

# THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1926

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

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## AN ASSYRIAN WOMAN AMBASSADOR.

An Assyrian Princess in her own right, The Lady Surma di Mar Shemum, is now over in this country to plead for Great Britain's protection of her people, the smallest of our Allies in the Great War.

Lady Surma has already figured prominently in public on behalf of these distressed Assyrians, only a remnant of some 30,000 now compared to their numbers before the war, driven from their mountain fastnesses in Kurdistan, and at present encamped in villages, sometimes in caves, in the country district round Mosul.

She represented her brother, the late Patriarch of the Assyrians, at the Peace Conference at Versailles, where she was the only woman delegate, and she also visited the Assembly last September, when she flew from Mosul to Cairo, and thence proceeded to Geneva, to put the plight of her country people before the Mosul Committee of the League of Nations.

Neither is this her first visit to England, for she was in this country for the same purpose some four or five years ago.

Though her fine, dark eyes light up with constant humour, and she is bright and vivacious in conversation, Lady Surma has passed through a series of tragedies during the last decade. She has seen her countrymen and women driven from their homes on three separate occasions by bands of marauding Turks and Kurds. She has watched them perish, decimated by typhus and by battle, in hundreds and thousands on ceaseless treks for safety, and during the Great War she suffered the loss of her brother, the venerable Patriarch, spiritual and temporal head, the descendant of hereditary rulers for 300 years, of this most ancient of nations. Her nephew, the present

Patriarch, a lad of 17, for whom Lady Surma acts as Regent, is now in England for his education.

At a recent Drawing-room Meeting, convened by the Women's International League, Lady Surma gave her simple story, in fluent English, to a number of representatives of women's organisations. It will be remembered that it was the Women's International League which took the initiative in getting the

League of Nations to appoint the Commission of Three to work for the emancipation of the Assyrian and Armenian women and children who were deported by the Turks and Persians during the war. The Chairman of the League, Miss K. D. Courtney, went to see Dr. Nansen about it in Geneva, hoping he would be able and willing to act as Commissioner himself, and he and Miss Forchhammer, the Danish substitute delegate to the Assembly, took up the matter warmly. It was due chiefly to their work and persistence that anything effective got done.

Lady Surma stressed the antiquity of the religion to which her people persistently adhered through all the vicissitudes they had experienced. A religion which claimed St. Thomas and Thaddæus as its founders, and which had preserved its tenets in unsullied purity from the

earliest days of Christianity, even sending missionaries as far afield as China in the seventh and eighth centuries. She also gave picturesque details of the simple, pastoral life her people had pursued for generations, the amazing industry of the women, the dauntless courage of the men, and the primitive laws and customs which had been handed down for centuries.

"We do not ask Great Britain to let us revenge

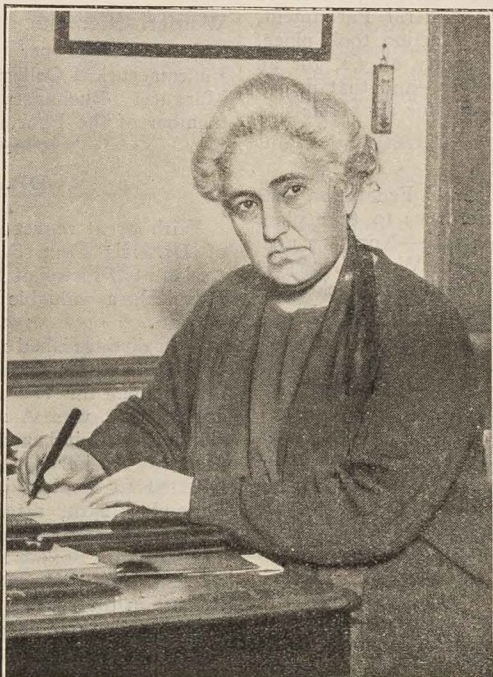


Photo by]

THE LADY SURMA DI MAR SHEMUM.

[Topical Press.

ourselves on the Turks," she concluded, with real pathos. "We only ask to be assured of peace, and above all of security. It has always been the great wish of the Assyrians to be under British rule, and all they desire now is that they may be permitted to settle in the healthy, open country north of Mosul, where they can maintain their own language, religion, and schools, free from Turkish interference. Our people fought on the side of the Allies during the Great War, and we only ask in return that the little remnant now left of our nation may continue its existence in peace and liberty."

#### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

##### Girl Architect's Success.

Miss Doris Lewis, a student of architecture, has scored a double success in the annual competition held by the Royal Institute of British Architects, and has been awarded a gold medal and £250 for the study of commercial architecture in America (Alfred Bossom studentship), and a silver medal in the same competition. Miss Lewis intends to proceed at once to America to study American types of houses, and examine their systems of town planning, and on her return will set up as an architect and specialise in housing and town-planning matters.

##### Women Dairying Instructor.

Miss Forster, who has been principal instructor in dairying at the Cheshire County Institute at Worleston for 31 years, and has trained hundreds in Cheshire cheese-making, and judged at all the great shows of the country, is shortly relinquishing her office. Worleston Dairy Institute will then become merged in the agricultural school at Nantwich, where the County Council are building a new dairy institute at a cost of £30,000.

##### Women Voters in Australia.

Final returns in the recent Australian elections show that 91.62 per cent. of the males on the register and 90.99 per cent. of the females voted. It will be remembered that an Act of the Federal Parliament, passed a short time before this Election took place, made it compulsory, under a penalty of £2, for all eligible persons to enrol themselves—and that means every adult in the community—and for all persons to vote under a similar penalty.

##### Liberal Women's Conferences.

The Women's National Liberal Federation has organised a series of area conferences to take place between January 22nd and March 12th—Northern area (Newcastle-on-Tyne), London, South Wales (Newport and Neath), Lancashire and Cheshire (Blackburn), North Wales (Llandudno), and Yorkshire (Leeds).

##### A Woman Arboriculturist.

According to the Norwegian *Nylaende* (which, by the way, as being a journal devoted to women's interests, we congratulate on attaining its fortieth anniversary this year), the Annawalk Tree Nursery, in the State of New York, one of the largest in the world, is owned and managed by a woman, Miss Evelyn U. Smith, whose work for afforestation is known all over the United States, where she goes by the name of "Forest Queen," or "Goddess of the Groves."

##### Women and Wembley.

Only one woman, Lady Galway (Chairman of the Women's Section) was the recipient of Honours in the recent list issued in connection with the Wembley Exhibition. Lady Galway received the C.B.E., as also did eleven men, and, in addition, there were eight male O.B.E.s and ten male M.B.E.s conferred, mostly representatives of the Dominions and Colonies.

##### French Woman Barrister Honoured.

At the Paris Law Courts last week, M. Poincaré, as one of the Bar leaders, decorated with the Cross of the Legion of Honour Mlle. Jeanne Chaudin, the first woman barrister to be admitted to the Paris Bar.

##### Woman Provincial Grand Master.

The Watford District of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows has just installed the first woman to the important office of Provincial Grand Master. This is Mrs. Florence Swain, of Watford, and her husband, Mr. William Swain, J.P., is also the corresponding secretary of the district and a Past Provincial Grand Master. Their daughter, Miss Minnie Swain, has been "Noble Grand" of the "Pride of Watford" Lodge, an office her mother has held twice.

##### New Women Barristers.

Mrs. W. S. Morrison, who was successful in the Final Examination of the recent Hilary Bar Examinations, is the wife of Captain Douglas Morrison, who contested the Western Isles in the Conservative interest on two occasions, and is prospective Conservative candidate for Caithness. Another new woman barrister was the Baroness Clifton, the first peeress to become one, who was "called" last Tuesday at the same time as Mrs. Morrison.

##### Swiss Women's Exhibition.

Women's organisations in Switzerland have decided to organise an Exhibition for Women's Work in the late summer of 1928. The Exhibition, which will be held in Berne, will be on a large scale and representative of all branches of work in which women are engaged. An important committee has been formed to carry out the arrangements, and to secure the necessary financial support.

##### Swiss Woman Inspector.

The Canton of Freiburg has appointed Madame Bonnaby, who is Vice-President of the Association of Domestic Economy Teachers, as a School Inspector. For several years Madame Bonnaby has taken a great interest in education, particularly in the establishment of continuation schools for domestic economy. She was responsible for the organisation of the first classes for the training of cooks, and has done much to promote the teaching of domestic economy throughout the Canton.

##### Women Chemists.

At least 50 per cent. of the students at the Pharmaceutical College are girls. One woman, Miss Margaret Buchanan, P.I.C., is a distinguished member of the Pharmaceutical Society Council.

#### DR. IRIS FOX.

With great regret we record the death at her post of Dr. Iris Fox, Senior Assistant Pathologist and Assistant Director of Pathological Studies, Royal Free Hospital, a valuable and promising young medical woman.

Of a distinguished medical family, Dr. Fox qualified in 1915 from the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, taking the London M.D. in 1922. She was Assistant Pathologist at Swansea General Hospital and at St. Mary's Hospital, and Medical Registrar, Royal Free Hospital, and contributed to medical journals. She was taken ill on December 25th, after pricking her finger during a *post mortem* examination the day before, entered the Hospital on Boxing Day, and after a fight of four weeks with *septicæmia* died on January 21st, "giving her life in the service of the public."

We tender our deepest sympathy to her father, and the members of her family.

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#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT NOTES.

##### Tribute to Woman Ex-Mayor.

At a meeting of the Acton Town Council last week, it was decided that the portrait of Alderman Miss Smee, who occupied the mayoral chair last year, should be hung in the Council Chamber. The present Mayor (Alderman R. J. Hewett) said he hoped this portrait would be a pleasant reminder to Miss Smee of her term of office as Acton's first citizen, and referred to her sixteen years' service for Acton, and added that when he recalled all the offices she had fulfilled, he realised what a full municipal life she had had. In returning thanks, Alderman Miss Smee said that she greatly appreciated the honour of being the first woman to have her portrait hung in the Chamber, but she hoped and felt sure she would be followed by others.

##### Women Rent Collectors.

According to the *Daily Sketch* the Council of the Royal Borough of Kensington have put the rent collection and management of part of their property, including 70 new flats now building, in the hands of Miss Dickin, who, with a staff of six women assistants, collects the rents in a very large district of Notting Hill. Miss Dickin is the first woman manager to be appointed by a borough council. "We are dealing with women," she said, "and naturally we can understand and sympathise with them more than men could. Moreover, I think we are shrewder in judgment. Men rent collectors can't go into homes and investigate as women collectors can. Housewives look on us as their friends. I love the work from a human point of view, and that is a great help. I want to see all the people in the houses I visit comfortably housed. By giving the poorer tenants better conditions, I believe I am improving their standards of living."

##### Hull Women and Local Government.

Councillor Mrs. Hatfield has been elected Chairman of the Sanitary Sub-Committee, one of the most important sub-committees of the Hull Corporation. Miss Anderson is the first woman to be elected Chairman of the Hull Board of Guardians.

#### WOMEN AND HONOURS.

A fortnight ago we gave a short list of women in THE VOTE, who, we considered, easily outshone the great majority of names in the long list of men in the recent Honours List. Since then we have heard from several of our readers, who suggest other names of women deserving of mention in the Honours List. Every one of our correspondents considers that Miss Lilian Baylis, of the "Old Vic" should have been included in that List. All who know her work in connection with the "Old Vic," or who read Mr. St. John Ervine's review of the "Old Vic," by Cecily Hamilton and Lilian Baylis, in last Sunday's *Observer*, will most cordially agree with that opinion. Other suggestions from our readers were Mrs. Kendal, one of our oldest actresses who was such a favourite with the public for so many years; Miss Lois Fuller, that wonderful inventor of fancy dancing some years ago, and whose troupes now perform in all parts of the world, and Dr. Ethel Smyth whose musical compositions have a world-wide reputation. It will, of course, be remembered that some time ago Dr. Smyth had the honour of a Dame of the British Empire bestowed upon her. We then protested that she was worthy of a higher honour, especially as a man conductor of a band in one of our watering places, who had also successfully introduced to his audiences and conducted some of her compositions, was given a knighthood. One of our readers suggests that we have a plebiscite of the names of women worthy of appearing in the Nation's Honours Lists. Will other readers give their views?

#### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN IN CONFERENCE.

The London Branch of the National Council of Women held an interesting Conference on "Some of London's Problems" last week. The Hon. Mrs. Home Peel was in the Chair, and among the speakers were such well-known public women as Lady Emmott, Miss Rosamund Smith, Dame Beatrix Lyall, Miss Margery Fry, Miss Alison Neilans, and Miss Constance Warner. Lady Haddo and Lady Frances Balfour each presided at meetings open to the general public which were held in addition to the conference sessions. Considerable interest was shown in a resolution moved by Mrs. J. W. Meares, urging that one of the most pressing problems of the day is that of a cheap and abundant electricity supply. Mrs. Meares, whose husband was at one time the electrical adviser to the Government of India, recounted her own practical experience of electrical supply in Simla, where current costs only a halfpenny per unit. It is interesting to learn that this resolution, which was carried with a good deal of enthusiasm, was framed before the Prime Minister put forward the recent Government scheme.

Women Police formed the text of a discussion by practical Church Army women workers, who were responsible for a resolution on the subject, and special stress was laid on the point that they should be "of a suitable age." It was also urged that the present age limit of 30 for policewomen should be raised by several years.

Miss Alison Neilans appealed to the meeting to ask the Government for a Committee of Inquiry for Great Britain into the whole subject of behaviour in streets and public places. Attention was also drawn to the fact that all resolutions on public morals seemed to be framed with the idea of protecting girls and women, and that some stress should be laid on the necessity of safeguarding little boys from moral danger.

The prevalence of rheumatic infection among children attending elementary schools as compared with children at secondary and private schools was noted. After discussion, it was decided to ask the Government to have inquiry made as to the cause, and to have the necessary steps taken to safeguard the health of elementary school-children.

#### WOMEN AND ARBITRATION.

A large and important Conference of women was held last week at the Caxton Hall, London. It had been called by the Women's International League to consider the possibilities of an arbitration Pilgrimage in the early summer along five or six main routes from North, South, East, and West, converging on London. Miss Kathleen Courtney was in the Chair, and supporting her on the platform were Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, who appealed to women to make arbitration a live and popular issue, and Miss Maude Royden, who emphasised the psychological value of an immediate campaign for arbitration on the part of all British women.

Delegates were present from over twenty women's organisations, including the Women's Freedom League, the British Women's Temperance Association, the Sisterhoods, the Women's Co-operative Guilds, the National Women's Liberal Federation, the British Federation of University Women, the League of Nations Union, the Women's Advisory Committee of the League of Nations Union, the Women's Sections of the Labour Party, the Women's Free Church Council, the World Y.W.C.A., the National Union of Teachers, etc.

It was unanimously decided that when reports had been made to Organisations, a Council of those deciding to co-operate should be formed, and plans for the Pilgrimage made at once. Prof. Gilbert Murray, in a letter to the Women's International League, said that a powerful national demonstration on Arbitration would be a strong counteraction to the spirit of militarism.

## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 29th, 1926.

### EDITORIAL.

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

### WOMEN POLICE.

Last week the Six Point Group convened a Conference of representatives of women's organisations to consider whether they would ask Members of Parliament to ballot for a Private Member's Bill on the lines of the Women Police Bill which Miss Ellen Wilkinson so successfully introduced in the House of Commons under the Ten Minutes Rule at the end of last Session, and which, it was hoped, would be again introduced in this coming Session. It will be remembered that the title of this Bill was The Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill. The present Municipal Corporations Act enacts that the Watch Committee of a Borough Council shall from time to time appoint a sufficient number of fit men to be borough constables; and the Amending Bill introduced by Miss Wilkinson provided that it should be the duty of Watch Committees to appoint also a sufficient number of fit women to be borough constables. The Women's Freedom League gives its wholehearted support to that provision. Watch Committees now have the power to appoint women police, but, as there are only about 80 women police appointed outside London, it cannot be claimed that Watch Committees throughout the country have used their power to appoint women police. Our own Branches, particularly in Wallasey, Middlesbrough and Brighton, have for years been convinced of the necessity of women police being appointed locally, and for years have persistently agitated in vain for their appointment. They are of opinion, and we also are strongly of the opinion, that Watch Committees should be compelled by law to appoint women constables. We all know that if regulations concerning the health of the community were left to the option of local governing authorities we should not be enjoying most of the decencies of life which we have at present. The Women's Freedom League representative at the above conference was therefore in favour of the Bill being proceeded with. The representative of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship put forward an alternative suggestion, viz., that members should be asked to ballot for a Resolution on the following lines: "That this House notes with regret that only a small minority of local authorities have, as yet, appointed women police, although two Departmental Committees appointed by His Majesty's Government in 1920 and 1924 have declared their employment in large cities to be a matter of urgent need, and that the efficiency of the service has been improved by the employment of policewomen. This House therefore requests the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, whether by issuing Statutory Regulations or by promoting legislation, to make compulsory on Watch Committees the appointment of a sufficient number of Women Police as an integral part of the Police Force."

This Resolution was opposed by the Women's Freedom League representative chiefly because a Resolution passed by the House of Commons is not legislation, and has no binding effect on anyone. Some years ago now a Resolution was passed in the House of Commons that women Civil Servants should have equal pay with men Civil Servants, but Government after Government has refused to carry out that Resolution. More recently still a Resolution was passed in the House of Commons providing that British women who married aliens should have the right to retain their own nationality; but no legislation has been passed giving a

British woman that right. She still automatically loses her British nationality when she marries a foreigner. The House of Commons already expressed itself in favour of compelling Watch Committees to appoint women police, when it granted a First Reading to Miss Wilkinson's Bill. If it passed a Resolution next Session on the lines suggested by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Home Secretary would not be obliged to act upon it. The present Home Secretary is considered to be somewhat favourable to the appointment of women police; but we have noticed that Government Departments are rather in the habit of a policy of non-interference with local governing bodies. When Mr. Fisher was Minister of Education, and urged by women to use his influence to secure equal pay for women and men teachers, he pointed out that he must leave such matters to be settled locally; and unless it is the law of the land, is the present Home Secretary any more likely to seek a conflict with local governing bodies over the appointment of women police? Besides, future Home Secretaries, like a former Home Secretary, Mr. Shortt, may not be at all in favour of women police. Then of what use would be a Resolution passed by the House of Commons on the subject? It seemed to our representative, as it appears to the Women's Freedom League, that legislation on the lines of the Bill introduced last Session by Miss Wilkinson is absolutely necessary.

The discussion at this Conference, however, had a happy ending. Mrs. Alderton, ex-Mayor of Colchester, moved the following resolution:—"That Members be asked to ballot for both Bill and Resolution and that the best available chance be taken." This resolution was seconded by the Women's Freedom League representative and carried by 21 votes to 4.

### MARRIED WOMEN'S INCOME TAX

Correspondence has appeared in *The Times* during the past week drawing attention to the glaring injustice of assessing the incomes of husband and wife jointly for the purpose of Income Tax. The writers point out that this may be regarded either as a tax on married women or a tax on marriage. The unmarried are assessed separately and pay a tax on a lower scale, but immediately they marry their incomes are added together, and on the same earnings they pay jointly a much higher tax. It is pointed out that if a married woman's income is derived from investments from which Income Tax is deducted off the dividends at the source, and from which there may be a substantial rebate, she is held to have no separate existence in the eyes of the law, and the claim can only be made for her by her husband, though he may be at the opposite ends of the earth, or for various reasons be unable to do so. It will be remembered that our former old member and colleague, Mrs. Ayres Purdie, for years gallantly fought against this joint assessment of the incomes of married people. In her view it was contrary to the provisions of the Married Women's Property Act. Mrs. Purdie gave evidence on this subject before the Royal Commission on the Income Tax in 1920, when Mrs. Lilian Knowles, the only woman member of that Commission, issued in conjunction with Mr. J. Walker Clark a reservation to the Commissioners' Report, and urged the separation of the incomes of husband and wife for Income Tax purposes. These two did not agree with their colleagues on the subject of the desirability of continuing to treat the income of husband and wife as one for Income Tax purposes. They said: "We are told by the Inland Revenue that if the separation of incomes were carried out the 'loss' would be twenty million pounds a year. This means that there is a penalisation of marriage to the tune of twenty million pounds every year, because, if these married persons were treated as single persons, they would pay twenty million pounds less"; and they urged that this "loss" should be made up by a fairer basis of taxation.

## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

The Eighth International Labour Conference is to be held in Geneva on the 25th of May, when the chief matter for discussion will be the question of emigration and immigration, and what modifications should be introduced into the system of inspection of emigrants on board ship. It will be seen that this matter is one in which British women have a special interest, and we have written to the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary of State, and the Minister of Labour, urging them to see that a woman is sent to this Conference as a fully accredited delegate. It will be remembered that two years ago Miss Margaret Bondfield was sent to the International Labour Conference at Geneva as a fully accredited delegate, but last year no woman delegate was sent from this country, although among the matters discussed was the Draft Convention on Compensation for Industrial Accidents and for Occupational Diseases. The British delegation last year consisted of two men Government delegates together with eight men advisers; one man delegate representing the employers, together with six men advisers; and one man delegate, together with five men advisers and one woman adviser, Miss Julia Varley, the Secretary to the delegation also being a man, yet the subject discussed at that International Labour Conference touched women and their homes very closely.

At the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations (to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated), held November 30th, 1925, the following resolution was passed unanimously:—"This Council being of opinion that all questions discussed at the International Labour Conferences are of vital importance to women, urges the International Labour Office when convoking the Labour Conferences to make reference to the VIIIth Clause of the Treaty of Versailles, which declares the equality of women with men within the League of Nations; in order that Governments may be reminded of their duty to include women in their delegations."

Earlier in the year Miss d'Alberti, Hon. Secretary to the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, wrote to the International Labour Office at Geneva, suggesting that it might be helpful if, in convoking the Labour Conferences, the Director were to remind Governments of the VIIIth Clause of the Covenant which lays down that men and women are equally eligible to all positions in the League. After the Annual Meeting of the Council she sent the resolution quoted above to Monsieur Albert

Thomas, Director of the International Office, and received from him the following sympathetic reply:—  
League of Nations,  
International Labour Office,  
Genève

DEAR MADAM,

January 5th, 1926.

I have to thank you for your letter of 12th December, 1925, and for the copy of a resolution enclosed therewith on the subject of the representation of women at the International Labour Conference passed at the annual meeting of your Council held on 30th November, 1925.

The Office had not forgotten the undertaking given in the fifth paragraph of the letter it addressed to you on 1st April, 1925, and has recently availed itself of the first suitable opportunity to carry out its promise. In a letter addressed to the Governments of the Members of the Organisation, on 31st December last, dealing with various matters connected with the two Sessions of the Conference to be held in 1926, a special paragraph was inserted on the nomination of women representatives to the Sessions in question. This paragraph, in which specific reference is made to Article 7 of the Treaty of Versailles, is as follows:—

*Nomination of women representatives.*—Further, as the item on the agenda of the Eighth Session may involve the consideration of matters specially affecting women, I venture to remind you of the provision contained in the second paragraph of Article 389 of the Treaty of Versailles, and the corresponding Articles of the other Treaties of Peace, relating to the nomination of women as technical advisers in such cases, and to suggest that this provision may be borne in mind by your Government in the nomination of the delegation to represent your country at the Session in question.

I would add, on the request of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, that Article 7 of the Treaty of Versailles, and the corresponding Articles of the other Treaties of Peace, state that all positions under or in connection with the League of Nations shall be open equally to men and women, and that women are accordingly equally eligible with men for nomination as Delegates or Advisers to Sessions of the International Labour Conference, irrespective of the questions which the Conference is to discuss.

I think this paragraph meets the suggestion made in your Council's resolution, and I trust that it will give you satisfaction.  
Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) ALBERT THOMAS.

## WOMEN AND ECONOMICS.

By EDITH HOLIDAY.

Reading article after article concerning woman, how much she seems to hold the field of interest! The modern phases of her development wring forth abuse, admiration, the uplifting of eyebrows of some, the open hand of fellowship of others. And yet, in the economic field, is justice yet reached? Nay, will it ever be reached? Is the modern girl as knowledgeable as her grandmother? What is the position into which she is forced by the development of the times to be a specialist in an industrial system where specialization is everything, from the typist to the doctor or artist? But that grandmother of ours, wise in all those homecrafts, weaving, spinning, cooking, healing, managing, that necessitated and developed thought, method and an unceasing industry. These have now nearly all been removed, and the mass specialised production of to-day necessitates woman moving away from the work that has always down the ages engrossed her.

Does she, in the new field of paid labour, get a fair deal? To live she must eat, to eat she must earn, as the baker, butcher, landlord or landlady does not

seem disposed to say that owing to your being a woman we will reduce the price. It almost seems as though for equivalent work she should receive equivalent pay. Is this possible? There are so many reasons, causes, and effects immediately apparent that give us pause, but one wonders if the chief cause is not that very characteristic which has been so praised by masculine minds down the centuries, meekness, humility, patience. Are her virtues her handicap in a state where in every direction you see them exploited by those to whom they are unknown?

"The race is to the strong." We all know the remark not now quite so frequent, "A woman's place is her home"; but when one replies to the questioner, would you think it correct if a man is left with a widowed mother and two unmarried sisters that he should support them on a meagre salary, it makes the questioner pause; and even if they would logically follow up their faith in such a belief, what type of woman would it be that would allow it? Being able to work, who would not work, and yet to win our economic equality we must act more largely than we

do. We are so content with the subsistence level—all too satisfied, too individualistic. We must have more unity. We must join together to raise our economic level, organise as we organised for our political equality. Surely we must realise our value. It was not from a craven womanhood that the British race sprung, but from those knowledgeable grandmothers of ours. A stream does not rise higher than its source. It has been pointed out that a nation is no higher than the status of its women.

We are a sporting nation, our men like to "play the game," and one thinks that it will not, perhaps, be a long time before they begin to wonder whether, in the economic field, they are quite playing the game where women are concerned. Equal opportunity is so often and arbitrarily refused; but here again woman must work out her own salvation. If we are content with meagre conditions, small aims, a wage that never admits of any satisfaction of those material aspirations every human being longs for, then who can help us? Nature—wise, profound, inscrutable—is no niggard. She does not deny ability to woman, and where power also dwells, equality naturally results.

### EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

Saturday, February 6th, is the eighth anniversary of the day on which the partial enfranchisement of British women became the law of the land. Since that date the women's cause in this country has made rapid strides; but women have certainly not yet gained equal political rights with men. A man can qualify for a Parliamentary vote on a six months' residential qualification as soon as he reaches the age of twenty-one; but no woman under thirty years of age can exercise this vote, and when she is over thirty she can only do so if she is the owner of the furniture in her room, property, or a husband who is a voter. The immediate fight of the future is for the enfranchisement of women at the same age and on the same terms as men; and every self-respecting woman, whatever her age, class, or creed, should become a fighter in this cause. In a country which believes in representative government, the equal enfranchisement of all its citizens—men and women—is of vital importance, and this reform must be wrested from the Government in power. Of scarcely less importance in a country which has two Houses of Legislature is the eligibility of women for the Upper House; and we are glad to see that the Duchess of Atholl, when speaking at Perth last week, said she could not help expressing her private opinion that the House of Lords would not long be able to keep out qualified women. The equal enfranchisement of women and men and the eligibility of women for the Upper House are reforms which are long overdue, and we must make this Government realise that we expect them to grant these reforms this year.

### WOMEN AND PARLIAMENT.

Parliament reassembles next Tuesday, February 2nd. The Women's Freedom League has written a letter to:—

(1). The PRIME MINISTER, asking him to consider the inclusion in the King's Speech at the reassembling of Parliament of a simple franchise measure granting the parliamentary vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as men.

(2). The PRIME MINISTER, the MINISTER OF LABOUR, and the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, asking that a woman shall be sent as a fully accredited delegate to the International Labour Conference, to be held in Geneva on May 25th.

(3). The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, asking him to consider before his next Budget the question of the separate assessment of the incomes of husbands and wives for the purpose of Income Tax, pointing out that the present joint Assessment of their Incomes is a glaring injustice, and a heavy tax on marriage.

### BOOK REVIEWS.

*Palestine and Pamela.* By E. Buckmaster. (Heffer.) 5s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Lady Buckmaster has written a sprightly and entertaining book; but we may perhaps be allowed to say that for a book of under 200 pages we should have been thankful if the whole had been given to the Holy Land, while "Pamela" had been reserved for another occasion. For we have a shrewd suspicion that she is an imaginary character, inserted for purposes of padding. Lady Buckmaster, in one passage, refers to the Arab women of Jerusalem, "who, like shadows from another world, flit gently through the crowd. . . . It struck me as an outrage that in the 20th century women should be living in such abject submission." A certain Frenchman gives his judgment on Arab women in these words, "No Arab man thinks that women have souls; but they are not unhappy. They lead luxurious lives, doing little, and spending most of their time reclining on couches." On Bethlehem, Jericho, and Nazareth, Lady Buckmaster is especially interesting. She quotes (and she does well to do so) from Mrs. Fawcett's words on Jacob's Well; they are very beautiful. Her account of the Palestine Women's Council will be especially interesting to readers of THE VOTE, and scattered throughout the book are other passages making an appeal to British women.

Lady Buckmaster describes a visit to the Evelina Rothschild Anglo-Jewish School for Girls, where Miss Landau has been headmistress for 25 years, and to the Palestine Women's Council, which exists for the purpose of forming a union of all women social workers. Although women in Palestine have no vote for any legislative measure, the Chief Secretary has intimated to all Government Departments and districts that attention should be given to the suggestions of the Women's Council. In this way women have indirectly a voice in the direction of affairs. The Government consults the Council on all matters dealing especially with women and children, and all women workers may report to the Council as to any matters which they wish to have brought to the notice of any Government Department. It was the Palestine Women's Council which first drew the Government's attention to the necessity of local and Government welfare workers, including the well-being of all female prisoners. Miss Dixon is at present in charge of this welfare work. In 1915, a Social Service Association, intended primarily to deal with prostitution, was started by Mrs. McInnes, wife of the English Bishop of Jerusalem. This Society has been singularly successful, and as a result there are very few houses of ill-fame, or prostitutes, in Jerusalem. The Hadassah Medical Organisation in America finances an Infant Welfare Centre in Jerusalem with a milk clinic. D. M. N.

*Women at Work in the League of Nations.* By D. M. Northcroft. (Page & Pratt.) 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This is the third edition of a pamphlet, the usefulness of which is becoming more evident each year, as more and more women participate in the ever-widening activities of the League of Nations. We note with regret that the number of countries which send women to the Assembly still remains stationary, but are interested to read a biographical account of a new Norwegian woman, Fru Martha Larsen Jahn, who replaced Dr. Bonnevie in the Norwegian Delegation at the Sixth Assembly. A new woman assessor, Mme. Curchod-Secrétan, also replaces the late Mme. Studer-Steinhausen on the Advisory Commission on the Traffic in Women, and the three new women assessors, dealing with the recently constituted section on Child Welfare in the same Commission, are also described. Lists of women attending the Assembly since 1920, and the International Labour Office Conferences since 1919, are among the most valuable features of this handy little book.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

### WHERE TO GO.

#### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

##### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, January 29th, at 8.15 p.m.  
Minerva Club Branch. Conference on "Women's Work in the Home," Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.  
Saturday, January 30th, at 10 a.m.  
National Executive Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C.  
Monday, February 8th, at 3.30 p.m.  
Spring Sale Sub-Committee at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

DARE TO  
BE FREE.

Saturday, April 24th, at 10 a.m.  
Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

##### PROVINCES.

Friday, January 29th, at 3 p.m.  
Ashford Branch. Public Meeting at the Hampsted Street Hall. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Mrs. Kither.  
Monday, February 8th, at 7.30 p.m.  
Middlesbrough Branch. Public Meeting in the Temperance Institute, Woodlands Road. Will all members be present?

##### SCOTLAND.

Monday, February 1st, at 7.30 p.m.  
Dunoon. Social Meeting in the Imperial Hall, Argyll Street. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Councillor Mrs. MacPherson. Music. Refreshments. Collection. All welcome.  
Wednesday, February 3rd, at 7.30 p.m.  
Rothsay. Public Meeting in the Good Templar Hall, Tower Street. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Councillor Miss Arrol. Collection. All welcome.  
Thursday, February 4th.  
Glasgow Branch. Annual Meeting at the Central Halls, Bath Street.  
Friday, February 5th, at 8 p.m.  
Edinburgh Branch. Public Meeting in the Philosophical Rooms, 4, Queen Street. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.

##### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, January 30th, at 3 p.m.  
Saturday Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That the Tendency of Modern Education is to Render Girls Blind to the National Value of the Details of Home Life." Opener: Miss Catherine R. Gordon (formerly Inspector L.C.C.—Education). Opposer: Miss M. Austin Page.  
Monday, February 1st, at 5.45 p.m.  
Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Speaker: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. Subject: "The Relation of Women to the Modern Youth Movement."  
Thursday, February 4th, at 3 p.m.  
St. George's Wesleyan Mission, Cable Street, E.1. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Why Women should use their Municipal and Parliamentary Votes."  
Monday, February 8th, at 8 p.m.  
Theosophical Order of Service, 6, Tavistock Square, W.C.1. Speaker: J. E. Hoare, Esq. (Gen. Sec., Highway Clubs, Shadwell). Subject: "Eoy Life in some Highways and Byways of the East End." Chair: Lt.-Col. Meyler, D.S.O., M.C.  
Thursday, February 11th, at 3 p.m.  
Parents' National Educational Union, 29, Portman Square, W. Speaker: The Rev. A. Herbert Gray, D.D. Subject: "Parents and their Elder Children." Chair: Mrs. Howard Glover.

### "VOTE" CORRECTION.

Commandant Allen, Chief of the Women's Auxiliary Service, writes to correct a statement made in an article on "Women and Aviation," on p. 27 of our issue of January 2nd, to the effect that she has recently invested in a "Moth" aeroplane for use on week-end flights between London and her country cottage at Lympne. She tells us that, though she is taking lessons in flying, she has not yet purchased any sort of machine. We regret that we were misinformed in the first place.

### BRANCH NOTES.

#### HAMPSTEAD.

A meeting of the Branch was held at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3, on Monday, January 18th, Miss Lyndon (Hon. Treasurer of the Branch) presided. Resolutions dealing with organisation, education, and child assault were framed for the Annual Conference on April 23rd. Arrangements were made for the next members' meeting to be held on Friday, March 5th, at 3 p.m., at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3. The subject of an income limit for the tenants of the flats at South End Close (subsidized by the rates) was discussed, and it was decided to send a letter to the Town Clerk, asking that a limit of income should be fixed for the future tenants of the flats.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS E. BERRY, 16, Donning Road, N.W.3.

#### EDINBURGH.

All friends in Edinburgh will have the opportunity of hearing Miss Anna Munro speak in the Philosophical Rooms, 4, Queen Street, at a public meeting which will take place there on Friday, February 5th, at 8 p.m. As a further attraction, Mr. R. Edgar (Edgar Dalton) has very kindly promised to entertain the meeting with his popular display of conjuring tricks, etc. All will be welcome, refreshments provided, and a collection taken to cover expenses. We hope there will be as good an attendance as there was the last time we had the pleasure of listening to Miss Munro in this city. (Org.) LILIAN LENTON.

#### GLASGOW.

On Thursday, February 4th, the annual meeting of the Women's Freedom League will take place in the Central Halls, Bath Street, Glasgow. Branch business will be discussed, and an address given by the Women's Freedom League President, Miss Anna Munro.

#### DUNOON.

On Monday, February 1st, a social meeting will be held in the Imperial Hall, Argyll Street, at 7.30 p.m., at which Miss Anna Munro will be the speaker. Councillor Mrs. MacPherson has very kindly consented to preside, and Miss Gallagher and Miss Campbell to help by giving us musical items. Refreshments will be provided, and a collection taken to cover expenses. All will be welcome. (Org.) LILIAN LENTON.

#### ROTHESAY.

A public meeting will be held in the Good Templar Hall, Tower Street, on Wednesday, February 3rd, at 7.30 p.m. Miss Anna Munro will be the speaker, and we expect that all those who liked her so much in the past will be present to hear her. Miss Arrol, Rothsay's one woman councillor, has very kindly promised to preside. Refreshments will be provided, and a collection taken to cover expenses. (Org.) LILIAN LENTON.

#### WALLASEY.

Nurse McFall addressed the Women's Freedom League at its monthly meeting at the Town Hall, on Tuesday of last week, on "Public Health Ideals." It was the third anniversary of the formation of the Wallasey branch of the League. There was a very good attendance. Nurse McFall dealt with the whole question of public health, from the physical, mental, and moral aspects, in a most interesting manner, illustrating her points with incidents from her personal experience, and the whole address was characterised by that fund of uncommon common sense that has made the lecturer so respected a member of the Wallasey Town Council. Mrs. Francis Williams, B.A., presided. In conclusion, Nurse McFall said she hoped the Women's Freedom League would support with all its might the introduction into Wallasey of women police patrols. She saw in the town daily evidence of the heedlessness of youth, of young people who did not know of the forces they were playing with, and who doubtless in nine cases out of ten were the victims of circumstances. It was the duty of the authorities to do all they could to save these young people from themselves. She believed that, for psychological or temperamental reasons men police often turned a blind eye to such evils. In any case, they could not have the motherly instinct that women police would have. She would also advocate plenty of light everywhere. To do away wherever possible with dark alleyways or dark corners—that would do far more good than increasing the police force six times over. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Rodgers, seconded by Mrs. Green, and heartily accorded. The following resolution has been sent to the Chairman of the Finance Committee of our Council:—"In view of the continued unsatisfactory conditions prevailing on the Promenade and other open spaces in the Borough, we desire you to instruct the Watch Committee to consider and report upon the wisdom of appointing Women Police Patrols."

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. M. M. ANDAIN.

### WOMEN'S WORK IN THE HOME.

Readers of THE VOTE are invited to attend and to take part in the Conference on *Women's Work in the Home*, to be held at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, this Friday (Jan. 29th) evening, at 8.15. The Chair will be taken by MISS ANNA MUNRO (President of the Women's Freedom League), and the Speakers will include COUNCILLOR MRS. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P., who will discuss the possibility of the better arrangement of work in the home—alteration of hours for meals, etc.; MISS HASLETT (Secretary of the Women's Engineering Society), who will urge that women should have better tools for their work; MISS MARIAN BERRY, who has recently returned from Germany, and will give some account of the conditions of the work of the housewife in Germany; and MRS. NORTHCROFT (Assistant Editor of THE VOTE), who insists that boys and men should share with women and girls domestic work. Several women's Societies are sending representatives to this Conference, and, after short speeches by the above-named women, members of the audience will be invited to discuss the subject in three-minute speeches. Admission to this Conference is free, but there will be a Collection for the funds of the Women's Freedom League. Dinner can be obtained beforehand at the Minerva Club.

### TO BRANCH TREASURERS.

Please send me balance sheets for 1925 as quickly as possible. E. KNIGHT.

FRIDAY,  
JAN. 29,  
1926.

# THE VOTE

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## NOTICES.

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**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, January 31st. 3.30 p.m. Music. Lecture. The Rt. Hon. Lord Buckmaster, P.C., K.C.: "The Reform of the Divorce Laws." 6.30 p.m. Miss Maude Royden. "Christianity and Divorce."

**P**UBLIC SPEAKING AND CHAIRMANSHIP. Classes, Private Lessons and Lectures, also Saturday Speech Club. New term now beginning.—Miss LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

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