

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1928

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

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MISS DOROTHY F. WILSON, B.LITT.

ASSISTANT MINISTER AT CARR'S-LANE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Carr's-Lane Church, one of the foremost Congregational churches in this country, whose former ministers include Dr. Dale and Dr. J. H. Jowett, has made a new departure in the appointment of Miss Wilson as assistant minister. Miss Wilson is being ordained this week, and the Women's Freedom League sends her its heartiest good wishes for the success of the work which she has undertaken.

Miss Wilson received her early training at Westhill College, of which another former student, Miss Margaret Hardy, was ordained recently. After training in religious educational work at this college, she was appointed organising secretary to the Presbyterian Sunday School Council, and later Young People's Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England. She was afterwards, for some months, preaching assistant at Crosby Congregational Church, near Liverpool. In 1924, Miss Wilson entered Mansfield College, Oxford, and went through the theological course there, under Principal W. B. Selbie, D.D. She took the Oxford diploma in theology with distinction, and at the end of her third year obtained the degree of B.Litt. for a thesis on "Child Psychology and Religious Education." The Rev. Sidney Berry, secretary to the Congregational Union, describes Miss Wilson as a very highly qualified student. While working in conjunction with the minister of the church, the Rev. Leyton Richards,

she will take special charge of the educational side of the work there among young people.

Other women ministers in the Free Churches include Miss Violet Hedger, pastor of Littleover Baptist Chapel, near Derby; the Rev. Mrs. E. E. Pickles, B.A., minister of the Congregational Chapel, Stanley, Liverpool; and the Rev. Mrs. Collman, who is co-minister with her husband at an Oxford Congregational Church, and whose delightful address to us some years ago in the Minerva Café on "Women in the Ministry" we remember with great pleasure. Another woman minister—we believe the first Free Church woman minister in this country—who has also spoken to us on this subject, is the Rev. Hatty Baker.

The question of the desirability of the ordination of women ministers has recently been discussed in many countries—by the United Free Church in Scotland and by the United Church in Canada. Churches in Germany are still considering it, some of them only being in favour of women presiding over Biblical studies, making themselves useful in the parish, and undertaking



DOROTHY F. WILSON, B.LITT.

work on behalf of women in prisons and hospitals! The Reformed Church at Mulhausen (Alsace), however, has appointed a young woman of 23 as curate of the parish Saint-Etienne, who will, besides religious and social work, preach in the big church of Saint-Etienne.

WHO SHALL DECIDE?

By R. M. EWEN.

"Should married women go to business?" asked a friend of mine. I replied that they should not if they did not want to. Neither should a married man stay at home and run the house and attend to the children unless he particularly wanted to.

My friend remarked that he wished I would be serious. Now, earnestly, I meant what I said. No one tells the husband that he ought not to stay at home and nurse the children and wash the floor and so on, but should mother click the typewriter keys or take up an agency, folk on every side begin asking whether she ought to be allowed to do these things.

The other day, Miss Jones married Mr. Brown, but she still goes to business, and don't the neighbours talk! They say it is disgusting for a married woman to go to business while single girls cannot get work. To-day I see in the paper that Miss Johnson is going to marry Mr. Smythe. Miss Johnson is the daughter of a well-known shipbuilder, and Mr. Smythe is on the staff of the firm. I have not heard that he has given notice. Neither have I heard that he is expected to live on his wife's income, as otherwise he will be doing another poor chap out of a job.

I wonder whether anybody does really think we women are emancipated. "Should married women go to work?" Who, indeed, will tell us what we should do? Shall we listen to the voice of men who seem to live in fear of losing their predominance, or shall we listen to our unmarried sisters? Can they tell us better than we know ourselves whether we can manage a home and business, too, or shall we be treated like reasonable adults and be left to decide for ourselves?

Because woman, like man, gives way to a natural desire to get married, a certain section of society think that by so doing she forfeits her right to any further choice as to how she shall spend the remainder of her life. Are women expected to treat their home like a convent? Are they expected to allow home life to hem them in from the outside world? Having to bear children because the opposite sex will not oblige, must they also forfeit their right to a career and independence if they desire it?

The vast majority of men are only too willing to place all family and home responsibility on the woman's shoulders, but when she takes the responsibility of disposing of her own services as she pleases, they question her right to do so.

The psychologists tell us that repressions are at the root of many evils. If women do not get married and have children, their character and health usually suffer. At the same time, it will be detrimental to the whole family if the mother who prefers her former career to that of attending to children is forced through conventions to abstain from continuing the career of her choice. Surely many will see that this must often happen, and that for the children's sake alone it would be better if someone who was really fond of rearing children should have charge of them while the mother follows her calling.

First, I have mentioned the "Two incomes question" that is often brought forward. Secondly, the children have been taken into consideration, and, I fear, disposed of in a way that will not satisfy the good, kind, but illusioned souls who still fancy that all mothers love bathing babies.

Next, we must consider the home. Does the wife who goes out to business spoil home life? My opinion is that if both the husband and wife have been away from home all day, they will feel more inclined to remain at home in the evenings and during holidays, whereas if the wife has not been out at all, she is likely to be in a hurry to leave her four walls. The husband may wish to stay at home and enjoy the seclusion of his fireside. To him it is a relaxation. These diverse interests, I fear, must cause as much if not more trouble in the home than a wife's independence.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman High Sheriff of Belfast.

Mrs. McMordie has been appointed as High Sheriff of Belfast. She is the first woman to hold this office in Belfast.

Wigs.

The *Daily Chronicle* asserts that, during all the years in which men lawyers have worn wigs, it has never occurred to them to have them washed; also that, although it is only five years since a woman became a barrister, the practice of washing wigs is already established.

International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

The above Alliance (to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated) will hold its next Congress in Berlin, in 1929. It will then commemorate the 25th anniversary of its official formation in Berlin, 1904.

Woman Lawyer's Success in Denmark.

The *Bulletin* (International Council of Women) reports that, for the first time in the history of the University of Copenhagen, a woman lawyer has been awarded the Gold Medal for the best legal thesis. The successful candidate was Fröken Karen Johnsen, whose work on the development of the law of property in Denmark was preferred above that of a number of male candidates.

International Understanding.

Maude Royden's name is identified with a Travelling Exhibition offered this year to a student of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Maude Royden and the late Gertrude Bell are distinguished old students of Lady Margaret Hall. Their interests and work have gone far beyond the bounds of their own country, and Mme. André Rieder, the donor of the Exhibition, is well known for her wide international interests. The lucky recipient is Miss Phyllis B. Turner, who took her degree in the Final Honour School of Modern History last August. She will investigate the part played by the Municipalities in the economic recovery of Germany.

Woman Patentee.

Mrs. Mary Turnbull, the wife of a miner living at Low Valley, Wombwell, has applied for patent rights for a new type of miner's motty, which she has invented. The *Westminster Gazette* explains that a motty is a metal token by which tubs of coal are identified and credited to miners when they reach the surface.

Mrs. Philip Snowden on Films Act Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Philip Snowden and 12 men have been appointed to the Board of Trade's Committee for the purpose of advising them on the administration of the recent Kinematograph Films Act.

Woman Stationmaster.

The *Times* reports that last Monday Miss Margaret Cochrane succeeded her father, who has completed 48 years' service as stationmaster at Eddleston, Peeblesshire.

At Last!

Although many women have been, in fact, partners in their father's or their husband's business, it is very seldom that the fact has been legally appreciated. A firm of fishmongers, poulterers, and fruiterers in Caterham has just been registered as H. Marment & Daughter, Ltd. Mr. H. Marment, of Ascot, says that during the war his daughter, Amy F. Marment, kept the business open, and he wished to give her an interest in it by inclusion in the title. Other fathers might give the same acknowledgment.

First Woman Flying Champion.

The International League of Aviators has awarded the first title of champion to Colonel Lindbergh among men, and Lady Bailey among women. While regretting the division of sex, we congratulate Lady Bailey.

"FEMINISM IN THE HOLY LAND."

The National Women's Trade Union League of America has sent us the January number of their paper *Life and Labor Bulletin*, calling our attention to an article, "Feminism in the Holy Land," by Lillian Herstein. In this is described the activities of women members of the Palestine Federation of Labor, mainly the Jewish working women. The writer first tells how the Jewish woman, emigrating to Palestine, brought, "with her intense Jewish nationalism, a thoroughgoing feminism. . . . She demanded absolute equality, and asked no special privileges." She found a very different position among the Arab women in Palestine, but "into this historic atmosphere of feminine servility came the Jewish feminist." A very interesting description is given of the determination of these incoming Jews to "return to the soil," in which girls and women participate keenly. There are seven co-operative agricultural colonies for girls, each girl cultivating about 1½ acres. "Training is given in bee-culture, horticulture, and dairying. Students are enrolled for two years. Qualified women agriculturists are in complete charge of the colonies, and carry the entire responsibility for administration as well as for teaching." When they have "graduated" the girls pass on to work in the permanent agricultural colonies. The work in the training colonies is run in rotation, thus obliging all the girls to take their share of the much disliked household work. One outstanding woman housekeeper has, however, proved to her reluctant companions that good housekeeping is as skilled and as interesting a job as any other work, so all now share it in rotation.

In the permanent colonies a remarkable success has been achieved in the method of combining motherhood, care of children, outside work, and happiness. There is an entirely separate children's section. The mothers come there at proper intervals to nurse their infants and return to their work in the fields. Schools and nurseries are in charge of trained women, selected for their abilities in child welfare and education, and not because they are women. "The children sleep at home and spend their evenings with their parents in comradely fashion." The mothers smile when it is suggested that home life is thus destroyed. "No life, she insists, is as free as hers; no relationship between parents and children as ideal." "We do not nag our children all day, as women so often do who have not the aptitude for the rearing of children. In the evening, after the day's work, after the day's schooling, we visit with our children, read, or romp with them. We are comrades, and we lose nothing of the finer associations which belong to the home."

Industrial training is also provided in the cities, about 4,000 women being industrially employed.

When the organisation of the Jews as a political unit was in process, the women found themselves likely to be excluded owing to the existing Turkish and Jewish laws. A great struggle followed, in which the old plea was made to the women: "in the interests of national unity, the women were urged to postpone their fight for the ballot." Support was won for them, and, "as a result, the modern civil Jewish law which was forged in this battle gives the women the same political rights as the men." "Absolute equality between men and women in all fields has, of course, not been achieved. Theoretically, the labor movement recognises no difference between the sexes, but men have had for many years advantages and traditions which work in their favour." In her concluding words, Miss Herstein betrays that she, like so many others, puts her Party first (in her case, the Zionist Labour Party), and feminism second. She ends thus: "The Palestinian working women are realistic. They smile knowingly when asked about absolute equal rights. They know they have not achieved equality, but they trust their own ability to work with the men for the realisation of Zionism, and not to lose sight of the ultimate destiny of women in the new social order."

In Memoriam.

JUSON KERR.—On January 11th, 1928, at Bradfield, Upper Walmer, Kent, from bronchitis, Emily Juson Kerr, J.P., wife of the late Mr. Richard Juson Kerr. It is with the deepest sorrow that we print the above announcement of the unexpected death of our gallant colleague. We hope to give a portrait sketch next week.

EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FROM THE PRINTING TRADE.

The Joint Industrial Council for the Printing and Allied Trades have adopted a Report, to quote the *Daily Herald*, "embodying a series of proposals on organisation and administration designed to promote efficiency and harmonious working in the industry." The Report came from a "Betterment Committee" which has been sitting for some time, and urged "that there should be mutual agreement and hearty co-operation in trying to carry out any suggestions." Then follow eight main suggestions covering employment and unemployment, and a member of the Betterment Committee "stated that the questions had been discussed in the most frank and open manner, and a most friendly atmosphere had obtained throughout the meetings."

Not one word, in all this harmony, frankness, openness, etc., of the women refused entry into the composing room and other better-paid branches of this industry—arbitrarily refused solely because they are women. Does the Labour Party consider this exclusion among its many proposals and plans for the "protection" of women?

BAR EXAMINATIONS.

The following women have been successful in the general examination of students of the Inns of Court, conducted by the Council of Legal Education last December. The letters M.T., I.T., L.I., and G.I. denote Middle Temple, Inner Temple, Lincoln's Inn and Gray's Inn.

Roman Law.—Class II: Alix Hester Marie Kilroy, L.I.; Phyllis Mabel Martin, G.I.; Sybil Gertrude Overton, G.I.; Cecilia Lucy Cavendish Wolseley, G.I.

Class III: Nora Burke-Bloor, G.I.; Edith Vera Cohen L.I.; Dorothy Johnson, M.T.; Gertrude Margaret Stewart Simey, I.T.

Constitutional Law and Legal History.—Class III: The Hon. Sylvia Fletcher-Moulton, M.T.; Dorothy Rae Lever, M.T.; Gertrude Margaret Stewart Simey, I.T.; Ruth Elizabeth Sophia Thompson, I.T.

Criminal Law and Procedure.—Class III: Alice Grace Jenny Bragg, L.I.; Ruth Epstein, M.T.; Gertrude Margaret Stewart Simey, I.T.

Real Property and Conveyancing.—Class II: Jessie Edson Hendrick, M.T.; Katherine Mumford Hendrick, M.T.; Enid Mary Russell Russell-Smith, L.I. Class III: Lucy See, I.T.; Harriet Elizabeth Vaizey, I.T.

Final Examination.—Class II: Mary Josephine Clark, M.T.; Dorothy Scott Stokes, G.I. Class III: Margery Kate Pearson Willison, I.T.

OUR PROPHETIC PRESS.

To feminists, there is something very gratifying in the unanimity at present displayed by the British Press in the matter of Equal Franchise. Now, a few weeks before Parliament assembles, when Cabinet meetings have begun, is the time for our prescient Press to tell us what the Government plans are for the new Session. And it is here that one finds complete unanimity that the first of the Government's plans is to carry through a measure giving women the franchise on the same terms as men. Some do not like it, and continue to bleat about "flappers," predicting the downfall of the Government as a probable consequence; others do not like it, but resign themselves to the inevitable; others are bored, and also resigned; others hasten to put themselves on the winning side and acclaim; all agree that the Government is pledged, and can comfortably carry out its pledges.

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To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

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Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.
EDITORIAL.

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

PRISON COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

The Report just issued by the Prison Commissioners for the year 1926 is smaller than usual, but this may be partly explained by the fact that the other Annual Reports have been dated from April 1st to March 31st, that the last Report (which we reviewed in THE VOTE on April 8th last) was in respect of the twelve months ended March, 1926, and that the Report now submitted covers the twelve months ended December 31st, 1926. The present Report gives no extracts from Annual Reports of Governors, Chaplains, and Medical Officers of the various prisons, the subject matter of which filled nearly nine closely printed pages in the 1925-26 Report. We are told that, in the last nine months of the year 1926, progress was made along lines indicated in previous Reports in regard to the Commissioners' policy in the development of the prison system, but that there were no special changes calling for comment in the present Report. During the year 1926, 37,237 men and 8,012 women were convicted and sent to prison, the daily average population of our prisons being 10,860. In the Borstal Institutions there were 1,164 lads and 67 girls.

There is a dreary paragraph under the heading "Recidivism," from which we learn that 23,786 of the 37,237 men sentenced, and 7,000 out of 8,012 women had been previously convicted; that 13,558 men and 2,246 women had been previously convicted one to five times; and that 2,945 men and 2,978 women had been previously convicted more than 20 times. With regard to girl offenders (exclusive of Borstal cases), we are told that 178 were sent to prison, compared with 199 the previous year—6 at 16 years of age, 20 at 17, 33 at 18, 52 at 19, and 67 at 20. Of these, 46 had been previously convicted once; 12 twice; 8 three times; 6 four times; 4 five times; 7 six to ten times; and 1 eleven to twenty times. Their chief offences were prostitution, larcenies, drunkenness, begging, breach of police regulations; and their sentences ranged from seven days or less to 12 months. We are not told in this Report for what specific offences lads and girls were committed to Borstal Institutions, of which there are five for boys and one for girls. The Commissioners report the urgent need for a new Borstal Institution for boys, because "a large part of the success of the Borstal system has been due to the individual attention given to the lads by the heads of the Institutions; to the corporate spirit created in each Institution; and to the arrangements for active and interesting employment. All these methods become less effective if the numbers are too large."

Interesting reports are included from the Medical Commissioner on the health of inmates of local prisons, Borstal Institutions, and Convict and Preventive Detention Prisons, as well as of Mentally Defective Prisoners, "not certifiable either as insane or under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913." There is also a report of the Administrative Inspectors, giving the number of times—either once or twice during the year—that they have visited the different prisons. The Appendix gives a list of Educational Advisers to Governors of Local Prisons, consisting of 31 men and

three women—Miss Ethel M. Barke, M.A., Lecturer, University College, Cardiff; Miss E. N. Heath; and Miss Parry, Liverpool University. No other women's names are mentioned in the Commissioners' Report. Once again we draw attention to the fact that there are no women on the Prison Commission; that there is still a man Governor at Holloway Prison, the prisoners at which are all women; and that there are no women inspectors (medical or otherwise) of prisons. In reading this Report, one is very conscious of the determination of those in authority to keep the whole of the control and administration of our prison system entirely in the hands of the small group of men who have been always hitherto responsible for it, and to exclude women from sharing in this control and administration. Yet, surely, the recidivism among women prisoners is a very damaging indictment of the system controlled by these men! This Report can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2, price 9d., and we recommend our readers to study it for themselves.

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

In another column we publish a list of women who have been adopted as candidates for the forthcoming elections in March, and in the next few weeks we hope to add others to the list. In the meantime, we shall be sending the following questions to all candidates, men and women:—

Will you, if elected,

(1) Do all in your power to secure that women and men employed by the London County Council shall have equal treatment in regard to opportunities and payment?

(2) Work actively for the rescinding of the Council's resolution, which requires its women employees to resign their positions on marriage?

(3) Press for the employment of women police or women park-keepers by the Council in all its parks and open spaces?

(4) Urge the London County Council to provide and run lodging-houses for women on the same lines as the lodging-houses which they run for men?

We rely upon our readers to help us to get these questions not only before the candidates, but also before the electorate. It is essential that the electors should understand our demand for the equal treatment of women and men in regard to opportunities and remuneration. We want to see all posts under the Council open to men and women alike—the ratepayers have a right to expect the members elected by them to choose the best person for the vacant position, irrespective of the sex of that person and irrespective also of the fact whether that person is married or single. The question, too, of the patrolling of parks and open spaces is an urgent one. Women police ought to be on duty on Clapham Common, Wandsworth Common, in Battersea Park, Brockwell Park, Finsbury Park, and Victoria Park, all of which come under the jurisdiction of the London County Council. If the Home Office will not provide women police, then the Council should appoint its own women officials to patrol these parks and commons. Mrs. Cecil Chesterton is dealing valiantly with the question of lodging-houses for women, but why should this matter be left to private initiative? The Council provides well-equipped common lodging-houses for men. Why should not the ratepayers' money provide decent accommodation also for homeless women? Women as well as men pay rates under the London County Council, and women have a right to claim that the money spent by the Council should be in the interests of both men and women.

The sundry, mysterious, ill-defined and uncontrollable reasons against extending to women these municipal common lodging-houses, so possible, useful, and necessary for men, never struck us as having any force, and now that, in Cecil Houses, the usual successful concrete example has been held up by private individuals before the eye of the public, there is no further excuse for officialism in delaying this sorely needed reform.

THE STREET OFFENCES COMMITTEE.

The Street Offences Committee sat on Friday, January 13th, and the morning of Saturday, January 14th. The first witness on Friday was Mr. Shortt, Deputy-Chairman of the Justices in Birmingham, who spoke from 50 years' experience of the streets in the centre of Birmingham. He told the Committee that the number of charges for soliciting had declined from 539 in 1908 to 167 in 1926, and he gave four possible causes—improved police methods, earlier closing of public houses, better street lighting, and cautions by women patrols. He added that there could be no doubt the number of women soliciting in the streets was less, but he was doubtful whether they had ceased or worked in other ways. The professional prostitute was certainly rarer. Asked whether he preferred the retention of the classification of "common prostitute," he said yes, but agreed that there was some risk of injustice incurring in its retention. He declared himself as much concerned in the reformatory or rescue side of the matter, and the classification of common prostitute, and the power to sentence as such give opportunity to the Bench to give reformatory sentences. He then described the method of the Birmingham police, who are instructed not to do more than caution a woman until she has been seen to solicit for the third time, when they arrest her after hearing, in her presence, from the man solicited, what she had said to him. No evidence of annoyance or obstruction was taken, the former being inferred from the fact of solicitation. This method formed a perfect safeguard against an innocent woman being arrested. In Birmingham, they had women patrols, under police control, but Mr. Shortt did not know whether they had power of arrest. They were valuable, working in plain clothes, in preventing young women from falling into bad ways. Mr. McMillan, the Chairman of the Committee, here commented that the work of the patrols seemed more social than judicial.

Mr. Shortt, continuing, said they had very few cases of men soliciting women; he had never thought of men inviting women to drive in their car as a form of solicitation. In cases of indecency in the street, the man was fined, but the woman was sent to prison, her classification of common prostitute enabling this to be done. He was against higher fines, as the woman had to earn the money probably by renewed prostitution, and would like to have a system of detention with reformatory conditions. The Bishop of Durham drew Mr. Shortt's notice to his expressed wish for equality of penalty between men and women, but pointed out that there could not be equality, as the woman was carrying on a trade for profit, the man was a moral transgressor. Mr. Shortt still held that there should be equality of penalty, but was in favour of retaining the classification of common prostitute, although admitting that thus inequality was inevitable. The retention helped to keep the streets cleaner and more decent, and safeguarded other women. In answer to Mrs. Morrison Millar, he said that, in the case of a man soliciting a woman, the woman would have to come to the Court. To further questions by other members of the Committee, Mr. Shortt said that drink was a great cause of prostitution; that he would delete "annoyance" and "obstruction" from the section, and make "solicitation for immoral purposes" an offence carrying a cumulative sentence of detention up to six months. He agreed that six months was a terrible penalty for what was a moral rather than a criminal offence, but he would regard it not as a punishment but as an attempt to save. If the offender was not subject to reform, she must be subject to detention; one month gave no time for the prison discipline to be effective.

The next witness was Mr. Pugh, the prosecuting solicitor for Birmingham City police. He neither knew the number of women patrols, nor whether they were

sworn in. He would depend always on the police evidence that a woman was a common prostitute, as would also the magistrates. He agreed that evidence as to "annoyance" and "obstruction" was deduced and the words were useless. He wanted fines increased to £10, with an alternative up to three months' hard labour. He was of opinion that very few sentences proved deterrent; that statements of bribery of the police were falsehoods, and that men impersonated police officers, finding the game well worth it, as the penalty was only £10. He said he would always insist on the appearance in Court of a woman molested by a man.

The next witness was Mr. Robert Bell, Clerk of the Court in Manchester. He thought no harm was done by the retention of the classification of common prostitute; no prejudice would be induced by its use to a stipendiary, the lay mind only would be prejudiced. He agreed with the Chairman that solicitation by a man was as grave an offence and should be dealt with under an explicit section. He was in favour of deleting "annoyance" and "obstruction," and retaining the classification of common prostitute, which, he repeated, did no harm. Pressed as to his meaning, he said it made prosecution and conviction easier. He gave figures of solicitation by common prostitutes as 1,299 in 1911, of which 395 were dismissed, and 148 in 1927. He believed motor traffic took the offence out of towns into other areas.

The next witness was Mr. Maxwell, Chief Constable of the City of Manchester. He had four police-women, not sworn in; one worked in plain clothes, the others in uniform. They were only used to try to warn and to save young girls. Miss Fry asked why it was necessary to have the woman who was solicited and not the man. He replied, because the magistrates insisted. He was of opinion that there was a considerable amount of solicitation by men in motors, but there was no section which dealt with such as an offence.

On Saturday, the first witness was Mr. Deacon, Stipendiary Magistrate of Liverpool. He gave the number of common prostitutes arrested for solicitation or for indecent conduct as 1,772 in 1907, and 316 in 1927, but, like all other witnesses, was not clear as to any one cause, suggesting early closing, transfer elsewhere, improved supervision, and, possibly, some slight moral improvement. In answer to Miss Fry, he said the same offence by a common prostitute should be dealt with more severely than by another woman. He said that when a woman was introduced to the Court not as a common prostitute, her case would be examined more carefully, but that the use of the label would not prejudice the Bench. He said there was no bribery of the police, but magistrates were always on the look-out for it. Differing from Manchester, the Liverpool Bench required proof of visible annoyance. He was not in favour of making solicitation by itself an offence. He agreed there might be solicitation by men from motors, but had not had his attention drawn to it. He agreed with Miss Fry that it was no use only considering the supply, and that the demand should be dealt with also.

Mr. Everitt, Chief Constable of Liverpool, said there were four women patrols, not under his control, but belonging to a voluntary organisation, who were employed in rescue work. He described a case of a man persistently soliciting two women who declined to appear in Court; therefore the police were helpless. He agreed that the law was inadequate for dealing with such cases. In Liverpool no evidence of annoyance was required, such being deduced from solicitation. He expressed the opinion that the old type of professional prostitute was disappearing and that many flighty girls solicited men, had a good time and all they could get out of them, without having actual immoral intercourse.

FRIDAY,
JAN. 20,
1928.

THE VOTE

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