

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1928

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

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VICTORY GREEN GOLD AND WHITE FAIR.

In opening the Fair on November 13th, very deep regret was expressed by Miss Anna Munro from the Chair, on behalf of the Women's Freedom League, that our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, was not well enough to be present. She sent a letter, wishing every success to the Fair, and to the future work of the League.

Miss Munro introduced Lady Astor, M.P., as one who was sound on all questions affecting women.

Lady Astor, who received an enthusiastic welcome, asked that her sympathy should be conveyed to Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. Some members had expressed the belief that, if they could "get Lady Astor out of the House," that would finish the women's movement. This, of course, was a delusion, but showed the attitude of a section of her men colleagues.

Lady Astor then spoke of what the loyalty of the women had meant to her in those first difficult years when she stood alone in the House of Commons. When she got into the House, she was fully aware that many women, who had fought hard for the vote, would feel a little discouraged.

"I don't believe in chance," she continued. "When I got there, I had to go straight for the things women had fought for. I am a natural born suffragist, and I cannot remember a time when I did not realise injustice.

"I don't suppose any body of men could have treated me better than the British House of Commons. I have found the men full of prejudices, but their justice overrules their prejudices. I have often wondered how a House of women would have taken the intrusion of one man!

"Men don't realise how the women of the world are standing together. I know, because I seem to correspond with most of the women of the world!"

Lady Astor considers the women's movement a further revelation of the divine will of God. Union to achieve a great objective induces self-forgetfulness.

"I'm grateful to you for having fought for the vote and for having stood by me," she continued.

"The world will be grateful for what the women are going to do. If war is going to be done away with, I am convinced it is the women of the world who are going to do it. That is what I believe we came into the world for at this time. In democratic countries, we've got the chance. We can ensure the peace of the world.

"Although political freedom is achieved, equality of women with men has not yet been attained; it is impossible to amend the wrongs of ages in half a century. Men are afraid of equality.

"We don't ask for superiority; we've got that already. There were not a great many who fought for the vote. There never are many who fight for anything; it is always the few. Women must stand together for the greater issues. I find just as much prejudice in one party as in another. Moral reforms don't belong to any party. Don't let the men divide us while there are so few women in any party."

Lady Astor then remarked that, if she had been cleverer, she would probably have been less successful, but knowing her limitations, she had allowed abler women to work through her. She regretted that there were not more men present. "The one place where we need men more than any other is at a bazaar. If I could get my men colleagues in the House to attend, wealth would roll into the Women's Freedom League!"

Mrs. Zangwill, on behalf of THE VOTE, described it as the only women's paper in Great Britain. "The ordinary run of women's papers deal only with the outsides of women and leave the insides—their minds and souls—severely alone." A certain so-called women's paper she had looked into lately, allotted 23½ hours per day to beauty-culture, and only allowed the unfortunate victim half an hour to look beautiful in! While we need to remember that people are human beings first and men and women afterwards, on certain subjects women are bound to have a point of view of their own, and need a paper in which to put it forward. That is why every woman ought to take THE VOTE.

Dr. Knight proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Astor, and reminded us that on November 28th, 1919, when our Green Gold and White Fair was in progress, the splendid news burst upon us that Lady Astor had been returned to Parliament! To-day we had the joy of welcoming in Lady Astor our dream come true.

Miss Reeves, who seconded, said how greatly we appreciated the determined way Lady Astor had kept in touch with the women's movement. We welcome her as the first fruit of our work.

On Wednesday, November 14th, the Fair was opened by Miss Margaret Beavan, J.P. Mrs. Whetton, who took the chair in place of Mrs. Schofield

Coates, J.P., who was unable to be present, said that Miss Beavan's work as Lord Mayor of Liverpool filled her with admiration. In Portsmouth there were sixty-four men on the Council, and not a single woman!

Miss Margaret Beavan, whose presence on the conclusion of her strenuous year as Lord Mayor of Liverpool was enthusiastically appreciated, spoke of the tremendous spirit of comradeship which existed between her and the Women's Freedom League. Women had had a great aim to work for, but they have reached a summit only to find other peaks beyond. She spoke of her work during the past year of office; it had been no easy task. Liverpool is the second city of the world, and its trade problems are very difficult. She had met with a certain amount of prejudice, but, on the whole, the men had treated her well. On retiring, she had received many congratulations from men who, a year ago, said "Women never would be able to do the job."

"My aim last year," continued Miss Beavan, "was to stimulate a more conscientious sense of citizenship. I did my best to support every educational endeavour in the city. University students were invited to the Town Hall; elementary school children, humble workers, domestic servants, tramway drivers, police: all came to the Town Hall. My intention was not to do something new, but to carry out the idea I started with, and make every citizen realise that she had a stake in the city and a share of responsibility."

Miss Beavan congratulated the Women's Freedom League on its work to increase the number of women magistrates. She regretted that the opportunity to hold that office so often came to those whose time was already fully occupied. To be a magistrate was a full-time job in itself.

"Above all other things," said Miss Beavan, "women should stand for peace. We've got to do what the Women's Freedom League so often say—'create public opinion.' Everything in the future depends on how women accept their responsibility. Are women going to make some constructive contribution to their generation and their age? With leaders whose names have made history, great things are possible in the future. It is up to us to hand on our vision to the rank and file of women who need good leadership."

On leaving office, Miss Beavan was presented with "a garden of flowers," among them one red rose bearing the message, "A token of infinite respect." These words expressed her feelings towards all who had taken part in the fight which had just been brought to a triumphant finish. Women were now going to take the lead in a wider world.

"I should not have held office as Lord Mayor of Liverpool," she concluded, "if it had not been for those who fought for 'Votes for Women'."

Mrs. Zangwill again urged all those in the hall who were not already subscribers to THE VOTE to fill in an application form before leaving.

A vote of thanks to Miss Beavan was proposed by Mrs. Mustard and seconded by Miss Underwood, who said how immensely grateful we were that Miss Beavan had come to us, not at the beginning, but at the end of her year of office, when all the world knew what she had achieved.

ROUND THE STALLS.

The Hampstead Branch Stalls displayed fascinating handkerchiefs, which, as Miss Trotter remarked, "would make a bad cold a real pleasure and influenza a boon," and a choice collection of antiques and white elephants.

The Mid-London Branch had a good selection of stationery, including useful jotters in attractive suede covers and dainty little diaries.

The Montgomery Boroughs Branch Stalls had an excellent show of cakes, puddings, preserves, pickles, etc. Decorated cakes aroused much admiration. The general goods included an extremely life-like black Aberdeen, a baby doll, hand-made baskets, and hand-worked children's dresses.

The Portsmouth Branch is to be congratulated on a really useful assortment of household goods, including aluminium ware and table linen.

The South-Eastern Branches showed an attractive selection of hand-worked children's frocks, overalls and materials. Among the novelties were coloured matches and a small Christmas-tree table decoration.

The Scottish and North Country Stall had many choice articles. A competition doll, dressed by Miss Eunice Murray, must be adjudged the Beauty of the Stall. From its dainty cap to its pretty shoes, every detail was perfection. Scotch woollies, Shetland shawls, and a large variety of warm, useful goods attracted many purchasers.

The China and Glass Stall had an interesting assortment of Ashstead pottery, including the celebrated Christopher Robin nursery tea-set, some particularly fine cut-glass, Deal pottery, etc.

The Literature Stall provided a glowing selection of children's books, also novels, old favourites and new.

The Overalls and Aprons Stalls was well stocked with a most varied assortment of aprons and overalls of all sizes and designs.

The Shilling Stall with its encouraging legend: Wellworth
A Shilling or Less,

and its fine collection of bric-a-brac, proved a great attraction.

The Sweets Stall had a fine assortment of home-made sweets and dainty boxes of chocolates.

The Toy Stall was well stocked with animals, bears, dolls and games. Wonderful grey rabbits—almost life-like in appearance—in various attitudes; a carolling goldfinch, with twitting tail; Dean's dancing dolls, cuddly dolls, and mechanical toys.

The White Stall had a good selection of dainty dressing jackets, hand-embroidered nightdresses, and linen and silk goods of various descriptions.

Miss Lloyd's General Stall had delightful antiques among its collection. A dress length of Chinese silk aroused much admiration.

The "Vote" Stall made a speciality of toilet requisites, and did a busy trade on both days.

The "Vote" Sales Table, where the paper could be purchased and new subscribers enrolled, was under the supervision of Mrs. Zangwill.

The Refreshment Department was excellently run by Miss Reeves, who was ably assisted by Mrs. Fisher.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

For the bright programme which added to the success of Tuesday's Fair, special thanks added to the success of Tuesday's Fair, special thanks are due to Miss Peggy Desmond for entertaining us with piano solos; to Madame San Carolo, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., who, with the assistance of Miss Vere Manooch, A.R.C.M., Miss Davis, and Mr. Frederick Threadgold, gave a much appreciated vocal concert; and to Miss Grace Woollacott, whose pupils, ranging from tiny tots to older girls, delighted the gathering with a charming display of operatic, classical, and character dancing.

For the success of Wednesday's entertainments, our thanks are due to Miss Lilian Foulis, who gave a violin solo; to Mrs. Douglas for a selection of songs; to Miss Joan Dunsford for songs and recitations; and to Miss Mollie Seymour for a violin solo.

Special thanks must be given to Professor Tassart for arranging the fencing display, which occasioned so much interest. Thanks are also due to Miss J. Rogers, Miss Rosenheim, Miss B. Price Hughes, Miss Bonser, Miss A. Walker (Lady Champion 1913-1914, Olympic Games 1924), and Miss Sheila Nash (Professor).

We offer our cordial thanks to Miss Ivy Hawke and Mrs. Goddard Watts, and to Miss Wall (Character Reading); Mrs. Gilchrist (Stories Told from Teacups); Miss King (Numerology); Madame Gena, B.Sc. (Phrenology); and Mrs. Thompson (Psychometry): each of whom helped to make this branch of the entertainments an outstanding success.

We give cordial thanks to all who helped in any way—at any time—to make this year's Fair a success. Above all, to Miss E. Berry, our indefatigable "Fair" Secretary, also to the "Fair" Sub-Committee for the steady work throughout the year.

Thanks are due, too, to the stall-holders:—Miss Trotter, Mrs. Patrick Graham, Miss James, Miss F. M. C. Collier, Miss Scott, Mrs. Waring, Mrs. Harvey James, Mrs. Ostler, and Mrs. Poulson (Hampstead Branch); Mrs. Antill, Miss Barton, Miss Sparkman, and Miss Webb (Mid-London Branch); Miss Alix M. Clark, the Misses Codd, Mrs. Richard Jones, Miss Joan Elias-Pritchard, Mrs. Norman Bengie and Miss Dorothy Barrs (Montgomery Boroughs Branch); Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Speck, and Mrs. Brading (Portsmouth Branch); Mrs. Cloke, Mrs. Buckingham and Miss White (South-Eastern Branches); Mrs. MacLeod Easson, Miss Munro, and Miss Godwin (Scottish and North Country Stall); Mrs. Lindus, Miss Lindus, Mrs. E. J. Rubra, Miss Jonquière, Miss J. Thompson, and Mrs. M. A. Sidley Rose (China Stall); Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Marriott, and Miss M. Pierotti (Literature Stall); Miss Underwood, Mrs. Turriff, Miss Charles, Miss F. A.

Underwood, and Miss Brewer (Overalls and Aprons); Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Wilss, and Miss Nye (Shilling Stall); Mrs. Hugh Glaisyer, Miss Mary Knight, and Miss Dorothy Dix (Sweets); Mrs. J. R. Knight, Mrs. Shore, and Miss Annie Hoare (Toy Stall); Mrs. Sutherland and Mrs. Watts (The White Stall); Mrs. Lloyd and Miss Elsie Armstrong (General Stall); Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Evans, and Miss Burgoine ("Vote" Stall); Mrs. Zangwill ("Vote" Sales Table); Miss Reeves, Mrs. Fisher, and the staff and members of the Minerva Club, assisted by Mrs. James, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Hilliard, Mrs. Peters, Miss Newberry, Mrs. Keelan, Mrs. Bell, the Misses Skinner, Mrs. Surrey-Dane, Miss Gibson, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Scott, Miss Chimes, the Misses Marney, Miss Lewis, Miss French, Mrs. Park, Miss Harper, Miss New, Miss Owen, Miss Haugh, Mrs. Boyd, Miss D. Elias-Pritchard, Miss O'Reilly, Miss Baker, and Miss Langston (Teas and Refreshments); Miss Hunt and Mr. Bacon (Doors); Mrs. Scott (for unselfish supervision of the Cloak Room); Miss J. M. Tooke (who helped the Hon. Treasurer at the exchange table); and the Women's Auxiliary Service for their enjoyable policing of the hall.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Street Offences Committee Report.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Home Secretary when the Report of the Street Offences Committee will be presented to Parliament? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I understand that the Report is likely to be sent to me in the course of a few days. It will be presented to Parliament as early as possible.

Temporary Women Clerks.

MR. LANSBURY (Lab., Bow and Bromley) asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that a large number of women clerks, at present employed in the Post Office Savings Bank and other Government Departments, are under notice of dismissal; that some of these women have been in the Service upwards of fourteen years; and whether, in view of the Government's pledges to these women, he will take the necessary measures to ensure that they are employed in other Departments? MR. A. M. SAMUEL: Thirty-two temporary women clerks employed in the Savings Bank Department are under notice of discharge, expiring on December 31st, 1928, as the work upon which they are engaged will shortly be completed. I am not aware that elsewhere any appreciable number of women clerks are under notice. The pledge to which the hon. Member refers, was to the effect that, for a period of twelve months from January 1st, 1928, no efficient temporary woman clerk, who had, since January 1st, 1926, or earlier, been continuously employed in any Headquarter establishment, should be discharged from that establishment to make room for a successful candidate from any open competition for the Established Writing Assistant Class or Clerical Class (Women), held after January 1st, 1926. I have under consideration a request that the pledge should be continued for a further period, but I am not yet in a position to come to a decision in the matter.

Police and Juvenile Courts (Inquiry).

MR. ROY WILSON (U., Lichfield) asked the Home Secretary whether he proposes to ask any women to serve on the Committee which he has appointed to inquire into the organisation and administrative machinery of the Police Courts and Juvenile Courts in the Metropolitan district? VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked the Home Secretary whether he has appointed any women as members of the Committee to inquire into the working of Police Courts and Juvenile Courts in the Metropolitan Police districts? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Mrs. Barrow Cadbury and Miss Elizabeth Haldane have accepted my invitation to serve as additional members of this Committee.

Hop Pickers (Accommodation).

MR. BRIANT (Lib., Lambeth, North) asked the Minister of Health whether he had received any

reports as to the conditions of hop-pickers in the recent season; if so, what is the nature of those reports; and, if his Department has no power to deal with insanitary or otherwise unsatisfactory conditions, will he introduce a measure to obtain such necessary powers for his Ministry or some central authority? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir. I have received certain reports on this matter, and on the whole they show that satisfactory progress is being made by the District Councils, who are the responsible authorities, in securing the maintenance of a proper standard of accommodation. I do not think it necessary or desirable to contemplate the inroad upon the sphere of local government which would be involved by transferring this responsibility to a central authority. MR. BRIANT: Are these reports available for Members of the House or the public generally? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I should like notice of that question.

India (Legal Marrying Age).

MR. THURTELL (Lab., Shore-ditch) asked the Under-Secretary of State for India, if he is aware that the official members of the Indian Legislative Assembly propose to assist in defeating legislation at present before that Assembly for the purpose of raising the legal age of marriage in India; and if he will urge upon the Government of India the desirability of doing nothing to prevent the passage of this legislation? EARL WINTERTON: As regards the first part of the question, my noble Friend is not aware of the intention alleged with respect to impending legislation. As regards the second part, he sees no reason to take any action as suggested. The attitude of the Government of India has been fully explained in the Legislative Assembly, and has also been shown by their appointment of an important Committee, which is inquiring into the state of the law relating to the age of consent.

Income Tax.

MR. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has arrived at any decision for the purpose of introducing legislation having as its object the protection of male persons, whose wives' earnings are such as to make them responsible at law for income tax in respect to the woman's earnings? MR. A. M. SAMUEL (Financial Secretary to the Treasury): Pending the Report of the Committee which is now considering the whole question of the simplification of the Income Tax law, I think it best to refrain from proposing to Parliament amendments in the machinery of that law unless they are of urgent importance. MR. DAY: Can the hon. Gentleman say whether anomalies of this kind are being considered by the Committee? MR. SAMUEL: Oh, yes; everything is being fully considered.

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.

EQUAL PAY; AN ELECTION ISSUE?

Women Civil Servants are arranging a mass meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Thursday evening, November 29th, to demand equal pay for equal work done by men and women Civil Servants, and all members of the Women's Freedom League and readers of THE VOTE are urged to rally to their support. This question of equal pay is of prime importance, and affects the whole status of women. Women Civil Servants and women teachers receive the same training and have to pass exactly the same examinations as their men colleagues, and admittedly do work of equal value; yet the women, for no other reason than that they are women, are paid at inferior rates to the men. The Government of this country have pleaded that the financial resources of the nation preclude them from paying women Civil Servants at the same rate as the men. Why should women, any more than men Civil Servants, be called upon to bear this special burden of financial loss? Women Members of Parliament and women Members of the Government are paid at the same rates as the men, and it is only just that men and women Civil Servants, men and women teachers, should be paid at equal rates. In Jerusalem, men and women Civil Servants received equal pay for equal work until the authorities became aware that equal pay was not the rule in this country. The rates were then made unequal for women and men in Jerusalem, and remain unequal until this day. The majority of our own local governing authorities follow the example set by the Government, and pay their women employees at lower rates than the men. When women teachers asked Mr. Fisher, at that time President of the Board of Education, to bring pressure upon the local authorities to pay men and women teachers at the same rates, he pointed to the fact that the Government did not pay its men and women Civil Servants equally, and regretted that he could not therefore take any action in the way suggested. Last year, the Government passed their Public Audit Act, and under that Act the Public Auditor, when he found that Woolwich Borough Council had paid its men and women employees equal wages for equal work, described that practice as "unreasonable," ordered the Council to cut down the women's wages, and surcharged the Borough Councillors for the amount of the difference between the equal rates and what the Public Auditor considered "reasonable" (that is, lower) rates for women. We want to know what authority the Public Auditor had for making this discrimination between the payment of men and women employees of local governing bodies. Has the Minister of Health issued special Regulations making such discriminations? We hope that our friends in Parliament will find out and let us know what the position of women workers is under the Public Audit Act. It is time that women secured a settlement of this Equal Pay question. Now that women have equal voting rights with men, they have the power to have it settled at an early date. While we acquiesce in women being paid less than men for work of equal value, our sex will always be open to the stigma of inferiority. Unequal payment because of the sex of the worker, and not because of the value of the work, is a flagrant injustice, whether perpetrated on the most highly-placed woman Civil Servant or on the most unskilled woman worker, and it is this injustice which women voters have it in their power to remedy at the next General Election. Equal pay for equal

work is of as much importance to women as equal voting rights. We have gained equal voting rights, and we can gain equal pay just as surely if we make it the dominant issue at the next General Election. It is a question which directly concerns every woman worker, and every candidate who comes before the constituencies at the General Election next year should be asked, first and foremost, what he is prepared to do towards securing equal pay for men and women in the Civil Service and in the teaching profession. We know perfectly well that when the Government and the local governing authorities agree to pay their men and women employees at equal rates, equal rates for men and women workers will follow as a matter of course for every kind of work. Let us all, therefore, help to continue the campaign for equal pay for equal work, to press it at all party meetings, and at every meeting addressed by any Parliamentary candidate. With a determined effort on the part of women, equal pay for equal work can be made the dominant issue at the next General Election, and with their newly-won political power women can once and for all remove the age-long undervaluing of women's services and the stigma of inferiority from the woman worker.

WHAT WOMEN CAN VOTE?

All women who are British subjects and have attained the age of twenty-one, providing they are not idiots or lunatics, can vote at the next General Election if they have resided in any constituency in England from September 1st to December 1st this year, or in any constituency in Scotland from September 1st to December 15th. If a woman is a householder, a lodger, or in domestic service for this period, she becomes a fully-qualified voter. A woman from the age of twenty-one, who occupies business premises (that is, land or other premises of a yearly value of not less than £10, for the purpose of carrying on her business, trade, or profession), for the same qualifying period, can claim a vote. A wife can be registered as a voter on her husband's business qualifications, just as a husband can be registered as a voter on his wife's qualifications. A woman of twenty-one, who has a University degree, can claim a vote for her University constituency. A woman, however, just like a man, may not exercise more than two votes at one General Election. She may vote on her residential qualification, and may vote once more in a constituency where she is an occupier of business premises, or in her University constituency, but not in both.

In future, a woman may claim a vote for all local government elections if she has reached the age of twenty-one, is a British subject, and during the qualifying period has occupied, or jointly occupied, as owner or tenant, land or premises, or if she has occupied unfurnished lodgings, or occupied a dwelling-house in virtue of any office, or employment, provided that the employer does not reside in the house, or if she is the wife of a person entitled to be registered in respect of premises in which they both reside.

MISS WILKINSON WINS!

Miss Wilkinson is a member of the House of Commons Kitchen Committee, and last week again raised the question of permitting women to use the Strangers' Dining Room, where the prices are more reasonable than in the Harcourt Room, to which women guests have been confined hitherto. Miss Wilkinson was this time successful, and the Committee approved her proposal that all M.P.s—women as well as men—should be allowed to entertain women guests in the Strangers' Room. Women secretaries to Ministers and Opposition leaders are also to be allowed to use this room. Women secretaries to Opposition leaders are still not permitted to take the special seats given to secretaries; and, as we said last week, neither THE VOTE nor any other woman's paper has yet been given the right to send a representative to the Press Gallery of the House of Commons.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POLICE.

On November 15th, Sir Charles Houghton Rafter, K.B.E., Chief Constable of the Birmingham City Police Force since August, 1899, and sixteen years District Inspector of the R.I.C., described his city as the largest in England—population, 1,000,000; area, 73 square miles, with 770 miles of streets; forty-five police stations, twenty-seven with cells; and a large Central Bridewell.

Women Police.—Established in 1917, after deputation from N.U.W.W. to Watch Committee. "The Women Police have been an unqualified success in Birmingham." He thought they had discovered their true sphere of usefulness; their duties were not quite what their advocates wished them to be. They were not uniformed, and not stationed at corners to stand all day apparently doing nothing. No independent body of so-called Women Police should be permitted. In all cases they should be members of the regular Police Force, under the direct control of the Chief Constable. Women had always taken charge of and searched females, and been present in certain cases during their statements. Ten years ago he started with twelve women police, now reduced to six; as the others retired, their places were not filled up, for economy. He and the Watch Committee were hoping to increase to twelve next year. Men police were reduced 10 per cent., compared to the women's 50 per cent. Uniform was useful. They had also a Woman Enquiry Officer attached to the C.I.D., who personally conducts inquiries into cases of women, and he wanted another capable woman to assist her. The head police-woman sometimes made the inquiries, but he preferred it done by separate, better educated women; there was plenty of other work for the women police. No woman had yet had time to acquire the skill and experience of their best men detectives; no doubt they might in time, and he was working towards this. The women police and detectives went to his training schools, were trained with the men police and C.I.D., and were trained just the same from start to finish. Difference in competence of women was due only to lack of experience; too early to judge of their capacity. The average man had five years in the uniformed police and then seven years in the C.I.D. before becoming an inspector. It was terribly difficult to find the best type of woman; he chose them himself, and "thought he was the best judge."

Welfare Work.—He disliked the word; all their work was police work. Morality and Law ran in parallel lines and could not be separated, nor crime dissociated from vice. No line could be drawn between welfare and police work; the space between them had always been a "No-Man's-Land" from time immemorial, and now they were trying to cover it by the women police. The principal object and aim of every Police Force—to prevent crime—was often forgotten and overshadowed by the less important, but more spectacular, work of detecting crime. The work of women police was preventive work—removing from the streets persons who would be criminals in a short time, and establishing them as respectable people. This was successful, and splendid police work. He thought women's organisations tried to impress their own ideas on Chief Constables. He started by getting some women in uniform and sending them into the streets to find their own sphere, and report to him where they thought they could help.

Statements.—Thought it should be possible to summon an obstinate witness before a magistrate in camera to make a statement; this would deter ruffians from crimes of violence. They had an official police solicitor, who prepared their cases and decided whether they should prosecute or not. In Birmingham, crime in general was not increasing.

Mr. Herbert Willison, solicitor, engaged in defending prisoners in Birmingham for thirty years, approved of *verbatim statements*, giving questions and

answers. Witnesses who would not answer, he suggested bringing before a magistrate in the interests of justice.

Women Police.—There was a real field of scope for one or two really able, highly-trained, skilled women detectives in any large city to investigate general crime apart from sexual cases; they would get information where a man cannot. Ordinary women police, too, were very useful in certain fields.

Participation in Offences.—This was quite unnecessary, and might lead others to offend. The less said to a suspected person, the fairer. An innocent man might lose his head and give a foolish statement. The Home Secretary has a certain authority over Watch Committees.

Mr. C. de C. Parry, C.B.E., H.M. Inspector of Constabulary for Wales, Monmouth, Hereford, Shropshire and Stafford since April, 1927, and thirty-three years in the Police Forces, agreed broadly with Sir Leonard Dunning.

Women Police.—There were none in Wales, but two in Shropshire, and three others in his area. He understood they took statements, when practicable, from women and children in certain cases. Permanent matrons looked after females in most cities and boroughs, and the wife of a policeman in country lock-ups. In Cardiff, the Chief Constable said he had no real police work for women police. Its condition was now very much improved. He would not oppose a Chief who asked permission and showed he had work for them. In the C.I.D. there was every prospect that they might be very useful. They could never take the place of a man, so it was a question of economy.

On November 19th, Mr. W. T. Trubshaw, O.B.E., Chief Constable of Lancashire for one year, and for twelve years Police Prosecuting Solicitor for Liverpool, had twenty-six years' association outside and inside the Police Force.

Women Police.—His Force made larger use than any other of its size in the Kingdom. In England and Wales there are 112 attested and 32 non-attested women police. His authorised strength was twenty-four; the present strength, 18. This was from economy, and he thought there was not work enough for full employment of women police in the smaller divisions. The Standing Joint Committee asked for reduction of police expenses, so he let vacancies lapse, but not in case of men police. They started in 1917 and were all attested, were C.I.D.; no uniform, all trained in detective headquarter's office by working there with the men. When not being used outside they did clerical work; none were exclusively used outside. C.I.D. men were not in this position. Six women were in the administrative branch at headquarters, not C.I.D., chiefly in clerical work, but they might go out. Only in sexual cases were women more suitable than men; they were used in making inquiries and in park work. He selected the women, generally daughters or relations of the Force, brought up in police atmosphere. No trouble in filling vacancies. Women Police were a great success, and he "should not like to be without them." At Mr. Pick's request, the Commission being still in a fog as to the double fives of the clerk-policewomen, he promised to send in an analysis of a week's work done by them.

Gutter Crawlers.—He wanted new legislation to deal with motorists who offered lifts to girls in streets and country lanes with immoral motives.

Clubs.—Certain police should have right of entry. His Force surrounded the twenty-two independent Police Forces in Lancashire urban areas; they often co-operated. C.I.D. men, when not making inquiries, perambulated their divisions at will. His detection rate of reported crime was 68 per cent. In answer to Miss Beavan, his women spent about a year at headquarters, seeing the inside and outside, and were then

posted to, and instructed by, the Superintendent of a C.I.D. division. Men C.I.D. had a preliminary six years in the uniformed branch.

Mr. J. Wellesley Orr, M.A., Stipendiary Magistrate for the City of Manchester since May, 1927, had twenty-four years' experience of criminal and other cases at the Bar in London. He suggested alterations to make the *Judges' Rules* clearer and more definite.

Statements should be written out by prisoner himself, or taken down verbatim, or perhaps by dictaphone. An unwilling witness he would take before a magistrate in camera, with sworn evidence, and give inferior Courts more power to deal with contempt. Detention without a charge he had never known; it had no legal basis. Anyone detained was thereby in custody. Manchester had 170 magistrates, five Courts daily.

Miss Mary S. Allen, O.B.E., Commandant of the Women's Auxiliary Service:—

Women Police.—Trained women should carry out all police search of women, their property and premises. All women's cases should be turned over to a woman. Trained women police should take all statements from women witnesses, suspects, or prisoners (if a witness is required, it should be another policewoman), and deal with all statements from women and children in any way affecting women and children. They should also undertake all investigation in cases of attempted suicide by a woman, concealment of birth, abortion, child murder, overlying, cruelty to children, incest, bigamy, assaults on women and children, soliciting, inspection of places of amusement, disorderly houses, etc. In moral offences, it was very objectionable that plain-clothes detectives should be present to detect what the presence of uniformed women police would prevent happening; uniformed women were a more effective deterrent than uniformed men. Average women police do not care for C.I.D. work; those who do and are trained make useful, efficient detectives, and should be in Police Forces for general detective work. Some of her policewomen joined the Metropolitan Police, some have been supplied to Chief Constables on their request. She had to refuse many suitable recruits. Women in cells were not always looked after by women. Only a woman should watch a woman prisoner through the cell shutter; it was still sometimes a man who looked every hour, as obliged by law. Answering the suggestion that if women arrest women, they must also arrest men, she said the need would only arise in emergency, and when it had to be done it was and would be done; if necessary, the public always helped. A preliminary training (say, two months) with women was an advantage for women police before their training side by side with men. Women C.I.D. should be chosen as men C.I.D., after years of experience in the uniformed branch. The future tendency will be to give over all women prisoners to women; it is all to the good. On the Bench, men and women sit together; they should also be together in the Police Force, and co-operate in many duties. Many trained women were quite capable of taking a case right through.

On November 20th, **Colonel J. d'E. Coke, C.M.G., C.V.O., C.B.E.**, Chief Constable of the West Riding of Yorkshire for ten years, explained his Clearing House system, to which eighty-four Forces subscribed, which helped as requested by circulating a "Police Report" and compiling an immense collection of 70,000 photographs and 90,000 finger-prints of known criminals.

Women Police.—He found his three attested plain-clothes women extremely satisfactory; two were appointed in 1925, a third in 1926. At present he had sufficient. They made inquiries into and took statements in all cases, except larceny, where women and children were concerned. The three dealt with 211 cases of sexual offences in the last ten months, made inquiries in pension cases, and attended Court. He would use them for general detective work, but they had no time. They were not, as a rule, responsible for their cases. Immorality and sexual offences were very greatly

increased, partly from absence of parental control and overcrowding. He could not prevent these offences; that was the welfare people's work. His figure for detected, reported crime was 86 per cent., exceptionally high. Pressed to consider increasing the women police, he said he was thinking of it, but he did not want women patrolling the streets.

Lieut.-Col. C. E. F. Rich, D.S.O., Governor of H.M. Prison, Liverpool, for one year, with twenty-five years' prison service, had occasional complaints from his prisoners of unfairness by the police. He always had them investigated, and could generally satisfy himself and the prisoner. He considered himself the natural protector of his prisoners. He had most of the women convicts in the country.

Women Police gave enormous assistance to the police. Asked to explain general statements he had submitted as to the relative logical capacity of men and women, he admitted that he had very little experience of Women Police, but was a great admirer of women of all sorts.

The Commission meets next Monday, at 2.15 p.m., to hear Mr. Freke Palmer.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SCOTLAND.

Miss Eunice Murray, of Cardross, Dumbartonshire, has just been nominated for the County Council, and is being returned unopposed. She is already on the Parish Council. Very few Scottish women are at present on the County Councils, and we congratulate Miss Murray on this new success, and send her our very best wishes.

CANADIAN WOMEN AND THE SENATE

Last Friday, Viscount Sumner, Lord Blanesburgh, and Lord Warrington granted special leave to appeal from a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, in the matter of a reference concerning the meaning of the word "persons" in Section 24 of the British North America Act, 1867. The Supreme Court of Canada decided that the word "persons" did not include "female persons," and therefore women were not eligible for membership of the Senate.

In Sympathy.

We send our heartfelt sympathy to the Misses Kirkland, founder-members of our Swansea Branch, in the very great loss and bereavement they have sustained through the death of their father.

Although over eighty-five years of age, Mr. Kirkland retained his keenness of brain to the last and was always interested in progressive movements, especially in that for women's freedom. In the early days of the suffrage campaign, he was one of our earnest supporters, helping the cause with subscriptions and attending all the public meetings. Nearly all the Women's Freedom League speakers and workers who ever went to Swansea have experienced his hospitality, and have obtained rest and mental refreshment through a sojourn in his delightful house and garden, together with the enjoyment of his company and enthusiasm. Members of the Swansea Branch also have frequently met at his home for whist drives or garden parties in aid of the funds. He took a great interest in the "Victory" functions which Swansea has recently held, and was delighted at their success. The sympathy of all members of our League will go out to his daughters in their sorrow.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence At Home

To meet members and friends

At 11, Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.1.

Little Sale of Christmas Presents from the "Fair."
Books, toys, lingerie, household necessities, pretty china, fancy articles, and sweets.

Friday, November 30th.
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

R.S.V.P. to W.F.L.
144, High Holborn.



WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, November 30th., 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

A Little Sale by kind permission of Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence at 11, Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.1.

Saturday, December 1st, at 10 a.m.

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

Thursday, December 6th, at 4.30 p.m.

Meeting at Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mr. W. Clarke Hall (Magistrate, Old Street Police Court), on "Women's Help in the Children's Courts."

PROVINCES.

Friday, November 23rd, at 2 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Gift Sale at the Hempsted Street Hall. Stalls:—Produce, Fancy Clothes, White Elephants. Tea.

Friday, November 30th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Branch Meeting at the Hempsted Street Hall. Lecture: "How to do French Laundry."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, November 24th, at 2.30 p.m.

Royal Choral Society. Performance of Dame Ethel Smyth's "Mass in D," followed by "The Song of Miriam," and other works by Schubert.

Saturday, November 24th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 55 Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate:—"That Trade Unions are no longer necessary to industry." Proposer: Major Puller, Opposer: Mr. Ashcroft, Principal of the Labour College.

Monday, November 26th, at 2.15 p.m.

The Royal Commission on the Police. Caxton House. Mr. Freke Palmer.

Tuesday, November 27th, at 3.15 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Christmas Gift Sale, at 17, Buckingham Street. Opened by Miss Florence Austral.

Thursday, November 29th, at 5 p.m.

Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations. Open Meeting at Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, S.W.1. Speaker: Dame Edith Lyttelton, D.B.E. (British Substitute Delegate to the Assembly.)

Thursday, November 29th, at 6 p.m.

Civil Service Equal Pay Committee, Public Demonstration, at the Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., M.P., Mr. Frank Briant, J.P., M.P., The Viscountess Rhondda, J.P. Admission Free.

Monday, December 3rd, at 6 p.m.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square. Miss Fedden on "The Nationality of Married Women." Chairman: Miss E. Butler Bowdon.

Will Readers Please Note!

The Meeting arranged by the Union of Women Voters, at 55, Chancery Lane, to take place on Monday, November 26th, has been cancelled.

BRANCH NOTES.

RYE.

We are postponing our meeting for the present. It is inadvisable to fix any date until the arrangements are known in connection with the Mayor's Relief Fund.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCHES STALL.

Many thanks to all the members and friends who contributed to this Stall.

COUNCIL FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

(President: Mrs. OGILVIE GORDON, J.P., D.S.G.)

The ANNUAL MEETING

will be held on

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29th, 1928,

at

WOMEN'S SERVICE HOUSE, 35, Marsham Street, S.W.1.
Business Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Open Meeting 5 p.m.

Speaker: DAME EDITH LYTTELTON, D.B.E.
(British Substitute Delegate to the Assembly.)

ADMISSION FREE. - Tea can be obtained between the meetings.
Hon. Sec.: Miss F. M. BEAUMONT, 17, Hornpton Street, W.8

HOW TO ESTABLISH YOUR FUTURE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE BY SETTING UP A RETIRING FUND.

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SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

13, CORNHILL, E.C.3.

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EQUAL PAY—AT WOOLWICH & GENEVA.

The Women's Freedom League was represented at a Conference of women's organisations, called by the Open Door Council last Friday, at the Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road, to consider what should be done in regard to the omission of the principle of Equal Pay from the Minimum Wage-Fixing Machinery Convention of the International Labour Organisation, and also at the subsequent Public Meeting to protest against the Public Auditor's action at Woolwich in disallowing the payment of equal wages to women employees under the Borough Council for work of equal value and standard to that done by men employees. This meeting also protested against the omission of the principle of equal pay from the Minimum Wage-Fixing Machinery Convention of the International Labour Organisation. Mrs. Abbott presided at both the Conference and the Public Meeting, the other speakers being Miss Crystal Macmillan and Mrs. White. At the Conference, the Open Door Council was empowered to try to arrange deputations to Government Departments and to the Heads of political parties. From first to last the public meeting showed itself enthusiastically determined to establish the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women, both nationally and internationally.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

Dame Edith Lyttelton was the guest of honour at a luncheon arranged by the British Commonwealth League, at their offices in Buckingham Street, W.C., on Thursday, November 15th. Mrs. Bigland took the chair, and expressed appreciation of the continuity of work done by Dame Edith Lyttelton, who had, for the fourth time, attended the Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva as a member of our Government delegation. Mrs. Bigland particularly noted the value of Dame Edith Lyttelton's work on behalf of the Opium Inquiry Committee.

Dame Edith, who was accorded a very cordial welcome, said that perhaps the position of men and women delegates at Geneva was a little different; women were more conscious of the mobilised public feeling on certain questions; they had a big constituency outside Geneva—the women's organisations of the world. The speaker said that women on all the Advisory Committees at Geneva had done extremely well, and that the women who had been sent in the Government delegations to the Assembly had done splendid work. She especially referred to the work of Mrs. McDonnell, the Australian substitute delegate. On the Codification of International Law Commission, which would deal with the question of the nationality of married women, there was general agreement that a woman must be included. A woman had been put on the governing body of the Italian Cinematograph Institute. Dame Edith Lyttelton gave a very interesting account of the latest work done by the League in regard to the Traffic in Women and Children, and she stressed the need for an Inquiry into the Opium Supplies. At the conclusion of the meeting, a very hearty vote of thanks was given to the speaker.

APRONS AND OVERALLS STALL.

The Misses Underwood and Mrs. Turriff give warmest thanks to the following for gifts to this Stall:—Mrs. Boorman Wells, £2 and aprons; Miss J. Gibson, 5s.; Miss Round, 3s.; and Miss Ayles, Mrs. Bigland, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. M. E. Thomas, and Mrs. A. A. Thomson, for parcels of goods. A parcel of raffia work was sent by Miss Ballard Dawson.

STREET OFFENCES INQUIRY REPORT.

POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING.

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene regrets that, owing to the unexpected delay in publication of the above Report, the meeting arranged for

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH,

in the Caxton Hall, at 8 p.m.
is temporarily postponed.

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BOOKS, PRESENTS, Etc.

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Publisher: E. Archer, 68, Red Lion St. W.C.1
PRICE 5/.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Est. 1879.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.—Orders for Waxcraft, Raffia, Decalco, Composition & Bardilac work. Price List (Postage).—C. KENNING, "Cardyke," Swaton, Billingboro', Lincs.

CLOTTED cream 3/- lb., post free.—SELSEY, St. Stephens, St. Austell, Cornwall.

NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, November 25th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Mr. Carl Heath. 6.30. Miss Muriel Lester: "The Acid Test."

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

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