

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 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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XXXVII.—WHEN I AM M.P.

MISS ENID LAPHORN, Prospective Liberal Candidate for Hitchin.

When I am M.P. I feel I must, simply must, rise quickly and brilliantly to a high position in the State, that somehow, from somewhere, I shall acquire gifts with which nature has certainly not endowed me, so that in the shortest space of time, I shall become a star in the political firmament. This conviction is the result of an attack of "Birkenheaditis" contracted after reading the article entitled "This Intrusion of Women," and has no relation to reality.

When I forget the noble Earl and soberly face the question of what I shall do when I become M.P. the answer is a very different one. My first aim will be to become a thoroughly competent Member of Parliament, to acquire what is, I believe, known as "the technique of the House," by constant study of the methods of experienced parliamentarians to become a skilled debater, and to the best of my ability to uphold the high traditions of the Mother of Parliaments.

Women have now stormed many fortresses, and it seems to me their next step is to consolidate the positions won. The pioneers of the Woman's Movement were obliged to deflect the greater part of their zeal and energies to winning the positions. Now we younger women, thanks to their

efforts, can devote ourselves entirely to the efficient discharge of the tasks we undertake.

Let it not be thought, however, that I consider technique all important. Far from it. But I believe in fighting with the best weapon available and with a sword as good as, or if possible, better than that of one's adversary. Only thus can one do justice to one's cause.

And the cause for which I shall fight? Briefly expressed, the Brotherhood of Classes at Home, and the Brotherhood of Nations abroad. The Brotherhood of Classes can best be achieved, in fact, can only be achieved, by the introduction step by step of that "Industrial Democracy encouraged and regulated by the State" to which the Liberal Industrial Report leads the way.

The establishment of an era of International Brotherhood is indeed a question outside the range of party politics, even outside the range of national politics. But, if there is such a thing as a "women's question," it is in this direction, I believe, that the organised political thought of women will be most directly felt. Lord Birkenhead writes: "Political Wisdom has not, I gather, been justified of its women. Nowhere is it possible to say that a nation has shown a great political advance by reason of the women's vote." But it is generally asserted, that it was the influence of the women of the country which caused the Government of the United States to reduce its programme of naval construction. A minor detail, perhaps, but one fraught with tremendous significance.

I am never quite sure whether "women's questions," as such, really exist.

I must confess myself to a marked predilection for the most "unwomanly" branches of politics, finance and international affairs. But surely the fact that subjects usually described as "women's questions" are those directly affecting the home and the child should disarm those who still consider us a political danger. For Lord Birkenhead does not stand alone. Similar anachronisms still



ENID LAPHORN.

exist, both inside the House of Commons, where they happily number but twelve, and outside.

I hope within the next few years the term "Woman Member" will have ceased to exist, together with the terms "Woman Doctor," "Woman Barrister" etc., and that we shall be simply "Members," "Doctor," "Barrister," standing or failing on our merits as such. In order to become an efficient member of Parliament, I shall try to cultivate "the capacity for broad views, the skill in debate, the aptitude for honourable give and take, which are so essential to the able parliamentarian," which qualities, in spite of Lord Birkenhead, I can hardly believe are the exclusive attributes of one sex. But perhaps he had forgotten for a moment that all men are not as he.

"HYDE PARK IN 1912" (MATINÉE).

Miss Olga Lynn's Pageant of Hyde Park was perhaps the most interesting part of the matinée at Daly's Theatre on Tuesday. Beginning with the hospital scene in 1765, and leading up to the present day, many interesting and beautiful scenes were enacted.

After watching the beautiful women and gallant knights of earlier days, the advent of the first women cyclists in the 'Nineties prepared one for the scene that would probably most interest readers of THE VOTE—the Suffragettes of 1912-1914. Round a platform—that was certainly more stable than the ones we remember in those days—were grouped the banners of the various societies, carried by members wearing the colours. Moving about amongst the crowd, some members of which were friendly and others hostile, were women selling THE VOTE and other suffrage papers, and others giving away pamphlets. There were the rowdy young men intent on breaking up the meeting, and the friendly men supporters who were always to be found at our gatherings. Into this crowd came the Suffrage Procession, in which banners bearing the names of famous women whose memory has been an inspiration to suffragists, showed bravely amongst the familiar green, white and gold of the Women's Freedom League, mingled with the purple, white and green of the W.S.P.U., and the red, white and green of the National Union; the curtain dropped on the speakers' arrival on the platform. The dresses which reached the ground, and the large hats, made one realise that the fight might have been less difficult in the more sensible clothing of the present day. The suffragettes were followed by a group of khaki girls, and a detachment of the Women's Auxiliary Service led by Commandant Mary Allen and Chief Inspector Campbell, who made us feel very proud of our splendid women police.

The final scene was a very beautiful tableau of children round Peter Pan's statue, which made a special appeal to the audience because of its representation of perhaps the most popular work of the late Sir George Frampton, in whose memory wreaths were placed at the foot of "Peter Pan."

We hope the matinée will prove to have been as great a success financially as it was in interest.

We are very glad to know that the General Lying-in Hospital, for whose benefit it was given, has three women on its Board of Management, one of whom is Vice-Chairman.

M.R.

THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN CHINA.

By the kind offices of Miss Pye and The Women's International League we were able to send greetings from The Women's Freedom League to the women in China in the early part of this year. Miss Pye, who had so kindly taken these greetings and who has just returned from China, addressed a large audience at Friends' House, Euston Road, on May 22nd, when she gave an account of her experiences in China. Mrs. Chen (Principal McTyeire School, Shanghai) presided. Miss Pye said that the women delegates from The Women's International League were received with great interest and friendliness in Shanghai, Peking, Nankin, Canton and Hankow. She described an International Women's Day at Canton to which every foreign woman received an invitation, and which ended with the calling of slogans. Many of them were feminist appeals familiar the world over—Equal Pay for Equal Work, Equal Moral Standard for Men and Women—but Down with the Slavery of Etiquette for Women had an amusing ring to English ears.

Miss Pye was deeply impressed by modern educational methods in China. There are so many levels of civilisation in this vast country, some very low, but, at its best, modern education appears to equal or surpass anything in the West. In one school charming Chinese children in their padded coats were enjoying the very latest kindergarten methods. The temperature of the school is very low, but the Chinese seem quite content, and Miss Pye quoted the Chinese saying "The Chinese wear clothes, foreigners wear houses."

Referring to the present troubles in China, Miss Pye begged her hearers to realise that much of the news of China in our papers was tinged by war psychology, correspondents living mostly amongst Europeans and not in touch with much Chinese thought. She believed that there was a glowing future before this great country, but that China required friendship, faith, hope and patience in her development.

EQUAL FRANCHISE VICTORY CELEBRATIONS.

The Women's Freedom League is arranging a Victory Breakfast at the Hotel Cecil, at 8.45 for 9 a.m., as early as possible after the Franchise Bill receives the Royal Assent. We are told that its Committee Stage will be taken on June 12th. Then follows the Third Reading on which there is unlikely to be any debate. After that the Bill will wait until there is a Royal Commission which will give it the Royal Assent. It is impossible to give a definite date, but the Breakfast will take place within two or three days after the Royal Assent has been given to this Bill. The Breakfast will be the occasion of a great reunion of old and new friends. Tickets are 4s. 6d. each, and will be sent immediately the date is fixed to all who have applied for them at this office.

The League of the Church Militant is arranging a special service of thanksgiving at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields one early evening as soon as possible after the Equal Franchise Bill reaches the Statute Book. Further particulars will appear in a later issue of THE VOTE.

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Miss H. M. KEYNES, May 25, 1928; Mrs. HAMILTON, February 17, 1928; Miss F. B. WIDDOWSON, January 6, 1928; Mrs. TOWNSEND, September 16, 1927; Mrs. MASSINGHAM, August 19, 1927; Miss RUBY PART, June 3, 1927; Miss ELEANOR STEWART, May 13, 1927; Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, April 29, 1927; Mrs. PANKHURST, February 25, 1927; Miss MONICA WHATELEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDES, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NESBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 13, 1921.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Street Offences Committee.

MR. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Home Secretary the number of sittings which have been held by the Street Offences Committee, and when the Report is expected? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: The Committee has held 19 meetings. I understand that the Chairman has hopes that the Report will be ready about October. MR. DAY: Can the Home Secretary say what number of witnesses have been examined by this Committee? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: 58.

LT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Lab., Central Hull): Are we to understand that more sittings of this Committee are being held? Did not the Home Secretary intend to refer the case of the two police constables who were under examination by him for the original case in Hyde Park, in which Sir Leo Money and Miss Savidge were acquitted, to this Committee? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: In regard to the first supplementary question, I hope it will not be necessary for the Committee to sit and take evidence again. I hope the Committee will be able to proceed with the consideration of their report, which I am anxiously awaiting. As regards the second supplementary question, I have taken no steps in that direction. LT.-COM. KENWORTHY: Has the Rt. Hon. Gentleman abandoned that idea, because my recollection is that he informed the House that that would be the procedure? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: No, I do not think so. I cannot remember every question that has been put to me on this matter. LT.-COM. KENWORTHY: It was in the Debate, I think. SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I do not think I said that. There were various ideas as to how we should deal with the matter, but I certainly arrived at no decision.

MR. HAYES (Lab., Edge Hill): Has the Rt. Hon. Gentleman abandoned the idea of finally inquiring into the case? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Oh, no.

Police Evidence (Charges Dismissed).

MR. GROVES (Lab., Stratford) asked the Home Secretary how many charges were dismissed during the tenure of the present Commissioner of Police up to 31st March, 1928, and of his predecessor, respectively, on account of uncorroborated police evidence? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The returns collected do not comprise the information desired.

Borstal Institutions (Cost).

MR. BRIANT (Lib., Lambeth, N.) asked the Home Secretary what is the average weekly cost of a girl at the Borstal Institution at Aylesbury and of a female convict in a prison? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The net average weekly cost of inmates of Borstal Institutions is £1 6s. 9d. and of convicts £1 9s. 5d. Separate figures for women are not available.

THE SAVIDGE INQUIRY.

The Committee which is to inquire into the action of the police in connection with their interrogation of Miss Savidge on May 15th will meet on Wednesday, June 6th, at the Royal Courts of Justice, at 11 a.m. The meetings are to be open to the public.

Mr. S. Hoare has been appointed Secretary to this Committee.

A DIFFERENTIATION WHICH NEEDS CHALLENGING.

Why, in Civil Service Efficiency Barrier Tests, should different standards be applied to women from those applied to men? This is particularly true of the Post Office, where in many respects the conditions on the women's side are much worse than on the men's side.

A DEFEATED INJUSTICE.

A proposal to discharge a married laundress on the grounds that she was expecting a child, has been defeated at Leicester. It was urged that "a Poor Law Officer should be able to live a full, normal, and natural life, and if the conditions of Poor Law service are such that that is impossible, the conditions should be altered."

TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

AN IMPORTANT TASK AHEAD.

At our Tea and Politics-up-to-date meeting, held at the Minerva Club on May 23rd, Miss Underwood, who presided, said that now the Equal Franchise Bill had passed through the House of Lords and gone to a Committee of the whole House, we began to feel safe.

In reference to the Hyde Park Inquiry into the case of Sir Leo Money and Miss Savidge, and the "hideous mistake" made by the police in arresting an innocent woman in Southampton Row that week, Miss Underwood said: "We think it time the streets were made safe for women."

Mrs. Ewen, who had been asked to speak on any topic of interest to women of the League, said that after considering the matter, she had decided that nothing was of greater importance at this time, than the danger to which women were exposed of arrest and conviction on the uncorroborated evidence of the police. One of the tasks before us, when fully enfranchised, is to make it impossible for a woman to be charged on the single evidence of a policeman. Mrs. Ewen stated that it would be better for those who were guilty to escape punishment than that innocent women should run the risk of being convicted on uncorroborated evidence.

In support of the need for corroboration, Mrs. Ewen stated that at the age of eighteen she was called as a witness in a charge made against a young servant girl living in her mother's house. Mrs. Ewen was convinced that the girl was innocent, but her evidence was so turned about that it told seriously against the girl.

As police regulations stand, a man loses his chance of promotion if he makes several arrests which do not lead to convictions. Mrs. Ewen remarked that militant suffragettes knew from personal experience that a policeman's evidence was often far from being a correct statement of the facts.

Prostitution is, at bottom, an economic problem and must be approached from that angle.

In reference to the passing of the Equal Franchise Bill, Mrs. Ewen said now that victory was achieved it was up to women to unite more than ever before, and to show that enfranchised women are out for reform. She would like to see women banded together to outlaw war. The present victory she considers the triumph of the mother spirit, and hopes that we shall have the glory of presenting that spirit to the world.

Dr. Knight said if the police are going to take up women, and bring charges against them which they can only refute by submitting to a medical examination, the Women's Freedom League must take energetic action.

WOMEN AS CHAIRMEN.

The question as to whether women should act as chairmen is causing much controversy.

The Hackney Board now has an absolute majority of women, and in a large number of Boards women have for a considerable length of time occupied the vice-chair with a man in the chair. It may be symptomatic to find that Croydon and Bromley (Kent) have had contests as to whether a man or a woman member should be elected to the chair. At Bromley there was a spirited debate on the question of who was to succeed Sir Henry Lennard, who had been Chairman of the Board for a number of years. Mr. G. J. Miller (who was ultimately elected to the chair) was proposed on the ground that "the chairmanship was a man's job and a strong man's job," although the vice-chairmanship for a number of years had been held by Mrs. Chalmers, and it was usually considered that the vice-chair was a stepping-stone to the chair. In support of Mr. Miller, sundry speakers urged that the Board needed a certain amount of strength in the chairman to conduct the work. The conduct of the Board had to be done efficiently and economically, and "it required a good deal of brain work." Other members urged that they wanted a man and not a woman at the head of the Board—"strong, powerful in argument, and energetic and capable."

No comment on the motives underlying such remarks is necessary.

THE VOTE.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."
Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

WHY THIS INSULT?

On May 23rd, SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS proposed in the House of Commons that the Chairman of the Tribunal to inquire into the action of the police in connection with their interrogation of Miss Savidge, on May 15th, 1928, should be the Right Hon. Sir John Eldon Bankes, a Judge of the High Court, and that the Members of it should be Mr. Withers, Member for Cambridge University, and Mr. Lees-Smith, Member for Keighley.

LADY ASTOR pleaded for the appointment of a woman on this Tribunal. She pointed out that there are women barristers who would be very helpful, and that women's organisations were all asking for the appointment of a woman. There was considerable impatience shown in the House by Members of all parties while this suggestion was being made, and Miss Wilkinson got up, and on a point of order, asked if they could not have silence.

Subsequently MR. ERNEST BROWN moved, as an Amendment, that the Tribunal should include at least one woman member. He pointed out that when women witnesses and their treatment by the police force were to be discussed, there should be a woman on the Bench to judge those questions. There were plenty of suitable women, and he mentioned two—Mrs. Wintringham, a magistrate, and an ex-Member of the House of Commons, and Mrs. Lloyd-Lane, a well-known woman barrister.

MISS WILKINSON seconded the Amendment. She said she thought it was very extraordinary when a woman rose in that House to raise the matter which was felt very keenly by a large number of women connected with all parties, judging by the letters they had received on the subject, that the suggestion should have been received with shouts of derision. A woman's honour and good name were at stake, and there ought to be a woman on the Tribunal. There were plenty of women of proved public ability, and she asked the Home Secretary to give the reasons why he did not put a woman on the Tribunal?

SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS said that he had very carefully considered the composition of this Tribunal. He had discussed it with the leaders of the Opposition, with Sir John Simon and the Lord Chancellor, and they had all agreed that the names suggested would form an admirable Tribunal. Unless it had the confidence of all parties in the House it would be much better not to appoint it. He hoped the proposal before them would be carried unanimously, and that the whole House would show full confidence in the Tribunal which was being set up at its own request. He also hoped that the Amendment would not be pressed.

MR. BROWN said that in view of the obvious feeling of the House, he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment; it was withdrawn, and the proposed appointments agreed to.

MR. SCRYMGEOUR asked if the appointment of a woman had been considered, and was told by the Home Secretary that many names were considered, but he did not think it right to mention the private discussions which took place.

From our point of view this whole matter is thoroughly unsatisfactory. The House of Commons may have been rushed into unanimous approval of this Tribunal at the fag end of business before the Recess; but we say, quite frankly, that women can have very little confidence in it. In a matter of this kind, which has specially to deal with treatment of a woman by the Police, for whom the Home Secretary is responsible, he ought not only to have consulted the men of the various parties in the House, but more particularly the women members of the House. Yet it seems clear that the Home Secretary and "the men of the various parties in the House" unanimously decided to exclude any woman from this Tribunal!

WOMEN AND THE POLICE.

The Secretary of the Women's Freedom League has sent the following letter to the Home Secretary, Sir John Simon and Mr. Arthur Henderson:—

24th May, 1928.

Tribunal of Inquiry.

Sir,—The Women's Freedom League expresses its great dissatisfaction that no woman has been appointed to the Tribunal which is to inquire into the action of the police in connection with their interrogation of Miss Savidge on the 15th day of May, 1928. This is a case in which it is alleged that the liberties of a woman have been infringed, and, as the action of the police has on so many occasions given women the impression that the liberties of women are less inviolable than those of men, we consider that the faith of women in the impartiality of the administration of British justice is being undermined by the refusal to appoint a woman, and preferably, a woman with legal training and a knowledge of constitutional law, to this Tribunal.

We press for the early appointment of a second Tribunal to enquire thoroughly into the powers and methods of the Metropolitan police. Great disquietude has been caused amongst women by two cases of women recently charged at Bow Street by police officers with soliciting. Luckily for these two women, they were able to secure legal defence, and, in spite of the sworn evidence of the police officers, they were discharged. One of these women brought medical evidence to prove her innocence of the gross charge brought against her. In reply to her solicitor's request for costs, the magistrate said he thought it reasonable she should have an opportunity of bringing medical evidence, and he gave her costs in this case. We would point out here that, if any woman who happens to be charged by the police with this kind of offence is to be compelled to submit to a medical examination in order to prove her innocence, we are returning to the conditions which prevailed under the infamous Regulation 40 D. This is a matter of the gravest importance to women, and we consider that the matter should be dealt with at a very early date by a competent Tribunal to which an adequate number of women should be appointed, including a woman barrister.

I am, etc.,

WOMEN JURORS AND UNPLEASANT CASES.

We greatly regret that three women asked to be excused from serving on a jury at the Central Criminal Court last week when a man was charged with offences against boys. It was certainly an unpleasant case, but children were involved in it and, as the Recorder said, it was a case in which women could be of the greatest assistance. He added that he thought their decision was very deplorable. Their places were taken by two other women (who did not shirk their duty) and a man. Serving on Juries is one of the duties of citizenship, and, however unpleasant the case may be, women have no right to shirk their responsibility in the matter. We are convinced that these "unpleasant" cases will be rarer when men realize that they are likely to be tried with a woman on the Bench, women on the Jury, and women barristers and women solicitors in Court.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman's Political Appointment.

Miss Sydney Brown's appointment as secretary of the Liberal Campaign Department will make her a pioneer in politics. Miss Brown describes her work as "commercial travelling for the Liberal Party."

A Woman Pioneer of Finance.

Miss Hilda McKean is practising in connection with an inside firm admitted to membership of the London Stock Exchange.

A Woman Shop Assistant's Record.

Miss Norris, who entered the firm of Gorrings, Ltd., 50 years ago, and is still serving behind the lace counter, claims the longest record for a woman in one department in the same shop.

Women in Government Service in Australia.

Miss Julia Flynn's recent appointment as Assistant Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools in Victoria has aroused much interest in Australia. The two other women holding posts in Government service are Dr. Jean Greig, Chief Medical Officer of the Educational Department, and Dr. Vera Scantlebury, Director of Child Welfare.

Women Brokers in Wall Street.

A broker's office, operated by women for women, has been opened in New York. The new office, controlled by a woman with 14 years' experience in Wall Street, is reported to be doing a large business.

A Life-long Worker for Women.

The mother of the President of the Austrian Republic, a life-long worker for women, has just celebrated her 96th birthday.

NEWS FROM INDIA.

The following items are taken from the April number of *Stri-Dharma*:—

Child Marriage Resolution.

The Madras Legislative Council passed the following resolution, proposed by Dr. Muthulakshmi, a woman member: "This Council is of opinion that legislation raising the marriageable age of boys and girls to at least 21 and 16 years respectively is necessary."

A New Woman Councillor.

Mrs. Ammukutty Ammal, Headmistress of the Conjeevaram Girls' School, has been nominated to the Conjeevaram Municipal Council.

Burmese Woman given Legal Post.

The first woman to receive the Bachelor of Laws degree at Rangoon University has been appointed Assistant Registrar of the Rangoon High Court. Her name is Daw Me Me Khin, B.A., B.L. This is the first time a woman has been given such an appointment in India.

Women's Deputation.

A deputation of 25 women, headed by Mrs. Hamid Ali, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the All-India Educational Conference, waited on the Local Self-Government Minister of Punjab to urge upon him adequate representation for women on Education Boards, Text-Book Committees, Municipalities, Public Health, and other important bodies.

Ceylon Women Demand the Vote.

A Women's Franchise Union has recently been inaugurated in Ceylon, and this marks the first organised effort made by the women of Ceylon to obtain the franchise. At its first meeting the women presented a memorandum to the Special Commission of Reforms, requesting it to consider the extension of a limited franchise to women to the Legislative Council, the Municipal Councils, and Local Government bodies. Qualification of women to be as follows: (1) Age: 25 years and over, married or single; (2) property: simple literacy and 5,000 rupees property in her own right; (3) wage earner's qualification:

simple literacy and 50 rupees per month earned wages, (4) literacy qualification: anyone who has passed the elementary school-leaving certificate examination, or its equivalent as the minimum.

MATERNAL MORTALITY INQUIRY.

The Minister of Health (Mr. Neville Chamberlain) has appointed a departmental Committee, "To consider the working of the Midwives Acts, 1902 to 1926, with particular reference to the training of midwives (including its relation to the education of medical students in midwifery) and the conditions under which midwives are employed."

The committee is appointed with the concurrence of the Central Midwives Board. The members of the committee are as follows: Sir Robert Bolam, M.D. (Chairman), Dr. J. W. Bone, Dame Janet M. Campbell, M.S., Lady Cynthia Colville, Dr. W. A. Daley, Mr. J. Fairbairn, F.R.C.S., Dr. T. Eustace Hill, Miss Alice Gregory, Mr. A. B. Maclachlan, Dr. F. N. Kay Menzies, Mrs. Bruce Richmond, Miss Stephenson. The secretary of the committee will be Mr. W. H. Howes, of the Ministry of Health.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

At an Open-air Meeting, held at Highbury Corner on Thursday evening, May 24th, by the Women's Freedom League (speakers: Mrs. Zangwill and Miss Olive Beamish; chairman, Mrs. Flowers), a resolution was unanimously carried that a request be sent to the Home Secretary that one of the members of the Tribunal appointed to inquire into the conduct of the police in the case of Miss Savidge, should be a woman. The chairman expressed the appreciation of the Women's Freedom League for the support which the people of Highbury had given to the League in the long struggle for Equal Franchise, and Mrs. Zangwill, in supporting this, referred to the fact that, after 21 years spent in working for the vote (during which time some had been killed and others had died as a result of hardships suffered in the cause), the League intended, as its name implied, now that the vote was practically won, to use the power which the vote would give them as a tool towards freeing the womanhood of the nation from the many inequalities and restrictions which fettered them, and for those things which directly concerned women and children (and, incidentally, it was a fact that in each country where women had been given the vote, a remarkable reduction in the infant mortality rate had followed). In citing some of the instances where women should be allowed to take their stand beside men, Mrs. Zangwill pointed out that it was important that women should take their part on tribunals and committees, and, in a matter like this present Tribunal appointed to look into the case of Miss Savidge, it was particularly desirable that one of its members should be a woman, since there were many points which would strike a woman in regard to a woman's point of view which would not occur to a man. Nevertheless, three men had been appointed, and no woman.

Miss Beamish pointed out that, although the vote is practically won, this does not mean that we have yet equal treatment or general sex equality, and gave some instances of the many directions in which women are denied equal opportunities with men for "making good." Among other things, it was hoped that the vote would make possible the passing into law of a measure for which the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries (an association formed for improving the position of women clerks, of which Miss Beamish is a Branch Secretary) had long been working, viz., an "Offices Regulation Bill." Beyond the ordinary sanitary laws, there is no legislation for the protection of office workers, and it is badly needed. She herself knew of cases of women clerks (members of the Association) who had been compelled to work all through the winter for long hours without any form of heating whatever, and often until 9 at night with no time for tea.

BOOK REVIEW.

Josephine Butler and her Work of Social Purity. By Hay-Cooper. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.) 5/-. Can be obtained at this office.

To readers who are unacquainted with the life and work of Josephine Butler, the book under review—which deals briefly and concisely with the principles for which this great pioneer fought her noble campaign—should prove a valuable introduction.

The writer sees in Josephine Butler a personality singularly fitted to fulfil the unique task she set out to accomplish. She herself was the embodiment of her ideal. "The happiest of women in all the relations of life," in her passion for justice she set out on a campaign which brought her into close touch with the most revolting aspects of humanity.

"Against that thing of tragic import—the broken home—she could always set memories of a free and happy childhood and a perfect marriage; against the hells of State-organised prostitution, their supreme antithesis, a noble family life."

Conscious of her own faults, Josephine Butler readily forgave others. She speaks of herself as "too impetuous, impulsive, and sometimes rash." Her husband, George Butler, by nature calm, steady and equable, supplied the ballast which made the union a perfect one.

The early years of Josephine Butler's married life—happy except for the shadow of the social evil—served as a period of preparation for her life's work. From the passing of the Contagious Diseases Acts in 1864, her way was clear before her. Until the Repeal of the Acts in 1886, she spared herself nothing. Victory achieved in her own country, she set out on the most heart-breaking phase of her Great Campaign—the extension of her work to foreign lands. On her return to England, the British and Continental Federation for the Abolition of Government Regulation of Prostitution was formed. The spread of Josephine Butler's ideal caused many to ask, "What energising and purifying wind has been blowing through Europe?" She replied: "Seeds have wings, and silently distance the garden fence and fly afar."

Josephine Butler had a respect for law, but she issued the warning, "Beware of constructive legislation on the question of morality between the sexes." Rather than legislate against this evil, she declared she would "sit down on the steps of the brothels, and pray the people out." Like Christ, she would deal with the individual, and not the mass. Convinced that all systems of outward repression of private immorality were wrong, she based her principles on the foundation that men and women, in this matter, are accountable to God and their own souls; but not to the State.

Josephine Butler died with her faith both in God, and man, unshaken. In her last hours she said to those near to her: "Don't be unhappy. *Perhaps I shall be able to help you more there than here?*" E. A. H.

WAKE UP, AUSTRALIA!

Miss Rich, Vice-President of the Australian Federation of Women Voters, gave an address at a Lunch arranged by the British Commonwealth League on the position of women in Australia.

She emphasized the fact that the vastness of Australia and its scanty population is the problem which has to be attacked before that country can develop her enormous possibilities. At present there is a population of a little over six million, whereas one hundred and six million are necessary to open up the land. Australia offers wealth and opportunity to attract a larger population, but it is essential that the right kind of emigrant should be drawn there.

Nearly one quarter of the factory workers in Australia are women, but they do not receive equal pay with men,

although various reforms in this, and other directions, have been worked for during a period of years.

Miss Rich said that various reasons are put forward as to why the economic status of women in Australia is not higher, considering that women have had the Parliamentary vote for over twenty years. Her own opinion is that if the women of Australia had had to fight for enfranchisement, they would have been in a stronger position to-day.

In New South Wales—the State to which Miss Rich belongs—the legal status of women makes it possible for them to occupy the positions for which women in this country have had to fight inch by inch. But women in New South Wales do not occupy these positions. There are no women Members of Parliament, and no women Councillors. When the first woman Member of Parliament was returned for Western Australia, she had tremendous support, but this was not maintained.

Miss Rich said that the fault with existing women's organisations in Australia is their tendency to split on some point of policy. Greater unity is needed, and this, she thinks, could best be achieved by working on a non-personal and non-party basis. The forthcoming Empire Conference will, she hopes, do much to bring down the party idea and gain a firmer unity for high ideals.

While paying due attention to the various reforms which are essential from the woman's point of view, Miss Rich is convinced that women must band themselves together to oppose war.

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	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged	100	10	11
Special Emergency War Fund—						
"A Friend"	3	2	6
Mrs. Angold	4	0	
				3	6	6
Spring Sale—						
Swansea Branch	1	0	0
Mrs. Whetton	5	0	
Miss Berry	2	6	
Mrs. Victor Fisher	2	6	
Miss D. B. Allwork	2	0	
Stall Takings—						
Household	10	1	3
Woollies	8	1	0
Welsh Produce	7	2	7
Lingerie	6	3	0
Overalls	3	5	9
Fancy	2	0	9
Middlesbrough	1	2	0
Teas	3	3	0
Donations for Teas	17	6	
Sideshows	2	18	7
				46	7	5
Dr. Knight	15	0	0
Organisers' Fund	14	0	0
Miss Eunice Murray	1	5	0
Mrs. Mustard	1	1	0
Mrs. F. G. Hamilton	10	6	
Mrs. Gresswell, J.P.	10	0	
Miss Annie Williams	5	6	
Mrs. Dexter	5	0	
Miss Norah V. Goddard	5	0	
Mrs. L. A. Goulden	5	0	
Dr. E. M. Higgins	5	0	
The Misses Norah and Phyllis Mustard	5	0	
Mrs. and Miss Todd	5	0	
Miss Watling	5	0	
Mrs. M. H. Thompson	3	6	
Miss Olive Walton	3	6	
Miss F. Brewer	3	0	
Dr. D. Tihanyi	2	6	
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Sundries	11	8	
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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, June 6th, 4—5.30 p.m.
Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Enid Laphorn, Prospective Liberal Candidate for Hitchin.

Thursday, June 7th, at 3 p.m.
Hampstead Branch Meeting at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3.

Wednesday, June 13th, 4—5.30 p.m.
Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Meeting at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

Victory Breakfast.
Hotel Cecil, 8.45 a.m. for 9 a.m. Tickets 4/6. Date.—As soon as possible after the Franchise Bill receives the Royal Assent.

Saturday, June 23rd, at 10 a.m.
National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Thursday, June 25th, at 3 p.m.
Fair Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

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

PROVINCES.

Saturday, June 9th, at 2.30 p.m.
Portsmouth Branch. Jumble Sale at Long's Memorial Hall.

Saturday, June 16th, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Middlesbrough Branch. Bring and Buy Sale at the Grey House, Linthorpe.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, June 4th, at 6 p.m.
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Meeting at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, W. Speaker: Commandant Allen, on "Women Police." Chairman: Mrs. Laughton Matthews.

Monday, June 4th.
Speech Club. Debate at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. "That Self-sacrifice is an over-rated virtue." Opener: Miss Reeves. Opposer: Mrs. Montague.

Tuesday, June 5th, at 1 p.m.
British Commonwealth League. Luncheon at 17, Buckingham Street, Adelphi. Tickets, 2s. each. Speakers: Mrs. Sarah Gertrude Millin (author of "The South Africans") and Mrs. Schwartz (of South Africa).

Wednesday, June 6th, at 11 a.m.
Savidge Inquiry, at the Royal Courts of Justice.

Tuesday, June 12th, at 5 p.m.
Women's International League (Kensington Branch). Drawing-room Meeting at 9, Lansdowne Road, W.8. Speaker: Mr. Brailsford, on the "American Peace Proposals."

FEMINIST DEPUTATION TO GENEVA.

Among those leaving England on Sunday for the International Labour Conference at Geneva was Mrs. Elizabeth Abbott, the well-known feminist lecturer. She has been officially appointed as their representative at the Conference by important women's organisations, including the Women's Freedom League, the Open Door Council, the Six Point Group, and the National Union of Women Teachers.

These bodies have regarded with growing apprehension the continued omission from the activities of the International Labour Organisation of any safeguards to secure the principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work, and Equal Opportunity as between men and women. Clause 7 of the "Charter of Labour" contained in Part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles declares that the signatories shall accept "The principle that men and women should receive equal remuneration for equal work."

The agenda for the present Conference includes two items, both of which may be affected by this clause. The first concerns Minimum Wage-fixing machinery. In the reports and recommendations before the delegates no mention has been made of the principle of equal pay, or of an equal minimum wage for both sexes, although it is clear that hitherto the standard of any minimum wage in most countries is unequal as between men and women. With regard to industrial accidents, the policy adopted upon former occasions at Geneva makes it necessary now to ask that equal protection from industrial dangers may be afforded to both sexes. Mrs. Abbott is going to Geneva to remind delegates to the Conference of the existence of Clause 7 of the Charter of Labour, and its application to the points under discussion.

BRANCH NOTES.

DARLINGTON.

We held a Josephine Butler Centenary meeting in the Temperance Hall, Darlington, on May 18th (Friday). The meeting was surprisingly well attended considering the rival attractions that night in the town. A meeting for men held the previous week on a similar subject fared very badly, a man who was present said the attendance could have been counted on his ten fingers. The chair at our meeting was taken by Mrs. Baynes, Polam Hall Girls' School, Mrs. Schofield Coates opened the meeting with a few words about the character and life of Mrs. Josephine Butler. The Speaker, Mrs. Muriel Matters Porter, then spoke at some length on Josephine Butler and her work, and her long campaign. The Rev. T. C. Gobat spoke very openly on the subject of compulsion, and said that it had been arranged by men for the benefit of men, and would really only harm the woman, and would do away with her personal liberty; he said it was the woman they were trying to reach, the woman on the street. Mr. Brigham who had known Mr. W. T. Stead personally, and the Rev. McQueen spoke of both Josephine Butler and Mr. W. T. Stead, a Darlingtonian. They said she had had much help and many friends in Darlingtonians. They also said that the banner of Josephine Butler should now be carried on by women, and there was a great deal still to be done. A vote of thanks was passed to all speakers. A short report of the meeting appeared in both local papers, THE VOTE and Josephine Butler pamphlets were sold a the door.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS M. WARD.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

A Bring and Buy Sale will be held on Saturday, June 16th, from 3-6 and 7-9 p.m., at the Grey House, Linthorpe, by kind permission of Mrs. Schofield Coates. Gifts will be much appreciated. Refreshments, 1s.

SUMMER SCHOOL FOR NEW VOTERS.

"Democracy in relation to Industry, Politics and the Home" has been selected as the main theme of the Summer School to be held at St. Hilda's College, Oxford, from September 4th to 11th. The School has been arranged by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship with a special view to interesting in Citizenship the women who will be enfranchised by the new Bill. "Can the Vote be Intelligent," "Women in Industry," "Women in the Profession," "Ideals of the Three Political Parties," and the "Legal Status of Wives and Mothers," are subjects which will be considered at the School; and among the lecturers will be Mr. Norman Angell, Mrs. Blanco White, Miss K. D. Courtney, Mrs. Eva M. Hubback, Miss Marjory Maxse, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, M.P., and Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C. Although mainly for the new voters, the School will by no means be limited to them only, and any who contemplate going to Oxford may obtain full particulars from the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15, Dean's Yard, S.W.1.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

The British Commonwealth League has arranged a Conference to be held at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, on July 6th, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., on Some Problems of Government in relation to Women within the British Empire. (1) Existing Legal Inequalities between Men and Women; (2) Employment; (a) Women in Industry; (b) Women in the Professions, (c) Consideration of Women as Employers. The Chair will be taken by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, and there will be speakers from all parts of the British Commonwealth. Admission 1/- each Session.

TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

Next Wednesday afternoon, June 6th, we resume our Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meetings at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, when the chief speaker will be Miss Enid Laphorn, prospective Liberal candidate for Hitchin, the chair being taken by Miss Reeves at 4.30 p.m.

The following Wednesday, June 13th, the chief speaker will be Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

Readers of THE VOTE are cordially invited to take tea with us at 4 o'clock, and to join in the discussion on current political events.

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