THE VOTE. MAY 29, 1925.

LORDS versus LADIES.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1925

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 wellbeing of the community.

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By The Lady Rachel Byng.

NOTABLE CENTENARIAN.

MRS. HALDANE, OF CLOAN.

example of the truism that spirit knows neither age nor decay. The more usual tendency of old age to fossilize in one or more directions, or to decry the modes and manners of a newer generation, received short shrift at her hands, and she not only wrote a remarkable book of memoirs when long past the age decreed by the Psalmist, but retained her faculties unclouded to the One cannot help speculating as to what sort of career this remarkable woman might have followed if she had been born in these later days, when many of the fetters which bound her sex a century ago have been slowly and

painfully severed.

Mrs. Haldane was fortunate to have inherited various strains of remarkable ability. A sense of the law came to her from her Scott grand-uncles, Lord Eldon (the famous lawgiver and Lord Chancellor, with a short interruption, from 1801-1827) and Lord Stowell (the famous judge of the Admiralty Court), the former of whom she is said

Mrs. Haldane, whose death last week rounded a made "a splendid judge." The business aptitude for which she was equally famous can also be traced to her

maternal grandfather, Sir James Sanderson, a poor York boy who became a great banker, Lord Mayor of London, and a Member of Parliament.

In spite of the meagre education given to girls in schoolrooms private hundred years ago, where it was the custom to repeat the multiplication table and French verbs while holding a backboard, and with one's feet in the stocks, which stocks were especially made by the joiner, Mrs. Haldane could read at three years of age, and before she was ten she had tackled Voltaire's histories in French, and a little later Hume, Smollett, Buchan-Hume, Smollett, Buchan-an, Rollin, Milton, and Dryden, also reading Tasso in the original. Nearly 90 years later, commenting on this early reading, she observed that "it has remained in my mind till this day." At a still later period she was able to read with eagerness her son, Lord Haldane's, interpretation of relativity, whilst she hailed the advent of wireless with delight, and had it imme-diately installed in her



to have strongly resembled, both physically and bedroom, that Chamber of Peace, as her friends called mentally, so that someone once said she would have it, where she spent her declining days.

The higher education of women was always a matter of great interest to Mrs. Haldane (the fruits of which were embodied in her brilliant daughter Elizabeth, the first woman magistrate in Scotland, whose work on Hegel and Descartes won her the LL.D. of St. Andrews), and she preserved to the end a wholesomely optimistic outlook on life generally. have seen," she wrote in her memoirs, "a complete change in affairs, educational, political, social, and religious, in my long life, and I am glad to testify that on the whole the changes have been for the better."

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Feminist in India.

Mrs. Hodgkinson, whose death at Poona is announced, was the first European woman elected a municipal councillor in India, and the first woman appointed to be an honorary magistrate in Bombay. On the Bombay Municipal Corporation, where she was the only Englishwoman member, she established a distinct position for herself, and did much to reconcile conflicting elements in a body containing a large number of ardent Swarajist politicians.

Overseas Nurses' Memorial.

The Nursing Home which is to be erected at the Women and the House of Laity. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in memory of overseas nurses who fell in the war, and which will have 92 names inscribed upon it, will be the only memorial in this country exclusively dedicated to overseas nurses. The New Zealand nursing sisters served in every war

An Awkward Gift.

Dr. Marion Vaughan, now medical officer to the Islington Welfare Centre, was formerly in India, where she once successfully treated a colony of natives for bubonic plague in a hill station in India. As a token of gratitude, the villagers presented her with 28 black

Mme. Albani's Honour.

Mme. Albani is to be appointed a Dame of the Order of the British Empire in connection with the honours to be conferred on the occasion of the King's birthday. A benefit concert at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, was given last Monday on her behalf. Mme. Albani made her first appearance 53 years ago at Covent Garden, at the age of 22.

Women Seed Analysts.

At the National Institute of Agricultural Botany at Cambridge, at other official stations at Edinburgh, Belfast, and Dublin, and at a number of private stations licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the greater part of the routine work is done by girls or women. At the Cambridge station the staff number

Women Co-operators in Conference.

This year's Annual Conference of the Women's Co-operative Guild will be held at the Guildhall, Cambridge, at the end of June, with Miss Matthews (Lancashire section) in the presidential chair. There are now 1,164 branches, of the W.C.G. with a membership of 53,664—an increase of 48 branches and 1,580 members during the year.

Miss Burstall's Appointment.

Miss S. A. Burstall, Manchester High School for Girls, has been appointed a member of the Advisory Committee on Native Education in Tropical Africa.

Woman Doctor's Appointment.

East Ham Town Council has appointed Dr. E. Thomson, of Queen's Club Gardens, London, woman assistant medical officer for maternity and child welfare, and assistant to the tuberculosis officer. The salary is £600 per annum,

First Woman Stockbroker.

Miss Keogh, the daughter of a retired Dublin bank manager and stockbroker, has applied to the Dublin Stock Exchange for admission to the Dublin Exchange. There is no rule of the Dublin Stock Exchange that shuts out women, and should membership be granted, Miss Keogh will be the first woman stockbroker.

Woman's Work for Lepers.

Dr. Isabel Kerr, with other scientists, is doing a great work in India towards stamping out leprosy. She has been medical superintendent of the Wesleyan Methodist Leper Hospital at Dichpali, and is a personality in India, where the Government has recognised the value of her work by the recent award of the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal.

French Actress and Legion of Honour.

Madame Suzanne Despres, the well-known French actress, has refused the ribbon of the Legion of Honour, which was offered her by the Minister of Fine Arts in the Herriot Cabinet.

Labour Woman Candidate Adopted.

The Aldershot Labour Party has adopted Mrs. Cecilia F. Streeten as prospective Labour candidate for the division. Mrs. Streeten, who is the president of the Tonbridge branch of the I.L.P., is the daughter of the late Brig.-Gen. Sir John Michell Fancourt, C.B.

Judging by the recent elections throughout the country, churchwomen have increased their strength in the House of Laity. Mrs. Creighton and Lady Trustram Eve have received election for the London

Woman Astronomer's Election.

The American Philosophical Society has elected Miss Annie Jump Cannon, of Harvard College Observatory, as its third woman member. Miss Cannon is one of America's most noted astronomers, and is said to have discovered and catalogued more stars than any other astronomer in the world.

NORWEGIAN HOUSEWIVES.

Norwegian women have recently formed a new Society called the Women's Unity Front, which is specially designed to appeal to housewives. This Society was organised last autumn immediately before the political elections, by women of all Parties, with the exception of the Labour Party. The first plank in its programme includes a call for reconstruction of the public finances by the promotion of Norwegian production, and by furthering the sale of Norwegian commodities. It also calls for electrification of the homes. Housing also finds a place, the Unity Front urging co-operation between the State and the municipality for a systematic building of dwellings, and the extension of the opportunities for obtaining cheap loans as well as the establishment of a Housing Credit Bank, granting cheap loans on reasonable terms. Other objects of the Society include protection of religious teaching in the schools; compulsory domestic science teaching for all girls either in the elementary or the advanced school; the right of women to hold all public offices and positions, including the right to become ministers of the gospel in the State Church; and further extension of the League of Nations in order that it may become a real peace league of the nations resting upon international justice and universal disarmament.

In Sympathy.

We regret to announce the death, at Deal Castle on May 22nd, of Field-Marshal the Earl of Ypres, after some months of illness.

All members of the Women's Freedom League will unite in heartfelt sympathy with Mrs. Despard, our dear First-President, in the loss of her only brother to whom she was greatly attached,

IN PARLIAMENT.

Catering Trades (Wages and Conditions).

LADY ASTOR (U., Plymouth, Sutton) asked the Minister of Labour if he was now in possession of information as to the rates of wages paid in the catering trades, and if he was prepared to set up a Trade Board SIR ARTHUR STEEL - MAITLAND replied that he anticipated that the results of the investigation into wages and conditions in the light refreshment and diningroom branch of the catering trade would be available before long. He would then consider if action in the direction suggested by the noble Lady was desirable.

Smoke Abatement.

LADY ASTOR asked the Minister of Health what action had been taken during the past twelve months to advise local authorities that were undertaking housing schemes of the importance of smoke abatement in the interests of public health; and what specific recommendations had been made as to the methods of reducing the volume of domestic smoke since the Housing Act, 1923, became law? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health) replied that it had not been thought necessary to issue any advice or recom mendation to local authorities on that question during the periods mentioned, as there was no reason to think that authorities generally were not alive to the need of doing what was possible under their existing powers to reduce the volume of domestic smoke. With regard to the question of anti-smoke measures in the construction of new houses, his noble Friend was no doubt aware of the memorandum on that subject issued to local authorities by his right hon, Friend's Department in 1920. He added that his right hon. Friend had the general question of smoke legislation under consideration, and hoped to deal with it as soon as possible having regard to other commitments.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

MR. GROVES (Lab., Stratford) asked the Minister of Health if he was aware that over 4,000 women died per year in Great Britain at childbirth; if he was prepared to circularise all local authorities to urge the establishment of ante-natal clinics, where the best skilled advice would be obtainable, and arrange, where the prospective mother was too poor to engage the services of a qualified medical man, that this service should be provided freely; and if he would cause investigation to be made relating to the present provision of maternity homes? Mr Neville Chamberlain replied that he was sending the hon. Member a copy of a Circular on the subject of Maternal Mortality addressed to local authorities on the 30th June, 1924, together with a copy of the Report referred to in the Circular which gave statistics relating to maternity mortality in England and Wales. That Circular impressed upon maternity and child welfare authorities the importance both of antenatal supervision and of the provision of specialist advice and treatment for necessitous patients whenever necessary. Under the Midwives Act the services of a doctor were available without cost to the patient if she was unable by reason of poverty to pay the doctor's fee. The Circular also urged the provision of maternity beds, and in individual cases local authorities were recommended to make good any deficiencies in that respect which were discovered as the result of inspections by his medical officers. He saw no need for any special investigation on that point.

In reply to another question by MR. GROVES, SIR KINGSLEY WOOD said that the number of maternity and child welfare centres in England and Wales in operation on the 1st May, was 2,368.

Postwomen.

COLONEL DAY (Lab., Southwark, Central) asked the Postmaster-General if there were still any women post officers employed for the delivery of letters in Great Britain; if so how many were so employed; what was their rate of wages; were they employed full time; and what were their respective earnings? SIR W. MITCHELL-

and in 11 cases the employment was full time. The rate of remuneration ranged from 9d. to 1s. 21d. an hour, according to the length and nature of service. The weekly earnings varied according to the number of

Food Prices Commission.

MR. W. HIRST (Co-op., Bradford, South) asked the Prime Minister if, in view of the statements in the Report of the Royal Commission on Food Prices concerning the operations of trusts, combines, and trade associations, the Government proposed to introduce legislation to deal with the matter, or, alternatively, would facilities be given to the Bill on trusts and combines introduced by the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. A. V. Alexander)? The PRIME MINISTER replied that the Government had undertaken to present to the House a large programme of important and urgent legislation, and it would be impracticable to enlarge that programme substantially at the present

MR. MONTAGUE (Lab., Islington, W.) asked the President of the Board of Trade (1) whether, seeing that the Royal Commission on Food Prices reported that there was in the baking and bread trade a considerable waste of energy and expenditure due to uneconomic organisation and to overlapping of services, he proposed to take any action or introduce legislation to render the bread trade efficient and to effect a reduction in the price of bread? (2) whether, seeing that the Royal Commission on Food Prices reported that butchers had doubled their money incomes since before the war, and that the price of meat was excessive, while the Ministry of Pensions purchasing in bulk was able to issue prime joints of beef at $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. and of mutton at $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. to the hospitals, he would consider the desirability of opening, in the poorer districts, Government shops for the retail of meat at reasonable prices? SIR BURTON CHADWICK (Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Trade) replied that the Government were carefully considering the whole of the Royal Commission's Report, and an announcement would be made as soon as a decision was

Trade Boards Acts.

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., Middlesbrough, E.,) asked the Minister of Labour what action he proposed to take in the numerous cases shown by his inspectors' reports where no records, or only inadequate records, of time worked, and wages paid were kept by firms in contravention of the Trade Boards Acts? SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND replied that perhaps the hon. Member would give him instances of the contraventions to which she referred, and he would look into them. MISS WILKINSON asked if the right hon, Gentleman was not aware that those could be obtained from the records which were supplied by every Trade Board as a matter of routine, and that if he would turn to those records he would find the information in question

MISS WILKINSON asked if the Minister of Labour's attention had been called to the increasing practice of magistrates merely to fine offending employers who were convicted of non-payment of Trade Board rates, and not to order the payment of the arrears owing to the workpeople, that, although arrears were sometimes secured privately by negotiation between the officers of the Ministry and the employer, the fact that no publicity was given to that repayment was encouraging certain employers to risk the non-payment of rates in the belief that, if discovered, a small fine would absolve them from the payment of large arrears; and if he would order to be published quarterly in the Labour Gazette the aggregate amount of arrears in each trade under the Act recovered during that quarter from employers as a result of inspection? SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND replied that in regard to that question he must ask the hon. Member to put it down for the following week.

Teachers (Superannuation) Bill.

THE VOTE.

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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.

ITALIAN WOMEN'S VICTORY.

Two years ago, when the International Woman Suffrage Alliance held its Ninth Congress in Rome, Signor Mussolini promised the vote to Italian women. He has now fulfilled his promise by using his strong personal influence to secure the passing of a limited Suffrage Bill through the Chamber of Deputies. It does not grant the political vote to women, but, according to a writer in The Observer, women are now included among the electors for Communal and Provincial Councils, and they are themselves eligible as Communal or Provincial Councillors, though they are, for the present, excluded from the "Giunta" or Executive Committee of either Council. No woman can be elected to the office of Syndic, or to that of President of the Provincial Council. Even with these limitations, it is expected that women will make their influence felt in questions of hygiene, public instruction, the regulation of food supplies and prices, the management of charitable institutions, etc. Before a woman can claim a vote she must have completed her twenty-fifth year and must have passed an examination in the minimum elementary course of instruction. This second qualification, however, is not compulsory for any woman coming within the following categories: (1) Mothers or widows of soldiers fallen in the war; (2) Women who, as widows or from special circumstances, are in the position of heads of households and legal guardians of their children; (3) Women who have been decorated for war service or civic merit: (4) Women who pay an annual minimum of one hundred lire in taxes, and who can read and write. It is computed that out of twelve million adult Italian women, only a little over one million will benefit under the new law. This Bill makes no pretence of granting anything like equal voting rights to men and women, but in Italy it is regarded as the thin end of the wedge, and the advocates of woman suffrage are said to have accepted it thankfully as such. In supporting this Bill, Signor Mussolini refuted the argument that female suffrage would loosen family ties. "Home life," he said, "will not be dominated by the fact that once in four years the wife walks out of the house to put a piece of paper in the ballot box." He referred to another reason that makes the granting of the suffrage to Italian women a matter of mere justice. A Bill for the mobilisation of the nation in war has already been approved by the Senate, and will shortly be brought before the Chamber of Deputies. Under that Bill both sexes are obliged to take part in the moral and material defence of the nation. and to submit equally to war discipline. The writer also tells us that it is just over sixty years since the question of female suffrage was first raised in Italy. It was brought forward by Ubaldino Peruzzi, in 1863, and, though often temporarily shelved, it has never ceased to interest an increasingly large number of educated women. There has never been any widespread popular agitation in favour of the measure, and the peasant classes have viewed it with complete indifference.

The Women's Freedom League is whole-heartedly glad that our Italian sisters have gained this victory, and we send them our heartiest good wishes for their future success in securing full equal voting rights for women with men in their country

AN APPEAL TO THE COUNTRY?

Commenting on the fate of the Peeresses Bill in the House of Lords last week, the Star's political correspondent states that a member of the Government remarked, "It was just an academic discussion. You can't allow even Lord Astor to interfere with the Prerogative at the instance of a Private Member's The question concerns the Reform of the House of Lords (in which, perhaps, the elective principle will be introduced as well as the sex disability dealt with. That will be a measure to be taken up nearer the end of the life-time of this Parliament). Like the question of the enfranchisement of women under 30, the country would have to be consulted on it, and we are-

not going to the country just yet."

The Star is a responsible paper, and Members of the Government, even when unnamed, are usually credited with making responsible statements. So that the implications of this particular statement should not pass unnoticed. The question of the reform of the House of Lords is not a new one, but successive Governments have failed to deal with it, and the present Government seems to be in no particular hurry to tackle it. Our view is that women, equally with men, should come into every part of the Government of the country, and, at this time of day, when such an ever-increasing volume of social legislation comes before the Upper House, it is indefensible to exclude peeresses in their own right from a voice, a seat, and a vote in the House of Lords. When women are admitted, the reform of that House may well be considered, and it is quite possible that if peers took counsel with peeresses, some more definite proposals of reform than up to the present have been suggested will be submitted for consideration. We are most intrigued, however, by the statement made by this Member of the Government that the country will have to be consulted about the enfranchisement of women under 30. Is this proposal to be the Government's contribution to the Conference which it has promised for the consideration of the whole question of electoral reform? We certainly hope not, for we can conceive of nothing which would more arouse women's resentment. By its promise of a Conference on this subject, present Government successfully killed Mr. Whiteley's Bill, last February, for the equal enfranchisement of women and men; it laid to rest for the time being all further agitation for equal enfranchisement inside the House of Commons, as well as in the country. The demand, however, for the enfranchisement of women at the same age and on the same terms as men is by no means dead in the country. Women expect to have equal voting rights with men at the next General Election, whenever it may come; and if by any mischance they fail to secure this elementary right of British citizenship during the lifetime of this Parliament, the supporters of the present Government will discover deadly opposition among the women whose first political object is to secure the equal enfranchisement of women with men. We think that the Prime Minister should be asked without delay what authority this "Member of the Government" had for making such an extraordinary statement in the hearing of the Star's political correspondent.

LICENSED PREMISES.

Last week the Government promised to announce the personnel of the Committee appointed to inquire into the State management of licensed premises, and Lady Astor asked whether, in view of the large number of women interested in this question, it would not be a wise thing to put a woman on that Committee. Mr. Locker-Lampson, speaking for the Government, said he thought there was going to be one. We ourselves think that there should certainly be more than one woman on this Committee.

LORDS versus LADIES.

was lost by two votes, 78 voted for it and 80 against it, but throughout the Debate there was a general feeling of voting. It was unfortunate that at least two of the women's staunch supporters were unavoidably prevented from being present that afternoon-Lord Parmoor through illness, and Lord Haldane on account of family bereavement. If the voting had been equal, or even if the Second Reading had secured a small majority, it is hardly likely that the present Government would have given facilities to the Bill. In asking support for the Bill which stood in his name, LORD ASTOR said it was a Bill to do justice to certain ladies whom they believed entitled to sit in the House of Lords, a Bill to do justice to the other sex, and a Bill to do justice to that House. It might be said that a Bill of such importance, affecting the constitution and composition of their Lordships' House should be brought in not by a private member but by the Government of the day; but it seemed to him, if the Government did not do the the right thing, that a private member should step in and remedy that omission. Under the Bill a Peeress in her own right would be entitled to receive a Writ of Summons to Parliament and vote as if she were a man; a Peeress in her own right, holding a Peerage in Scotland or Ireland, would be entitled to vote at the Election of Representative Peers of Scotland and Ireland and be elected as a representative of either of those two countries in the Jpper House, and Peeresses in their own right would be on the same footing as Peers and would no longer be allowed to vote at election time.

LORD BANBURY moved the rejection of this Bill. He said that if a constituency returned a woman member to the House of Commons it had the power of rejecting her at the next Election, whereas once a Peeress was admitted to the Upper House, she would be there for the remainder of her life! He thought that a very strong reason for rejecting the Bill. Then there was Cabinet Committee to deal with the reform of the House of Lords, so that it was premature for them, at the instance of a private member, to begin dealing with the King's Prerogative in such a drastic manner as

Lord Astor proposed. THE DUKE OF ATHOLL supported the Bill. He did not consider that it infringed on the Prerogative of the Crown, and if the Lords disposed of the present sex disqualification, the Prerogative still remained. No new right was being proposed under the Bill, the proposal rather was to remove a disqualification which very few people outside the House nowadays considered to be either just or reasonable. He felt that not only had women a right to be heard on all those social questions which formed so large a portion of their deliberations, but also that those noble Lords-and there were many-who were interested also in those matters, had a right to demand to hear the women's view.

VISCOUNT CECIL supported the Bill. He pointed out that on every local body, every board of guardians, every district council, every county council, women could sit. They could sit in the House of Commons and on the Throne. It was only in their Lordships' House, that they could not sit, and he thought that was a difficult position to defend. Looking back on our history, there were women who would have been of the greatest value if they had had seats in the House of Lords, and in this connection Lord Cecil mentioned specially Florence Nightingale and Miss Octavia Hill.

LORD BIRKENHEAD opposed the Bill. He thought it absurd that their Lordships should be asked at a moment when a responsible Government was telling the House that they were intending to bring forward proposals for general reform, to adopt at the instance of a private member, a piecemeal proposal for conferring an exceptional and privileged position on a very limited

Women found able champions of their cause in the class of ladies, who were themselves the accident of an Upper House last week when LORD ASTOR moved accident. He admitted, with regret, that we were living the Second Reading of the Peeresses Bill. It is true in changed times, but said he was absolutely unrepentant that on a free vote in the House the Second Reading of every speech and every argument he had ever made in the last ten years in relation to that matter, although when the reform of the House of Lords was that the women's cause was won, despite the accidents undertaken, and proposal was made in that House that women were to become eligible, either as nominated members or as elected members if the reform took the shape of election, he could not conceive that he could find any logical basis upon which successfully to defend his opposition to such a proposal.

LORD DE LA WARR who brought a message of regret from Lord Haldane that be was unable to be present to support the Second Reading, supported the Bill. He said that it placed a great responsibility upon their Lordships. The women concerned were few in number, but were dependent upon their Lordship's sense of justice and of what was right. He ventured to ask his fellow Peers whether it was or was not their desire to become that interesting historical museum which was apparently the

uninspiring ideal of Lord Banbury.

LORD BUCKMASTER, in supporting the Bill, said that those ladies held Patents of Title which would entitle them if they were men to be summoned to that House as of right, and this Bill was simply directed to saying that they should be so summoned although they were women. Was it just, or was it unjust, that women should be admitted to the privileges they claimed? In his opinion it was eminently just. Women had their voice at the present moment in another place, and he asked their Lordships to say that they were entitled to have their voice heard there as well.

LORD MERRIVALE opposed the Bill. He said that the House was invited to do a thing it had never done before—to take upon itself by a legislative proposal to nominate persons to be added by the Sovereign. Their House had rested simply on the hereditary principle throughout all its existence. Why should they propose to distort and abuse it to-day because noble Lords, or feminist agitators outside, had not the patience to wait to have the question dealt with on the broad and comprehensive lines on which it should be dealt with if it was dealt with at all?

LORD LAMINGTON opposed the Bill. He visualised a crisis between the two Houses when it might be quite a simple matter to swamp the Upper House with the wives and daughters of Members of the House of Commons. The process might not be confined to wives or daughters, they might be inundated by a number of very seductive ladies!

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK, who said he had come to the House with a very open mind on the subject, supported the Bill because he had not been able to discover from the discussion anything that could be called a reason sufficiently substantial to make him deny to those ladies that which he thought they were in justice entitled to receive. That did not prevent the Archbishop of Canterbury from voting against the Bill.

LORD SALISBURY opposed the Bill because it proposed to give the privilege of sitting and voting in that House to ladies who were never intended to receive it. He regretted the admission of women to a full burden of public life, not because he thought that the House of Commons or the House of Lords was thereby deteriorated, but because he thought it was bad for the country as a whole. Although, he said, that probably the first infraction was made by the Conservative Party, when, through the institution of the Primrose League, they persuaded women to take part in public life. Of course, everything else followed as a matter of course, and it was only a question of time.

OUR ADVERTISERS

like to know the results of their Advertisements. When writing them, mention THE YOTE.

MID-LONDON BRANCH SOCIAL.

THE VOTE

The Social Evening held by the Mid-London Branch in the Oak Room, Kingsway Hall, on Thursday evening, May 21st, must be voted a great success. was the branch effort on behalf of the Birthday Fund, and a large and appreciative audience listened to a very excellent programme. After a little music and refreshments there were four short speeches. Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., in spite of an all-night sitting in the House, kindly gave a short address. After remarking that it hardly seemed fair to offer to the audience the thoughts of such a tired brain as hers, she spoke of the necessity for continual alertness in the Woman's Movement, and considered that the women's programme should be restated every ten years at least, in order to keep it fresh and up to date. She was struck by the attitude of the quite young women of to-day- they had, none of the repression from which the pioneer women had suffered; they were fearless and self-sufficient. They had reaped where the older ones had sown.

Miss Horniman, in her inimitable way, gently poked fun at the "gentlemen," and their attitude to "ladies." We are "women" now and must act as such, we were given the vote, but men were born citizens, and women would be. Citizenship carried duties which we must perform and not leave to others. One of these duties was the making of a will, especially if we were married women with dependents, for the law allows the husband to take all. Especially should women be scrupulously businesslike in dealing with "gentlemen," for some still thought that women, late for appointments, had spent the time titivating to please the men. Miss Anna Munro, the President of the League, followed. She said the League, in spite of all that others had said, had been fully justified in continuing its work during the war. In coming up to town, she had met in the train a former member of the League, who was suffering from the unequal treatment meted out to men and women, and was rejoining the League. Something had been accomplished, but there was a tremendous amount of work still to do, especially as regards the the position of married women. Harder work was necessary owing to the lessened interest of the public. Man had always criticized woman - at one time her skirts were foolishly long, now they were too short—but woman must fight to gain the respect of all.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, in making the last speech, paid a well-deserved tribute to Mrs. Despard for all that she has done, and is, and congratulated the Women's Freedom League on having been associated with her throughout its existence. English and Irish were proud of Mrs. Despard; all loved her; she was one of those who had attained to universality of being. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence spoke appreciatively of Miss Wilkinson, and said she looked upon her as a reward of the work done by older women. Youth to-day was bringing gifts to be used in the service of humanity.

The Women's Freedom League was fortunate in its name. Freedom meant struggle, and struggle developed, and helped us to define our own personality. The present results of women's work were great, but victory only meant further battle, much had still to be won. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence saw a new relationship in marriage-now it meant comradeship frequently, rather than seldom as in the old days. The young man realised that the woman's cause was his also. Money, she said, was not regarded by the woman's movement as filthy lucre," rather it appeared as love and service crystallized, from which love and service would again be released.

Later in the evening Miss Marjorie Gullan gave an address on "The Art of Speaking Poetry." Miss Gullan contended that only the exceptional person could, by reading, realise all the beauty and inspiration of great poetry. For most it needed to be properly spoken in order to bring out its whole meaning. The wonderful way in which Miss Gullan spoke various short poems made one realise the truth of her contention. She pleaded especially for the proper training of children in speaking poetry so that they might have a ready source of wonder and inspiration.

In addition, there were, during the evening, most delightful violin solos, recitations and songs by Miss Beatrice Hurrell, Miss Potter, Miss May Flowers, and Mrs. Cunningham, all of which were very much appreciated. There were also competitions-one on guessing the weight of a cake kindly given by Miss Reeves, and another on guessing the author of a book given by Miss Nina Boyle.

A Mid-London member, Miss Sparkman, was in the

To the speakers, to the artists, and to all who came, we would say, "Thank you, for helping us to make the gathering the success it undoubtedly was."

C. M. SPARKMAN.

A NEW INDUSTRY FOR WOMEN.

ANGORA RABBIT WOOL FARMING. By THE LADY RACHEL BYNG

(who will be pleased to give fuller information on receipt of stamped addressed envelope).

Nowadays when there is so much difficulty to make money it is refreshing to hear of an industry for which there is an ever-waiting market.

For many years England has been sending thousands of pounds annually to the Continent for Angora Rabbit

In France there are many Angora Rabbit Wool Farms-some with as many as thousands of Angoras upon them.

But the English Angora grows longer and finer wool. Whereas our English spinners pay 20/-. a 15. for the French-grown wool, they pay 35/- a lb. for the English Angora Wool of first-grade quality, and they are willing to buy as much as can be grown in England.

Angora Rabbit Wool Farming is not a get-rich-quick industry. The wool farmer, whether man or woman, must work with head as well as with hands, and must be businesslike, observant and careful.

Rabbits should not cost more than 13d. per head per week, and adults of the best strains should yield from 10 to 16 oz. of wool annually—leaving a profit from 10/- to 20/- per adult rabbit-in addition to money made from sales of superfluous stock.

It is often asked how many rabbits one person can look after unaided. It depends entirely upon the person. A French farmer says one woman looks after 600 Rabbits upon his farm. Some Englishwomen find 50 as many as they can manage, whilst others can cope with 300. This question depends solely upon the method of the individual.

In any case, the farmer who means to combine exhibition with wool growing will need to employ extra labour. Exhibition Angoras need grooming daily, but those kept for wool only do not require more than a few minutes weekly, and then only the third month after shearing or plucking.

Angoras are clipped or plucked once every three months, sometimes oftener if they produce very long or dense coats. After this process has been performed, they need no grooming till the coat has grown to 3 or 4

The yield of wool differs with each individual, as is the case with milk yield in a herd of cows, or egg production in a flock of hens. But Angoras of a good strain should not give less than ½-lb. annually, and many give as much as 1 lb. or more. Angoras are delightful pets, being gentle to handle and very affectionate. With ordinary precautions they are healthy and strong.

OUR LENDING LIBRARY

"Women in the Factory." By Dame Adelaide M. Anderson,

"What I Remember." By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P., LL.D. 'Ancilla's Share." An Indictment of Sex Antagonism. Anonymous. "The Police Court and Its Work." By Henry Turner Waddy.

May be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week

WHERE TO GO.

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1925.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Friday, May 29th, at 3.30. Hampstead Branch. "At Home" at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3. (By kind invitation of Dr. Knight.) Mr. Montague Fordham will lecture on the Housing Problem.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, May 29th, at 3.

Ashford Branch. Public Meeting at the Hempsted Street Hall. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Education from a

medical woman's point of view." Chair: Mrs. Miles. Tuesday, June 2nd, at 4.

Hastings Branch. Whist Drive at the Glenroyde Hotel. Tickets 1/-

Wednesday, June 3rd, at 3.15. Portsmouth Branch. Public Meeting at 2, Kent Road. Speaker Miss O'Shea. Subject: "Singapore and the C.D. Acts." Chair

Monday, June 8th, at 5.15. Political Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C 1. onday, June 29th, at 3.30.

Garden Meeting at Holmwood, Hastings Road. Bexhill Branch. eaker · Mrs. Miles. riday, July 3rd, at 7.

Birthday Party at Caxton Hall.

Saturday, July 4th, at 10.

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

May 30th, 31st, June 1st, at 10-7. International Fellowship in Arts and Crafts. Exhibition of Pictures, Sculpture, Miniatures, Jewellery, Pottery, Weaving, the Marylebone Hall, Great C ntral Hotel, Marylebone Road, N.W. Address at 6.15 by Dr. J. H. Cousins

BRANCH NOTES.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE.

As open-air meetings are no longer allowed on the front at Brighton, we had to content ourselves with the Level, in the middle of the town, for the three we held last week. Of course, we could not expect the large audience we should find by the sea, but the meetings were undoubtedly useful propaganda, many questions being asked, and Votes and literature sold. Further meetings are being held this week on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. Our sincere thanks are due to those kind members and friends who have helped by coming and selling the paper, etc. Mrs. Bridges, 8, Norfolk Terrace, Hove, has very kindly again consented to lend us her room or garden (according to the weather) for a meeting to be held either on June 5th or June 8th (members and friends will be notified). Dr. Alice Vickery will speak on "The Reform of the Laws of Marriage and Parenthood," and we are hoping that Mrs. Blatch, J.P., will preside. Tea will be provided, and all interested welcomed.

(Org.) Lilian Lenton, 13, Victoria Road, Brighton.

(Org.) LILIAN LENTON, 13, Victoria Road, Brighton. WALLASEY

The Watch Committee has refused to receive a deputation on he subject of Women Police. This deputation was being organised by our Branch, and resolutions in favour of it have been organised by our Branch, and resolutions in favour of it have been passed by twenty-one public organisations in Wallasey, including the Seacombe Ratepayers' Association. Mrs. Graham, J.P., a member of our Branch, has publicly stated that recently there have been several cases before the magistrates in which the services of properly trained women police would have been invaluable during investigations. Their services are urgently needed in patrolling the parks and streets. There are scores of other ways in which they could render a great public service in preventing rather than detecting crime. We think the Watch Committee's refusal to receive our proposed deputation illustrates the weakness of their case, and we shall press forward with the weakness of their case, and we shall press forward with the matter to achieve our object.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. Andain, 22, Cromer Drive.

WHITSUN HOLIDAYS

The Offices of the Women's Freedom League will be closed from riday, May 29th, at 5.30 p.m., until Tuesday, June 2nd, 9.30 a.m.

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OUR OPEN COLUMN

Women and Food Prices.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

To the Editor of The Vote.

Dear Madam,—I would like to point out that in her article on "Hands off the Food," Mrs. Juson Kerr, by recommending a boycott as the remedy for high prices, is, I think, making a mistake. A boycott, at the best, especially on food, can only be used in a very partial way, and for a very short time, and, chief reason of all, does not go to the root of the cause of high prices. Not only so, but the food producers can play at that game also, by restricting the production of any food that they choose, as the tea and sugar planters have been doing since the war, and thus creating an artificial shortage which in the war and post-war years has been the main reason for high prices in these commodities. The combines are so various unat this can be done with any food, and, moreover, the present laws of taxation help these people, because whenever they put any of their land out of cultivation, whether it is wheat fields or potato fields, or tea or sugar plantations, or whether they reduce their their land out of cultivation, whether it is wheat house of perfect fields, or tea or sugar plantations, or whether they reduce their stock of cows and pasture land, they get their taxes reduced; but the more ground they cultivate, and the better the condition in which it is kept, the more taxes are increased. It is therefore quite which it is kept, the more taxes are increased. It is therefore quite casy to see how our present tax laws work against the food of the people. Instead of boycotting the producers, let us help them to produce more and therefore cheaper food by agitating for the taxation of land values, so that the land which is not cultivated will be compelled to be brought into use, and the good cultivator will be encouraged to produce more and more by being freed from taxation, which at present, in reality, constitutes a fine on rom taxation, which at present, in reality, constitutes a

The HAMPTON INSTITUTE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.

Mrs. Strickland has sent us the following extract from a letter received from her daughter, Miss Dorothea Strickland, M.A., who is making an educational tour in the United States. The Hampton Institute is the celebrated college for coloured people which was Institute is the celebrated college for coloured people which was opened in April, 1868. There are two divisions—Collegiate and Secondary. The Collegiate division comprises a Teachers' College, School of Agriculture, School of Education, School of Home Economics, Summer School for Teachers, School of Business, and Trade School Builders' Course. The Secondary division consists of Academy and Trade Schools. The enrolment of Students for 1924-5 was 2,229. Miss Strickland was invited to join a special party of guests for the celebration of the 57th Anniversary of the Institute.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Washington, D.C., 26th April, 1925.

"We really had a splendid time at Hampton. We left New York at 9.14 a.m. in a special train with most wonderful parlour, pullman cars, coloured porters to do our slightest bidding—even to taking our hats off, if we would let them—and a sumptuous luncheon. At 4.30 we reached the coast, where we got a boat to cross Chesapeake Bay, This took 1 hr. 40 min., and when we landed at Hampton we found the Institute all drawn up to play us a welcome. We were taken in cars to the Institute and shown our rooms, which were spotlessly clean, and gay with roses. We all fed together in one of the buildings called 'Holly Tree Inn,' and were waited on by the girl students. Considering that there were were waited on by the girl students. Considering that there were 140 guests, the whole thing was marvellously managed. The programme was pretty full, and the Negro 'Spirituals' were lovely, especially when sung just by four men alone—the Hampton Quartette. Then the Trade Schools were very interesting. They can learn almost every trade there is to learn, from printing to agriculture. There is also the Academic side and the Teacher's can learn annual. There is also the Academic side and the Teacher's agriculture. There is also the Academic side and the Teacher's College. The future teachers practise in the Whittier School for Negro Children, a little way out of the College grounds. We went there on Friday morning, and I immediately fell in love with all the Piccaninnies, who were too adorable for words. They danced, sang, and recited to us, and were simply charming. At the luncheon on Friday we also had singing, which we enjoyed the luncheon on Friday we also had singing, which we enjoyed almost more than anything. The papers and demonstrations by the students were very good indeed. The place itself was beautiful, everything a lovely green, and just like summer. Everyone was so kind and hospitable. There was no need to walk a step if we did not wish to. There was a whole fleet of a wasting to take us everywhere.
The special party went off on Saturday morning, and as we

were not going until the evening we were taken a ninety-mile motor ride into Virginia to see the Charles and Mary College, the oldest in America, and Jamestown where the Settlers first landed. It was most interesting, as we saw more of Southern life

STAMPS FOR YOUR LEAGUE.

Our readers are asked to collect all the foreign st mrs they can get hold of, and to forward them to the Women's Freedom League—common stamps welcomed, but high values and rarities

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

We still have a few photographs of the delegates and visitors tak'n at the Women's Freedom League Conference at Caxton Hall last month. Mounted $(10'' \times 12'') \ 2/9d$. Postcards 7d. post paid. Orders for these photographs will receive prompt attention.

1925.

FRIDAY. MAY 29. PENNY

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, May 31st. 3.30. Music. Lecture: Norman Angell, Esq., on "The Sin of Stupidity." 6.30. Miss Maude Royden.

EARN TO MAKE MONEY by growing Angora Rabbit Wool, waiting market, 35/- lb.—LADY RACHEL BYNG, Sandhoe, Angora Farm, Hexham, Northumberland, takes non-resident lady apprentices.—Particulars for stamped addressed envelope.

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