THE VOTE, JUNE 21, 1929.

WORLD WAR on SEX PREJUDICE.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NON-PARTY.

VOL. XXX. No. 1,026. (Registered at the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1929

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

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INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

ELEVENTH CONGRESS, BERLIN, JUNE 17TH-22ND, 1929.

WOMEN, PEACE AND HUMANITY.

MRS. CORBETT ASHBY'S PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

Historians of the future, in dealing with the opening quarter of the twentieth century, will record the rise and success of the woman's movement as one of profound social and political importance. They will rank it with the rise of democracy, of nationalism and internationalism, those spiritual counterparts of the marvellous material inventions which mould modern civilisation.

The Alliance which has called this Conference represents the political side of that movement, but the political is so integral a part of the whole that you will forgive me if I speak of it as one and indivisible. Persecution, caricature, and ridicule have failed to crush us, though we have suffered as deeply from the apathy of women as from the hostility of men. Outwardly, we celebrate to-day the twenty-fifth jubilee of the founding of the Alliance in 1904, then a group of eight countries, now a powerful organised international body of women from forty countries in all continents. In our hearts, we celebrate a greater triumph, the gain of spiritual freedom for half the human race, which, hitherto, has hampered its own advance with almost inconceivable stupidity.

In earlier times, even when men won freedom, they grudged it to women, and where men have been politically and socially oppressed they have maintained their self-esteem by contemplating the deeper degradation of women. Sex prejudice is so strong that it is almost impossible for any man or woman to look coolly and dispassionately at the woman's movement. We here can certainly not pretend to impartiality, since we are intensely proud to be in the service of the woman's movement and to act as its standard bearers throughout the world.

Our watchword is Freedom to Serve. We have always been allowed to serve, but have not been accorded the right to give of our best. How ridiculous to compare in value the unwilling toil of serf or slave and the proud self-dedication of the volunteer and the free man! How hypocritical to condemn the powder on a woman's face and laud the gunpowder that mows down her sons!

Yet how timidly have men and women become convinced that women, too, can only give of their best

when they are spiritually and economically free. In how many countries to-day do State and Church and our new master, the Press, pompously interfere with women's skirts and sleeves, while sweated women toil for a pittance in factories, and the babies of half-starved, immature mothers die in hot slums like flies. Let us, women, set a truer standard for ourselves and dedicate ourselves to peace in the world, happiness, and dignity in labour, and full participation in the home.

Man's control of the forces of nature threaten his own destruction. The problems of life are infinitely complicated by our conquest of space and time. The organisation of daily human needs is necessarily worldwide, as witness the supply of food for our cities and raw materials for our industry. This world-need is proving too strong for sex prejudice, and we see that we must have every ounce of ability developed in each man or woman, if countries are to survive in the world competition. Life's organisation to-day demands exceptional personal qualities of leadership, initiative, and judgment. Can we dare any longer to waste capacity and leadership by depriving any man or woman of the self-reliance and self-discipline bred by freedom and responsibility?

Watch this Congress, test us by results. We do not ask for compliments or indulgences. We are willing to be judged by the result of our efforts. We stand for a lower death-rate of young and old, better education, improved conditions of labour, the protection of the family, the real standard of morals raised, and a double standard no longer openly tolerated.

Men claim that they work by logic, women by instinct. We challenge both statements. For women to trust to instinct rather than training in the world of to-day, even in the field of motherhood, is to court disaster. We are the logical sex, since we apply the simple formula from each according to his ability. Economic equality is necessary both for independent work and wise choice in marriage. Moral equality is the only protection from social ills.

Look at the illogical character of the opposition. In one country women are not even allowed to study philosophy, yet in others they act as judges and everywhere as educators.

They may study foreign languages, but not the wisdom to exchange in those languages. In the interests of morality and the home, married women may not work late at night, and young boys leaving school take their place. In one group married women may freely choose their work, but not vote; elsewhere they may vote, but are excluded on marriage even from acting as doctors to infant welfare clinics. Everywhere women may heal and comfort the stricken in mind and body, yet in half the world they are powerless to vote for social measures which would lessen the need for

Pick up any book labelled "Great Women." It will sing the mistresses of kings, not the women who the women administrators and judges, women concerned in prison reform, women in scientific research, women at the head of colleges and hospitals or business

Good work is dull to those who watch; so exciting to those absorbed in it. Let us replace "Wine, Woman and Song "by "Woman, Peace and Humanity."

NEWS ABOUT AMERICAN WOMEN.

The following items are taken from the June number of The Woman's Journal (New York) :-

of Agricultural Economics Library of the United States of the Melbourne University. Department of Agriculture, has been awarded the first prize for the best bibliography on agriculture or the natural sciences in the biennial contest arranged by the Eunice Rockwood Oberly Memorial Fund Committee of the American Library Association. Mrs. Hannay's work entitled "Control of Production of Agricultural Products by Governments" covers all the essential literature on attempts by world Governments to limit agricultural

Woman Successful Bus Operator.

An important link in the new Seattle-San Francisco-New York bus line was developed by a woman, Mrs. Emma Coldiron, owner and manager of the Blue Mountain Transportation Company, from Boise, Idaho, to Pendleton, Oregon. Although Mrs. Coldiron has now sold her holdings to the big coast-to-coast transit system, she still retains her line from Pendleton to Spokane, Washington.

In 1913, when a new lumber camp was opened four miles from Hoquiam, Washington, Mrs. Coldiron invested her meagre savings in two second-hand Fords and established a bus service between town and camp. This was the humble beginning of one of the largest and most up-to-date transport companies operating in the North West. Mrs. Coldiron not only provides for passengers, but was the first person to put on a modern freight motor system in the West, designing the coaches herself, so that they were dustproof.

Woman Director of Store Department.

Miss Mary Lewis, who ten years ago was employed by the New York City Department Store, Best & Company, as a copy writer, has just been elected the first woman member of its Board. Miss Lewis is only 32 years old. In 1926 she undertook to revive the cotton dress, which partly through her efforts is still in vogue. Three other departmental stores in New York City have recently recognised the business ability of women by including women in their Directorates.

Business Women's Tours.

For the second year the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs is arranging summer European tours for its members. Two groups of about fifty women each will sail in July-one for the Northern countries, the other for the Southern. In addition to sightseeing, conferences will be arranged with the business and professional women of each city

NEWS OF AUSTRALIAN WOMEN.

We are indebted to our Western Australian contemporary, The Dawn, for the following information:-Woman Representative for the Assembly.

Dr. Roberta Jull has been chosen as the woman representative on the Australian delegation to the Assembly of the League of Nations in September. Dr. Jull was the first medical woman to practise in Perth (Western Australia). In 1915 she was casualty surgeon at the Perth Public Hospital, when the staff was depleted owing to the war, and since 1915, Dr. Jull has been medical officer of schools in the Public Health Department, and since 1926 supervisor of infant fought and fight slavery, immorality, or disease; not welfare. She has also taken an active part in University work in Western Australia, and is a former president of the Australian Federation of University Women. As a member of the League of Nations Union in Australia, she has lectured on the League work, and in 1922, Dr. Jull attended the League of Nations summer school at Oxford.

Australian Woman Architect.

Miss Margaret Pitt-Morison is the first West-Australian woman to become a fully qualified architect. She obtained her first experience in Perth offices, where she served four years' articles. She then went to an old established firm at Melbourne, and worked on its staff in competition and collaboration with twenty men. At the same time she attended for three years a night Mrs. Annie M. Hannay, an Associate of the Bureau course in architectural design at the architecture atelier

Woman on Executive of Public Service Association.

Miss O'Keefe, of the Mines Department of New South Wales, is the first woman to be elected to the executive committee of the New South Wales Public Service Association. She was elected at a Conference at which 90 men and only 3 women were

Women and the Care of Aborigines.

At a recent Conference, summoned by the Federal Minister of Home Affairs, it was decided to recommend that women be appointed as assistant protectors of aborigines-probably on account of the intelligent assistance rendered to the Conference by the two women delegates, Mrs. John Jones, of the Victorian Women Citizens' Movement, and Mrs Ternent Cooke, of the South Australian Women's Non-Party Association. These two women's organisations had each been invited to send a delegate to this Conference.

WOMEN AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

The following women were present at the International Labour Conference, which opened at Geneva n May 30th.

Canada: - Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, Vancouver, B.C., sent as Government Delegate.

Denmark:--Mrs. Kirsten Gloerfelt-Tarp, Factory Inspector, sent as Government Adviser.

France: - Mrs. Letellier, Departmental Inspector of Labour, sent as Government Adviser.

Great Britain:-Miss Julia Varley, Trade Union Organiser, Workers' Union, member of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, sent as Workers' Adviser; and Mrs. Ethel Mary Foster, of the Ministry of Labour, who acted as Secretary to the Delegation.

Netherlands: -Miss G. J. Stenaberg, Doctor of Law, Director in the Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industry, sent as Government Adviser.

Norway: - Mrs. Betzy Kjelsberg, Factory Inspector, who was appointed by the Norwegian Government as Leader of the Delegation.

Poland: - Mrs. Eugenja Wasniewska, Deputy, who was sent as Workers' Adviser.

Sweden :- Miss Kerstin Hesselgren, Chief Woman Factory Inspector, Member of the Senate, sent as Government Adviser.

"WOMEN'S WORK."

LADY RAVENSDALE ON WHAT LIES BEFORE WOMEN,

honour of the new President, the Baroness Ravensdale, at which were present the Rev. J. H. Ellison, Rector of St. Michael's, Cornhill, Miss Dorothy Evans, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, First President of the Club, the Hon. C. Baillie Hamilton, M.P., Mrs. Hoster, F.I.S.A., F.I.P.S., Past-President, Miss H. Mackenzie Edwards, Honorary Secretary of the Club, Mr. Archibald Crawford, K.C., Mr. R. T. D. Stoneham, Mrs. Anstruther, Vice-President, and many professional women. Mrs. Hoster said she had been asked when she meant to retire, and had replied: "When a woman is on the City Corporation, and not before." The retort was that in that case she would be over one hundred, but she hoped men would have more sense before then. In the thirty-six years she had worked in the City she had seen some improvement in respect to women's work, but not nearly enough. Men have better opportunities of learning. We want them to be generous enough to give women the same chances. If men are large-minded enough to open the higher positions to women, Mrs. Hoster does not think women will fail

Lady Ravensdale opened her address by saying that every other woman present was in a better position than herself, because, as a peeress in her own right, she had no vote. She might go up and down the country speaking on anything from elephants to sticklebats, but otherwise she was voiceless.

'It has often been said," Lady Ravensdale continued, "that women love power; now they have got it. They have the power of putting in the future Governments of this country. We owe our gratitude to those who went before. I stand here, and you in this room, as the aftermath of those women. You have the power of the vote in hand. The young women have said: 'We don't think things are going right. We'll give another system a chance.' You, largely, have put the Labour Government in.'

Lady Ravensdale spoke of the widening influence of club life in enabling women to get outside their narrow grooves and throw their vision into larger fields. Everything depends on one's outlook. You may travel all over the world like a factotum under Thomas Cook and get nowhere. There is plenty of life to be had from contact with others, sharing their joys and pains. Lady Ravensdale said she believed that all of us at the bottom of our hearts wished to work for the betterment of humanity. Her own desire is to lose no opportunity and have no regrets.

'We go through the world only once," said Lady Ravensdale. "Mrs. Pankhurst, Josephine Butler, and others, all of them crusaders, have given the women of to-day their opportunity. We who benefit by their so that you pass a very definite citizen out of Britain.'

At a dinner at the Langbourne Club last week in mour of the new President, the Baroness Ravensdale, ignominy for you and me. If you and I have any sense of values, we must carry out our duties to-day to the last drop of our human possibility. You are capable of working on an equal basis with men. If you can prove yourself equal, it is your right to take that position.

> Lady Ravensdale stated that it is with the higher posts that barriers arise. There must be nothing between women and these posts but proof that they are able to fill them. Women must demand and clamour for equal wages. Any woman who accepts lower wages than a man for the same work is not playing up. All questions of sex and femininity must be gradually effaced. We have gained great victories, and the final good for England will be the working of the two sexes together.

> "I want to see women on every Committee, in every orchestra, and in every institution," Lady Ravensdale continued. "We have got to contend with centuries of male prejudice. Do it professionally, not amateurishly. Whatever you are interested in, you have to be professional. If you have trained knowledge, you have an inner vision which enables you to discuss your subject

> The mechanical advance of to-day makes one ask where is it going to end? What is our responsibility to the next generation? It is for us to teach the next generation. We need faith, courage, and absolute conviction that what we are doing is for the rights of woman, man, and the whole world.'

> Lady Ravensdale said that her father, Lord Curzon, was often thought pompous, but his pronouncement in his student days at Oxford, "I am going to be Viceroy of India," went deeper than that. The very announcement of the fact of an intention and the strength it gives the conviction in your own soul, gets you to that final victory.

> "We go through this world only once," Lady Ravensdale repeated, "I implore you to pick every flower in experience, tolerance, and helping other people in their trials, and other countries in their evolution.'

Lady Ravensdale would like to see women more united in their efforts.

In a record of 1419 it was stated, "And the freeman when she is a woman shall have no excuse from the duties of watch and ward." Lady Ravensdale hoped that Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., as the first woman in the Cabinet, would stand up to her duties as "watch and ward." In conclusion, Lady Ravensdale said: "Try to make your track through life a definite one,

WOMAN'S FUTURE WORK IN AVIATION.

That Miss Caton-Thompson, a British woman explorer, should have been engaged by the British Association to make an aerial survey of the legendary site of King Solomon's Mines, in South Rhodesia, is significant of what the future may have in store for women aviators. Miss Caton-Thompson's two women assistants are both

Civil aviation should shortly open a new career to women. For women with medical training, the aerial medical service of Australia-Australia was the first continent of the world to institute such a service-offers many opportunities.

There is an ever-widening field in meteorology in all parts of the world for women who hold science degrees and are interested in research. Surveying; map-making; photography: all hold out a future for women in the air. Girls of the future, trained in an agricultural college in Canada for example, might become forestry observers. A forest fire cannot burn for long unobserved, but only

the destruction of the whole area. For many years Cora Lind has acted as observer of the state of the crops in Canada, conducting her tour mainly by motor car. How much quicker such work will be done in the future by air?

NEW LAURELS FOR WOMEN.

For the first time in its history, the much coveted Craven Fellowship at Oxford has been won by a woman. Miss Isabel Munro, the new Craven Fellow, is the daughter of the Rector of Lincoln College. Her mother was a distinguished classical scholar.

The Pelham Studentship, which goes to the runnerup for the Craven Fellowship, has been awarded to Miss Diana Lucas.

THE VOTE IN QUEBEC.

A woman voter in Quebec who wishes to marry is in the curious position of having to choose between losing her vote or her potential husband. After she is a forestry expert can trace diseased trees which threaten married she has to allow her husband to vote for her.

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.

WOMEN METROPOLITAN POLICE MAGISTRATES?

The Committee appointed by the late Home Secretary to inquire into the working of Police Courts and Juvenile Courts in the metropolitan area, following complaints that magistrates were overworked and that the Courts were congested, has recently issued its Report, and we note that it contains the following "Women have special qualifications recommendation: for work in Juvenile Courts, and we think that if at any time a woman should be appointed to be a Metropolitan Police Magistrate she would be specially suitable to act as President of one or more of the Juvenile Courts." At present there are twenty - seven Metropolitan Magistrates who each receive payment from £1,000 to £1,800 a year. The appointments are made by the Crown, and those who hold them have to be barristers of at least seven years' standing. Women have now been practising in this country for several years, and we hope it will not be long before women are appointed as Metropolitan Magistrates and also as Stipendiary Magistrates outside London. They would certainly make excellent Presidents of Juvenile Courts and could be confidently relied upon to make good also in the ordinary Metropolitan Police Courts.

MODERN GIRLS AND BOYS.

During the last few days prizes have been presented at various schools and colleges, and the customary speeches made by those who presented them. Miss Iris Brooks, headmistress of Malvern Girls' College, is reported as saying at the prize-giving last Friday: "Why must the modern girl be so cocksure, so rude in manner? She is honest, brave and keen, but she often spoils herself by a total lack of charm." Dr. Cyril Norwood, Headmaster of Harrow, when presenting the prizes at Felsted School, is stated to have said: "As a nation, we put a high value on grit, frankness, justice, impartiality: all practical rather than intellectual qualities. The value of getting definite knowledge should stand much higher. The public schoolboy has much to recommend him, but he is not usually numbered among those who have knowledge, or even among those who have a desire for it. Reports from the Dominions show a tremendous toll of failure among the boys who went out there, through lack of knowledge and the assumption that grit would suffice. The truth is that the world is being governed by knowledge as never before." It is of course the special business of headmasters and headmistresses to criticise young people for their good, and it is interesting to note that a headmistress thinks that the chief thing lacking in the modern girl is charm, and that a headmaster considers that the modern boy's chief need is more knowledge, and the desire for it. We wonder if they would both agree that the present day girl has all the knowledge and the present day boy all the charm which should be required of them? It is very easy to disparage young people of both sexes, but they often have their own special difficulties which are not lessened by their elders. The honesty, bravery, and keenness of girls, and the grit, frankness, sense of justice and impartiality in boys are very sound qualifications for our future citizens. May we not hope that the further knowledge they will gain in their experience of life will increase the charm of the young people of both sexes? It should be remembered that

young people are very much more influenced by example than by precept. If their elders are in the habit of showing courtesy and consideration to each other and to the young people, the latter fall into line very easily, and there can never be a total lack of charm in either boys or girls when they voluntarily show consideration for others. We are also sure that when all their elders—both men and women—show an intelligent interest in everything around them and in all branches of knowledge, the average boy and girl will gladly share that interest and work to acquire all kinds of knowledge. We are convinced that both charm and the love of knowledge are well within the reach of the modern boy and girl.

WORLD WAR ON SEX PREJUDICE.

This week representative women from forty different countries are celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship by holding a Congress in Berlin. Equality of the sexes is the keynote of the main resolutions appearing on the agenda. In twenty-five nations women now have the vote on equal terms with men, and the Board of the Alliance is pledged to inform unenfranchised, selfgoverning States of this fact and to urge the enfranhisement of women in these States in order that government by the people " may everywhere include all the people. Other resolutions to be discussed by this World Parliament of Women demand that all avenues of work shall be open to women; that education for professions and trades shall be available for women on the same terms as for men; that all professions and posts in the public service shall be open to men and women, with equal opportunities for advancement; that women shall receive the same pay as men for the same work; and that the right to work of all women be recognised, and no obstacles placed in the way of married women who desire to work. With regard to moral rights, the Congress demands that a higher moral standard, equal for men and women, shall be recognised; that the traffic in women shall be suppressed; and that the regulation of vice and all laws and practices differentiating against women, or any class of women, in this matter shall be abolished. Dealing with legal rights, the Congress demands that the married woman shall have the same right to retain or change her nationality as a man has; that, on marriage, a woman shall have full personal and civil rights, including the right to the use and disposal of her property; that she shall not be under the tutelage of her husband, and shall have the same rights over her children as the father; that research for the father of a child born out of wedlock shall be authorised, and that an illegitimate child shall have the same right to maintenance and education from the father during the period of dependency as a legitimate child, and that an unmarried mother during the period when she is incapacitated shall also have the right to maintenance from the father of her child. Women Police is the subject of the following resolution: This Congress urges delegates to lay before the Minister in control of the Police Force in their own countries the essential need that women accepted for Police Service should be given a general police training in addition to the special training necessary to their particular duties connected with women and children. The Congress further urges that Policewomen should, by their training, experience, and status, be in no way debarred from filling, equally with their men colleagues, any and all positions of responsibility, not excluding the higher administrative branches of the Police Force. Another resolution urges that, in those countries where the vote won, it is essential, if full equality of opportunity between men and women is to be achieved, for nonparty feminist organisations to continue to exist, in order to bring pressure to bear on Governments, to educate all the political parties and the Press, and to organise the women voters.

THE LIFE AND WORK OF WOMEN IN JAPAN

At a meeting at the Minerva Club last Thursday, Miss Eileen Casey, who has spent some years in Japan as a teacher of English, gave a most interesting lecture on the position of women in that country.

to give rise to many of the cases of curvature, and an attempt is being made by welfare workers to encourage Japanese women to lay their babies down as is done in the West. As soon as a child, either boy or girl, is old

Miss Casey said it would be much appreciated by women in Japan—to which country she is returning shortly—to know that English women were watching their progress. So far, Japanese women had not had much scope for public work, but at the present time their position was improving almost daily.

In Old Japan between 800 A.D.—1150, the Heian Period, women enjoyed much freedom; they held public posts and were even Mikados. Women were among the great writers of this time, and throughout its history Japan feels itself indebted to women for keeping the language pure. The earliest romances were written by two great Japanese women.

In the Tokugawa Period, which began in 1600, the introduction of the teaching of Confucius (who found no place for women in any of the three worlds), put the women of Japan entirely into the background. Although the doctrines of Confucius are still adhered to, since the Restoration women have been encouraged to fight for their rights and have been sent to America and Europe for education. Women are now studying philosophy and medicine and are working in the teaching and dental professions.

Although half-a-century ago women were regarded purely as domestic servants whatever their social position, some had now gone so far as to stand up on benches or chairs and address a meeting on equality.

The average woman's life in Japan, said Miss Casey, was very quiet. The women were gentle and courteous, and seemed to have time to do things in a courteous manner. Courtesy was one of the first things they were taught. In accordance with tradition, a Japanese woman was always expected to keep her griefs and sorrows to herself and appear smiling and bright. Immediate obedience to any form of command is ingrained in the Japanese character.

Due to economic pressure and their own desire for independence, women are now taking part in industrial life. The pay is often as low as 1/6 a day, which means anything from ten to twelve hours, but money values in Japan and this country vary considerably. An Act has been passed to prohibit women doing night-work in factories. Women also work in shops and offices and are gradually extending their field of activities.

The Japanese are great lovers of children and are much concerned that so high a death rate among infants in their first year prevails. They are going to work along the lines of Child Welfare to check this evil. The carrying of children on the back is believed

to give rise to many of the cases of curvature, and an attempt is being made by welfare workers to encourage Japanese women to lay their babies down as is done in the West. As soon as a child, either boy or girl, is old enough it is saddled with a baby to take charge of. So weary do children become of the perpetual burden of bearing a baby on their backs, that it has been known for them to commit suicide. The Japanese are first and foremost poets, and suicide—which their religion does not definitely forbid—is generally committed in beautiful spots such as a waterfall or a cliff. Miss Casey knows of a waterfall over which is inscribed: "Before you do it come and speak to me." The lady who was responsible for that notice had saved many from destroying themselves.

Miss Casey said that one of the most pleasant surprises of her stay in Japan was her visit to a political room in which she found on the walls photographs of Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Pankhurst, Dame Millicent Fawcett, and other leaders of the suffrage agitation in this country. There was also a diagram showing the countries where women have the vote. Beneath each was a dove resting on the ground. In those countries, where women are not enfranchised, a dove was shown hovering. Japanese women take it much to heart that their own country is one of these. Japanese women who have had the advantage of a High School education take the view that the vote is useless, unless women know how to use it to advantage. They advocate the study of economics.

Both Japanese men and Japanese women are in favour of peace. At the same time they need space for their overflow population and think it hard that they should be shut out of America.

The lively discussion which followed proved the keen interest which had been taken in the lecture. Asked if the Japanese men objected to the emancipation of women, Miss Casey replied that since foreigners had been admitted in 1867, the Japanese had set out to copy the Westerner and liked to be thought modern. The present is a period of transition and although women are advancing rapidly, old laws and customs still press heavily upon them. The divorce laws are particularly unfair to women. A woman can be divorced on the slightest pretext, as, for instance, if she does not show respect to her husband's relatives. The head of the family arranges all marriages and his authority is supreme.

On the part of the meeting and the members of the Women's Freedom League, Miss Reeves asked Miss Casey to tell the women of Japan that now we had triumphantly got through our own conflict, we were looking forward to the time when they would have achieved their end.

MRS, DESPARD'S WORKERS' PARTY.

It is a very kindly thought of Mrs. Despard, our First President, to gather together once a year the workers of the League to celebrate her birthday. Last Saturday, June 15th, her actual birthday (it will be remembered that on June 15th, 1215, King John was forced to seal the Magna Carta, the great Charter of English liberties, and that the liberties of women are as precious as those of men), Mrs. Despard invited the London workers of the Women's Freedom League, including the President, the Honorary Treasurer, the secretaries and staffs of the League, the Minerva Club, and the Minerva Publishing Company, the London organiser, THE VOTE seller, and others to a delightful supper at the Minerva Club, and every guest was the recipient of a present from Ireland-a model hut, a brooch, artificial plants or flowers, made in the beautiful country on the other side of the Irish sea. After supper there was community singing and exhibition dancing by Miss Vere Foley. Songs were sung, and stories told by members of the A very enjoyable evening was concluded by special thanks from all present to our gracious hostess,



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MARRIAGE AND INCOME TAX.

By MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON, J.P.

The Times lately has been having a very interesting correspondence upon the injustice of taxing married people at a much higher rate than any other relatives or friends living jointly together. Mr. W. D. Culley points out that whereas for those in the latter category, out of an unearned income of £500 each, the tax would be £101, those yoked together in the holy estate of matrimony would have to pay £132 10s. The manifest advantage of living in sin does not encourage morality.

It is strange and depressing, however, to find that Mr. Culley asserts that women have raised no protest against this evil. Clearly he has not attended suffrage meetings or he would know that many of us have never ceased to lift up our voices against the many injustices of the treatment of wives under the Married Women's Property Acts.

At the time, 1882, some wise man wrote: "The four Acts are a record of the dulness and hesitation of Parliament. Parliament tried to reform the law in accordance with ideas borrowed from equity, and some of the lawyers by whom Parliament was guided did not understand the principles of equity they were meant to follow.

"A wife's income is counted as her husband's for the purpose of income tax," often the wife's income is taxed at source (lately at 6/- in the pound), then the joint incomes lumped together, bringing them above the level

Some time before the war a deputation for professional tax-paying women was received by Mr. Lloyd George, when Miss Lena Ashwell and others protested against professional women being taxed through their husbands. The Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted the unfairness of the law, but stated that if the wife were taxed as a separate unit, the Treasury would lose a million and a half a year.

When Dr. Elizabeth Wilkes, of Hackney, refused to pay her tax or disclose her income as a successful medical woman, the authorities carried off her husband to gaol, though he, a teacher in an L.C.C. School, had duly paid his share.

Many of us were tax-resisters in those days, but never again did a husband go to prison, though the taxes were not paid and collectors reminded that by the Act of 1842 (never repealed): "idiots, lunatics, minors, and married women should have their taxes paid by their husbands or guardians.'

Many tax-resisting wives now enfranchised are very punctilious in declaring the smallest sums earned, though unless we ask for a separate assessment it does not seem expected, as no space is provided.

Also, now, in these days of scanty and incompetent service, when many of us, even sick and aged women, however willing and able to pay for help, have to spend our last strength, cooking, cleaning, sick-nursing (no 8-hour day for wives), it is strange to read that a husband is allowed relief for the maintenance of his

INDIAN WOMEN AND PUBLIC WORK.

The May number of Stri-Dharma, the official organ of the Women's Indian Association, reports that:-

Mrs. Paul Appaswami, M.A., has been nominated to the Madras Corporation Council. Mrs. Appaswami has been running a school for girls for many years.

Mrs. G. J. Arumainayagam has been nominated by the Government to be a Councillor of Tiruvannamalai

Miss P. Gahlot is the first Marwari woman to qualify as a sub-assistant surgeon from the Punjab Women's

Dr. Jamila Mary Siraj-ud-din, M.A., Ph.D., is the first woman to be appointed Industrial Instructress for Women, in Puniab.

Mrs. Winnie Vas has been nominated as a member of the Kadur District Board.

OUR TREASURY. NATIONAL FUND. Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1928, £48,858 7s. 8d. £ s. d. £ s. d. Previously acknowledged £ 173 17 8 Special Emergency War Fund—
"A Friend" ... Special Election Fund-Mrs. B. F. Grenville
Dr. Knight ...
Miss C. M. Newman Miss Janet Bremner Mrs. D. Rayner... Miss Bisdee ... Miss L. A. Floyd Mrs Beatrice Gilbert Mrs. R. B. Morgan ...
Miss N. E. MacMunn ...
Miss M. W. Watson Petty Miss Winifred Usher Miss J. I. Gulland Misses E. L., F. E., E. R. Bacon, Esq. s E. L., F. E., and G. M. Hodgson Candidates' Donations to Leaflets ... Mrs. Trafford Williams Per Mrs. Mustard:— Miss E. A. Purdue er Miss Lenton:—
Subscriptions and Donations ...
Sale of Tickets Curwen ...
Lettice A. Floyd Iiss Octavia Greer Edith E. M. Pigott. Miss Winifred Usher Westbrook Miss C. Price-Hughes Miss M. E. Mumm Branches-Capitation Fces-Mid-London (additional) Minerva Club Bexhill Newbury and Thatcham Edinburgh (additional)

3ranches—Delegates' Expenses— Hampstead Newbury and Thatcham Office Sales... (per Literature Department)

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "Barclays Bank Limited."

To all Readers.—Contributions to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund are coming in well. Please send YOUR'S as soon as you

SPECIAL ELECTION FUND.

This Fund is still open and contributions from all who value women M.Ps. will be most gratefully received. E. Knight, Hon. Treas. 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Women's Freedom League.

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

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General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.



WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, June 24th, at 6.30 p.m. Mid-London Branch. Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, Tuesday, June 25th, at 8 p.m.

Finchley and Golders Green Branch. Meeting at Oak Cottage, Brookside Road, N.W.11 (by the kind invitation of Mrs. Burnett). Speaker: Miss O'Reilly.

Wednesday, June 26th, at 8 p.m.
Meeting at 94, Cambridge Gardens, W.10 (by the kind invitation of Mrs. Boyd). Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Reeves.
Thursday, June 27th, at 8 p.m.

Barnsbury and District Branch. Social Evening at 15, Richmond Crescent, N.1 (by the kind invitation of Mrs. Potter). Speaker: Mrs. Flowers.

Thursday, June 27th, at 3 p.m. Garden Meeting at 23, Terrace Road, South Hackney (by the kind invitation of Mrs. Catmur). Speakers: Miss Morgan Gibbon and Miss Underwood.

Friday, June 28th, at 3.30 p.m.

Kew and District Branch. Garden Meeting at 34, Leyborne Park, Kew Gardens (by the kind invitation of Madame Kagarlisky). Speaker: Mrs. Mustard.

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

National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn,

M.C.I.

Monday, July 1st, at 4 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Garden Party (to be held by kind invitation of Mrs. Waring, at Althorpe House, Branch Hill, N.W.3) to meet Mrs. Despard who will speak. Tickets (in aid of the British drs. Despard who will speak. Birthday Fund), price 2/- including Tea, from the Hon. Secretary, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3. Members and friends of all Branches will be most welcome.

Thursday, July 4th, at 7 p.m. Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Tuesday, July 9th, at 3 p.m.
Finchley and Golders Green Branch. Garden Party (by the kind invitation of Mrs. Legge), at 24, Village Road. N.3.
Speaker: Miss Reeves, "Restrictive Legislation." Sale of second-hand novels in aid of Mrs. Despard's Birthday, Party. Contributions of second-hand novels will be gratefully received by Mrs. Legge or the Hon. Secretary, Miss Stephens, 11, Fallowcourt Avenue, N.12.

Wednesday, July 10th, at 3 p.m.

Brentford and Chiswick Branch. Whist Drive in aid of the funds to be held at Harvard Towers, Harvard Road, Gunnersbury. Tickets 1/6, including tea, from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Beckwith, 5, Duke Road, Chiswick.

Wednesday, July 10th, at 7.30 p.m.

London Members' Meeting, at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speakers: Dr. Knight and Miss Underwood.

PROVINCES.

Friday, June 28th, at 3.30 p.m.

Ashford Branch. The Annual Meeting of Members will be held at "Glengarriff," Albert Road (by kind permission of Mrs. Kither). Tea 4.30. All are cordially asked to attend.

Friday, June 28th, at 4.15 p m.
Leeds Branch. Jumble Sale in the Castleton Council School,

Saturday, August 3rd, at 3.30 p.m. Hastings Branch. A Garden Meeting will be held at "Rossiana," Pine Street, Ore (by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Prelooker). Speaker: Mrs. Zangwill: "What we expect from the present Government." An entertainment arranged by Miss Misheim Prelooker will be held after the meeting.

OTHER SOCIETIES. Monday, June 17th,-June 22nd. International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. Eleventh Congress at the Kroll Halls, Platz der Republik, Berlin.

Republik, Berlin.

Monday, June 24th, at 8.15 p.m.

Speech Club. At the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That human nature never changes." Proposer: Mr. H. F. Ryan (Hon. Secretary of the Union Society of London). Opposer: Rev. E. N. Porter Goff.

British Commonwealth League, Luncheon at 17, Buckingham Street, W.C.2. Mrs. Goodman, will speak on Canada, British Columbia, and some Indian Legends. Seats 2/-.

Saturday, June 29th, 2.45 to 7 p.m.

Brackenhill Open-air School, Upper Hartfield, Sussex. International Fair, to be opened by Miss Margaret MacMillan.

BRANCH NOTES.

LEEDS.

A Jumble Sale will be held in the Castleton Council School, Armley Road, Leeds, on Friday, June 28th, at 4.15 p.m. Kindly send goods to Miss Fearnside, at the Castleton School, or to Miss Roach, Dudley House, Hyde Terrace, Leeds. PORTSMOUTH.

PORTSMOUTH.

A successful Branch Meeting was held at 89, Festing Grove, on Wednesday, June 12th, at 3 p.m. It was decided to ask each member to contribute at least 1s, to the Birthday Fund. Mrs. Whitehead again kindly invited members and friends to a Garden Party at Rowlands Castle, on a Saturday in July—date to be fixed later. Contributions will be gratefully accepted by the Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer (Mrs. Whitehead, 6, Northumberland Road), and will be acknowledged in The Vote.

Gratefully acknowledged.—Mrs. Poole, 1s.; Mrs. Sawyer, 1s.; Mrs. Whitehead, 1s.; Mrs. Tremain, 1s. 6d.; Mrs. Hodder, 1s.; Mrs. Jeffkins, 1s.; Mrs. Cory, 1s.; Mrs. Whetton, £1; Collection, 5s.; Doll sent by Mrs. Merritt, 2s. 6d.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. Whetton, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCHES.

Birthday Fund.—As our work is rather slack just now, I want to make a special appeal to all members to give me donations for the Birthday Fund. Every member can give something nor the Birinday Fund. Every member can give something—never mind if it is only a few pence—every little helps. If members and friends would send to me at 8, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings, I should be very glad. All donations will be acknowledged in The Vote each week until July 6th. Gratefully acknowledged.—Mrs. Darent Harrison, 5s.; Mrs. Callow, 1s.; Miss Callow, 1s.; Mrs. Mellis, 6d.; Mrs. O'Connell, 6d.; Mrs. Brock, 6d.; Miss Bentley, 1s.; "A Friend," 1s.

MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY. EIGHTEENTH YEAR.

CAXTON HALL, THURSDAY, JULY 4th, 7 p.m. THE POUND STALL!

Contributions from members and friends of the League will be very welcome—just one pound of something—in sterling or in kind. £1 notes, one pound of tea, sugar, coffee, biscuits, sweets, pots of jam, marmalade; in fact, anything that weighs one pound. Please send a card now to Miss Auld, at the Women's Freedom

League Office, saying what you can give. Articles will be gratefully received at the Caxton Hall on July 4th, from 4 p.m. till 7 p.m., or can be collected if desired.

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Friday, June 28th, at 8.15 p.m.

SPEAKERS:

MRS. DESPARD AND OTHERS.

Membership Application Form.

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

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

Name... Address

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Minimum Annual Subscription, 1/-,

1929.

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NOTICES.

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