

THE VOTE,
APRIL 13, 1923
ONE PENNY.

WOMAN GOVERNOR FOR GIRLS' BORSTAL

THE VOTE

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FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1923

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

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COMRADE, FIGHTER, WORKER AND PIONEER.

Mrs. Ethel Ayres Purdie, whose sudden death, on March 26th, all suffragists and friends of women join with us in deploring, was one of our original members in the Women's Freedom League, and recognised as an authority on Income Tax questions both in Europe and America.

As a girl, Mrs. Purdie worked in the Telegraph Department, and, always fascinated by the wonders of figures, she later studied accountancy at the Society of Arts classes, passing her final examination in 1906. She also took Honours in the examination of the Chamber of Commerce. It was through her exertions that the London Association of Accountants, in 1909, opened its doors to women, when she became its first woman member; later on she was elected a Fellow. Our debt of gratitude to the pioneer women who have opened new professions to their sex must never be forgotten by the ordered ranks who follow them. As a suffragist and a wife, Mrs. Purdie was always specially interested in, and occupied with, women's cases in connection with Income Tax, overpaid, or not legally due. She bitterly resented the legal position of married women in this country, and was filled with fury that a woman, by the fact of legal honourable marriage, should be made a nonentity and "incapacitated" by Law. She persistently urged the authorities to adopt the principle of separate assessment, for Income Tax, of the married woman's income, following on the lines of the Married Woman's Property Act. In this connection she fought many cases, almost invariably with success, her clients including Mrs. Kinton Parkes, a Durham woman doctor, for whom she obtained total exemption as her husband was in Australia, and Dr. Elizabeth Wilks, whose husband was imprisoned, but subsequently released. She also waged a constant warfare on her own account, and Mr. Purdie, who thoroughly agreed with her, was

often threatened with imprisonment in consequence!

Mrs. Purdie represented the Women's Freedom League in 1919 as a witness before the Royal Commission on Income Tax, and made a great impression on the Royal Commissioners by her clear and witty presentation of the absurdities and injustices of the legal and financial side of women's disabilities. She also closely watched Corporation Bills which came before Parliament, and which frequently contained a clause to the effect that the auditor should be a member of some society of accountants which excluded women from its membership. This matter was invariably, through her efforts, brought to the notice of unsuspecting Members of Parliament, and nearly always rectified, so that women should not be debarred from becoming auditors under these different Bills, solely on account of their sex.

Mrs. Purdie was the valued auditor of many women's societies, including the Women's Freedom League, Minerva Publishing Co., the Women's Tax Resistance League, Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, National Fund for Nurses, as well as Clinics and Mothers' Schools.

As a speaker, our valiant member was crisp and lively, lucid and humorous, never failing to drive home her points with incisive good humour; her speeches at meetings and at model

Parliamentary elections were always punctuated by cheers and laughter. The same clearness is seen in her various financial articles in the VOTE and elsewhere, and in the pamphlet, "Women and Income Tax," published by the League.

Mrs. Purdie was married in 1897, and was the "best of chums" to her husband, and a devoted mother to her two boys. Her winsome, cheery personality, brilliant powers, and life of self-sacrifice have reaped an abundant harvest of admiration and affection from all those who came in contact with her, either in the business world, or in private life.



MEN'S WAY OF DOING THINGS. THE ANTI-SUFFRAGIST IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The position of Temporary Women Clerks in Government Offices is by no means an enviable one. Not very long ago, when some Temporary Men Clerks were dismissed at Kew, they poster-paraded with placards protesting against the employment of any women there while any of their male colleagues wanted a job. The circumstances of the women who remain at Kew are periodically subjected to the closest investigation. Just before the Recess, Mr. Hayday (West Nottingham) asked the Minister of Labour whether the investigators reviewing the private circumstances of temporary women employes in his Department included a representative of those being cross-examined, in accordance with the general practice in other Departments, and the desire of the staff concerned; and, if not, whether he would consider adding to the Examining Committee the women's substitution representative? Mr. Betterton (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour) replied that there was a representative of the temporary women staff on the Substitution Committees of the Ministry of Labour both at headquarters and at Kew. It had not, however, been the practice of the Department to include a representative of the temporary women employes at Kew in the reviews of the private circumstances of those women which had taken, and were taking place. One of the two investigators was a permanent woman officer of long experience.

On another occasion Mr. Hayday asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention had been drawn to the fact that *Live Wire*, a journal which persistently attacked the trade union women temporary civil servants, was advertised on the notice boards of Government Departments, such advertisement being given on the official notice boards of the Pensions Issue Office, even for the February issue, which included an attack on a trade union woman Divisional Superintendent, the length and character of her public service, which, under threat of a libel action, both printer and publisher had to withdraw subsequently; that recent appeals for funds to support the turning out of the women were circulated round all Departments, including the women staff concerned; and that that circular included a false statement to the effect that there were still over 3,000 pin-money women employed in the Pensions Ministry, whereas every woman still employed there had had her circumstances gone into, and, if appealing against dismissal, verified by a Justice of the Peace or other responsible citizen; and whether he would undertake, that, in future, no official notice boards should be used to advertise journals including libellous attacks on women employes, and that circulars attacking them should not be distributed in the offices during office hours? Major Boyd-Carpenter (Financial Secretary to the Treasury) said that his attention would not normally be drawn to questions of the kind referred to, which appeared to raise disciplinary issues which would more properly be dealt with by the heads of the Departments concerned. He was satisfied that, should circumstances demand it, action would be taken to prevent any abuse of the facilities ordinarily allowed to staff associations for displaying, subject to Departmental approval, notices regarding Association activities, and he was not prepared to suggest that existing Departmental practice in this matter should be modified.

Whatever the intention of the Government in this matter, we think that the above reply to Mr. Hayday's question is wholly unsatisfactory. It is high time that the Government, and some Members of Parliament, who have raised a continuous outcry against the employment of women in Government Offices, should realise that this constant woman-baiting must cease, and, that we have a right to expect that the Government of our country should act impartially as between its men and women citizens.

Since some women in this country secured the Parliamentary vote, we have been deprived of a good deal of entertainment with which the speeches of our anti-suffragist friends in pre-suffrage days so frequently supplied us. However, the women in South Africa have not yet got the vote, the Women's Enfranchisement Bill being defeated last February by one vote. This Bill is described by the *Cape Times* as "the hardy political annual," and the political emancipation of women as "unquestionably one of the most controversial questions which has exercised political minds in South Africa for many years." GEN. BYRON introduced the Second Reading, which was ably supported by several other members.

MR. MERRIMAN led off on the Opposition side. Again to quote the *Cape Times*, this gentleman "fulfilled a rôle in opposing the motion—a capacity which has become almost historically associated with his name"! He said, among other things, that the political enfranchisement of women was a serious thing—a revolution, the results of which nobody could tell. . . . Women had the vote in England, and what had they done with it? Why, out of 60 candidates, only two were returned to Parliament. The fact was that no woman would vote for another. It would appear from the speeches of some hon. Members that there would be a new heaven, once the franchise was granted. He thought the question was: Are you going to create a new hell?

MR. KEYER declared that if the Bill passed through, it was all up with South Africa. He contended that the countries which had given woman the vote were systematically committing suicide. In Europe, the number of women exceeded that of men by 25,000,000. . . . if those 25,000,000 women were to come to South Africa and get the vote, he would say, "God spare South Africa."

MR. DE WAAL emphasised the inconvenience and discomfort which women in the country districts would experience if they had to travel many miles to go to the poll.

COL. B. T. J. VAN HEERDEN said that the Bill would force the vote on the South African woman against her will. A wife was the "crown of her husband," but that crown would lose its value if woman had the vote, for married life would be made very difficult. He was told that in England respectable ladies were not in favour of the franchise.

MR. NICHOLLS stated that there had never been native women Councillors; it was foreign to all Bantu tradition for women to rule; and we should weaken in native eyes our rule if we diluted it with women.

MR. FICHARDT feared that, if they were going to mix women in their politics, they were going to muddle their affairs. He maintained that women's enfranchisement could not be dealt with until the native question had been settled. Were women ill-treated under the law? He did not think so. What good would women's enfranchisement do?

GENERAL LEMMER held that the Afrikaner woman was against the franchise, and that section of the population still had a better realisation of woman's sphere and duty than the section which stood shouting at street corners.

CAPTAIN CHILERS urged that the franchise laws should first be put in order, and a single series of qualifications fixed for the Union, before it was attempted to tackle this question. The women of South Africa, he emphatically declared, did not want the vote, and the petitions for women's franchise were very largely signed by street walkers, who knew nought of the conditions of the rural districts.

In spite of all the above brave words of their opponents, women suffragists in South Africa are convinced that the next effort to pass a Women's Enfranchisement Bill will be crowned with success.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Eastern Women at the Rome Congress.

The Ninth Congress of the I.W.S.A. at Rome next month will be specially noted for its contingent of Eastern women delegates. Egypt is sending Mme. Hoda Charoni and her daughter. India is sending two fully enfranchised women, Mrs. Jinarajadasa and Mrs. Patwardhan, from Madras, where women vote both for the Legislative Council of Madras and for the Central Legislative Assembly at Delhi. Palestine is sending a delegate from the Palestinian Jewish Women's Rights Association.

Japanese Women and the Equal Moral Standard.

The Women's Societies of Japan will concentrate this year upon amending the criminal code so as to assure equal punishment for men and women. The Women's Christian Temperance Union of Japan has also drafted a law for the protection of women which will provide penalties for tempting young girls to become "geisha." Fifty members of the Diet have so far promised to support this protection law.

Canada's Woman Delegate.

Miss Violet Markham has been chosen by the Canadian Government to represent it at the meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation at Geneva on April 10th. This appointment is significant as the first occasion on which a woman has been made a member of the Governing Body. During the war, Miss Markham was Deputy Director of the Women's Service Department of Great Britain. She is recognised as an international authority on problems of women's employment.

Women J.P.s for Southport.

For the first time, women are now Southport borough magistrates. These are: Miss Hartley (last year's Mayor, and daughter of the late Sir W. P. Hartley); Miss Kate Rimmer, the first woman Town Councillor; and Mrs. Shipman, a prominent social worker and member of the National Citizens' Union.

Women and Steel.

Mrs. Jean Chassere, of Terre Haute, Indiana, is the first woman in the United States to tender for the erection of large steel buildings. Another American woman whose absorbing interest is steel is Mrs. Mary Heaton Vorse, whose book on the steel mills of the United States, "Men and Steel," is one of the best of its kind on the market.

Sisters' Work of Art.

High on the wall facing the entrance to the Central Hall of the Houses of Parliament, two sisters—the Misses Gertrude and Dora Martin—have been at work since January, piecing together hundreds of thousands of tiny pieces of coloured glass, making a mosaic copy of a design by Mr. Robert Anning Bell. The work represents St. Andrew, and has been presented by Sir William Raeburn, M.P.

Women Engineers' Conference.

Birmingham has been chosen as the place of meeting for the first Conference of women engineers ever held. At this Conference, which is being held this week, from April 11-14, delegates from other European countries and from America will be present. An American woman and other delegates from overseas are to give some of the addresses.

An Australian Backwoodsman!

In reply to a deputation of women who asked him to send a woman delegate from Australia to future meetings of the League of Nations, the Australian Prime Minister said that he did not consider it wise to appoint a woman as full delegate.

Belgian Married Women.

In accordance with the law of May, 1922, a Belgian woman can retain her own nationality by making a declaration within six months of marriage, or from the day when her husband adopts another nationality.

Girls' Schools Jubilee.

The Girls' Public Day School Trust, which sprang from a small organisation known as the Women's Education Union, and which now has 25 high schools under its control, will celebrate its jubilee this year. Old girls, present pupils, and past and present mistresses are to take part in a celebration service at St. Paul's on June 1st, when Dean Inge will be the preacher. There are at present attending the 25 schools established all over England by the Trust, 9,300 girls, compared with 5,300 before the war.

Women Lawyers Settle Down.

Woman recently has made her position in the legal profession so secure that even so conservative a place as the Law Society building in Chancery Lane has now to recognise her presence. The committee have been busy arranging for a ladies' cloak room and other rooms which will be reserved for women. A similar change is thought of in the Temple and the other Inns of Court.

American Women Taxi-Drivers.

A new company, employing women to drive taxi-cabs for women, commenced business in New York last week, and will ply chiefly in the late hours of the night. It is a frequent complaint that women are more often held up by chauffeurs than men, and the employment of chauffeuses will help to restore confidence at a time when symptoms of another crime wave have appeared.

Women and Local Government.

A good many women were nominated at the recent elections for District Councils and Boards of Guardians. Eleven women stood for re-election to Urban District Councils, of whom Miss Farmer (Malvern) and Mrs. Gofton (Whitley and Monkseaton) were returned unopposed. Miss Janet King has also been returned without a contest to the Golcar Council, being the first woman Councillor in the Colne Valley. Miss Cecile Mathieson was one of the candidates in Hendon.

Woman Solicitor's Prize.

Miss Agnes Twiston Hughes, B.Sc. (Lond.), daughter of Mr. J. W. Hughes, solicitor, Conway, who is the first woman to qualify as a solicitor in North Wales, has also gained the distinction of being the only candidate to whom a prize was awarded at the recent final examination of the Law Society.

Women Police for Cologne?

Miss Mary S. Allen, Commandant of the Women's Auxiliary Service, is going to Germany, at the invitation of the German authorities, and at the request of the British War Office, to consult with the authorities as to whether the employment of women police would be an advantage to them in dealing with the difficult social problems existing at the moment in Cologne.

Woman Doctor's Success.

Miss E. Dorothea Sandison, M.B., senior resident medical officer at the Central Branch of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, has been appointed from among 54 applicants as resident Medical Officer at Worthing (Sussex) Hospital.

Women and State Service.

The question of compulsory State service for women has recently been discussed in several countries. Belgium and Poland are among the countries where it is being considered.

More Sex War.

A protest by Bletchley school managers against a woman Inspector of physical training being sent to schools where the staffs are composed of ex-Service men has resulted in the Inspector being withdrawn by the county authority.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
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EDITORIAL.

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

WOMAN GOVERNOR FOR GIRLS' BORSTAL

We congratulate most warmly whoever was responsible for the appointment of Miss Lillian Barker, at present Executive Officer of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment, as Governor of the Borstal Institution for Girls at Aylesbury. Her long experience among girls during the war at Woolwich Arsenal, and since that time on the Central Committee, as well as her wide human sympathies, will stand her in good stead at Aylesbury, where there are 200 girls between the ages of 16 and 25. Among them are those who have been sentenced under the First Offenders Act, others who have been convicted for such offences as petty thefts, and a good number who have been sent there for moral reasons. Miss Barker has secured considerable powers for improving conditions, and, as she has decided views on prison reform, believing that the detention of these girls should be curative rather than punitive, we derive the greatest satisfaction from her appointment. In an interview she said that what is needed is a less rigorous discipline, which will help to reconstruct the lives of these girls, and she proposes to substitute a system of self-government on lines that will give opportunities of gaining self-control and self-dependence. Their lives at present are so ordered for them that they cannot obtain the first, and the instruction given is of such a non-vocational nature that they cannot get the second. Miss Barker believes that there is tremendous scope for the remaking of lives. We fully agree with her, and thank Heaven that she is prepared to make the fullest possible use of this opportunity. The Women's Freedom League has for many years urged that there will be no genuine prison reform in this country until women have a controlling influence inside our prison system. For that reason we have proclaimed in season and out of season that there should be women Governors and women Deputy Governors of all women's prisons, or women's and girls' sections of prisons, that there should be women medical officers in such prisons, women inspectors of prisons, and, above all, women Commissioners of Prisons. We now have one woman Governor for the Girls' Borstal at Aylesbury. There was an excellent woman Inspector of Prisons—Dr. Mary Gordon—but that appointment has ceased, on grounds of economy! The Prison Commission consists of an entirely male personnel—a Chairman who has £1,500 a year, two Prison Commissioners and Directors of Convict Prisons who have from £1,000 to £1,200, another Director of Convict Prisons who is apparently unpaid, a Secretary Inspector with £700 to £800, three Inspectors who each have from £600 to £900, a Medical Inspector £780 to £880, a Chaplain Inspector £600 to £700, with a Surveyor, an assistant, and a few clerks, all at fairly high salaries—but not one of them a woman! Just before the Adjournment, Mr. Frank Brient asked the Home Secretary if he would appoint a woman Commissioner with power to make representations on the administrative side of all prisons and Borstal institutions, and with a special view to initiating reform in female prisons and in the Borstal

institution at Aylesbury? Mr. Bridgeman replied that he could not adopt that suggestion. The work of the Prison Commissioners was too heavy to make it possible to replace any of them by a woman without administrative experience of prisons, and to add a paid woman would involve an expenditure which could not be justified! If women have had no administrative experience of prisons, whose fault is it? At any rate, immediate effort should be made to rectify this fault. Miss Barker, if she is to make a success of her administration at Borstal, should certainly have the support of a suitable woman Prison Commissioner, and we have faith enough in the resources of our own sex to believe that there is more than one woman in this country physically, mentally, and administratively capable of undertaking the full duties of a Prison Commissioner.

A HUSBAND'S LIABILITY.

Not long ago, Mr. Justice M'Cardie unburdened his soul in regard to a woman's extravagance in dress, when he had to decide upon the liability of a husband for the maintenance of a wealthy wife. The present position of the law as to the liabilities of husbands is apparently worrying some people, for Sir John Butcher, just before the recess, with reference to this case, asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the fact that the position of married women, in status and in property, had undergone a complete change in recent years, he would make proposals for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the state of the law on this subject, and to report what changes, if any, should be made? The Home Secretary promised to consult the Lord Chancellor on the matter. We remember that in the last Parliament a similar Committee was appointed to inquire into the presumption of coercion of wives; but nothing happened! If the present Lord Chancellor approves of the appointment of the proposed Select Committee, we sincerely hope its investigations will not be limited to a husband's liability for a wealthy wife. We are much more concerned about his liability for a poor wife. At present, such a wife has no legal claim to any portion of her husband's wages, salary, or income. All that the law compels him to do is to keep her off the rates, and provide her with medicine, and when he dies he can, if he chooses, will all his possessions to someone else, and leave her penniless. The position of a wife without means of her own can be intolerable under the law of this country. We hope, therefore, that it will not escape the purview of any Select Committee appointed to investigate the liabilities of husbands and wives.

A WAR MEMORIAL TO WOMEN.

According to the *National Council of Women's News*, the idea has been started at York that the window in York Minster called the "Five Sisters' Window" should be restored as a memorial to those women, members of various organisations, who lost their lives in the Great War, 1914-1918. Princess Mary has already contributed £50 to this fund. The famous Five Sisters' Window in the North Transept has always been attributed to women who lived in Marygate, and who are said to have woven in tapestry the designs that appear in this beautiful window. It is stated that 176 Army nurses laid down their lives, 238 V.A.D.s (of whom 19 were from Yorkshire), 169 W.A.A.C.s, and others in the Women's Royal Naval Service, whose number has not been ascertained. At the unveiling of the War Memorial at Weybridge, quite recently, General A. F. Gatliff drew attention to the absence from the list of the name of any woman, and the *Surrey Comet*, commenting on this omission, expressed the hope that the suggestion would be borne in mind in connection with the local Kingston Memorial. Croydon War Memorial, we are glad to say, is dedicated to the local women as well as to the local men who laid down their lives.

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

By EVA CLARK.

Amongst the many injustices which English Law has offered to women, that contained in the Intestacy Laws has for many years past been one of the most glaring. If a man died without a will, all his real property (freehold land and houses) went to his eldest son, subject to the payment to the widow of one third only of the rents, etc., of such property during her life. The fact that the woman had probably worked hard and continuously planned and saved (in the case of small estates) to help her husband get the money to buy the property made no difference. The rule governing the devolution of real property in these cases was that "males are always preferred to females." This is, of course, a survival from the times when land was held under the King or one of his lords in consideration of military services, which, it was assumed, could only be rendered by the man.

The injustice caused by the operation of this law could be greatly amplified, but time and space will not permit, and, fortunately, it is not now necessary to dwell upon it, for by the passing of the Law of Property Act, 1922, the old law of descent has been swept away, although the change does not operate until 1925. Much of this lengthy and complicated Act is not of great importance to the ordinary man or woman, but Part 8, Clause 148, is important, because therein is contained the new Law of Descent in cases of intestacy.

To anyone who realises how conservative is the Law, and, generally, the lawyers, the change is startling, and one wonders that so little notice has been taken of it by the Press. Possibly this is because the property-

owning population of our country is a comparatively small percentage of the whole.

The Section mentioned abolishes all distinction between husband and wife with regard to the disposition of property in case of the death of an individual who does not leave a will. No longer are there two sets of rules, one applicable to the property of a deceased woman, and the other to that of a deceased man. In fact, this particular section of the Act does not use the words "husband" and "wife" at all; instead, we read of "spouse," which, of course, applies equally to either, and the two are consequently on an absolutely equal footing. For instance, £1,000 (providing the estate is worth so much) is to be paid to the surviving "spouse," and the residue invested for his or her benefit during his or her life, if there are no children. If there are any, the surviving "spouse" takes the income of half the residue for life, the remainder being divided equally between the children, whether males or females. Compare that with the law as at present in force.

There can be no doubt that the partial enfranchisement of women has had a great deal to do with bringing about this act of justice to them. Sir Arthur Underhill, one of the Conveyancing Counsel to the Court, who had a good deal to do with the framing of the Act, says, "Now women have votes and seats in Parliament, the existing rules were not likely to escape drastic alteration."

This is one more proof of the power of the vote, and should encourage us in our demand for enfranchisement on the same terms as men.

WORK IN PARLIAMENT.

Parliament re-assembled last Monday. The Government's Housing Bill and the forthcoming Budget are at the moment the matters of chief interest to the general public. In the meantime, the problem of unemployment shows no sign of decreasing in difficulty. During the last week the number of wholly unemployed recorded on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges of Great Britain was 1,284,900, an increase of 41,476 on the previous week. We are told that the increase occurred principally in Lancashire and Cheshire. This total included 984,000 men, 41,400 boys, 222,800 women, and 36,700 girls. The number working short time and drawing benefit for intervals of unemployment was 55,700 on April 3rd, as compared with 55,292 on March 26th. This matter will certainly have to be considered by Parliament. So far as women are concerned, we hardly think that the keenest advocate for women as domestic servants will suggest that all women on the unemployed registers, and all women now working on short time, should immediately apply for posts in domestic service!

So far, the questions asked of Ministers have had very little reference to women's special interests. A question, however, put by Mr. Frank Gray (Oxford) elicited some curious information regarding the Executive Committee of the National Federation of Women's Institutes. The Minister of Agriculture has the right to appoint three members of this Executive Committee, two of whom are officers of the Ministry! A further question by Mr. Gray brought the information that the work of establishing and organising women's institutes was carried out as part of the normal duties of the Food Production Department, with certain outside assistance. The expenditure from October, 1917, to November, 1919, when the National Federation of Women's Institutes took over the work, was approximately £13,513; and the total amount subsequently paid out of the Development Fund to the National Federation of Women's Institutes up to March 31st, 1923, was £30,128.

Last Monday the Special Constables Bill was read a second time, but the Government majority fell to 83. The Home Secretary explained that it was a small but useful Bill. Under the Special Constables Act of 1831,

it was only when a tumult, riot, or felony had taken place, or was feared, that special constables could be sworn in; but during the war it was made possible by legislation to employ them on all occasions. The present Bill would continue that arrangement. The Bill, however, was fiercely contested by members of the Labour and Liberal parties, who declared that the Government's object was to have special constables to call out when there were trade disputes of any kind.

The same day, Mr. Lansbury (Bow and Bromley) moved the rejection of the Army and Air Force (Annual) Bill, and on this occasion the Government majority was only 82.

Last Tuesday the Government were defeated by a majority of seven, on the question that the Speaker leave the Chair on going into Committee on the Civil Service Estimates. This defeat was as unexpected as it was sensational. The Government supporters were asked to be back in their places at 9.30, when a division was expected. However, a division was challenged at 9.20, when the combined forces of Labour, Independent Liberals, and some National Liberals defeated the Government. This has put the Government in a great difficulty. It was contended that, as the Speaker could not put the same question from the Chair twice in one Session, it would be necessary, in order to get the Civil Service Estimates through, to bring the present Session to an end, and open a new Session, after a short delay, in order to put the matter right; but it is understood that the Government does not take that view, and will find another way out of the *impasse*. It is quite evident that, unless the Government can succeed in getting better results than it achieved on the first two days of this week, we shall certainly have another General Election in the near future.

Further consideration has been given by a Standing Committee to Lady Astor's Bill for preventing the sale of intoxicating liquors to young persons under the age of 18. Mr. Greaves-Lord's Amendment to insert the word "knowingly" to sell intoxicants to any person under 18, was carried; but Lady Astor successfully resisted his further Amendment to limit the scope of the Bill to spirits and wines.

TEACHERS' TRAINING COMMITTEE.

We are pleased to see that the President of the Board of Education (the Rt. Hon. E. F. L. Wood) has appointed women as well as men to serve on a Departmental Committee which is to review the arrangements for the training of teachers for public elementary schools, and to consider what changes, if any, are desirable in the organisation or finance of the existing system, in order that a supply of well-qualified teachers, adjustable to the demands of the schools, may be secured, regard being paid to—

- (a) the economy of public funds;
(b) the attractions offered to young persons by the teaching profession, as compared with other professions and occupations;
(c) the facilities afforded by secondary schools and universities for acquiring academic qualifications.

The names of the members of this Committee are: The Rt. Hon. Viscount Burnham (Chairman), Alderman F. Askew, J.P., Dr. Ernest Barker, Miss E. R. Conway, Miss Grace Fanner, Sir John Gilbert, K.B.E., Miss Freda Hawtreay, Mr. Spurley Hey, Mr. R. Holland, Alderman P. R. Jackson, J.P., Dame Margaret Lloyd-George, Mr. Frank Roscoe, Mr. E. J. Sainsbury, O.B.E., Professor Helen Wodehouse, Mr. E. K. Chambers, C.B., Mr. H. Ward, Miss A. E. Wark (of the Board of Education), Mr. A. W. Hurst (of the Treasury), with Mr. H. E. Mann as Secretary (Board of Education). It will be noticed that there are thirteen men and only six women, whereas we contend that all such Departmental Committees should consist of an equal number of men and women. In the case of the training of teachers this is the more necessary, since the number of women teachers is in excess of that of men teachers, and the burning questions of equal pay, equal status, and equal opportunities for both sexes in the teaching profession cannot possibly be eliminated from the investigations of this particular Committee.

OUR BRIGHTON MEETING.

A meeting of the Women's Freedom League is always refreshing and exhilarating, its speakers invariably enthusiastic and thoroughly conversant with their subject. Wednesday's meeting, on April 4th, at the Athenaeum Hall, Brighton, was no exception, and the audience pronounced it a great success.

Four women were on the platform, each representing a type of public work which was considered outside a woman's province not so very long ago—a Poor Law Guardian, a Justice of the Peace, a Commandant of Women Police, and a Councillor—differing probably in politics and in many other respects, but united in their work for women.

Miss Alix Clark, to whose successful organisation the meeting was due, spoke on the work of the Women's Freedom League, and showed how gallantly it was taking its part in all matters where women's interests, and therefore those of the community generally, are concerned.

Mrs. Leah Manning's lucid address on Married Women Teachers was well received. Her arguments have recently appeared in THE VOTE, and need not, therefore, be repeated. The only matter of regret is that there were not hundreds more present to hear what she had to say.

Commandant Allen, O.B.E., was listened to with the greatest interest as she spoke of the work of Women Police. The details of the work with regard to children were most distressing, and to many, absolutely new, but they served to show how important it is that the number of Women Police should be increased, and that women should be employed as regularly as men all over the country.

We rejoice that, as an outcome of this meeting, our Branch was re-formed in Brighton and Hove, so that more practical help will be available to press for reforms which are urgently needed.

THE STATE CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION.

The above Association has just seen its 25th birthday and issued its Report for the last year. In 1897 it was founded to help the Poor Law children of the Metropolis by securing for them an upbringing in a home instead of an institution, and was soon invited by thoughtful and progressive guardians to extend its work to the Provinces. Then the children of vagrants were included in its programme, and later, by request, the Association decided to bring within the scope of its activities delinquent children and young offenders. In 1916 it further decided to work for widows' pensions. The Report states that on January 1st, 1922, the number of children relieved in institutions and boarded out under our Poor Law was 73,934; the number of children in receipt of out-relief, 188,200; and the number of children in receipt of relief on account of the unemployment of their parents was 389,957. It also states that there has been a decrease in the number of child offenders. Nevertheless, 30,253 children and young persons were brought before the Juvenile Courts in 1921. Of this number, 14,488 were boys and 734 girls under 14 years of age; and 14,283 were boys and 748 girls between 14 and 16; but, the Report adds, "wherever Children's Courts and the Probation system are well administered, juvenile delinquency decreases; where punishment is used instead of reformatory treatment, and Probation is a name only, delinquency shows an increase." A decrease is also recorded in the number of boys birched during 1921, viz., 655, as against 1,320 in 1920; and a decrease is noted in the numbers of young people sent to prison in 1921, there being 3,657 lads between 18 and 21, and 660 girls between 16 and 21—4,317 young people "sentenced at a moment when life should have been holding out friendly, helping hands to them on every side—to undergo a humiliating, degrading, deadening experience, which can only check their spiritual growth, leave a life-long stain on their reputation, and do most harm to those in whom there was most good."

At the General Election the State Children's Association issued a questionnaire to Parliamentary candidates, asking whether, if elected, they would use their influence to promote (i.) a better administration of the Probation system, and (ii.) a scheme of Widows' Pensions; and the Report says that the replies were in most cases satisfactory, and that the list of M.P.s who now serve on the Association's Parliamentary Committee has been helpfully increased.

During the past year Lord Chelmsford has succeeded Lord Lytton as Chairman of the State Children's Association. It is with very sincere regret that we note the loss which it has sustained in the death of Miss Ethel Philp, who was co-secretary with her sister. The latter has decided to retire, and the secretaryship is now held by Miss E. M. Wetherall, who will have the best wishes of the Women's Freedom League for the success of her work on behalf of this Association.

OUR NEW PAMPHLETS.

- "The Work for Women M.P.s." by Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. ... 3d.
"The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. 3d.
"Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-af-Hageby 3d.
"Women and Income Tax," by Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant) ... 3d.
"Race Motherhood. Is Woman the Race?" by Mrs. Montefiore ... 6d.
"Women Police," a short history from its inception to the present day ... 1d.
"The Wrongs of Married Women," by Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., LL.A. ... 3d.
"The New Humanism," by Laurence Housman ... 6d.
Also various pamphlets and books on subjects of special interest to women.
Any books on any subject obtained to order.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

- Monday, April 16th, at 6.30 p.m. Mid-London Branch Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. To Discuss Conference Agenda and instruct Delegate.
Monday, April 23rd, at 8 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting for Members only, at 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W. 3 (by kind permission of Mrs. Harverson). Conference Business.
Friday, April 27th, at 2.30 p.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Saturday, April 28th. Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall.
Sunday, April 29th, at 3.30 p.m. Tea and Reception at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, to Delegates, London Members and Friends.
Thursday, June 7th, 2 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Garden Fête at "The Hill," Hampstead (kindly lent by Viscount Leverhulme), Women's Freedom League, Green, White and Gold Stall.
Friday, July 6th, Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, Westminster. Further particulars later.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, April 20th, at 8 p.m. Edinburgh. Special Branch Meeting at 44, George IV Bridge, to discuss Conference Resolutions and instruct Delegate.

PROVINCES.

- Tuesday, April 17th, at 7 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Meeting at 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Miss Hall. Subject: "International Politics." Chair: Mrs. Whetton.
Tuesday, April 24th, at 8 p.m. South-end-on-Sea and District. Public Meeting at St. John's Ambulance Hall, 76, Queen's Road, Speaker: John W. Burrows, Esq. Subject: "Education."
OTHER SOCIETIES.
Wednesday, April 18th, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Miss Muriel Curry, O.B.E. Subject: "The Work of the League of Nations up to date."
Thursday, April 19th, at 3 p.m. Women's Local Government Society. Miss Lena Ashwell, on "The Drama and the National Life," at 68, Gt. Cumberland Place, Portman Square. Chair: The Lady Amherst of Hackney. Tickets 5/-.

BRANCH NOTES.

EDINBURGH.

We had the pleasure of a visit from Miss Brimson, the League Organizer, at our Branch meeting on April 6th. Miss Brimson gave a most interesting address, describing the work of the League on behalf of women in this country, and appealing to the members to carry their League about with them, to talk about it to their friends, and induce others to join. Miss Brimson urged us to appoint a Press Secretary, in order to get matters affecting women discussed in the local Press, and Miss Manclark kindly consented to act in that capacity. The Secretary reported on a meeting of the Child Assault Protest Committee, which she had attended, presided over by Mrs. Councillor Millar, one of the two women members of the Edinburgh Town Council. The Committee has succeeded in getting the Council to appoint another woman to the C.I.D. Department, and is now endeavouring to get more Women Police appointed in Edinburgh. At present the cost of uniforms is considered prohibitive, so the little girls must take their chance of being ruined for life. (Hon. Sec.) W. M. SPRIGGS, 22, Dick Place, Edinburgh.

ASHFORD.

A very interesting lecture, presided over by W. R. Fitzhugh, Esq., was given to the Ashford Branch recently by Dr. Josiah Oldfield, on "What should we eat?" This was under the auspices of the Fruitarian Society, and in the course of his witty remarks, the Doctor emphasised the value of a Lenten abstinence from meat, and the benefit of a dietary largely composed of fruit and vegetables. The Doctor added that it always gave him pleasure to speak for the Women's Freedom League, as he felt that, when women bravely discarded tight corsets and long skirts, they were opening their minds to a freer life of health and educational interest. At the close, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the speaker, on the proposition of Mr. Clayton, seconded by Mrs. Caister, and a similar one to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Kither. (Asst. Sec.) E. G. KITHER, Gletgariff, Ashford.

BRIGHTON.

A meeting of members and friends was held on Tuesday, April 10th, at 5.15 p.m., by kind invitation of Miss Turner, at her house, Sea View, Victoria Road, Brighton. Miss Hare took the Chair. After discussion, it was decided immediately to re-form our Brighton Branch. About 20 members joined at once, and several others are joining. Plans were made for future meetings, for VOTE selling, and for the consolidation of the branch and the appointment of additional officers. Miss K. Close kindly undertook to be Literature Secretary and temporary Hon. Secretary, with the help of Miss Hare, and Mrs. Brown to be VOTE seller. (Hon. Sec., pro tem.) K. CLOSE, 48, Rutland Gardens, Hove.

PORTSMOUTH.

It is gratifying to record that two women, Mrs. Cook (re-elected) and Mrs. Toms, were returned at the recent Guardians' election. Mrs. Mollard was only 12 votes out. The monthly Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, April 17th, at 7 p.m., at 2, Kent Road. Miss Hall will speak on International Politics. (Hon. Sec.) MRS. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Liberal Women in Conference.

The Women's National Liberal Federation are this May holding their Council Meetings at the Holborn Hall, London. Resolutions appearing on the Agenda deal with Electoral Reform, one of which calls upon the Government to introduce, and to pass through all its stages this Session, legislation giving the franchise to women upon the same terms as men, and another urges that Proportional Representation be forthwith substituted for the present method as the only just and equitable way of recording the will of the people. There is a Resolution on Divorce Law Reform, which records satisfaction that the Matrimonial Causes Bill passed its Second Reading in the House of Commons by a large majority, and urges that this first instalment of a long-overdue reform shall have a prompt and speedy passage into law; a Resolution on Education, which views with great apprehension the economies now being practised in regard to it, and pledges the Council to do all in its power to see that the children of the nation are not handicapped by having their education starved, and their opportunities for proceeding by scholarships from the elementary school to the university curtailed; a Resolution on Housing, protesting against any attempt being made to decontrol rents until a sufficient number of houses is provided for the people to live in, and urging the Government to give such help to local authorities as will enable them to build houses until such time as private enterprises can build and let them at an economic rental; a Resolution urging all members of Women's Liberal Associations to push forward strenuously (i.) the Guardianship of Infants Bill, (ii.) the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill, (iii.) the Children of Unmarried Parents Bill; a Resolution urging the great need for Women Police in all towns of considerable size, especially in seaports and in places where there are parks and open spaces; and a Resolution on Temperance Reform along the following lines:—(i.) No sale of intoxicating liquors to young persons under 18 years of age; (ii.) Local Option for England and Wales; (iii.) no sale of intoxicating liquors on Sundays; (iv.) the supply of intoxicating liquors in clubs to be subject to an annual licence by the local Justices. Other Resolutions deal with Foreign Policy, the League of Nations, Mesopotamia, Free Trade, and the Federation's internal organisation. There is also a Resolution on Unemployment which urges the Government to inaugurate and encourage national and municipal schemes for productive labour, in order to secure a substantial return on the huge sums expended upon the unemployed, and to end the demoralising effect of the dole on so many men and women wage earners. We fervently hope that Liberal women will emphasise the urgent need for providing schemes of work for unemployed women, as well as for unemployed men, and indicate some of the various kinds of work outside domestic service which could usefully be done by workless women.

Juvenile Centres.

Mr. Betterton (Rushcliffe), replying on behalf of the Ministry of Labour, informed Mr. T. A. Lewis (University of Wales) that the number of juvenile unemployment centres at present open was 60; the number of young persons in attendance on March 7th, when 60 centres were open—the latest return of attendance available—was approximately 8,000. One centre was at present open in Wales with 252 young persons in attendance. Approximately 80 full-time teachers and 270 part-time teachers were employed in the juvenile unemployment centres which had been opened. The curriculum usually included practical instruction in handicrafts, drawing, elementary science, English and arithmetic, physical training, organised games, and lectures on topical subjects. The girls were also taught domestic subjects, including cookery and dressmaking.

Children, Young Persons, etc., Bill.

This Bill, presented by Mr. Ammon, and supported by Mr. Wignall, Col. Wedgwood, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Cecil Wilson, is down to be read a second time on Friday, April 27th. Its object is "to consolidate, extend, and amend the Children Acts, 1908 to 1921, and other enactments relating to persons under the age of sixteen years, and certain enactments relating to offences against the person, and to make further provision with respect thereto and to certain minors, and to amend the Law of Marriage with respect to persons under the age of sixteen years, and to extend and amend the the Law of Homicide, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid."

EASTER CAMPAIGN—BRIGHTON.

PLEASE HELP!

This year's campaign at the National Union of Teachers' Annual Conference at Brighton has been of special importance, in view of various Resolutions proposed, to "suspend" and "rescind" the Union's policy of Equal Pay for men and women, and to prevent the employment of married women teachers.

Miss Alix Clark has devoted her time and energy to the Campaign, and urgently asks for the help of all our members for the heavy expenses of this invaluable work. Donations should be addressed to Miss Clark, or to Dr. Knight, at this Office.

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