

THE VOTE.
FEB. 12, 1926.

JOIN IN THE FIGHT!

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1926

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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THE CALL TO PARIS!

TENTH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE, PARIS, MAY 30—JUNE 6, 1926.

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance calls upon its thirty-six national Auxiliaries and upon the seven new societies either provisionally affiliated or applying for affiliation, to send to its Tenth International Congress to be held in Paris from May 30 to June 6, 1926, the full quota of fully accredited delegates. It also calls upon all women's societies, both national and international, which support the object of the Alliance, to send fraternal delegates to the Congress, and promises a most cordial welcome to all individual friends and supporters of the women's movement in all countries who may wish to be present at our deliberations.

Since our last Congress in Rome, in 1923, it may seem that the wheel of progress has been turning more slowly than in former years. We have, however, to record an important victory in Newfoundland, where the long struggle of the women has been crowned with success, a suffrage measure having been passed giving women the right to vote, though not on absolutely the same terms as men. In India also three more Provinces have enfranchised their women, the United Provinces, Assam, and Bengal; as have also the Native States of Cochin and Mysore.

Elsewhere a great step forward towards the emancipation of women has been accomplished by the grant of the municipal vote, already in sight in Italy and Greece, and actually in operation in Spain. In France a Suffrage Bill is under discussion, and there is good hope that the women of France will also shortly have a victory to celebrate. In other fields covered by our programme, women are steadily advancing: consolidating their gains in the professions; reforming laws which have for centuries perpetuated injustices towards women; ceaselessly stating the women's claim to economic equality; and making their weight felt in the political life of their countries in every direction.

May we not then claim when calling our Tenth Congress that, if the flood of spectacular victories has somewhat abated, the rising tide is with the women of the world, and no obstacle can for long stem their progress towards that equality of freedom and opportunity which is the vital principle of the Alliance? Moreover, the creation of the League of Nations has opened to us a vast and hopeful field of work. It is significant that in this first effort towards world peace, women should have been placed on an equality with men, so that it lies with them to help in the achievement of this mighty aim, and thus to demonstrate their fitness for great responsibilities. The story of their endeavours and the details of their work will be among the most interesting features of the Congress in Paris.

As from period to period our Congresses increase in size and importance, so also does the complexity of the problems considered. At the Paris Congress, we shall have first to deal with that most important subject, which is the very foundation of our programme, the enfranchisement of women in countries which have not yet attained this necessary reform; then will come the questions of the economic situation of women in the professions, in business, and in industry; of the equal moral standard for both sexes, with its concomitant fight against the infamous traffic in women; of the responsibility for the illegitimate child; of the nationality of the married woman, and finally of the study of the system of family allowances.

These questions have indeed been discussed at our former meetings, but they are not static questions—they present a constantly changing front, and problems which call for all our courage and perseverance if they are to be solved in accordance with our ideal. Finally, it is impossible for the women of so many different nations to meet without discussing the greatest of all problems, on which alone our constructive programme can be built up: Peace and Good Will among the Nations.

This Call to our Congress is not a Call to ease and personal satisfaction with work already done. Rather is it a Call to all those who, conscious of the value of steadfastness and co-operation, wish to press forward with set purpose and high heart to the conquest of the Promised Land of justice and good will. We know our friends and fellow-workers will not fail us and, full of hope, we summon them to come from near and far to Paris, City of Light, to send forth the message which shall help the great women's movement all over the world to advance yet further on its predestined road to Victory.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY, *President*; CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, *Hon. President*; ANNA LINDEMANN; PAULINA LUISI; MARGHERITA ANCONA; CORNELIA B. PINCHOT; FRANCES M. STIRLING; EMILIE GOURD; AVRA THEODOROPoulos; ADELE SCHREIBER KRIEGER; JULIE ARENHOLT; GERMAINE MALATERRE SELLIER.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN INDIA.

The Women's Indian Association, last month, at the time when women from thirty-seven different lands were residing in Adyar for the Theosophical Convention, seized the opportunity to hold an international gathering of women at Adyar, the first of its kind held in India. According to a report in *New India*, Mrs. Jinarajadasa presided, and sketched the progress of women in India. She also reminded the audience that her Association was linked with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and had sent eight delegates to its last Congress in Rome. Madame Kamensky spoke on behalf of Russian women, and declared that in her country women took rights without asking for them. The people of Russia had a saying that if a woman was in a movement then it was all right. Miss Pallin, of Sweden, said that, since 1923, all Government posts had been open to women. Four women were Members of Parliament; women were allowed to be ministers of religion, and all rights belonged to women, but they had not yet appropriated all that had been open to them. Mrs. Van Reghan, on behalf of the women of Holland, said that the women's movement there had no longer to fight in the open for equality for women, but there were still many points of detail which had to be won. It had left the stage of sex war, and was now in entire co-operation with men, the future of their movement depending entirely on individuals. In Germany, declared Frau Gutteman, men and women voted equally at the age of twenty in all the Provinces; but she still pleaded for an international rate of wages for women, and the emergence of the principle of equal pay for equal work. Madame Bermondet feared that the women in France were not likely to get political recognition for some time, because there was much interlinking between the Church and politics, and the Freethinkers in France were afraid that women were too religiously influenced. Mrs. Duckworth sketched the progress British women had made since their partial enfranchisement. Mrs. Labberton dwelt on the characteristics of Japanese women. She emphasised their obedience as wives, and stated that there was a democratic tendency among all classes of Japanese women. She had seen the mistress digging in the garden while the servant listened to the wireless, and both servants and mistress say "good-bye" familiarly to the master each morning as he goes to the office. The terrible problem in Japan was prostitution, and women were beginning to tackle that seriously.

After a few words from Mrs. Bennett, of Australia, Mrs. Cousins closed the meeting, declaring that there can be no barriers in the future for women who have the desire for service in any sphere of life.

Panjab Council (Woman Franchise).

Following upon the resolution passed by the Panjab Legislative Council on the 7th December, 1925, recommending that the sex disqualification for registration on the electoral rolls of constituencies of the Panjab Legislative Council should be removed in respect of women generally, it is notified in the current issue of *The Panjab Gazette* that the Governor-in-Council has made a regulation that no woman who is not otherwise disqualified for registration as an elector for the Panjab Legislative Council shall, by reason only of her sex, be disqualified for registration on the electoral roll of any constituency of the said Council.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women and the Carlton Club.

Women may now be received and entertained in the Carlton Club, hitherto the stronghold of men. But they cannot go where they like. An annexe has been connected by a corridor with the Club, for the reception of members' guests of both sexes, and will be quite separate from the Club house. One of the first women to avail herself of the new facilities was Princess Beatrice, who visited the annexe as the guest of the Earl of Kintore.

Women Journalists.

The recent report, 1924-25, of the Journalism Committee of the University of London, states that more than half the students were women, and twice as many women as men obtained the diploma. Of the 15 successful candidates who sat last July, ten were women.

Bachelor Women's Flats.

A novel experiment in housing has been inaugurated at Brighton under the auspices of the United Women's Homes Association, of which the tenants must be shareholders. The scheme consists of one-room flats for single women at rentals of 5s. 3d. and 10s. 3d. per week, plus 1s. 6d. for rates.

Father and Daughter Elected to County Council.

Mrs. Clavering Fison has been elected for the Holbrook Division of the East Suffolk County Council, and her father represents on it the adjoining division of Copdock. A husband and wife, Alderman G. R. Holt Wilson and Mrs. Wilson, are also members of this Council.

London's Women Electors.

According to a return issued by the London County Council, the women electors of London on the register for the Metropolitan Borough Council elections outnumber the men by 25,638. Out of a total electorate of 1,913,828, 944,095 are men and 969,733 are women.

Woman Preacher.

On Sunday morning, Mrs. Janet B. Binns, M.A., wife of the minister, preached at West Dulwich Congregational Church at a special service for children and young people.

Woman's New Honour.

Mrs. C. A. Sharrock, wife of Canon Sharrock, Vicar of Driffild, Yorks, has been elected to a seat on the National Assembly of the Church of England in place of Lord Irwin, the new Viceroy of India.

Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan as Chairman.

Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan has been elected Chairman of the Metropolitan Division of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations.

DINNER AND RECEPTION TO WELCOME

MRS. PANKHURST

at the HYDE PARK HOTEL,

ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3RD.

Tickets from the Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.

DINNER AND RECEPTION, £1 1s.

RECEPTION ONLY 5s.

Dinner 7.30 for 8.

Reception 9.30.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Women Magistrates.

CAPT. WEDGWOOD BENN (Lib., Leith) asked the Home Secretary how many benches of magistrates there are in England and Wales with no women magistrates; and how many with only one woman magistrate? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The appointment of magistrates in England and Wales (excluding Lancashire) rests with the Lord Chancellor, who has the assistance in each county and borough of an advisory committee. I understand from my noble Friend that there is at least one woman magistrate in every county commission in England and Wales. The Commissions for the counties of Carmarthen, Radnor, and Rutland contain only one woman's name. More than one woman is on every other county commission. There are 221 boroughs in England and Wales having separate commissions of the peace. Sixty-five of these have no women magistrates, and 34 others have only one. The majority of boroughs which have no women magistrates are boroughs having populations below 10,000. One thousand, two hundred and seventy-five women have been appointed in England and Wales during the last five years. It is the Lord Chancellor's practice, whenever new appointments are proposed, to request his advisory committee to consider the question of including women's names in the list of persons recommended for appointment. I understand from my noble Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster that the Commission of the Peace for Lancashire includes 81 women; 28 commissions for boroughs include more than one woman; two include one; there is no borough commission with no woman.

Women Police.

MR. SAKLATVALA (Com., Battersea, N.) asked the Home Secretary how many local authorities have appointed women police, and what is the total number of policewomen so appointed; how many large towns and cities have not yet done so; and will the Government bring to their special notice the recommendation of the 1920 and 1924 Departmental Committees set up by His Majesty's Government to carefully investigate this question? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Policewomen are employed in 39 police forces, the total number so employed being 137. There are 20 towns with over 100,000 population where no policewomen are employed. The Reports of both Committees have already been brought to the notice of all police authorities.

Fiji (Education).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Sutton, Plymouth) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will consider the desirability of making adequate provision for the education of Indian children in Fiji, and whether the Government of Fiji is taking any steps to make such provision? MR. AMERY: The question of a general review of the educational arrangements in Fiji, in order to meet the growing needs of the children of all classes in the Colony, has been under the consideration of the Colonial Government for some time. A decision to appoint a Commission, on which it is hoped to include representatives of the European, Fijian, and Indian sections of the community, has recently been taken.

Government Departments (Women).

MR. BRIANT (Lib., Lambeth, N.) asked the Minister of Health whether women are eligible for promotion to all the higher posts in his Department; whether the women higher executive officers and Health Insurance inspectors are allowed to deputise in the grades above them, so that they may be equally eligible with their male colleagues for consideration and promotion; and, if not, how it is proposed to give these women equality of opportunity with men? MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN: All posts in the Ministry are open to both sexes, with the exception of certain higher posts on the outdoor insurance staff, where there are at present separate establishments for men and women with higher posts

for each. The whole basis of this organisation will, however, shortly be reviewed. Women higher executive officers and Health Insurance inspectors are allowed to deputise in the grades above subject to considerations of relative seniority and suitability for the work.

Replying to a similar question put by MR. BRIANT to the Minister of Pensions, MAJOR TRYON said: Except in so far as the work of the Department is divided between men's and women's branches, eligibility for the higher posts does not depend on sex. Arrangements for providing deputies for officers during absence are of an informal nature, depending on the particular circumstances of each individual case, and do not give a prior claim to consideration for promotion. The last part of the question does not therefore arise. MR. BRIANT: I have not had a definite answer. Is it a fact that women are allowed to deputise? If they are not, are not their chances of promotion very seriously affected? MAJOR TRYON: The point is that this question of substitution does not affect the question of promotion.

Juvenile Courts (Scotland).

MR. WESTWOOD (Lab., Peebles) asked the Secretary for Scotland how many Juvenile Courts have been established, under Section III. of the Children Act, in Scottish burghs; and if the presiding magistrate in any case is a woman? SIR J. GILMOUR: The Section cited requires a Court of Summary Jurisdiction when having charges against children or young persons to sit in a different building or room from that in which it ordinarily sits, or on different days, or at different times from those at which the ordinary sittings are held; and I have no reason to suppose that this provision is not given effect to in Scottish Courts. I will make inquiries as regards the latter part of the question and inform the hon. Member of the result.

Factories Bill.

MR. ROBINSON (Lab., Elland) asked the Home Secretary when it is proposed to introduce the Bill consolidating and amending the Factory Acts? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: For the reasons which I explained in a recent speech it is not proposed to proceed with the Factory Bill during the present Session, but it is the intention of the Government that the Bill shall be passed during the course of the present Parliament.

International Labour Conference.

CAPT. BENN asked the Prime Minister if His Majesty's Government are considering sending a woman as a fully accredited delegate to the eighth International Labour Conference to be held in Geneva in May? MR. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour): I have been asked to reply. I can assure the hon. and gallant Member that the claims of women to be represented on the delegation will be considered. CAPT. BENN: Can the hon. Gentleman say, in view of the subjects to be discussed, whether a woman will be made a fully accredited delegate? MR. BETTERTON: I am unable to say that at present, because the names of the delegates are not settled. CAPT. BENN: When will the hon. Gentleman be in a position to state the names? MR. BETTERTON: I cannot say at present.

Ministry of Health (Women).

LT.-COL. MASON (U., Croydon, N.) asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of the fact that, contrary to his original anticipation, overtime is still necessary in his Department, he will now re-engage a number of women staff, experienced in pensions administration, who are at present unemployed? MR. N. CHAMBERLAIN: While I much regret that the exigencies of the work have necessitated the continuance of overtime for a longer period than I had anticipated, I am not prepared to reconsider my decision not to employ ex-temporary women clerks.

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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.

JOIN IN THE FIGHT!

We have had five days' Debate on the King's Speech, but the subject of Equal Franchise has not been mentioned. Two days were occupied in the discussion of unemployment. Women's part in this problem of unemployment was apparently entirely overlooked. No Government has, so far, devised any schemes of employment for the quarter of a million unemployed women, the great mass of whom are under thirty years of age and, therefore, in this country, necessarily voteless. Another day has been taken by a Debate on our Educational policy. Is this a subject in which the young mothers of the country whose children crowd our infants' and junior schools have no concern? The great majority of those mothers are under thirty, and therefore voteless, so they have no say in that policy. Bills have been balloted for by Members of Parliament, but no one who was successful in the Ballot has used his good fortune on behalf of Equal Franchise. There seems to be a general conspiracy in support of the Government's masterly inactivity on this question! However, our old friend Mr. Frank Briant asked two questions on the subject last Monday. First of all he inquired from the Prime Minister when the Conference would be called to consider alterations in the franchise and electoral law, to which the Prime Minister faithfully replied: "I can make no statement on this subject at present." Then Mr. Briant asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what countries had placed women on an equality of franchise with men, and Sir Austen Chamberlain answered: "I regret that this information is not in the possession of His Majesty's Government!" We learn also that Capt. Wedgwood Benn has presented an Equal Franchise Bill, supported by Members of the Radical Group, on the lines of Mr. Whiteley's ill-fated Bill of last year, and that this Bill has a chance of being read a Second time on Friday, April 30th. The prospects for Equal Franchise inside Parliament are none too rosy at the present time. It depends entirely on the activities outside Parliament as to whether or not British women are to vote at the same age and on the same terms as men at the next General Election. The political inferiority of women is at the root of every other kind of inferiority, and the fight for women's equality of opportunity, reward, and responsibility with men in every department of our national life will be increasingly difficult until women have the same political power as men to defend their interests. We appeal to women, especially to young women, to realise what this inferiority means to every member of our sex, and to make up their minds to work increasingly, first and foremost, for women's political equality with men. The continued inactivity of the Government and Parliament on the question of equal political rights for women is an insult to every British woman, whatever her age or class, and women must show their resentment by forcing this matter on the attention of the public, the Press, and Parliament on every possible occasion. This reform will not come without working for it; women must rely upon their own enthusiasm and work to win it from an unwilling Government.

CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN.

The Report of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons, which was issued last December, contained a great number of recommendations under the headings of alterations in Law and in the Jurisdiction of the Courts, the Administration of the Law, the Treatment of the Offender, Provision for Child Welfare, and Preventive Measures, but, so far, no legislation based on these recommendations has been foreshadowed. The Report itself contains the highest testimony to the value of Women Police, but it is curious that the need for Women Police is not recorded in the summary of its recommendations, although Recommendation No. 9 reads: "That in indecent offences properly trained women shall take the statement of girls; but where this is not possible a woman shall be present while the policeman is taking the statement." Last Tuesday, when asked by Mr. Pethick-Lawrence what action the Government proposed to take on the lines of this Report, the Home Secretary said he was unable at present to make any statement. When reminded that large numbers of woman's organisations were very anxious that something should be done in the matter, Sir William Joynson-Hicks said that there was another Report coming from a Departmental Committee, and he did not propose to ask any legal sanction for either of them until both were ready, and so have one Bill for the two. Replying to Miss Wilkinson's question as to whether he would consider increasing the women police, the Home Secretary said that question did not arise. He had already increased the women police in London where he had power. He was advised that further increases would take place throughout the country, but he had no power to insist upon them. The present figures are: 50 women police in London, and 87 outside London!

WOMEN ON THE LAND.

We are glad to note that in the report issued last week, on the administration of the Agricultural Wages Act (August 7th, 1924, to September 20th, 1925), attention is drawn to the difference in the treatment by the Wages Committees of women compared with their treatment of men, since such mention will focus public attention upon some of the many serious grievances at present suffered by women land-workers. The report mentions certain specific injustices, viz., that while in all the areas a minimum weekly rate for ordinary male workers is in force, in only 15 areas do the orders affecting women provide for such a minimum; also that whilst 42 Committees have provided for a weekly half-day for males, only 16 have taken steps to secure a similar concession for women. The report partly attributes the cause of the neglect to the erroneous view held by many Committees that the number of women employed in agriculture in their area is entirely negligible. This view, unfortunately, is shared by almost all sections of the public, whereas the fact remains that, with the exception of textiles, metals, and domestic service, agriculture absorbs the largest number of women in the country. Mrs. Wintringham, that staunch friend of the woman land-worker, estimates the number of women employed in agriculture to-day as 109,000—one-seventh of the total number of land-workers. A fuller representation of women on all councils and committees which have to do with agriculture would do much to remedy the present unsatisfactory state of affairs. At present the Ministry of Agriculture has only one woman on its staff, the Council of Agriculture has only three women members, and on the 46 district wages boards, set up in 1924, only seven women (including Mrs. Wintringham) have secured representation for the whole of England.

CHINESE WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN INDUSTRY.

The third of a series of lectures on industrial conditions among women and children in backward countries, convened by the Fabian Women's Group, was held in London recently, when Miss Florence Sutton, Assistant Secretary of the World's Y.W.C.A., addressed the Society on "Industrial Conditions of Women and Children in China." It will be remembered that the Y.W.C.A. early espoused the cause of the Chinese woman worker. They took a house in the chief mill district, and appointed Miss Agatha Harrison as industrial secretary, who has done wonderful work among the women. In 1922, the Y.W.C.A. were also instrumental in helping to appoint an industrial Committee of Inquiry in China.

Miss Sutton, who lived five years in China, and during that time visited a number of factories and silk filatures in the various Provinces, explained the difficulties of obtaining accurate statistics on any subject in China, owing to the vastness of the country, and the different stages of progress in the various Provinces. In Canton, for instance, women have plenty of freedom, and there are numbers of women doctors and lawyers. In other Provinces, again, the women still have bound feet, and hardly any freedom. In the Provinces of Foochow and Kwantung, women and men work side by side on the land, whilst in Canton all the small rivercraft is managed by women. Though Chinese women are usually of slender build, they are capable of heavy field work, and can carry enormous burdens, and be harnessed to sedan chairs.

In the villages women and children are chiefly engaged in spinning, match-making, and all kinds of small home industries, which they work at for long hours at a time, and for very small pay. The Chinese custom of apprenticeship of quite small children to home industries is much in evidence, and in central China children work until far into the night.

Since the first beginning of the factory system in China, twenty years ago, women and children are now crowding into the principal industrial cities. In about twenty cities the factories contain modern machinery; others are a curious mixture of hand and machine work, whilst in a few the machinery is entirely out of date. The chief industries, mainly silk and cotton, are to be found in Shanghai, Canton, in one or two cities in the north of China, and all down the Yangtse-kiang valley.

Conditions vary very considerably in the different factories, whether Chinese, Japanese, British, or American owned. Some are noted for their excellent heating, lighting, and sanitation, for safety devices on the machinery, and a certain amount of welfare work, including day nurseries. One American factory in Shanghai is as near perfection as possible. In other factories all these amenities are conspicuous by their absence, and not even a proper dinner-hour is provided, the workers eating their cold rice and vegetables standing at their machines.

WOMEN IN THE SCOTTISH PULPIT.

The desirability of the ordination of women is being seriously considered by the United Free Church of Scotland, and the Scottish Press has given sympathetic support to this reform. By 22 votes to 10 a motion was defeated last week at Greenock United Free Presbytery, that an overture be forwarded to the General Assembly to the effect that the Assembly should consider whether the time has come to make ordination to the office of the ministry accessible to women of the Church who feel the call of God to such service. On the other hand, Edinburgh United Free Presbytery unanimously approved an overture for submission to the Assembly, asking the Assembly to initiate legislation declaring the eligibility of women for admission to the colleges of the Church as regular theological students, who, on completion of their full course of study, might be

Miss Sutton described how she took Miss Jane Addams, when on her recent Eastern tour, round a Chinese-managed silk filature in Shanghai, where the weaving and spinning were under one roof. In the weaving section good lighting and ventilation were in evidence with safety devices on the machinery, and no children at work under 12 years of age. But the conditions under which the spinning was carried on were very different. A rickety little staircase led up to a tiny room minus all ventilation and crowded with women and children of eight years and upwards, who stirred the cocoons in bowls of boiling water, and handed the silk threads to women sitting at tables opposite. No windows were open, and the bad air, steam, and stench from the dead cocoons piled upon the floor soon caused the visitors to beat a hasty retreat. The women and children working in this deadly atmosphere worked a 14-hour day.

The cotton industry, which is the largest industry in China, absorbs most of the women and children, the percentage of labour averaging roughly 40 per cent. women, 40 per cent. children, and 20 per cent. men. There is no Sunday rest-day, but most of the larger mills have one day's break in ten. There is no annual holiday, but work slackens once yearly at the Chinese New Year Festival, which extends any length of time from three days up to ten, when all the shops and factories close.

A large percentage of the women live an hour's journey from the factories; they begin work at 5.30 in the morning, and go on to 6.30 at night. The average working day is 12 hours. This is a great hardship in China, where family life is very precious, and the long day's absence from the rest of the clan is a sore trial. In spite of their heavy working day, however, many Chinese children attend night school after they return home. It is no uncommon sight to see the little hair-net makers, pea-nut sorters, etc., poring over their letters by the dim light of an oil lamp. Only a very small portion of the population is literate.

There is very little trade-union organisation among Chinese women workers. So far, only the women in the silk industries in Shanghai are definitely organised. The pay is usually appallingly low. In the cotton industry an unskilled woman earns about five dollars monthly for a 12-hour day, and children about four dollars monthly. Skilled women earn about 12 dollars monthly.

Now that attention has been drawn to conditions in the factory, the majority of employers are in favour of reform. In 1923, the Chinese Minister of Agriculture evolved a set of regulations to be observed in every factory, but these for the most part are ignored. The Child Labour recommendations resulting from the recent industrial Committee of Inquiry have not yet passed into law, owing to the difficulty of getting them ratified by the ratepayers of the various Provinces.

licensed to preach and be ordained to the ministry on the same terms as men. Professor Hugh Watt, who moved the transmission of the overture, said he did not think it was a revolutionary overture, either in its nature or its probable effects. It was simply the culmination of a development which had long been in process within the Church. Admission to the colleges had long been conceded, and he stated that 10 per cent. of the students in the New College were women, and, although the proportion might increase if women were eligible for ordination, Professor Watt considered there was no ground for believing that they would flock to the ministry in such numbers as to overcrowd the profession. He thought, however, there were spheres abroad and at home where the clerical woman missionary or minister could do work of the very best

kind. He urged the Assembly to face the question and open the doors wide to women for fuller forms of service. Commenting on this matter, *The Scotsman* says: "The Church has accepted much loyal work from women, especially in the mission fields, but has withheld from them the highest recognition of their power to serve. There is no adequate reason why any sex disqualification should be retained. Women are the main support of the Church; and their natural bent seems to be towards preaching. . . . During last Assembly week an official of the United Free Church expressed the desire that the number of young men entering the ministry should be increased, while from the Church of Scotland came the doleful statement that 'our Divinity Halls are nearly empty.' If men cannot be found in sufficient numbers, there is the less reason for opposing the advent of women. . . . It is not a reform which can be hurried, for the conservatism of congregations would be a heavy factor against the election of women as ministers; but there is no reason why the legal change in the status of women should not be made soon." Our own view is that although conservatism of many congregations might be a heavy factor against the election of women as ministers, women, if ordained, might very probably attract new congregations of men and women, and gather into the Churches some of the present great mass of outsiders who belong to both sexes.

PROSTITUTION IN BOMBAY.

Following revelations in the Press on the subject of "Prostitution in Bombay," we give below questions which have been asked in Parliament. No reader of THE VOTE can view with anything but disquietude the answers given to Mr. Johnston, the Labour Member for Dundee.

MR. JOHNSTON asked the Under Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that in the Kamatipura District of Bombay there are hundreds of women kept in iron cage houses for prostitution purposes; whether he is aware that the tramcars pass down the street between these cages; that there are instances where from six to twelve women are in one room; and that the women solicit from behind cage bars; is he further aware of the growth of venereal disease in Bombay; and what steps, if any, it is proposed to take in the matter? EARL WINTERTON: I am aware that the horrible practice referred to by the hon. Member in the first part of his question is unfortunately too common in the East, though I do not believe it ever reached in Bombay City, or elsewhere in British India, such a pitch of degradation as the question alleges. The Bombay Government, within whose competence the matter is, passed a law two years ago which should make it far easier to deal with the worst scandals of organised prostitutions. MR. JOHNSTON: In view of the Noble Lord's answer, will he consider photographs and official reports—supplied not later than two months ago—with the object of getting some remedy for this gross scandal? EARL WINTERTON: The hon. Gentleman will realise that this is a matter which is, as I have already said, really within the competence of the Bombay Government. In so far as it relates to the question of health, that is a transferred provincial subject; in so far as it relates to police administration, it is a reserved provincial subject. The hon. Gentleman will also realise that even before the reforms were brought in, it was very unusual for the Secretary of State to interfere in details of police administration in any province. MR. JOHNSTON: In view of the public hostility expressed by the Noble Lord and his friends to the very idea of nationalisation of women elsewhere, would not he consider whether any steps can be taken to induce the Bombay Government to put a stop to this practice? SIR HENRY CRAIK (U., Scottish Universities): Before that question is answered, I should like to know, too, if we are not to have a distinct understanding whether there is to be independent local government in India or not? Having granted independent local government, are we constantly to raise questions here, the responsibility for which rests

with local governments we have created? MR. P. HARRIS (Lib., Bethnal Green, S.W.): Have we not a right to interfere if slavery, for instance, were practised in India; and is not a practice of this kind equivalent to slavery? EARL WINTERTON: I am not going to answer theoretical questions of that kind. If the hon. Gentleman desires to ask a question upon slavery, he should put it down. MR. JOHNSTON: May I beg for an answer to the second supplementary question which I addressed to the Noble Lord? MR. SPEAKER: I gather that the Noble Lord has given such answers as he is prepared to give on the matter.

GERMAN WOMEN'S PROGRESS

The January number of *Die Frau*, the monthly organ of the Federation of German Women's Organisations, includes several interesting articles. Dr. Hilde Adler deals with the work of women in industry, with special relation to the effect on their general health, and the journal also includes a review of Dr. Helene Simon's book on "The Employment of Children in Agriculture," which has recently been published, and which draws attention to the urgent need of legislation to restrict the hours of work for children on the land. The legislation of March, 1903, only affected the employment of children in industry, and did not touch agriculture. The regulations passed in 1919 referred solely to the employment of adults on the land. Three years ago, the Association for Children's Protection circulated a Questionnaire, and received valuable information in reply, much of which is given in Dr. Simon's book. Answers from elementary school teachers show that the children in schools in county areas are often too exhausted to profit by the teaching given, and make constant mistakes in their work. One member of an Education Authority in Pommern wrote that: "Turnips are grown by child labour, and there is little time over for the cultivation of the children's minds." This writer went on to say that the help of some children is essential, but that there should be an interval of two to three hours between the end of school and beginning of work. A clergyman in the same district urged the need for the abolition of employment before school hours, and a school doctor in East Prussia informed the Society that many children worked fifteen hours a day in summer. A teacher from this area spoke of the work done in the fields in the early morning, and as long as daylight lasted, and also referred to the work done in the home after dark, such as potato peeling, water carrying, and turnip cutting. Examples from other States are given, the general conclusion being that no child should work on the land for more than three to five hours in the school term, and from six to eight hours during the holidays. MARIAN BERRY.

BILLS OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

The following Bills emerged from the Ballot:—
Criminal Justice (Increase of Penalties) Bill, "to increase and extend the powers of the Court to inflict punishment in the case of certain crimes," presented by Mr. Greaves-Lord (U., Norwood).
Adoption of Children Bill, "to make provision for the Adoption of Infants," presented by Mr. Galbraith (U., Surrey East).
Prevention of Unemployment Bill, "to make provision for the prevention of unemployment, and for other purposes connected therewith," presented by Mr. Lees-Smith (Lab., Keighley).
Factories Bill, "to consolidate, with amendments, the enactments relating to Factories, and for purposes connected therewith," presented by Miss Wilkinson (Lab., E. Middlesbrough).
Importation of Plumage (Prohibition) Act (1921) Amendment Bill, "to amend the Importation of Plumage (Prohibition) Act, 1921," presented by Col. Douglas Clifton Brown (U., Hexham).
Education (Employment of Young Persons) Bill, "to amend the Education Act, 1921," presented by Mr. Ammon (Lab., Camberwell, N.).

Women's Freedom League.

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

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Tuesday, February 23rd, at 7 p.m.
 Mid-London Branch. Public Debate at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. "Is Democracy a Failure?" Affirmative: Miss Cicely Hamilton. Negative: Miss Nina Boyle.
 Friday, March 19th, at 3—7.30 p.m.
 Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin).
 Saturday, March 20th, at 10 a.m.
 National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Saturday, April 24th, at 10 a.m.
 Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

PROVINCES.

Monday, February 15th, at 8 p.m.
 Wallasey Branch. Public Meeting at the Town Hall (No. 2 Committee Room). Speaker: F. G. Hanham, Esq. Subject: "Problems of Unemployment: Some Causes and Cures." Chair: Mrs. Francis Williams, B.A.
 Wednesday, February 24th, at 7.30 p.m.
 Middlesbrough Branch. Public Meeting at St. Barnabas' Hall, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough. Speaker: Commandant Allen. Subject: "Women Police during the War."
 Friday, March 5th, at 3 p.m.
 Hampstead Branch. Meeting at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3.
 Saturday, March 6th, at 3 p.m.
 Portsmouth Branch. Jumble Sale at Long's Memorial Hall (Small Hall).

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, February 12th, at 6.30 p.m.
 Women's Engineering Society, 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W.1. Lecturer: Miss E. M. Kennedy. Subject: "Some Problems of the Machinery Market."
 Saturday, February 13th, at 3 p.m.
 Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That a common language is the most powerful bond between people." Opener: Miss Reeves. Opposer: Miss Carthew.
 Monday, February 15th, at 5.45 p.m.
 Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Speaker: Mrs. Muriel Matters-Porter. Subject: "Has Woman Creative and Constructive Ability?"
 Monday, February 15th, at 7 p.m.
 The Electrical Association for Women. E.L.M.A. Lighting Service Bureau (top floor), 15, Savoy Street, W.C.2. Lecturers: Mr. W. E. Bush and Miss Hodge. Subject: "Electric Light in the Home." Members free. Non-members: 7/6 the course, 2/- for single lectures.
 Tuesday, February 16th, at 5.30 p.m.
 London Society for Women's Service, 35-37, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. Speaker: Mrs. Oliver Strachey. Subject: "The Work of the London Society for Women's Service."
 Thursday, February 25th, at 5 p.m.
 Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Lecture by Mr. Clough Williams-Ellis, on "Architecture, its Pleasures and Pains."
 Thursday, February 25th, at 8 p.m.
 St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Public Meeting at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Mme. Malaterre Sellier. Subject: "The Paris Congress." Chair: Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford.
 Friday, February 26th, at 8 p.m.
 National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise at the Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., LL.D., Miss Maude Royden, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. Chair: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., M.A.

BRANCH NOTES.

BRIGHTON.

A general meeting of members was held Monday, February 1st, at Sunways, York Avenue, where Dr. Alice Vickery led a discussion on "The Position of the Married Woman." It has been decided to hold these discussion meetings monthly, the next one being at "Sunways," on Tuesday, March 2nd. It was with great regret that the Branch accepted the resignation of Mrs. Bridges as hon. Treasurer, on her removal from Brighton. Mrs. Hudson has very kindly consented to take her place.

PORTSMOUTH.

A Jumble Sale will be held on Saturday, March 6th, at 3 o'clock, at Long's Memorial Hall (small room). Parcels may be sent to the Hall on the morning of the sale, or previously to 89, Festing Grove. Members are earnestly asked to send anything saleable, and to come and help sell. Helpers will meet at the Hall at 2 o'clock.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHITTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

DUNOON, ROTHESAY, GLASGOW AND EDINBURGH.

During the past week Miss Anna Munro has spoken at meetings in Dunoon, Rothesay, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. Everywhere her speaking was greatly appreciated, and resulted in many ladies joining our organisation.

On Monday, in Dunoon, at a meeting at which Councillor Mrs. MacPherson presided, we filled the Imperial Hall, and had a most enjoyable and profitable evening. Mrs. MacPherson was an excellent chairman, saying she had agreed to preside "as an inquirer," but she joined as soon as Miss Munro finished her speech. The proceedings were most agreeably varied by solos delightfully rendered by Miss Campbell and Miss Gallagher, two well-known local singers. It was very kind of them to come and help us. Tea was provided, and during the friendly interval thereby caused, names of new members were taken.

We had feared that the Rothesay meeting might be a bit of a fiasco, as, unfortunately, it took place on a "trades holiday," and we had been told on such a day the town is empty. Nevertheless the Good Templar Hall was full, and once more we had a very nice meeting, the tea interval again being utilised to enrol new members. Councillor Miss Arrol presided most ably, joining herself, and urging others to do likewise. We hope she will be President of the Branch we are forming.

On Thursday night the Glasgow Branch held its annual meeting, appointing office-bearers for the coming year, most of whom are the same as those who held office last year. We are pleased to say that Miss Irwin allowed us to add her name to our list of Vice-Presidents, and Mrs. Curdie undertook the duties of Treasurer. (Last year, Miss Charlotte Thomson, B.A., very ably filled this post, but a few weeks ago she went to France. Miss McLelland very kindly undertook to act until the annual meeting, when she resigned, and Mrs. Curdie, to whom we are most grateful, was appointed.) On this occasion, in addition to Miss Munro's speech, Mrs. Fiske dealt with the correspondence, Secretary's report, etc., and Miss I. McLelland read the Treasurer's report, Miss Mina Steven—an ideal chairman—presiding.

The final meeting of the series was held in the Philosophical Institute, Edinburgh, when, despite very wet weather the room was full. Miss Jacob, B.Sc., who has long been President of the Edinburgh Branch, was in the chair, and, in the absence of Miss Spriggs, read the minutes. As everyone knows, Miss Spriggs has for some years worked very hard and ably as Hon. Secretary of our Branch in this city. Now, however, she is resigning, feeling that she will not have time to carry on as the Branch has so increased in size. We are very sorry indeed to lose so excellent a secretary, but are also extremely grateful to Miss Manclark, who has been appointed in her place. As usual, Miss Munro's speech was very effective, ten ladies who were not members promptly joining during tea, and others saying they would probably follow suit later on. After tea, the audience was vastly entertained by a clever display of conjuring given by Mr. Edgar, brother of one of our Edinburgh members, who had kindly consented to assist in this way.

Altogether, a very satisfactory week. For this success our thanks are due to Miss Anna Munro herself for coming to speak at much personal inconvenience, and to all who helped in any way—to Councillor Mrs. MacPherson, Councillor Miss Arrol, Miss Mina Steven, and Miss Jacob, B.Sc., for presiding in their respective towns, to Miss Campbell, Miss Gallagher and Miss Stewart for the musical treat in Dunoon, to Mr. Edgar for his interesting entertainment in Edinburgh, and to all those ladies who helped with the stewarding, serving of tea, selling of Votes and literature, providing food (in Edinburgh), advertising the meetings, etc., etc. Also, we are grateful to members of the audiences for coming—a meeting without an audience being of no use whatsoever.

On Monday, February 8th, a meeting officially to form the Dunoon Branch, and appoint office-bearers, was held in the Craigen Tea Rooms, at which Councillor Mrs. MacPherson will preside.

On Friday, February 12th, a similar meeting for the same purpose will take place in the Norman Stewart Institute, Rothesay, with Councillor Miss Arrol in the chair.

(Org.) LILIAN LENTON.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

A large and representative gathering of women met at Chelsea Court last week by the very kind invitation of Lady Rhondda and Mrs. Archdale. Among those present were Mrs. Pankhurst, Lady Barrett, Dr. Christine Murrell, Miss Pictou Turberville, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Dr. Ogilvie Gordon, Commandant Allen, Miss Ada Moore, Miss Tuke and Miss Winifred Mayo, and the chief topics of conversation were the prospects of Equal Franchise, the means to be adopted to get more women into Parliament at the next General Election, and the Women's International Suffrage Alliance Congress in Paris, May 30th.

All readers of THE VOTE, in or near London, are urged to attend the Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise, to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, Friday, February 26th, at 8 p.m., when the speakers will be Dame Millicent Fawcett, O.B.E., Miss Maude Royden, and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and the Chair will be taken by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS.

Saturday, February 6th.—At St. Andrew's Church, Stoke Newington, Miriam Branson (Mrs. Preece) to Stanley J. D. Berger.

FRIDAY,
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1926.

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NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED 'AND ADJUSTED.—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, February 14th. 3.30 p.m. Music. Lecture. Miss Alison Neilans (Sec., The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene): "The Reform of our Street Laws." 6.30 p.m. Miss Maude Royden: "Money."

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND CHAIRMANSHIP. Classes, Private Lessons and Lectures, also Saturday Speech Club. New term now beginning.—Miss LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BRIGHTON.—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.