

# THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1928

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

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## XXVIII.—OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

### MISS VIOLET MARKHAM, J.P., Mayor of Chesterfield.

Miss Violet Markham, J.P., is perhaps more widely known in connection with the excellent service she rendered the country during the war than in her present capacity as Mayor of Chesterfield. The youngest daughter of the late Charles Markham, of Tapton House, Chesterfield, and of Rosa, daughter of Sir Joseph Paxton, Miss Markham comes of a family who have rendered citizen service to their town for many years. She was the first woman on the Town Council, and is the first woman to hold office as Mayor of Chesterfield.

Miss Markham holds a long record for public service. She was a member of the Executive Committee of the National Relief Fund, and of the Central Committee for Women's Employment in 1914; in recognition of her work as Deputy Director of the Women's Section of the National Service Department, she was made Companion of Honour in 1917.

It was fitting that Miss Markham, who had already proved her capability for office, should have been among the first women to stand as candidates for Parliament in the General Election of 1918. Miss Markham contested the Mansfield division of Nottingham as an Independent Liberal.

Miss Markham was a member of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee for Women Justices, 1919-20; and has served as a member of the Industrial Court since 1920. In 1923, she represented the Canadian Government on the Governing Body at the International Labour Office, Geneva.

As Mayor of Chesterfield—a town of some 60,000 inhabitants and the centre of a large coalfield—the genius displayed by Miss Markham during the war in dealing with constant difficulties and emergencies has

again been put to the test. The problem of abnormal unemployment and the probable closing of mines that are in a precarious state cause the Mayor and Town Council much anxiety.

Education, in its wider sense, has always been a dominant factor in Miss Markham's schemes for social improvement. Vice-Chairman of the Chesterfield Education Committee for many years, the first Modern School to be opened in a reorganised system of education based on the Hadow Report has been named after her.

Miss Markham is keenly interested in housing, and takes a just pride in the fine building estates that Chesterfield has started since the war, and the efforts made by the municipality to counteract the shortage of dwellings.

Chesterfield's problems are those of all large industrial towns. Health, maternity, education, child welfare, and kindred matters exact much time and thought from those who are responsible for the efficient conduct of these branches of the town's social progress.

Miss Markham has won the heart of the citizens of Chesterfield, and in consequence escapes none of the

social functions which fall to the lot of a popular mayor, from kicking off at a football match, to representing the town at the recent opening by the King and Queen of the new University buildings at Nottingham.

A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a Fellow of the Geographical Society, Miss Markham's publications include: "South Africa: Past and Present"; "The New Era in South Africa"; "The South African Scene"; and "A Woman's Watch on the Rhine, 1921."



MISS VIOLET MARKHAM, J.P.

### CECIL HOUSES.—FIRST ANNUAL REPORT, 1927-1928.

This Report abounds in living interest. Mrs. Cecil Chesterton's book "In Darkest London" showed that while municipal bodies supply ample sleeping room at reasonable charges for men, it is left to philanthropic societies and private enterprise to cater for women. The disparity between public lodging houses for men and those for women is very great, less than 11 per cent. of the total licensed accommodation in London being available for the latter. In 1926 a committee was formed, of which Mrs. Cecil Chesterton remains the Hon. Organising Secretary, to collect funds and to establish Lodging Houses for Women. In March, 1927, the first Cecil House at 35, Devonshire Street, W.C.1, was opened by the Lord Mayor of London. For one shilling a night, a good bed, hot bath, all facilities for washing clothes, hot tea and biscuits at night are provided. There is also accommodation for two babies, for whom there are cots. Up to the end of June, 1928, as many as 18,432 beds have been supplied, the lodgers including casual workers, paper sellers, match sellers, itinerant charwomen, unemployed domestics, waitresses, and a percentage of women of middle-class education who have fallen on evil times. The fact that no questions are asked invites the confidence of these women, and it has been possible to help a great number of them.

A second Cecil House was opened on January 18th, 1928, at 47-51, Wharfdale Road, N.1. This House provides for sixty women, and ten babies. The cots are always full, and unhappily many mothers with infants in arms have to be turned away. From January 18th to the end of June, 8,625 beds have been occupied at Wharfdale Road. At both these Cecil Houses is a very capable Matron, whose staff consists of an Assistant Matron, a night portress and day cleaner. The Houses open at 8 o'clock and remain open as long as there is a bed to let. The women leave by 10 o'clock in the morning. After the initial expenditure each House is self-supporting. A third House at Kensal Road, W., is to be opened at the end of the present year, and plans are already being made for a fourth House. The Report tells us that in the whole of London there are only 14 public lodging houses for women, and of these some will shortly be closed. Further, only a very few lodging houses take in small children, and there is left for them only the streets or the workhouse, despite the fact that the mothers may have the necessary pence to pay for a bed.

### WOMEN MAYORS.

Mrs. J. H. Davies, a Welsh bard and educationist, has accepted the invitation of Welshpool Town Council to become Mayor. Mrs. Davies will be the first woman Mayor in mid-Wales.

Dame Maude Burnett, D.B.E., the only woman member of Tynemouth Town Council, has accepted the invitation of the Council to become Mayor. She will be the first woman Mayor of Tynemouth.

## VICTORY-AND-AFTER DAY, Wednesday, October 24th.

### LUNCHEON AT HOTEL CECIL AT 1 P.M.

Short Speeches: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence on "Real and Paper Opportunity." Miss Doris Stevens on "International Feminism," Mrs. Abbott on "Restrictive Legislation," Miss Alison Neilans on "An Equal Moral Standard," Mr. Laurence Housman. Chairman: The Viscountess Rhondda, J.P.

### RECEPTION AT CAXTON HALL, 7 P.M.—9.30 P.M.

Short Speeches by The Old Guard (Lady Rhondda, Miss Nina Boyle, Mr. Victor Duval, and Miss Nancy Lightman), and by The New Guard (Miss Gimingham, Miss Winifred Holtby, Miss Monica O'Connor, and Miss Dorothy Woodman.)

"How the Vote was Won," first produced at the Royalty Theatre in 1908, will be performed by members of The Actresses' Franchise League in Costume in vogue in 1908. *Light Refreshments and Music.*

Tickets for Luncheon, 5/- each. For Reception, 2s. 4d. (including tax), from W.F.L. Offices.

### BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

The British Commonwealth League has established a club room for its members and their friends, and the room was formally opened by Viscountess Elibank on Friday last. There was a large gathering of the members, and Mrs. Sharp, who presided, gave a warm welcome to those present, and spoke of the objects of the League in linking together women within the Empire. They had long felt that a club room was a necessary adjunct to the work and their hopes were now realised.

Lady Elibank, who was warmly received, said that it gave her great pleasure to aid in any way the great work of improving and strengthening the relations between women in the Dominions and the Home country. She had come into contact with the League's work through her chairmanship of the Lyceum Club Empire Circle, and she was strongly of opinion that the personal work of small associations had often a more far reaching effect than that of the larger and more complex organisation. Woman's life had entirely changed since the latter years of the 19th century, and since the war women had "ceased to accept blindly," and with their full equality, Parliamentary life in this country would be enhanced. With the present strain and bustle of life, it was essential that women should have some place for rest and mental refreshment, and the Woman's Club supplied this need. The literary and dramatic side of life for women in the Colonies was still overlooked, and with a view to stimulating it, the Empire Circle were offering a prize for a play dealing with some event in the Colony's history. The plays would be judged by a Special Committee and the prize one produced in London. If success crowned this effort, a similar attempt would be made in the direction of poetry and music. Lady Elibank also referred to her work in the West Indies, speaking of the travelling libraries that she had helped to establish and the service they had been to the community.

The formal proceedings closed with a warm vote of thanks to Lady Elibank, moved by Mrs. Eccles Snowden.

### WOMEN DEBATERS TO TOUR U.S.A.

Miss Nancy Samuel, daughter of Sir Herbert Samuel, and a graduate of Somerville College, Oxford; Miss E. Lockhart, of Girton, Cambridge; and Miss M. M. Sharp, of Bedford College, London, leave England October 20th, to debate against "all women" and "mixed" teams at Colleges in the United States.

The women were chosen by the National Union of Students, from nominees of practically every college in Great Britain—each of whom had to make a speech.

### WOMAN LAWYER AT PETWORTH.

The *West Sussex Gazette* reports that for the first time in the history of the Petworth Petty Sessional Court, a lady—Miss Lewis, of Guildford, who has been in practice with Messrs. Triggs Turner and Co., for four years—appeared as advocate at Friday's sitting. She ably and successfully pleaded the case of an applicant in an affiliation summons.

## THE VICTORY GREEN WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

The Green White and Gold Fair will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 13th and 14th, and will be opened each day at 3 p.m.:—On Tuesday, November 13th, by The Viscountess Astor, M.P.; and on Wednesday by Miss Margaret Beavan (the Rt-Hon. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool). The Chair will be taken on Tuesday by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence (President of the Women's Freedom League), and on Wednesday by Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

### STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

**Hampstead Branch.**—Handkerchiefs, Antiques, and White Elephants. Miss Trotter, Mrs. Patrick Graham, Miss James, Mrs. Harvey James, Mrs. Ostler, Mrs. Waring, Miss F. M. C. Collier and Mrs. Williams.  
**Montgomery Boroughs Branch.**—Country Produce, Cakes, and General Goods. Miss Alix M. Clark, Mrs. Elias-Pritchard, and Branch Members.  
**Portsmouth Branch.**—Household Goods. Mrs. Whetton and Members.  
**South-Eastern Branches.**—General Stall. Miss White and Members.  
**Scottish and North Country Stall.**—China Stall.—Mrs. Lindus and Miss Lindus, Mrs. E. J. Rubra, Mrs. Sutherland, Miss J. Thompson, Mrs. M. A. Sidley Rose.  
**Literature Stall.**—Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Marriott, and Miss Steven, and Miss M. Pierotti.  
**Overalls and Aprons.**—Miss Underwood, Miss F. A. Underwood, Miss Brewer, Miss Charles, and Mrs. Turriff.  
**Stationery Stall.**—Miss Barton, Miss Webb, Mrs. Antill, Miss Sparkman and Mrs. Legge.  
**Shilling Stall.**—Mrs. Delbanco and Miss Wiess.  
**Sweets.**—Miss Mary Knight and friends.  
**Toy Stall.**  
**Underclothing.**—Mrs. Abbott and Mrs. Boxall.  
**General Stall.**—Mrs. Lloyd.  
**"Vote" Stall.**—Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Evans and Miss Burgoine.

### PLEASE HELP!

Will every reader of THE VOTE and member of the League send some contribution towards the stalls? All useful and pretty articles will be acceptable, and will help to provide the charming Christmas presents for which our Annual Fair is so noted. No gift will be too large or too small; please send us all the pretty things that your purses will allow you to buy. Some of the goods that are most needed are overalls and aprons; these useful garments always sell well, and a large number are required. Lingerie, too, is in much demand and dainty garments of every description will be most acceptable for the Underclothing Stall. Handkerchiefs make charming Christmas presents, both for men, women, and children; and every variety will be acceptable for the stall. Gifts of table cloths, tea cloths, dusters, sheets, pillow cases, towels, pots, pans, kettles, scrubbing brushes, etc., are wanted for our Household Stall; and note-paper, blotters, post-cards, Christmas cards, pens, etc., will be very acceptable for the Stationery Stall. The Shilling Stall will be most attractive to the New Voters. Small articles of every kind are required to make this stall bright and attractive. Will all our readers remember the Antique and White Elephant Stall; please send us all the things you are tired of and no longer wish to keep; we will find room for them on our Hampstead Stall. The Sweet Stall is attractive to both young and old alike, and many boxes are needed to stock it. Dolls and toys are wanted for

### AN INTOLERABLE INJUSTICE.

Under the direction of Sir Henry Wood, women have played a distinguished part in the ranks of the Queen's Hall Orchestra. Owing to changes that are likely to take place in orchestral music in London within the next year, the position of woman musicians is jeopardised. Under the new arrangement there will be permanent posts in London for 200 first-rate orchestral players. Sir Henry Wood emphatically declared for a proportion of women; Sir Hamilton Harty, of the Hallé Orchestra, has stated his preference for an orchestra of men; while Sir Thomas Beecham is indifferent to the sex of the musician, so long as the result is what he desires.

To refuse admission to the new orchestra simply on the ground of sex is an intolerable injustice, based on sheer prejudice and masculine jealousy.

the Toy Stall, and really nice and suitable books for children for our Literature Stall. Gifts of china, especially useful cups and saucers, tea-pots, hot-water jugs, etc., are needed for the China Stall, and all kinds of goods will be acceptable for our South Eastern Branches Stall, and our Scottish and North Country Stall. Please give us all the help you can. If you cannot do anything else, write to the Hon. Fair Secretary for 30, 40, or 50 handbills of the Fair, and send them to your friends and ask them to come and meet you at the Caxton Hall on one of the days of the Fair; they are sure to have a happy time and enjoy themselves.

### ENTERTAINMENTS.

An excellent programme of entertainments is being arranged, and will include a Display on Tuesday, November 13th, at 6 p.m., of Operatic, Classical, and Character Dances by the little pupils of Miss Grace Woollacott; a fencing display on Wednesday, November 14th, at 6 p.m., arranged by Professor Tassart; a concert on Tuesday, November 13th, at 4.45 p.m., arranged by Madame San Carolo, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.; also songs and recitations by Miss Joan Dunsford, violin solos by Miss Lilian Foulis and Miss Mollie Seymour, and piano solos by Mrs. Sparrow.

### CHARACTER READING.

Readings will be given by Miss Wall and Mrs. Gilchrist; Numerology by Miss King; Phrenology by Madame Gena, B.Sc.; and Psychometry by Mrs. Thomson.

### TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS.

Miss Reeves has most kindly undertaken the Teas and Refreshments, and will be assisted by Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Bell, and the staff and members of the Minerva Club. Teas will be served in the Lounge from 3.30 to 6 p.m., and Refreshments will be served after 7 p.m.

### THE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Mrs. Seymour Pritchard has very kindly promised to manage this part of the work.

### Other Societies and Friends taking Stalls:

Barclay Workshops (for Blind Women).  
The Canning Town Women's Settlement.  
The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.  
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.  
The Open Door Council.  
The Psychological Aid Society.  
The Women's Exchange.  
The Yugoslav Peasant Industries.  
Mrs. Aston (Filligree Work and Artificial Flowers).  
Miss Burwood (Beads).  
Mrs. Clifford (Wax Flowers).  
Miss Coignou.  
Miss Minnie Culverwell (Hand-made Jewellery).  
Mrs. M. E. Moreton (Lacquer Work and Lamp Shades).  
Miss Dorothea Page (Unika Sports Wear).  
Miss Seyfang.

Tickets, 1/10 (including tax) the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day, 1/2 (including tax). On sale at 144, High Holborn, or from the societies and friends taking stalls.

All communications and gifts should be sent to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Fair Secretary, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

### Membership Application Form.

To be returned to the Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose £ \_\_\_\_\_ : s. \_\_\_\_\_ d. as my first

Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription 11.

## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19th, 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, Holborn 9301, London."

Telephone: HOLBORN 9301.

### EDITORIAL.

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

### A NEW TYRANNY!

#### PUBLIC AUDITOR SURCHARGES WOOLWICH.

Mrs. Mabel Prout, J.P., in an article in this month's *Labour Woman*, draws attention to the arbitrary act of the Public Auditor in compelling the Woolwich Borough Council to reduce the wages of their women workers to a lower level than that of the men employed by the Council. She states that, from 1920, the Woolwich Borough Council has paid the same rates of wages to its men and women workers, and when these wages had to be reduced in 1925, the new scale drawn up still retained this principle. The Public Auditor then apparently was in agreement with this arrangement, for he said in the course of discussion:—

"Equal pay for equal work—I have no quarrel with that principle at all, none whatever. I would not dream of quarrelling with that principle."

In 1926, however, at the House of Lords' Appeal, he qualified that statement by saying:—

"I say that neither in this case nor in any other have I ever raised any objection to the payment to men and women of equal wages for equal work; that the indoor manual work of these charwomen and attendants to whom the Council pay the same wage as to men of Grade A is not of equal value to the manual outdoor work of men, and is appraised at a considerably lower value in the labour market . . . . . and that where men as well as women are employed for indoor manual work, it is because there is work that women cannot do that men are so employed."

Since then, says Mrs. Prout, who is herself a member of Woolwich Borough Council, the Audit Act has been passed, and the power of the Auditor over elected representatives has been more firmly established than ever. The wages of the women were again challenged by the Public Auditor as being 'unreasonable' and the Council were surcharged to the amount of £576. 19s. 3d. on this item.

According to the writer, the women concerned were:—Cleaners, bath attendants, and convenience attendants. Mrs. Prout does not discuss the case of the cleaners, because there is no comparable men's work to argue upon, but she says that the strong point at the Inquiry was that allowance should be made—and had been made by the Council in fixing the rate—for the broken hours and broken week which these women have to work. But she protests that the cases of the bath and convenience attendants are so glaring that one can only assume that the attitude of the Auditor, backed by the Government, is to reduce the standard of working women's wages wherever possible, and to keep them in all cases at a lower rate than those of men, even if their work is identical. The women attendants at public baths (both private and swimming) are called upon to do the same duties as the men attendants, and must have the same qualifications, including, for swimming—bath attendants' certificates for swimming and life-saving. In the by-law of the Council governing the duties of bath-attendants it refers to "every bath-attendant," thereby laying it down that the duties refer to men as well as women.

The case for the women convenience attendants is, if anything, as Mrs. Prout says, stronger still, for it is a well-known fact that in the women's conveniences the work is not only equal to that of the men attendants, but even more difficult. The wages of these women, the great majority of whom are widows with responsibilities, were before the Auditor's general attack on municipal wages in 1925, 1s. 6d. per hour, or £3. 10s. 6d. for a full week. Since the decision of the House of Lords on the whole question, and the consequent reduction, the wages have been 1s. 4d. per hour, or £3. 2s. 11d. per week. By the Auditor's latest dictum on "reasonableness," the wages of the women will be 1s. 0½d. per hour, or £2. 9s. 2d. per week. The writer tells us that under the Audit Act, whereby the Public Auditor is practically the sole arbiter of wages in municipal service (which go so far in setting a standard), if the wishes of the Auditor are not complied with within one month the whole of the councillors surcharged are disqualified from holding office on any local authority for five years if the amount surcharged is over £500, and in addition are sued in the Courts for the amount of the surcharge, and if not paid are made bankrupt.

It seems to us that questions should be asked in Parliament as soon as the House of Commons reassembles as to the legality of any Public Auditor's denial of equal pay to men and women workers for equal work. This is also a question of immediate concern to every woman voter, and no candidate at the coming General Election should receive women's support unless that candidate is prepared to support the demand for equal pay for equal work, irrespective of the sex of the worker. Such a piece of flagrant injustice as that to which the women employees of the Woolwich Borough Council are being subjected must not go unchallenged by women!

### "YOUR BUSINESS"?

If anything goes wrong a man generally feels safe in putting the blame upon a woman. Last week an inquest was held at Twickenham by the West Middlesex Coroner, with a jury, concerning the death of a boy aged six, who was knocked down and fatally injured by a motor car. Two other children were also knocked down and one was still in hospital. Evidence of identification was given by the child's father, who said he had not seen the little boy for three months, as he was living apart from his wife. The driver of the car said she had slowed down to about eight miles an hour, to pull up at a petrol station, when, suddenly, three children ran from behind a cart, right in front of the car. She jammed on all her brakes, but as the children were level with her when they appeared on the scene, it was impossible for her to avoid hitting them. She did all she could for the children before she herself collapsed. For practically three years she had driven a car every day over the same road. The mother of the child said he was a fine healthy boy. She was obliged to leave him when she went out to work daily, but she gave him strict instructions never to play in the main road, and he had never disobeyed her before. He was in the habit of waiting for her outside the house in which they lived (which was not in the main road) when she returned from work. She did not know how he came to be playing with the two other children in the main road at the time of the fatality. The Coroner asked "Don't you think it was your business to know?" to which the mother replied: "I cannot know where he is all the time I am at work." The Coroner remarked "I know it is difficult, but I should have thought some arrangement could have been made." In view of the very evident distress of that mother in the Court, we should have thought that the Coroner might well have refrained from making comments which under the circumstances were as futile as they were callous. Why was the father of the child not questioned as to his responsibility? Wasn't it his business to know how the child was being looked after while the mother was at work? If not, why not?

## ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POLICE.

The Royal Commission on Police Powers and Procedure began its work on Wednesday, October 10th, at Caxton House, Tothill Street.

The meetings will be (usually) on Mondays and Tuesdays at 11.15 a.m., and open to the public.

The Commissioners are:—Viscount Lee of Fareham (Chairman), Lord Ebbisham (formerly Sir Rowland Blades), Sir Howard Frank, Dame Meriel Talbot, Sir Reginald Lane Poole, Mr. J. T. Brownlie, Miss Margaret Beavan (Lord Mayor of Liverpool), and Mr. Frank Pick—four to be a quorum.

Women will rejoice that we have two such satisfactory representatives on the Commission.

The terms of reference are: "To consider the general powers and duties of Police in England and Wales in the investigation of crimes and offences, including the functions of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Police respectively; to inquire into the practice followed in interrogating, or taking statements from, persons interviewed in the course of the investigation of crime; and to report whether, in their opinion, such powers and duties are properly exercised and discharged, with due regard to the rights and liberties of the subject, the interests of justice, and the observance of the Judges' Rules, both in the letter and the spirit; and to make any recommendations necessary in respect of such powers and duties, and their proper exercise and discharge."

The Chairman stated that they were no departmental body, but absolutely independent, and answerable only to the King, not experts or delegates, but ordinary men and women of the world, like a British jury.

They were to restore confidence between police and public, not by whitewash, but by finding and removing the present causes of friction; it might be the system that was faulty and needed reform. Certainly there was something wrong. The existing tension was bad for both police and public. The police were not on trial or in the dock. The interests of justice and the rights of the public were both vital, and not incompatible. They were not there to re-try any past cases, or to supervise Hyde Park, or interfere with the Street Offences Committee. He invited all persons and organisations who could assist them to apply to their secretary for a questionnaire and send it in.

Sir Ernley Blackwell, Assistant Permanent Secretary to the Home Office, was the first witness. Questioned upon his written statement, he explained that no case had yet arisen to which the Home Secretary's recent provisional regulations applied. Police were King's officers paid to perform acts which the ordinary citizen might do if he liked, the only common law difference between them was the power of arrest. This was not realised by the bulk of the public. The Metropolitan Police were under the Home Office, which issues advice to the other police forces, and it is usually accepted. Too rigid regulations were not desirable, and a complete code would be utterly impossible. The police must use their discretion to some extent.

Women Police.—He did not think it possible for women police to take all statements of women, because a male police inspector would be conducting the case and should meet all persons involved in it.

"3rd Degree." "Improper pressure to extract information from a person."—The Home Office had no evidence of this; these complaints were few, sometimes made at police courts by defending counsel, but withdrawn at trial. He did not believe examinations were ever prolonged for the purpose of tiring out the person, and was sure there was no undue pressure. He thought it was important that an accused person should not be discouraged from making statements, or the police hampered in their duty, and trust in the police must be the basis of the Service. Answering Miss Beavan, he did not think verbatim statements were practicable.

Lord Lee expressed the opinion that the length of a report should not matter when the interests of justice

were at stake, and the question arose whether the verbatim report would not be the fairer method. Miss Beavan also raised the points that the phraseology of a constable might be misunderstood by a prisoner or witness, and that he or she may agree to a statement when read aloud, through ignorance or lack of ability to deal with the same. In some cases even the caution is not understood.

On October 15th, Brigadier-General Sir William Horwood, K.C.B., D.S.O., Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis, who is retiring next month, gave evidence. He had ten years' experience of the Metropolitan Police Force. "No police officer had any right to extract any information from anybody," nor to detain a person when he wished to leave. It was a general line of defence now in murder trials to allege "3rd degree" methods. He knew of no difference now and before the war. He did not object to verbatim statements, except for the delay which they would cause; or to the presence of a friend who took no part, and it might be better for the police concerned to be absent from identification parades.

Women Police.—They started with 110, costing £30,000 a year. For economy it was reduced to twenty, and four years ago increased to the present fifty (five sergeants, two inspectors, and forty-three constables), who cost about £15,000 a year. He had not had work enough for the 110, and did not want to keep them. The present number were sufficient. Miss MacDougall, a lady assistant for many years before the women police started, took statements from girls and children in sexual offences; later Miss Wyles, a Woman Police Inspector of the C.I.D., shared in this work. There is too much for one, but not quite enough for two. All London police stations have police matrons; of these sixteen are whole-time, and 212 can be brought in when required; they search women prisoners. Statements from women were generally taken by male C.I.D. officers.

Night Clubs.—No definition was obtainable; the only way to detect suspected offences was for plain clothes men to go in. They did not initiate the offence, but they had to share in the drinking that was going on. Anybody could register a club for 25s. He wanted right of entry and licensing as with public houses.

In reply to Dame Meriel, he said women police was a popular cry, and we must move with the times. Women police had been useful in the detection of "dope" passing. Women were trained just like the men; they were selected by him. A woman could not be sufficiently well trained to undertake really responsible police work in the same degree as a man. Probably four hours was not very exceptional for interrogations. Asked by Miss Beavan if verbatim statements might promote justice, he thought they would be a nuisance. Women police were drafted into the parks that required them—Hyde Park, but not Regent's Park; Hampstead Heath was under the L.C.C. In police stations, if there was a woman in the cells, there was always a woman on duty. He was quite certain that no woman could satisfactorily carry through the whole investigation of any case. In park cases convictions had no connection with police promotions. The Metropolitan Police required an increase of about 2,000 men.

On October 16th, Sir Leonard Dunning, H.M. Inspector of Constabulary for the South of England, gave details of the force outside the Metropolitan area. His experience comprised forty-six years; in the Royal Irish Constabulary, as Assistant Chief and Chief Constable in Liverpool, and as an Inspector of Constabulary for England and Wales. He now has twenty-seven counties, forty-five city and borough areas, and the City of London. The police officer holds office not from the local authority which appoints and pays him, but from the King, and must bear his own responsibility and use his discretion. "Red tape must have a certain amount of elastic let into it here and there."

**Women Police.**—He thought some areas which had no women police should start them, and others should not have so many, but considers it should be left to the local authority. The Home Office has the power of withholding the certificates upon which Treasury aid depends, if not satisfied that a local police service is fully and properly administered, but papers must be laid before Parliament. The best way to direct a policeman right was to teach him the strict limits of his powers and the general principles of fairness and common sense to guide his discretion. Methods of different areas were growing more similar, and district conferences of chief constables helped. He thought it would be useful for the Metropolitan Police to join too. He thought it wrong to ask any questions of an arrested person except to make plain any statement they might wish to make, and they must be cautioned before making it. Prisoners often could not understand the caution. Nobody was obliged to answer questions; he thought that was not generally understood, and prisoners were often stupid or frightened. He was strongly opposed to any "3rd degree" methods and was not aware of any. He thought the influence of D.O.R.A. during the war perhaps weakened the police hold of the principle that proof of crime rests with the prosecution. Statements might be verbatim where possible and where necessary.

**Clubs.**—He thought there was no need for plain clothes men to join in drinking offences. Clubs were registered, but not licensed. He did not favour powers of inspection, because in theory a club is a man's private house, and he did not want police powers widened and houses inspected, and the entry of a policeman might be considered a moral stigma. There was very little corruption now; some years ago it had been widespread in Liverpool, and he regretted that all concerned were not sent to gaol.

In reply to Dame Meriel, complaints by responsible persons as to disciplinary matters (immorality, etc.) of police should be sent to the Chief Constable, and, if not noticed, then to the Home Office. He did not wish to see women police in all police courts, they would have nothing to do in some places; there might be only two or three women prisoners in a year. Police matrons were untrained, often kindly people. The morale of the police to-day was as good or better than ever. County police were controlled by the Chief Constable; borough and city police by the Watch Committee, their Chief Constable having no authority except what the Committee gives him. He thought women police could best conduct certain inquiries and investigate registry offices and pension cases. The police force needed additions. Traffic control anchored many constables, who used to walk a beat and parade an area of several square miles. Drunkenness was less, but the crimes of civilisation were greatly increased.

#### EQUAL RIGHTS FOR MOTOR-CYCLISTS.

For 21 years the Motor Cycling Club has banned women from taking part in any motor trials or races. Four times women have made organised but unsuccessful attacks to break down the male exclusiveness of the Club, and in a few weeks' time, when the annual meeting takes place, a resolution will be proposed to give women the full membership rights. If this resolution is passed, it is likely, so the *Daily News* states, that the run at Easter from London to Land's End will be the first competition of the Club in which women will have equal rights with men, and be allowed to drive a motor-cycle instead of, as formerly, taking but a courtesy part in the contest as passengers.

#### WIT AND WISDOM.

"Cooking for the majority has been in the hands of Eve ever since the day she sent Adam to pick apples in the Garden of Eden, yet it is an extraordinary anomaly that people are willing to pay twice as much for a dinner, provided it is cooked by a man."—*Belfast Evening Telegraph*.

#### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

##### Woman Barrister in Bench and Bar Procession.

Miss Venetia J. M. Stephenson, Barrister, walked in procession of Bench and Bar, from Westminster Abbey to the opening of the Law Courts on October 11th.

##### Woman's New Appointment.

Mrs. Chamberlain, clerk to the Ewell Parish Council, has been appointed by the Epsom Rural District Council, as Collector for the Ewell Council houses.

##### The Only Woman.

Miss Harris, of Muswell Hill, was the only woman among the four hundred Chartered Accountants who assembled in Birmingham last week for the autumnal meeting of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

##### Women Jockeys at Newmarket.

In the Newmarket Town Plate, the only race which women jockeys are allowed to enter, two women secured first places last week—Miss Iris Rickaby and Mrs. A. Heald.

##### A Talented Yorkshire Poet.

Mrs. Dorothy Una Ratcliffe, a talented Yorkshire woman, is to read her plays and sketches to the Poetry League on November 1st. "Microcosm," a magazine created by her at the age of 14, which has appeared regularly ever since, and has been the means of raising much money for charity, has now become a book to which many of the most noted writers of the day contribute.

##### Woman Minister to Resign.

The Rev. Dorothy F. Wilson, of Carr's-lane Church, Birmingham, has expressed her desire to terminate her engagement in January, on the grounds that the special character of the church, and the limitations of the premises, make it impossible for her to carry out her programme of educational work.

##### Edinburgh Women Candidates.

The following eight women members of the Edinburgh Parish Council who retire this year are standing for re-election: Mrs. Deas, Mrs. Inglis Clark, Miss Greenlees, Mrs. Melville, Mrs. Boëmè, Miss S. L. Munro, and Miss Geddes.

##### Women Exhibitor of Pottery.

Baroness Bonnor, of Main, is exhibiting Pottery at the Caernarvon Chamber of Commerce Trades Exhibition. She is the only exhibitor who has an industry in Caernarvon, where she employs only Caernarvon labour. The pottery is of a very beautiful red clay, and the workmanship is of the best.

#### STREET OFFENCES COMMITTEE.

We learn from *The Times* that a private meeting of the Street Offences Committee is being held this week, to consider the terms of their report, which is to be presented this month to the Home Secretary. The committee, over which Mr. Hugh Macmillan, K.C., presided, was appointed last year "to enquire into the law regarding offences against the criminal law in connection with prostitution and solicitation for immoral purposes in streets and public places, and other offences against decency and good order, and to report what changes, if any, are, in their opinion, desirable."

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### HOW?

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## WHERE TO GO. WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

#### DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, October 22nd, at 3 p.m.

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

Wednesday, November 7th, at 8.15 p.m.

Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Mr. Laurence Housman on "Suffrage Memories." Chairman: Mrs. Zangwill.

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 13th and 14th.

Green White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. each day.

Saturday, December 1st, at 10 a.m.

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

#### PROVINCES.

Friday, October 19th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Gift Sale at Hempsted Street Hall, Ashford. Monday, October 22nd, at 7.45 p.m. (Doors open 7.15).

Bradford Branch. Public Meeting, Church House, North Parade. Chair: Councillor Margaret Law. Speakers: Mrs. Bigland on "The League of Nations Report on the International Traffic in Women and Children." Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., on "The Right of the Married Woman to Work—for Pay." Questions and Discussion. Admission free. Reserved seats 1/-.

Tuesday, October 23rd, at 7.45 p.m.

Darlington Branch. Public Meeting in the Temperance Institute. Chair: Rev. T. C. Gobat, M.A. Speakers: Mrs. Bigland, on "The League of Nations Report on the Traffic in Women and Children," supported by Mrs. Henderson, Hon. Secretary, Darlington Branch, League of Nations Union; Miss Lilian Lenton on "Woman and the Inferiority Complex." Doors open at 7.15.

Wednesday, October 24th, at 8 p.m.

Bexhill. Councillor Mrs. Meads will speak on "The Work of a Woman Councillor," at the Albany Hotel, Sea Road. Chair: Miss Thornton (Sec. Bexhill Sisterhood).

Thursday, October 25th, at 7.30 p.m.

Portsmouth Branch. Albert Road Council School, Election Meeting in support of Mrs. Barton's candidature. Speakers: Mrs. Barton, M.A., Mrs. Malcolm, J.P., Miss Wadeson, (N.U.W.T.), Mrs. Brading (W.F.L.), and Mrs. Lamsley.

Wednesday, November 7th, at 3.30 p.m.

Bexhill. Whist Drive. Albany Hotel, Sea Road.

#### SCOTLAND.

Friday, November 2nd, at 7.30 p.m.

Glasgow Branch. Franchise Victory Celebration, at "The Rhul," 123, Sauchiehall Street. Speaker: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. Chairman: Miss Eunice Murray. Tea and Music.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, October 20th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 55, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Subject: How shall I Vote? Conservative—Mr. F. T. Howard, Conservative Candidate for S. Islington. Labour—Mr. Morgan Phillips. Liberal—Mr. C. J. L. Brock.

Tuesday, October 23rd, at 1 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Luncheon at 17, Buckingham Street, W.C.2, Madame Andre Rieder on "Mexico and its Women." Seats 1/6 each. No bookings after first post 22nd October.

Tuesday, October 23rd, at 5 p.m.

The Six Point Group, Meeting at 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. The Viscountess Rhondda on "International Feminism." Chairman: The Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

Wednesday, October 24th, at 1 for 1.15 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. "Victory-and-After Day." Luncheon at the Hotel Cecil. Chairman: The Viscountess Rhondda. Tickets 5/- each from Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, October 24th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. "Victory-and-After Day." Reception at Caxton Hall. Tickets 2/4, can be obtained from 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Tuesday, October 30th, at 2.30 p.m.

Meeting on Maternal Mortality, at the Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1. Speakers: Mr. Neville Chamberlain, M.P., (Minister of Health), Dr. Fleming and others. Chairman: Lady Galway.

Wednesday, October 31st, at 3 p.m.

Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women. Public Meeting on Oversea Settlement for Women, in the Great Hall, Church House, Westminster. Speakers: The Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery, M.P., W. Mackinder, Esq., M.P., Lady Galway.

Thursday, November 8th, at 8 p.m.

Guild of Girl Citizens. Public Meeting at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1, dealing with "The Responsibility of the New Voter." Speakers: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and Miss Ida Samuel. Chairman: Miss Helen Ward. Tickets 6d.

Friday, November 16th, at 8 p.m.

Open Door Council. Open Conference in the Ante-room of the Y.M.C.A. Building, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1., on The Minimum Wage-Fixing Convention; Equal Pay and the Woolwich Borough Council. Protest against Auditors' demand that Equal Pay should be stopped in the case of women.

#### OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

#### Equal Pay and Women Liberals.

MADAM,—Your readers will probably have seen in the daily press that an addendum to a resolution on Industrial affairs, moved by me at the National Liberal Federation Conference at Yarmouth, on October 12th, on behalf of the South Lucks Liberal Association, was not accepted.

The addendum ran thus:—

"The principle embodied in Article 427, section 7, of the Treaty of Versailles that 'men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value' should be supported in all national and international legislation," and it was proposed by me and seconded by Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher.

I wish to make it quite clear to your readers that the addendum obtained a clear majority, and only failed to obtain the two-thirds majority, ruled by the Chairman to be necessary, by two votes, the voting being 116 for the addendum and 60 against. It was extremely unfortunate that Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the Women's National Liberal Federation, who had promised to speak for the addendum, was under a misapprehension as to the time at which the motion was to be discussed, and had left the Hall, and that no other prominent feminist among the Liberal women (with the exception of Mrs. Price, of Farnham), came forward to take her place. That such an important addendum should have failed to find a place on the Party's programme by only two votes, will be a matter of profound regret to all who have the interests of the professional and industrial woman at heart.

It is, however, greatly to be hoped that a majority of nearly two to one in favour of this principle will give a lead to the Party Executive, as showing them the large amount of support for this principle felt among the delegates present.

Yours faithfully,

WINIFRED LE SUEUR.

P.S.—Lady Fisher Smith and Mrs. Arthur Johnson, both of whom would have supported the addendum, were unavoidably prevented from being at Yarmouth, and no one else but myself, Mrs. Fisher, and Mrs. Price gave it any verbal support.—W. LE S.

#### BRANCH NOTES.

##### PORTSMOUTH.

Our Branch and the National Union of Women Teachers have invited Mrs. Barton, M.A., the candidate for St. Thomas Ward, to address a Public Meeting of electors in the Albert Road Council School on Thursday, October 25th, at 7-30 p.m. Mrs. Whetton will take the chair, and other speakers will be Mrs. Malcolm, J.P., Miss Wadeson, N.U.W.T., Mrs. Brading, W.F.L., and Mrs. Lamsley.

Mrs. Barton's Committee Room is at 15 Kent Road, where helpers will be very welcome.

At the last Branch Meeting it was decided to ask each member to give an article for our stall at the Green, White and Gold Victory Fair. Mrs. Whetton will gratefully acknowledge all gifts.

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

##### HASTINGS.

A successful Meeting was held at 1, St. Paul's Place, St. Leonards, on Saturday, October 13th. Mrs. Darent Harrison was in the chair. The Chairman explained that the members had been called to discuss plans for the winter programme.

It was decided that the most important piece of work was to run a big public meeting with the idea of capturing the interest of the new women voters.

Arrangements for this were discussed and it was settled that the meeting should take place as soon as possible. In the unavoidable absence of Miss Raup, it was difficult to know how the arrangements of the meeting were to be carried out. It was finally settled that Mrs. Darent Harrison and Miss White should undertake the organisation of such an important meeting. Miss White made an appeal for helpers and contributions for the S.E. Branches Stall and met with a good response. M. L. WHITE.

#### APRONS AND OVERALLS STALL.

The Misses Underwood, and Mrs. Turiff, cordially thank the following for gifts for the above stall: Dr. Knight, £1; Mrs. Thomas, 10/-; Mrs. W. J. Warren, 2/6; Mrs. Mumford, Miss C. Newman, and Mrs. Pierotti, for parcels of overalls and aprons. Further gifts from other friends—material, donations to buy material, or finished goods, will be gratefully acknowledged by the holders of this stall.

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## NOTICES.

**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, October 21st, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Rev. Archibald Alexander, D.D. 6.30. Rev. A. H. Gray, D.D. "The Conditions of Communion with God."

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

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