

# THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1929

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

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## XXXIII.—OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

### DAME MAUD BURNETT, J.P., MAYOR OF TYNEMOUTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.

Each time an ancient town elects a woman Mayor, it is a break with tradition to be hailed with delight. Tynemouth, picturesquely situated on the north bank of the Tyne, if not a Roman station, at least has a history dating back to the founding of the Priory by Edwin, King of Northumbria, between 617 and 633.

Dame Maud Burnett, who in 1918 had the D.B.E. conferred upon her in recognition of her valuable services during the War, was one of the first women to take an active part in establishing the custom for women to participate in public work in the north of England. She was the first woman Councillor for the Borough of Tynemouth; the first woman magistrate; and now holds office as the first woman Mayor.

The daughter of Jacob Burnett, J.P., Dame Burnett has been in touch with social work for many years. She is actively connected with all welfare enterprises in the borough. Her interest is of the kind which shows itself in personal visits, and is not confined to acting on Committees. It is owing to her ceaseless efforts that Tynemouth now has a small convalescent home for poor people on the coast at Seton Sluice.

The Blind Welfare Society for the North perhaps knows her most intimately, as her personal interest in the individual extends from the teachers to the humblest little basket maker.

Dame Burnett has, to a great extent, overcome her own handicap of defective vision; she is a Braille expert and a great reader; she memorises all speeches and minutes.

The County Mental Hospital counts her as one of its most regular visitors; and she has just completed her one year of prison visits.

The most urgent work at present is the distress relief work, both for miners and local men and women who are suffering through unemployment. It is the Mayor's earnest hope that some of this unemployment may be alleviated in a scheme which will benefit both this and the neighbouring borough.

Dame Burnett is a woman of whom it can be truly said that she never rests. She is everywhere, *au fait* with everything, and possesses a marvellous memory for detail.

Another of the notable things about the Mayor is that she is always accessible to anyone, especially to those possessing a very little of this world's goods, and is held by them in great affection as a friend who always, when possible, helps in a practical way.

It is the wish of Dame Burnett that more women should come forward into public life, as, in this respect, women are still much in the minority.



Photo by

THE MAYOR OF TYNEMOUTH.

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## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### First Woman Agent-General.

Miss Jean Iris Howard, the daughter of Mr. John Howard, Agent-General for Nova Scotia, who died last week, has been appointed acting Agent-General in her father's place. For years past Miss Howard has assisted her father in his work, and has shown such conspicuous ability that the Canadian Government cabled that she was to "carry on" as the administrative head of the Province's office in London. She is the first woman to hold such a post in the history of the British Empire.

### A Maude Royden Scholar.

The Council of Lady Margaret Hall have elected Miss C. C. Willans, Exhibitioner of the Hall, to the Maude Royden Travelling Exhibition.

### Lady Aimee Scott's Achievement.

Lady Aimee Scott, whose play, "The Iron Law," was produced by the Lyceum Club Stage Society on Sunday night, has completed three literary works within six months. The other two are a novel and a volume of poems.

### Fleetwood Girl Fish Buyer.

For the first time, a woman has officiated as the booking clerk of a fish salesman. She is Miss Hilda Wood, of Fleetwood, who is nineteen years of age, and was the only woman last week amongst the hundreds of fish buyers. "Her records of the sales came out remarkably correct," said her employer and the owner of the steam trawler "Endymion," whose catch was booked by Miss Wood.

### WOMAN WINS THE CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL.

Miss Elsie E. Phare, of Newnham College, Cambridge, has the very great distinction of being the first woman to win the Chancellor's Medal at Cambridge for English verse. Last year, Miss Phare was honourably mentioned.

Our readers will recall that the Newdigate Prize for English verse at Oxford has now been won by women two years in succession. In 1927 it was awarded to Miss Gertrude Trevelyan, of Lady Margaret Hall, and last year to Miss Angela Cave, of the same college.

### WOMEN AT YALE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

We are indebted to *Equal Rights*, the organ of the National Woman's Party, for the following information:—

According to its latest announcement, the School of Medicine of Yale University, which has been open to women since 1925, has thirteen women students. Six women physicians have gained a position on the faculty, one as instructor in pathology and surgery, another as assistant in pathology, while four teach in the clinical department. One woman has the position of assistant clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology, one holds the position of assistant professor of pediatrics, and two are clinical instructors in pediatrics.

Special Issues of "Our Women Mayors":—XXXII. The Marchioness Townshend of Raynham, Mayor of King's Lynn, Feb. 15th, 1929; XXXI. Mrs. M. B. Andrews Uthwatt, O.B.E., Mayor of Sandwich, December 28th, 1928; XXX. Councillor Miss Justina, Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon, December 14th, 1928; XXIX. Councillor Miss Robinson, Mayor of Christchurch, November 30th, 1928; XXVIII. Miss Violet Markham, J.P., Mayor of Chesterfield, October 19th, 1928; XXVII. Alderman Mrs. B. M. Drapper, Mayor of Deptford, July 20th, 1928; XXVI. Councillor Elizabeth Lund, Mayor of Pudsey, March 23rd, 1928; XXV. Councillor Mrs. Jenkins, Mayor of Tenby, March 9th, 1928; XXIV. Mrs. Stuart Shaw, Mayor of Lichfield, February 24th, 1928; XXIII. Mrs. John W. Greene, Mayor of Bury St. Edmunds, January 13th, 1928; XXII. Margaret Beavan, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, November 25th, 1927; XXI. Councillor Miss Hudson, J.P., Mayor of Eastbourne, June 24th, 1927; XX. Councillor Mrs. Coxon, Mayor of King's Lynn, March 26th, 1926; XIX. Mrs. F. J. Simpson, Mayor of Higham Ferrers, Northampton, February 26th, 1926; XVIII. Councillor Miss Lucy Dales, Mayor of Dunstable, January 22nd, 1926; XVII. Councillor Miss Edith Neville, M.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Lincoln, December 11th, 1925; XVI. Alderman Miss Snee, J.P., Mayor of Acton, October 30th, 1925; XV. Dame Catherine Hunt, D.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Colchester, March 6th, 1925; XIV. Miss Margaret Wis, Mayor of St. Albans, February 13th, 1925; XIII. Mrs. Eva Hartree, Mayor of Cambridge, January 30th, 1925; XII. Mrs. Ethel Leach, J.P., Mayor of Great Yarmouth, January 16th, 1925; XI. Mrs. M. A. Mercer, Mayor of Birkenhead, December 19th, 1924; X. Miss C. Maude Eve, Mayor of Stoke Newington, November 24th, 1924; IX. Miss Ethel Mary Colman, Lord Mayor of Norwich, January 11th, 1924; VIII. Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, D.B.E., Mayor of Ramsgate, January 4th, 1924; VII. Councillor Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Mayor of Colchester, November 9th, 1923; VI. Miss Beatrice Cartwright, J.P., Mayor of Brackley, Northants, December 15th, 1922; V. Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Barmouth, December 1st, 1922; IV. Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham, September 15th, 1922; III. Councillor Miss Christina Hartley, Mayor of Southport, Lancs, August 11th, 1922; II. Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton, Devon, July 7th, 1922; I. Mrs. Ellen Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922.

### THE KING'S NURSE HONOURED.

On March 7th, His Majesty the King paid a high tribute to Nurse Davies, of the London Hospital—chief of the five nurses who have been in attendance upon him during his illness—by personally handing to her the insignia of the Royal Red Cross, Second Class, which His Majesty has bestowed upon her. This is the first decoration the King has conferred since his illness.

The official notification in the *London Gazette* of March 7th stated that the honour was conferred "in recognition of devoted service rendered by her to the King during His Majesty's illness."

### LIBERAL WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES.

Next Monday, the Women's National Liberal Federation will begin its Annual Council Meetings at Torquay. On Monday evening, the Mayor of Torquay will hold a reception for delegates, and the following morning he will give a civic welcome to the Conference. The chair will be taken throughout the meetings by Lady Acland, the President-elect of the Federation. The agenda for the Conference covers subjects which will be important at the General Election, and the main resolutions will be moved by experts.

In the *Liberal Woman's News* for March there is a page devoted to photographs of Liberal women candidates at the coming election. In the same number is an excellent article by Councillor Mrs. Alderton, on "The Maternal Mortality Rate."

### ENGLISHWOMAN'S LOST VOTE.

Mrs. Auffray, of Wallington, Surrey, wife of William John Auffray—who was born in New York, but has been on the English voting list for the last thirty years—although an Englishwoman, has been deprived of her vote by the Mitcham Revision Court on account of her husband's nationality!

### CONGRATULATORY DINNER TO DR. LEWIN.

It was a real pleasure to Dr. Lewin's old friends to dine with her at the Minerva Club last Friday evening. The dining-room was beautifully decorated in the colours of the League, and Mrs. Zangwill presented Dr. Lewin with a bouquet on behalf of those present. A delightful dinner was served, and, with Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence in the chair, the proceedings were thoroughly enjoyable and informal. There were no set speeches, but one after another reminisced until a late hour Dr. Lewin was in splendid form, and we lived again with her the strenuous times of tax-resistance and other excitements of the suffrage struggle. Dr. Knight paid a fitting tribute to our other guest of honour, Miss Welstead, who has been Dr. Lewin's constant help and companion all through her illness and convalescence. It was good to have Dr. Lewin with all her old cheeriness with us again, and before she left us all present joined in singing "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow," concluding it with hearty cheers for the guest of the evening.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Married Women's Nationality.

On March 6th, MISS WILKINSON (Lab., E. Middlesbrough) secured permission in the House of Commons to bring in a Bill "to amend the law with respect to the status of married women." Miss Wilkinson said that this Bill provides that the British woman who marries a foreigner shall not thereby lose her nationality unless she makes a declaration that she wishes to do so; it respects equally the nationality of a foreign woman who marries an Englishman, but provides a much simpler arrangement if she desires to acquire English nationality. It is retrospective as regards British women. They will automatically resume their British nationality if they have been married to an alien, unless they make a declaration that they wish to keep the nationality of their husband. It is not retrospective with regard to foreign women who are married to Britishers, as this might cause hardship. Miss Wilkinson pointed out that when British women had very few other rights, they had this right to their own nationality until the law of 1870; and now that women had been granted the vote on the same terms as men, it was not logical to deny them their own nationality. That in itself constituted an inequality, as a man could not be deprived of his nationality whomsoever he married or whatsoever he did. Other countries had made great strides in this matter since the War—the United States of America and most of the other American Republics, Russia, France, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and the other Scandinavian countries. The difficulties of the British Empire were usually used as a screen for not granting this modest request of British women. The law was passed by Canada until it was intimated that the British Government were not in favour of it, and the Canadian Act was then revoked. The women's organisations of all parties in Australia, Africa, Canada and New Zealand had passed resolutions in favour of the principle of this Bill. Many members of the Imperial Conference had approved, but Miss Wilkinson understood that the Home Government had been in most cases the stumbling-block.

SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS indicated dissent, and then explained that he happened to have been the chairman of a sub-committee of the last Imperial Conference on which all the Dominions were represented. According to his recollection, all but one Dominion, including the Home Government, were favourable to the proposal of the Bill, but, because one Dominion stood out—on various grounds—they came to the conclusion that it was so undesirable to have a different nationality law throughout the Empire—although nine-tenths of the Empire might be one way—that they allowed it to stand over to the next Conference, when he hoped the Dominion that did not agree would fall into line. Sir William concluded by saying that he and the Government were in favour of the Bill.

MISS WILKINSON thanked the Home Secretary for this valuable statement, and said she was sure that women's organisations would regard it as equally valuable. She welcomed the assurance of the Home Secretary that he would give his warm support to the measure at the next Imperial Conference. Miss Wilkinson's Bill was read a first time, those endorsing it being Miss Bondfield, Miss Lawrence, Viscountess Astor, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, and Mr. Kingsley Griffith.

The following day SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS asked leave of the House to make a personal explanation. He said that the discussion to which he referred the previous day took place nearly three years ago, and he based his remarks on his own recollection of what transpired. He regretted to say that subsequent reference to the published papers of the Conference had shown that his memory had played him completely false. The position of the British women who married aliens was one of the matters that came under consideration by the Nationalities Committee of the Imperial Conference, and it gave rise to a discussion

on which there was a great divergence of views, greater than he had stated the previous day. On one point, however, the Committee were unanimously agreed, that it was of the greatest importance to obtain uniformity throughout the various parts of the Empire in the law relating to nationality. Accordingly it was decided to recommend to the Conference that further consideration of the question should be postponed, pending the Report of the Committee of Experts to whom it was proposed to submit it. The Imperial Conference accepted that recommendation. Much work had been done to prepare the way for the Experts Committee, but the date of the assembly had not yet been definitely fixed. The Report, when complete, would, of course, have to be discussed at the next meeting of the Imperial Conference. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom were, of course, parties to the Imperial Conference, and joined in the reference to the Experts Committee. Until the Committee's Report had been received and considered by the various Dominions, it was impossible for His Majesty's Government to take any final decision, and he very much regretted that he should have misled the House in thinking otherwise. He hoped that the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, East, would accept his personal expression of apology.

### Aliens (British Wives).

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., E. Middlesbrough), on March 12th, asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the fact that the question of the nationality of British women married to aliens has been postponed pending the Report of the Committee of Experts, he will state whether that Committee has ever met since its appointment; when it is proposed that it should meet; and whether he can give any assurance that His Majesty's Government will take steps to expedite the work of the Committee? MR. AMERY (Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs): I have been asked to reply to this question. The Committee of Experts to which my right hon. Friend referred in his statement on March 7th is the proposed Committee referred to on page 18 of the Summary of Proceedings of the Imperial Conference, 1926 (Cmd. 2768). A number of important questions will be considered by this Committee, and, as explained by my right hon. Friend in his statement, much work has already been done to prepare the way for it; but it has not yet been possible to fix a date for its assembly. Active steps are, however, being taken in consultation with His Majesty's Government in the Dominions with a view to the assembling of the Committee as early as may be practicable.

MISS WILKINSON: Does the right hon. Gentleman realise that his right hon. Friend gave me the impression that the Government were behind this idea, whereas this Committee of Experts has, in fact, been a good way of shelving the whole thing? Are we to understand that the Expert Committee is to continue to be a screen for shelving the matter? MR. AMERY: I do not quite understand the hon. Member.

MISS WILKINSON: Are we to understand that absolute unanimity must be obtained before the Committee can report favourably? MR. AMERY: Generally speaking, in matters before the Imperial Conference, the decisions have to be unanimous before we can act. I would not like to give a specific assurance on that point now.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

#### Age of Marriage.

On March 13th, LORD BUCKMASTER'S Age of Marriage Bill came up again in the House of Lords. Lord Darling moved that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. This was carried by 37 votes to 29—majority, 8.

## THE VOTE.

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 FRIDAY, MARCH 15th, 1929.

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

### EDITORIAL.

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

### WOMEN'S INTERESTS AT THE GENERAL ELECTION.

It is true that the good government of this country is in every way as much the concern of women as it is of men, and women, just as men, are keenly interested in the plans of all political parties to reduce the cost of living, to solve the unemployment problem which presses directly on women and men, and to preserve international peace. But beyond all these questions, whose importance we by no means minimise, women have their own special problems, and they naturally want to know how the different Parties propose to solve them. For this reason we are glad that the Equal Rights General Election Campaign Committee (to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated) is arranging to put before the leaders of the three political parties the special concerns of women, which are so apt to be overlooked by all parties whose political machinery was designed by, and is still entirely under the control of, men. Women now have equal voting rights with men, but their political power is certainly not equal to that of men, and women's economic position in no way compares with that of men. How, then, can women secure a greater measure of equality? In this competitive world women cannot make much headway without first securing equal opportunities and equal rewards with men, and the deputations to the heads of the different political Parties will make this abundantly clear. First of all, we take political power. In politics some of our ablest men have found very distinguished careers. Men at present fill all the Cabinet posts and all the Government posts, save one, and men crowd thick and fast into all the Government Departments. The House of Lords remains solidly closed to women, and no woman has yet been given a Privy Councillorship. If women are to have a chance of securing equal political power with men, all these Government positions must be open freely and equally to women and men, and full membership of the House of Lords must be given to qualified women.

We rejoice to learn that the Canadian Government has appointed a woman in London as Agent-General for Nova Scotia. The British Government will not give any such post to a woman. By order in Council, all posts in the Diplomatic Service, the Consular Service, all posts in the Government services of the Colonies and Protectorates, all posts in the Civil Services of India, and all posts in the Commercial Diplomatic Service and the Trade Commissioner Service are reserved to men. Young women, who now have exactly the same education, the same training, and practically the same experience as young men, should surely have an equal chance with men of entering all these Services!

With regard to the Home Civil Service, how grotesquely few have been the higher posts offered to women and how lamentably small the opportunity of promotion! Women demand that every post throughout all our Civil Services, at home and abroad, shall be open to women on exactly the same terms as to men. Not only that, we also demand that in every case in which a woman does the same grade of work as a man, she shall receive equal pay with him. We further demand that all positions under local governing bodies shall be open equally to men and women, and,

whether the employees be doctors, teachers, librarians, etc., their pay shall be the same, irrespective of the sex of the worker.

With regard to nationality, we want the different Parties to realise that this is an important matter to women. A British woman should have the same right as a British man to change or retain her nationality, and we demand that the present law shall be changed so that a British woman who marries a foreigner shall not automatically lose her own nationality. If she chooses to take the nationality of her husband, she can make a declaration to that effect.

Women also want established the right of married women to work for remuneration. At present, all women who work as Civil Servants, and most women who work for local governing authorities, are compelled to resign their posts on marriage. This is a great waste of women's abilities and experience in the public service, and very unfair treatment of the women concerned. A married woman should no more be penalised than a married man, and both should only lose their jobs for bad workmanship.

In industry, women ask for a fair field and no favour. We want the different political Parties to realise that there should be no restrictions placed on the work of women which are not imposed on men's work, and that all legislation should be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker.

Women, too, are keenly concerned about raising the age of marriage in this country. At present, the legal age, if the consent of parents or guardians is obtained, is twelve for girls and fourteen years for boys. We want the political parties to promise to make the legal age of marriage sixteen for both boys and girls.

Women also desire to see a proper recognition of an equal moral standard for men and women in this country. We demand the abolition of our present solicitation laws, and that there shall be no conviction of men or women on the uncorroborated evidence of the police.

All the above matters are of vital interest to women, and, before deciding to vote for any candidate, women ought to find out the attitude of that candidate to all the above matters.

### "MORE WOMEN MAGISTRATES!"

We are glad to see that a woman correspondent in the *South Wales Evening Express* says she hopes that the slogan, "More Women Magistrates," will find a place in the demands of women at the General Election. This correspondent points out that the recent appointment of only three women out of a total of thirty-one Justices of the Peace for Glamorgan is ridiculous. She says that there are far too few women magistrates being appointed, and complains that some of the few women Justices are too ready to listen to the reminder from their men colleagues that certain cases might cause them unpleasantness. From the very first we have urged that no woman magistrate should shirk her duty by withdrawing from the Court because an unpleasant case came before it. All magistrates, men and women, have solemnly sworn to "do right to all manner of people under the laws and usages of this realm without fear or favour, affection, or ill-will." We are proud to record that in the Women's Freedom League we have women magistrates, who have not only refused to leave the Court at the suggestion of their men colleagues when such cases came before the Bench, but who made it unmistakably clear to those men that it was not their business, whatever their motives might be, to question what is a woman's duty in such cases. We agree with the writer in the *South Wales* paper that there are numbers of public-spirited women who would be glad to serve on a magistrate's bench and whose service would be of incalculable value, not only to the women and children who come before them, but also to all who have to seek the help of the Courts. Now is the time to bring before the new Lord Chancellor the urgent need of more women magistrates.

## WOMEN'S POSITION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The question of women's position in South Africa was discussed at the Women's Freedom League afternoon meeting at the Minerva Club on March 9th. From the chair, Miss Daisy Solomon said that, in thinking of South Africa, one had to visualise a vast country with a population consisting of British and Dutch, native races, and Indians. South Africa had a hot climate, which did not make people too energetic to work for the solving of any problem. A Bill for the enfranchisement of women had been before the Legislature eighteen times. Very shortly there would be a General Election in South Africa, and the leaders of both the Nationalist and South African parties had said that if they were returned to power they would bring in a Bill for women's political enfranchisement. Miss Solomon then introduced Mrs. Dore, who had recently returned from a visit to South Africa.

Mrs. Dore said she would like to give the impressions of one who had tried to sense the pulse of the women in that vastly beautiful country. The Cape was known as the playground and resting place of South Africa; it was said that at the Cape there were two speeds—Dead Slow and Stop! There was, apparently, no ardent suffragette to wake up the women of South Africa to struggle for their rights. Life was easy for women in South Africa; there was no domestic problem as we know it. Natives carried out the domestic duties in automatic fashion, which, of course, had sometimes clear disadvantages. But Cape Town was very different to-day from what it was ten years ago. Now there were many tall chimneys, blanket factories, cray-fish factories, and boot factories. Unfortunately, however, the health of the people was not what it should be. Clinics and maternity and child welfare centres and hygiene propaganda were urgently needed, and there was a serious housing problem. Women ought to have power to alter so many of these ills by legislation; but prejudice against women's power stood in their way. Then, too, there was the colour ques-

tion, and this was an obstacle in the way of woman suffrage. Women in South Africa had worked for the enfranchisement of all women on the same terms as men. In 1928 they nearly succeeded in getting their Bill through. Then an amendment was proposed that only European women should have the vote. A coloured deputation was immediately organised to protest against this. One would like to have thought that the coloured men resented the slight to their own women, but, alas, the leader of their deputation was a white man! This chance of woman suffrage was also lost. What of the Future? Mrs. Dore said that some suffragists in South Africa had decided not to help the men of any political party in South Africa until women were given the vote. They had also resolved that whatever party secured power, they would give the Government one year in which to make its plans for the enfranchisement of women. If these plans did not materialise, the women would make plans of their own! Mrs. Dore had the impression that the suffragists of South Africa had in the past been too well behaved!

Mrs. Dore then gave a fascinating account of the women of Rhodesia. In that country, which had a more invigorating climate, women had the vote, and Mrs. Tawse Jolly had been a Member of the Rhodesian Parliament. The Rhodesian Women's League was working hard to secure an equal moral standard for men and women, the raising of the age of consent, and a Married Women's Property Act. This League also worked for a business girls' hostel in Bulawayo, a great business centre, and the woman who had for so long inspired all these women's activities is Mrs. McKeurtan, who is also a member of the Women's Freedom League.

Many questions followed Mrs. Dore's address, and a very cordial vote of thanks was given both to Mrs. Dore and her chairman, Miss Daisy Solomon.

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee was held at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, on Saturday, March 9th, those present being Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence (President) in the chair, Dr. Knight (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. Ayton (Darlington), Mrs. Bigland, Mrs. Dexter, Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Miss Reeves, Mrs. Zangwill, and the Secretary.

Reports were considered and adopted from the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary (Mrs. Whetton), the Secretary, and from the Political Department. The annual reports from the Hon. Organising Secretary, the Secretary, and the Political Department were passed for the Annual Conference on April 13th, and amendments were sent by the Committee for the Conference agenda. The Committee decided to ask Miss Nina Boyle to speak at the close of the Conference on "Slavery in Marriage." Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence to be in the chair, opportunity being given for questions and discussion. On the day after the Conference, Sunday, April 14th, the Minerva Club Branch will be at Home at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, to Conference delegates, members and friends of the Women's Freedom League. This will be an admirable opportunity for old and new members of our League to meet one another, and it is a very pleasant gathering to which to bring friends and introduce them to the League.

The Committee discussed the question of Child Slavery in Hong Kong, against which we had agitated seven years ago. We understood that the system was definitely to be abolished. The Committee decided to try to get further information in regard to what is being done, and to arrange protest meetings, if necessary.

The Committee warmly approved of Lord Astor's Bill to secure for peeresses in their own right full membership of the House of Lords, and agreed to send Miss Reeves as its representative to the Women Peers Committee, the chairman of which is Mrs. Archdale.

With regard to raising the age of marriage, the Committee decided to urge the present Government to introduce and pass into law without delay a Bill to make void marriages between persons, either or both of whom are under sixteen years of age.

Questions asked by Mr. Pethick-Lawrence in the House of Commons in regard to the findings of the Committee appointed to inquire into the administration of the Lock Hospital were reported to the Committee, and a resolution was passed urging that this Committee's Report be published as soon as possible.

With regard to women in the Honours List, the Committee passed the following resolution: "While we are gratified to see that there are more women's names in the recent Honours List, we note that no peerages have been conferred on women, and we urge that all Honours, the higher as well as the lower, shall be conferred on women equally with men for distinguished service."

The Women's Freedom League is taking part in the Equal Rights Election Campaign Committee's deputations to Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, and Mr. Lloyd George, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence speaking for us on the deputations.

The Committee strongly urged that all members of the Women's Freedom League who are in London on Saturday, April 13th, should do their utmost to be present at our Twenty-second Annual Conference, which will be held at Caxton Hall, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## MORE WOMEN POLICE FOR HAMPSTEAD HEATH.

By the kind invitation of Mrs. Hugh Thompson, an instructive and representative Conference, to consider the provision of more Women Police for duty on Hampstead Heath, was held last Friday afternoon at 26, Ellerdale Road, Hampstead. This Conference was organised by Miss E. Berry on behalf of the Women's Freedom League, and eighteen local societies sent delegates.

In presiding, Dr. Knight said that children from all parts of London came with their parents or friends to Hampstead Heath, but the Heath was not safe for Hampstead children alone. Women police were wanted to patrol the Heath in order to prevent crime, which was the primary duty of the police; the second being its detection and punishment. At present, there were only two women police, and they did not go on to the Heath at night. At least fifty women police were needed to go all over the Heath and to work in three shifts of eight hours each. From the chair, Dr. Knight proposed the following resolution, which was subsequently carried unanimously: "With a view to safeguarding women, young people, and children, this Conference is strongly of opinion that a greatly increased number of policewomen are needed for duty on Hampstead Heath; and urges the Chief Commissioner to increase the number of policewomen available for this work. Further, this Conference desires to urge upon the Home Secretary the immediate need of increasing the number of policewomen in the Metropolitan area."

MISS BROOKE HERFORD, Poor Law Guardian, said there were various kinds of work that policewomen might do, but she wanted to stress one—speaking with authority to the numbers of young couples lolling and lying about on the Heath, very improperly, she thought. Women police in uniform could do this; other people could not.

MRS. TURNER, the Children's Special Worker for Hampstead, Holborn, and St. Pancras, who represented the Hampstead Council of Social Welfare, said that the most casual observer must be impressed with the need for adequate women patrols on the Heath. They were wanted to prevent children from being assaulted; they were also needed to deal with the child who had been assaulted, for incalculable harm could be done to the child if it was not helped to forget what had happened. The advocacy of women police was not a criticism of the men police. She thought that the men's duty was with the offender, whereas the policewoman could do so much to prevent wrong and help the child. Lord Byng was determined to have a clean and law-abiding London; would he not also do something to protect children in our open spaces by the provision of women police?

COUNCILLOR MRS. CARNEGIE said she was glad the public was waking up to the need for the prevention of crime. Women police were a necessity in our parks and open spaces, and they could help the child if it had to appear at the Police Court. A policewoman, kindly, with common sense and good humour, could soon alter young people's bad behaviour on the Heath. A few

well-chosen words from her would make them see they were rather stupid, and would make them want to regain their own self-respect.

MRS. NEVINSON, J.P., said that the question of women police in parks and open spaces was a very important one. Children and young people were not safe from harm on Hampstead Heath. If they had no actual hurt, they often received a great shock.

MRS. HAROLD BAILY (of the Women's Shelter) urged that properly trained and experienced policewomen were wanted on the Heath, not only in the day, but at night.

A representative of the Free Church Women's Council emphasised the need for women police; they were wanted not only on the Heath itself, but in the quiet roads leading to the Heath, which ought to have a great deal more supervision than they get at present.

MISS HARBURN and MISS CHRISTIE, both of whom had served as policewomen during the War, also spoke on the need for women police, the latter referring with pride to the corps of women police formed by Miss Nina Boyle for the Women's Freedom League.

There were many questions, and complete unanimity was expressed on the need for women police on Hampstead Heath. One woman present declared that on five Sunday afternoons she and her husband and children had walked all over the Heath, on each occasion taking about a couple of hours, and they had not seen a sign of any police or patrols.

At the close of the meeting, Mrs. Patrick Graham and Mrs. Victor Fisher cordially thanked the speakers, the chairman, Mrs. Hugh Thompson, and Miss Berry. All present were then very kindly entertained to tea. VOTES were sold, and new members made.

### In Memoriam.

VIBERT.—On March 5th, at her residence, 62, High Street, Hampstead, after a long illness, Janet M. E. Vibert.

We greatly regret the loss of our old and valued Hampstead member, a staunch and loyal supporter of the cause of women, and an indefatigable worker at our annual Green White and Gold Fair. She did very profitable work for the W.S.P.U., and her knowledge of languages was of tremendous help. Her life-work was scholastic, and among her pupils were many well-known names. She adored animals, and never spared time or money for their happiness or the relief of their sufferings. Full of wit and vivacity, she was an unfailingly kind and sympathetic friend, always ready to meet the sufferings and sorrows of those in need, irrespective of class.

On Saturday, March 9th, at Golders Green, after a beautiful choral service and in the presence of a large gathering of friends, her remains were cremated, and later the ashes were scattered on the Mound of Memory.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Miss Goodliffe and other friends.

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Thursday, March 21st, at 4.30 p.m.

Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Archdale. Subject: "Nationality." Tea 4 p.m.

Friday, April 12th, at 2.30 p.m.

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

Saturday, April 13th, at 10 a.m.

Women's Freedom League Twenty-Second Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1. At 4.45 p.m., Miss Nina Boyle will speak on the subject, "Slavery in Marriage." Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence in the Chair. Discussion invited.

Sunday, April 14th, 3 to 5.30 p.m.

Minerva Club. Branch Reception to Conference Delegates, members and friends of the Women's Freedom League. Tea, music, and short speeches.

#### PROVINCES.

Monday, March 18th, at 7.30 p.m.

Middlesbrough Branch. Meeting at the Grey House, Linthorpe. Chief business: Resolutions for Conference.

Wednesday, March 20th, at 3 p.m.

Bexhill Branch. Whist Drive at the Albany Hotel.

Friday, March 22nd, at 3.30 p.m.

Hastings Branch. Members' Meeting at the Open Door Club.

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

Hastings Branch. Whist Drive at 4, Holmesdale Gardens.

Thursday, April 11th, at 8 p.m.

Bexhill Branch. Meeting at the Granville Hotel. Chair: W. E. Meads, Esq. Conservative, Labour and Liberal speakers.

Monday, April 22nd, at 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.

Middlesbrough Branch. Whist Drive at the Grey House, Linthorpe. Tickets, 2/- each, including refreshments.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, March 15th, at 8 p.m.

Public Meeting at the Town Hall, Paddington Green. Subject: "Municipal Lodging Houses for Women." Speakers: Miss Rosamund Smith, L.C.C., Major J. Brunel Cohen, M.P., Alderman Esther Rickards, A.S., F.R.C.S., L.C.C. Discussion opened by Mrs Cecil Chesterton. Chairman: The Lady Balfour of Burleigh. Admission free.

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

Saturday Speech Club. At the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. The De-Rating Bill. Labour View: Mr. J. D. Thomas; Liberal View: Speaker from the Eighty Club; Conservative View: Mr. J. D. Russell of the Coningsby Club.

Saturday, March 16th, at 6 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Public Meeting at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square. Subject: "What we can do at the General Election." Speaker: Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A.

Sunday, March 17th, at 11.15 a.m.

Richmond Free Church (Unitarian), Ormond Road, Richmond Hill, S.W. Josephine Butler Commemoration Service. Speaker: Miss H. K. Watts, of the National Lay Preachers' Union (Unitarian).

Tuesday, March 19th, at 1 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Luncheon at 17, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.2. Miss Thompson, O.B.E., will speak on her "Impressions of Canada." Chair: Councillor Helen Fraser. Seats 2/-.

Friday, March 22nd, at 6.30 p.m.

Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries. At 1-3, Churton Street, S.W.1. Debate: "That Alcohol is the Enemy of Social, Political and Industrial Liberty." Dr. Alfred Salter, M.P. v.

Tuesday, March 26th, at 8 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Whist Drive at 17, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.2. Tickets 2/6, including refreshments.

Thursday, April 11th, at 3 p.m.

Open Door Council. Annual Meeting at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Tuesday, April 16th, at 7.30 p.m.

General Municipal Workers. Public Meeting at Town Hall, Middlesbrough. Speakers: Miss Wilkinson, M.P., and Miss Bondfield, M.P. Chair: Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

## BRANCH NOTES.

### BEXHILL.

The Whist Drive held at the Albany Hotel was well attended. We made one new member. The prizes were much appreciated, as was also the tea provided by Mrs. Skinner. The next drive will be held at the Hotel on Wednesday, March 20th, at 3 p.m.

Will members please note that a public meeting will be held shortly at the Granville Hotel, when we shall have speakers from the three political parties.

### RYE.

The Monastery was packed to hear the speakers on Wednesday night. The Mayor, Councillor L. A. Vidler, presided. Miss Deakin gave a convincing speech on the principles of the conservative party. Alderman J. H. McDonnell, L.C.C. (Labour), warmly thanked the Women's Freedom League for organising such a meeting. A fluent speaker, he held his audience enthralled for twenty minutes—the time allowed for each speech. Mr. G. Ellis, J.P., said that he had been in favour of women's suffrage all his life. He warmly advocated the cause of Liberalism.

A good collection was taken, which covered all the expenses of the meeting. THE VOTE sold well. Our grateful thanks are due to all those who helped with the meeting, particularly Miss Seed, whose stewarding capabilities are great. M. L. WHITE.

## THE NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The Annual Council Meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, which was held in London last week, was of particular interest, being the first since the passing of the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act, and also coming so very soon before a General Election. Naturally much of the business of the Council was concerned with the future development of the National Union, now that the first point on its programme has been achieved. The keenness of the discussion was a sure indication of the enthusiasm with which the work of the National Union is to be carried on under the leadership of Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who has succeeded Miss Rathbone as President. It will go forward under the same name, the old object being replaced by the following:—

To enable women as citizens to make their best contribution towards the common good, and to obtain all such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women.

The immediate programme of the Union, now that the first point, Equal Franchise, has been attained, is as follows: 1. To encourage self-education, independent thinking, and effective action among women voters on all questions concerning their citizenship. 2. To secure more women in Parliament and on local authorities and other governing bodies. 3. To work for an equal moral standard between men and women, and to oppose all restrictions or regulations which, under pretext of public health or public order, are directed—whether formally or in effect—solely against women or any group of women. 4. To secure improvements in the status of wives and mothers. 5. To secure equal opportunity and pay in the public services, the professions, and industry, as between men and women, including: (a) Equal opportunity for service in the ministry of religion; (b) abolition of restrictions on the right of married women to engage in paid work; (c) Application of the principle that protective legislation should be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker. 6. To support the League of Nations and the practical application of the principle of equal opportunities for men and women within it. The Council Meeting received a great send-off at its first session, when Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., was present and moved the resolution recording gratitude to all who had striven to bring about equal franchise, and thanks to His Majesty's Government for having carried into effect this great measure.

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### NOTICES.

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

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