

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1928

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

JESSIE STEPHEN.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

PROFESSIONAL WIFEHOOD. By Mrs. E. Ayrton Zangwill.

YOUNG OFFENDERS.

THE CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN. By Lilian Lenton.

MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS' CONTROVERSY.

THE DUTIES OF THE POLICE.

"SPOILT DARLING OF THE LAW"! By Mrs. Margaret Wynne Nevinson, J.P.

XL.—WHEN I AM M.P.

JESSIE STEPHEN, Prospective Labour Candidate for South Portsmouth.

What one would like to do, and what it is possible to do when one attains the dignity of attaching M.P. to the end of one's name, are two very different propositions. In the first place, the political party to which one is attached expects loyal support for its programme irrespective of personal preferences along certain lines, and to this it is perfectly entitled.

There is one problem for which I should love the honour of finding a solution through Parliament, namely, the domestic servant question. Ever since I was seventeen years of age, I have been actively associated with every attempt which has been made to improve the status and conditions of the domestic worker, and in some measure my labours have been crowned with success, though not sufficiently to encourage me to rest on my oars.

Take, for example, the fact that both maids and mistresses alike have to pay extortionate fees for the privilege of being brought together. I do not see why unemployed girls should mortgage the best part of a month's wages because they seek another place. For that matter, I see no justice in fining the employer because she wants another maid.

Domestic servants working in private homes do not come within the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, which is unjust. If we are to have unemployment payments, they should apply to all workers, irrespective of the trade or profession in

which they are employed. What is more, there are now so many domestic servants to be enfranchised that they will probably expect the politicians to do something for them in this direction in return for their support at the polls. Why not?

Legislation to redress the many grievances of this class of worker interests me greatly, and is one of the things to which I pledged myself very early in life.

My experience of local government work has also shown me the crying need for more and more money to be expended on maternity and child welfare work. Thousands of working class mothers never get a chance. Their lives are one long, unavailing struggle against terrible odds. Family incomes would be a boon to such women. At least they would have something of their very own to expend as they thought wisest in the interests of themselves and their children. This would be in addition to the ameliorative work done by the municipal centres at the present time. It is false economy to starve the social services. That is not the way an Aryan nation is reared.

There is plenty of slushy sentiment spoken and written about the preservation of our mothers and their babies, but if the politicians have their way it seems precious little will be done to implement the fine promises they make when they want the votes of these same mothers.



MISS STEPHEN.

It appears that £7,000,000 spent on a battleship which will be obsolete in another four or five years is wiser expenditure than half that amount if laid out on the prevention of a high death-rate among mothers in childbirth. I cannot see the logic of that, but then,

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The Admiral of the Port.

Alderman Mrs. L. M. Welch (Mayor of Southampton) and her daughter, Mrs. D. M. Paton (the Lady Mayoress) are sailing on the "Leviathan," of the United States fleet, as the guests of the company, on an official visit to New York—the first of its kind. As Mayor of Southampton, Mrs. Welch holds the title of Admiral of the Port of Southampton, and she is entitled to a full Admiral's salute, both at Southampton and New York. Her flag will fly at the foremast of the "Leviathan." When they arrive at New York they will be received by the Mayor, and will afterwards visit several cities of the United States.

Miss Monica Whately and St. Albans.

Miss Monica Whately, member of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, has been unanimously adopted as prospective Parliamentary Labour candidate for the St. Alban's Division of Hertfordshire. We send our best wishes for success to Miss Whately, whom we have known for years as a suffrage worker and sound feminist. The present Member for St. Albans is Lt.-Col. Fremantle.

Mrs. Laura Knight's Success.

Among the winners of the Olympic Art Competition at Amsterdam, was Mrs. Laura Knight, A.R.A. (of Great Britain) who won the second prize for painting.

Scarborough's Woman Housing-Manager.

Miss N. Bullows, B.A., of Stockton-on-Tees, has been appointed as Housing-Manager by the Scarborough Town Council, on the recommendation of its Public Health Committee. This appointment is worth £250 a year, rising to £300. Another woman Housing-Manager has also been appointed.

A Woman Colliery Director.

The Hon. Elaine Jenkins, who studied the workings of collieries and railways under her father, the late Lord Glentawe, of Swansea, is the director of several concerns of great national importance, and controls thousands of employees.

Turkish Women and Aviation.

The *Daily Mail* reports that two Turkish women applied to the School of Aviation at Angora to become pilots. As, however, the school is exclusively military, they were refused admission.

Woman's Success in the Hindu University.

Stri Dharma reports that Miss Bina Ghosh, of Benares, in the recent M.A. examination, not only passed in the First Division, but secured the highest degree in the University. Her subject was mathematics, and she will now study further for the D.Sc.

I suppose, few women can. At any rate, I can say in a sentence—I shall work for a complete change in the way we approach those problems which affect so intimately the life of the woman in the home. If we help her, we help the men folk, too.

Committee on Child Marriage.

So far, only two members have been nominated for the Committee to be appointed by the Government to investigate public opinion in India on the question of child marriage—Dr. Beadon, a woman doctor, and Mr. A. Ramasevami Mudaliars, of Madras.

Englishwomen in Russia.

A delegation, consisting of sixteen women representing women's unions, and thirty-seven Englishwomen workers, have arrived in Moscow from Leningrad, along with a delegation of the English Tailors' Union.

OLYMPIC GAMES.

UNION JACK TWICE HOISTED FOR MISS COOPER.

Great Britain's women competitors in the Olympic swimming contest have done their country credit. In Heat 1 of the 100 Metres Back-stroke, Miss E. King was first. Her time, 1 min. 22 sec., beat the previous Olympic record and equalled the world record. Miss J. Cooper gained the second place in Heat 3. Both Miss King and Miss Cooper fulfilled their promise by gaining second and third places in the Final, which was won by the 16-year-old Mlle. Braun, of Holland. Miss Cooper and Miss King followed the victor closely all the way. Miss Cooper also gained third place in the 100 Metres Free Style Final; thus the Union Jack went up for her twice.

In the 400 Metres Relay Semi-Final, Great Britain was first. Our team, which comprised Miss J. Cooper, Miss V. Tanner, Miss S. Stewart, and Miss E. King, won by a yard and a half in 5 min. 16 3/5 sec. In the Final, the palm was wrested from us by the United States in 4 min. 47 3/5 sec.—an Olympic record. Great Britain was second in 5 min. 2 4/5 sec.

Mlle. Braun, who won Heat 2 of the 100 Metres Back-stroke in 1 min. 21 3/5 sec., created a new world record.

The 200 Metres Breast-stroke was won by Fräulein Schrader by a yard, in 3 min. 12 3/5 sec. Mlle. Baron, of Holland, was second.

In Gymnastics, the team of British women gymnasts gained third place. Holland was first and Italy second.

GENERAL HERTZOG & WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE

The Press reports that General Hertzog, the South African Prime Minister, when addressing a meeting of women at Heilbron, promised personally to bring in a Bill to enfranchise European women in 1930. He said he would draft it himself, as he wanted the Bill to be a decent one, and added that he could not promise that anybody but himself would vote for it. He would leave his followers to vote as they liked.

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Dr. MARION PHILLIPS, August 10, 1928; Mrs. C. D. RACKHAM, J.P., M.A., June 15, 1928; Miss ENID LAPTHORN, June 1, 1928; Miss H. M. KEYNES, May 25, 1928; Mrs. HAMILTON, February 17, 1928; Miss F. B. WIDDOWSON, January 6, 1928; Mrs. TOWNSEND, September 16, 1927; Mrs. MASSINGHAM, August 19, 1927; Miss RUBY PART, June 3, 1927; Miss ELEANOR STEWART, May 13, 1927; Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, April 29, 1927; Mrs. PANKHURST, February 25, 1927; Miss MONICA WHATELEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDS, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NESBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

PROFESSIONAL WIFEHOOD.

By MRS. E. AYRTON ZANGWILL.

It is a curious fact that when woman is considered only from the aspect of sex, she should fail so signally in the solitary function allowed to her. The thought occurred to me on looking at some tables of vital statistics during a recent visit to Palestine. In the Moslem world, as is well known, the female sex exists for the perpetuation and pleasure of the male sex. Yet in 1926, the babies of the Arab women in Palestine died to the number of 172 per thousand, while the babies of the Jewish women only died to the number of 108 per thousand.

It is true that although the infant mortality rate is so high among these Moslems, their birth-rate is correspondingly high. Arab women fail in the rearing of children, not in the bearing of them. But although, in this way, the race is maintained quantitatively, it is not maintained qualitatively. As all eugenicists point out, the belief that a high juvenile death-rate "weeds out the unfit" is a complete fallacy. For if it does, to a certain extent, perform this task, it also turns the fit into weeds. The net result is a weakening, and not a strengthening, of the race.

Moreover the system of many births and many deaths directly opposes the second half of female function among Mohammedans, the pleasuring of the male. No man can be pleased when his wife bears and loses a long series of sickly infants. The Arab is often a tender father; it must often form a direct and poignant grief. Further, even a Western man does not like his wife becoming worn-out and unattractive. If this happens when the wife is, in years, still quite young, and when beauty and sex-attraction are her only qualities, then it must be singularly unpleasant.

It may be said that the Arab has a remedy to hand; he can take another and unused wife. The law of Mohammed may allow it, but the law of Nature doesn't. Unless you practise polyandry, and this is not permitted to the Moslem, polygamy must remain the exception, for the simple reason that more boys are born than girls. Polygamy is a luxury of the rich, like diamonds, or a racing-stable. The ordinary man must content himself with a single wife.

There is still another reason why, I should imagine, the Mohammedan treatment of women would not conduce to male happiness, and that is the anxiety it involves. To possess a wife who has to be guarded, in a harem if you can afford it, or behind a veil if you can't, must necessitate constant worry. The husband's situation can only be compared with that of the wearer of a hundred thousand pound necklace; but, at least, the necklace can be insured. Or is there in the Moslem world an insurance to meet the case of stolen wives?

So far one has been considering the status of a Mohammedan wife from the point of view of a husband. But what of the woman herself? Her position must be still more unpleasant. Never to see the beautiful, outside world unless darkened by a veil; never to feel the fresh air of the heath except through stuffy gauze. Of course, the women get used to it. They even cling to the face-covering. That seems the saddest thing of all.

Sometimes, no doubt, the feeling of tragedy gives way to one of comedy. This was the case one day when I was motoring along an unfrequented road from

FRENCHWOMEN GAIN A VICTORY.

The feminist movement in France has gained another point. Women may now compete in officially organised horse races, although the ban has only been removed in so far as trotting is concerned. At certain race-courses women may now compete on equal terms with men. Hitherto, this was considered unwomanly.

Although the larger racing societies have not withdrawn their ban, the popularity of women's matches will probably force them to do so in the near future. It is thought likely that women jockeys will shortly make their appearance in flat racing and steeple-chasing. Let us hope that French feminism in the political sphere will soon advance as rapidly as in the world of sport.

Bethlehem. An elderly Arab woman, in her loose embroidered gown of coarse blue cotton, came plodding down the road towards us. She was unveiled, no doubt because it was very warm. A load of greenstuff was on her back; probably she had been working in a neighbouring field. She did not seem to hear our car approaching. Then, when we were quite near, she looked up and saw me, or rather she saw my young male chauffeur. A frightened look came over her face. She glanced up and down the road wildly, evidently for some opening into which to retreat; but the hedge stretched unbroken. With a sudden gesture she flung all her skirts over her head. There she stood as we passed, a monument of Arab propriety. It was I who blushed.

Another time I was in an omnibus at Haifa, and there was a Moslem woman sitting beside me—not a mere peasant woman, but a lady belonging, I imagine, to what we should call the upper middle class. She was dressed in black, and had, not one, but two thicknesses of heavy black crêpe hanging down over her face—such was her extreme of prudery. Before paying the conductor, it was necessary for her to push each coin up under this veil in order to see its value—a laborious process, for the veil itself was not raised by a hair's breadth. Yet those coins had been taken from a purse she had openly produced from the recesses of her innermost garment. Again there appeared to be no unconventionality in the raising of the skirt.

Although the veil may have a humorous side, high infant mortality is a fact of unrelieved gloom. In the Jewish hospital at Jerusalem, I saw an Arab woman with twins of a week old. One speculated what she could be doing with infants at all; for she looked at least fifty, although in reality she was less than this by a score of years. The babies were miserable little specimens, hardly human. "Will they live?" I asked the nurse, aside. "While they are in hospital," was her significant reply. This Arab woman had had twelve other children; two were alive.

The failure among Arab women to rear their babies is in no way due to lack of affection. Maternal devotion remains a fairly constant factor, fortunately for humanity. Palestine is sprinkled with welfare centres, due to Jewish activity, and, as these are open to all women, irrespective of race or creed, the Arabs profit by them. These Moslem mothers seemed to me quite as devoted, quite as anxious to learn, as the Jewish mothers, although they are even more ignorant. It is due to these welfare centres that, high though the Arab infant mortality remains, it is yet a great deal lower than it used to be. I have already quoted the figure for 1926—172 per 1,000. In 1925 it was 200.

And this amazing improvement in the children's death-rate will, I think, be followed by improvement in other matters affecting the woman of the East. The veil that has for so long shadowed her existence must be discarded—not only in its physical, but in its spiritual sense. Like her Western sister, the Moslem woman must feel upon her the sunshine and the storm. She must realise that the pleasure of man is not a sufficient profession. Only when that idea is abandoned can she become a good mother and a real wife.

WOMEN M.P.s AND WOMEN POLICE.

On July 31st, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, the Home Secretary, received a deputation of women Members of Parliament, consisting of Lady Astor, Lady Iveagh, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Miss Susan Lawrence, and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, who came to discuss with him the question of the further employment of women police. After a general discussion, the deputation undertook to consider the matter further, and the Home Secretary promised to give their proposals his early consideration in consultation with his advisers.

WIT AND WISDOM.

"I am certain that the expression 'But it's not done,' was coined by a man."—*Elinor Mordaunt.*

THE VOTE.

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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.

YOUNG OFFENDERS.

NEW HOME OFFICE CIRCULAR.

In March, 1927, the Departmental Committee on the Treatment of Young Offenders, appointed by the Home Secretary in 1925, issued their Report. In September, 1927, Sir William Joynson-Hicks commended to Justices, especially those sitting in Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, recommendations of the Young Offenders Committee in regard to children under sixteen. He has now issued to Justices a Circular dealing with the Committee's recommendations on the treatment of offenders between sixteen and twenty-one, which can be carried out without further legislation. The Committee emphasised the objections to imprisonment for young offenders under twenty-one, and the Circular, in referring to the fact that, in 1926, no less than 2,464 lads and 178 girls between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one were sent to prison either in default of paying a fine or on direct committal, and that about half this number had been previously convicted, states:

"The Secretary of State recognises that some crimes may be committed by young persons of so serious a nature that a severe sentence is imperative in the interests of the community as a whole, but he believes that many, if not most, of these lads and girls could have been dealt with in other ways, with greater benefit to them and without detriment to the public interest. He wishes to express an earnest hope that every Court, before committing a young offender to prison, will satisfy itself that this course is inevitable, and that no other method of treatment can properly be employed."

The Circular then recommends various methods of dealing with the young offender, which would avoid sending him or her to prison. The first is that, if a fine is imposed on a young person between sixteen and twenty-one years of age, that young person may be placed under the supervision of such person as may be appointed by the Court until the sum is paid. By that method it would usually be found possible to enforce fines without resorting to imprisonment.

The Circular also recommends an extension of the probation system in connection with "hostels," which are not institutions for training, but homes in which the lads or girls may live and go out to their daily work. The Circular adds: "To encourage the extension of this system, the Secretary of State, with the approval of the Treasury, has decided to contribute towards the cost of maintaining probationers in hostels if the local authority is willing to give similar support."

Another alternative to imprisonment is the use of Homes, that is to say, institutions where the young offender not only lodges, but also works and receives training. Residence in Homes, as in Hostels, can be conveniently associated with the probation system. The Secretary of State recognises that the use of these Homes must be put under proper safeguards, and recommends that when a Court decides to send a probationer to a Home, the following conditions should be observed: (1) The particular Home selected should be one approved by the Court, and one which is under

inspection by some Government Department, and should, as a rule, not be remote from the place where the probationer lives. As many of these existing Homes are intended primarily for girls who have been living an immoral life, care should be taken not to send a girl who is convicted of (say) theft and is not known to be immoral to such a shelter or Rescue Home; (2) the probation officer should keep in close touch with the probationer, and the Court should receive reports at regular intervals of the probationer's progress; (3) the duration of stay in the Home required by the recognizance should not normally exceed six months. If at the end of this period the probationer cannot be found employment and needs further care and training, and the authorities of the Home are willing to keep the probationer for a longer period, arrangements can be made for a further stay with the consent of the probationer. In any case, the probationer will remain under the supervision of the probation officer, though not in the Home, for the duration of the Probation Order, which may be for any period not exceeding three years.

In serious cases, however, and cases where probation could not be successfully applied owing to want of facilities for training, the circumstances or character of the offender, detention is necessary, and for lads and girls between sixteen and twenty-one who need institutional training, the appropriate method is, according to this Circular, the Borstal Institution. In this connection the Home Secretary states that the object of Borstal detention is training, rather than punishment. The aim is to give young offenders, whose minds and characters are still plastic, a new outlook and a new bent, and, by the personal influence and example of the staff, to create a corporate spirit and a standard of social behaviour while in the Institution, which may persist after release; to inculcate in the workshops habits of application and industry; to stimulate intelligence and enlarge interests; and in sports and games to develop loyalty and the spirit of fair play.

The Circular calls the attention of Justices to certain matters connected with the probation system. Among these is the appointment of a Probation Committee of Justices in every petty sessional division, as required by the Act of 1925, to supervise the work of probation officers. Some Probation Committees make an annual report on the probation work done during the year, and the Secretary of State would be glad if copies of any such reports could be sent each year to the Home Office. The three different forms of treatment under the Probation of Offenders Act are explained: (1) Dismissal by Court of information or charge; (2) Binding over by Court; (3) Supervision of offender under Probation Order. With regard to Probation Officers, the Circular points out that as the success of probation depends mainly on the personality of the probation officer, the greatest care should be exercised by the Justices in the selection of new officers. Vacancies should be advertised, and any likely candidates should be interviewed before a decision is made. The Secretary of State would be glad if notice of any vacancy could be sent to the Home Office, as a register is kept of persons wishing to take up probation work.

In a paragraph on the Duties of Probation Officers, the Circular states that, in addition to the performance of probation work and missionary duties of a similar character connected with the Court, probation officers are not infrequently asked to take part in the after-care of lads and girls who have completed their training in Home Office Schools, Borstal Institutions, and other places. The work of after-care is analogous to probation, and the probation officer, by his knowledge of the district and of the labour conditions, may be able to give valuable assistance in this direction, as indeed many probation officers are doing at the present time. The Home Secretary hopes that Courts will allow their probation officers to undertake this work when they are asked to do so, and that they will take it into account in forming an estimate of the amount of work done by the probation officers.

THE CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN.

Organiser and Speaker: Miss Lilian Lenton.

Assisted by Mrs. Ash, Miss Ogg, Mrs. and the Misses Scott.

Our faith was *not* justified! During this last week of our open-air Campaign it has rained nearly all day, every day. In between, and during heavy showers, we have sold literature, taken collections, and held meetings.

The August holiday-makers having arrived, our meetings at Rothsay were large, and most encouraging. (The weather generally cleared up a little by the evening). On Tuesday our active opponents turned up again to make themselves objectionable, but found no favour with the crowd. On Wednesday, the ring-leader arrived alone, deserted by his supporters. He did his best—none can do more—but his vulgar sallies were greeted with orders to "shut up" from the men, and hisses from the women. After the meeting he was surrounded by a body of indignant ladies, who would not let him escape until they had "told him what they thought of him". We understand that it was midnight before he was released, and was booed off the pier by those stalwart representatives of the sex he had insulted.

As usual, questions dealt largely with party politics, "Labour" people cannot realise that we are non-party. If we are not for them, we must be against them, they say, and it is hard to convince them that they are wrong. They bid us look at the record of the Labour Party and admit that it has always helped us. We can only answer, whilst expressing our gratitude for the staunch support we have received, and are still receiving, from strong adherents of Labour, that no Party is to be trusted on feminist questions. Special "protective" legislation for women in the industrial world, handicapping us in our demand for equal opportunities and equal pay with men, finds much favour with *some* well-intentioned but mistaken Labour members, as do efforts to prevent a married woman working for pay.

We are told that on non-party lines we can achieve nothing, but we point out that only so have we any reasonable hope of success. For the Parliamentary candidate cares little for the wishes of the women attached to his own party—he knows they will help him anyway. Neither need he try to please those of his opponent's party: he has no hope of gaining their support, however good he be. But the woman belonging to a non-party feminist organization is, as it were, a dark horse. He will make strenuous efforts to catch her vote, her adverse influence he will fear.

CEYLON COMMISSION AND VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Last year, Mr. Amery, the Secretary of State for the Colonial Office, appointed a Special Commission to visit Ceylon and report on the working of the existing Constitution; to consider any proposals for the revision of this Constitution which might be put forward, and to report what, if any, amendments of the Order in Council now in force should be made. The Commissioners, who were Lord Donoughmore (Chairman), Sir Matthew Nathan, Sir Geoffrey Butler, M.P., and Dr. T. Drummond Shiels, M.P., with Mr. P. A. Clutterbuck, of the Colonial Office, as Secretary, visited Ceylon in November, December, and January last. In their Report, recently issued, the Commissioners recommend that the Ceylonese people should have the fullest responsibility for the management of their internal affairs, and that there should be a substantial extension of the franchise. At present the island electorate is only about 200,000, or about 4 per cent. of the population, and it is an exclusively male electorate. The Commissioners propose that the suffrage should be extended to all women over 30 and all men over 21, which would make the number of voters 1,850,000. The reason given for the differentiation in the age of men and women voters is the necessity of keeping the number of votes within

When asked, as we frequently are, how we would advise our supporters to vote at election time we say: "Vote for the woman candidate, whatever her party, unless she is an anti-feminist. If there is no woman, question the men, and vote for that one who seems most likely to support our programme." This satisfies some.

As in previous years, we have spoken on many aspects of the woman's question: on Equal Opportunities everywhere, Equal Pay for Equal Work, Equal Guardianship of Children, the Equal Moral Standard, and the Rights of the Married Woman (to her name, her nationality, her profession, her Income Tax!); on Women and War, Pensions for Widowed Mothers, the Laws that are unjust to men, and the great need for many women in both Houses of Parliament and on public bodies of all kinds to enforce these things, and to see that better laws are made for the protection of children.

This year, we tried a little experiment, and added another subject to our list. One night we spoke of How the Vote was Won, giving a summary of both the constitutional and militant campaigns, showing the position taken by the Women's Freedom League. We had a large, steady audience, and a very good collection, so apparently the experiment was justified.

For yet another year our Clyde Campaign is over. Because of adverse circumstances "over which we had no control," we have not done all we wished, but we haven't been altogether unsuccessful. Despite rain and other discouragements, we have sold thousands of VOTES, thousands of pamphlets, taken almost daily street collections, and held nearly forty meetings. Our helpers have been excellent. As always, it has been a strenuous time, but because of their willingness, their friendliness, and the agreeable atmosphere pervading our little band, very enjoyable.

Altogether there were six of us, and six look something like a "Campaign!"

We have enrolled several new members. Everywhere we have met with help and encouragement. Men are friendly. Women understand and no longer despise their own sex. Soon it will be possible to ask, in the words of one of our Glasgow members:—

"Lives there a girl with soul so dead,

Who never to herself has said

"I am as good as any man!"

without fear of the answer "Yes."

LILIAN LENTON.

reasonable bounds. Under the Commissioners' proposal about 650,000 women—including native women—would be enfranchised. Registration of voters would not be automatic; personal application would have to be made in each case, and a five years' residence in the island shown.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

The Aprons and Overalls Stall is again being undertaken by the Misses Underwood, Mrs. Turriff, and Miss Brewer, who make another appeal to members and friends for material, donations to buy material, or finished goods. Donations or material will be gratefully acknowledged by Mrs. Turriff, 28, King's Avenue, New Malden, Surrey, or by Miss F. A. Underwood, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

Membership Application Form.

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

I enclose £ _____ : s. _____ d. as my first

Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription. 1/-

MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS' CONTROVERSY.

The Times reports that what was described as an attempt on the part of the Education Committee to defeat by regulation a resolution of the Manchester City Council that women teachers on marriage should not be required to resign, was defeated, on August 1st, by the carrying of an amendment, moved by the Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee. It was only after long debate that the resolution was carried at the last meeting of the Council, that women on marriage should be allowed to remain in the service. On August 1st the Committee put forward a resolution for approval that a teacher should withdraw from school five months before confinement and not return for twelve months after confinement, the salary paid to be in accordance with the Committee's regulations governing absence for personal sickness.

Councillor Wright Robinson, Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, moved the amendment to this resolution, that a period of three months before and three months afterwards should be substituted for the period of five months before and twelve months after confinement. He said the Education Committee were trying to defeat by regulation the object of the resolution which had been passed by the Council, that married women teachers should be allowed to remain in the service of the Committee. If the Council passed this resolution they would be imposing a most vexatious condition, which would do a great deal to discourage married women in the service from having children. It was, in fact, going to encourage birth control, which many members of the Council had so far regarded with horror.

Councillor Mrs. Zimmern said that if the Education Committee were so anxious for the welfare of the babies of women teachers that they thought the mother ought not to return to duty for twelve months, they should show the same regard for the wives of caretakers in their own schools. The duties of women teachers left them free to feed their children at the times when they needed to be fed, but caretakers' wives were employed just at those times in cleaning the schools, and they were not paid for their services, and so could not afford to pay for someone to look after their baby as a teacher could. The Committee ought to be consistent. The real trouble was that the opponents did not want married women to be employed at all.

Councillor Mrs. Dora Taylor (Socialist) said that teaching was not a healthy profession, and the resolution was for the good of the mother and child.

The amendment was carried by 47 to 26.

THE DUTIES OF THE POLICE.

ROYAL COMMISSION APPOINTED.

The promised Royal Commission has been appointed to consider the general powers and duties of police in England and Wales in the investigation of crimes and offences. This Commission consists of six men and two women, as follows:—

The Rt. Hon. Viscount Lee of Fareham, G.C.S.I., G.B.E., K.C.B. (Chairman). This is the third Royal Commission over which Lord Lee has presided, the others being the Royal Commission on Thames Bridges, on whose recent report is based the scheme for the new Charing Cross bridge, and the Royal Commission on the Public Services in India. Lord Lee was also Chairman of the Committee on Police Pay and Pensions.

Lord Ebbisham, G.B.E., better known as Sir (George) Rowland Blades, M.P., who was Lord Mayor of London in 1927.

Sir Howard Frank, Bt., G.B.E., K.C.B., who is head of Knight, Frank & Rutley, the estate agents. During the War he served at the War Office, the Ministry of Munitions, and the Air Ministry.

Dame Meriel Talbot, D.B.E., who is Intelligence Officer of the Overseas Settlement Department and a member of the Government Overseas Settlement Committee. During the War she was Director of the Women's Branch of the Food Production Department, Board of Agriculture, later becoming Woman Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Sir Reginald Ward Edward Lane Poole, head of the firm of Lewis & Lewis, solicitors.

James Thomas Brownlie, Esq., C.B.E., an engineer and President of the Amalgamated Engineering Union since 1920. He was a member of the Committee on Industry and Trade, appointed by the Labour Government in 1924.

Miss Margaret Beavan, J.P., Lord Mayor of Liverpool, who has a distinguished record of public work in Liverpool.

Frank Pick, Esq., Managing Director of the Metropolitan, District, London Electric, City and South London, and the Central London Railway Companies, and the London General Omnibus Company.

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

Mr. E. E. Bridges, of the Treasury, has been appointed Secretary of the Royal Commission, and Mr. G. D. Kirwan, of the Home Office, has been appointed Assistant Secretary. Communications intended for the Royal Commission should be addressed until further notice to Mr. E. E. Bridges, The Treasury, Whitehall, S.W.1.

IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE.

SIR JAMES AGG-GARDNER, M.P.

It was with sincere regret that the Women's Freedom League learned of the death of Sir James Agg-Gardner on August 9th, in his 82nd year. In point of age, Sir James was the oldest Member of the House of Commons. He was first elected Conservative M.P. for Cheltenham in 1874, but, having been defeated in several elections, had not sat continuously, and for that reason was not the Father of the House, a distinction borne by Mr. T. P. O'Connor. Sir James had, however, sat for forty-three years in the House of Commons. We shall always remember him as one of the most constant friends of our cause from the earliest days, and when it was by no means popular in any of the parties, including the Conservative party. Sir James only made three speeches in the House of Commons, and one of these was in support of the Conciliation Bill—a woman's enfranchisement Bill, in 1913; but we knew we could always rely on the active support of Sir James Agg-Gardner in the House of Commons for any measure dealing with woman suffrage, and we never failed to receive a reply to a letter written to him. The last letter we received from Sir James was one of regret that he could not promise to come to our Victory Breakfast, his plea being that the House of Commons was at the time having late nights, and he could not be sure of being at the Hotel Cecil in time that morning. He promised, however, to come to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, which was held the previous evening at Caxton Hall. He came; and those who had the privilege of speaking to him will not forget the kindly, courtly manner in which he offered Mrs. Despard and those around her his warm congratulations on achieving the victory of the equal political enfranchisement of women and men.

Women's Freedom League.

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WHERE TO GO.

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Thursday, September 27th, at 3 p.m.

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

Friday, September 28th, at 5 p.m.

Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, September 29th, at 10 a.m.

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

OTHER SOCIETIES.

August 27th to September 22nd.

International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. A centre for the feminists of all countries will be opened at 11, Cours de Rive, Geneva, during the Assembly of the League of Nations.

September 4th to September 11th.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Summer School at St. Hilda's College, Oxford.

Thursday, September 6th, at 1.30 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Excursion to Crossways, Little Baddow, nr. Chelmsford (by kind invitation of Mrs. Sudd Brown). Tickets 7s. 6d. return, from 17, Buckingham Street, W.C.2.

Monday, October 8th.

British Commonwealth League. Jumble Sale at "The Quest," 85, Clarendon Road.

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

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

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

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. "Victory and After Day." Reception at Caxton Hall.

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TO "THE VOTE" READERS.

Vols. No. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 of "The Vote" are urgently required by the Women's Freedom League. The gift of any or all of these volumes to Headquarters would be much appreciated.

HOLIDAYS.

Readers of THE VOTE who are going away for holidays and are not postal subscribers, should ensure their copy by sending a post-card to THE VOTE Offices, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, stating address to which THE VOTE should be sent.

THE BIRTHDAY FUND.

Belated Contributions are still coming in and are met with a warm welcome. Please swell the stream and send yours this week.

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OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

"Spoilt Darling of the Law"! "Wrongs of Married Women."

Madam, In your interesting article this week on the wrongs of the married woman, "that spoilt darling of the law," there are several injustices to which the writer does not allude. The law of coverture is still with us, and in spite of the Equal Guardianship of Infants Act, I still have the pleasure of sending young mothers (with newly born babies in their arms) home again to fetch the parent of the child. These lately enfranchised citizens naturally refuse to believe that fathers only have the right to apply for a vaccination exemption order.

In the case of families seeking the shelter of the Parish "Homes," (now no longer called workhouses) wives and babies may still be turned out in all weathers to wander all day without food or shelter should the husband choose to leave "The House," sometimes to look for work, sometimes to get a few hours relief from boredom. Again, a deserted wife, not being a parent, has often to suffer the agony and humiliation of having her children taken away from her at the discretion of the guardians and sent away to Poor Law Schools. This is not so common as of old, as deserted wives for some time now may have out-relief and be treated as widows.

It is not legal, I understand, to tax married women at all, for the law of 1842 has never been repealed, but this the Inland Revenue has always ignored: "The income of a married woman living with her husband is deemed to be his income for the purpose of the Income Tax Acts. Her income is included in his return." . . . This naturally increases the joint aggregate and brings them on to a higher scale of taxation. Widows and spinsters with income under £150 per annum, taxed as usual at source, can, I believe, recover about £30, with the present tax at 4/- per pound, also the unmarried wife of couples "living in sin."

Some allowances are now being made for wives running their separate profession or business, and for the year of 1928-9 an application for separate assessment can be made before July 5th, 1929. However, "the amount of tax payable by husband and wife will not be diminished by separate assessment."

It is not generally known that we are responsible for our grandchildren should they come on the rates. Always a harsh law for the aged, it is specially hard on old women, who a generation before had no responsibility for the children of their legal husband.

Fortunately, orders of maintenance are rarely enforced. You cannot get blood out of a stone or money out of women of 60 or 70, but if the granny has separate estate she may be compelled to pay up.—Yours, etc., MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON, J.P. Hampstead, N.W.3. August 11th, 1928.

LONDON LOCK HOSPITAL.

The following letter was sent by the Paddington Women's Local Government Association to the Chairman of the Committee for the London Lock Hospital Inquiry:—

Sir,—For the last three years our Committee have felt an increasing concern at the need for reform in the management of the London Lock Hospital.

Formerly, subscribers of "two guineas and upwards" had a right to vote at the annual meeting, but this does not now hold good. Reversion to this Rule might create a greater interest in the annual meeting, and bring about a better attendance. It might thus facilitate fixing an adequate quorum, with a view to rendering it improbable that the Board of Management would be in the main self-perpetuated.

We venture to submit that the Board of Management might with advantage consist of both men and women. There are at present few women Governors to help in electing such a Board, but with the suggested change in the Management there might come to be more. It might not be too rigid to require that not less than one-third of the members of the Board should be men, and not less than one-third women.

It is suggested that at the annual meeting the election of Governors to serve on the Board should be by ballot; that all elected members should retire annually; and that, in order to make way for new members, two or more (or a small proportion) of the retiring members, taken in rotation, should be ineligible for re-election; and also that such of the retiring members as have not attended a due proportion of the Board meetings in the past year should not be re-eligible, unless for specified reason accepted by the annual meeting.

Possibly the Board of Management might be effectively strengthened by the addition to its elected members of certain representative members, and possibly the London County Council could appoint two, and the Central Midwives' Board two, and perhaps one could be appointed by the National League for Health, Maternity, and Child Welfare. Presumably certain officers would be members of the Board *ex officio*.

We would express the hope that, upon the Report of the Committee of Inquiry, the matron may have the duties, responsibilities, and salary usual for a matron in a London hospital, that the nursing staff may be adequate and suitably paid, and that the expenditure on the medical staff may be more wisely apportioned.

We have thankfully welcomed the appointment of the Committee of Inquiry, and we anxiously express the hope that the Committee will continue its labours until it has had before it the written evidence contained in the minutes, report books and accounts of the Institution, and the forms of contract that its nurses and clerks are required to sign, as well as further evidence from persons not yet examined.—We have the honour to remain, Sir, Yours faithfully,

(Signed) FLORENCE CAWOOD TURTLE (Chairman of Committee),
MARY STEWART KILGOUR (Hon. Secretary).

FRIDAY,
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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, August 19th, 1928. 6.30. Dr. Albert Mansbridge, M.A., LL.D.

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