

THE VOTE.
DEC. 14, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

SPECIAL ELECTION NUMBER.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXIV. No. 738.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, DEC. 14, 1923

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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EIGHT
WOMEN M.P.s.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
TWO VOICES—THE OLD AND THE NEW.
WOMEN'S LUCK AT THE POLLS.

THE WINNING EIGHT.
OUR WOMEN M.P.s.
THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE AGAIN.
WOMEN AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS



LADY ASTOR.
(Hoppe)



THE DUCHESS OF
ATHOLL.
(Elliott & Fry)



Miss BONDFIELD
(L.N.A.)



Miss JEWSON.

TO



Miss LAWRENCE.
(Barratt)



Mrs. PHILIPSON.
(Foulsham & Banfield)



LADY TERRINGTON.
(Lafayette)



Mrs. WINTRINGHAM.
(E. C. Woods, Louth)

OUR EIGHT WOMEN M.P.s.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman Centenarian.

Miss Best, who died last week at the age of 102, had lived in the reigns of George IV., William IV., Queen Victoria, Edward VII., and the present King. Miss Best remembered the misery and exhaustion which followed the Napoleonic Wars. She was present in St. Paul's Cathedral at the public funeral of the Duke of Wellington in 1852, and she also recalled the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny, and the Franco-German War.

Women Tutors' Strike.

The women tutors of St. Hugh's College, Oxford, have resigned *en masse*, as a protest against the non-reappointment of the Modern History tutor, Miss Cecilia Mary Ady. It is rumoured that the members of the Council, which includes male members of the University, have also resigned.

Girls' Scholarship Prize.

Miss Dorothy Roberts, of Marietta College, U.S.A., has won the 1923 Firestone University Scholarship, valued at 4,000 dollars. The Scholarship, which is open to all high-school pupils of the United States, was competed for by more than 150,000 high-school students.

Dame Rachel's Lecture Tour.

Dame Rachel Crowley, the only woman Chief of a Section in the Secretariat of the League of Nations, at Geneva, is to visit the United States, on a lecture tour, early in 1924, where she will speak on the preventive work of the League in connection with the white slave traffic, and the opium menace.

American Woman Social Worker.

Miss Sophie Loeb, founder of the Child Welfare Board of New York, was the guest of honour at a recent dinner at the Biltmore Hotel. Many prominent politicians, lawyers, reformers, and jurists attended, who at one time opposed some of Miss Loeb's reforms. The establishment of widows' pensions in New York State was due to Miss Loeb's efforts.

French Woman Barrister's Triumph.

The first woman barrister in Paris, Mlle. Marie-Louise Moreau, has been awarded the Legion of Honour for services rendered not only during the war, but afterwards in the devastated areas. Barristers and law officials who served in the last war, and in the 1870 war, met to honour their first woman colleague on this occasion.

A Use for Waste Paper.

A model Social Service institution has just been opened in New York by the Salvation Army, which was built entirely on the proceeds of waste paper contributed by New York housewives. The institution will be known as Industrial Home, No. 1, where human derelicts will be employed. There are three such institutions now in New York.

Distinction for Draughtswoman.

Miss E. L. Winterton, a draughtswoman in the Signal Engineer's Office of the Great Western Railway at Reading, has been elected the first woman Associate Member of the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers. Miss Winterton was awarded the Owen Ridley prize for Machine Construction in 1919-20, and the Wells prize for Science in 1921-22.

Child Labour in America.

In many of the Southern States of America it would appear that child labour has been substituted for slave labour. In Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina, one out of every four children under 16 years of age is a child labourer, and Georgia works 88,934 of her children, or one out of every four. In New England, Rhode Island is the worst offender, employing one out of every eight of her future citizens, and Connecticut and Massachusetts, one out of every 12.

Resolute Woman Bus Owner.

Miss Helen Schultz, a successful motor-bus owner in Des Moines (U.S.A.), is defending her rights against the opposition of six railroads, scores of farmers, and practically all the county supervisors of Iowa. The case is attracting the attention of lawyers from various parts of the United States, who believe that this is the forerunner of a succession of legal battles of a similar nature in other communities.

American Woman's Forethought.

Through the almost single-handed efforts of an American woman, Mrs. O. F. Frederick, a watering trough for animals has been set up on the 12 miles of dusty road which lie between the Port of Callao and Lima, the capital of Peru. A total of 1,128 animals and people drank from the trough on the first day. It is hoped in time to erect other troughs along the same road.

TWO VOICES—THE OLD AND THE NEW.

Viscountess Rhondda, deputising last week for Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, whose Election contest at North Camberwell prevented her being present, distributed certificates to the scholars of the Twickenham County School on their speech day at the Town Hall, Twickenham. The Chairman was Dr. J. R. Leeson, J.P., who, according to the *Surrey Comet*, after congratulating the town, the teachers, and the pupils on their school and its work, told the girls, "You are going to be women, and I want you to be female women. It is not every man who is a manly man, and it is not every woman who is a female woman. What is women's work in the world? Women's work is to edify in the home, to elevate, to charm, and to beautify by her presence, thought, and act. . . . I want you to issue the best edition of yourselves. If you want a motto, I will go beyond this, and say, 'Have no ambition in life but to do the day's work well.'"

Lady Rhondda, who said she had hesitated to speak at what was, in a sense, an orgy of education, because she was not a professor, and because her education had stopped short before it ought to have done, remarked that mistakes must be made, and added, "Try to make the mistakes of commission, not the mistakes of omission. If you have got to make one or the other, do the things you ought not to have done; do not leave undone the things you ought to have done. When you come to be 40, you will remember a good many things you have done, probably you wish you hadn't; a good many things you have said that make you hot all over to think you have said them. But the things you really regret are the things you did not do and say."

Continuing, Lady Rhondda said the girls should aim at the full expression and full activity of their own personality. They must not slack, particularly in choosing their careers. If they were happy, they had to get their happiness out of their work, and they must prepare themselves to get the best possible career with the biggest chances. There were not quite the same chances for women as for men, but that should make them work the harder. "I want you to be ambitious. Life is so awfully dull if you do not try to get to the top. . . . I do not think I agree with the Chairman that it is your whole business to charm. It is not the sort of thing you get by trying for it. There are an awful lot of things you lose if you try to have charm. I would rather see you have ability and brains. Put more into the world than you get out of it. If you don't, you haven't got the right to be alive."

We are told that a vote of thanks was admirably moved and seconded by two of the girls present, and that Lady Rhondda, in replying, expressed the hope that in a few years they might have them both as Members of Parliament!

WOMEN'S LUCK AT THE POLLS.

All women's organisations are jubilant that eight women are now Members of the House of Commons. Every one of them had a stiff fight—the three former women M.P.s to retain their seats, and the other five who had to wrest the seat from the political Party which previously held it. We send them our heartiest congratulations. It is a special pleasure to us to know that these women Members are distributed fairly evenly among the three political Parties—three Conservatives, three Labour, and two Liberals; and we wish them all a thoroughly successful time in Parliament. Of the

26 women who did not get returned to Westminster, some of them secured extraordinarily good polls, especially as every one of them was opposing a sitting Member, and many had to struggle in a three-cornered constituency. Only one woman, among 33 men, had to forfeit her deposit. In every constituency where a woman put up, the campaign was a strenuous one, and whether the woman was successful or defeated, she did yeoman service to the women's cause by arousing women especially to take a personal interest in political matters which particularly concerned them.

Richmond, Surrey :			
H. Becker (C.)	13,112		
Mrs. Corbett Ashby (L.)	7,702		
Sutton, Plymouth :			
Lady Astor (C.)	16,114		
G. W. Brenan (Lab.)	13,438		
Perth and Kinross :			
Duchess of Atholl (C.)	9,235		
P. A. Molteno (L.)	9,085		
King's Norton, Birmingham :			
Sir H. Austin (C.)	9,545		
Mrs. E. Barton (Co-Op.)	6,743		
Mrs. George Cadbury (L.)	5,686		
Islington, E. :			
A. S. Comyns-Carr (L.)	10,670		
Capt. A. Hudson (C.)	9,038		
Dr. Ethel Bentham (Lab.)	6,941		
Northampton :			
Miss M. Bondfield (Lab.)	15,556		
J. V. Collier (C.)	11,520		
Rt. Hon. C. A. McCurdy (L.)	11,341		
Moseley, Birmingham :			
P. J. Hannon (C.)	19,628		
Mrs. Randolph Clarkson (L.)	7,904		
Farnham, Surrey :			
A. M. Samuel (C.)	12,534		
C. A'Beckett-Williams (L.)	4,979		
Mrs. Anne Corner (Lab.)	3,520		
Cambridge :			
Capt. R. Briscoe (C.)	11,710		
A. E. Stubbs (Lab.)	8,554		
Mrs. E. Dimsdale (L.)	6,619		
Gower, Glamorgan :			
D. R. Grenfell (Lab.)	14,771		
Mrs. H. Folland (L.)	10,219		
Hamilton, Lanark :			
Duncan Graham (Lab.)	11,858		
Miss Helen Fraser (L.)	8,436		
Hastings :			
Lord Eustace Percy (C.)	11,914		
Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon (L.)	5,876		
R. Davies (Lab.)	4,859		
Pontefract, Yorks :			
T. Smith (Lab.)	11,134		
Major A. N. Braithwaite (C.)	8,872		
Miss Mary Grant (L.)	4,567		
Camberwell, N. :			
G. G. Ammon (Lab.)	10,620		
Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan (C.)	5,934		
Chatham, Rochester :			
Col. J. T. C. Moore-Brabazon (C.)	9,994		
Sir Alfred Callaghan (L.)	8,227		
Mrs. M. A. Hamilton (Lab.)	5,794		
Norwich :			
W. R. Smith (Lab.)	20,977		
Miss Dorothea Jewson (Lab.)	19,304		
Lt.-Cdr. E. Hilton Young (L.)	16,222		
Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts (C.)	14,749		
H. Copeman (L.)	13,180		
H. D. Swan (C.)	12,713		
East Ham, N. :			
Miss Susan Laurence (Lab.)	8,727		
E. E. Edwards (L.)	8,311		
C. W. Crook (C.)	7,393		
Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent :			
H. Parker (Lab.)	11,508		
J. A. Seddon (C.)	5,817		
Mrs. Ada Moody (L.)	4,268		
Bournemouth :			
Brig.-Gen. H. Page Croft (C.)	15,506		
C. B. Dallow (L.)	9,256		
Miss Minnie Pallister (Lab.)	5,986		
Isle of Wight :			
Rt. Hon. J. E. B. Seely (L.)	16,249		
Capt. P. Macdonald (C.)	16,159		
Mrs. E. Palmer (Lab.)	2,475		
Ince, Lancashire :			
Stephen Walsh (Lab.)	17,365		
Miss R. Parsons (C.)	6,262		
St. Helens :			
J. Sexton (Lab.)	20,087		
Miss E. Pilkington (C.)	16,108		
Berwick, Northumberland :			
Mrs. Hilton Philipson (C.)	10,633		
Capt. the Hon. H. Robson (L.)	8,767		
Mrs. Edna Penny (Lab.)	2,784		
St. Rollox, Glasgow :			
J. Stewart (Lab.)	15,240		
Miss Violet Robertson	9,204		
Dorset, West :			
Major W. P. Colfox (C.)	10,100		
Mrs. Louie Simpson (Lab.)	7,087		
Brentford and Chiswick, Middlesex :			
Col. Grant Morden (C.)	9,648		
Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Ind.)	4,828		
W. Haywood (Lab.)	3,216		
Portsmouth, S. :			
Major H. R. Cayzer (C.)	16,625		
Miss Jessie Stephens (Lab.)	7,388		
Rear-Admiral Drury Lowe (L.)	5,698		
Wycombe, Bucks :			
Lady Terrington (L.)	14,910		
Col. W. B. Du Pre (C.)	13,228		
George Young (Lab.)	3,611		
Warwick and Leamington :			
Capt. A. Eden (C.)	16,337		
George Nicholls (L.)	11,134		
Countess of Warwick (Lab.)	4,015		
Consett, Durham :			
Rev. H. Dunnico (Lab.)	15,862		
Miss Ursula Williams (L.)	14,619		
Ashton-under-Lyne :			
Sir W. De Freeze (C.)	7,183		
H. T. Greenwood (L.)	7,574		
Miss Ellen Wilkinson (Lab. Com.)	6,208		
Louth, Lincolnshire :			
Mrs. Wintringham (L.)	12,104		
Capt. Geoffrey Peto (C.)	11,003		

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14th, 1923.

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 a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

THE WINNING EIGHT.

The General Election is over, and no one can maintain that the women electors were apathetic, and that they failed to take an interest in the issues before the country. Lord Younger attributes the landslide of his particular Party to the women, who "have been frightened by the stories of dearer food, etc." Conservative women retort that no evidence is available as to how women voted, and that the accusation against them is unjust, and very discouraging to the thousands of Conservative women who have worked so hard to repair the situation which they had no part in creating! We ourselves confess that we have a comparatively very small interest in the gains or losses of the Conservative, Liberal, or Labour Parties, when we remember that eight *women* have secured election in the teeth of the most vigorous opposition—three Conservatives, two Liberals, and three Labour Party women. Whether Mr. Baldwin accepts office now and prepares to meet Parliament in January, whether he advises the King to send for Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, as he is curiously bidden to do by some of his own Party Press, or whether the Labour Party and Liberal Party come to some working agreement, are questions that fail to excite us. Whatever these gentlemen arrange to do, or whatever is arranged for them by wire-pullers or intriguers, we feel we can bear with equanimity now that the Women's Boat has its full crew. With eight women in Parliament, it will be impossible for politicians to ignore the interests of the eight million women outside Parliament; it will be impossible for any future Minister of Health, if asked why he did not consult women architects in regard to his housing schemes, to reply airily that he did not know that any women were available! Eight women in Parliament, no matter what Government is in power, will prevent Heads of Government Departments from forgetting that there are capable women available for a good deal of important work; and we may rely with confidence on these eight women M.P.s to bring forward the women's point of view, which means a different emphasis on most of the questions which are discussed in the House of Commons. The women who have been returned are certain to be heard, as well as seen, in our legislative Assembly. They have all taken their share in the work of the world; the majority of them have years of public service to their credit; they have had experience in holding their own against men and women in Council Chambers, trades unions, or various organisations, and every one of them knows how to make a really good speech. They are certainly not nonentities in the world of men and women, but women of wide experience and of acknowledged position in the different spheres in which they have worked; and we can confidently predict that, unlike some of their men colleagues, they will not be nonentities in Parliament. Without distinction of Party, we send to each one of the victorious eight our warmest congratulations on their return to the House of Commons, and our heartiest good wishes for a thoroughly successful career in Parliament.

THE DEMAND FOR EQUAL FRANCHISE

Our work in the recent Election contests has convinced us of the growing dissatisfaction amongst women at the age of discrimination for men and women in our franchise law. The outstanding issues before the electorate were Tariffs Protection, Free Trade, and Unemployment. The cost of living is at least of equal importance to the woman between the ages of 21 and 30 as to the man between those ages, whether the woman is married or unmarried; and unemployment, like war, is an even greater curse to women than to men, whether they are single women dependent on their own earnings, or married women with young children. Yet these women, unless they had attained the age of 30, no matter how vital the issues were from their point of view, had no voice in their settlement; and they naturally, and quite rightly, resented their political impotence.

In addition to being 30 years of age, a woman, before she could claim a vote for the last Election, had either to have a husband, or pay rent for an unfurnished room, and as the following letter, which appeared in *The Times* last week, under the heading, "Unmarried Women's Votes," signed by Marie Core, The Railway Servants' Orphanage, Woking, shows, our present franchise laws inflict a further and equally serious injustice on women over 30 years of age:—

"Sir,—May I, through your paper, call attention to the injustice of the present Parliamentary franchise? As the law now stands, any man 21 years of age and over is entitled to a vote, provided he has resided in the locality for six months. A woman must be 30 years of age, and married, or else pay rent for unfurnished rooms, before she can claim a vote. That law is a very unjust one. It deprives all single women holding resident positions in public institutions, orphanages, hospitals, or in domestic service, of the privilege of voting, and the right of citizenship. The nature of their employment does not allow them the opportunity of paying rent. The building which they are obliged to live in (or forfeit their position) is the property of the State, or some other public body; therefore they cannot legally pay rent for any part of it. The country needs the service of these women. Why, then, are they denied the privilege allowed to their sisters employed in other capacities? A new Government is to be elected on December 6th. May I suggest that a Bill for adult suffrage be considered by them during their term of office? I write as one of the many who suffer under the injustice of the present Act."

Our first appeal to the new Government will be to introduce, and pass through all its stages into law without delay, a measure granting the Parliamentary vote to men and women on a short residential qualification at the age of 21. There is a large majority of Members in the new House of Commons pledged to this reform, and we urge that the present political injustice under which women suffer should receive their immediate attention, so that at the next General Election women and men shall have an equal share in bringing into power a truly representative Government.

WANTED—MORE WOMEN ELECTION AGENTS.

The work of an Election Agent in a Parliamentary Election is specially suited to a capable woman. We have seen election campaigns bungled on many an occasion through the incompetence, slackness, and sometimes the indifference of a candidate's election agent. An election agency should be a whole-time job, the special business of the agent between the elections being to keep the registers right up to date, and the machinery of the Party running smoothly in the district, for one never knows when a by-election or a general election will be sprung upon the constituency. Election law is strict and complicated, but there is no reason why an intelligent woman with organising ability should not master it. We should like to see classes started in London for prospective women election agents.

OUR WOMEN M.P.s.

A Tory duchess, a Liberal woman of title, and three women of the Labour Party have now arrived to join the famous trio of women M.P.s. No longer does the popular argument hold water that the British woman M.P. owes her position in the House directly or indirectly to the influence of her husband, for three of the newcomers, at any rate, fought single-handed. One glance, too, at the extraordinarily high figures which several of the women candidates polled disposes once and for ever of the ancient heresy that "nobody votes for a woman."

Miss Susan Lawrence, the first Labour woman M.P. for London, is an expert on housing problems in the East End, and has a passion for the improvement of the lot of sweated workers. She was also the first woman to be elected to the London County Council. With four other women members of Poplar Council, she was arrested in 1921 for failing to levy certain rates. The victory of Miss Bondfield, after two previous failures, in routing an ex-Cabinet Minister from his own stronghold, is immensely popular, not only in Labour, but in larger circles, where she has endeared herself by her forceful effectiveness and nimble wit. This is essentially Miss Bondfield's year, for it was only a few months ago that she was elected first woman Chairman of the General Council of the Trade Union Congress, whilst the settlement of the recent disastrous boilermakers' strike was largely due to her pacific influence. Miss Dorothea Jewson, who polled 19,304 votes

at Norwich, is a graduate in Classics at Newnham, but did not disdain once to disguise herself as a housemaid, to test complaints of conditions in hotels. Miss Jewson is an organising secretary of the National Society of Women Workers.

The Duchess of Atholl, who represents the Conservative interest in Parliament, is a remarkably clever woman and good linguist, and comes of a very clever family. Her father, Sir James Ramsay, of Banff, Perthshire, who will be 92 in May, is the leading authority on Plantagenet, Lancaster, and Yorkish England; her aunt Gilbert was the authority on Tacitus, and her half-sister was Senior Classic in 1887, marrying "Butler of Trinity." The Duchess herself, besides taking a big share of public life, inherits her father's historical tastes, for she has produced an encyclopædic "Military History of Perthshire," running into nearly a thousand pages, and containing over 900 illustrations. Lady Terrington, the new Liberal woman M.P., is the daughter of Mr. H. G. Bousher, and was educated abroad. In 1918, she married the Hon. J. S. Woodhouse, eldest son of the first Lord Terrington. She is a notable horsewoman, farmer, and agriculturist, a member of the Grand Council of Our Dumb Friends' League, a Vice-President of the Bucks Lace Association, and President of the Marlow Football Club. Her election to the House was achieved after a second attempt to win Wycombe, South Bucks, for Liberalism, in a stiff three-cornered fight.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE AGAIN.

(Reprinted by special permission of the Proprietors of *Punch*.)

At one time Wilfrid cherished the opinion that women ought to be allowed equal facilities with men in every sphere of life, and he regarded the Women's Freedom League with as much veneration as the ordinary man does the Privy Council or the Football Association.

Since he purchased a small car, however, he has changed his mind.

Now unkind people used to say that the best thing about that car was the ease with which it might have been packed in a parcel and sent home by post when it broke down, which it did frequently.

Of course, it was not really so small as all that, because two people *could* sit in it, providing they were not too well-fed, and that they took all the things out of their pockets, and that they arranged to breathe alternately—one in, and the other out.

It was a "light" car of the latest diminutive proportions, and it had a nominal horse-power of five, but they were apparently nice gentle horses, not at all like the one which said "Ha, ha," to the trumpets. These horses seemed rather to say, "Yes, we have no abandon to-day." Nevertheless, the car made up for its weakness in power by an important noise, and you could get more smell of petrol out of it than you could get from fifty limousines.

Wilfrid was very proud of that car. He used to point it out to his friends as it stood by the kerb (apparently afraid that they might overlook it, or mistake it for one of those toy ones sold by the gutter hawkers), and show them the dent in the radiator he made when he brought down a wasp on the wing. Then he used to ask them what they thought of it, and when they told him, Wilfrid usually lost another lifelong friend.

Wilfrid was frightfully jealous of all other cars, especially big ones. When one of those plutocratic automobiles of fifty horse-power used to gather up its skirts and swish past him contemptuously, his blood used to boil, and he would stamp on the accelerator as though it was a fellow-strap-hanger's foot, in a vain endeavour to catch it. He hated a Rolls-Royce as any normal healthy woman hates another woman's more expensive hat, and if he could just once have been able to drive up behind one on a steep hill, and hoot it out of his way, he would probably have exploded with pride and died happy.

One day he was taking a lady friend out for a joy ride in rural Essex. It was a nice day; it had been a nice lunch; and the lady friend was the nicest of all. They were pop-popping exuberantly along a road just wide enough to accommodate two vehicles, when he heard behind him the raucous hoot of a supercilious electric horn. The noise stiffened his jaw, but he made no other sign. Several times the horn obtruded its aggressive note upon the balmy atmosphere, but Wilfrid stuck to the top of the road as though his car had been on rails.

"Oughtn't you to get out of the way?" said the girl, who had been looking behind. "It's a man in such a great big car."

"Oh, is it?" said Wilfrid through his clenched teeth. "He'll want wings to get past me."

Whereupon he slowed down and kept that car fuming behind him for five miles. Eventually they came to a part where the road widened a little, and after they had met a farm wagon, the driver of the rear car managed to come alongside Wilfrid before he could get position again. He was dressed in a tweed cap, with a stand-up collar and a stock, and looked like a peppery old Master of Hounds. His thin, wrinkled face was purple with rage, and he spluttered out in a hoarse voice, "Confound your impertinence! I'll—"

Wilfrid was quite sweet-tempered about it at first. He pretended to be surprised that he had been in anybody's way, until the infuriated gentleman called Wilfrid's car a "beastly little toy made in Germany." That annoyed Wilfrid, and he proceeded to tell him what he thought of *him* and *his* car. He had still a lot more to say when the other driver suddenly ran in front, stopped by a cross-road, and got out to take Wilfrid's name and number.

Then Wilfrid realised that the lower half of his antagonist was clothed in a tweed skirt. It was a *lady*—that is, providing you could manage to overlook the language she had used towards Wilfrid.

However, Wilfrid didn't wait. It was a problem that wanted thinking out in peace and quietness; so he scuttled round the corner like a startled rabbit and disappeared.

Apparently it was his unlucky day. Five miles farther on, his car began to develop noises like a synco-

pated dance band, and eventually it stunted and said nay—luckily in a market town. It was while Wilfrid, uncertain of the car's willingness to get home that night, was putting the nice girl in a train that he first came into conflict with the law.

How much he had offended he did not know until he saw the summons. His crimes were (1) Leaving his car unattended with the engine running. (As he said, he simply had to. If he'd switched it off, it would never have started again, and they simply wouldn't hear of his taking it on the platform with him.) (2) Obstructing a passage-way. (Here again, as Wilfrid said, the offence was merely technical, because he himself saw several people step over it without any trouble.)

But his misdemeanours did not end here. Finally, when driving off, he was charged with travelling at eighty miles per hour in a crowded street. (Wilfrid said that this was true—the only true thing, in fact, that the policeman said—and he wants some day to get him to sign a sworn statement to that effect, for use when he disposes of the car, although the distance travelled at that pace was only about ten yards, and down a one-in-three incline.)

An indictment like this was not to be disposed of by a polite letter enclosing a ten-shilling note as a fine. Moreover, he learned that the Chairman of the bench of magistrates was a perfect terror when it came to dealing with motoring offences. The only thing to do would be to go to the Court, apologise all that was possible, and try to work on the Chairman's feelings on the plea of youth and inexperience.

So Wilfrid went.

And there, as he entered the Court, he saw, seated in the centre of the Bench, the masculine lady who had driven the big car which he had held up so long that fatal day.

Perhaps you can now make a shrewd guess why Wilfrid is no longer a supporter of the Women's Freedom League. He says that woman's sense of justice is C3, and her sense of humour he consigns to the same contemptible category.

And until she shows a marked improvement in these qualities he considers it a mistake to let her occupy any public office.

WOMEN AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, at the Fabian Hall, Westminster, resolutions were passed urging the Council of the League of Nations to carry out the recommendation of the Fourth Assembly, which requested the Permanent Mandates Commission to give further consideration to the omission in Mandates A and B of any reference to the responsibility of Mandatories regarding the traffic in women and children. The appointment of more women to the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League was also pressed.

Another resolution, pressing the British Government to nominate a British woman as member of the new Commission being formed under the League of Nations, to inquire into the progress made in different countries towards the suppression of slavery in all its forms, was sponsored by Miss K. A. Hessel, who drew attention to the fact that in the mandated areas of South-West Africa and Tanganyika, and in Abyssinia, there were altogether over one million slaves in systems under which a definite and valuable property right was established over the persons of the slaves.

Another resolution passed at the meeting requested the British Government to include women among the advisers who accompany the British delegate to the Council's sessions, and two more resolutions, proposed respectively by the London Society for Women's Service, and the Women's Freedom League, urged the appointment of British women as fully accredited delegates to the next Assembly of the League of Nations, and the next International Labour Conference.

Miss L. De Alberti (Hon. Secretary) read a letter from Dr. Rappard, Director of the Mandates Section of

the League of Nations, stating that, according to a decision taken by the Council in July last, the Secretary-General was not authorised to transmit to the members of the Council communications emanating from non-official Associations, unless he be specifically requested to do so by a Government, or member of the League. Miss De Alberti added that this meant that the League of Nations would become a League of Government officials, and not a League of the people.

A resolution of protest was accordingly framed at the meeting, urging the British Government to instruct its representatives on the Council of the League of Nations to press for a modification of this decision of the Council, so as to admit of the reception of communications forwarded by nationally constituted societies.

Dame Edith Lyttelton, British woman delegate to the Fourth Assembly of the League of Nations, last September, considered that at least one British woman should be appointed as a member of the Mandates Commission, since Great Britain exercised more power than any other country over the mandated territories. She impressed the importance of instructing children in the text of the Covenant of the League, and said that Czecho-Slovakia had done good work in this direction.

Miss Helen Ward, who presided, likewise urged the equal importance of educating adults in the work and objects of the League, so as to dispel the "academic mist" with which it was at present enveloped in the popular mind. Referring to the recent Election, Miss Ward said that many women candidates had made the League of Nations a plank in their platform.

GIRL SENTENCED TO DEATH.

At the Central Criminal Court, last week, Alice Rose Turney, a servant, aged 20, was indicted for the murder of her four months old illegitimate son, on October 23rd last. The prisoner pleaded "Not guilty," the defence being that she was insane at the time. Mr. Gattie, for the prosecution, said the prisoner became acquainted with a man, who took advantage of her, according to her own story. In June, she became a mother, and later placed the child with a foster-mother. She obtained an affiliation order against the man, but the police were unable to serve it, as he could not be found. On October 23rd, the prisoner took the child away from the foster-mother, stating that she was going to take it to another woman. The prisoner took the child to her home, and strangled it in her bedroom, and later threw the body into a brook at Winslow. On November 3rd, she surrendered to the police at Croydon. Dr. Leapingwell, of Winslow, gave evidence that the prisoner's father had died in an asylum, and that an aunt was in the same institution. Dr. Morton, Governor of Holloway Gaol, called for the defence, said that there were no symptoms of active insanity in the prisoner. She had the mental intelligence of a girl between 11 and 12 years of age. He considered that she was mentally deficient, though sane in a legal sense. He could not say that she did not know what she was doing. The Jury, after an absence of 25 minutes, found the girl guilty of murder, with a strong recommendation to mercy. In passing sentence of death, the Judge said that the recommendation to mercy would be forwarded to the proper quarter.

Readers of THE VOTE will notice that the man's name was not mentioned in Court. We protest against this, and against the injustice of leaving this girl to face the murder charge alone. The man should also have been compelled to appear in Court, and be cross-examined as to what provision he had made for the child and its mother. As it is, the man gets off scot-free—he is no longer liable for any maintenance orders; but the girl, who is acknowledged to be mentally deficient, in addition to all the physical suffering and mental anguish she has already endured, will, no doubt, be condemned to long imprisonment, supervised by a man governor, a man chaplain, and most probably a man medical officer. There is nothing in this case to appeal to our sense of justice as women.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, December 14th, at 7.30 p.m.
Glasgow. Branch Meeting in Religious Institution Rooms, Buchanan Street. Address by Miss Minto on "The League of Nations."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, December 19th, at 8 p.m.
Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Carol Singing.

1924.

DARE TO
BE FREE.

Monday, January 14th, at 3 p.m.
Hampstead Branch Meeting (Members only) at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3 (by kind permission of the Misses Berry.)

Friday, January 18th, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, January 19th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, January 30th, at 8 p.m. Hampstead Branch Social Gathering, open to non-members, at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind permission of Mrs. Harverson). Speaker: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., on Proportional Representation. Chair: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P. Music. (Refreshments can be obtained at a small charge.) Three minutes from Hampstead Station.

Saturday, April 5th. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Women's Freedom League Seventeenth Annual Conference.

BRANCH NOTES.

HASTINGS.

The Election proved to be a very interesting event, with a woman candidate in the field. Many of those who had never done any election work proved themselves to be capable workers. On the polling day, several of us went off to the various Committee Rooms to check the registers as the returns came in. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon visited us, and stayed to have a little chat. We can only hope that Mrs. Gordon will be in Hastings as one of the candidates at the next election. She has left Hastings with the affection and good-will of hundreds of our townspeople, and we hope to have the pleasure of working for her again. We enclose a copy of a letter from Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon to Mrs. Darent Harrison.—

"DEAR MRS. DARENT HARRISON,—I wish to thank you and the members of the Women's Freedom League at Hastings for the public support and invaluable help you rendered me during my brief campaign. I feel that we really did good service to the women's cause, and I am sure many voters gave me their vote because we brought home to them that the presence of women in Parliament would help many social reforms, and represented something over and above the interests of any particular political party. I especially enjoyed the meeting in your house, and I shall not easily forget the selfless devotion of yourself and your fellow-workers on polling day.—With my kindest greetings,
Believe me, yours sincerely,
MAY OGILVIE GORDON."

ASHFORD.

"There is a lot of talent here to-night," was overheard at the social evening held at the Hempsted Street Hall last Friday. A lot of work had been done to make the evening a success. Mrs. Banks and her clever party of entertainers deserve a lot of thanks. All the child dancers were delightful. Little Margery Dunhill—a warm favourite at Ashford—must be congratulated on her really wonderful display of exhibition dancing. Mrs. Kither, our indefatigable Secretary, Mrs. Caister, and others, were hard at work seeing that everyone present had a good time. Plenty of good things were provided to eat, and, without any doubt, all those present enjoyed the evening's entertainment.
(Org.) Miss M. F. WHITE, 8, Hohnsdale Gardens, Hastings.

HULL.

Our questionnaires have been returned, with the local candidates' replies, and these have been forwarded to Headquarters. The Hull branch expresses its great pleasure that eight women have been returned to Parliament, and congratulates every woman candidate who stood at the recent election, on the gallant fight she put up.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. R. J. RANEY, 195, Hedon Road, Hull.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

The Offices of the Women's Freedom League will be closed from 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 22nd, until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, December 27th.

MISS MARSHALL

(Women's Unionist League)
will Lecture on

PREFERENTIAL DUTIES

On Monday, December 17th, 1923,

at

MINERVA CAFE,

144, High Holborn, W.C.1 (Entrance at back).

Questions and Discussion to follow Lecture.

Admission free.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Election Officials' Blunders.

Considering that for so many generations men have had the monopoly of all the experience at elections, it seems very surprising that some of the election officials still make egregious blunders in regard to the count and the ballot papers. After three recounts at Sedgefield, a Conservative majority was shown as six. It was discovered that, owing to the fact that over 100 ballot papers had not been stamped by the officers at the booths, many had been lost to the Labour candidate and previous Member. At Mansfield, 344 votes were invalidated because the presiding officer, who had had considerable experience of elections, had placed on each paper the number of the voter concerned. A similar mistake occurred in the Aberavon constituency. At Kingston-on-Thames, 450 votes for the Conservative candidate were counted twice; and at Cambridge University the second Member was at first reported head of the poll instead of Mr. Rawlinson, who had 647 more votes than the former.

Coroner's Extraordinary Harangue!

Last Monday, Mr. Ingleby Oddie held an inquest on an unemployed dock labourer, who was stated to have committed suicide whilst of unsound mind, by taking cyanide of potassium. The poor man had tried hard to obtain work, but without success. The Coroner said that he had taken his life rather than accept charity, and contrasted his attitude with that of "unscrupulous persons" who preferred to be idle on the "dole," expressing the opinion that many of the women drawing the "dole" would soon find suitable work if the payments were stopped! The Coroner then became eloquent about the suitability of house and home for women, as compared with factories, and ended with a grand peroration on the good qualities of the poor fellow who had taken his life. We cannot see why the latter's misfortune should be used by this Coroner as a peg on which to vent his animus against workless women. We think he would be well advised in future to mind his own business in matters which do not concern the case which it is his duty to deal with.

Relief for Workless Women — Glasgow and Manchester.

At a meeting of the Glasgow Women Citizens' Association, held last week, the following resolution was adopted:—

"That the Government should consider the possibility of instituting classes at suitable centres, where, in a course lasting 13 weeks or longer, instruction in dairying, care of poultry, pigs, and cattle could be given to women who intend to work on farms or small holdings in this country, or who desire to emigrate to the Colonies."

This week, Councillor Ellen C. Wilkinson is to ask Manchester City Council to instruct the Unemployed Special Committee to consider relief work for women, and will urge that the Public Health Committee should report on the employment of women as home helps in connection with maternity welfare centres.

Breaking the Law.

The Star reports that a farm labourer, the father of nine children under 14 years of age, was told at Linslade (Bucks) that his action in keeping one of the children away from school during his wife's illness was not unreasonable, but, as he had broken the law, he would be fined 1s.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

WE HAVE SOME VERY NICE BOOKS SUITABLE FOR
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

CHILDREN.

"A Little Book about London." Illustrated, 2/6.

Herbert Strang's Annual, 5/- (Boys).

Mrs. Strang's Annual for Girls, 5/-.

" " " Children, 5/-.

" " " Baby, 3/6.

"The Big Book for Girls," "Boys," "Children," and "Baby,"

all at 2/6, really excellent value, superbly illustrated.

Also seven splendid Books at 4/6 (size fcp. 4to), coloured

illustrations, sold last year at 7/6, including "Water

Babies," "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," "The

Arabian Nights," and "Tales from Shakespeare."

"The Sleepy-Song Book," 7/6.

"Old English Nursery Songs," music and coloured illustrations, 7/6.

GROWN - UPS.

"The Call Box Mystery," by John Ironside, a really thrilling

detective story, 3/6.

"Dedication," by Henrietta Leslie, 7/6.

"Nor All Thy Tears," by C. Nina Boyle, 7/6.

"What Became of Mr. Desmond," by C. Nina Boyle, 7/6.

"Women at Work in the League of Nations," by Mrs.

Northcroft, 6d.

"The Feminine in Fiction," by L. A. M. Priestley, 2/6 and 1/-.

POSTAGE EXTRA.

For admirers of Helen Taylor—Photograph of Grave at

Torquay, mounted, 2/6.

FRIDAY,
DEC. 14,
1923.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Please send me *THE VOTE* every week, post free, for 6 months, for which I enclose 3/3.

Name

Address

THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

EDUCATIONAL.

YOUR Character and Capabilities delineated, with colours, jewels, etc., from handwriting, and date of birth. P.O. for 2/- and stamped addressed envelope to Miss Adams, Box 2, 92, Victoria Street, S W. 1.

ELOCUTION, Public Speaking, Singing, Dancing. "Florence Etlinger Theatre School," 60, Paddington Street, Marylebone. Kate Rorke, Ben Webster, May Whitty, Enriqueta Crichton, Janet Duff. Special Ballroom classes, Marie L-rle, Fridays, 8 p.m.

NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, December 16th. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BARGAIN—list free. Plants, Garden Utensils. Beautiful dwarf roses, named varieties, 6/- dozen, carriage paid. —MCELROY, 33, Saville St., South Shields.

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

WANTED. A First-Class Insurance Company is open to appoint one or two ladies or gentlemen as representatives, town or country (spare time or otherwise). Experience unnecessary. Every assistance given. Good commission paid. Apply Box 123.

FURNISHED Cottage. For Winter, 23/- weekly. Two Ladies only. No children or animals. CLEAVE, Hyde Heath, Amersham (3 miles), Bucks.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance *pro tem*. Town Members £5 5s. : Country and Professional £4 4s.

MISS NICHOLAS, ex-Transport Driver. R.A.F. Landaulette Car for hire. Tel. Hampstead 8341. Private address: 3, Christchurch Road, Hampstead.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BUSY Women requiring Rest will find comfortable Board Residence at Miss TURNER'S, "Sea View," Victoria Rd., Brighton. Early Dinner. Tel. Brighton 1702

MAIDA VALE. Accommodation for one or two ladies in service flat. Central heating. Restaurant. Constant hot water. Telephone. Box 110, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

LITERARY Society having good first floor front room in square in Bloomsbury, wishes to sub-let for part time. Available daily—morning, possibly some afternoons. Apply A. B. C., 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FOOD REFORM GUEST HOUSE, 13, Marine Parade, Dover. Excellent cooking. Gas-fires in bed-rooms. Specially recommended Eustace Miles. Unequaled excursion centre

ISIS CLUB, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue (2 minutes Hampstead Tube Station). Magnificent Reception Rooms. Central heating. Sunny bedrooms. Sandy soil. Lectures, dancing, listening-in. Christmas parties arranged for visitors. Telephone: Hampstead 2869.

Prepaid Classified Advertisements.

Number of Words.	Once	Three Times.	Six Times.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
20	1 6	4 0	7 6
30	2 3	6 3	12 0
40	3 0	8 6	16 0

Displayed Advertisements,
8/- per Inch.

SMART CUT, AND ::
PERFECT TAILORING
AT MODERATE ::
PRICES.

H. Melissen,
Ladies' Tailor.

PERSONAL ATTENTION.

62, GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W.1.

DO NOT BE WITHOUT A FOUNTAIN PEN.

This is our Lever Action, Self-filling model.

14-ct gold nib. Will not leak.



PRICE **8/6**

Equal in value to any pen costing double.

*Other varieties in stock. Please call and inspect.

THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd., 144 High Holborn.

Membership Application Form.

To be returned to The Secretary, 144, High Holborn.

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

Name

Address

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.
Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.