THE VOTE, MARCH 30, 1928.

VOTE FOR THE GUARDIANS!

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

Vol. XXIX. No. 962.

(Registered at the G.P. ().)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1923

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well= being of the community.

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TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE. QUEEN'S HALL, MARCH 8. INTERNATIONAL WORK. MRS. RUNCIMAN SPEAKS OUT! EDINBURGH CORPORATION BILL.

IRELAND'S FIRST WOMAN HIGH SHERIFF.

By L. A. M. PRIESTLEY McCracken, Author of The Feminine in Fiction.

Alderman Mrs. Julia McMordie, C.B.E., J.P., the newly elected High Sheriff of Belfast, is the first woman in Ireland to hold that ancient office. Mrs. C. Stopes, in her *British Freewomen*, has shown us that in past times women in England could and did hold

such important offices as that of judge, warden of a castle, High Constable, High Sheriff, Justice of the Peace, etc.—among whom was the brave Anne de Clifford, Countess of Dorset, who was High Sheriff of Westmorland in the Stuart period-and then traces, in what she aptly terms "The Long Ebb," the gradual and complete withdrawal of all such rights and privileges. Belfast now shows the tide running strongly in the opposite direction. The election of Mrs. McMordie as the chief officer of the Crown in Belfast reflects the general esteem and honour in which she is held in the city of her adoption, where for 40 years she has been closely identified with those causes that make for the welfare and progress of Belfast and the good of the Chatting with community. her the other day, Mrs. Mc Mordie laughingly remarked to me : "Indeed, I think I am more Ulster now than the Ulster people themselves." Mrs.

McMordie is a daughter of the well-known shipbuilder, the late Sir William Gray, D.L., of West Hartlepool. She is a loyal member of the Irish Presbyterian Church and a generous supporter of its funds.

For five successive years, 1910-1914, Mrs. McMordie

occupied with dignity and distinction the position of Lady Mayoress of Belfast during the Mayoralty of her husband, Mr. R. I. McMordie, M.A., M.P., and displayed untiring interest and energy in response to the manifold claims, social, civic, and philanthropic, made upon her time and

patronage.
For ii years, Mrs. McMordie has represented Pottinger Ward in the City Corporation, and here she is also a pioneer, being the first woman elected on the Belfast City Council. In 1914, in recognition of their great services, Mr. and Mrs. McMordie received the Freedom of the city-Mrs. McMordie's being the second woman's name on the Roll of Freemen, the first being that of Viscountess Pirrie. When, Viscountess Pirrie. in 1921, Ulster was granted self - government, Mrs. McMordie was the first woman Member returned to the Northern Parliament and retained her seat up till 1924.

When, in that fateful August of 1914, war was declared, Mrs. McMordie, then recently widowed, threw herself with characteristic fortitude and zeal into war-time activities; organised sewing parties to provide garments for soldiers and their dependents, and was made Head



THE HIGH SHERIFF OF BELFAST.

of the V.A.D. in Belfast, finding in service for others and in the winsome ways of her baby granddaughter the best assuagement of her grief. For this patriotic work she was awarded the C.B.E., and made a Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Mrs.

McMordie is in favour of Equal Franchise, but thinks that 21 is too young for anyone to vote, preferring 25 or 26 for both men and women.

To give an idea of the extent of Mrs. McMordie's varied interests and wide sympathies, I may say that she is at the present time a member of some 60 Committees. She is particularly concerned in the health of the citizens; is Chairman of the Tuberculosis Committee in the Corporation, while temperance and education fall also within the scope of her attention.

Her duties as High Sheriff are largely administrative and social, and are chiefly concerned with the Law Courts. As the King's representative, Mrs. McMordie will receive the High Court Judges at the four Annual Commissions held in February, April, July, and November; summon the Grand Jury; and, on each of these occasions, give a luncheon, to which important and influential people are invited to meet the judges and members of the Grand Jury. She will take a seat every morning on the Bench with the judge, wearing her chain of office, while the Courts are sitting; she will also act as Deputy for the Lord Mayor at meetings and functions where he is unable to attend personally.

I think I may safely assume that my readers and fellow-members of the Women's Freedom League will join me in wishing Ireland's first woman High Sheriff Equal Pay. a very happy year of office.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Franchise Bill.

LT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Lab., Central Hull) asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he has made any calculation of the approximate number of new plural voters who will be added to the next Register under the Franchise Bill; and, if so, what this number is? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I hope to be able, on the occasion of the Second Reading of the Bill, to give some information on this point.

MR. LANSBURY (Lab., Bow and Bromley) asked the Home Secretary how many plural voters are on the electoral registers; and is he able to state how many persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief are registered as Local Government and Parliamentary Electors in the county of London, and how many for the rest of the country? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: The number of persons registered as Parliamentary Electors in England and Wales for the business premises franchise is 205,538 and for university constituencies is 60,712 though it does not follow that all these persons are "plural voters." The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

Diplomatic Service (Women).

the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that in the French Diplomatic Service women have recently begun to be appointed to responsible posts, other than posts of a women have been appointed to posts of Ministerial or Committee was appointed. other rank in the Russian Soviet and the Bulgarian Diplomatic Service; and whether he is prepared to adopt this practice in the British Diplomatic Service? SIR A. CHAMBERLAIN: As regards the first part of the question, I understand that the recent decision of the French Government, to which the hon. Member presumably refers, while admitting women to certain posts in Paris, provides that no woman so admitted can be of the Academic Council; Dr. Graham Little, M.P., employed abroad. I am aware that women have held posts in the Russian Soviet, and, I think, once in the Bulgarian Diplomatic Service. I do not think any change in our rules desirable. Miss Wilkinson: Does the right hon. Gentleman think that British women are behind foreigners in regard to possessing the necessary diplomatic qualifications? SIR A. CHAMBERLAIN: No, sir; quite the contrary. VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth): Does not the right hon. Gentleman think that this prejudice ought to be abolished, and that if proceedings were in private.

there is a woman fit for the position her sex should not stand against it? SIR A. CHAMBERLAIN: No, sir. VISCOUNTESS ASTOR: Sir? SIR A. CHAMBERLAIN: The Rules of the House oblige me to address the Speaker. I do not think that any prejudice enters into the matter. I think it is a matter of expediency, and our Rules are best in the present circumstances. Viscountess ASTOR: As the right hon. Gentleman addressed the Speaker, I never heard a word he said. Mr. BATEY (Lab., Spennymoor): Does the Foreign Secretary not consider that, where a woman takes on a man's job and gets a man's pay, she ought to maintain an unemployed man and not spend the salary upon herself? Vis-COUNTESS ASTOR: Oh!

SIR R. THOMAS (Lib., Anglesey) asked the Minister of Health whether he is prepared to institute an inquiry into the supply, pay, and training of midwives, with special reference to their distribution in rural areas? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): My right hon. Friend is taking steps to set up a Committee to inquire into the general question of the training and supply of midwives.

SIR W. DE FRECE (U., Ashton-under-Lyne) asked the Prime Minister if he will consider the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the best means and the cost of giving effect to the principle of equal pay for men and women in the Civil Service, as recommended by Resolution of this House on 19th May, 1920? MR. A. M. SAMUEL (Financial Secretary to the Treasury): I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given to a similar question asked by the hon. Member for Central Southwark (Mr. Day) on November 17th, 1925, of which I am sending him a copy.

[This reply, by the former Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. Ronald McNeill, was: "As stated by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on March 5th last, the question of the remuneration women in the Civil Service as compared with men has already been fully reviewed by the present Government, and the Government is not prepared to set up a Special Committee of Inquiry on the subject."]

WOMEN MEDICAL STUDENTS INQUIRY.

According to The Times, the Senate of the University of London recently discussed a resolution, moved by Mr. Walter E. Spencer and seconded by Dr. E. Diplomatic Service (Women).

Miss Wilkinson (Lab., E. Middlesbrough) asked

Graham Little, M.P., calling for the setting up of a Committee to inquire into the "banning" of women students at hospital medical schools. The resolution dealt particularly with the banning of women at the schools of Westminster, Charing Cross, and King's College Hospitals, but also called for an inquiry into the whole position of women medical students and into clerical nature, in the Diplomatic Service, and that the legality of the hospitals' decision. Ultimately, a

> The Committee appointed by the Senate of London University to consider the limitations placed on the medical education of women undergraduates is constituted as follows :-

Sir William Beveridge, Vice-Chancellor; Professor Loney, Chairman of Convocation; Dr. Filon, Chairman Chairman of the External Council; Sir Holburt Waring, Chairman of the Finance Committee; Mr. Walter Spencer (mover of the resolution for an inquiry); Dr. W. R. Matthews; Dr. Halliday, Principal of King's College; Sir Andrew Taylor; Miss Ethel Strudwick, Principal of St. Paul's Girls' School; and Miss Margaret Tuke, Principal of the Bedford College for Women, London.

The Committee held its first meeting last week, The

WOMEN ON COUNTY COUNCILS.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1928.

By the courtesy of the Clerks to the following County Councils, we are enabled to give the following lists of women serving on them. Those marked with a * were first elected last month :-

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.—Aldermen Mrs. C. B. Lankester, J.P., *Miss E. Rickards, M.S., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Miss K. T. Wallas; Councillors *Mrs. J. L. Adamson, Miss Henrietta Adler, J.P., Miss Thelma Cazalet, Dr. Stella Churchill, Mrs. Hugh Dalton, Miss Agnes Dawson, *Mrs. Harry Day, *Mrs. M. M. Dollar, Mrs. R. Durchill, Mrs. J.P., Mrs. A. Elliot, Mrs. T. A. Emmett, M.A. Lady, F. R. Dr. E. Britannia. Mrs. T. A. Emmett, M.A., Lady Eve, Dr. F. Barrie Lambert, C.B.E., D.P.H., *The Hon. Lady Lawrence, J.P., Mrs. E. M. Lowe, J.P., Dame Beatrix Lyall, D.B.E., J.P., *Miss Ishbel MacDonald, Mrs. A. M. Mathew, J.P., *Mrs. H. L. Nathan, Dr. Adeline Roberts, O.B.E., J.P., Mrs. Ada Salter, Miss Rosamond Smith.

BERKSHIRE. - Mrs. E. M. Bramwell Davis, O.B.E., Lady Hilder Mount, O.B.E.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.—Mrs. A. J. Broadbent.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—Alderman Madeline Pamela Constance Blanche Adeane; Councillors Ellen Briscoe, Constance Amelia Cochrane, Jane Anderson Scott, Lilian Mary Hart Clark.

CHESHIRE. - Mrs. Lilian Bromley-Davenport.

CUMBERLAND.—Councillors Caroline Forbes Thompson, Dorothy Julia Hasell, Jane Iredale, Mary Isabel Mason, Lady Mabel Howard, C.B.E.

DORSETSHIRE. - Miss E. G. Castleman-Smith, M.B.E.

DURHAM.—Mrs. Royston.

Essex.—*Mrs. C. B. Alderton, Mrs. C. C. Chisholm, Miss K. M. Courtauld, *Mrs. Lester, Mrs. B. W. Williams.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—No women Councillors elected, but appointed as Aldermen: Miss C. L. Ratcliff, O.B.E., Mrs. M. Allen.

HEREFORDSHIRE.-Miss M. M. Armitage, Mrs. Dymond.

HERTFORDSHIRE. - Mrs. G. E. Attenborough, Miss M. B. Blount, Miss E. E. R. Bradford, Mrs. P. Fordham

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.—Mrs. P. A. Allen, Mrs. J. R. Coote.

Kent.-Miss Eleanor Jane Wigan.

LANCASHIRE. - Miss Caroline Whitehead, Lady Audrey Frances P. Worsley-Taylor, *Mrs. Eveleen Lomax, *Mrs. Katharine Margaret Fletcher.

LINCOLNSHIRE, KESTEVEN.—Mrs. Emmeline Taylor. LINCOLNSHIRE, LINDSEY.—Mrs. Ada Croft Baker.

MIDDLESEX.—Mrs. Flora May Baker, Mrs. Gertrude Barnes, *Mrs. Maud Mary Fairfield, *Mrs. Louisa Rhoda Ithell, *Mrs. Henrietta Rothwell, Mrs. Elizabeth Anne Rhys.

Monmouthshire.—Mrs. W. B. Lewcock, Mrs. H. J.

NORFOLK.—The Dowager Lady Suffield, Miss M. Carr, *Miss E. M. Godfrey.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. - Miss Beatrice Anna Cartwright.

NORTHUMBERLAND. — Councillors *Helena Maude Fisher, Constance Helen Greet, *Elizabeth Handscomb, Mary Katharine Middleton, Margaret Millar.

OXFORDSHIRE. - Mrs. Sarah Beatrice Gillett SHROPSHIRE. - Mrs. M. J. Rotton.

Soke of Peterborough.—*Mrs. Kate Palmer. SOUTHAMPTON.—Councillors Rachel Sophia Madocks, *Josephine Bell Garrett, Thyra Schultz Weir, Lady Louisa Rosemary Kathleen Virginia Portal, Florence Ida Chamberlain, Marion Isabella Seymour.

Somersetshire.-Mrs. Norah Lilian Cooke-Hurle, Miss Evelyn Jackson-Barstow.

STAFFORDSHIRE.-Mrs. C. E. Meakin, Miss F. Thorneycroft.

Alice Mary Fison, *Mrs. Edith Adela Haward, Miss Mary Elizabeth Short.

SUFFOLK, WEST.—Mrs. I. Stafford Allen, *Mrs. A.

SURREY. - Councillors Mrs. G. E. Skeats, Mrs. Z. E. G. Turton Hart, Mrs. E. M. Payne, and Mrs.

Sussex, East.—Mrs. Christina Isabella Meads, *Mrs. Elena Richmond, Miss Caroline Georgina Katherine Scovell.

Sussex, West.—Lady M. R. Loder, Mrs. Mabel Louise Lintott, Miss Amelia Emma Payne, Miss Edith Ann Barnett.

WARWICKSHIRE. -- Mrs. Ellen Dykes, O.B.E., Mrs. Eleanor Melville.
Wiltshire.—*The Hon. Lady Gatacre, Miss Mar-

garet Frances Awdry, *Mrs. Amy Swanborough, Miss Katherine Janie Stephenson, C.B.E., *Mrs. Jane Cecil Pinniger.

Worcestershire. - Miss C. F. S. Burrow, Mrs. S. G. Smith.

YORKSHIRE, EAST RIDING.—Mrs. Alice Holtby, Mrs. Annie Kathleen Southcott, Mrs. Bridget Wright. YORKSHIRE, WEST RIDING.—Alderman Lady Mabel

Smith, Alderman Hermione Unwin.

Anglesey.—Alderman Miss A. M. Davies, J.P. Breconshire.—Mrs. C. S. Richards.

CAERNARVONSHIRE.—*Mrs. Anne Fisher, Mrs. E. Griffith, Mrs. E. M. Marks, *Mrs. E. S. O'Regan, Mrs. C. Price White.

CARDIGANSHIRE.—Miss Audrey Dorothea Loxdale Jones, Mrs. Edith Katherine Jones, Mrs. Mary Lloyd. CARMARTHENSHIRE. - Miss Gwendoline Joyce Trubshaw, *Miss Gwendolen Margaret Lloyd-Price.

DENBIGHSHIRE. - Mrs. M. A. Fenwick, Mrs. E. C. Breese.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.—Alderman Florence Rose Davies, Councillor Martha Emma Jones.

Merionethshire. - Mrs. Mary Morgan, *Mrs. Mary Alice Ellinor Richards.

Montgomeryshire.—Mrs. J. E. Lea-Jones, Lady Pryce-Jones.

The following County Councils have no women serving on them :-

ENGLAND.—Bedfordshire, Derbyshire, Devonshire, Holland (Lincs), Isle of Ely (Cambs), Isle of Wight, Leicestershire, Rutlandshire, Westmoreland, Yorkshire (North Riding).

WALES.—Flintshire, Pembrokeshire, Radnorshire.

WOMEN ON SCOTTISH EDUCATION AUTHORITIES.

The following women have been returned to the Education Authority in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dundee :-

Edinburgh.—Mrs. Alice Ross, M.A., J.P., Mrs. Baird-Ross, M.A., Miss M. G. Cowan, M.A., Mrs. Swan-Brunton, Mrs. G. H. McLaren.

GLASGOW.—Miss M. H. Cunningham, M.A., Mrs. M. A. Houston, O.B.E., J.P., Miss Isabel Hamilton, L.L.A., F.E.I.S., Mrs. A. J. MacGregor.

DUNDEE.-Mrs. E. Abernethy, Miss E. J. Bell.

FASCISM AND WOMEN.

The Times discussed in its issue of March 17th a series of articles written by Signor Carli and published in Italy, one of which strongly attacks Roman "high society." We note that Signor Carli includes in this attack an attack upon women, or, as The Times calls it, feminism. He ridicules the claim to the franchise partly because Fascism has in such large measure discarded the franchise. He is the usual type of male anti-suffragist contemptuously seeing suffragists as ugly and sterile women." He seems a little mixed as to how a woman should really employ her time or horneycroft.
Suffolk, East.—Miss Averil Bernard, Mrs. Evelyn her life, but she is to be "respected, protected, adored, but not crowned companion." One is not quite clear as to what a "crowned companion" may be, but we have, through the ages, sampled the other three things, and are now translating them into reality instead of E. Fairweather, Mrs. A. F. St. Leger Glyn, Mrs. the farce they are too apt to be. One of these days a feminist movement will help Italy to regain her balance

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 30th, 1928.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London." Telephone: MUSEUM 1429. EDITORIAL.

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

A RECORD MAJORITY?

We go to press before the Second Reading of the

Government's Equal Franchise Bill takes place in the

House of Commons, but we look forward to a record majority for that Second Reading. The Liberal and Labour Parties are pledged to the support of Equal Franchise, and it is said that the only opposition to it will come from about 20 of the Government's supporters, who desire to resist the change. Splendid support was given by the Conservative and Unionist Associations at their Conference, held last October, at Cardiff, to their Executive Committee's Equal Franchise resolution, when, out of 2,600 delegates, not more than 30 voted against that resolution. Yet we are told that the new Chairman of the National Council of Conservative and Unionist Associations, Col. Gretton, M.P. (U., Burton), wants to kill the principal Bill of the year put forward by the Conservative and Unionist Government, and that he has added his name to the list of those who will move the rejection of the measure. Other names connected with the rejection amendment are: - Brigadier-General Sir G. Cockerill (U., Reigate), Col. Applin (U., Enfield), Major Kindersley (U., Hitchin), Mr. S. Samuel (U., Putney), Lt.-Col. Sir F. Hall (U., Dulwich), and Sir Charles Oman (U., Oxford University). Mr. Harmsworth (U., Isle of Thanet) has a rejection amendment of his own, which demands that, as a first step, the Government should carry out "their pledge to refer to a Conference the whole subject of franchise and electoral reform!" How very useful such a Conference would be, as a first step, at the present time! We note also that the Secretary of State for War, Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, has been talking to the Scottish Conservative Club in Edinburgh about the proposed extension of the franchise to women. He said he would rather the franchise had begun at 25 for both sexes. What a pity he had not been the adviser-inchief on civil matters so very many years ago, when it was decided that the adult age in this country should be 21, and when, in recognition of that fact, the franchise was always given to men of various classes from the age of 21! But, as Secretary of State for War, Sir Laming Worthington-Evans is a member of the Cabinet. What right, then, has he to criticise the decision of the Cabinet to extend the vote to women on the same terms as men and at the age of 21? We also Antrim, is to oppose the Bill "on several grounds." He says that "It was not put before the electorate at the last General Election"; that "the Conservative Party received no mandate for it in the constituencies": that "the last change in the franchise has not been in operation long enough for it to be thoroughly tested"; that "it should have a further run and be carefully examined before any further change is made," and so women will shake down all right, but the fact that women's equal enfranchisement with men must show the Statute Book.

OFFICES REGULATION BILL.

Last week, Miss Wilkinson secured leave to bring in a Bill "to regulate offices and the employment of young persons therein; and for other purposes connected therewith." This Bill seeks to extend to people who work in offices some of the protection that is at present given to those who work in factories. Miss Wilkinson said in the House of Commons that the conditions of office work in many big cities, especially owing to the great congestion at the present time, are rapidly growing werse, and that something ought to be done to protect the health of the men and women who work in offices. Many workers have to work in offices with artificial light, not only on dark days, but all day and every day, in summer as well as in winter. Some of the offices are underground, and Miss Wilkinson cited a case in which the occupier of a basement had to rescue his records and books from an office because they became mildewed, but he left the girls to work in that office. She further stated that many offices were overcrowded with workers, and that much illness was caused by bad ventilation, want of proper sanitary accommodation, and inadequate lighting and heating; and she also pointed out that there was no regulation regarding the hours that people in offices might be called upon to work. We all want to see better conditions for all workers, but we hope that Miss Wilkinson and all our other friends in Parliament, should this Bill go any farther, will resist with all the force at their command, any attempt on the part of misguided philanthropists to differentiate between the hours and conditions worked by men and by women in offices. We are in entire agreement with the special protection of young people in their employment, but we should strongly oppose any effort to place restrictions on the work of women which are not also imposed on the work of men.

WOMEN'S POSITION.

Following on the London Hospitals' decision to turn e women out of their Medical Schools for no fault on the part of these women, the Bishop of Durham has made a speech at the Durham Diocesan Council in opposition to women being admitted to Holy Orders on equal terms with men, giving as his view, that "the world wants desperately not female priests and bishops but Christian wives and mothers," and stating that "the most menacing evil of our times is the repudiation of the wifely and motherly functions by women!" Then the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs upholds the exclusion of women from our Diplomatic Service on grounds of expediency, and a Labour Member of Parliament has expressed the opinion that when a women takes on any job which men have hitherto monopolised for members of their own sex, that woman ought to maintain a man and not spend the money on herself! Men are curious creatures; so many of them cling desperately to the fiction that men alone should be the learn that Captain Craig, the Unionist Member for arbiters of women's fate; they resent the fact that, in spite of men's opposition, women sometimes earn good salaries, and now some of them want to teach women how to spend those salaries! In the professions and in the Churches women do extraordinarily useful work-many churches would have to close their doors if it were not for their women workers and supporters; yet men still try to prevent women from doing their best work in the Churches and in the professions. In political life, even on. Capt. Craig does really seem to be rather "per- some of our best supporters call the granting of political nickety." No doubt the opposition to the Govern- equality to women with men "an act of faith" when it is ment's effort to grant elementary political justice to merely an act of justice, and solemnly tell women that this "new freedom means new duties" for them. Modern there is opposition in the Government's own camp to women find this "preaching" tendency on the part of men particularly irritating; and men will have to realise, women that the equal suffrage cause is not won until sooner or later, that they must concede the same right to the Government's Equal Franchise Bill is actually on women to choose their own sphere of usefulness, and the same facilities for training in it as menclaim for themselves.

TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

THE VOTE

Miss Underwood again presided over the Tea and newspaper space given to the Zinovieff letter, which yet Politics-up-to-date Meeting on March 21st. She remained obscure. She expressed regret that Miss announced the Second Reading of the Equal Franchise Bill for March 29th, and warned her hearers that, although little opposition was showing, damage might be done to the Bill by absence. She urged all to write to their Member, asking that he both attend and vote.

She then told of the first piece of militant action done by French women, led by Madame Marie Vérone, news which delighted the audience. She then dealt with the position of women medical students owing to their threatened exclusion from London hospitals. She reported that the Senate of London University had decided to hold an inquiry into the whole matter.

She reported Miss Ellen Wilkinson's question in the House of Commons on women diplomats, and other questions on the employment of women, not in uniform, as vigilance officers, a proposal which the Women's Freedom League would strongly oppose, and again on the possible increase in the numbers of women Bills brought forward during the week had included one by Miss Susan Lawrence, regulating the employment of children and young persons. Underwood said that the Women's Freedom League would offer no objection to industrial protection for the young, so long as adult women were given similar protection to adult men. Another Bill was to amend the Public Meetings Act of 1908 to apply to Local Government elections; and another, introduced by Miss Wilkinson, sought to extend to offices the same regulations as are now applied to factories.

Dr. Knight then said that the Edinburgh Corporation Bill had again been objected to and postponed; that the Corporation had sent a deputation to the Scottish Office to urge Sir John Gilmour to press the Bill, but he had replied that he could not advise the House to give it a Second Reading. The National Council of Women's Parliamentary and Legislative Committee had called a Conference on the Bill, at which Dr. Lees, the Medical Officer of Health for Edinburgh, and a strong supporter, had spoken in favour, and Dr. Graham Little against. No vote had been taken. Dr. Knight then read the letter sent out by the Medical Women's Federation,

Miss Reeves then touched upon some other points, among them the extraordinary amount of time and Conference at 3 p.m. on April 28th.

Wilkinson, in introducing her excellent Offices Bill, had not had backers from other Parties. Miss Reeves said there would have been such backing forthcoming, and it would have strengthened the chances of the Bill. She welcomed the resumed meetings of employers and employed in co-operation. She mentioned also the Electricity Bill, a beginning of an enterprise which would be beneficial not only to industry but to housekeepers. Miss Reeves showed how Britain had been a pioneer in the use of steam, but had lagged far behind other nations in the use of electricity. She welcomed the fact that the Soviet scheme of disarmament had at least secured discussion by the League of Nations; and also Mr. Amery's statement that a reduction of Naval Estimates was justified by his hopes of dis-

Miss Reeves then urged feminists to beware of the danger of relaxing their work until Equal Franchise was won; a considerable revival of the old eager spirit had been noticeable during the last two years, and should be sustained until Equal Franchise was on the Statute Book; apathy would endanger the Bill; reliance on a Government promise was not enough; no efforts must be one iota relaxed until the Bill was on the Statute Book. Afterwards, with the key and the weapon of the vote, work on wider lines for complete equality would begin.

Miss Underwood announced the Women's Freedom League's Annual Conference on April 28th, at the close of which there was being arranged a discussion on what the Women's Freedom League should do when the vote was won. All branches were being asked to send their delegates fully instructed.

A long and most valuable discussion followed a question as to whether the hospitals proposing to exclude women students gave any official reasons for their action. Many reasons were given, but none that was worthy of anything but scorn. Speakers in the audience treated them all with penetrating derision.

Miss Underwood then said she had a letter from Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, who was getting better, sending her kindest remembrances to the members. She also announced that the Minerva Club were giving a reception to members and delegates to the Annual

QUEEN'S HALL, LONDON, MARCH 8, 1928.

BY A "MEN'S LEAGUE" MEMBER,

the Prime Minister a promise and assurance that the CAUSE for which many, perhaps most, of them had laboured and some had suffered during many years, would within a few weeks be crowned with complete VICTORY. It was, as Mr. Baldwin said, a Thanksgiving Meeting.

It is, perhaps, impossible for any man, even for one in complete sympathy with the Cause, to enter fully into the joy of the women crowned with years and honour, who looked down upon their fellow-citizens, actual and potential, and back beyond them to a great Company of Witnesses, and visualised a new and

"In the rise of woman to her place, The coming of a nobler race.

For the men suffragists who were their friends, and in a humble way their allies, it was also an occasion for thanksgiving. It was a Ladies' night, or, better, a Woman's night. It was your Triumph; for all practical purposes, it must be conceded that Woman freed Herself. She has won through in the main by Her own pluck, force of character, and intensity of purpose. She had proved Herself a "bonnie fighter," and, our nature being what it is, we love a "bonnie fighter.'

A wonderful meeting! Women, and a few men, of We men had our own thoughts as we looked upon all ages and classes brought together to receive from the scene. In the midst of a fight we are apt to be carried away by the enthusiasm of the moment. Sometimes, enraged by a glaring injustice, we take up the cudgels against it much in the spirit of him who goes for a bully-without entering into the argument. Now, so far as this war is concerned, the cease fire" has sounded. What of the Future? In the changed situation we ask ourselves a question-Was it, so far as we are concerned, worth while? Now that we have, or are by way of getting, what we professed to want, are we satisfied? Did we well or ill to join in the struggle?

Some of us who in the old days were members of better world which they had helped to build, and saw, the "Men's League" were with you at Queen's Hall, as well in sympathy as the flesh. We listened, and we watched you, and you gave us our answer. It was given to one of the youngest of you, Nancy Stewart Parnell, to deliver it in perfect language, through the medium of a perfect voice. Mr. Baldwin was not the only man who listened "spellbound." I think I speak for my old-time comrades when I say that we are satisfied. We are glad to remember that sometimes we stood by you on carts and boxes, and that sometimes we walked with you in procession through the streets. Yes, we ARE glad.

A. J. C. E.

INTERNATIONAL WORK.

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In THE VOTE of March 2nd, we reported that the Sixth Pan-American Conference, held at Havana in February this year, had appointed a Committee of Women to investigate the civil and political equality of women. We have now received the full text of the Conference's Resolution passed unanimously in Plenary Session on February 18th :-

"The Reporters submit to the consideration of the Honourable Committee of Private International Law and Uniform Legislation the following projects of resolution:

THAT an Inter-American Committee of Women be constituted to be charged with the preparation of whatever juridical information or of any other kind may be deemed desirable to enable the Seventh International Conference of American States to take up the study of the civil and political equality of women (with men) on the Continent.

This Committee shall consist of seven women from the various countries of America, designated by the Pan-American Union; this number to be increased by the Committee itself until each Republic is represented thereon.'

The National Woman's Party, to whose initiative and political skill this splendid result is largely due, report very fully on the whole period of work at the Conference, which seems to have been full of encouragement. They conclude a most interesting report as

"It is earnestly hoped that the women chosen to direct the work of this Committee will be women strong in their beliefs of the importance of equality and women of the time and the ability to make the work thorough.

The Committee's work (i.e., the Committee on International Action of the National Woman's Party) with the Pan-American Conference did not result, as they asked, in action on their rights. It did, however, give women the right to recommend what they wanted to the next Conference before any more international agreements should be written through this body without the consent of women."

The above result at Havana gives great hope for the future of international action.

MRS. RUNCIMAN SPEAKS OUT!

Last week, the National Liberal Club entertained the two newly-elected Liberal M.P.s-Mrs. Runciman and Mr. F. Kingsley Griffith. Mr. Comyns Carr, K.C., the Liberal candidate in the recent Ilford byelection, presided. Mrs. Runciman said she did not win the St. Ives election because she was a woman. "I am afraid I was only a wife, which is not quite the same thing. It was not so much on my merits that I was invited to contest the seat, but because they thought any wife could be relied on to vacate the seat for her husband when the time came." She suggested that it was really time that Liberals got rid of some of their prejudices. It often seemed to her that Liberals were more reluctant to get rid of the woman prejudice than the Labour Party, or even the Conservative Party. The Conservatives had had a woman as president of the National Union of Conservative Associations, but she had never heard it suggested that a woman should become president of the National Liberal Federation.

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EDINBURGH CORPORATION BILL.

This Bill has been postponed every week from Friday to Friday on coming up for its Second Reading in the House of Commons

On March 15th, Sir John Gilmour and Mr. Chamberlain received a deputation representing the Corporation of Edinburgh, and consisting of the Town Clerk, the Medical Officer of Health, and the Venereal Diseases Officer of that city, who set before these Ministers the facts which had induced the Corporation of Edinburgh to ask, in the Edinburgh Corporation Bill, for greater powers of detecting, controlling, and curing venereal disease. The speech of the Town Clerk was particularly impressive in its citation of the damage done by lapsed or recalcitrant cases, but the Secretary for Scotland and the Minister of Health intimated plainly that, for considerations of general public policy, they would be compelled to advise the House of Commons not to give the Bill a Second

The Medical Women's Federation has sent the following letter to all Members of Parliament, all members of the Edinburgh Corporation, the Press, the women's papers, and Headway, published by the League of Nations:

Dear Sir or Madam,—The Medical Women's Federation views with deep apprehension the attempts of the Municipality of Edinburgh to obtain Parliamentary powers for the compulsory treatment of venereal disease, as it is convinced that the use of such powers would not lead to the more effective treatment of venereal disease and would tend to discourage early cases, who are usually most curable and most infectious, from applying for treatment. It bases these convictions on the invariable result of such compulsory powers where they have been applied.—I am, yours faithfully,

(Signed) CHRISTINE M. MURRELL, President; ELLEN B. ORR, CLARA STEWART, Vice-Presidents; FRANCES IVENS, Past President; JANE H. WALKER, Hon. Treasurer; F. May Dickinson Berry, Hon.

Glasgow Corporation contemplates introducing a Bill to obtain compulsory powers.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Dear Madam,—May we correct two statements in the paragraph in your issue of March 16th, entitled "National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship," which seem to us to give a very misleading idea—in the first instance of the Presidential Address, and, in the second, of the business considered by our Annual Council Meeting? You quote Miss Rathbone as having said, in her Presidential Address, that "she considered that militancy had been the chief obstacle to the winning of the vote! " If, from the whole address these words are to be singled out for quotation, it would seem that your readers should be entitled to know their context. After quoting words of Mr. Nevinson's strongly supporting the militant side of the woman's suffrage movement, Miss Rathbone said: "Looking back over the years, we shall probably agree (though I must only speak for myself) that both wings of the suffrage movement had an indispensable contribution to make. That of the militants was made (as I see it) during the early stage of militancy, when they succeeded in breaking down a Press boycott and in shocking an inattentive public first into attention and afterwards into recognition that here was a great issue for which women were willing to suffer and die... When its methods were persisted in at a time when they provided numerous politicians with a much-desired excuse for breaking pledges which they would otherwise have been compelled to fulfil

pledges which they would otherwise have been compelled to fulfil—then militancy became, I believe, not only no aid, but the chief obstacle of the suffrage movement."

Secondly, after referring to Thursday's meeting, you say: "Resolutions were discussed and passed on a variety of points on the Union's programme of social reform." We do not know what you intend by this phrase, but the subjects discussed by the Council included the following. Facel Femaliance has been applied to the following. Council included the following:—Equal Franchise; An Equal Moral Standard; Married Women's Right to Engage in Paid Work; Women Medical Students; Women in the Ministry of Religion; Training of Unemployed Women; Women's Franchise in Ceylon; Responsibility towards the Women of India; Maternal Mortality; Equality of Contributions and Benefits for Insured Men and Women; Age of Marriage; Classifying of Women and Children; Playing Fields for Girls; and New Women Voters and the Woman's Movement.—Yours faithfully,

K. I. HANCOCK, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

Women's Freedom League.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, April 4th, at 4 p.m.
Tea and Politics-up-to-date.
Brunswick Square. Speaker: Miss Haslett
(Secretary, the Women's Engineering

Thursday, April 19th, at 3 p.m. Hampstead. Branch Meeting at 28, Well Walk, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of Miss DARE TO Armstrong).
Saturday, April 28th, at 10 a.m.

BE FREE.

Twenty-first Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Sunday, April 29th, at 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

Reception and Tea to Delegates, Members and Friends of the Women's Freedom League, by kind invitation of the Minerva Club Branch. Short speeches

PROVINCES.

Friday, March 30th. Ashford. Branch Meeting. Dr. Littledale on "Local Birds." Saturday, May 5.h. Portsmouth. Jumble Sale.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, March 30th, at 8.30 p.m.—12.
British Commonwealth League. Dance at the Lycsum Club.

Saturday, March 31st, at 3 p.m.
Speech Ciub, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Debate: "That Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Debate: "Inat Diokens is the supreme master of the English Novel." Proposer: Miss Peggy Weeling. Opposer: Miss Bourchier.

Sunday, April 1st, at 3.30 p.m.
The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square. Dr. Saleeby, M.D., F.R.S. (Edin.):

Saving the Children.'

April 17th, 18th and 19th, 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

League of Nations Union. Conference on "Migration and on Industrial Accident Prevention," at London School of Economics, Houghton Street, W.C.1.

Tuesday, April 24th, at 1 p.m.
British Commonwealth League, 17, Buckingham Street, Strand. Luncheon. Speaker: Mrs. Francis Ayscough on "Women in China." Seats 2/- each.

HOLIDAYS.

The Women's Freedom League and the Minerva Publishing Co.'s Offices will be closed from Thursday, 5.30 p.m., April 5th, until Tuesday, April 10th, at 9.30 a.m.

BRANCH NOTES.

A Meeting of the Finchley Branch was held at "Craigieburn, Ballard's Lane, N.12, on Tuesday, March 20th, at 3 p.m. Miss Rankin presided in the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Mustard. An interesting address was given by Mrs. Hollingworth, member of the Finchley Board of Guardians, on the various kinds of

work undertaken by the Board of Guardians at Barnet. Questions and discussions followed.

The possibility of holding a Jumble Sale by the joint members of the Golders Green and Finchley Branches was discussed. It was decided to hold one in April, the date to be fixed later.

On Wednesday, March 14th, Miss Edith Rodgers gave the second of a series of Readings from the Greek writers. She chose History and Drama, and again we had a truly delightful evening. Miss Rodgers' choice of the Greek writers was extraordinarily happy and appropriate, and gave us just enough to make us have a taste for some more!

There will be two further Readings to complete the series; the dates will be announced later.
(Hon. Secs.) The Misses New and Owen.

MID-LONDON.

"The position of women in Russia under the Soviet regime" was the subject of a lecture which Mrs. Ransome, of the Women's Co-operative Guild, delivered to members of the Mid-London Branch of the Women's Freedom League at the Minerva Club, on Wednesday evening, March 21st, Miss Pierotti being in the Chair.

Mrs. Ransome explained that an invitation was received last November by the Women's Co-operative Guild from the Russian Women's Co-operative Guild for ten members of the English Guild to visit Russia; six only went, including herself, their special object being to study the position of women and mothers in Russia to-day.

During the visit they were conducted over some of the great factories, where many women were employed as well as men. Whereas in the past women workers in the factories had been often made to work for 14 hours on end and for low wages, endeavours were being made to put into force a 7-hour working day throughout Russia. In a textile factory at Leningrad, women were receiving an average wage of 255 weekly considered to be were receiving an average wage of 35s. weekly, considered to be a good wage compared with the \pounds_2 per month paid in 1917, and there was equal pay between women and men for equal work. there was equal pay between women and men for equal work. Women were employed in printing trades, paper mills, tailoring, engineering, mining (not underground), oil wells, textile factories, also as teachers, doctors, scientists, and in agricultural scientific work. They are not allowed to work in any occupation dangerous to motherhood, and a special study of the question as to what forms of work are most suitable for women is being made. The Head of the Co-operative Institute is a woman, and one of the women directors of the Co-operative movement accompanied Mrs. Ransome's party during their stay in Russia and assisted them through all the difficulties consequent upon their being unacquainted with the language.

through all the difficulties consequent upon their being unacquainted with the language.

Women were also to be found in numerous big and important positions. In the Law Courts were women as well as men judges, women counsel, prosecutors, and registrars. The words "Mr." and "Mrs." are not used, the people addressing each other by their Christian and surnames, or the Russian equivalent of the word "comrade." There is also a plan whereby women may choose what name they shall be married under, some retaining their own name on marriage. Madame Lenin goes under her maiden name. She is the Chairman of the Department of Political Education, and Madame Trotsky is on the Committee for the Preservation of Art Museums, many of the valuable art treasures of the country having been collected and put into museums, some of the State jewels being on show in one of these collections.

The word "Soviet" means "Council," and there are both women and men on these soviets. At one of these which Mrs. Ransome attended women were on the platform and in the body of the hall, and they asked questions, as the men did. There are 24 women on the Central Executive Committee, compared with eight in England. With a few exceptions, the vote is given to both saves at the area of 12.

eight in England. With a few exceptions, the vote is given to both sexes at the age of 18.

The marriage age is 16 at present. Marriage can take place in a church, but marriage before a registrar is legal, and a contract is entered into by mutual agreement, written statements as to health and particulars of any previous marriage having to be furnished. If the parties cannot agree, a divorce can be obtained on this ground, but it has to be done before the Courts, and arrangements are made as to the care and maintenance of the arrangements are made as to the care and maintenance of the children. In Russia, a child is never branded as "illegitimate" or referred to as a "bastard."

The trade unions look after the women's interests and make it their duty to train and help the more unskilled workers. The factories are controlled by "factory committees," composed of men and women according to the number of men or women employed in the factory. One such committee was composed of 23 persons, of whom 17 were women because the such as t 23 persons, of whom 17 were women, because the majority of the

In the eastern parts of Russia, where people of many nationalities live, the women are being educated. They are allowed to speak their own language, and the present Government is getting their alphabets written down for them in Latin letters. are also clubs where the women are taught reading, writing, needlework, and hygiene, and they also have their say in the government of the country

SWANSEA.

On Monday evening, March 19th, Mrs. William Rosser, J.P., addressed a gathering of Women's Freedom League members at 9, Sketty Road. Unfortunately, the attendance was small, due to other Committee meetings the same evening, but those present had a most interesting and enjoyable time listening to Mrs. Rosser's experiences. She first told us what a Police Court is, and further explained the appointment of magistrates and their power, afterwards relating some of her experiences. After six years or more on the Bench, Mrs. Rosser had realised that the laws were made by men to suit men, and invariably women had the worst of the bargain. She proved the necessity of women magistrates in dealing wth convicted women and children.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. OLIVER.

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Lecture. Dr. Saleeby, M.D., F.R.S.
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