

THE VOTE,  
FEB. 10, 1928

## EQUAL FRANCHISE?

# THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1928

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

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## IS THIS EQUAL FRANCHISE?

### FROM THE KING'S SPEECH!

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS—

Although the condition of affairs in some of the principal industries continues to give cause for serious anxiety, I am glad to observe that in the general state of trade and industry there are many encouraging signs of progressive improvement in both our home and external trade which justify the hope that, with co-operation and good-will, steady progress will be made in the coming year. The burdens imposed upon industry and agriculture by the present incidence of local rates have attracted the anxious attention of My Ministers. They are now engaged upon inquiries into the possibility of affording some relief from these burdens to the producing community and into the changes in Local Government which would thereby be involved.

PROPOSALS WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE  
YOU FOR AMENDING THE LAW RELATING  
TO THE PARLIAMENTARY AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
FRANCHISE

In connection with the above, the Women's Freedom League have issued the following statement:—

**The Women's Freedom League note that the Government intend to bring forward proposals "for amending the law relating to the Parliamentary and Local Government Franchise."**

**The Women's Freedom League greatly regret and are profoundly astonished that no definite pronouncement in regard to equal franchise was made in the King's Speech. This omission is a deep disappointment to women. Relying upon the Prime Minister's pledge that women shall vote at the same age and on the same terms as men at the next General Election, we call upon the Government at once to introduce and carry into law with all possible speed a simple franchise measure granting votes to women from the age of 21 and on the same terms as men.**

### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

#### First Viennese Women in Chamber of Commerce.

Two Viennese business women—Franziska Habarth and Giuditta Gentilomo—who are associated in an import house dealing with Italy, asked for admittance to the Chamber, placed in the same building as the Stock Exchange in Vienna. This was granted not only to them, but also to a third woman who is partner of another import house. As the National Council of Austrian Women petitioned for the admittance of women to the Stock Exchange recently, it is most satisfactory that women have approached as far as the Chambers of Commerce. The Chamber dealing with agricultural products is already open to women. Five women are active in this sphere.

#### Woman President at 17.

The Bernard-Costello-Day Company, a newly launched colour advertising firm in New York, has appointed as its President a girl of 17. It is her fidelity to the real colours displayed by nature which makes her work of immense value. In particular, for the advertisement of travel bureaux, her colourings of scenic plates are in great demand.

#### Unionist Women.

The Essex Unionist women are holding a Conference in London on March 7th, when the principal speaker is announced to be Lord Birkenhead.

#### Equality?

At the Annual Conference of the National Federation of Professional Workers, the Secretary reported that the National Staff side of the Civil Service Whitley Council intended to approach the Government with a programme which would include equal pay for equal work, irrespective of sex.

#### Domestic Servants for Australia.

Another contingent, numbering 163, of trained domestic servants sailed on Saturday for Australia.

### WOMEN POLICE CAMPAIGN IN DEVON.

Women belonging to the Devon Council of Women and other local organisations have arranged a big campaign throughout the country for the appointment of women police. Last week, a crowded meeting was held at Honiton, Torquay, and Bideford. Sir Robert Newman presided at the meeting in Exeter, and made it clear that, in demanding women police, they made no reflection on the present police force.

Miss Hartland, a magistrate and member of the Gloucestershire Standing Joint Committee, stated that women police had been an acknowledged success in Gloucestershire, and they had been revived after being temporarily dispensed with under the Geddes economy axe. "We have had ten years' experience of them and know their worth," she added. Continuing, Miss Hartland said that three things were necessary in the appointment of women police. They must choose the women well; they should be women of personality. They must be well trained; it was no use putting them on the street until they were well equipped. They must be given full powers of the police force, including arrest; they must make them full constables and put them into uniform. Further, the police must treat them with generous confidence.

Lady Astor, M.P., who was unable to attend, sent a letter (which was read by Councillor Mrs. Browne) supporting the movement. She wrote that the reasons given by the different Watch Committees for not employing women police were:

- (1) Expense.—She understood on good authority that the cost of one policewoman for one county force worked out at 1-20th of a penny addition to the rates.
- (2) Supposed opposition of male police.—In fact, only 18 members of the Police Federation attended the meeting which drew up the statement for the 1924 Committee.

(3) No accommodation in police offices for women.—Surely the sooner accommodation was provided, the better, not only in the interests of policewomen, but also of women on juries, women witnesses, etc.

(4) No encouragement from the Home Office.—It was regrettable that the Circulars issued by the Home Office and Scottish Office in December, 1926, and January, 1927, respectively, had had the reverse effect to that which was hoped for; in fact, since the appearance of the Circulars, more than 20 towns had turned down the suggestion to employ policewomen.

Then another argument she had seen put forward was that "women should see as little as possible of the seamy and sordid side of life" seemed to her so early Victorian as to be hardly worth commenting on.

Lady Astor said that there were two things to be done: (1) Prove to the general public that properly qualified and trained policewomen are a real asset to any force; and (2) show local authorities that women are absolutely determined that more policewomen shall be appointed.

A resolution considering it advisable to appoint women police with the powers and status of constables in the County Boroughs of Exeter and Plymouth, and the administrative County of Devon, was carried unanimously.

### WOMEN POLICE IN GERMANY.

The *Daily Telegraph* reports that the first three "Women Police Commissaries" in Prussia, and, therefore, presumably in Germany, have completed their training at Frankfurt-on-Main, and have been appointed respectively to that town, Cologne, and Breslau. A new course has been constituted, with four "Women Police Secretaries" from Berlin, Hanover, Magdeburg, and Frankfurt. At present about 70 women are serving in the Prussian police forces. They are employed chiefly in connection with charges against children and cases of immorality. In some of the other German States women police are also being introduced. Dresden, for instance, has seven female constables. The qualification of women as "Commissaries" implies, of course, the taking over of positions of greater responsibility and authority.

### THE WASHINGTON HOURS CONVENTION.

There is delay in the possibility of ratifying the Washington Hours Convention caused by the British action in proposing revision of the Convention and claiming place for discussion on the question on the agenda for the International Labour Office Conference in 1929. This will give strength to the protests of women against the application of the Convention to them and not to men. In the Factories Bill (1926), which is the latest printed draft of the Government's proposals, the restriction to a 48-hour week is applied to women. Whether or not any factory or industrial legislation is put through by the present Government or by its successor, the claim that, if applied at all, the Washington Hours Convention shall be applied generally and equally to all workers, irrespective of sex—a claim which is already loud and insistent—will be strengthened and increased by the obviously strong objections to the present form of the Convention coming from many quarters. Feminists express no opinion on the Convention, but do express very strong ones against its application to their working hours, while their male competitors are left free to decide their own times, and while the British and other Governments still hesitate to ratify. The Convention was passed by the International Labour Office Conference at Washington as long ago as 1919, and the fact that it is still largely unaccepted by the nations would indicate in it something unacceptable. At any rate, women prefer to stand equally under the protection of the law with their men fellow-workers. A fair field with no favour to man or woman.

### THE PAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE.

As reported in last week's *VOTE*, a group of women from the American National Woman's Party went down to Havana to back up the South American feminists in order to prevent the elimination from the agenda of the Conference of the item "measures for extending to women the same civil rights as those enjoyed by adult males."

We have as yet no account of the reception by the Conference, except that the Chairman of the American delegation has decided not to oppose, and that the women's delegation has consulted with the Conference President as to the best procedure to lay an Equal Rights proposal before the Conference. In the meantime, Doris Stevens, Chairman of the Party's Committee on International Action, issues the following statement:—

"We have come to the Pan-American Conference to propose the first treaty ever proposed by women on behalf of women in the history of the world.

"We propose a treaty which will make impossible further subjection of women in the 22 sovereign American States, members of the Pan-American Union.

"We propose this treaty at a time when a new code of international law is being born on these continents. The New World is making new laws which vitally affect the lives of the majority of men and women of the Western Hemisphere.

"Women of the New World come for action to this international body because it has full power to draft a treaty which will end the subjection of women on these continents.

"There is no time to be lost. An international code is being drawn up. If we do not start with a code which establishes Equal Rights between men and women, we shall be merely repeating the errors made by the integral republics within these American States. If we fail now through carelessness or lack of determination, our grandchildren will then face the always difficult task of abolishing inequalities established now.

"This need not be. There is a way more just. And if this continent leads the way, the rest of the world will follow.

"The Pan-American Conference has the great opportunity to do a beautiful and historic thing: to begin negotiations of a treaty on behalf of the 22 sovereign States, affirming the principle that men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the New World."

### NURSES' AUTONOMY.

The Council of the British College of Nurses has passed the following resolution, which was published by the *Sunday Times*:—

"The Council of the British College of Nurses desires to place on record its considered opinion that the action of the Joint Committee, composed of members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., the Poor Law Matrons' Association, and the Association of Hospital Matrons, in accepting a large sum of money from a lay member of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., for the purpose of financing the candidature of its nominees for seats on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in the recent election, was unethical in a professional sense, subversive of self-government in the nursing profession, and contrary to the whole spirit of the Nurses' Registration Act.

"The inevitable result of this action was to overload the General Nursing Council with the protagonists of one organisation, as the cost of circularising the electorate, to candidates who declined to submit to the dictation of the Joint Committee, was prohibitive.

"The Council of the British College of Nurses is further of opinion that matrons and superintendents of nurses should scrupulously refrain from endeavouring to influence the votes of registered nurses who are under their control. Such influence must inevitably result in economic pressure being brought to bear upon what should be a free and unbiassed election."

### WOMAN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF RATHMINES URBAN COUNCIL.

On Monday, January 30th, Mrs. Mary Kettle, B.A. (widow of Professor T. M. Kettle, formerly Nationalist M.P. for Tyrone), was elected unanimously to the Chair of Rathmines Council. This is the first time a woman has held this office, though Rathmines has seven women Councillors out of a Council of 24, this being the largest number of women elected to any public body in Ireland. Mrs. Kettle has previously been Vice-Chairman, and for some years has been Chairman of Public Health for the area. She is an ardent feminist, having been associated with the struggle for the vote, and is interested in various progressive movements, such as Child Welfare, Children's Libraries, Technical Education, Feeding of Schoolchildren, Prison Reform, etc. Her unanimous election in a Council consisting of three different Parties, to none of which she belongs (being an Independent), is interesting.

We send our warm congratulations to Mrs. Kettle, who is a sister of Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington. Both Mrs. Kettle and her husband, who frequently spoke for and helped us in pre-suffrage days, were well known to the militants. In returning thanks for her election to the Rathmines Council, Mrs. Kettle said that a man might fill such a position more easily than a woman, because everything a woman did was watched and criticised. She regarded the appointment as an honour to her sex. She would keep to the straight and narrow path, and as an Independent Member of the Council she hoped to have the support of all Parties.

A woman (Mrs. Cosgrave) is Vice-Chairman of the Dublin County Council.

### LABOUR PARTY & WOMEN'S FRANCHISE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The *Times* reports that, by 53 votes to 50, the Assembly last week, after a dull and desultory debate, adopted the Second Reading of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill. This does not, however, bring the vote much nearer for South African women. As on previous occasions when the Second Reading stage had been safely passed, it is fairly certain that the Bill is destined to be wrecked in the Committee stage. The spokesmen of the Labour Party were cynically frank in announcing their intention in the Committee stage of moving an amendment to the Bill restricting the franchise to European women. The Bill as it now stands would admit women to the franchise on the same terms as men. This would mean in the Cape Province the enfranchisement of native, coloured, and Asiatic women. The effect of the insertion of this amendment will be to alienate a number of the Cape supporters of the Bill, who, on principle, refuse to accept any colour bar legislation. The slender majority favouring the Second Reading would thus melt away. The Committee stage has been set down for February 17th.

We sincerely hope that suffragists in South Africa will retaliate by throwing the whole weight of their opposition against the Labour Party until they are prepared to act justly towards women.

#### HOW TO ESTABLISH YOUR FUTURE

### ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

#### BY SETTING UP A RETIRING FUND.

Write or Telephone to—

MISS W. MARY NEW,

(Women's Section)

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

13, CORNHILL, E.C.3.

Phones: AVENUE 1672 and 2253.

## THE VOTE.

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To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,  
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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

### EQUAL FRANCHISE?

The King's Speech is a very clear and definite reminder that Equal Franchise is not yet won, and those optimists who have been telling us that "Equal Franchise is as good as on the Statute Book" must surely pause when they realise that Equal Franchise is not so much as mentioned in the King's Speech, and that the only reference in it to the franchise question is contained in the words: "Proposals will be brought before you for amending the law relating to the Parliamentary and Local Government franchise." Keen suffragists who had confidently predicted a definite pronouncement in regard to Equal Franchise in the King's Speech itself will find but cold comfort in those words, and the Women's Freedom League immediately expressed its keen regret, astonishment and disappointment at the ominous omission, but, relying upon the Prime Minister's pledge that women shall vote at the same age and on the same terms as men at the next General Election, called upon the Government at once to introduce and carry into law a simple franchise measure embodying that promise. We continue to insist upon a simple Equal Franchise measure because all the various pledges given by Mr. Baldwin himself and those made on behalf of the Government have been given to women solely on Equal Franchise. When Mr. Whiteley's Equal Franchise Bill was defeated by this Government in 1925 on the plea that the Government itself would bring the matter before the House at a suitable date within the lifetime of this Parliament, Sir William Joynson Hicks, the Home Secretary, in referring to the Prime Minister's pledge that "The Unionist Party are in favour of equal political rights for men and women, and desire that the question of the extension of the franchise should, if possible, be settled by agreement," said: "I have the authority of my right hon. Friend to say that he stands by that pledge—he stands absolutely, textually, and in spirit by that pledge." Sir William also invited all Parties to join with the Government to make the Prime Minister's pledge effective. Mr. Baldwin knows quite well, and so does Sir William Joynson Hicks, that all Parties are pledged to Equal Franchise, and that no opposition to Equal Franchise will be found in either the Liberal or Labour Parties. They also know equally well that if the proposed Franchise Bill were to be complicated with other electoral matters, such as clauses on the disfranchisement of paupers or votes for companies, definite opposition would be offered by both Parties to those particular clauses, and to invite them to agree on a franchise measure containing them would be the purest mockery. If such clauses did not wreck the Bill outright, they would certainly put it in the greatest danger by the delay incurred through opposition to them; and delay could so easily prevent the Bill reaching the Statute Book in time to enable the proposed new women voters being on the Register in time to vote at the next General Election. However, the promises of the Prime Minister stand out definitely. On April 13th, in answer to a question by Mr. Pethick-Lawrence asking him to state the intentions of the Government with regard to the enfranchisement of women, Mr.

Baldwin said: "The Government has given this matter its most careful consideration, and it has decided to introduce a Bill during the next Session for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women of 21 years of age and upwards on the same terms as men." We also remember that, at the Annual Conference of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations held at Cardiff last September, almost unanimous support for the Prime Minister's pledge was given, when, out of 2,600 delegates, less than 30 voted against the following resolution:—

"That, in the opinion of this Conference, the time has come to fulfil Ministerial pledges to extend the franchise to women on the same terms as men, and to give full effect to the principle accepted by Parliament in its legislation for equalising the sexes in the eyes of the law, and this Conference therefore calls upon the Government to introduce and pass without delay a measure conferring the franchise on all women at the age of 21, in accordance with the undertaking so definitely given in the House of Commons by the Home Secretary, with the full concurrence of the Cabinet, and the equally definite promise of the Prime Minister that there should be Equal Franchise before the next election."

Even better is the Prime Minister's statement in the Debate on the Address given in the House of Commons last Tuesday evening. Mr. Baldwin then said: "With regard to the Franchise Bill, I cannot yet say when the Franchise Bill will be introduced, but I do say this, as I have said before, that whenever the Franchise Bill—it is going to be introduced this Session—is passed, we shall take care that there will be a clause in it, if it is necessitated by the time, to ensure that all who are enfranchised by that Bill shall vote at the next election."

Mr. Baldwin can rely upon the wholehearted support of all women's organisations for an Equal Franchise Bill. Until it is actually on the Statute Book, suffragists must not relax their efforts to bring the matter before the public on every possible occasion. We will do our part, and we rely confidently on the watchfulness of our friends in both Houses of Parliament and on the Government to do the rest.

### EQUAL FRANCHISE REFERENCES.

LT.-COL. LAMBERT WARD (U., Kingston-upon-Hull), in moving the Address on the King's Speech last Tuesday, said that a measure was foreshadowed for placing the franchise in this country on an even more democratic basis than at present, by admitting to the full rights of citizenship women between the ages of 21 and 30.

MR. TEMPLETON (U., Banff), in seconding the Address, said: "We follow the Government in their determination to give representation to every section of the community. Although the experiment may seem drastic, and may give offence in certain quarters, there is a necessity for continually advancing and continually adding to the powers of the people in the democratic government of our country."

MR. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Lab., Aberavon), in the Debate on the Address, declared that the Franchise Bill need not take long, and asked: "Where is the opposition? Why should not this Bill be introduced at once? Is it impossible to have that Bill through before Easter? It is not enough to pass an Enfranchisement Bill. We must also have the Register. That comes into operation on October 15th, and unless the Prime Minister proposes to give us special legislation for registration, his Bill, if delayed to the end of the summer, will not be effective for the next election. The next election is bound to come between October 15th this year and October 15th next year. Therefore, if the October 15th, 1928, Register is made up without the new women's names in it, then those women cannot vote at the next election. The only alternative is to put the Bill through before Easter, or, if not that, then a special Bill making a special Register, so that the women may vote."

## SHADOWS OF COMING EVENTS.

The last week, commencing on the 4th, has seen a series of meetings of women who have been drawn together by the coincidence of three things—one, the tenth anniversary of the winning of votes for some women; two, the Opening of Parliament by the King's Speech, in which all suffragists hoped for an indication of honest intention to equalise the franchise; three, the necessity of a joint pronouncement by organised women as to their policy after study of the King's Speech and the Debate on the Address. All three may be taken as shadows of coming events. The militants, gathered first at dinner on the 4th, then at a meeting on the 6th, showed that the old spirit was alive and quite ready to transform the words of the last ten years into the deeds of the preceding ten years. Names made famous in the old fight, faces familiar to old comrades, were greeted with an enthusiasm undiminished after the years of interruption. Then the waiting for the King's Speech, the meetings of organisations to discuss it, the joint meeting later on the same day of delegates to decide upon a joint policy, and on Wednesday night the public meeting to announce it. With the King's Speech we deal this week on our leader page. With the pronouncement of the women's decision upon policy we shall deal next week, as we go to press too early to permit its inclusion this week.

At the dinner on the 4th, over 150 erstwhile militants gathered and exchanged tales of the old days. As the Chairman read the list of those who had written or telegraphed their regrets for absence, each name was greeted by those present with a warm enthusiasm. More than a dozen speakers gave after the dinner, with commendable brevity, some memory, some thought for the future arising from that memory. Listening, one received a vivid picture of the suffrage militant movement—its earliest days with few members and with less money; the unflinching courage of those early

few, their magical use of their tiny numbers and minute resources; the phenomenal growth, as the women caught fire, of the militant work; the coming into its ranks of such diverse natures, from all classes, all sects, all Parties, united only, but indissolubly, by the desire for freedom. Many of the tales told sent the audience into shouts of laughter, as the tellers described events which at the time seemed desperate, but could now be looked back on with a release of that sense of humour, common to all militants, which undoubtedly had carried them always through the most desperate-seeming situations.

On Monday, at the meeting, a more serious note was struck. Ex-prisoners were seated on the platform in front of a board, on which were displayed the names of those who had passed on. The audience stood in silent sympathy while the Chairman read the roll.

The speakers were all ex-prisoners, and, while dwelling somewhat on their militant past, dealt chiefly with the reasons which had driven them 20 years ago to militancy and with the results of that action. It was claimed, and without exaggeration, that the results of the militant work of British women had been world-wide, and that its effects can now be traced in all countries. All declared that militancy had been worth while; none regretted having had a share in it—partly for what they had individually learnt from its varied experiences, partly for its success in forwarding the emancipation of the whole of womanhood. Nearly all the speakers outlined the wide field of work opening before the enfranchised women. Some advocated social reform, others abhorred it, advising the attainment of equality of power to reform before relaxing into reform itself. The whole meeting was full of life, of energy, of a will to serve, of a determination to lead, which, in whatever direction it may expend itself, will be for the ultimate benefit of humanity.

### THE YOUNG SUFFRAGISTS.

A noticeable and welcome feature of this week's events has been the splendid part played by the Young Suffragists. The Young Suffragists are an organised group of disfranchised Under-Thirties. Slowly, since 1918, their indignation has grown, until, in 1928, it is a living force. Profiting by the experience learnt by an older generation, these young women have seen how and when to make their political moves.

By good press work, they obtained publication on Tuesday of a letter which they intended that day to deliver to His Majesty, and notice of a petition, influentially signed, which they intended to present to the Prime Minister. At 8.30 on Tuesday morning, when most people were only reading about their letter and their petition in the morning's paper, these Young Suffragists were in Downing Street going straight to No. 10. As visitors to Mr. Baldwin, they rang the visitors' bell; as servants to the State, they rang the servants' bell. Admitted inside the door, they were reproved by a shocked chief usher for coming so early, but he recovered and took their petition for delivery to the Prime Minister.

Greeted by the police, who seemed delighted to see old methods revived, while expressing their views that the Under-Thirties need not worry, they were going to have the vote all right, and escorted by Press representatives, the group moved on to Buckingham Palace. Here they were not expected and were half-way across the forecourt before the police realised what was happening and surrounded them, preventing anything but a retirement to the gates. Another attempt was made and, by strategy, they reached the steps at the Privy Door, and the police had to carry away the successful one. Then, as time was passing and their work called, these undaunted young women sent their letter via the Post Office, waited until they knew it was delivered, and then went about their several businesses.

### EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

The Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee holds its Public Meeting after we go to press on Wednesday, but a meeting of delegates from its 24 constituent associations of women met on Tuesday evening after the King's Speech and the Debate on the Address, and agreed upon the following Resolution to be placed before the Public Meeting on Wednesday:

"This Meeting of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee notes the statement in the King's Speech that proposals will be brought forward in Parliament for amending the law relating to the Parliamentary and Local Government Franchise.

"Relying upon the pledge made by the Prime Minister on behalf of his Government that women shall have the Parliamentary vote at 21 and on the same terms as men and shall exercise that vote at the next election—this meeting calls for the immediate introduction and passage into law of a simple measure, not complicated with other electoral matters."

### A MOTOR PARADE.

Indicative of the old spirit among suffragists, and indicative also of some improvement in the economic position of women was the parade of motor-cars owned and driven as well as occupied by women on the occasion of the Opening of Parliament on Tuesday. Meeting in St. James's Square, a fleet of cars drove down Whitehall and round Parliament Square, continuing their route for about two hours. Each had large and striking yellow posters with clear black lettering reiterating the feminists' simple demand for the vote at 21 and on the same terms as men. Indicative also of the change both in official circles and in the public mind, which the work of feminists has brought about, was the attitude of police and public. One can remember the days when a car so decorated would have been turned off the chosen route, and when few posters would have survived the crowd's attention.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

*Feminism.* By K. A. Wieth-Knudsen. (Constable & Co.) Price 12s.

In the midst of all the justification for feminism with which the world over, we are now surrounded, it strikes oddly to receive a book called "Feminism" but containing a distorted account of the position of women through the ages, with no sign of feminism from beginning to end. The sub-title of this book is "A Sociological Study of the Woman Question from Ancient Times to the Present Day." No words could sum up the writer better than his own. Seated in a German students' tavern, a Japanese doctor asked him, "Why do you European men treat and regard your women with such respect, often amounting to devotion? The explosion which one morning . . . blew half the front of the house . . . across the street and lifted me out of bed did not produce anything like such an impression on me as this apparently harmless, but, in its essence and consequence, terrible question."

It is not given to all of us to be so shocked, nor does enlightenment come with reading the book. We are told that to Woman the world "is commonly nothing but a chaotic jumble of events"; but this book is a chaotic jumble of fantasies. To the author love is coition; constancy is a woman faithful to one man; deception is deceiving a husband; charm is conduct to please men. "Man only lies when the knife is at his throat and . . . to save a woman or a friend, and a friend never lies to his friend; Woman, and especially the woman in love, who, of course, has most at stake, will avail herself of falsehood early and late. . . ." He praises Nietzsche's "Man shall be trained for war, and woman for the recreation of the warrior; all else is folly." He is appalled by believing that "hundreds of telephone and telegraph girls, thousands of shop assistants and women clerks own dresses, boots, shoes, stockings and hats by the dozen, where girls of the same class a generation ago were content with one pair of shoes and boots, one everyday and one Sunday dress, home-knitted woollen stockings, one winter and one summer hat, and where, moreover, these things would be repaired . . . and were repaired. Nowadays the picture is a very different one: shoes are thrown out, pair after pair . . . dresses are banished long before they are half worn out, simply because the variable female mind has grown tired of them . . . ; while most men are breadwinners, and therefore wear out their clothes to the last stitch. . . ." He also declares that "the most disastrous result . . . of feminism . . . is the gradual destruction of family life with the aid of modern matrimonial legislation, which . . . has deprived the father of the family of all real authority and weakened his influence in a perilous degree, especially as regards the bringing-up of the children, while, at the same time, opening the flood-gates to the unsocial and unmoral instincts of Woman." "It becomes necessary once more to put things in their right place: that is, Man as No. 1; and Woman as a . . . No. 2."

On prostitution, Professor Wieth-Knudsen writes: "Under this head, of course, falls the whole subject of the state of morality which has resulted in our present-day society, mainly from Woman and her ethics having been allowed ever-increasing latitude both within and without the family. . . . In our childhood no respectable woman could imagine the bare possibility of walking alone in the streets of Copenhagen after 10 o'clock at night, and to this day in Southern Europe a woman is hopelessly compromised if she is known to have done such a thing even once. Nowadays, women, even of the youngest age, go about everywhere and at all hours unaccompanied or in groups of two or three girl friends; from the age of 13 and 14 they are allowed to go out into the world uncontrolled and unattended. And the result—in our young days Copenhagen contained about 500 public prostitutes, whose record is contained in the annual police reports of the time, besides a couple of thousand

secret prostitutes; now, by the evidence of all observers, there are about 20,000 secret prostitutes in Copenhagen alone. . . and what the emancipated women, married and unmarried, permit themselves in their thousands may be read in the police reports. . . ."

One cannot review this sort of stuff; one can only quote. It seems a terrible waste of a man's life, for Professor Wieth-Knudsen admits that he has spent 20 years in writing it. And now it is translated by another man into English, and is published by an English publisher, who is charging 12s. for it. I cannot think why.

HELEN ARCHDALE.

*The Life of Rachel McMillan.* By Margaret McMillan, with an introduction by the Countess of Warwick. (Dent & Sons.) Price 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This brief biography of Rachel McMillan, by her sister, devoted disciple and fellow-worker, Margaret, is dedicated to Lady Astor, with the quotation, "Party is not enough." Edith Cavell sealed her sacrifice with the words, "Patriotism is not enough." The slogan of both Rachel and Margaret McMillan might be given in the word "service"—conscious of a mission, a "concern," both devoted themselves to the service of the child. Their monument is in the heart of a child, their lasting memorial the successful establishment of day nurseries and clinics for the children of the poor. How much arduous pioneer work was necessary for the accomplishment of this task is told in the volume.

It tells also of the early struggles of the I.L.P. in Bradford and in London. It contains vignettes of many of those giants of the past—of Joseph Fels the Jewish-American philanthropist, of Louise Michel the gentle anarchist, of Henry George, Keir Hardie, Jowett, Kropotkin, Karl Marx, and Mrs. Pankhurst.

The book contains an illuminating and sympathetic comment on militancy, in reference to the struggle for the vote in 1913, a struggle in which Rachel and Margaret McMillan played their part. When many of the Labour women and men stood aside or preferred to concentrate on other reforms, Rachel McMillan threw in her lot with her militant sisters after the "Cat and Mouse" Bill came into operation. The following vivid picture is worth quoting of a "battle long ago": "We joined a Committee formed by Sir Victor Horsley, and went with many other women to the House of Commons. It was a beautiful day in August when we set off, all full of zeal, across the paved lawns of St. Margaret's till we reached the House and mounted the steps. There we stood a long time. An old lady was on the step above us—she was dressed very daintily in amethyst silk, her white hair shining under a close-fitting bonnet. I was looking admiringly at her when suddenly a force of policemen swung down on us like a Highland regiment. We were tossed like dust on the steps. The little amethyst lady fell, her necklet fell on the steps, and a moment later I was on the floor, the crowd behind me flung over me in wild descent. Then I saw a policeman and Rachel standing over me, he dragging me up, she holding her arm behind me. There was a big meeting that night, at which I was to speak, but I did not speak at that meeting nor at any other, for weeks. This was the only time when I ever saw Rachel stirred to real and deep resentment. She appealed to various Members of the House to make impossible the recurrence of such violence to persons engaged in a peaceful mission. Quite in vain. She was not flouted, but ignored. The women's war went on."

As will be seen from the above, Rachel McMillan played no passive part in the stirring events of her time. She ranged herself fearlessly ever with the weak against the strong, and "loved the bright face of danger."

Though the book is primarily of interest to those who wish to study the modest beginnings of a great educational and progressive movement, it is full of human appeal of a more general character.

H. S. S.

## WHERE TO GO.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

## LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, February 10th, at 7.15 p.m.  
King's Speech Dinner at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square. Tickets 3/6 each from Miss Reeves.  
Saturday, February 11th, at 10 a.m.  
National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.  
Tuesday, February 14th, at 8.15 p.m.  
Golders Green Branch. Whist Drive (by kind invitation of Mrs. Gugenheim) at 15, Ravenscourt Avenue, N.W. 11.  
Wednesday, February 15th, at 4 p.m.  
Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Wednesday, February 15th, at 8.30 p.m.  
Minerva Club. Short Readings from Greek Writers by Miss Edith Rodgers. 1.—Epic and Lyric Poetry.  
Thursday, February 16th, at 7.30 p.m.  
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Open-air Meeting at Highbury Corner, arranged by the Women's Freedom League.  
Thursday, February 16th, 7.45 to 10 p.m.  
Hampstead Branch. Social at 49, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of Councillor Irene Fisher, to meet Miss Ida Homfray (L.C.C. Candidate). Speakers: Mr. Samuel James on "The Cecil Lodging Houses," and Miss D. C. Biggs on "Local Housing Associations." Chairman: Mrs. Fisher.  
Friday, March 16th, at 3 p.m.  
Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr. Octavia Lewin).  
Saturday, April 28th at 10 a.m.  
Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

## PROVINCES.

Saturday, February 11th.  
Portsmouth. Tea and Politics-up-to-date, 2, Kent Road, at 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Peacock.  
Tuesday, February 21st, at 3.30 p.m.  
Rye. Members' Meeting at the Old Hope Hotel. Tea and Discussion.  
Friday, February 24th.  
Ashford. Branch Meeting. Nurse Scott on "Home Nursing."  
Wednesday, February 29th, at 3.30 p.m.  
Bexhill. Whist Drive at the Albany H. tel.  
Friday, March 2nd, at 4 p.m.  
Newbury. Chief Inspector Champneys, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, at the Maggie Restaurant.  
Friday, March 30th.  
Ashford. Branch Meeting. Dr. Littledals on "Local Birds."

## SCOTLAND.

Wednesday, February 15th, at 7 p.m.  
Edinburgh. Business and Social Meeting. Heriot Hill House, Canonmills. Hostess: Mrs. Easson.  
Friday, February 17th, at 7.30 p.m.  
Dunoon. Annual Meeting in the Rosebery Restaurant.  
Monday, February 27th, at 7.45 p.m.  
Glasgow. Public Meeting at the McLellan Galleries. Speakers: Miss Isabel Hamilton, L.L.A., F.E.I.S., and others. Chair: Bailie Mrs. Bell.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, February 10th, at 2.45 p.m.  
British Commonwealth League. Mrs. Sharpe "At Home," Cowdray Club. Bridge, Fortune-telling. Tea. Tickets 5s. 6d. and 2s. 6d.  
Friday, February 10th, at 8.30 p.m.  
Queen's Hall Demonstration Community Singing Practice at 35, Abercorn Place, N.W.8 (by the kind permission of Miss Bell).  
Saturday, February 11th, at 3 p.m.  
Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Symposium: "To-day's News."  
Sunday, February 12th, at 3.30 p.m.  
The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square. Brig.-Gen. the Hon. C. G. Bruce, C.B., M.V.O.: "The Ascent of Mount Everest." Lantern Slides.  
Thursday, February 14th, at 5 p.m.  
Six Point Group. Series on "Equal Occupational Rights and the Modern Girl." The Viscountess Rhonda on "Women in Business." Chair: Lady Cory.  
Sunday, February 19th, at 11 a.m.  
Hampshire House Club, Ravenscourt Park. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood on "The Life and Work of Josephine Butler."  
Monday, February 20th, at 3 p.m.  
International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. Lecture on the Women of Russia by Jakoff Prelooker followed by Recital of Russian Songs by Miss Miriam Prelooker, at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Chairman: Mrs. Corbett Ashy. Tickets 6s. and 2s. 6d.  
Tuesday, February 21st, at 8 p.m.  
Women's International League. Kensington Branch. Meeting at King's College, Campden Hill. Miss Allison Neilans on "Josephine Butler." Dr. Ethel Williams on "Traffic in Women and Children." Chair: Lord Balfour of Bursleigh.  
Tuesday, February 28th, at 3 p.m.  
Meeting on "Maternal Mortality," at the Central Hall, Westminster.

## BRANCH NOTES.

## HAMPSTEAD.

Members and friends are cordially invited to be present at the Social Gathering to be held at 49, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of Councillor Mrs. Irene Fisher), on Thursday, February 16th, at 7.45 p.m., to meet Miss Ida Homfray, Liberal candidate for the forthcoming L.C.C. election. Miss Homfray is already well known to the branch, and members will welcome this opportunity of meeting her.

Mr. Samuel James has kindly promised to speak on the "Cecil Lodging Houses for Women," and Miss D. C. Briggs will speak on "Local Housing Associations and their Relation to Municipal Housing Schemes." There will be music and recitations. Refreshments, price 6d. The entrance to 49, Haverstock Hill, is in College Road, and is quite near Chalk Farm Tube Station.

All members who have not already paid their annual subscriptions are asked to send them as early as possible to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Lyndon, 53, Willow Road, N.W.3.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS ELIZABETH BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

## BEXHILL.

The Whist Drive held at the Albany Hotel last Wednesday was very enjoyable. The prizes were won by Mrs. Edwardes, Miss Shindler, and Mrs. Brazier; the latter made an excellent M.C. The next Whist Drive will be held on Wednesday, February 29th.

## HASTINGS.

A well-attended Meeting was held at the Open Door Club last week. The members met under the chairmanship of Mrs. Darent Harrison. The meeting was called to consider resolutions for the Annual Conference; two resolutions were framed and sent to Headquarters.

## RYE.

By kind invitation of Miss Bellhouse, a Members' Meeting was held at the Old Hope Anchor Hotel last week; the object of these Tea and Discussion Meetings is to educate the members on the work of the League. Miss White explained that the Annual Conference would be coming off shortly, and she suggested that the resolutions should be read and considered at the next meeting, so that the members would understand something about the work for the Conference. She was asked several questions, which led to discussion on various points. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21st. Miss Bellhouse is kindly inviting all the members to tea and discussion, and Miss White will lead the discussion by request.

## EDINBURGH.

Business and Social Meeting at Heriot Hill House, Canonmills, on Wednesday, February 15th, at 7 p.m. Hostess, Mrs. Easson, from whom tickets may be obtained on request.

## GLASGOW.

Public Meeting at McLellan Galleries, on Monday, February 27th, at 7.45 p.m. Chair, Bailie Mrs. Bell. Speakers, Miss Isabel Hamilton, L.L.A., F.E.I.S., and other women candidates for education authority elections.

## DUNOON.

A Public Meeting was held by the Dunoon Branch in the Rosebery Restaurant, on Friday, January 27th. In her opening remarks, Mrs. May complimented the Secretary, Mrs. Smith, on having secured the services of so popular a speaker as Miss Eunice Murray, who was known throughout the country as a strong and courageous woman who had given many years of splendid service to the women's cause. Miss Eunice Murray, in her usual able manner, enumerated the various advances women had made during the past year. One very noticeable achievement was that of Miss Scott, a young woman of 29, who had created the winning design for the new Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, while not so long ago an eminent man architect declared that no woman could ever make a good architect. It seems equal opportunities with men is all that is needed. The women will do the rest. Miss Murray, speaking of the Centenary of the great Josephine Butler, said it seemed ludicrous, while the whole country is arranging to do honour to so notable a woman, that Glasgow and Edinburgh should come forward with ideas to kill with one slash all Josephine Butler's life work. The speaker urged resistance to all State Regulation of Vice, as it had been proved in the past and in other countries to be a failure. Success could only be obtained by advance along the true path—the Josephine Butler path. Encouragement of everything that makes for a clean moral life with free, voluntary medical treatment, was needed. Miss Murray urged the necessity of women police in public parks, etc. Mrs. M. D. Macpherson, in moving a vote of thanks to Miss Eunice Murray, also moved a vote of condolence to the unfortunate people who were not present. Tea was served, and a pleasant evening spent by all present. The Annual Business Meeting will be held in the Rosebery Restaurant on February 17th, at 7.30 p.m. Will all members please be present? (Hon. Sec.) MRS. SMITH, Olney Park, West Bay.

## NOTE TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

Will Branch Secretaries and other Contributors to THE VOTE kindly write only on one side of the paper?—F. A. U.

FRIDAY,  
FEB. 10,  
1928.

# THE VOTE

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## REST AND HOLIDAYS.

**BRIGHTON.**—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.

**FRENCH ALPS.**—Furnished Chalet to let. View Mt. Blanc, Seven beds, bath, inside sanitation.—"E.C.F.," 31, Meadhurst Road, Leicester.

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## FOR SALE.

**NEW Brick Bungalow, double-fronted, square bays; verandah; six rooms, bath (h. & c.); inside sanitation; Co.'s water; good bus service; pretty piece woodland; ½ acre. Price, freehold, £650 £500 mortgage obtainable.—MOCKFORD, Eastcote, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent.**

## EDUCATIONAL.

**SCIENTIFIC RIGHT THINKING.** Daily Public Meetings, showing method of healing by Right Thinking. All interested invited. Times on application. Teaching, orally and by correspondence. Literature on Sale and Loan. For full information apply:—THE SECRETARY, The Society for Spreading the Knowledge of True Prayer, 12, Buckingham Palace Gardens, London, S.W.1

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**CLOTTED CREAM, 3/- lb., post free.** Furnished House to let at NEWQUAY, 5 rooms; also Flat.—Apply SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.

## CLUBS.

**MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.** Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Museum 4791.

## NOTICES.

**INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.**—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

**WOMEN'S NEEDLEWORK DEPOT, 61—62, Chancery Lane, W.C.2,** make your material into dresses from 16/6 to measure, Costumes from 32/6 to measure. A fair rate of pay for Women Workers is earnestly solicited. Don't buy garments made at starvation rate of pay. Send stamp, full particulars, or call. Daily. 10 to 6 o'clock.—Telephone: Holborn 2576

**PUBLIC SPEAKING.**—Lectures, classes, and private lessons. Saturday Speech Club.—MISS LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tel.: Museum 4791.

**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, February 12th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Brig.-Gen. the Hon. C. G. Bruce, C.B., M.V.O., 6.30. Prof. Percy Dearmer, D.D.: "Creation and Genesis."

## TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d.** Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Est 1870.

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