THE VOTE. JULY 2, 1926.

# LORDS REJECT THEIR WOMEN PEERS.

# THE ORGAN OF WOMEN'S FREEDOM

NON-PARTY.

Vol. XXVII. No. 871.

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1926

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 wellbeing of the community.

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EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS. LORDS REJECT THEIR WOMEN PEERS. THE COMMONWEALTH OF WOMEN. WOMEN AND THE HONOURS LIST.

# EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

# PROCESSION AND DEMONSTRATION, SATURDAY, JULY 3rd. Embankment, 2 p.m. Hyde Park, 4 p.m.

**RESOLUTIONS:** 

To be put at 5 p.m.

Demonstration demands

an immediate Govern-

ment measure giving

votes to women at 21 on

the same terms as men,

"That this Mass

"That this Mass Demonstration demands for Peeresses in their

- 1. WOMEN'S ELECTION COMMITTEE.—Miss Nina Boyle (Chair), Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc., Miss Marie Lawson, Dr. Ethel Bentham, Mrs.
- Miss Marie Lawson, Dr. Ethel Bentham, Mrs. Anne Corner, Mrs. Ayrton Gould.

  2. YOUTH.—Flora MacPherson, Ruth Latham, Corinne de Candall, Elizabeth Edwards, Kathleen Baker, Gwyneth Davies, D. Alison Eley.

  3. NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP. Miss Bondfield, J.P., Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, M.P., Miss Wilkinson, M.P., Mrs. Wintringham, Miss Rathbone, J.P., Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Miss Helen Ward, Mr. H. N. Brailsford, Miss Monica Whately, Miss Picton-Tubervill, O.B.E., Miss Chrystal MacMillan, Mrs.
  - Miss Chrystal MacMillan, Mrs. Hubback, Miss Helen Fraser, Miss Deakin, Miss K. D. Courtney, the Lady Balfour of
- Burleigh, Mrs. Abbott.
  4. LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.—Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E.,
  LL.D., Mr. R. F. Cholmely,
  Miss Adela Coit, B.A., Mrs.
  Ivan Sanderson, Mrs. Oliver
  Strachey, Miss Helen Ward.
  5. WOMEN'S FREEDOM
  LEAGUE. — Mrs. Despard,
  Mrs. Pathick Leytrence, Miss
- own right a seat, voice, and vote in the House of Lords." Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Anna Munro (Chair), Mrs. M.
  W. Nevinson, J.P., LL.A., Mrs. Mustard, Mrs.
  Whetton, Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Zangwill, Miss
  Godwin, Miss Morton, M.B.E., Councillor Mrs.
  Schofield Coates, J.P., Alice Park (of
- California). COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE. 6. BRITISH
- Miss Collisson, Miss A. Bromham, Mrs. Gipson, Mrs. Sen, Mrs. Laksmipathi.

  T. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.—Rev. Arthur Day, S.J., Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald, Miss Monica Whately, Mr. Joseph Clayton, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, Miss Barclay Carter, Miss Monica O'Connor,

- 8. NATIONAL WOMEN'S LIBERAL FEDERA-TION.-Mrs. Wintringham, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Councillor Mrs. Alderton, Commandant
- 9. SIX POINT GROUP.—Lady Rhondda, Miss Ada Moore, Mrs. Pollard, Miss Mary Grant, Miss Amy Sale, Mrs. Pankhurst.
- 10. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.—Mrs.
  George Morgan, Mrs. Rackham, J.P., Miss
  Alison Neilans, Mrs. Phillips, J.P., Mrs. Stevenson.
  - II. FEDERATION OF WOMEN
    CIVIL SERVANTS AND
    WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.—Miss Mrs. McGregor Ross, Miss D. Smyth, Miss N. K. Argyle, Miss M. Orr.
  - 12. ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE. — Mrs. Arneliffe Sennett, Miss Ada Branson, Miss Nina Boyle, Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., LL.A., Miss Inez Bensusan, Miss Winifred Mayo, Miss Ada Moore, Capt. Arthur Applin, Miss Adela

  - Arthur Applin, Miss Ada Moore, Capt.
    Arthur Applin, Miss Adela
    Bourne (Chair).

    13. NATIONAL UNION OF
    WOMEN TEACHERS.—Miss
    A. M. Jackson, Miss N. Lightman, Miss S.
    Savage, Mrs. S. Elliott Lynn, A.R.C.Sc.L.,
    Miss Kenyon, Miss A. Dawson, L.C.C., Miss D.
    Griffin B.A. Miss F. F. Phinns, B.A. Miss E. Griffin, B.A., Miss E. F. Phipps, B.A., Miss E. E. Froud, Mrs. Tidswell, Miss C. May, LL.A., Miss Borwick, B.A., Miss C. Neal, LL.A., Miss Nixon, Miss Burls.
- 14. LABOUR AND TRADES' UNION.-Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, M.P., Miss Carlin, Miss Quaile, Mrs. Ayrton Gould, Mrs. Louie

15. LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.— Miss Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E., Mrs. Campbell Gordon, Mrs. Pollard, Dr. Sybil Pratt, Miss Madge Clarke, Miss Bessie Poffley, The Rev. G. Herbert Davies, Mr. J. E. Francis.

# SOCIETIES SUPPORTING.

Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, Actresses' Franchise League, British Commonwealth League, British Federation of University Women, Civil Service Scrting Assistants, Electrical Society for Women, Federation of Women Civil Servants, International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, League of the Church Militant, Liverpool Dressmakers' Association, London Society for Women's Service, National Council of Women, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, National Union of Teachers, National Union of Women Teachers, Post Office Women Clerks' Association, Saint Joan's Social and Political Alliance, Six Point Group, Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, Theosophical Order of Service, Women's Co-operative Guild, Women's Election Committee, Women's Engineering Society, Women's Freedom League, Women's Group of the Ethical Union, Women's Guild of Empire, Women's International League, Women's National Liberal Federation, Women Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association, Workers' Union.

# WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

# Girl Art Student's Success.

Miss Daphne Victoria Barry, a twenty-year-old art student at Battersea Polytechnic, has executed a prize poster, which is to be used extensively by the London County Council for advertising their evening classes. Sixty-four posters were submitted. Miss Barry has already had some of her work accepted by the Underground Railways. She is the niece of the late Sir Charles Barry, the famous architect, and a descendant of Sir Thomas Lawrence, R.A.

# Francis Riggs Fellowships.

The Committee of Selection for the Frances Riggs Fellowships have made the following appointments for the four Fellowships tenable by British graduates in the University of Michigan for the academic year beginning September, 1926: Miss Katharine Garvin, Somerville College, in English; Miss Enid I. Glen, Victoria University of Manchester, in English; Miss Ivy C. Robbins, Royal Holloway College, in History; Mr. James Rutherford, Armstrong College, in History.

# Catholic "Women's Day."

"Women's Day" at the Eucharistic Congress at Chicago consisted of a crowd of nearly 200,000; less than 5,000 were men. The Rev. Joseph Palica, Vice-Regent of Rome, said High Mass, while a women's choir of 15,000 voices, together with 5,000 nuns, chanted the famous "Missa Rosa Mystica." Monsignor Hanna, Archbishop of San Francisco, preached a sermon in the form of a message to Catholic women.

# Women Students' Success.

Considerable success was attained by women students in the geographical tripos at Cambridge recently. In the first part two Newnham girls, Miss E. Fisk, of Cambridge County School, and Miss M. G. Kendrick, of Cardiff University, shared with two men the highest possible honours. In the second part one girl shared first class honours with two men.

# Women Wranglers.

Two women and 31 men were placed among the Mathematical Tripos Wranglers at Cambridge week. The women are Miss Katherine Winifred McIntosh, who is only 21, and obtained her early education at an elementary school; and Miss M. E. Grimshaw, of Halifax Secondary School and Newnham College.

# Paris Hostel for Women.

The Salvation Army in France has just opened an immense hostel for working women, the "Palais de la Femme," in one of the most populous working-class centres in Paris. There are 743 bedrooms, as well as bathrooms, reading and writing rooms, visitors' rooms, recreation room, rest room, meeting hall, gymnasium, and a restaurant seating 600 people. No woman will be turned away if there is room, not even if she cannot av. Already 900 applications have been received from working girls for lodgings.

# Woman M.P.'s Deciding Vote.

At the recent four days' debate on the Opposition Motion of Censure on the Canadian Government, at Ottawa, the only woman member of the House, Miss Agnes McPhail (Progressive), may be regarded as the deciding factor, so close was the balance. She postponed her departure for England so as to vote against the direct censure motion.

#### Woman's Invention.

Miss Iza Thompson, of the Hugh Myddleton Deaf and Dumb School, Clerkenwell, has invented the Thompson Sensitive Flame, a beacon of hope to the deaf. It consists of an ordinary gas flame, regulated so that it vibrates to sound, thus overcoming the hitherto insuperable difficulty of teaching word-sounds to the deaf-mute.

# Degrees for Women.

The Duchess of Atholl received a D.C.L. degree at Oxford University last week, and Dame Ethel Smyth received the degree of Doctor of Music. Smith College for Women (Geneva, U.S.A.) has conferred the degree of Doctor of Law (honoris causa) on Dame Rachel Crowdy, Chief of the Social Questions and Opium Traffic Section of the Secretariat of the League of

# Miss Bondfield for Wallsend.

Wallsend Labour Party have unanimously adopted Miss Margaret Bondfield as Parliamentary candidate in the by-election rendered necessary by the resignation of Sir Patrick Hastings.

# Women Resident Medical Officers.

Dr. Evelyn Elizabeth Baird, M.A., of Edinburgh, is to be the first resident medical officer of Hounslow Hospital. Dr. Violet Comber, who has been appointed resident medical officer at Willesden Municipal Hospital, was a nurse at the same institution six years

# Woman Decorator's Novel Work.

Lady Loraine, wife of Sir Percy Loraine, British Minister in Persia, was asked to supervise the redecoration of the Great Hall at Teheran in which the Coronation of the Shah took place. She achieved this with such success that she was employed to undertake the guidance of those employed on the redecoration of the whole Palace, and did so with excellent results.

# Women Co-operators in Congress.

At the recent Annual Congress of the Women's Cooperative Guild at Newcastle, over 1,000 delegates were present from Great Britain and Ireland, Russia, etc.—a record attendance in view of the fact that no reduced fares were available.

# Woman Mayor Honoured.

The freedom of Glossop has been conferred on Mrs. Mary Alice Partington, formerly Mayor of the borough for over four years. Mrs. Partington raised large sums of money for charities during her mayoralty.

# British Woman's Boat Wins.

Miss B. Carstairs' boat, "Newg" (Great Britain), won the motor-boat race this week for the Duke of York's International Trophy. This is the first time a woman has won an international motor-boat race.

# THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

day, June 26th, those present being: Mrs. Brading (Portsmouth), Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., Mrs. Dexter, Mrs. Flowers, Dr. Knight (Hon. Treasurer), Miss Anna Munro, Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Mrs. Pierotti, and the Secretary. The Committee sent a message of deep sympathy to our President (Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence), who was unable to be present owing to the loss of her sister. In the absence of Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, the Chair was taken by Miss Anna Munro.

Letters were read from Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P. (Deal), Miss Eunice Murray (Glasgow), and Mrs. Fisken (Glasgow) regretting that they were unable to be present. The Committee and members sent a congratuatory message to Miss Alix M. Clark, saying how pleased they were to learn of her improvement in health, and sent their best wishes for her early and complete. recovery. They also sent their warmest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Neal, of Grays, Essex, on the occasion of the celebration of their diamond wedding

Reports were considered and discussed from the Honorary Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary (Mrs. Whetton), the Secretary, and from the political literature and Vote sales department. Dr. Knight reported on the arrangements for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party to be held this (Friday) evening. Miss Berry sent a very interesting and informative account of the work of our Green, White and Gold Fair Sub-Committee, and Dr. Knight urged that all our branches, as well as the members and friends of the Women's Freedom League, should at once set to work to make and collect articles for the different stalls at this 'Fair," so as to ensure its complete success in November.

Reports showed that our organisers had been ery active in Scotland, Middlesbrough, and the South-Eastern Coast district. Our branches in various parts of the country had worked successfully on behalf of the Peace Pilgrimage, and special thanks were sent to Miss Haugh, B.Sc., for marshalling the procession from Bloomsbury, as well as to Miss E. Berry, Mrs. Flowers, Miss Hunt, Miss O'Brien, and Miss Reeves for their work as stewards of that contingent. Our branches have also worked hard for the Equal Political Rights Procession and Demonstration which is to take place tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon, and are hoping to send parties to join the Women's Freedom League contingent from the Embankment. Portsmouth branch is sending up members by char-à-banc; and we are all looking forward to having Mrs. Despard at the head of our contingent from the Embankment to Hyde Park.

Reports were received from our representatives who had attended meetings arranged by the National Council of Women, the Consultative Committee, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, the British Commonwealth League, and the Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty.

With regard to the Peeresses Bill, we had written to a number of Members of the House of Lords asking them to support the Second Reading of Lord Astor's Bill; but, if they could not be present that day, to "pair" in favour of the Bill. We are pleased to note that so many of those to whom we wrote voted in favour of this Second Reading. Lord Hewart and Lord Oxford wrote regretting that they could not be present to support it, but that they would do their best to "pair" in favour of it. The Committee decided that we should write to the Minister of Health in regard to safeguarding women from the risks of septicæmia at childbirth; and also to the Colonial Secretary protesting against the Governor of Fiji's refusal to appoint women to the Commission which was to deal with the question of the education of children in Fiji. A letter was to be sent to the Prime Minister urging the advisability

A meeting of the National Executive Committee was held at the Women's Freedom League offices, Saturto the League of Nations Assembly to take place in Geneva next September. It was reported to the Committee that we had written to Mr. Baldwin asking him to see that women as well as men should be included in the forthcoming Honours List, and that the women so included should receive adequate Honours, and not only minor ones, as had hitherto been the rule.

> The Committee discussed the arrangements for the Clyde Coast Campaign in July and August, of which Miss Lenton will be in charge. It is hoped that our literature and our paper The Vote will have a good sale during this campaign, and any of our members or friends who are likely at the time to be in that district are cordially invited to help us in any way they can-by speaking, selling our literature and THE VOTE, and by

# VOTES FOR WOMEN.

# July 3, 1926.

- 12.0. onwards. Lunch at our Café, 144, High Holborn.
- Meet us on the Embankment opposite Hotel Cecil; find "Women's Freedom League" chalked on pavement, and form up behind Mrs. Despard to march to Hyde Park.
- 1.45. Our brake will leave the Office for the Embankment for any who cannot walk to the Park.
- Gather round No. 5 platform in Hyde Park and ensure a rousing meeting.
- Resolutions. 5.0.

"Vote," programme, and badge sellers wanted.

BRING ALL YOUR FRIENDS.

# WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

MINERVA CLUB BRANCH BIRTHDAY

"AT HOME"

TO MEET THE BRANCH PRESIDENT, MRS. DESPARD.

SUNDAY, JULY 4th, 8 p.m.

SHORT SPEECHES.

56 Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W,C.1.

# THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 2nd, 1926.

# EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

So long ago as 1787, Mary Wollstonecraft pleaded that women in this country should have voting rights. Her plea met with a great deal of ridicule, and that it did not make her popular is evidenced by the fact that the great Walpole called her "a hyena in petti-When the plea of one woman became the demand of many, and men's ridicule failed to kill that demand, a fierce and determined opposition to it came into being, as those who took part in the suffrage campaign in pre-war days can well testify. In 1918 the women of Great Britain were partially enfranchised, and they remain only partially enfranchised. For nearly a century they have been claiming votes for women on the same terms as men; but even now our franchise law prevents any woman from exercising a Parliamentary vote until she has reached the ripe age of thirty, whereas men exercise it at twenty-one; and when a woman is thirty she can only claim a vote on an occupational qualification, and not, as men can, on a residential qualification. The result of these unequal qualifications is that while there are only 313,000 voteless men in our country over the age of twenty-one, there are four-and-three-quarter millions of voteless women over the age of twenty-one. What we are all asking for is that women should have the Parliamentary vote at the same age and on exactly the same terms as men have it. The amount of open and covert opposition displayed by politicians of all Parties since 1918 to this demand for an equal franchise for men and women is extraordinary. In a democratic country which boasts of its representative Government, and of its firm belief in being ruled by the majority, politicians seriously argue that women cannot have equal voting rights with men because women, being in a majority over men in our land, would then outnumber men voters! When this and other equally futile arguments have worn rather thin, the favourite device of politicians is to delay the consideration of the question so that the life of Parliament comes to an end before it can be settled. We always believed that this-the delay of justice to women-was the true meaning of the present Government's proposal of a Conference on our franchise laws. Even the most ardent supporters of the Government must now-after Mr. Baldwin's repeated replies in the House of Commons that he has no statement to make about the date of the proposed Conference-share our view. Mr. Baldwin has only adopted a different means to attain the same end which previous Governments have attained—the denial of political justice to women. The House of Lords has chieved a similar success in regard to the Peeresses Bill. Many were the futile and irrelevant arguments advanced against Peeresses in their own right becoming Members of the House of Lords; but the argument which had most weight, and was intended to have most weight, was that this matter ought to be delayed until a scheme was before the House which dealt with the whole question of the reform of the House of Lords. Members of both Houses of Parliament who are opposed to women having equal political rights with men are glorying in the success of their policy of delay. What are women going to do about it? Some of them are taking part in the Equal Rights Demonstration this Saturday. But much more than this one Demonstration is needed if women are to secure equal political rights with men. This Demonstration must be the beginning of an intensive equal political rights campaign throughout Great Britain. Women in every constituency must show their determination to have this question of the equal political rights of men and women satisfactorily settled during the lifetime of the present Parliament.

# WHY WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS ARE NEEDED.

Mr. Baldwin's refusal to receive a deputation of Women's Societies, organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship to discuss with him the proposed Conference on our Franchise laws, and the Debate last week in the House of Lords on the Peeresses Bill, have shown the great need for more intensive work on the part of women's organisations. The Women's Freedom League from the very first refused to ask for the proposed Conference, or even to discuss it; but the Conference was a Government proposal, and those who had any hope of the Government's good faith in regard to it quite naturally wished to know more about the proposal, especially after the Prime Minister's repeated cynical replies in the House of Commons when Members have inquired about its date. Men's party political organisations, to which so many women belong, are, quite frankly, not much interested in these and other questions which are of special concern to women. We quite agree that it may be possible for some women to work for women's interests through becoming members of political parties; but we are convinced that they can work much more effectively on behalf of those interests through women's non-party organisations. Women must not forget that political parties as we know them, are the expression of men's political development along certain lines. The whole machinery of them has been designed and paid for by men for men's particular purposes, and the few women, compared with men, who go into them are not likely to have the power to alter this machinery or the outlook of the political parties. All through the ages men have airily assumed that they could quite well legislate for the whole community, including women's section of it, without consulting women and without women's help. Questions of special concern to women, questions in which women have special knowledge, training and experience, have only been brought into prominence by women's non-party organisations, and can only be satisfactorily settled by their continued work and interest. The whole position of married women is not of any special interest to any political party; and we have always known that women's political enfranchisement was fairly taboo in all parties. Equal pay for equal work by men or women; equal opportunities for women with men in the Civil Service at home and abroad; the equal representation of men and women on all Government Commissions or Departmental Committees on questions which concern men equally with women; the question of women police, women on the Prison Commission, women governors and women medical officers of women's prisons, and women inspectors of prisons; women of the same status as men on the Board of Control, women in pectors under that Board; the unrestricted right of women to compete on equal terms with men for every position-in the Government, the Civil Service, in the professions and throughout industry, and many similar cuestions, will never arouse the enthusiasm of men's party organisations, and they will never make any progress unless women's non-party organisations are powerful enough to force them on the attention of the public and the Government. The Women's Freedom League has worked on non-party lines for the last twenty years. Throughout its life the members have worked wholeheartedly and on democratic lines for the equality of the sexes, and they will not be satisfied until women have equal political rights with men, equality of status with men, and equal opportunities, rewards, and responsibilities with men throughout all branches of our national life. appeal to women and men who agree with our objects to become members of our League, and with us vigorously to attain those objects. Every new member means increased power; and it is only when women's organisations become sufficiently powerful that the

women's cause will meet with complete success.

# LORDS REJECT THEIR WOMEN PEERS.

The Second Reading of Lord Astor's Peeresses maintained that not one of those nineteen ladies Bill, the object of which was to enable peeresses in their own right to become Members of the House of Lords, was defeated in the Upper House last week by 125 votes to 8c. Lord Astor's speech, in moving the Second Reading, was admirable in every way. He urged that the time was now ripe for removing the sex disqualification and distinction, and including women in their Lordships' House. In moving the rejection of the Bill, LORD BANBURY said: "These ladies, if they desire to legislate for their country, can go before an electorate and get elected to the House of Commons" and he gave his wholehearted support to the sentiment expressed recently by a woman at a political meeting: "For heaven's sake let the men have one place in the country where they can live in LORD CECIL, in supporting the Bill, asked if there was any special ground why, though women were fit for every other political position, they were unfit for seats in the House of Lords? Surely women were as capable of giving advice to the Government and the country as men! The Duke of Atholi recalled the fact that four queens had been Members of the House of Lords, which at least showed that there had been some precedent. It seemed to him difficult to argue that, when a woman was not debarred by reason of her sex from being Prime Minister or Chanceilor of the Exchequer, or, as a reigning queen, from controlling all our Statutes, so far as was possible under a limited monarchy, a woman should be unfit to give her opinion on a measure affecting the welfare of children when it was being discussed in their Lordships' House. LORD HALDANE supported the broad principle of the Bill-to get rid of the disability which the law imposed upon women to enter the Upper House and sit in it. It was a disability which could not be maintained any longer in the face of public opinion. In opposing the Bill, LORD MERRIVALE said: "If any Prime Minister in any time of which living men have knowledge, had made it known that he had gone to the Sovereign and had proposed that this House should amplified in number by the addition of nineteen ladies possessing the qualifications of the ladies in question, he could not have remained in office, would have been so preposterous." LORD BIRKENHEAD not disqualified elsewhere.

"would be nominated by any competent tribunal to sit in this or any other legislative assembly . . . the only reason that they were made peeresses in their own right, being women, was the obscure and not certain hope that they might bring males into the world, and many of them, I am bound to say, have disappointed that reasonable expectation." spectfully disagreed with the idea that Members of the House of Lords were rather unsympathetic to the claims of women, and pointed to the fact that at least six windows of the Upper House were devoted to the wives of King Henry VIII., and continued: "It cannot, at least, be said that we have failed to commemorate conspicuous women in our history, and their commemoration marks the admiration of the House for conjugal virtue, however imperfectly repaid." LORD BUCKMASTER strongly supported the Bill, and pointed out that its subject had been before their Lordships for over seven years. He had hoped that, "whatever decision you gave upon this matter, it would be at least free from the personal element, which I think has been most needlessly introduced. You are not considering the qualifications of these ladies, and if you were, I venture to say there is hardly one of you who would express an opinion upon them.'

LORD NEWTON opposed the Bill. He was of the opinion that the House of Lords was already overcrowded; yet, in the face of that, he said, calmly proposed to add twenty-odd ladies who, so far as I know, have not manifested any aptitude whatsoever for political life." Later on, he said: "I do not believe the presence of these immaculate and probably middle-aged ladies would prove such a strong attraction after all. I am inclined to think that if you really want to induce reluctant young bloods to come here and take part in the debates, it would be more efficacious if you could secure ladies of the chorus from the theatres.

LORD WRENBURY supported the Bill. He said that there was now equality between the sexes, and in regard to this Bill the only question was whether, in respect of this particular matter of sitting in the House, a woman was to be disqualified when she was

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF WOMEN.

The British Commonwealth League, founded in March, 1925, with Mrs. Corbett Ashby as President, held its Second Annual Meeting last week at the Royal Society of Arts, Adelphi, W.C. This Society has been reorganised from two older bodies of overseas women; the British Dominions Women Citizens' Union, founded by Miss Newcombe and Miss Hodge, and the more recently formed Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. The purpose of its existence is to enable British women to combine in order to secure equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

"Migration and Government," with special reference to the educated woman migrant, was the keynote of this year's Conference, and many interesting facts were elicited in a discussion on educated women's opportunities overseas. A somewhat disappointing conclusion was reached, however, for, with the exception of South Africa, where practically all domestic work is carried on by means of native labour, speakers were unanimous in affirming that the main opportunity for women seeking their fortunes overseas lay in occupations of a purely domestic nature. The restrictive nature of such openings brought forth a protest from Miss Helen Fraser, who maintained that the Overseas Dominions were laying up trouble for themselves in the future by thus depriving themselves of the culture and traditions of the better classes in the Mother

The position of women in this country in the planning and administration of Overseas Settlement Schemes

was admirably explained by Miss Gladys Pott, of the Society for Overseas Settlement of Women, who stated that ever since State-aided emigration schemes had been promoted in this country, women had been fully represented, not only on the various delegations which go out periodically to inspect conditions in the Dominions, but also as members of Advisory Committees at the London Headquarters. Society represented by the speaker had now become a definite Government Department. Women's peculiar contribution to emigration schemes lay with the welfare and human side of emigration which made or marred every organised scheme of redistribution of peoples.

Other women in the British Dominions, however, were apparently less intimately associated with Stateadministered emigration schemes, and Australian women delegates present at the Conference complained a good deal on this score. A resolution urging upon the respective Governments of the Commonwealth the necessity of ensuring that in all their schemes concerning the migration and placing of women there shall be an adequate number of qualified women holding positions of responsibility, both salaried and voluntary; and another urging that, in any schemes agreed upon by the Imperial Conference for the further development of organised migration, equal representation be allotted to women and men in the governing and subsidiary bodies which deal with the question as a whole, and that in the event of any inquiry evidence be taken from experienced women, were passed on this subject.

In the unavoidable absence of Miss Maude Royden,

of Social and Moral Hygiene, spoke on "Moral Responsibility" and the obligations of British men and women towards native races within the Dominions. Incidentally, she mentioned how, in the 53 years' fight her Association had sustained in order to abolish the system of prostitution within the British Empire, it was cheering to note that during the last 30 years the attitude of the British Government had completely changed on this subject. A resolution carried in this connection welcomed the First Report of the Advisory Committee of the Colonial Office on Social Hygiene, defining the Government's attitude to social hygiene in Singapore, and urged that the question of conditions in Hong Kong should be referred to the Advisory Committee. A second resolution, proposed by Mrs. Neville Rolfe (British Social Hygiene Council, Incorporated), recognised the moral responsibility laid upon itizens of the British Commonwealth in regard to members of the British race for making adequate social provision for the reception, accommodation, and recreation for men and women migrants (students, employees, etc.) to and from all parts of the Empire, and also at the ports for the officers and men of the Mercantile Marine.

Miss Chave Collisson, Organiser to the League, referred at some length to the forthcoming Imperial Conference in London next October, and urged the necessity of including qualified women members on the staffs accompanying the various Prime Ministers of the A comprehensive resolution was carried on this point. The British Commonwealth League will call a special Conference in the autumn, which will probably sit simultaneously with the Imperial Conference, to deliberate upon this and similar matters.

Resolutions were also passed on various Commonwealth problems, such as the inclusion of women as full delegates in the delegations from the British Dominions to the League of Nations Assembly at Geneva; the retention of their nationality by married women if they so desire (proposed by Miss Chrystal Macmillan); reciprocal affiliation orders throughout the British Empire (proposed by Miss Musson, of the National Council for the Unmarried Mother); equal Franchise throughout the British Dominions. connection with this last, the attention of the Imperial Conference was called to the loss of status imposed on enfranchised women when settling in those parts of the Empire where women are unenfranchised, as in South Africa; or where they are only partially enfranchised, as in Great Britain.

# BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE LUNCH.

A special Luncheon to women Members of Parliament, at the Criterion Restaurant on Monday of last week, formed a pleasing preliminary to the Second Annual Conference of the British Commonwealth

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who presided, said the Luncheon, in the first place, had been intended for delegates returning from the Paris Congress, in order to acquaint them with the League's existence, but it had expanded instead into an important gathering of British and Overseas women. The projects discussed during the next two days would be forwarded to the Imperial Conference, which would be expected to put them into practice when it met in London in October.

The Duchess of Atholl, M.P., said she had been requested to speak on "Women and Education," but preferred instead to say a few words on Migration. Governments were concerned with the machinery of Migration, but women must supply the personal touch. She had been very much impressed, during her recent visit to Canada, to find how much personal effort was expended by women on this point. At the landing place at St. John's, for instance, the Rest Room, organised by the Canadian Red Cross, was an immense boon to tired mothers and children whilst their papers were being examined. The Junior Red Cross, too, provided every child on landing with a little gift as a welcome. Lady Astor, M.P., said the work of women Members

through illness, Miss Alison Neilans, of the Association of Parliament was of less importance compared with the work women could do in the world. The evolution of women must proceed on spiritual lines if they would change the world, and it was their primary work to teach the rising generation to value the spiritual more than the material. "The cement of civilisation was

Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., speaking on "Women and Industrial Conditions throughout the Empire, said the progress of women could only be measured by the status of the vast mass of women. The Lancashire cotton operative was intimately bound up with her Indian sister in the factory.

Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, M.P., urged every woman present to work for a change in the present Nationality Last year a resolution was carried unanimously in the House of Commons that a married woman should retain her nationality, and the question was now awaiting the assent of the various Overseas Govern-

# WOMEN AND THE HONOURS LIST.

The following letter has been sent by the Women's Freedom League to the Prime Minister :-The Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin, M.P.

10, Downing Street, S.W.1. Sir,-May I, on behalf of the Women's Freedom League, urge that the merits of women who have rendered public service shall be given equal consideration with the merits of men, when the forthcoming Honours List is being drawn up, and that in the bestowal of Honours the State should act impartially as between its men and women citizens? May I also add that when Honours are bestowed on women we should be glad to see women receive adequate Honours, and not, as is now the rule, only minor Honours.

That there are women who have rendered as much public service as many of the men whose names usually appear in the Honours Lists cannot be denied, and I venture to mention the following :-

Some of the women Mayors, women Aldermen, and women on whom the freedom of their city has been bestowed, who have given long, distinguished service on local governing bodies:

MISS LILIAN BARKER, who has a long record of public work, and for the last three years has been Governor of the Girls' Borstal Institution at Aylesbury;

COMMANDANT ALLEN, a pioneer of women police in this country, whose work is well known and recognised throughout Europe and in the United States of

DR. MARY SCHARLIEB, for her brilliant pioneer work in surgery;

MISS GERTRUDE BELL for her work as an explorer, and as Assistant Political Officer in Bagdad; and

MISS MARY EDITH DURHAM, Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute, for her journalistic work in connection with the Balkans, Albania, etc.;

Mrs. Kendal, Miss Sybil Thorndike, and Miss HORNIMAN, who have done as much for the theatregoing public as any of their men colleagues whose names have already appeared in Honours Lists;

MISS MARTA CUNNINGHAM, who has done so much work for the Not-Forgotten Association;

LUCY KEMP-WELCH, whom no one can rival as a painter of horses.

The above are only a few of a very great number of women in this country whose work is as worthy as that of men to be recognised in the Honours List.

In the hope that the above matter may receive your kind consideration, I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully, FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

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# WHERE TO GO.

Saturday, July 3rd.

# WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

#### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, July 2nd, at 4 p.m.
"At Home" to I.W.S.A. Delegates at Caxton

Great Combined Equal Political Rights Pro-cession and Hyde Park Demonstration. Members are asked to form up on the Embank-



DARE TO RE FREE.

ment at 2 p.m., to march to Hyde Park, Platform 5, at 4 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Miss Munro (Chair), Mustard, Mrs- W. M. Nevinson, J.P., LL.A., Mrs. Zangwill, Mrs. Whetton, Alice Park of California, Miss Morton, M.B.E., Mrs. Flowers, Miss Goodwin.

unday, July 4 h, at 8 p.m.

Minerva Club Branch "At Home" at Minerva Club, Brunswick
Square, W.C., to meet Mrs. Despard. Short Speeches, Music,

Tuesday, July 6th, at 3 p.m.

Portsmouth Branch. Whist Drive, 25, Shaftesbury Road,
Tickets 1s. 6d each.

Portsmouth Branch. Garden Party, Rowlands Castle. Hostesses Mrs. and Miss Whitehead. Train leaves Fratton Park 3.5 p.m.

# OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, July 3rd, at 8.15 a.m.

Corporate Communion at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, followed by breakfast at League of Church Militant Office, Dean's Yard.

unday, July 4th, at 11 a.m.

The Ethical Church, Queen's Road, Bayswater. Unveiling of

Monday, July 5th at 8.15 p.m.

Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. Debate 'That the chief result of scientific discovery has been to put the weak at the mercy of the strong." Proposer: Mr. Francis Yates.
Opposer: Mr. R. Starling.

Thursday, July 8th, at 2.30 p.m.
Parents' National Educational Union. Annual Meeting at Big School, Westminster. July 8-15th. Women's International League. Fifth Biennial Congress at the

University, Dublin. July 28th—Aug. 2nd. International Federation of University Women. Fourth Biennial Congress at Amsterdam.

# BRANCH NOTES.

# ASHFORD.

The Garden Party held at Glengarriff was very successful. We warmly thank Mrs. Kither for all the kind help she gave us. Mrs. Miles, our new president, gave a delightful address in which she asked the help of all the members to make her year of office a successful one. She invited us to a Garden Meeting in August at her delightful home at Potters Corner Woods, in Kent. She has also arranged for a Shakespearian performance to be held in the autumn—the proceeds to be given to the Birthday Fund..

Mrs. Knock is holding a Garden Meeting at the end of July, when we hope to have a speech from one of the pilgrims who marched to London recently.

# BEXHILL.

It is with very great regret that we have to record the death of Mrs. Bryan at a nursing home recently. Mrs. Bryan was always a generous helper to the League. Most of us will remember the delightful garden party held every Summer at Holmwood,

(Organiser) MISS M. L. WHITE, 8, Holmsdale Gardens, Hastings.

# WOMEN TECHNICAL ADVISERS TO THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE, MAY, 1926.

MISS GLADYS SYDNEY POTT, O.B.E., Overseas Settlement Department, Dominions Office. (Technical adviser to the British Government.)

Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., Chief Woman Officer, Union of General and Municipal Workers.

(Technical adviser to the British Workers' delegate.)

Miss Fanny Ulfbeck, Secretary of the Emigration Section of the Young Women's Christian Association. (Technical adviser to the Danish Government.)

Miss G. J. Siemberg, Doctor of Law; Director in the Ministry of Labour, Commerce, and Industry.

(Technical adviser to the Dutch Government.)

Mrs. Balsiger, Principal Secretary, Emigration Office, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

(Technical adviser to the Polish Government.)

# Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December,

# OUR TREASURY. NATIONAL FUND.

1925, £43,514 45. 110	i.					£	S.	d.
Previously acknowledg	ged					226	14	10
Special Emergency W.								
A Friend						2	10	0
Organisers' Fund-								
Mrs. Cavendish Ben	tinck					5	0	0
Equal Political Right	s Dem	onstrat	ion-					
Dr. Knight						5	0	0
Mrs. A. Udny Atkin	son						IO	0
"Office Expenses"							13	10
Mrs. E. Bennett							13	6
Misses G. and M. Spr	entall						10	0
Miss A. R. Cooper							5	0
Miss M. Glaisher							5	0
Dr. Fleetwood Outran	n						4	0
Miss K. Blake							2	6
Mrs. Hackney (per M	iss A.	Farme	r)				2	6
Miss Rooker							2	6
Miss K. Stone			(				2	6
Mrs. Turriff							2	6
Miss C. Collie	5.747						2	0
Miss S. E. Chapman							1	0
Mrs. B. Gilbert							1	0
Miss M. Mudge							I	0
Mrs. Prankerd							I	0
Miss Florence Renda	11						I	0
Miss Lilian Turner							I	0
Sundries			-			10	4	0
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Waste paper						I	I	0
Branches-Delegates'			Cont	erence-	_			
Minerva Club						2	1	2
Hastings							5	
Portsmouth							2	
Swansea						1	8	
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#### ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

Many well-known actresses were recruited for the Actresses' Franchise League contingent in the Equal Political Rights Demonstration that takes place on July 3rd, at the highly successful At Home held at the Criterion Restaurant on Friday last, June 18th. Amongst the beautiful banners to be carried by the contingent is one which was originally presented to the A.F.L. by Dame Ellen Terry, and it is hoped that Miss Lillah McCarthy will be walking in the procession under her own banner. The well-known speakers on the A.F.L. platform—which is No. 12—will include: Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, Miss Ada Branson (that fine speaker once known to playgoers as the original Donna Lucia in "Charlie's Aunt"), Miss Nina Boyle, Miss Inez Bensusan, Miss Winifred Mayo, Miss Ada Moore, Mrs. H. W. Nevinson, and Captain Arthur Applin, the well-known author and dramatic critic. In the Chair will be Miss Adeline Bourne.

# MEDICAL WOMEN

A detachment of women doctors and students in academic dress will march behind the banner "Medical Women."

# "AT HOME."

The Presidents and Executive Committees of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Women's Freedom League, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, and the British Commonwealth League will be "At Home," Friday, July 2nd, at Caxton Hall, 4 p.m., to meet delegates to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress, and speakers and marchers attending Hyde Park Equal Political Rights Demonstration. Tickets from Woman's Freedom League Office 2,4 each Women's Freedom League Office, 2/- each.

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