

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1928

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

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XXIII.—OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

MRS. JOHN W. GREENE, MAYOR OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

Bury St. Edmunds made a popular choice in electing Mrs. Greene as Mayor last autumn. Mrs. Greene has for many years identified herself with public work in the town. She is the daughter of the late Sir George Boughey, fifth Baronet, of Aqualate, and in 1912 married Mr. J. W. Greene, first Registrar of the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. Mrs. Greene was the first woman on the Bury Town Council, and followed that by election to the West Suffolk County Council. She has held, and still holds, a number of public offices, among which are the Board of Guardians, on which she serves on six Committees, with the Chairmanship of the Children's Home and Boarding-out Committees; the War Pensions Committee, of which she was formerly Vice-Chairman, and has from the beginning been Chairman of the Children's Care and Widows and Dependents Committees; the Borough Council, on which she is Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Chairman of School Attendance and Medical Sub-Committees, and member of the Watch, Housing, Abbey Gardens, Museum, and Education Committees; the County Council, on which she serves on the Education, Maternity and Child Welfare, School Attendance and General Purposes Committees; and the Guildhall Feoffment Trust, on which she is Chairman of the Almshouses Committee, and a Governor of the Schools. She is a Manager of the St. James's

Schools; a member of the Committee for the West Suffolk Hospital and Honorary Secretary of the Ladies' Linen League; Chairman of the Girl Guides Local Association; member of St. James's Parochial Church Council; member of the Brabazon Society; Chairman of the Eastgate Ward Women Unionists' Association, and serves on the Old Age Pensions Committee, on the Children's Care Committee of the borough, and the Suffolk Mental Welfare Association.

Mrs. Greene had the sorrow of losing her daughter, her only child, and has given all her devotion and energy to the welfare of others, more particularly to the welfare of children. In addition to all the offices enumerated above, Mrs. Greene has twice served on Committees of the Church Congress held at Ipswich, gives some assistance to the League of Nations Union, and is an active member of the Mothers' Union. During the war she concentrated on work at the Bury St. Edmunds Red Cross Depot. In 1927, Mrs. Greene went to Ghent as the representative of the Borough of Bury St. Edmunds to attend the International



THE MAYOR OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

Congress. Not deeming it right that public money should be spent on such things, Mrs. Greene paid all her own expenses. She has now been invited to become an honorary member of the Ancient Order of Foresters, the first woman in the Bury St. Edmunds Court.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Mr. Baldwin and Equal Franchise.

Mr. Baldwin has consented to speak at the Queen's Hall Meeting on March 8th, arranged by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship during their Annual Conference.

Thirteen Men—only One Woman.

We congratulate our old member, Miss Hetty Cowen, of Woking, on her appointment as Justice of the Peace for Surrey. She was the only woman among the 14 magistrates recently appointed.

Woman Freeman.

Mrs. Leeson, widow of the late Mayor of the new Borough of Twickenham, has been chosen as the first Freeman of the Borough. She has been active particularly in educational work.

A Trade School Exhibition.

Hairdressing and dressmaking, in most up-to-date modes, were the principal features of the Trade School for Girls in Barrett Road Exhibition recently. A new course for senior girls includes English subjects, science and art applied to the trades.

Woman Minister for Carr's Lane, Birmingham.

Miss Dorothy Wilson, daughter of Mr. William Courthope Wilson, K.C., has accepted the unanimous invitation to become Assistant Minister of Carr's Lane Church, Birmingham, one of the most famous Congregational churches in England. Miss Wilson was appointed recently as organising secretary to the Presbyterian Sunday School Council, and later Young People's Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England. She entered Mansfield College, Oxford, in 1924, and took the Oxford University diploma in theology with distinction. She is also a Bachelor of Literature, and was preaching assistant for some months at Crosby Congregational Church, Liverpool.

Women doing Better in Business.

According to the Registrar-General's Report, fewer women in business went bankrupt in 1926 than in 1925.

A Double Reward.

"Adam's Breed," Miss Radclyffe Hall's novel, which won the "Femina" prize for 1927, has now been awarded the "James Tait Black Memorial Prize" for the best novel of the year.

Sweating, or Better Management?

Luton Council, according to the *Evening News*, has saved £450 in salaries in two years by appointing a woman librarian.

Married Women Workers.

Figures have recently been published in the United States as to the proportion of married women working in industry. One city, Binghamton, has 48 per cent. of married women workers, while, taking cities with from 25,000 to 100,000 inhabitants, the average is 23 per cent.

American Woman in Turkey.

Miss Marion Talbot, Dean of Women at Chicago University since its foundation, is now going to Turkey for a short time as President of the Constantinople Women's College.

Special issues of "Our Women Mayors":—XXII. Margaret Beavan, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, November 25th, 1927; XXI. Councillor Miss Hudson, J.P., Mayor of Eastbourne, June 24th, 1927; XX. Councillor Mrs. Coxon, Mayor of King's Lynn, March 26th, 1926; XIX. Mrs. F. J. Simpson, Mayor of Higham Ferrers, Northampton, February, 26th, 1926; XVIII. Councillor Miss Lucy Dales, Mayor of Dunstable, January 22nd, 1926; XVII. Councillor Miss Edith Neville, M.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Lincoln, December 11th, 1925; XVI. Alderman Miss Smees, J.P., Mayor of Acton, October 30th, 1925; XV. Dame Catherine Hunt, D.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Colchester, March 6th, 1925; XIV. Miss Margaret Wix, Mayor of St. Albans, February 13th, 1925; XIII. Mrs. Eva Hartree, Mayor of Cambridge, January 30th, 1925; XII. Mrs. Ethel Leach, J.P., Mayor of Great Yarmouth, January 16th, 1925; XI. Mrs. M. A. Mercer, Mayor of Birkenhead, December 19th, 1924; X. Miss C. Maude Eve, Mayor of Stoke Newington, November 28th, 1924; IX. Miss Ethel Mary Colman, Lord Mayor of Norwich, January 11th, 1924; VIII. Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, D.B.E., Mayor of Ramsgate, January 4th, 1924; VII. Councillor Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Mayor of Colchester, November 9th, 1923; VI. Miss Beatrice Cartwright, J.P., Mayor of Brackley, Northants, December 15th, 1922; V. Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Bermondsey, December 1st, 1922; IV. Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham, September 15th, 1922; III. Councillor Miss Christina Hartley, Mayor of Southport, Lancs, August 11th, 1922; II. Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton, Devon, July 7th, 1922; I. Mrs. Ellen Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922.

The Answer.

Last week we gave the pronouncement of the Headmasters about girls, and asked for the pronouncement of the Headmistresses about boys. Instead, we have the clear tones of the National Union of Women Teachers, who passed an emergency resolution at their Annual Conference giving the direct negative to the Headmasters. As these people, with their experience of both sexes, rightly say, "Difference in intellectual capacity does not go along sex lines."

Woman claims Invention of new Building Stone.

A Yorkshire woman, member of the Institute of Quarrying, has succeeded in making an artificial stone for building, which can be moulded and can also be worked with hammer and chisel.

Success of Girl Marksman.

At Pietermaritzburg, the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs held an Empire handicap small-bore competition, in which a young girl not yet 16 beat all the men, making the highest possible score of 300 points.

First Hungarian Woman Lawyer.

Frau Dr. Margit Ungar recently passed her finals in law. The Hungarian Lawyers Board has now sent in a proposal to the Ministry of Justice that women shall not be permitted to practise in Court as attorneys or as barristers.

Is this Protection?

A Turkish girl of 20 entered an open competition which selected a Government nominee to go to Bologna as assistant to Canonica, the Italian sculptor, who is making the statue of Kemal Pasha. Her entry was chosen first, but when it was discovered that the winner was a woman, the Committee—of men—decided to pass her over and give the chance to the next in merit—a man. The Turkish Women's Club of Stamboul has been successful in protesting against this gross injustice, and 20-year-old Sahiba Zia Hanem has gone to the sculptor's studio in Bologna.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

The Women's Freedom League held its usual open-air meeting at Highbury Corner, on the evening of January 5th, the speaker being Miss Olive Beamish and the chairman Mrs. Flint. Miss Beamish explained how the complete political enfranchisement of women would help women clerks. For years the Offices Regulation Bill, with its provisions against overcrowding, underground offices, etc., and its provisions for sanitary accommodation, had been before Parliament, but had failed to make progress. Miss Beamish drew interesting comparisons between factory conditions and conditions in offices, and said that only when all office workers had the power of the vote, and used it, would these really necessary reforms be carried through.

WOMEN AND LOCAL COUNCILS.

We regret that in our last list Mrs. Keynes, J.P., was reported to have been *first* elected last November. Mrs. Keynes was re-elected at that time.

Since the appearance of our last list, we have learned that there are no women on Lossiemouth Council.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

A delightful luncheon was arranged by the British Commonwealth League, last Friday, to welcome Miss Daisy Solomon on her return from South Africa, and to bid good-bye to Dr. E. A. Allen, who is returning to South Australia. Mrs. Innes took the Chair, and referred to the work done for the British Commonwealth League by Miss Collisson, who herself is now in India and will shortly go to Australia and New Zealand in connection with Miss Maude Royden's tour in those countries. Mrs. Innes explained that during Miss Collisson's absence Miss Daisy Solomon had kindly undertaken to do the secretarial work for the League, and then called on Miss Solomon to give some account of women's prospects of enfranchisement in South Africa.

Miss Solomon said that women were still politically unenfranchised in South Africa. Women had the municipal vote, there were a few women councillors, and one woman Mayor. Women do an immense amount of social, hospital and welfare work in South Africa. She said there were one and a half million white (English and Dutch) population, five million black, half a million coloured, and a good sprinkling of Indian and Malay population. Women were keen Party politicians in South Africa, but there was a definite movement among women suffragists to refuse in the future to work for or help in any way any political Party until women were politically enfranchised. Women enfranchisement Bills had been lost because they asked for the enfranchisement of coloured as well as white women, and in 1926 a Bill, which did not include coloured women, was lost because of their exclusion, and the most recent Bill was refused facilities "until the native problem was solved"—a problem which is, by most people there, regarded as practically insoluble. Miss Solomon said that South African suffragists needed all the sympathy and support that British suffragists could give them.

Miss Allen, who has recently secured her D.Ph. Degree at London University, gave a most interesting account of her work and experiences in this country. As a member of the British Dominions Overseas Society she had gone with Miss Newcomb's party to the Congress at Rome, held by the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and she wished every possible success to the British Commonwealth League, which had taken the place, and was doing the work, of the older society. Miss Allen herself had been specially studying psychology in England, and said she had thoroughly appreciated her research work. She had always been interested in the intelligence tests. Progress continued along zigzag lines. If one started off on a political cause, one sometimes got held up because of economic conditions; and if one went in for economics, one found oneself up against political events. Personality and the clash of personality came into all things; indeed, it seemed to her that personality was often the determining factor. She wholeheartedly wished every possible success to the British Commonwealth League.

Miss Newcomb also expressed the best of good wishes for the success of the League's work.

The meeting concluded with a warm vote of thanks to Mrs. Menken and all her helpers in preparing the luncheon.

NEWS FROM INDIA.

The December number of *Stri-Dharma* (Women's Indian Association) is full of interest. It gives the names of women in honorary public service, and shows that there are:—Three women Members of Legislative Councils; thirty-two women Municipal Councillors; four women members of Taluk Boards; eight women members of District Boards; twenty-two women magistrates and J.P.s (there are ten others reported from Bombay Presidency, but whose names are not available); and four women members of University Senates. Then come the names of four women bar-

isters, and the news that Miss S. B. Das has recently been elected to the Syndicate of Patna University after open competition with three men candidates; and that Miss Daw Me Me Khin, B.A., B.L., has been appointed Assistant Registrar to the Rangoon High Court.

Much space is given in *Stri-Dharma* to the campaign throughout the country to secure the raising of the marriage age for young people, and to various Conferences held by Indian women on Education. Selections are given from the Presidential Addresses at various Women's Educational Conferences.

An account also is given of a Public Meeting organised by 28 societies and held in Bombay, in which strong resolutions were passed demanding the suppression of brothels in Bombay City. A request was sent to the Government to take early steps to deport all foreign prostitutes, and also all prostitutes whose domicile or origin was outside Bombay.

Indian women arranged a "Women's Day" at the India Congress held in Madras last month, when women, gathered from all parts of India, met to express the woman's point of view on the problems of "Mother India."

WOMEN AND THE HONOURS LIST.

The following letter has been sent by the Secretary of the Women's Freedom League to the Prime Minister:

Sir,—At the request of my Committee, I am writing to express the Women's Freedom League's keen disappointment at the comparatively few women appearing in the New Year Honours List, and because the only Honours bestowed upon them are those of the Order of the British Empire and the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal. Since women are taking their full share in all branches of our national life, my Committee considers that it is time to throw open all Honours equally to men and women, and it protests against a Special Order being created for the inclusion of women in order to exclude them from participating in the other Honours which for so long have been distributed to men.—I am, etc.

MINERVA CLUB CHILDREN'S PARTY.

The Residents of the Minerva Club had a gala day last Saturday. More than 30 boys and girls accepted an invitation to the Children's Party in the afternoon, many of the young guests coming in fancy dress. The whole house was thrown open to the children, who had the most delightful games both upstairs and downstairs. A sumptuous tea was provided in the beautifully decorated restaurant, after which there were more games, dancing, two or three recitations, a few songs, and general singing. The last item of the evening was the stripping of a huge electrically-lighted Christmas tree laden with delightful presents in the smoking-room. The young people had a number of most charming hostesses, and an incomparable M.C. in Mr. Frank Powell. This party was an unqualified success, and all the guests had a thoroughly enjoyable time. When the children had gone, the residents and their friends passed the rest of a merry evening in dancing.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY.

On Thursday, January 5th, the Women's Section of the West Walthamstow Labour Party had its usual afternoon meeting at the William Morris Hall, Somers Road, Walthamstow, the Chair being taken by Councillor Mrs. McEntee. "Women and Equality" was the subject for discussion, and Miss F. A. Underwood, the speaker, urged the necessity for complete equality of opportunity, rewards and responsibilities of women with men throughout our national and international life. She also advocated the complete independence of women themselves to decide whether or not they take on paid work when they married. In the discussion there was great diversity of opinion expressed on this latter question, and a very frank and friendly interchange of opinion took place.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—

To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.

To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

A WOMAN'S MONUMENT.

On January 6th, every newspaper in the country proclaimed the fact that Miss Elizabeth Scott had created the winning design for the new Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon. The old theatre was destroyed by fire in 1926, and the question of a new theatre became one of both national and international importance. It was felt that the new building must be in every way worthy of our greatest national poet, whose works are treasured in every country. An Advisory Council was appointed, consisting of Mr. Reginald McKenna, Sir Charles Holmes, Sir James Barrie, Mr. E. Guy Dawber, and Mr. H. Granville, and this Council decided that there should be an open competition among architects of Great Britain, Canada, and the United States for the design of the Memorial Theatre. Seventy designs were submitted; after a preliminary selection, this number was reduced to six; and last week the members of the Advisory Council and the Assessors they had appointed unanimously decided that the winning design was No. 3, the work of Miss Elizabeth Scott, a young woman of 29. In spite of the high standard of the other designs, it was agreed that Miss Scott's design stood out by itself, having a largeness and simplicity of design possessed by none of the others. Mr. George Bernard Shaw has characterised it as the only one possible of those submitted. We most heartily congratulate Miss Scott on this achievement. That a woman, and an Englishwoman, should have scored such a success fills us with pride for our sex and our country. Miss Scott has perfected her talents by years of hard work and intense practice, and fully deserves the distinction she has won. Architecture has only been a possible profession for women within recent years. There were very few women architects when the Housing problem was being discussed in the House of Commons, when Dr. Addison was Minister of Health, in 1919. He was asked by a Member if any women architects had been consulted when his Housing Bill was being drafted, and he naively replied he did not know that there were any! No public man or woman, and no member of the reading public, among English-speaking people can now be unaware that there are English women architects, and that one of them has created the winning design for the new Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon. Not so very long ago, too, quite an eminent man architect solemnly declared that no woman could ever make a good architect; it wasn't work that women could do! Well, men, and women, too, have not infrequently said things like that, and with as little fact as the basis of their statement. All that women have needed, it seems, are equal opportunities with men to try to do things, and the courage and grit necessary to all human beings, men and women alike, to make the most of their opportunities. Up till now, the work of women architects has been more or less confined to houses. We certainly need more houses and better

constructed houses—may more power be given to women architects to supply our needs! But it was never intended that the talents of women architects should only be used in the construction of houses, the specifications for which have so often to fit in with the strictest and most niggardly schemes of economy. The Shakespeare Memorial Theatre is a very different matter—donations of millions of dollars are coming from the United States, gifts also from King Fuad, the King of Afghanistan, the King of Siam, as well as from Japan and others of the 70 different countries of the world, who have sent their national flags to be unfurled at Stratford-on-Avon at the annual celebrations of the poet's birthday. It gives us joy to know that this money will be spent on a building which a woman has designed.

BASTARDY LAWS AMENDMENT BILL, 1928.

We learn from the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child that Sir Walter Greaves-Lord, K.C. (U., Norwood), hopes to introduce this Bill, under the Ten Minutes Rule, next Session. The objects of the Bill are the same as those of the Bastardy Bill, introduced by Captain Bowyer in 1926 and by Lord Astor in 1927. It has, however, been redrafted and also amended by the insertion of certain safeguards in the proposed Court procedure, in order to meet some of the objections raised by the Home Office. Under this Bill a woman has power, at any time not more than three months and not less than one month before the expected date of the birth of the child, to summon the putative father to Sessions before the birth of their child; and if the justices adjudge the man to be the putative father of the child, they can proceed to make an order on him for the payment of weekly instalments of such sum as the Court may decide towards the medical, nursing and other expenses necessary for the proper care and maintenance of the woman during, attendant upon, and incidental to her pregnancy and confinement. Should the child be stillborn, the justices may call upon the putative father to pay the expenses also of the child's burial; and should the mother die, or be declared of unsound mind, and the child become chargeable to the Union or Parish, the putative father may be called upon to contribute to the child's keep. This Bill is certainly in the direction of the demands of the Women's Freedom League—that the father and mother of every child, legitimate and illegitimate, should be equally responsible for the child's welfare.

WAR ON THE TIGHT COLLAR!

We congratulate Dr. Lewin on the success of her lecture on "Nasal Hygiene" to the Conference of Health Visitors and School Nurses at King's College last week. "Never wear a tight collar!" was her advice, and the Press informs us that this was not given on æsthetic grounds. As if it could have been! A glance at a high and tight collared man or woman can make no appeal to anyone's æsthetic sense. Dr. Lewin's indictment of the monstrosity was that "Impoverishment of vitality and mentality is caused by wearing a tight collar." For many years now women have discarded the tight collar, and as every breath of freedom creates the desire for more freedom, the women of to-day owe much to those who first made it possible for them to breathe freely. Men are now invited to follow our example, and the *Daily Express* has collected a number of men celebrities, ancient and modern, whose comfortable collars have apparently helped them to achieve greatness. All this is, no doubt, done to assist the ordinary man to cast off his stiff and high "protection" for the throat. Men always have been within living memory the more conventional sex; but when they realise the truth of Dr. Lewin's contention that stiff collars impair their brain power, we shall hope to see the end of the high collar for boys at school and all men of larger growth.

WOMEN TEACHERS IN CONFERENCE.

The Nineteenth Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Teachers was held at Chester from January 2nd to January 6th. The agenda contained many interesting resolutions dealing with various aspects of educational and social questions.

The Conference opened with a Public Meeting, presided over by the Mayor of Chester, who welcomed the delegates on behalf of the city, and expressed the hope that their deliberations would prove fruitful. He was supported by the Dean of Chester; Mr. J. Morris, the Chairman of the Education Committee; Canon Thomas, Principal of Chester Training College; Mrs. Thomas; the Archdeacon of Chester; and the Rev. F. J. Barton, the representative of the Free Churches.

Particular interest and enthusiasm surrounded the speech of the Chairman of the Education Committee, who assured the Conference that he was heartily in agreement with the extension of the franchise, and would rejoice when the present Government carried out its promise in this direction.

Since the National Union of Women Teachers stands and works wholeheartedly for equality, it is not surprising that the first resolution reiterated its demand for equal pay, and pledged itself "to an active campaign, which shall not cease until this object is attained." In proposing the resolution, Miss Kenyon (Vice-President) said she regretted having to introduce the resolution, for it was time that the energy yearly put into this campaign should be released for other work. The medical profession did not allow women to undersell medicine; and shopkeepers did not permit goods to be sold cheaper by the woman grocer. Because in the teaching profession there is nothing visible to sell, women cannot obtain recognition, and there is still a determined attempt to maintain the old traditional idea of masculine superiority.

The Headmasters' Conference, recently held at Rugby, was strongly criticised by Miss A. G. Hewitt, who moved an emergency resolution protesting against the suggestion made by the headmasters that "it is neither necessary nor desirable that the conditions of examination should be identical for girls and boys." Headmasters of public schools cannot be expected to know much about girls; and, as a woman teacher, Miss Hewitt expressed the opinion that girls were capable of facing the same intellectual ordeals as their brothers. She claimed that there was less difference between the capacity of the average boy and girl than between one boy and another, or one girl and another.

In moving a resolution demanding that the grading of schools be based on the average number on the roll and not on average attendance, Miss Phipps, B.A., explained an anomaly with which the general public are

not familiar. Under the present system, head teachers are paid according to the number of scholars in attendance; and, if the attendance is reduced, the head teacher's salary is reduced accordingly. Consequently the more scholarships obtained by the school, the more carefully children are sent to clinics, or sent home for health reasons, the more is the conscientious head teacher penalised. The motion was aptly seconded by Miss S. M. Burls, who stated that "Average attendance is like the Board of Education. In both cases you have an apparition on paper, which you can neither visualise nor teach."

A resolution dealing with the education of the adolescent child was ably moved by Miss C. Neal (Ex-President), who urged the necessity for raising the school age to 16, and for placing all schools for children of eleven plus onwards under the same conditions as secondary schools. It was officially estimated that there was accommodation in the schools for another million and a half children. Although the calculation was misleading, there was certainly room for the half-million children that the raising of the school age would affect.

Many other questions affecting social conditions were vigorously debated; and Miss Walmesley, L.L.A., of Birmingham, warmly approved the girl of to-day, maintaining that, despite the views of the Early Victorians among us, the present-day girl was a charming and delightful product. It was indeed impossible to mention a result more profitable to the whole community.

A resolution, expressing the opinion that the attendance of women jurors and magistrates should be compulsory, whatever the type of case under consideration, and, further, asking that a suitable number of women police be appointed in every area, was passed enthusiastically.

An outstanding feature of the Conference was the number of young women, who were not only interested listeners, but capable and efficient speakers. During the discussion on a motion calling upon the Government to honour without delay its pledge to grant votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as men, it was obvious that some of the speakers were very considerably "under-thirty." One enthusiastic speaker emphatically demanded a full apology from the Prime Minister for having kept the young women of this country waiting for so long a time!

Other resolutions of particular interest dealt with the questions of Smoke Abatement; Dismissal of Married Women; Traffic in Women and Children; Sex Hygiene; Child Assault; League of Nations; Housing; Cinemas; Playing Fields; Refresher Courses; and Special Schools.

LILIAN PIEROTTI.

FRENCH SOCIALISTS AND VOTES FOR FRENCHWOMEN.

The following letter, which we have translated from the French, is taken from *La Française* for January 7th. It was written by M. Léon Blum in *Le Populaire* for December 24th, when the Socialist Congress opened, at which "political equality between the sexes" was adopted in the Party programme:—

In considering our programme, I want to-day to touch upon a point upon which our Party is not unanimous: that is, the right of women to citizenship, political equality between the sexes. This fundamental reform has always found a place on the Socialist programme. I hope that we will now support it.

I am aware that we have disappointed its advocates. When the District Vote was under discussion in the Chamber, our opponents drew in votes for women to confuse the issue. We declined to accept this, as acceptance would have endangered the reform of the male franchise without in the least advancing votes for women. The more active feminists among us were indignant with us then, but I hope that now they understand our reasons for opposing.

They will perhaps understand and approve the more readily now that we have, faithful to our principles, obliged the Chamber to accept a motion on municipal suffrage. The Senate has undertaken to give so much satisfaction, at least, to women. Our action has been of use, because the Senate has announced that it intends to support this act of justice, in spite of either the fury or the jeers of certain political newspapers.

Now that the way is clear and no further trickery to be feared, we can take our stand. We must work, both in Parliament and in the country, not only for the municipal franchise and eligibility for women, but for equal political franchise and eligibility.

I believe that such a campaign can only succeed if the women themselves will work with us. If they find themselves, in our country, with no political rights whatsoever, while Equal Franchise is given in nearly every other country in Europe; if France, the nation of light, shows such an unusual, such a humiliating backwardness, it is certainly their fault more than ours.

Undoubtedly, opinion is contrary. In our nation,

which formerly led the world in courage and the spirit of liberty, there prevails to-day too much of the timorous and false bourgeois morality, too much of a coarse levity. These have been, up to now, the main obstacles to the feminist movement. All the same, if Frenchwomen had not been so indifferent to the attainment of their rights, if they had really desired emancipation, they could have won it. And the movement cannot be victorious until the handful of ardent feminists has converted and stirred to action the inert and doubting mass. From women themselves must come their own emancipation.

But Socialism has also to play its part as a political Party, and its part is clear. It is inherent in its principles, in its traditions. Socialism has always fought every form of social inequality. It stands for abolishing all differences of sex as of class. It even demands equal pay between men and women.

It may be argued: "Woman is not yet capable of using her rights of citizenship; wait until she is better educated in civic duties. One must not go in front of education." The same argument was used against the granting of universal suffrage. When that was conceded to men, were they more capable of using it than are the women of to-day? One recalls the first use men made of their franchise in the National Assembly of '48, the plebiscites of the Revolution, and of the Imperial regime. Like the men, women will learn to govern through the exercise of government.

Another argument used is that, if women have the Parliamentary vote, the Party balance will be upset; clericalism on the one hand, communism on the other, will gain at the expense of other Parties.

Such prophecies are without any foundation of truth. I cannot see why Socialism should not attract as many women as it does men. The experience of our neighbours, notably Belgium and England, shows the hollowness of such prophecies. I say, and say it definitely, that even if the granting of this right to women were to cause a temporary set-back to our Party, no such consideration ought to prevent our support.

Let us remember this: we work, I will not say for eternity—eternity is a privilege belonging to the Catholic Church—but for continuity. A check, a wavering, even a retreat, should not put us off if it in any way helps towards the ultimate victory. I would prefer the loss of a few seats, I would prefer to see Parliament less "Left," if I saw at the same time the emancipation of the women of our country a part of that human emancipation which is our ideal.

Further, I have no doubt of the immediate and beneficial influence of the enfranchisement of women on questions peculiarly affecting the industrial woman worker. I am convinced that, as electors and as elected—and that is one reason why I lay stress on their eligibility—they will show a "united front" against all social evils, against slums, against drink, against disease, and against infant mortality.

Therefore we must not hesitate. We must not heed either stupid laughter or nervous fears. And, if necessary, let us show the Republicans that in this also we know how to uphold the faith of the Republic.

LEON BLUM.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

(Twenty-six Affiliated Organisations.)

VOTES FOR WOMEN! From 21 & on the same terms as Men.
NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING LESS!

A KING'S SPEECH MEETING

will be held in the

CAXTON HALL, on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8th, at 8 p.m.

(THE DAY FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.)

CHAIRMAN: THE VISCOUNTESS RHONDDA.

Speakers: Mrs. G. F. ABBOTT (Open Door Council), Miss E. E. FROUD (National Union of Women Teachers), Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Women's Freedom League), Miss NANCY STEWART PARNELL (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance).

ADMISSION FREE.

RESERVED SEATS, 1/- EACH.

A PUZZLE.

At Somerset Quarter Sessions, with three men on the Bench, the Chairman commended the work of the three men Probation Officers in the Area. He added, according to report, that it had been found neither practicable nor necessary to appoint a woman probation officer, as the number of women and children in the county dealt with under the Act was extremely small. The object of the Act, he said, was to deal with first offenders in such a way that they might be given a fresh chance of a start in life without sending them to prison. We are not clear whether this announcement indicates that no women or children commit crimes in Somerset, or whether they are all habitual offenders, or whether the Chairman lacked brains.

SIGNS OF VICTORY.

As in England when women advanced towards victory in their suffrage fight, so it is in France—there appears an anti-league. The French anti-suffrage league seems to have read up the old sayings of the British antis, or is an anti-womanist an international type? Now that Frenchwomen are beginning to see their victory, they are being met by a league "to combat the growing physical and moral masculinity of woman." A man poet regrets the disappearance of "the lady," and predicts the disappearance also of "the woman." He also says that the aim of woman should be "to participate fully in social and political life without losing her femininity or departing from the natural rhythm of her nature." Having ourselves passed through very similar barrages of nonsense, we can cheer our French comrades by assuring them that it is a sign that they are approaching victory.

"THE POLICEWOMAN'S REVIEW."

The January number of *The Policewoman's Review* contains some interesting articles on the Street Offences Committee, The Poor Persons Department and its Work (by Helena Normanton), and *The Policewoman*; From a Rescue Worker's Point of View (by Jessie E. March). It also has a long list, Duties of Women Police, and, in drawing attention to the forthcoming County Council Elections next March, urges women electors to write to candidates asking their views in regard to the Employment of Women Police.

"L'EGYPTIENNE."

L'Egyptienne is a monthly review of Feminism, Sociology and Art, founded by Madame Hoda Charaoui, edited by Mlle. Céza Nabaraoui, and published in French at Cairo. It is always beautifully printed and illustrated, and crowded with interesting matter. The December issue is particularly attractive, containing a page of portraits of the chief women participants in the recent Amsterdam Peace Study Conference; photographs of delegates outside the Kolonial Institute (we are pleased to recognise Mrs. Bigland is among them), at the Banquet, and at the Board Meeting of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship; and eight pages about the proceedings of this Conference.

Women's Freedom League.

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

President—Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

Hon. Head Literature Department—Mrs. PIEROTTI.

Hon. Head Vote Sales Department—Miss RODGERS.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



**DARE TO
BE FREE.**

Thursday, January 19th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Members' Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of the Misses Berry).

Thursday, January 19th, at 7.30 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Open-Air Meeting at Highbury Corner, arranged by The Women's Freedom League. Speaker: Miss E. E. Froud. Chairman: Miss Sparkman.

Monday, January 23rd, at 3.15 p.m.
Golders Green. Branch Meeting at 98, Brookside Road (by kind permission of Mrs. Jaynes).

Wednesday, January 25th, at 3 p.m.

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

Wednesday, February 8th, at 4 p.m.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date. First meeting of Session. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square.

Wednesday, February 8th, at 6.30 p.m.

Mid-London. Branch Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. All members are urged to be present, and to go on afterwards to Caxton Hall.

Friday, February 10th, at 5 p.m.

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

Saturday, February 11th, at 10 a.m.

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

Saturday, April 28th.

Annual Conference.

PROVINCES.

Friday, January 13th, at 7 p.m.

Portsmouth. Meeting at 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Mr. E. H. Littlecott on "The Work of the W.E.A." Chairman: Mrs. Whetton.

Wednesday, January 18th, at 3.30 p.m.

Boxhill. Whist Drive (by kind permission of the Misses Skinner) at the Albany Hotel. Tickets 1/6, including tea.

Thursday, January 19th, at 6 p.m.

Rye. Members' Meeting at the Old Hope Anchor Hotel. Chair: Miss Bellhouse.

Friday, February 24th.

Ashford. Branch Meeting. Nurse Scott on "Home Nursing."

Friday, March 30th.

Ashford. Branch Meeting. Dr. Littledale on "Local Birds."

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, January 14th, at 7.30 p.m.

Glasgow. Whist Drive in the Athenæum Restaurant (entrance Buchanan Street), with Cake and Ca dy Stall. Tickets from Miss Lenton, c/o Miss McLelland, 5, Hayburn Crescent, Parlick, Glasgow. Tickets 2/6.

Saturday, January 21st, at 6.45 p.m.

Edinburgh. Branch Meeting in the Philosophical Institute, 4, Queen Street.

Saturday, January 21st, at 7.15 p.m.

Edinburgh. Whist Drive in the Philosophical Institute, 4, Queen Street. Tickets 2/-, from Miss Lenton, "The Quest," Liberton; or at the door.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, January 18th, at 8.30 p.m.

Community Singing Practice for Queen's Hall Equal Franchise Demonstration, at the Minerva Club, 56, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Thursday, January 19th, at 4.30 p.m.

Public Meeting on "Mother India," arranged by the London Indian Majlis, in Essex Hall, Strand. Speakers: Dr. S. K. Datta, The Lady Emily Lutyns, Sir Mahamud Raffique. Tickets 2/6 reserved, 1/- unreserved, from 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, January 27th, at 8 p.m., and

Saturday, January 28th, at 11 a.m.

New Education Fellowship. Lecture by Dr. Decroly, Professor of Child Psychology at the Brussels University, at Friends' House, Euston Road, N.W.

Saturday, February 4th, at 7 p.m.

Suffragette Dinner. Craig's Court Restaurant. Tickets 5/-, from Mrs. Elsa Gye, "Adsett," Ridgeway, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

Monday, February 6th, at 8 p.m.

Public Meeting on Anniversary of Votes for Some Women. Speakers will be ex-Prisoners. Admission free. Reserved seats 1/- and 2/6. from Mrs. Elsa Gye, "Adsett," Ridgeway, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

Wednesday, February 8th, at 8 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. "King's Speech" Meeting in Caxton Hall, to decide Policy of Action. Chair: The Viscountess Rhonda. Speakers: Mrs. Abbott, Miss E. E. Froud, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Miss N. Stewart Parnell.

Sunday, February 19th, at 11 a.m.

Hampshire House Club, Ravenscourt Park. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood on "The Life and Work of Josephine Butler."

Tuesday, February 28th, at 3 p.m.

Meeting on "Maternal Mortality," at the Central Hall, Westminster.

BRANCH NOTES.

RYE.

A Members' Meeting will be held at the Old Hope Anchor Hotel, on Thursday, January 19th, at 6 p.m. Dr. Octavia Lewin addressed our last meeting. Miss Bellhouse, who very kindly lent her room, presided. Dr. Lewin spoke on "Citizenship, from a Doctor's Point of View." Four new members were made.

ASHFORD.

A Branch Meeting was held last Friday, at the Hempstead Street Hall, when Mr. Toke spoke on "Work of the Monks in Kent." Mrs. Miles presided.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The following figures appear in correspondence in the *Daily Chronicle*, showing the numbers of men and women engaged in commerce and the professions. It will be noticed how steadily the numbers of women are approaching equality with the numbers of men. The figures cover England and Wales:—

	Men.	Women.
1851.		
Commerce	977,000	186,000
Professions	207,000	115,000
1861.		
Commerce	1,196,000	222,000
Professions	234,000	119,000
1921.		
Commerce	1,533,000	741,744
Professions	272,000	242,509

Equal Rights gives the following account of an interesting memorial to be erected at Washington:—

The twenty outstanding Christian women of the twenty centuries since Christ have been chosen to be the subjects of stained glass windows in a special chapel now being built in the bishop's house of the Washington National Cathedral, where Woodrow Wilson is buried.

Here is the list of those chosen:—

Twentieth century—Julia Emery, who established the Women's Auxiliary, an Episcopal organization devoted to "the extension of the kingdom of God."

Nineteenth century—Harriett Star Cannon, who for thirty-eight years was Mother Superior of the Community of St. Mary, the first Episcopal religious community in America.

Eighteenth century—Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley, founders of the Methodist Episcopal Church; seventeenth century, Pocahontas; sixteenth, Lady Jane Grey; fifteenth, Joan of Arc; fourteenth, Anne of Bohemia, wife of Richard II. of England; thirteenth, St. Elizabeth of Hungary; twelfth, St. Irene of Constantinople; eleventh, St. Margaret; tenth, St. Edith of Walton; ninth, St. Ethelgiva; eighth, St. Frideswine; seventh, St. Hilda; sixth, St. Genevieve; fifth, St. Ursula; fourth, St. Helena; third, St. Rhipsine; second, St. Cecilia; first, St. Phoebe.

Anne of Bohemia intervened to save the lives of many of her husband's subjects, including the poet Chaucer. St. Frideswine was the founder of Oxford College. St. Phoebe was the first deaconess of the Christian Church.

The chapel in which these women will be enshrined was donated by a woman in memory of a woman. It is a private chapel for the use of the bishop and his family.

From the *Jewish Chronicle* we learn that Jewish women are to have equal voting rights with Jewish men. At a meeting of the Council of the United Synagogue, the following resolution was moved:—

"That the scheme contained in the Schedule to the United Synagogues Act be altered and modified so as to provide that women shall have equal voting rights thereunder with men, and that the Honorary Officers of the United Synagogue be, and are hereby, requested to take all the necessary steps to enable effect to be given to this resolution at an early date."

After considerable discussion, in which the usual anti-arguments and jests were trotted out, the resolution was carried by 12 votes.

SUFFRAGETTE DINNER AND MEETING.

February 6th will be the tenth anniversary of the granting of partial political enfranchisement to British women. On February 4th, at 7 p.m., suffragettes will have a chance of dining together at Craig's Court Restaurant; and on Monday, February 6th, of attending the Public Meeting at Essex Hall, at 8 p.m., when all the speakers will be suffrage ex-Prisoners. Both the Dinner and the Public Meeting will be of very special interest this year, and a splendid opportunity for a reunion of old suffragettes.

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

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YORKSHIRE MOORS.—Apartments. Sitting and 1 or 2 bedrooms; inside sanitation; bath; garden.—**ROBINSON**, 6, South View, Eldwick, Bingley, Yorks.

NEAR FOLKESTONE.—Three friends offer a charming holiday home; large garden; tennis; garage.—**MISS HASLAM**, The Grey House, Lyminge, Kent.

BATH.—2 miles, ¼ hour by tram. Vegetarian Guest House. Large garden; plentiful fruit; electric light. Good excursion centre. From £2 5s.—**TOLLEMACHE**, Bathaston.

BOSCOMBE, Bournemouth, 39, Parkwood Road. Comfortable Board-residence; 2 mins. cliffs; good locality. Terms from 2½ gns.—**MISS MILLER**.

BATH.—2 miles, ¼ hour by tram. Vegetarian Holiday Home. Parties taken. Cubicles 30/- week; single rooms £2 5s.; shared rooms £2 2s 6d.—**Batheaston Villa**, Bath.

WANTED.

REQUIRED POST.—Journalistic, Secretarial, or as Organiser. Part or full time.—**EVERLYN A. HAMBLING**, Eastern Cottage, King's Holt, Gomshall, Surrey.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, "Votes for Some Women."

Suffragette Dinner, 5/-. **Craig's Court** Restaurant. Saturday, 4th February, 7 p.m.

Public Meeting on Equal Franchise. Speakers: Suffragette ex-Prisoners. Monday, 6th February, 8 p.m., Essex Hall. Admission free. Reserved seats, 1/- and 2/6. Tickets from Mrs. Elsa Gye, "Adsett," Ridgeway, Mill Hill, N.W. 7.

CLUBS.

HAMPSTEAD.—Lansdowne House. Rooms unfurnished, for Ladies only, with Club advantages. Rent 15/- to 30/- per week.—Apply **SECRETARY**, Lansdowne House, Lyndhurst Gardens, Hampstead, N.W. 3.

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

NOTICES.

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

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, January 15th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Sir Frank Dyson, Astronomer Royal. 6.30. The Rev. Harold Anson.

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