a woman takes a husband, she automatically develops a liking for, and ability effectively to perform, housework!

Votes of thanks to Mrs. Schofield Coates and Miss Law were proposed by Mrs. Hartley and seconded by Mrs. Norton. LILIAN LENTON.

SWANSEA'S EQUAL FRANCHISE VICTORY CELEBRATIONS.

Last week Swansea Suffragists celebrated the Equal Franchise Victory by a reception given by the Mayor and Mayoress at the Baltic Lounge one evening, followed by a dinner two evenings later. The local Press tells us that "the most arresting personalities present at the Reception were those ardent feminists Miss C. Neal, Mrs. Coombe Tennant, J.P., Mrs. Cleaves, and the Misses S. and M. Kirkland, who have done so much in the cause of woman suffrage." Speeches were made by Mr. David Williams, M.P., Miss Neal and Mrs. Coombe Tennant, the last named reminding her audience:—"We have a long way to go before we get equal citizenship, which is a very different thing from equal voting rights."

At the Dinner, which we are told lasted until midnight, the chief guests were Miss Muriel Matters, Miss Emily Phipps, and Mrs. Flora Drummond. Each of these gave her own characteristic reminiscences. Miss Neal proposed the toast to "The Men Who Have Helped Us." Mrs. Rowland Williams "The Pioneers of the Women's Movement," Miss M. Kirkland "The Pioneers in Swansea," which was replied to by Miss Dillwyn and Mrs. Cleaves. The former said that she became a Suffragette because of her sense of personal injustice. After her father's death she became herself Dillwyn and Company, and signed weekly cheques for 300 men in the Spelter Works. They had a vote, but she had not!

The evening ended with the singing of the Welsh and English National Anthems. Beautiful bouquets of flowers were presented to Miss Matters by The Women's Freedom League, to Miss Phipps by the National Union of Women Teachers, and to Mrs. Drummond by the Guild of Empire.

EQUAL FRANCHISE IS WON!—CELEBRATE THE VICTORY!

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, October 28th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Canon B. H. Streeter, D.D. 6.30. Rev. R. J. Campbell, M.A., D.D.

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