

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1928

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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XXXVIII.—WHEN I AM M.P.

MRS. C. D. RACKHAM, J.P., M.A., Prospective Labour Candidate for Huntingdonshire.

I came into the Labour Party through the suffrage movement. From 1907 up to the War I gave my energies to getting the Parliamentary vote for women, and, as soon as the vote was won in 1918, I joined the Labour Party. It is hardly necessary to say that, if I were an M.P., I should always try to promote the interests of women in every way. Even when we have Equal Franchise, we are far from a real equality in rights and opportunities.

I think the wisest course for an M.P. who wants to be of use is to acquire as much knowledge as possible on some one subject. The House of Commons will always listen gladly to a Member who is master of a particular subject, and it is at the same time impatient of general statements which do very well for the public platform. I am much interested in criminology and penal reform, and I should try to make a study of that subject. As an expert, an M.P. not only has an opportunity to use any special knowledge in debate, but can also serve with great advantage on any Parliamentary Committee which may be dealing with it, or can ask questions upon it during question time. When

I look through old volumes of Hansard, I am struck by the interest and variety of the questions asked in the House, and one sees how attention has continuously been drawn in this way to grievances and abuses. The answer may often seem unsatisfactory, and there may

not always appear to be much immediate result, but there is no doubt that many reforms have been immensely helped by the fact that public attention has been drawn to them in this way. The M.P. who is forward in asking questions is performing a most useful service to the community.

Another way in which an M.P. can acquire knowledge which can be turned to good account is by travelling. I should try to use the Parliamentary vacations in seeing other parts of the world for which Parliament is responsible, and especially the lives of the women in those countries, not only in their homes, but also in the factories in India and on tea and coffee plantations in other parts of the Empire. I should like also to see something of the condition of the prisons in those countries. I know that life in Parliament is very crowded, and especially so for a woman M.P. The women Members are so few in number that the demands on their time are very great, and it is very necessary for a woman Member to keep in touch with her constituents. This work will be still more arduous when the new



MRS. C. D. RACKHAM, J.P., M.A.

women voters are added to the Register, as there will be a larger number of electors pressing their claims upon their M.P. I feel that this work, besides being essential as a means of strengthening the tie between Member and constituency, is also very valuable in

itself. So many people, from their poverty or ignorance, need advice and help as to their rights before the law as to pensions, insurance, compensation, tenancies, and such like, and they look to their Member to help them. Labour M.P.s particularly are called upon to give help in this way, and, of course, from being in Parliament, are in a good position to get the information they require. I should regard this as a very important part of my work if I were an M.P.

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

"Some Problems of Government in Relation to Women within the British Empire" is the subject selected by the British Commonwealth League for its Fourth Annual Conference, to be held at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, on Friday, July 6th. In the morning, Miss Emily Phipps, B.A. (Barrister-at-Law), will speak on "Existing Legal Inequalities between Men and Women in Great Britain," and will be followed by overseas women, who will speak of this problem as they know it in their own countries. For the afternoon session the special subject is "Employment." Under this heading, Mrs. Abbott will speak on "Opportunities and Disabilities in Regard to the Professions," and Miss Dorothy Elliott, of the National Union of Women Workers, will deal with "Employment of Women in Industry," and she also will be followed by overseas women speakers. The Third Section—"Consideration of Women as Employers"—will be a very interesting one. Mrs. Willson, the builder, Miss Partridge, electrical engineer, a woman decorator, a woman farmer, and others, will give their views. Mrs. Corbett Ashby will preside over both the morning and afternoon sessions; and among the overseas delegates to this Conference will be: Mrs. J. Carlisle M'Donnell, J.P., who has just been appointed alternate delegate for Australia to the League of Nations Assembly; Miss Ruby Rich, Federal President (Australian Federation of Women Voters), New South Wales; Mrs. John Jones, J.P., Federal President (Australian Federation of Women Voters), Victoria; Dr. Grace Boelke, Vice-President of the Women's League of New South Wales and member of the Executive of the National Council of Women; Mrs. de Gray Stewart (Montreal Women's Club); Mrs. Cameron-Swan, of South Africa, and other excellent speakers in the women's movement. New Zealand, India, and the Bahamas are also sending delegates.

The British Commonwealth League is noted for its successful social functions. On Thursday, July 5th, there will be a Reception at Crosby Hall, at 9 p.m., to meet the Duchess of Atholl (Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education), other women Members of Parliament, Sir Reginald Wingate, K.C.M.G., and others; a Dinner on Friday, July 6th, at the Criterion Restaurant, at 8.15 p.m., when the guests will include the Rt. Hon. Lord Sydney Olivier, P.C., K.C.M.G., General Sir George Macmunn, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., Lady Heath, and others. The following day there will be a Garden and River Party at Bray, by kind invitation of Mrs. Eccles-Snowden, and guests will be taken from 17, Buckingham Street, Strand, by motor coach.

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

BAR EXAMINATION—WOMEN'S SUCCESSES.

The following women passed in the general examination of students of the Inns of Court, conducted by the Council of Legal Examination last month:—

Roman Law, Class II.—Josmee Marguerite Greenwood (Gray's Inn). *Class III.*—Marie Francois Antelme (Middle Temple).

Constitutional Law and Legal History, Class I.—Mildred Dunbar Miles (Middle Temple). *Class II.*—Nora Burke-Bloor (Gray's Inn); Ruth Haring (Middle Temple); Cecilia Lucy Cavendish Wolseley (Gray's Inn). *Class III.*—Ruth Epstein (Middle Temple); Marguerite Leslie Harris (Middle Temple); Jessie Edson Hendrick (Middle Temple); Katherine Mumford Hendrick (Middle Temple); Joan Meredyth Chichele Julienne (Inner Temple); Eva Louise Roberts (Inner Temple).

Criminal Law and Procedure, Class I.—Dorothy Johnson (Middle Temple). *Class II.*—Patricia Hackett (Inner Temple); Phyllis Mabel Martin (Gray's Inn). *Class III.*—Agnes Bickerton Bickerton (Middle Temple).

Real Property and Conveyancing, Class III.—Dorothy Rae Lever (Middle Temple).

Roman-Dutch Law, Class III.—Gladys Eileen Sarran (Inner Temple).

Final Examination, Class II.—Phyllis Lucy Morgan Blake. *Class III.*—Katherine Mary Evelyn Fearnley Sander (Gray's Inn); Dorothy Travers Wolfe (Lincoln's Inn).

MEN AND WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

Twenty men and five women—Miss Isabel Forsyth, Mrs. Gertrude Hamnett, Mrs. Iris Haworth, Mrs. Ada Langdon, and Miss Alice Whitfield—have been appointed Justices of the Peace for the City of Manchester.

Twelve men and two women—Mrs. Edith Mary Hallwood and Miss Muriel Frances Maberley—have been appointed Justices of the Peace for the City of Salford.

Eight men and no women have been appointed Justices of the Peace for the City of Rochdale.

EQUAL FRANCHISE VICTORY CELEBRATIONS.

Once again we remind readers that, as soon as this Bill receives the Royal Assent, the Women's Freedom League will arrange a Breakfast at the Hotel Cecil. Those wishing to join us at Breakfast should send in their application at once, and all applicants for tickets (4s. 6d. each) will receive notice of the date, together with their ticket, at an early date. M.P.s of all parties (men and women) have promised to attend this Breakfast, and it will be a great gathering of workers in all sections of the great suffrage movement.

At 8 o'clock that morning, there will be Holy Communion at St. George's, Hart Street. The Rector, the Rev. W. C. Roberts, hopes that this will be a welcome opportunity for our members for thanksgiving and prayer.

There is to be an Evening Service, at 6.45, at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, arranged by the League of the Church Militant.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Unsuccessful Prosecutions (Compensation).

MR. L'ESTRANGE MALONE (Lab., Northampton) asked the Home Secretary whether his attention has been drawn to the case of a lady who was recently charged at Bow Street with being a common prostitute, but was able to bring medical evidence which caused the magistrate to stop the case and discharge her, allowing her the cost of the doctor's fee; under which Act she was charged; and whether, in view of the nature of the case and the fact that he had made an *ex gratia* grant of £500 from the Metropolitan Police Fund to Major Murray to compensate him for being wrongfully charged with being drunk and disorderly, he will also consider making a grant to this lady to compensate her for being wrongfully charged with being a common prostitute? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: My attention has been drawn to the case. On inquiry I find that she was charged under Section 54, paragraph 11, of the Metropolitan Police Act, 1839. There is nothing, either in the nature of the case or in the fact that a grant has been made, in different circumstances, to another person, to raise any question of a grant in this case. I am informed that the magistrate, in allowing 42s. costs, said: "In doing so, I am not making any reflection on the police. It must not be taken that I am doing that." MR. MALONE: Does the right hon. Gentleman not think it much more serious for a working girl to be called a prostitute than for a gentleman to be accused of being drunk? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: That is a distinction upon which I do not think I am called upon to express an opinion. I quite realise that there was a mistake made in this case, but it is the invariable rule that no compensation is allowed unless there are very special circumstances which the Minister thinks entitle a person to receive compensation. I am not going to say more about this case than that I have considered it, and I do not think it a case for compensation.

MR. MONTAGUE (Lab., Islington, W.): Does the Home Secretary think there is such a thing as a class war? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: No, I do not.

MR. MALONE: Does the right hon. Gentleman not realise that it is extremely difficult for this girl to get fresh employment anywhere, and will he reconsider that point? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I really do not think there is anything in the nature of this case which would militate against her getting employment. She was honourably discharged from the charge made against her, and, if I may respectfully say so, the less her name is dragged into the case, the better.

SIR ROBERT THOMAS (Lib., Anglesey): Does it not give this girl a lot of cheap advertisement? [Hon. Members: "Shame!"]

MR. THURLE (Lab., Shoreditch): Are we to understand from the Home Secretary's reply that the question as to whether or not compensation is paid depends on the social status of the victim? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: No; and I never said anything at all which would lead to such a conclusion.

MR. CHARLETON (Lab., Leeds, E.) asked the Home Secretary whether the Sub-Committee of the Committee on Street Offences has submitted its Report on the case of Major Murray in January; and, if so, can he explain the delay in publishing the findings of this Committee and the decision of the Government thereon? CAPT. MARGESSON (Lord of the Treasury): I have been asked to reply. The Report of the Sub-Committee reached the Home Office, not in January, but on the 5th March. It was communicated to the Commissioner of Police on the 6th March for the appropriate disciplinary action. Certain questions of procedure then arose in view of the fact that the Discipline Code for the Metropolitan Police, by which the Commissioner is bound, makes no specific provision for a case such as this, where there has been an antecedent extra-judicial investigation. Those questions

were settled in conference between the Commissioner and the Home Office, and on the 4th April the Commissioner proceeded to formulate charges against Police-Constable Thurston. The Commissioner's report of the result of those disciplinary proceedings reached my right hon. Friend on the 30th April. He would then have been in a position, in the ordinary course, to dispose of the outstanding matters, which were the question of the publication of the findings of the Sub-Committee and the question of an *ex-gratia* grant to Major Murray. By this time, however, what has become known as the Hyde Park case had arisen, and, as that case bore certain points of resemblance to the case of Major Murray, my right hon. Friend decided deliberately that it would be right to await developments in that case before coming to a final decision. His decision was taken as soon as the issues in the Hyde Park case had become clarified as the result of proceedings in Parliament.

Hyde Park (Prosecutions).

MR. STAMFORD (Lab., Leeds, W.) asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the lack of record of the number of persons convicted under the Hyde Park Regulations without legal defence, he will give instructions that in future such a record should be kept? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: In general no records are kept, either by the Courts or the police, of the numbers of cases where defendants are not legally represented, and there do not appear to be sufficient grounds for making special arrangements with regard to persons convicted of the particular classes of offences alluded to.

Inspectorate (Board of Education).

MR. WELLOCK (Lab., Stourbridge) asked the President of the Board of Education whether it is proposed to cut down the staff of inspectors for the coming year from 322 to 309; what are the grades of the inspectors so discharged; and to what limit do the Board propose to carry out this process? LORD EUSTACE PERCY: The Board's inspectorate is being reorganised, and it is proposed that 13 posts, which are at present vacant, should not be filled during the current financial year. This reduction is experimental, and I cannot at this stage say whether any further reduction is likely. No inspectors of any grade have been discharged.

Inspectorate (Ministry of Health).

MR. HASLAM (U., Horncastle) asked the Minister of Health whether he proposes to merge the men and women inspectors of the National Health Insurance inspectorate and to recast the duties of the men and women inspectors on a common basis; and whether the proposed changes involve additional expenditure? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I have decided to recast the duties of the men and women National Health Insurance inspectors on a common basis, retaining for the present separate seniority lists for men and women. These changes will not involve any additional expenditure.

Empire Settlement (Women).

SIR ROBERT THOMAS (Lib., Anglesey) asked the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs whether he is aware that many women who are potential emigrants to one or other of the Dominions are deterred by the fear of being unable to raise the passage money home should life overseas prove uncongenial to them; and whether he will consider inserting a clause guaranteeing to assisted female emigrants their return fare after a certain period, with due safeguards against abuse of the privilege. MR. AMERY: Single women are only assisted to proceed overseas for employment in household work. The rate of pay for such work in the Dominions is, generally speaking, sufficient to enable women who wish to revisit this country to save enough money for this purpose within two years of arrival. I do not, therefore, think it necessary to adopt the hon. Member's suggestion.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 15th, 1928.

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.

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

EDITORIAL.

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

EQUAL FRANCHISE BILL THROUGH COMMITTEE IN HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Government's Equal Franchise Bill passed through its Committee stage in the House of Lords last Thursday without amendment. LORD NEWTON moved an amendment, providing that the electoral age for both men and women should be 25 years. He said that he believed that this proposal in connection with the Bill was the only one which found any support in the Conservative Party. The franchise was already too large, and the ordinary person had little chance to learn anything about politics. Another thing which worried him was that their lordships' House received very scant consideration from any political party. On that particular point we may offer some measure of comfort. We are quite convinced that the Upper House will receive much greater respect from all political parties when women as well as men have a voice, a seat, and a vote there. LORD CECIL OF CHELWOOD said he thought that to pass this amendment and to persist in it would be madness; and that to pass it and not to persist in it would be a rather futile and undignified proceeding. He agreed that the need for the reform of the House of Lords was urgent. He trusted, however, that the House would not accept Lord Newton's amendment. LORD GAINFORD supported the amendment. He had not observed that there was any demand in the country for an extension of the franchise, and he thought that the people who now had the vote should be given an opportunity of considering whether it should be extended to those who had not. THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord Hailsham) said that there was very little in the arguments brought forward in support of the amendment to recommend it. The qualifying age for a vote in all Anglo-Saxon English-speaking countries had always been 21. Not only the function of voting, but every other function pertaining to a man's estate, had always been attained by a citizen at the age of 21, and it seemed anomalous that for the one purpose of voting he should not be allowed to exercise his privileges at that age. No Government could say against their own judgment, and against the will of all parties in the State, that they were going to disfranchise men till they reached the age of 25 in order to give women a vote at that age. It was because that was an impossible attitude that it was said that the amendment was designed to kill the Bill, and must kill the Bill. The Government did not desire the Bill to be killed, and resisted the amendment with all its strength. LORD HALSBURY supported the amendment, but, possibly because he found it difficult to find any reasons of his own, quoted one of Miss Bondfield's arguments for the Bill in the House of Commons, which he said was really an argument against it, and another argument used in the House of Commons against the Bill—that the London General Omnibus Company would not have drivers under the age of 26. He thought that argument a particularly sound one in favour of the age of 21 being too young to take up the responsibility of electing the rulers of this country. THE EARL OF MIDDLETON and LORD JOICEY also spoke in favour of Lord Newton's amendment, but it was rejected by 87 votes to 41.

NO GIRLS NEED APPLY!

The Grocers form one of the great Livery Companies; they come second in precedence of our City Guilds, and have as their motto, "God Grant Grace." Most of these companies have money to dispose of; some of it has been left to them by members generations ago, and the Grocers Company are enabled to give Exhibitions to help suitable students whose parents belong to that trade to proceed to the University. Quite recently application was made on behalf of a girl, whose father is a grocer in a big way in one of our Northern towns. She had done particularly well at school, was accepted at Somerville under age, and hopes to get an Exhibition there, as there is very little money and she requires help with her fees. The following is a copy of the letter received by one of our readers in regard to her:—

"Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of yesterday, I regret to inform you that my Company will be unable to assist Miss — in her education at Somerville College.

"Although they give open Exhibitions at both colleges, they are intended for male students only, and they have no other funds at their disposal, except for the assistance of members of the Company.—Yours truly,

"(Signed) L. HICKMAN BARNES,
"Clerk."

It seems to us that this is a matter of public interest. Education is no longer the monopoly of one sex, and when a girl has done particularly well at school, should she not have the same facilities for proceeding with her education as would be afforded to her brother? We think it is time that these old Livery Companies came more into line with modern life and with the modern outlook; and if, in order to do this, a change in their rules and customs is necessary, the sooner that change is brought about, the better. It is unthinkable that a great City Guild like the Grocers' Livery Company should, at this time of day, refuse equal education to boys and girls.

EQUAL PAY AT GENEVA.

Mrs. Elizabeth Abbott's visit to Geneva on behalf of the five women's organisations—the Women's Freedom League, Open Door Council, Six Point Group, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, and National Union of Women Teachers—bore remarkable fruit at a debate in the International Labour Conference on June 6th. The Convention for establishing Minimum Wage-fixing Machinery was being discussed by the delegates, when Mr. Diwan Chaman Lall, Indian workers' delegate, moved an amendment asking that any machinery set up as a result of the Conference should include arrangements for "Equal rates for men and women doing work of equal value." Madame Eugenia Wasniewska, technical adviser to the Polish delegation, supported the amendment, and a magnificent speech in its favour was made by M. Gaston Ringenbach, a French workers' delegate, Secretary to the Tailors' and Cutters' Garment Association. This speech was based on his experience of the low wages paid to women tailors in his country, where they receive a third of the men's wages. Mrs. Betzy Kjelsberg, representing the Norwegian Government, Herr Feig, of Norway, an Austrian delegate, and Mr. Walker, representing the Australian workers, asked for the principle to be incorporated into a recommendation to the Governments. "It is our common knowledge," said Mr. Walker, "that women are everywhere exploited. I also support it from the selfish point of view of the male, in order to safeguard the male wage rate. . . . The older and wiser trade unions—the doctors, the lawyers, and the journalists—have adopted this principle."

Mrs. Abbott's visit to Geneva was undertaken with the intention of reminding delegates that the Principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work is incorporated into Article 427, Part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles.

TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE LIBERAL PARTY.

At our Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting on June 6th, at which Miss Reeves presided, a most interesting address was given by Miss Enid Laphorn, prospective Liberal candidate for Hitchin.

Miss Laphorn opened by calling attention to the enormous influence the women of America had had on the Kellogg Peace proposals. The Peace movement was a sign of the times, and during the last year there had been a great solidifying of opinion on this question.

Miss Laphorn feels that the first visible effect of the complete enfranchisement of women in this country will be the strengthening of the Peace movement. She recalled criticism made by an Italian who had spent some years in this country. It was sad, he said, to see a great country like Britain becoming decadent. Unmistakable signs of this were that women were coming so much to the front, and that this country was inclining more and more towards peace! Miss Laphorn believes that if the women of America and the women of Great Britain could come to an understanding on this all-important matter, they could impose their will on the world. Miss Laphorn said that she had formed friendships with people in many parts of the world, and while she was bound to admit that difference of outlook arose from difference of nationality, yet when certain superficial differences are waived, it is possible to arrive at sympathetic understanding, and particularly so with English-speaking people.

The work which lies ahead of women in the near future, said Miss Laphorn, is that of consolidation. Women must be made aware of the power that is in their hands.

The position of women in the Liberal Party has greatly improved during the last two years, although there is still room for much advancement. The Women's Liberal Federation has hitherto been regarded as a wing of the party, and its advice has been consulted as a matter of courtesy. Within the last two years women have come within the main party. Women are now elected on Committees, but not in sufficient numbers. The Campaign Committee, which is responsible for propaganda, has only two women members out of 12. This, however, is a step forward, for the women are there as individuals, not as delegates appointed by other women.

The further Liberal women get away from the Central Organisation, the worse their position becomes. In the various constituencies women do the greater part of the work, but they do not occupy positions of authority. Women allow opportunities for election on to Committees to slip by. The ordinary political worker needs educating in leadership, initiative, and administration.

Miss Laphorn stated that women candidates get very poor constituencies. In the case of her Party

UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

The *Irish Times* reports that the Church of Ireland Synod, on the motion of the Dean of Christ Church, seconded by Canon Thompson, adopted the following resolution: "That this Synod earnestly appeals to the Government of the Irish Free State to introduce legislation into the Oireachtas, with as little delay as possible, to include the following points, as recommended in the recent report of the Commission on the Relief of the Sick and Destitute Poor, with regard to unmarried mothers and sexual offences: (1) That the District Council should be given power to make an affiliation order on the application of the mother; (2) that the Board of Health should have power to apply for an order if the mother and child are in receipt of public assistance; (3) that the age of consent should be raised to 18, if not 19; (4) that the plea of reasonable belief as to age should not be allowed; (5) that in the trial of these cases the juries should include women."

this is unavoidable, as it is difficult for women at present to press their claims to the very limited number of good seats available. Conservative women could make this claim much more easily. The election of a prospective candidate ultimately rests with the local organisation, which, in many cases, does not look very favourably on women candidates. The Selection Committee is often composed of old gentlemen—the pillars of the organisation. In Miss Laphorn's opinion, if women were to force their way, they could get on to Selection Committees. To prove how necessary it is that women should get on to these Committees, Miss Laphorn quoted a case where the names of two women were proposed, and a Selection Committee, composed entirely of men, deleted the women's names as a matter of course.

In Miss Laphorn's own case, the fact of her being a woman has so far attracted little notice. The only direct mention of her sex during 70 meetings was made by an old villager, who said he didn't agree with women Members of Parliament because a woman couldn't stand at the bar in a public-house, where, in his opinion, political matters had to be discussed!

Miss Underwood thanked Miss Laphorn for her very instructive address, and said it was most useful to know what goes on inside political parties. It appeared that women have to fight *inside* as well as *outside*. Miss Underwood said the Women's Freedom League are anxious to help women candidates, irrespective of party, and asked the best way in which this could be done. In reply, Miss Laphorn said prospective candidates are badly in need of women organisers, also of a squad of people who drive their own cars and would be willing to place a car and driver at the disposal of the party for a week at a time.

Dr. Knight—who had spent the day at the Savidge Tribunal Enquiry—said the case had reminded her how necessary it is for the Women's Freedom League to continue its work. She was much impressed by the number of influential women, barristers, representatives of various women's organisations, and those holding responsible positions, who were present at the Court.

In reference to Miss Laphorn's address, Dr. Knight said that she had always had faith in drawing unattached voters into organisations such as the Women's Freedom League. Members of the League were at liberty to vote as they thought fit, and she thought that the strength of women lay in voting for the candidate who could show the most attractive programme, irrespective of party.

Miss Reeves said that if the Women's Freedom League are able to help Miss Laphorn in her campaign, she hopes it will prove we have "backed a winner!"

THE IMPROVED ARCHITECT.

The *Observer* reports that Lady Denman, in her presidential address at the Conference of the Association of Teachers of Domestic Science, held at the Grocers' Hall, E.C., last Saturday, said that, generally speaking, cooking in England was extraordinarily bad, and she looked upon members of the Conference as missionaries and pioneers going down into the country, which was full of lethargy and ignorance. Food in many schools and colleges was quite inadequate and unscientifically prepared.

She suggested that architects, before passing their final examination, should be forced to spend a term in training in domestic economy. She would make them entirely responsible for running their college, situated not in a nice country district, but in London or a smoking Midland town.

"I think if this were done, we should have far fewer dado-rails and cornices and other unnecessary dusty corners. Architects should have a refresher at a later stage in their career, when they should have to look after one of the houses they had built."

TWO WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR EPSOM.

The Epsom by-election, caused by the elevation of the sitting Member, Sir Rowland Blades, to the peerage, promises to be of exceptional interest. Miss Helen M. Keynes, whose article, "When I am M.P.," appeared on the front page of THE VOTE for May 25th, is the Labour candidate, and the Conservatives are being asked by their Executive to adopt Lady Blades, wife of Sir Rowland Blades, as their candidate.

At the General Election, December, 1923, Mrs. E. Barton (Co-operative) and Mrs. George Cadbury (Liberal) contested the King's Norton Division of Birmingham, the former securing 6,743 votes, and the latter 5,686. Unfortunately neither got in, the Conservative, Sir Herbert Austin, having 9,545 votes.

WOMEN AT HOME.

Woman Doctor of Literature.

Miss Eleanor C. Lodge, Principal of Westfield College, London University, received her D.Litt. degree at Oxford last Saturday. She is the first woman student of the University to win that degree. Miss Lodge was formerly a student at Lady Margaret Hall. She afterwards became Vice-Principal of the Hall, and held that post for 15 years.

Woman President of Botanical Section.

Professor Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan has accepted office as President of the Botanical Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in place of Professor R. H. Yapp, who recently resigned. At the Annual Meeting in Glasgow next September, Dame Helen will address the Section on "Sex and Nutrition in the Fungi."

Woman Vice-President of Ruskin College Fellowship.

Miss Horan, organiser of the National Union of General Workers, was made Vice-President of the Ruskin College Fellowship at the recent annual meeting. "Cherish," not "Obey."

The word "cherish" is to be substituted for the word "obey" in the bride's vow in the marriage service of the Episcopal Church of Scotland. The change was decided upon by a majority at the Provincial Synod.

GOODWILL DAY AT BRACKENHILL SCHOOL.

Readers of THE VOTE will remember our old friend Mrs. Harvey, who is specially connected with Brackenhill Open-Air Home School, which has just entered upon its eleventh year and is now happily established at Hartfield, Sussex, in a house specially designed for children's needs. This fascinating school has just had a Goodwill Day, and children and teachers delighted a crowd of visitors, who came from all parts of the country, with a gymnastic display in the beautiful grounds of Brackenhill, a number of national dances which were delightfully rendered, and a sketch "Fierce Feathers" (adapted from the story of Violet Hodgkin), which was cleverly and exquisitely performed. The children—there are about thirty of them—practically live, move, and have their being in the open air. It is a co-education school, a community in itself, in which each child and each grown-up person has his or her own allotted service, for service is the key-note of every effort at Brackenhill. The pleasure given by Mrs. Harvey's kind hospitality and the joy of seeing so many happy, healthy and alert children will long remain in our memory. The best of Good Wishes to Brackenhill Open-Air School!

MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Caxton Hall,

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH, AT 7 P.M.

All members, and friends, cordially invited.

TICKETS 1/-.

DR. LEWIN.

We are delighted to tell all our readers that Dr. Lewin is getting on extremely satisfactorily, and is very cheerily determined to make a complete recovery. To ensure this she will take an entire rest from all work until the autumn.

She sends her best love to all her friends, and thanks for kind sympathy and inquiries.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

In THE VOTE of June 1st, we reported that the Minister of Health had appointed a Departmental Committee, "To consider the working of the Midwives Acts, 1902 to 1926, with particular reference to the training of midwives (including its relation to the education of medical students in midwifery), and the conditions under which midwives are employed." Now Mr. Chamberlain has appointed a second Departmental Committee, whose terms of reference are to advise upon the application to maternal mortality and morbidity of the medical and surgical knowledge at present available, and to inquire into the needs and direction of further research work. The members of this second Committee are as follows:—

Sir George Newman, K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P. (chairman), Professor F. J. Browne, M.D., F.R.C.S., Dame Janet M. Campbell, D.B.E., M.D., M.S., Mrs. Ethel Cassie, M.D., Mr. Leonard Colebrook, M.B., Professor Archibald Donald, M.D., F.R.C.P., Mr. C. E. S. Flemming, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Sir Walter M. Fletcher, K.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., Mr. Harold Kerr, O.B.E., M.D., Mr. W. H. F. Oxley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Professor Miles H. Phillips, M.B., F.R.C.S., Mr. C. E. Tangye, M.D., and Mr. O. L. V. S. de Wesselow, M.B., F.R.C.P.

The Secretary of the Committee will be Dr. Margaret Hogarth, of the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W.1, to whom all communications relating to the work of the Committee should be addressed.

VICTORY IN SIGHT IN BRAZIL!

In granting suffrage to the women in the State Rio Grande do Norte, Governor J. Lamartine took the first important step towards the enfranchisement of women in Brazil. It is hoped that M. Lamartine's example will soon be followed by other governors, and that the Congress of Brazil will, without undue delay, pass the vote on to other States.

The Brazilian suffrage movement has won much influential support in the country, and the President, Dr. W. L. Pereira de Sousa, has openly declared: "Sex should not serve as a base of discrimination against citizens."

In Memoriam.

Many suffragettes will be grieved to hear of the death of Aeta Lamb, who died of cancer on June 4th, at the early age of 41 years. Aeta Lamb was one of the very first members of the London W.S.P.U., having joined at the beginning of 1906. She was arrested three times—one time being during the celebrated mounted police raid in Parliament Square. Gentle of manner and frail of body, she was never able to take a very active part in the militant movement, but she had a passionate and undying enthusiasm for the feminist cause, and by her clear insight and wonderful eloquence she won many converts to the woman's cause in those early and difficult days. She will be greatly missed by those who loved and admired her.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.

Telegrams:—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."



WHERE TO GO. WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, June 20th, 4—5.30 p.m.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Friday, June 22nd, at 5 p.m.

Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, June 23rd, at 10 a.m.

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

Thursday, June 28th, at 3 p.m.

Fair Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, July 4th, at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party at Caxton Hall.

Victory Breakfast.

Hotel Cecil, 8.45 a.m. for 9 a.m. Tickets 4/6. Date.—As soon as possible after the Franchise Bill receives the Royal Assent.

PROVINCES.

Saturday, June 16th, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Middlesbrough Branch. Bring and Buy Sale at the Grey House, Linthorpe.

Monday, June 18th, at 7.15 p.m.

Bradford, Y.W.C.A., North Parade. The Lady Mayoress will preside. Dr. Margaret Waller will speak on "Children and Sex," and Miss Lillian Lenton on "The Continued Need for the Women's Freedom League." Coffee and biscuits. Collection. All welcome.

Friday, June 29th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. A Garden Meeting will be held at 62, Albert Road.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, June 18th, at 8 p.m.

Speech Club. Debate: "Debate on Disarmament." Opener: Mr. E. N. Porter Goff, B.A. (League of Nations). Opposer: Mr. D. W. A. Llewellyn (Union Society of London).

Tuesday, June 19th, at 8.30 p.m.

The Open Door Council. Debate at 1, Cumberland Terrace, N.W.1. "The Right of Married Women to Engage in Paid Work." Chair: The Lady Balfour of Burleigh. Proposer: Lady Barrett, M.D., M.S. Opposer: Miss E. Bright Ashford.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, June 19th, 20th, and 21st.

Six Point Group. Hobbies and Handicrafts Exhibition at 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Monday, July 2nd, at 6 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Open Meeting at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, W., on "Restrictive Legislation and the Wage-earning Woman." Speaker: Mrs. Elizabeth Abbott. Chairman, Miss Monica Whateley.

Thursday, July 5th, at 9 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Reception at Crosby Hall, to meet women Members of Parliament and others. Tickets, 3s. 6d. each.

Friday, July 6th, at 8.15 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Dinner at Criterion Restaurant. Tickets, 8s. 6d. each.

Saturday, July 7th.

British Commonwealth League. Garden and River Party at Bray. Motor Coach from 17, Buckingham Street. Return tickets, 7s. 6d. each.

HOW TO ESTABLISH YOUR FUTURE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE BY SETTING UP A RETIRING FUND.

Write or Telephone to—

MISS W. MARY NEW,
(Women's Section)

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

13, CORNHILL, E.C.3.

Phones: AVENUE 1672 and 2253.

BRANCH NOTES.

HAMPSTEAD.

A Meeting of the Branch was held, by kind invitation of Dr. Knight, at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3, on Thursday, June 7th. Dr. Knight presided. Much sorrow was expressed by those present on hearing of Miss Vibert's very serious illness, and a letter of sympathy was sent from the meeting to her friend, Miss Goodliffe.

Arrangements were made to have the usual Branch Collection on behalf of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party Fund. Contributions for this collection will be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Lyndon, and should be sent to her at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3, before June 28th. The Branch also undertook the Flower Stall at the Birthday Party. Gifts of Flowers for this Stall will be most acceptable, and should be sent to the Caxton Hall about 6 p.m. on July 4th. It was arranged that the Branch should again provide two Stalls at the Fair, for Handkerchiefs, Antiques, and White Elephants.

It was decided that, if possible, an Outdoor Meeting should be held on the Heath as soon as the Franchise Bill has become law. As so many members will be away on their holidays during the next two months, the next Members' Meeting will not be held until the early autumn. The date will be fixed later.

At the close of the meeting thanks were accorded to Dr. Knight for her kind hospitality.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

PORTSMOUTH.

Many thanks to the members who kindly sent goods for the Jubilee Sale, also to those who came to sell. It was quite a successful Sale. We are again asking members to contribute at least 1s. to our donation to the Birthday Fund. If possible, we want to break our record of the usual £5. All contributions will be acknowledged in THE VOTE.

Mrs. Slatter has kindly promised to give her Annual Garden Whist Drive. The date will be announced next week.

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

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCHES.

South-Eastern Branches Birthday Fund.—Will members please remember that collecting cards must be filled up now.

Gratefully acknowledged.—Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, 10s.; Mrs. Darent Harrison, 5s.; Henry Fry, Esq., 5s.; Mdme. Osterveen, 2s. 6d.; the Misses Sinden, 2s.

South-Eastern Branches Stall.—We are again undertaking a Stall at the Fair next November. Will members begin to collect anything suitable for a general Stall? We can do so much during holidays, etc., in the way of needlework (particularly children's garments). We shall be grateful for any saleable goods. We warmly thank Mrs. d'Almeida Cory for the delightful little sketch of Rye as our first contribution.

WOMEN POLICE.

At the Monthly Meeting of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, held on June 4th, at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, Commandant Allen, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, gave a very inspiring speech on "Women Police." Miss De Alberti presided in the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Laughton Mathews.

Referring to the Savidge case, Commandant Allen said she had had many inquiries respecting the woman who was dismissed from the room when Miss Savidge was interrogated. Apparently she was what is called a "Police Chaperon," quite a different thing from a fully-trained policewoman. These women have been attached to Scotland Yard for many years, long before women police were instituted.*

Commandant Allen stressed the point that only fully-trained and thoroughly experienced officers were competent to deal with difficult cases. She hoped, and her audience warmly supported her, that outside organisations would make their voices heard, insisting that all interrogations of women and children in cases of assault or indecency should be made by a fully-trained policewoman.

The reply to this might be that there was not a sufficient number, there being at the present moment only 50 policewomen in the whole of London, whereas formerly there were 300.

Let us continue to agitate until we have an adequate force of fully-trained experienced policewomen, and not chaperons.

At the close of the meeting the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"This meeting calls upon the Government to further legislation making it compulsory for Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees to appoint a sufficient number of women police."

(Miss Wylde herself claims to be Inspector of Women Police and attached to the C.I.D., Scotland Yard.)

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Last week we announced that a Summer School was to be held at Lausanne to discuss Arbitration, Security and Disarmament. We now learn from the Lausanne Committee Secretary that unforeseen circumstances oblige the Committee to give up this Summer School.

Readers are reminded that the Alliance will hold its Congress next year in Berlin.

FRIDAY,
JUNE 15,
1928.

THE VOTE

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REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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

FRENCH ALPS.—Furnished Chalet to let. View Mt. Blanc, Seven beds, bath, inside sanitation.—"E.C.F.," 31, Meadhurst Road, Leicester.

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HAMPTON COURT (near to).—Paying Guests required. Golf, river, railway station, 5 mins., Waterloo station, 33 minutes.—**APPLEBY, Wolsey Road, E. Molesey, Surrey.**

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 0377.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, June 17th, 1928. 6.30. Mrs. J. B. Binns, M.A.: "Unanswered Prayer. II."

FROM A VICTORIAN TO A MODERN
BY DORA B. MONTEFIORE.

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