

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXX. No. 1,047. (Registered at the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1929

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

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WHERE WOMEN ARE NEEDED.

LADY CYNTHIA MOSLEY, M.P.

Lady Cynthia Mosley, who at the General Election won Stoke-on-Trent for Labour by a majority of 7,850 votes, is the second daughter of the late Marquis Curzon of Kedleston and heiress to the peerage now held by her sister, Baroness Ravensdale.

Born in 1898, although one of the younger women Members of Parliament, Lady Cynthia has had unusually wide political experience. For many years before her age entitled her to a vote, she took a keen interest in politics and in sociology. In 1920, she married Sir Oswald Mosley, M.P., who at that time was representing the Harrow Division of Middlesex as a Conservative Unionist. When in 1922 he broke his allegiance with his party over the Irish question and became an Independent, Lady Cynthia was in entire agreement with the step he had taken. Later both husband and wife joined the Labour Party, and in 1926, Sir Oswald Mosley was returned as Labour Member for Smethwick.

Although to the general public Lady Cynthia is one of the least known of our women Members — she avoids the publicity of the Press — within her own political party she is regarded as a sincere and earnest worker who spares herself no effort to get a closer knowledge of the conditions under which the mass of the workers live their lives. The mother of two children, Nicholas and Vivien, she realises the needs of the young, and by the energy she has thrown into the Labour movement has shown that she understands the hardships of working women.

In her maiden speech in the House of Commons on the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Pensions Bill, Lady Cynthia Mosley declared herself wholeheartedly in favour of the Bill, as she regarded it as a definite step towards the abolition of poverty and want. She described the measure as "a considerable effort to meet one of our social obligations," and approved its endeavour "to get away from that vicious circle that the poor always pay for the poor." She would have liked to have seen all widows included, but as this was impracticable, hoped that the Minister would include certain categories of particular hardship not within the limits of the present Bill.

Lady Cynthia deplored the terrible state of poverty and destitution which at present exists, and pointed out the futility of production if the wages of the consumers are continually being reduced. She expressed impatience with the criticism that the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Pensions Bill would make the working classes less self-reliant, and declared that it passed her comprehension why "a working man or a working woman should be deemed a better citizen if all their lives they are poor, insecure, harassed, and always producing a

great deal more than they ever have a chance of consuming, while the criterion of good citizenship for the so-called upper classes is exactly the opposite, namely, absolute security, producing nothing and consuming a very great deal."

Lady Cynthia Mosley is an excellent speaker, and is never at a loss to turn the tables on her opponents.



LADY CYNTHIA MOSLEY, M.P.

Those who opposed the Bill on the grounds of "demoralisation" were ingeniously rebuked when she declared that if demoralisation resulted from getting something for nothing, she and many members of the

Opposition stood condemned. For herself she stoutly denied being demoralised; Members opposite, she said, did not look physically demoralised, but as to their mental and spiritual condition, that was beyond her to determine.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Congratulations to Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., who has served ten years on the Middlesbrough Health Insurance Committee, has just been re-appointed in the re-organisation of the Committee, consequent on the recent legislation affecting Insurance Committees. She will represent deposit contributors on the new Committee.

Five Men—Two Women.

Five men and two women—Mrs. Herbert Simpson and Miss Ashley—have recently been appointed magistrates to the Leicester City Bench.

Woman President Pro tem.

According to *Equal Rights*, Margie E. Neal, first and only woman member of the Texas Senate, was recently elected President pro tem. of the Texas Senate. If Governor Dan Moody and Lieutenant-Governor Barry Miller should both leave the State at the same time, Senator Neal would be Acting-Governor.

ANOTHER COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Philip Snowden) stated in the House of Commons that a Committee had been appointed "to inquire into banking, finance, and credit, paying regard to the factors, both internal and international, which govern their operation, and to make recommendations calculated to enable these agencies to promote the development of trade and commerce and the employment of labour." The chairman of this Committee is the Rt. Hon. H. P. Macmillan, K.C., the Committee consisting of thirteen other members—all men.

PRESBYTERY OF BELFAST AGAINST WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY.

Last week the Presbytery of Belfast considered an overture sent down by the last Assembly, dealing with the eligibility of women for the office of the ministry on the same conditions as men. On a vote being taken, the Presbytery disapproved of the overture by 41 votes to 29.

The following notice of motion was given by Principal Paul:—"That the Presbytery would welcome an arrangement whereby the services of properly-equipped women could be utilised more fully than at present in our congregations."

WOMEN'S VOTING RIGHTS IN THE CITY.

The Law Officers of the City Corporation have decided that women are not qualified in virtue of their husband's occupancy of City premises to vote at Common Council elections. The Ward Clerks were not in agreement on the subject, and applied for a ruling from Guildhall.

IRISHRY IN SONG AND VERSE.

RECITAL

BY

FLORENCE MARKS

(Late of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin)

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 27th,

in the

ART WORKERS' GUILD HALL,

6, QUEEN SQUARE, BLOOMSBURY, W.C.1

AT 8.30 P.M.

A varied programme will include Irish Ballads and Folk Songs, Skits and Absurdities, Verse, serious and humorous, &c.

TICKETS 2/6, at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, or at Robert & John's Tea Shop, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.2.

WOMEN MAYORS.

The election of lord mayors and mayors took place throughout England and Wales last Saturday. The following Councils elected women. An asterisk denotes re-election:—

CHELSEA.—Lady Phipps, who has been a member of the Council since 1914. Her mother, Dame Wilton Phipps, is a member of the London County Council.

HEREFORD.—Mrs. Ward, who is the only woman member of this Council.

HIGHAM FERRERS.—Mrs. F. J. Simpson.

MANSFIELD.—Alderman Mrs. E. E. Wainwright.

SANDWICH.—Mrs. Andrews Uthwatt.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.—Miss Annie Justins.

THEFFORD.—Mrs. L. E. Bidwell.

TYNEMOUTH.—Dame Maud Burnett.

WARWICK.—Lady Warwick.

WALFORD.—Mrs. A. F. Broad.

WELSHPOOL.—Mrs. J. H. Davies.

WREXHAM.—Mrs. E. Edwards-Jones. This is the third time in succession that Mrs. Edwards-Jones has been elected Mayor of Wrexham.

In Memoriam.

A SUNSHINE SOUL.

This year we miss from the Green, White and Gold Fair—our annual reunion when members from all parts meet again—the vivid personality of our old and generous comrade, Mrs. Bell Lloyd, wife of Mr. B. G. Lloyd, of "Ariston," The Drive, Tonbridge. For very many years Mrs. Lloyd had come regularly to our gatherings, always bringing gifts to the Birthday Party and providing entirely herself a stall of beautiful and interesting foreign articles and antiques at the "Fair," and presiding over it with her friends. To the furnishing of this stall she gave months of energetic, painstaking preparation. Last November she was with us as usual. In February she and her husband went out to South Africa, but she arrived at Cape Town very ill with heart trouble, and after three weeks in hospital there had to return to England with a nurse; after a period of improvement the illness developed and she died, aged sixty-two, absolutely peacefully, without pain or fear.

Mrs. Lloyd had travelled extensively and was keenly interested in everything. She was exceedingly kind and cheery, and made friends wherever she went; hers was essentially a friendly nature, and for her the barriers which isolate most of us from our kind did not exist. Though only comparatively a new Tonbridge resident, her death has left a great blank in the various societies, etc., in the town, and in her own Women's Freedom League we grieve to be without her smiling face and kindly greeting. As an enthusiastic suffragist her presence always radiated courage and hope in the darkest times, and her perfect sincerity and passion for justice are a fragrant memory.

Book this Date!

Friday, November 29th, at 7.30.

SOCIAL EVENING

AT

KINGSWAY HALL.

Speakers: MRS. MARY HAMILTON, M.P.,
MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE,
and others.

Chair: Miss LILIAN PIEROTTI.

Songs by Miss Edith Pigott, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.,
Miss Miriam Prelooker.

Recitations by Mrs. Evelyn Gatland (Gold Medallist).

Tickets 2/-, including Refreshments, from the Hon. Sec. Mid-London Branch, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Mui Tsai System (Hong Kong and Malaya).

MR. GRAHAM-WHITE (Lib., Birkenhead, E.) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention has been drawn to the continued sale of mui tsai in Hong Kong; and if he can now make a statement as to the policy of the Government with regard to the mui tsai system?

SIR GERVAIS RENTOUL (U., Lowestoft) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies when the White Paper, showing what action has been taken by the Government of Hong Kong to deal with the problems of mui tsai, will be published; and what is the estimated number of Chinese mui tsai now resident in British territory?

MR. LUNN: The correspondence which my noble Friend undertook to lay before Parliament is being published to-day as a Command Paper, and will be obtainable in the Vote Office this evening. It will make clear to hon. Members the additional measures which are to be taken in hand by the Governor of Hong Kong to abolish the mui tsai system. As regards the number of mui tsai in the Colony, it will be seen from the Governor's despatch of the 16th of May, published in the Command Paper, that it is not, in his opinion, possible to give an exact or even an approximate figure; but he states that he has been very definitely assured by the leaders of the Chinese community that the number is not increasing, but is diminishing. It is fair to assume that, with the new measures to be introduced, a figure will be forthcoming. The provision of wages is one of these measures.

COL. WEDGWOOD (Lab., Newcastle-under-Lyme): Have we not previously had the assurance of the Governor of Hong Kong that he would put a stop to mui tsai; and what guarantee have we that the measures at present proposed are likely to be more efficacious than those proposed in the past? MR. LUNN: I would refer my right hon. and gallant Friend to the Command Paper which will be furnished this afternoon, and which will give him full particulars of everything that has been done in the past. As to the future, I would leave it to be answered for, but in my judgment this system ought to be abolished.

COL. WEDGWOOD: I am sorry to be persistent in this matter. Are the proposals now brought forward the proposals of the Colonial Office here, or are they proposals of the Governor of Hong Kong, who has failed in the past? MR. LUNN: The proposals are from both sources, and I might say that the Governor was, yesterday, meeting the District Watch Committee in order to see how far it was possible to make regulations to carry them out.

MR. ORMSBY-GORE (U., Stafford): Do these measures include the problem of fresh mui tsai coming in from Canton; and is it proposed to make representations to the Cantonese authorities? MR. LUNN: With regard to the regulations to carry out the business of abolishing the system, I think I must have notice.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL CLIFTON BROWN (U., Hexham): Is it not a fact that in Canton they have stopped this system by means of registration of all these girls, and why not do the same in Hong Kong?

MR. WHITE asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he has any information concerning the existence of the mui tsai system in any British dependency other than Hong Kong? MR. LUNN: As far as I know, Malaya is the only other British dependency in which the employment of girls known as mui tsai exists among the Chinese community. Their employment is regulated by law which, amongst other things, forbids their employment under the age of ten years, requires the payment of wages, and leaves them free to leave their employers at will. My noble Friend and I wish, however, to be thoroughly satisfied that the system that exists in Malaya involves nothing in the nature of slavery, and inquiries of the Governor and High Commissioner are being made.

Hong Kong (Slave Trade).

MR. CECIL WILSON (Lab., Attercliffe) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received any information upon the reported discovery of a gang of slave traders in Hong Kong, whose operations extended into China for securing the children in order to sell them in the British colony of Hong Kong? MR. LUNN: I have seen a Press account of this incident, and the Governor of Hong Kong has been requested to furnish a report by mail, which my noble Friend hopes to receive this month. I will then ask my hon. Friend to repeat his question.

Hong Kong (Child Labour).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, seeing that a Bill has been introduced into the Legislative Council of Hong Kong for the registration of mui tsai, he is prepared to give an assurance to Parliament that steps will be taken, either under the proposed Bill for the abolition of the system or otherwise, that no mui tsai shall in future be transferred to the brothels of Hong Kong? MR. LUNN: The noble Lady's attention is invited to Section 8 of the Female Domestic Service Ordinance, 1923, which is reproduced on page 20 of the Command Paper presented to Parliament. It is a very serious offence under the Women and Girls' Protection Ordinance in Hong Kong for a person to dispose of any girl, whether a mui tsai or not, for the purpose of prostitution.

Prostitution (Malaya).

MR. ORMSBY-GORE asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what action has been taken by the Government of the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States to give effect to the recommendations of Lord Balfour of Burleigh's Committee on problems connected with the laws affecting prostitution in Malaya? MR. LUNN: The Governor has informed my noble Friend that the Committee's conclusions represent broadly the policy already adopted by the Colonial Government, and that the question of enacting legislation for the suppression of "sly" brothels is under consideration.

Prison (Women's Dress).

MR. GRANVILLE (Lib., Eye) asked the Home Secretary if he is prepared to consider the reform of the dress worn by women prisoners in His Majesty's prisons from the present coarse regulation uniform to a standard of health and comfort? MR. CLYNES: This question has been considered by a small committee of women, who were appointed to advise the Prison Commissioners; and the recommendations of this Committee are being put into effect as quickly as possible. There were, in consequence of the decline in the number of women prisoners of recent years, considerable stocks of clothing of the old type, and these stocks had to be used up before new issues could be made, but it is hoped that most of the women's prisons will be re-equipped during the coming year.

Married Women Teachers.

MR. BEAUMONT (U., Aylesbury) asked the President of the Board of Education how many local authorities have regulations limiting or forbidding the employment of married women teachers; how many married women teachers are employed in elementary schools; and what proportion this is of the whole number of women teachers employed? SIR CHARLES TREVELYAN: I am afraid that I have no statistics showing how many of the local education authorities have regulations limiting or forbidding the employment of married women teachers. The total number of pensionable married women teachers, other than widows, in public elementary schools and centres, on the 31st March, 1929, was 11,963 out of the total of 116,777 women teachers employed, or a proportion of 10.25 per cent.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, 1929.

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To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders,
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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 AMBASSADORS AND CONSULS?

Important questions were asked in the House of Commons last week in regard to the Diplomatic Service. The first was by MR. WISE (Lab., Leicester, E.), who asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the terms of reference of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service are intended to enable the Commission to deal with the question of the admission of women to the Diplomatic and Consular Services on the same terms as men. MR. SNOWDEN's reply was: "The terms of reference to the Royal Commission are, in my view, wide enough to enable it to deal with this, amongst other questions of organisation, recruitment, and remuneration in the Civil Service."

The next question of importance on this subject was that by MR. OLIVER BALDWIN (Lab., Dudley), who asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, owing to the increasingly democratic nature of foreign Governments, he will consider the advisability of making alterations in the method of selecting candidates for the Diplomatic Service? MR. DALTON's reply was: "Admission to the Foreign Office and Diplomatic Service, which together form a combined service, is by competitive examination amongst candidates who have previously appeared before a Board of Selection, whose function it is to decide which candidates possess suitable qualifications. This Board generally consists of the First Civil Service Commissioner, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Members of the House of Commons from both sides of the House, one other person of business experience or reputed unconnected with the public service, and two members of the Foreign Office and Diplomatic Service. The examination is held concurrently with the examination for the Administrative Class of the Home Civil Service, Indian Civil Service, Eastern Cadetships, and the Colonial Services, and covers the same subjects, the only difference being that certain modern languages are obligatory, and a high standard in French is required in the case of candidates for the Foreign Office and Diplomatic Service. The possession of a private income or allowance, which was formerly a necessary qualification for the Diplomatic Service, was abolished in 1919 in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission of 1914 on the Civil Service. No proposals for altering these arrangements are at present under consideration."

The third question was put by MR. MILLS (Lab., Dartford), who asked the Secretary to the Overseas Trade Department whether his attention had been drawn to the growing need of efficient Consular representation abroad; and whether the present rules provide for regular bulletins of commercial and industrial movements. MR. GILLET replied:—"As regards the first part of the question, I have been giving the matter close and careful consideration; the Service is distributed in order to further British interests abroad to the greatest advantage; new posts are created when need arises, while unnecessary posts are closed down. As regards the second part of the question, Consular Officers have standing instructions to furnish reports on commercial and industrial movements without delay."

The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, which was

passed into law on December 23rd, 1919, in Clause I states that "A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to or holding any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming, or carrying on any civil profession or vocation . . ."

"Provided that: (a) Notwithstanding anything in this section, His Majesty may by Order in Council authorise regulations to be made providing for and prescribing the mode of the admission of women to the Civil Service of His Majesty, and the conditions on which women admitted to that Service may be appointed to or continue to hold posts therein, and giving power to reserve to men any branch of or posts in the Civil Service in any of His Majesty's possessions overseas, or in any foreign country."

By an Order in Council, dated 22nd July, 1920, *All posts in the Diplomatic Service and in the Consular Service, in the Government Services of the Colonies and Protectorates, in the Civil Services of His Majesty in India, and in the Commercial Diplomatic Service and the Trade Commission, are reserved to men.*

It is high time that this Order in Council was withdrawn and the Proviso (a) attached to Clause I of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act repealed. We fully agree with Mr. Oliver Baldwin that this country's Foreign Office, Diplomatic and Consular Service should be brought into line with the increasingly democratic nature of foreign Governments, many of whom, among them being the United States of America, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Russia, employ women in their Diplomatic and Consular Services. No one can deny that there are women fresh from our Universities who would acquit themselves very creditably before the Board of Selection described by Mr. Dalton and in the competitive examination to which he referred. Why should this country continue to waste so many good brains by shutting women out from work in international affairs, in which a great number of them could and would render conspicuous service? In the Consular Service, too, some women would be eminently fitted to further British interests abroad to the greatest advantage, and would certainly render efficient service. We are glad to note that this matter will be considered by the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, although we confess that a Government, in which one woman is a Minister of the Crown and another woman a Parliamentary Secretary, ought to have been able to take a commonsense view of this question and to have decided, without the aid of this Royal Commission, to throw open all posts in the Foreign Office, the Diplomatic, Consular, and other Services, to women on the same terms as men.

MARRIED WOMEN DOCTORS.

We greatly regret that Birmingham's largest hospital, the General, has banned married women doctors. In future no married women doctors will be appointed to the staff, and unmarried women doctors working in the hospital will be required to resign as soon as they marry. This decision arose over the application of a married woman doctor on the staff for four months' special leave of absence, "for domestic reasons," and the governors are said to have felt that the dislocation of hospital services following the occasional temporary retirement of married women doctors for "domestic reasons" was extremely undesirable. We submit that if a man doctor had asked for four months' leave of absence "for health reasons," he would have been granted it without any further fuss. He would, if requested, have done all that was necessary to have his place filled competently during his absence; and a married medical woman would certainly have arranged that no dislocation of hospital services occurred through her temporary absence. This ban on married women is not only a serious interference with the private affairs of an individual. Besides being definitely anti-social, it is a distinct waste to the community of the very valuable services of qualified, skilled women.

"WOMEN IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS."

THE HOME COUNTRY LAGS BEHIND.

Last week, at the Minerva Club, Mrs. Archdale gave a most interesting address on the position of women in this country in respect to gaining admission to the House of Lords. Her address was preceded by a bright little speech from the chair, in which Mrs. Dore outlined the humble part women had so far played as listeners in that illustrious House. She hoped that, with the example of Canada before us, before long it would not be a case of "Women and the House of Lords," but "Women in the House of Lords."

Mrs. Archdale opened her address by saying that when, on the death of Lord Rhondda, Lady Rhondda succeeded to his Viscounty, she seized the opportunity to claim, with the peerage, her place in the House of Peers. There appeared to be no barrier, and at the first hearing the Committee of Privileges declared in her favour. Due to the instigation of Lord Birkenhead the case was re-heard, and the decision was given against. It was a sad defeat, as it meant that nothing short of an Act of Parliament could override the decision of that Committee.

A Committee, consisting of peeresses only, had been formed to deal with the situation, and this had since been followed by the Woman Peers Committee, on which leading women's societies were represented. Before the General Election, deputations were received by the leaders of all three political parties on the question of the admission of women to the House of Lords. Mr. Baldwin replied to the effect that if the House of Lords did not want women, it was not the place of the Government to insist. In actual fact, the Government can always coerce the House of Lords if it wishes to do so. Mr. Lloyd George had made promises, but since he was not returned to power, they could not be effective. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald thoroughly agreed with the proposition, and hoped it would be his privilege to make the first woman peer.

Several Bills have been presented to the House on this question, and it has now been decided to move by resolution. The decision to admit women to the Canadian Senate has greatly strengthened the position of our own women peers. Within the British Empire only Great Britain and South Africa now excluded women from the Upper House. The Canadian and

United States Press had commented on the enthusiasm shown by the British Press over the Canadian women's triumph, and took for granted that the Mother Country would soon follow Canada's lead.

In dealing with the nature of the opposition which had to be faced, Mrs. Archdale said that the Debates on the Life Peers and other Reform Bills proved that the women peers have some staunch supporters. Opinion had been expressed that any Reform Bill was useless unless women were included. The demand that women must wait until the House of Lords is reformed must be resisted. If, and when, such a reform takes place it will be much simpler to deal with an assembly composed of men and women peers than an entirely male assembly.

In working for the removal of this injustice women had to determine who were their friends and who their enemies. Lord Astor, Lord Parmoor, Lord Buckmaster, and Lord Sankey, to name only a few, were firm supporters, and if Lord Sankey would make the same speech in the House of Lords as he made in the Privy Council *re* the Canadian Senate, the case would be greatly strengthened. Lord Astor, always active as well as staunch, was going to move the resolution, and would do what he considered to be politically right at any moment.

Our strong point was the position of women in other countries and the attitude of the foreign Press, which was unable to fathom how women could be admitted to the Lower House and denied admission to the Upper Chamber.

There might be some people who would like to see the House of Lords abolished, but even should it be abolished ultimately, women must get there first! A change in the Constitution, if made, must be made by both men and women. The admission of women to the House of Lords was a detail of a great movement, but a very important one, and must not be neglected. All over the world the holding of high positions by women was being accepted as normal. The Institute of International Law had decreed that it is the duty of the State to give to every individual equality of rights and the full protection of the law, without discrimination of race, religion, nationality, or sex.

POOR PRISONERS' DEFENCE BILL.

MR. TURTON (U., Thirsk and Malton) drew first place in the private members' ballot for Bills, and last Friday his Bill "to make better provision for the defence of poor persons in criminal cases," not only secured a Second Reading, but apparently unanimous support in the House as well as the practical blessing of the Home Secretary, whose concluding remarks were:—"The attitude of the Government is one of complete sympathy with the proposals of the Bill, and a wholehearted desire to see it speedily passed into law."

This Bill gives magistrates power to grant legal aid in the form of the services of a solicitor where the person concerned cannot afford it, and where, by reason of the gravity of the charge or exceptional circumstances, it is desirable in the interests of justice. It provides that legal aid must be granted in the case of committal for murder, and SIR JOHN WITHERS (U., Cambridge University) urged that in Committee that might be extended to attempted murder. MR. MACQUISTEN (U., Argyll) said that it had been the law in Scotland for 500 years that solicitors and advocates might be conscribed to defend the poor both in cases of civil wrong and in criminal charges, and he regretted that this Bill could not be enlarged so as to include all civil cases. MR. FOOT (Lib., Bodmin) said that the passing of this Bill would do something to maintain what is the essential principle of Magna Carta—"We will sell to no man, we will not deny or delay to any man,

justice or right." MR. LANG (Lab., Oldham) welcomed this Bill as an instalment of what, he hoped, would presently be a very definite piece of legislation either in the form of a new Ministry of Justice or in the establishment of some office of Public Defender similar to that of the Public Prosecutor as they now had it.

MR. TURTON himself said that this Bill was a first instalment; it was the least common multiple of agreement. The Women's Freedom League wishes it a speedy passage into law, but we look forward with Mr. Lang to seeing a Public Defender as firmly established in our legal system as a Public Prosecutor, and that, as a matter of justice, the poorest person, however guilty or innocent he or she may be, will have the same access to witnesses and evidence and the same opportunity of testing the law as is now possible for those who can engage the best brains that can be provided.

THE "VOTE"

Order To-Day.

(If you are already a Subscriber, order and send to a friend).

"The Vote," 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

OUR BOOK REVIEW.

Agin' the Governments: Memories and Adventures of Sir Francis Fletcher Vane. (Published by Sampson Low.) Price 16s. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

Sir Francis Vane is one of the knights-errant of the modern world, and his book gives a vivid, chatty account, intermingled with quaint quips and drolleries, of his various tiltings with prejudice, vested interests, and other tyrannies. He himself is a strange, sometimes somewhat puzzling mixture—an Imperialist, a soldier by profession and by natural inclination, a pacifist of a fighting kind, a Victorian, and yet a rebel. It is not surprising that in his day he came up bang against various Governments—in South Africa, in Ireland after 1916, in Italy after the war. It would have been extraordinary, holding his views, had he not come into handgrips with militarists and bureaucrats in *excelsis*: the strange thing is that he has survived, though not without honourable scars. These are his major rebellions. His minor ones include his revulsion against the British public school system, against "fagging" and "ragging" in school and Army, against "brass hats" generally. He explains all this satisfactorily from his family-tree, with its flourishing rebel (and Irish) branches.

While the whole volume is full of interest and life, the chapter on the militant suffragettes and Sir Francis Vane's contact with the movement is specially interesting to "suffs," reviving many memories of battles long ago. Naturally Sir Francis was on our side and battled valiantly for the cause when champions were few. Indeed, he clearly shows that he loved a fight for its own sake, being, as an American puts it in another connection, one of those who enters no fight timorously, but goes yodelling into the fray!

Sir Francis narrates in one chapter of his work his adventures among suffragettes—his journey in a procession led by Mrs. Despard, and helping later to smuggle Sylvia Pankhurst through a police cordon so that she could take part in a meeting. "This was perhaps inexcusable in a magistrate," is his characteristic comment, "but the object was worthy." So he conspired to get her off, driving to Mr. George Lansbury's house—just outside the police cordon. Here she exchanged clothes with Miss Lansbury, and the author proceeded to lead off the police on a wrong trail, taking Miss Lansbury off in his car while Sylvia walked through the cordon unobserved in her disguise and got to the meeting. Miss Lansbury, run to earth by the sleuths, was meanwhile seized from the car and rushed to the police station, where the mistake was discovered too late. Again our knight-errant intervenes in Hyde Park, where Mrs. Pankhurst is being subjected to filthy interruptions by a band of hooligans—here, too, Sir Francis intervenes to some purpose. Again he is invited by his host at dinner, Sir Albert De Rutzen, to accompany the latter on the Bench next day and see him trying the militant leaders—Mrs. and Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Mrs. Haverfield, and Mrs. Saul Solomon—all of whom he knew personally. When the latter, an elderly lady of "puritanical severity in conduct," was solemnly arraigned for knocking off a policeman's helmet, it seemed to Sir Francis indescribably funny, and when the cases were adjourned on some technical point, he hastened to the Prisoners' Room to meet his old friends. Under the circumstances his host, who had craved his moral support as a brother magistrate, must have felt that he had been betrayed by this desertion to the enemy.

A. E. (George Russell), who has written the foreword, compares Sir Francis to Henry Nevins, another champion of Votes for Women, paying both tribute for their moral courage as shown in their attitude towards Ireland. Both never forgot "those ancient loyalties of the soul to justice and our common humanity, from which so many divest themselves in war." These words may be applied with equal force to those two champions of the militant suffragists, for in that embittered and prolonged struggle for elementary justice for a sex, the same qualities of moral

courage and loyalty were called into action and did not fail. So the name of Sir Francis Vane will be honourably remembered for his association with many great causes, ever on the side of right as against oppressive might. Life is richer and sweeter for such a valiant and joyous spirit. JOAN.

SAFEGUARDING THE CONSTITUTION.

The Lord Chancellor, after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has appointed:—

The Right Hon. the Earl of Donoughmore, K.P. (Chairman), the Right Hon. Sir John Anderson, the Duchess of Atholl, M.P., the Rev. James Barr, M.P., the Right Hon. Viscount Bridgeman, Dr. E. L. Burgin, M.P., the Earl of Clarendon, Sir Warren Fisher, G.C.B., Sir Warren Gregory, W. S. Holdsworth, Esq., K.C., Sir W. Ellis Hume-Williams, Bt., K.C., H. J. Laski, Esq., Robert Richards, Esq., M.P., Sir Claud Schuster, K.C., the Right Hon. Sir Leslie Scott, K.C., Gavin Simonds, Esq., K.C., Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and Sir John J. Withers, M.P.,

to be a Committee to consider the powers exercised by or under the direction of (or by persons or bodies appointed specially by) Ministers of the Crown by way of (a) delegated legislation, and (b) judicial or quasi-judicial decision, and to report what safeguards are desirable or necessary to secure the constitutional principles of the sovereignty of Parliament and the supremacy of the law. Mr. J. H. E. Woods, of the Treasury, will act as Secretary to this Committee.

We note there are sixteen men and two women appointed to this Committee. We look forward with interest to its Report.

WHERE WOMEN ARE NEEDED.

On November 5th Mr. W. GRAHAM (President of the Board of Trade) stated in the House of Commons that the Government proposed to ask Parliament to set up a Consumers' Council, which shall have the power to obtain compulsorily any information that it may require for the purposes of its inquiries. He further said that the Government intend also to submit proposals enabling them to deal with trading interests which refuse to accept the view which the Government may reach after considering the recommendations of the Consumers' Council. It would be some months before the Consumers' Council could be set up, and he was asking the Food Council to remain in being for the purpose of carrying out investigations into such food questions as might arise meantime. The Women's Freedom League urges that an equal number of women and men be appointed to this Consumers' Council. This matter is of vital concern to the women of the nation.

On October 30th the House of Commons passed a Resolution that it was desirable to appoint a Select Committee to consider the question of Capital Punishment, and in reply to a question last week asking when this Committee would be set up, the Home Secretary said that arrangements were being made through the usual channels and the customary notice would be given at an early date. On this Committee, too, it is essential that women should be adequately represented.

Membership Application Form.

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

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

Name

Address

I enclose £ : s. d., as my first

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, November 15th, 3 to 9 p.m.

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

Saturday, November 16th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Tuesday, November 19th, at 8 p.m.

Highbury and District Branch. Meeting at 21, Queen's Road, N.4 (by kind permission of Mrs. C. A. Paine). Speaker: Miss B. Pearson. Subject: "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

Thursday, November 21st, at 4.30 p.m. (Tea 4 o'clock.)

Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Pollard. Subject: "Women in the Ministry." Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Tuesday, November 26th, at 3 p.m.

Finchley and Golders Green. Branch Meeting at 15, Ravencroft Avenue, N.W.11 (by kind invitation of Mrs. Gugenheim). Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. Subject: The Slavery Convention of the League of Nations.

Wednesday, November 27th, at 8 p.m.

Barnsbury and District. Branch Meeting at 15, Richmond Crescent, N.1 (by kind permission of Mrs. Potter).

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, November 16th, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

National Union of Women Teachers. A Merrie England Faire, at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C.4. Opened by Miss Edith Evans, at 11.30 a.m. Entertainments, Character Reading, Exhibition of Dancing, etc. Admission: By gift sent beforehand or left at entrance.

Saturday, November 16th, at 3 p.m.

The Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That the 'Talkies' are an outrage on Art." Proposer: Mr. Donald Geddes. Opposer: Mr. Maberly (Hon. Sec., Safron Walden Debating Society).

Tuesday, November 19th, at 2.45 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Bridge Party at the College Hall, Cowdray Club. Tickets 5/-.

Tuesday, November 19th, at 5 p.m.

Six Point Group. Public Meeting at 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Speaker: Mrs. Roberts, on "Feminism in the Empire."

Tuesday, November 19th, at 6.15 p.m.

The Women's Engineering Society. Lecture at the Lyceum Club, 138, Piccadilly, W.1 (near Hyde Park Corner). Subject: "An Amateur's Experience of Motor Racing." Lecturer: Miss Winifred Pink (Honorary Member). Chair: Lady Moir, O.B.E., President.

Tuesday, November 19th, at 7.30 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Dinner at the Rendezvous, Soho. Speakers: Mrs. de Fonseka (Ceylon), Mademoiselle Lenoel (Orleans), and Mrs. Laughton Mathews. Chair: Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A. (Tickets 4/6 each.)

Wednesday, November 20th, at 1.15 p.m.

The Alpha Club. Public Luncheon at the Washington Hotel, Curzon Street, W.1, to Miss Violet Cordery, to celebrate her achievement in winning the Dewar Trophy. Tickets 5/6, from the Secretary, Miss Winifred Mayo, 1, Selwood Place, S.W.7.

Wednesday November 20th, at 8 p.m.

The Guild of Girl Citizens. Public Meeting at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Subject: "This Month in Parliament." Chair: Miss A. Helen Ward. Admission 6d.

Friday, November 22nd, at 3 p.m.

Public Meeting at His Majesty's Theatre, in support of The Cecil Houses.

Monday, November 25th, at 8.15 p.m.

Suffragette Lecture at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. Speaker: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence on the Life and Work of Lady Constance Lytton. Chairman: Miss Charlotte Marsh.

BRANCH NOTES.

WIMBLEDON.

The inaugural meeting of the Wimbledon Branch of the Women's Freedom League was held on Friday of last week at "Duart," Grand Drive, West Wimbledon, by kind permission of Mrs. Catmur. Those present were greatly interested in the speech given by Miss Reeves on the work of the League. Miss Wetenhall presided. Miss Reeves said that many think that now women are fully enfranchised there is no more to be done. This, however, is not so; organisations such as the Women's Freedom League are needed to keep a watching brief on behalf of women.

More women are needed in the House of Commons and on local authorities. The barrier excluding women from sitting in the House of Lords has also to be removed. Miss Reeves then pointed out the necessity for the appointment of women governors of prisons and for women to have control of women's prisons. Women magistrates are needed on every Bench in the country, and all trades and professions should be opened to women on equal terms with men. Miss Reeves pointed out the detriment of employing women at lower rates of pay than men. If we are to reap the result of the work put into the suffrage movement, we must remove injustices to women in industry and the professions. The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Reeves for her delightful speech, and to Mrs. Catmur as hostess. Mrs. Holmwood kindly consented to act as Honorary Secretary.

HASTINGS.

A well-attended meeting was held at Furness Mount last Thursday afternoon. Mrs. Strickland, J.P., presided.

Miss Nina Boyle, in a splendid speech, dealt with the matter of Child Slavery. She said that in many tribes the native women of the Dark Continent were regarded as the property of their fathers, and, eventually, of their husbands, having absolutely no choice at all in the disposal of their lives. Very often little children were sold, perhaps to the son of a neighbouring chief, often to men old enough to be their fathers. Sometimes they were sold on the instalment system. They might be married for a few years, but if the purchase price was not completed the father re-sold his daughter to a richer man. The point of the matter was that these customs were not covered by the Slavery Convention, held at Geneva, nor had they received any consideration at the hands of the League of Nations Conferences.

Mrs. Strickland proposed that a big public meeting might take place after Christmas, and she suggested that other organisations should be approached to help to make such a meeting worth while. This was readily agreed to, and Miss Boyle promised to speak. A very cordial vote of thanks ended one of the most successful drawing-room meetings held at Hastings.

Our grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Stanley Brown for again lending her room. Our next meeting will be held at the same place early in December. Subject: "The Ministry of Women."

MAUD L. WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Gardens.

NORTHERN BRANCHES.

Those members of our Northern Branches who failed to attend the meetings addressed by Mrs. Zangwill in Leeds, Bradford, Middlesbrough, Darlington, and Gateshead this week missed an intellectual and oratorical treat such as is but seldom offered. In each town Mrs. Zangwill spoke on feminism and pacifism, showing how the logical outcome of the one can materially assist in making the other an accomplished fact. The vote which we have now won, she said, is a "lever with which we can move the world," and the way in which she would like to see this lever used is in the direction of world peace.

In Leeds, on Monday, the chair was taken by Dr. Marion MacKenzie. She thought that one substantial barrier against war is co-education. Now, she implied, boys are brought up apart from girls, as the fighting sex.

In the absence of Councillor Blanche Leigh (who, however, invited several friends to meet Mrs. Zangwill at dinner) and Mrs. Leonora Cohen, our two Vice-Presidents, Mrs. J. Cohen, a newly-enrolled member, proposed a vote of thanks, which was carried with enthusiasm.

Alderman Kathleen Chambers presided in Bradford, and was very emphatic as to the necessity of strengthening the women's organisations. Here the vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Gratton Newbould, who took the opportunity of drawing attention to the excellent work Mrs. Chambers had done for women in the Council, and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Grundy.

At Darlington we had the Mayor in the chair, and the Mayor-elect proposed the vote of thanks, which was seconded by Mr. Brigham, a very old friend of our movement.

In Middlesbrough, on Wednesday, Mrs. Schofield Coates presided, urging members of the audience not only to join, but also to work for the reforms in which we all believe. She also appealed for contributions towards the Green White and Gold Fair.

On Friday night we held in Gateshead the last meeting of this series, the chair being taken by Miss Tooke, J.P. Here we were much annoyed by the noise caused by a whist drive in the adjoining hall, but Mrs. Zangwill spoke above it. Miss Tooke suggested that small, regular meetings should be held in Gateshead to discuss ways in which woman's position is still unsatisfactory under the law. She mentioned that she frequently had to explain to a mother—to the poor woman's utter bewilderment—that she was not the parent of her child, so could not obtain the vaccination exemption order. Mrs. Stagg proposed the vote of thanks, which was seconded by Mrs. Annable.

At all these meetings Mrs. Zangwill's speech was greatly appreciated. Everywhere there was discussion, members and others having much to say in support of the speaker's strong advocacy of peace, or controversially anent her demand that matrimony should cease to be a disqualification for posts under public bodies, the old arguments about there not being enough jobs to go round, and neglected husbands and children, being advanced and dealt with as on so many previous occasions.

Everywhere new members were enrolled and "VOTES" and literature sold, and there is no doubt that Mrs. Zangwill's visit and beautiful addresses have done so much to strengthen all our branches in the North. (Organiser) LILLIAN LENTON.

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, November 17th. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Professor V. G. Childe, B. Litt. 6.30 p.m. Maude Royden.

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

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