

# THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1929

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

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### A VERY GALLANT LADY.



DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT.

It is with the deepest regret that we record the death, early on Monday, August 5th, of Dame Millicent Fawcett, at her residence, 2, Gower Street, London, W.C. At the beginning of last week it was a shock to a great many of her friends in London to learn that Dame Millicent had been for some days seriously ill with pneumonia. It was only on July 18th that we all rejoiced to see her looking so well and happy, seated next to our first woman Cabinet Minister, the Right Honourable Margaret Bondfield, M.P., at the luncheon given at the Holborn Restaurant, by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, to our fourteen women Members of Parliament. The following Sunday she walked to the morning service at the Temple Church and home again. That tired her to an unusual degree and she was taken ill soon afterwards. Last week we were able to report improvement, but her strength gradually failed. Her funeral took place at Golders Green yesterday (Thursday), and it is understood that a Memorial Service will be held in Westminster Abbey in the Autumn. The date of this service will be announced later.

Dame Millicent Fawcett, whose name will always be held in honour by enfranchised womanhood, was born at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, on June 11th, 1847. She was the seventh child of Newson Garrett, J.P. In "The Cause," by Mrs. Ray Strachey, there is a characteristic story. Emily Davies, a great friend of Elizabeth Garrett, later the first English woman to qualify in and practice medicine, went to stay with the Garretts at Aldeburgh. The two girls together discussed their future, whilst the little girl, Millicent, sat nearby on a stool, and said nothing. Presently Emily summed the matter up. "Well, Elizabeth," she said, "It's quite clear what has to be done. I must devote myself to securing higher education, while you open the medical profession for women. After these things are done," she added, "we must see about getting the Vote." And she turned to the little girl, who was still sitting quietly on her stool, and said: "You are younger than we are, Millie, so you must attend to that."

When only twenty years of age Millicent Garrett married Henry Fawcett, Professor of Political Economy at Cambridge, who was blinded by an accident at twenty-five, and their marriage was ideally happy. Four months later she made her first speech at a public meeting on woman suffrage. On the platform were her husband, Sir Charles Dilke, Lord Houghton, Charles Kingsley, John Stuart Mill, John Morley, and James Stansfield. When John Stuart Mill moved his famous Women's Suffrage Amendment to the Representation of the People Bill, in 1867,

she was present in the House of Commons. From that time she became more and more prominent in every part of the woman's movement, at the same time actively assisting her husband, who was elected to Parliament and held the office of Postmaster-General in the Liberal Administration from 1880 till his death in 1884.

It was in the Fawcett's home at Cambridge that the first meeting was held to promote the foundation of Newnham College, and both Professor and Mrs. Fawcett worked hard for the extension of University Education to women. Through her sister, Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, Mrs. Fawcett was closely associated with the movement to open the medical profession to women, and she became a strenuous supporter of Mrs. Josephine Butler's campaign for the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts. After the death of Lydia Becker, Mrs. Fawcett was acknowledged as the leader of the suffrage movement in this country, and she was President of the National Union of Suffrage Societies from 1897 until 1919, when it became the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. At the time of her death she was still the President of the London and National Society for Women's Service. The amount of work she did for woman suffrage in this country, by speaking, writing, organising, working among Members of Parliament, and leading deputations to heads of the Government, was incalculable. In the early days such work was not popular; indeed, a member of the House of Commons in a speech referred to Mrs. Fawcett and the wife of another member of Parliament who had spoken at a suffrage meeting, thus:—"Two ladies, wives of members of this House, who have disgraced themselves." But no woman has seen more triumphs of the Causes for which she has worked than Dame Millicent Fawcett. She lived to see medical women at work everywhere, and winning the highest successes; her own daughter, Philippa, placed in 1890 "above the Senior Wrangler" in the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos, being Principal Assistant, Education Dept., L.C.C. Mrs. Fawcett became one of the first women Justices of the Peace, she received the honorary LL.D. degree from St. Andrews and from Birmingham Universities, and was the first woman to address the Union Society of Oxford. She was present in the House of Lords when the Royal Assent was given to the Representation of the People Bill in February, 1918, granting partial political enfranchisement to British women, and again on July 2nd last year to hear the Royal Assent to the Bill conferring absolute equality of voting rights for men and women. In 1925 she was created Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire. It was a keen disappointment to the women of this country that no higher honour was given to her. We could not help hoping that a Government which had seen the value of women would have found a way for her to become a Member of the Upper House where her counsels and proved statesmanship would have been of untold value.

As a writer Dame Millicent was clear and striking. In 1869 she published her first book, "Political Economy for Beginners," followed later by essays and stories on political economy, by (in 1875) her novel, "Janet Doncaster," and, later, by *Lives of Queen Victoria* and *Sir William Molesworth*, "Five Famous Frenchwomen," "Women's Suffrage" (1912), "Women's Victory," (1919), "What I Remember" (1924), "Easter in Palestine" (1926), and (with Miss Turner) "Josephine Butler" (1928).

The woman's movement generally all over the world mourns a gallant fighter in the cause of women. Members of the Women's Freedom League had a particular affection for Dame Millicent Fawcett, the President of the oldest suffrage society. She always appealed to reason; she was so sane, so practical, so cheerful, even in the most discouraging times of the woman suffrage campaign, and she was so generous in her appreciation of the efforts of every one who worked in the woman's cause. She believed in woman suffrage because she believed in individual freedom; and because she believed in individual freedom, she rejoiced in individual effort.

We loved, too, her dogged perseverance. One of her favourite quotations will help many in the future as it has helped others in the past:—

"Keep on ploughing when you've missed the crops;  
Keep on dancing when the fiddling stops;  
Keep on faithful till the curtain drops."

#### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

##### International University Women at Geneva.

Women graduates from thirty-four countries belonging to the International Federation of University Women are meeting in conference this week at Geneva. Dr. Ellen Gleditsch, the president of the Federation, a Norwegian, will preside, Professor Winifred Cullis, Deputy-Chairman of Convocation, London University, being the president-elect. Other British women graduates who will take part in the proceedings are Miss Caroline Spurgeon, so well-known for her research work in English classics, Mrs. Smedley McLean, the leader of the delegation, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

##### Another Woman County Councillor.

Mrs. Mason has won a seat in the Labour interest on the Durham County Council. Mrs. Mason's work is well known in the district of Tantobie, where she has been very successful on the Rural District Council.

##### Rhodesian Woman Attorney.

Miss Phyllis MacKendrick, the first Rhodesian Woman Attorney, who was admitted to practice at the Southern Rhodesian Side Bar in March, 1928, was recently presented with a set of law books at the Salisbury Magistrates' Court by the Rhodesian Law Society in commemoration of the event.

##### Women on Aborigines Advisory Council.

Mrs. W. Ternent Cooke, J.P., of South Australia, has been appointed to the Aborigines Advisory Council. Mrs. Cooke has studied the aboriginal question deeply and has done splendid work in that connection. She is the second woman to be appointed to this Council, the first being Mrs. T. McKay.

##### Woman on Prison Board.

Mrs. Fraer has recently been appointed a member of the New Zealand Prison Board. She is the first woman to serve on this Board.

##### More Women Consuls.

According to the *Evening Standard*, two young women, Miss Nelle B. Stogsdall, of Indiana, and Miss Margaret Warner, of Lincoln, Massachusetts, have been appointed by the United States Government as Vice-Consuls to Beirut and Geneva, respectively.

##### Another Precedent Created.

Miss Doris Stevens, Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, will act as Assistant Secretary during the session of the Institute on International Law, to be held in New York next October. This is the first time that a woman has been appointed to act in an official capacity during the proceedings of the Institute.

##### Woman Judge in Children's Court.

Madame Grabinska, a young Polish woman graduate, has been appointed by the Polish Government as judge at a Children's Court. She is the first woman in Poland to receive such an appointment.

##### A Celebrated Porto Rican Woman.

Muna Lee de Munoz Marin, well known for her book of poetry, "Sea-Change," and many excellent translations of Spanish prose and verse, is director of the Bureau of International Relations, University of Porto Rico. In her capacity as director of information and publicity, last year, she gave the Inter-American Commission of Women world-wide advertisement through her brilliant broadcasting of its activities.

## WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

(INCORPORATED 1920).

### SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Women engineers from all parts of the country assembled at Bedford College on July 26th, at the Seventh Annual Conference of the Women's Engineering Society.

Lady Moir, O.B.E., President of the Women's Engineering Society, in her Presidential Address gave some interesting information on bridge-building, acquired at first hand by accompanying her husband on his famous bridge-building enterprises on the Forth and elsewhere. After the Forth Bridge, the next contract her husband was connected with was the Hudson Tunnel. Lady Moir went out to New York with him and was able to study tunnel construction and the many difficulties connected with it. The construction of the Blackwall Tunnel followed, and here Lady Moir was the first woman to walk from Kent into Middlesex. She removed the last plate in the side of the caisson on the Middlesex side of the river which barred the passage from Blackwall Point into Poplar. She then had to scramble up a ladder some 70 feet suspended in the air and come out of the air lock on the Poplar side.

Lady Moir's wide experience as an "engineer by marriage" aroused much interest, and gave those who at present are merely on the fringe of engineering an insight into what lies ahead of women when they take their place side by side with men in the engineering world.

On Saturday morning a visit was paid to King George V. Dock, round which the party was conducted by engineers of the Port of London Authority; in the afternoon a lantern lecture was given by Miss D. D. Buchanan, A.M.I.C.E., on "Some Modern Bridges." This was followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

In the evening a dinner was held at the Lyceum Club. After reading a message of congratulation from Miss Constance Smedley, the President, in proposing the toast "To Women in other Professions," said that their training in engineering was much the same as in other professions but their after-work was different. As civil engineers they would be "thrusting civilisation into the faces of the future."

BRIG.-GEN. MAGNUS MOWAT, C.B.E., M.INST. C.E., M.I.MECH.E., supporting, intended like the popular old clergyman, to "jist get up and haver awa'." He was one of the oldest friends of the Society; 30 years ago he went to the ladies' monthly dinners at the London Chamber of Commerce, and there had the pleasure of hearing one night Miss Emily Davies whose low vibrant whisper could be heard all over the room. In women's suffrage and women's work, the last 20 to 30 years were marvellous to think of. They brought more progress than the previous 1,000. In the Cabinet a woman filled one of the highest positions in the land. The work of civil servants was called monotonous and mechanical, but in a formal departmental letter from the Ministry of Labour a few days ago he lighted on the novel words "and she thinks . . ."

The obtaining of mechanical training was a severe problem. Miss Holmes was the only woman who

#### DENMARK'S WOMEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

In Denmark there are two Houses of Parliament, the Folketinget, which corresponds with our House of Commons; and the Landstinget, which is the Senate or Upper House, and there are women members of both Houses. The Folketinget has about 140 members, four of whom are women: Mrs. Mathilde Malling Hanschultz, Mrs. Helga Larsen, Mrs. Elna Munck, and Mrs. Inger Gautier Schmidt. All the members of this Lower House are elected directly by the voters. The Landstinget, or Senate, has 72 members, 54 of whom are elected by popular vote in the following manner. In the first place all voters elect "electors," there being one "elector" for every one thousand voters, and these "electors" themselves elect the 54 members of the Senate. The other eighteen members are chosen by the Senate itself. There are five women members of the Landstinget—

had solved it. They must "keep on pestering," and this awful nightmare of chipping and filing away their obstacles would presently cease. Keep on and stick to it and a wider prospect would unfold for mechanical engineers. As civil engineers even at the moment, he thought, a sphere was open to women. Few callings in life were so catholic or so versatile or took one into more varied kinds of places. "Push on into the future which in suffrage and in the government of the country has been already attained."

PROFESSOR WINIFRED CULLIS, C.B.E., President of the British Federation of University Women, Vice-President of the International Federation, Deputy Chairman of Convocation, London University, etc., replied for "Science and Medicine." She traced links between Engineering, Medicine, Chemistry and Biology, and finished with a short and earnest appeal to all present for help in popularising the modern radium treatment of cancer, so that patients might seek aid in the early and hopeful stages, that many lives might be saved and happy years given, and the fatal scourge finally degraded to the status of an ordinary curable disease.

MRS. NORMANTON, Barrister-at-Law, replying for "Law," said that the Privy Council had been spending last week discussing whether women were persons. Women barristers were a humble and docile race. There were several muddles in women's position, the Church, the Stock Exchange, the House of Lords, the Embassies, all these exclusions had a general lowering and devitalising influence on the position of women. The great danger of a civilised community was a sapping of liberty.

MISS EDNA MOSELEY, A.R.I.B.A., A.A.Dip., responding for "Architecture," had not had any idea that women engineers were numerous enough to form a society. Women architects had met with no opposition, the men received them warmly, and married most of them; this was still going on. Architecture was closer to engineering than other professions, and as architecture becomes more and more an economic problem, so the two must co-operate more and more. Painting and sculpture are becoming more scientific, the painter does not now have to paint merely in spaces left over by the architect, and sculpture is actually part of the building. Many engineering branches must share in a satisfactory modern building; the design and planning of the architect, the construction, heating, ventilation, sanitation, etc., of the engineer, must be worked together for a sound and beautiful result.

MRS. WILLSON, on behalf of the Women's Engineering Society and the guests, gave warmest thanks to Lady Moir for her delightful hospitality, and rejoiced that a woman now counted as a human being; up till now she might see what wanted doing, but she had had to close her eyes because she did not happen to be born a man.

The Conference was highly successful and has attracted much attention both in the lay and technical press.

Mrs. Elisa Petersen who was elected by the Senate, and Mrs. Marie Hjelmer, Miss Marie Christensen, Miss Henriette Crone, and Mrs. Andrea Brochman who were elected by popular vote.

#### Welcome!

HUNT.—On Sunday, June 23rd, at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, to Emily Hunt and Thomas Langford, of 14, Croydon Lane, Banstead, Surrey, a daughter—Pamela.

Many of our readers will remember that Miss Hunt entered the office of the Women's Freedom League, in Buckingham Street, Adelphi, at its foundation, working with us almost continuously for over twenty years as our cheerful, hard-working and efficient assistant secretary. We rejoice with her and her husband in their little daughter, and give her a hearty welcome into the League.

## THE VOTE.

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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 stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

### "EQUALITY FROM THE FOUNDATIONS."

We are very pleased to publish, in another column of this week's VOTE, Miss Edwardes' article on "Some Experiences and a Moral." Miss Edwardes fought a very gallant fight as a Liberal Candidate for South-East St. Pancras at the last General Election, and she has earned the right to speak with authority on the subject on which she writes. We do not altogether agree with her conclusions. We are, however, as keen as Miss Edwardes to bring about "an equality from the foundations" for women and men not only in political but also in social and economic life. Where we differ from Miss Edwardes is in the value we place in the work of women's organisations to achieve this object. If it had not been for the strenuous work of women's organisations, women would certainly not have equal voting rights with men or equal eligibility with them to stand as candidates for Parliament at the present time. Before women had the parliamentary vote in this country, men's party organisations paid little heed to the special interests of women; they would have paid still less if women's organisations had been non-existent. The alleged continuation of prejudice against women candidates—we are assured by one or two women who stood at the last election that this prejudice was a thing of the past—is, we venture to assert, very largely due to the influence of men's party organisations. We do not see how it can be otherwise. Political parties were founded by men when women had little chance of securing for very many years to come any political power. Men financed those parties and do so at the present time in the case of the two older parties. This is not perhaps so true of the Labour Party which is the youngest political party, and at any rate in its earliest days relied upon the pence and work of women as well as on the pence and work of men. The machinery and policy of all three political parties are still practically in the hands of men. How then can women, even if they joined these parties in overwhelming numbers—and they show no signs of doing this at present—really have an equal influence with men in any of these parties, an equal chance with men to control their different policies? Will not the interests of women become lost in the organisations which have been built up to deal chiefly with the interests of men? Yet women have special interests which ought to be considered. Although women are the majority of the electorate very little attention was paid to the needs of women by the political parties at the last General Election. The problem of unemployment was dealt with by every party; but it was the unemployment of men that concerned them. The quarter of a million of unemployed women were practically forgotten. We should be the last to suggest that the unemployment of men was not also of vital concern to women, but what we are trying to point out is that it was generally treated as a man's problem only. Had the cost of living received as much attention by the political parties, it would have made a more direct appeal to the fourteen million women voters, the very great majority of whom came into much closer touch with this particular problem than any men, employed or

unemployed. The solving of the housing and health problems are, of course, of importance to men, but of even greater importance to women. Are women, especially married women with children, really satisfied with the way the various political parties have dealt with or are dealing with these problems?

Political parties will, of course, themselves have to decide whether they will or will not have women's sections as part of their organisations; but we say emphatically that women's non-party organisations are absolutely necessary so long as there is any differentiation in the treatment of men and women in any part of our national life. Miss Edwardes says: "We want less stress laid on the question of the two sexes, and far more on working together for a common cause, if we are ever to obtain real equality." We wonder what chance there would be for women's membership of the House of Lords if women's organisations ceased to press that women peereesses in their own right should be admitted to the Upper House? Would men's political organisations agitate for equal pay for work of equal value when done by men and women civil servants, or by men and women teachers, unless they were prodded by organised women? Would any of the political parties of their own accord insist upon the opening of the Diplomatic, Consular and Trades Commissioner services equally to men and women? Which of the three parties would, as a mere matter of justice, carry to a successful issue a campaign to secure the right of married women to work for pay, or the right of women, married or unmarried, to change or retain their nationality in the same way that a man can exercise this right? Which of the parties, unaided by women's organisations, would insist that there should be no restrictions imposed on the work of women which are not also imposed on the work of men?

For twenty-two years the Women's Freedom League has struggled against great odds to secure equality from the foundations in our national life. Together with other women's organisations we can claim some successes; but our achievements are small compared with what we hope to gain in the future. We want to see women in ever-increasing numbers filling the very highest positions in our national and international life: and we want to see them have absolute equality in regard to opportunity, pay and responsibility in every part of it; but we are convinced that we shall only realise these ambitions through the increasing work of powerful women's organisations.

### WOMEN AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS PRESS GALLERY?

Some years before the war the Women's Freedom League applied to the Serjeant-at-Arms for the representation of our paper THE VOTE in the Press Gallery of the House of Commons. Time after time we have repeated our application, but we are always given to understand that there are no vacancies, and we are left to assume that we are on a waiting list. When we first applied no woman in the land was enfranchised and there was certainly no immediate prospect of any woman becoming a member of Parliament, still less of securing a seat in the Cabinet. Yet even in those long-ago-dark days we believed that women ought to have their own representative to report matters of interest to women in a woman's paper. How much more are we not now entitled to think that we ought to have a woman representative in that Press Gallery? Women are the majority of the electorate, women are in Parliament, in the Government, and one of them is in the Cabinet itself, and every year that passes women are taking a more active part in the political life of this country, and it is very strange that the Press Gallery should continue to remain a monopoly of the representatives of men's papers. It is surely time that the Government should see the necessity for reserving a seat in the Press Gallery of the House of Commons for a representative of a woman's paper. Will the present Government right this wrong?

## SOME EXPERIENCES AND A MORAL.

BY ELISABETH EDWARDES.

Prejudice, with a capital P, undoubtedly does still exist against women candidates for Parliament. This is evinced primarily by the difficulty that women find in getting adopted as candidates; after all, between sixty and seventy is not a really sufficient number, and fourteen women Members of Parliament, although an achievement, is not enough. I suppose most of us would admit, although we may not like doing so, that the real difficulty is that the electors are still a little chary of voting for a woman, and so long as this is so, one can readily understand the attitude of party organisations. A great deal of education is still needed if we are to break down this prejudice and prove that we really are as fit to receive a vote as a man! One man came to me after one of my meetings during the election and told me that, although he was a member of my particular political party, he really had not thought it was possible to support a woman candidate; but, I imagine, that having seen me and found I really was a human being and not some extraordinary freak because I was standing for Parliament, he changed his mind and became a very hearty supporter. This just goes to prove that it is only by going on standing that we can show we are only doing a perfectly normal thing.

One of the best and most happy experiences of my election campaign was the attitude of the younger women, who were supposed to be too flippant to want or care about the vote. These young voters I found showing a very real interest in their newly-won franchise, and anxious to find out all they could about all the political parties and vote with their minds and brains. I had many invitations to address meetings of young women, members of clubs, residents in hostels, large and small, and also students of the London School of Medicine for Women. All these meetings were well attended, and the many questions I was asked pointed clearly to the fact that they were studying the subject with care and really desirous of voting intelligently. Many of the younger married women also told me that they had no intention of

slavishly following the political creeds of their husbands, but that since the vote was their own and did not belong to anyone else they were going to use it as they thought fit. Unfortunately, there are still large numbers of older married women who tell you quite openly that they will "ask their husbands," and this absence of personal thought is something that can only be fought and conquered by persistent education. They want helping to see that the vote is their personal privilege and responsibility. There is a large field of work here for those who long to see women taking their proper place in public life.

My experience is that special women's political meetings are not a success; and I for one will never willingly have them again in any future election I may fight. This bears out what we have always contended, that women do not want or like special treatment in matters political; they prefer to attend political meetings with men, and preferential treatment does not appeal to them. My own personal opinion is that the less of this special treatment there is in the various organisations of the political parties, the more rapidly will come the day when ability and qualification will be the test not only for candidates for Parliament, but in every other walk of life. We want less stress laid on the question of the two sexes, and far more on working together for a common cause if we are ever to obtain real equality.

Dare I point a moral in all this? It seems to me that the future for women in politics is hand in hand with men within the same organisations, and not distinct; proving by the interest they take that they are as fit to hold office as men; stirring up their friends and neighbours to be as keen as themselves. In other words, bringing about an equality from the foundations, and when we have done this we shall wake up one day and find that the prejudice has gone and that all political parties when adopting candidates and choosing Members of Parliament will ask, not "Let us find the best Man we can," but "Let us find the best Person we can, totally regardless of Sex."

### THE STORTING & THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION CONGRESS.

Some months ago we hailed with joy the announcement that the Norwegian Government had chosen Frau Betzy Kjelsberg as the leader of that country's delegation to the International Labour Congress in Geneva. We were therefore much intrigued to note the following reference to the matter published by the President of the Norwegian Auxiliary of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship in its Report of the Eleventh Congress recently presented at Berlin:—"With regard to the Labour Conferences, our Association had the satisfaction in 1928 of seeing its proposal for a woman government delegate adopted. At this moment a woman expert has been chosen as president of the delegation to the Labour Conference in Geneva by our Government, the delegation consisting of four men and one woman. We were greatly pleased as this woman leader is a real expert. But what has happened? Parliament has thrown out, by 90 votes to 31, the Bill presented by the Government to vote the money necessary for representation at the Labour Conference in Geneva, the reason being that it disapproved the *personnel* chosen for the delegation. You see, it is hopeless to obtain anything for women at present, although women are in a great majority among the voters of Norway."

The Women's Freedom League made inquiries about this matter in Norway, and last Tuesday the Editor of THE VOTE received the following letter from the Press Bureau of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway:—  
MADAME.—The decision of the Norwegian Parliament

(the Storting), refusing to vote the money necessary for the representation of Norway at the International Labour Conferences in Geneva during the forthcoming year has, apparently, been misunderstood in some quarters abroad. It has, quite wrongly, been interpreted as a protest against the appointment of a woman as president of the Norwegian delegation at the Labour Conference in Geneva in May last. I, therefore, venture to ask you the favour of publishing in your esteemed paper the following short statement of the facts:

The Norwegian Labour Party, which is the biggest group in the Storting, comprising 61 members out of a total of 150, has always been opposed to the League of Nations and the International Labour Office. The party, consequently, always votes against any grants of money for Norwegian participation in the work of these institutions. When the Government's proposal for the usual grant with regard to the Labour Conferences came up for decision in the Storting in April last, some Agrarian and Conservative members, led by Mr. Hambro, President of the Storting and Chairman of the Conservative Party, rather unexpectedly voted with the Labour Party against the grant. The result was that the grant was refused by a large majority, 90 to 31 votes.

Mr. Hambro, in explaining his vote, said that he meant it to be a demonstration against the unsatisfactory composition of previous Norwegian delegations to the Labour Conferences and also as a demonstration against the methods of the Labour Office at Geneva. The Norwegian delegations had, in his opinion, been too exclusively composed of civil servants, representing various Government departments. The delegations

should have been of a more political character. He strongly emphasised that he did not object to a woman being appointed president of the delegation. Another Conservative member, the rapporteur of the Parliamentary Committee of Social Affairs in this question, Mr. Norem, who also criticised the composition of the delegations, made a statement to the same effect.

Norway was, as you know, the first country in Europe to grant women the suffrage on an equal footing with men, and even the most Conservative Norwegians have no prejudice whatever against women occupying prominent political positions.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy in publishing this letter,

I am, yours respectfully,

ARNE GIVERHOLT,  
Acting Chief of the Press Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Oslo.

We are delighted to publish the above letter and to know that members of the Storting did not object to a woman being appointed leader of the deputation. We think, however, that Norwegian suffragists may be forgiven for their misunderstanding of the situation. Like ourselves, they have probably in the past come up against a good deal of prejudice so far as women are concerned. As prejudice dies hard, so does the belief in its non-existence.

**THE NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.**

The Women's Freedom League was represented at a Meeting of the societies interested in the question of Nationality of British Women—viz. that a woman should have the same right as a man to retain or change her nationality on marriage with an alien—which was called by the National Council of Women, at its offices at Murray House, Vandon Street, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1., on 24th July.

Miss Chrystal Macmillan, B.Sc., M.A., in a statement on the present position, recalled the fact that the Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, had before the General Election stated that he agreed with the proposals that (a) a British woman who marries an alien should not automatically lose her nationality; (b) a foreign woman who marries a British subject should not have British nationality imposed upon her, unless she applies to be admitted as a British subject; and (c) a married woman should herself have the right to naturalise. She further reported that Miss Ellen Wilkinson hoped shortly to re-introduce her Bill on the Nationality of Married Women.

Miss Macmillan also stated that the subject would be dealt with at the meeting of the Imperial Conference, which will probably be held in the autumn of 1930, and at the Codification Conference of the League of Nations, which is to meet at The Hague on 13th March, 1930.

It was unanimously resolved to approach the women's organisations in the Dominions, in order that joint action might be taken in urging the introduction of similar Bills in the Dominion Parliaments, and also in connection with the Imperial Conference and with the Codification Conference.

Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. and Mrs. Swanwick wrote regretting their inability to be present. Other societies represented at this meeting were the International Council of Women, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the National British Women's Total Abstinence Union, the British Commonwealth League, the Women's International League, and the Women's National Liberal Federation.

**WOMEN'S PROGRESS IN SPAIN.**

According to the *Sunday Times*, women in Spain will have all the political privileges now possessed by men when Constitutional Government is restored, possibly in 1930. A section of the new Constitution says: "All Spanish citizens of twenty-five years of age or more of both sexes are voters." Further, election to the proposed new National Assembly will be open to women on the same conditions as men. General Primo de Rivera was responsible for the inclusion of the universal suffrage provisions in the proposed Constitution. Although

there have been no real elections since General Primo de Rivera came into power in 1923, the rôle of women in politics has been considerably extended. Many women have been appointed to office, and many are in the present National Assembly. There are also various women mayors.

For several years there has been a strong feminist movement throughout Spain, where there are now women doctors, engineers, publicists, and airwomen. Women's position in business life in Spain has steadily become more important.

When the new Constitution was presented to the National Assembly it was read by a woman secretary, Senorita Carmen Cuesta, says a British United Press message from Madrid.

**CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN.**

*Organiser and Speaker:* Miss Lilian Lenton, assisted by Mrs. Adair, Miss F. R. Lenton, Mrs. Scott, and Miss Eunice Scott.

*Headquarters:* c/o Mrs. McNicol, 18, Battery Place, Rothesay.

We are about to enter upon the fourth and last week of our Campaign. If only it doesn't rain we are expecting a successful time, for many and fresh people through the resorts we visit.

We have held 13 open-air meetings out of our projected 16, rain preventing the other three. As usual, amusing incidents have occurred. There was a drunken man who one night was very persistent, rendering it difficult to carry on. Suddenly two ladies came forward, took each an arm, led the mildly-protesting man to a seat some distance away, placed him on it, and told him to sit there and be good. He did, for a short time.

Another night an objectionable person tried to break up our meeting, but he had to retire, for our favourable crowd was too strong for him. Our subject was the guardianship of children. The speaker mentioned that the proof that a married mother is still not the legal parent of her child, despite the passing of the so-called Equal Guardianship Bill, comes when the mother does not wish to have her baby vaccinated. She may not sign the Exemption Order: the signature of the legal parent, i.e., the father, is necessary. A lady, hearing this, murmured that she had signed the order herself. Unfortunately she said it too softly for the speaker to hear and answer, but this man heard, and he, seizing the opportunity, began to shout unpleasant remarks. Of course, we do not doubt the truth of her statement. It may be she was a widow, or legally separated from her husband, or was an unmarried woman. Perhaps none of these explanations is the right one—perhaps the magistrate to whom the lady took the Order, knowing of the passing of the new Act, but not knowing the details, honestly but mistakenly thought that a married woman is the parent of her own child, so accepted her signature, and the illegality was never detected.

So great was this commotion between the unpleasant gentleman and our supporters that the lady had slipped unobtrusively away before we were able to discover the facts. But it didn't matter; our interrupter silenced, we were able to convince our audience that, despite an apparent discrepancy, a mother is not the legal parent of her legitimate child, although she may obtain the custody if she takes a case to the courts and can prove that it is for "the welfare of the child" that she should have it.

It is not often that we meet with such unpleasantness. Just occasionally some man, either because he is a bullying anti-feminist, or is drunk, or is trying to be clever, will do his best to upset things, but always the sympathy of the crowd is with us and he does not succeed. For the last time this year, during the coming week we shall be speaking every night at the Pier Head in Rothesay, and during the day in Largs, Millport, Dunoon, Helensburgh, and Gourack. We are expecting good meetings, and, as I have indicated, if only weather conditions are favourable, there is no reason why our expectations should not be realised. LILIAN LENTON.

**Women's Freedom League.**

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**WHERE TO GO.**

**WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.**

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

- Thursday, August 15th, at 7.30 p.m.  
Social Evening for London Members at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, W.C.1.
- Tuesday, August 20th, at 8 p.m.  
North Kensington and District Branch. Meeting to arrange Winter programme of work, at 94, Cambridge Gardens, W.10.
- Wednesday, August 28th, at 4 p.m.  
Social Afternoon for London Members at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Margaret Wynne Nevinson, J.P., L.L.A.
- Thursday, August 29th, at 8 p.m.  
Brentford and Chiswick Branch. Dance at 56, Harvard Road, Gunnersbury, in aid of Branch funds. Tickets 1/3.
- Thursday, August 29th, at 8 p.m.  
Barnsbury and District. Branch Meeting. Place to be announced later.
- Monday, September 2nd, at 3 p.m.  
"Fair" Sub-Committee at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
- Thursday, September 5th, at 3.30 p.m.  
Brentford and Chiswick Branch. Meeting at 56, Harvard Road, Gunnersbury. Tea, music and speaker. This will be followed by a Dance at 8 p.m. Tickets 1/3, in aid of Branch funds.
- Thursday, September 5th, at 7.30 p.m.  
Hackney and District. Branch Meeting. Place to be announced later.
- Saturday, October 5th, at 10 a.m.  
National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
- Thursday and Friday, November 14th and 15th, 3 to 9.30 p.m.  
Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.
- Saturday, November 16th, at 10 a.m.  
National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

**PROVINCES.**

- Saturday, September 14th (Proposed date).  
Middlesbrough Branch. Picnic for members and friends.
- Monday, October 14th.  
Middlesbrough Branch. Whist Drive, at the Grey House.

**OTHER SOCIETIES.**

- September 2nd to 15th.  
Women's International League. International Summer School in Lepence-Visegrad, Hungary. Subject: "Effects of Public Economics on the Interior and Foreign Politics of Different Countries."
- October 14th to October 18th.  
National Council of Women. Annual Meeting and Conference in the Albert Hall, Manchester.
- Thursday, October 17th, at 3 p.m.  
Women's International League. Reception to the two women delegates of the British Government to the Geneva Assembly at Aubrey House, Aubrey Walk, W.8. By kind permission of the Misses Alexander. Tickets 2/6 each, which will include tea.

**HOUSEHOLD SERVICE LEAGUE.**

The Household Service League has been formed by the National Council of Women to promote the co-operation of employers and employed in improving the status, conditions and efficiency of Domestic and Household Management, membership being open to all engaged in household service, both men and women, as employers, domestic workers of all kinds, employment agents and others interested. The National Council of Women states that the League will be an information bureau, obtaining information respecting such subjects as employment agencies, training and education in domestic subjects, household management, labour saving and other appliances, clubs and other means of friendship and recreation, holiday camps and homes, travel, convalescent homes and other provision for sickness and old age, laws affecting employers and servants, etc., etc. Further, this League will receive, originate, and circulate suggestions for fostering and developing a high standard of conditions, of method and of work. It will encourage among employers and employees and the public a better understanding of the value and importance of household work, and promote a general recognition of domestic service as an honourable calling, and an essential branch of national service.

**BRANCH NOTES.**

**BRENTFORD AND CHISWICK.**

The weather on Thursday of last week did not favour the garden meeting which was to have been held at 5, Brook Road, Gunnersbury, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Parkin. The meeting however took place indoors and, after tea was served, matters of interest concerning future work in the branch were discussed.

**HASTINGS.**

A very successful meeting was held at Rossiana, Pine Avenue, Ore, on Saturday afternoon. Our grateful thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Prelooker for once again inviting the members and friends to a delightful gathering.

Mr. Prelooker, who presided, said that he had been a member of the League since its foundation, and had always been interested in it. He had no fear in placing power in the hands of the women, and he looked forward to the coming time of their full equality. Mrs. Zangwill, in a fine speech, dealt with the aims of the Women's Freedom League, and devoted part of her speech to dealing with what has to be done to secure the future peace of the world. Those who heard her must have realised that a great deal is in the hands of the women, and if they can be made to see their responsibility a great deal will be done. Questions were asked, which were answered by the speakers.

Mrs. Prelooker made a statement with regard to Mrs. Buckingham. She said that she had seen her in Berlin, and assured her friends that everything possible had been done for her.

After tea we listened to a delightful concert arranged by Miss Miriam Prelooker. We cordially thank her, her sister and friends for their kind help.

We also very cordially thank the following members, who gave special help to make the meeting a success;—Mrs. Stanley Brown, Mrs. Mellis, Mrs. Ward, Mdme. Osterveen, Miss Vicat Cole, Miss Bentley, Miss Baenziger, Miss Forster, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Richardson, and H. S. L. Fry, Esq.

The collection amounted to over £3, which included a cheque for £1 1s. sent by Miss Vicat Cole.

We must give a special vote of thanks to Mr. F. Thredgold, who came all the way from Folkestone to attend the meeting. Five new members were made.

MAUD L. WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.**

The Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Council of Women are being held in the Albert Hall, Manchester, from October 14th to October 18th. Miss Anna Munro will again represent the Women's Freedom League at this Conference. The chair will be taken by the President, The Lady Emmott, J.P.

**BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS FOR OUR READERS.**

- "Women's Fight for the Vote," by Frederick W. Pethick-Lawrence ... .. 6d.
- "Pages from the Diary of a Militant Suffragette," by Katherine Roberts ... .. 1s.
- "The Sphere of Man," by Mrs. C. C. Stopes ... .. 6d.
- "A Reply to the Bishop of Durham" (re Women's Place in the Church), by Eunice G. Murray ... .. 2d.
- "Josephine Butler" (a cameo life-sketch), by Marion Holmes ... .. 4d.
- "British Women M.P.s.," by D. M. Northcroft ... .. 4d.

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**N**EAR FOLKESTONE. Charming House for paying guests. Large garden, tennis, garage.—Miss Haslam, The Grey House, Lyminge, Kent.

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