

LORDS REJECT THEIR WOMEN PEERS.

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVII. No. 871.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

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 well-being of the community.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

Procession and Demonstration, July 3rd.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

OUR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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.

1. WOMEN'S ELECTION COMMITTEE.—Miss Nina Boyle (Chair), Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc., 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. 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. Chalmers, Miss Adela Coit, B.A., Mrs. Ivan Sanderson, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Miss Helen Ward.

5. WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.—Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Miss 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).

6. BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.—Miss Collisson, Miss A. Bromham, Mrs. Gipson, Mrs. Sen, Mrs. Laksmipathi.

7. ST. 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 FEDERATION.—Mrs. Wintringham, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Councillor Mrs. Alderton, Commandant Allen.

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.

11. FEDERATION OF WOMEN CIVIL SERVANTS AND WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.—Miss Coit, B.A., Miss Barrs Davies, Mrs. McGregor Ross, Miss D. Smyth, Miss N. K. Argyle, Miss M. Orr.

12. ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.—Mrs. Arncliffe 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 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 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 Simpson.

RESOLUTIONS:

To be put at 5 p.m.

(1) "That this Mass Demonstration demands an immediate Government measure giving votes to women at 21 on the same terms as men."

(2) "That this Mass Demonstration demands for Peeresses in their own right a seat, voice, and vote in the House of Lords."

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 Sorting 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-Rector 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 last 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 pay. 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 Nations.

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 ago.

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 Co-operative Guild at Newcastle, over 1,000 delegates were present from Great Britain and Ireland, Norway, 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.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee was held at the Women's Freedom League offices, Saturday, 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. Fiske (Glasgow) regretting that they were unable to be present. The Committee and members sent a congratulatory 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 very 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 septicaemia 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

of appointing a woman as a fully accredited delegate to 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 securing new members.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

July 3, 1926.

12.0. onwards. Lunch at our Café, 144, High Holborn.

2.0. 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.

4.0. Gather round No. 5 platform in Hyde Park and ensure a rousing meeting.

5.0. Resolutions.

"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.

MUSIC.
COFFEE.

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

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

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 petticoats." 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 achieved 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 inspectors 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 questions, 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. We 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 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 86. 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 peace." 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 ARHOLL 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 Chancellor 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 be amplified in number by the addition of nineteen ladies possessing the qualifications of the ladies in question, he could not have remained in office, it would have been so preposterous." LORD BIRKENHEAD

maintained that not one of those nineteen ladies "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." He respectfully 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, "it is 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 not disqualified elsewhere.

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 Country.

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. The 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 State-administered 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,

FRIDAY,
JULY 2,
1926.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

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

Name

Address

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

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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

CORNWALL.—Paying Guests received in modern farmhouse. £2 2s. week. Clotted cream 3/- lb., post free.—SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.

CORNWALL.—Near Perranporth and Newquay. Board residence, Lady's Country Cottage. Modern Improvements. Evening Dinner to allow for touring. Luncheon Baskets.—"K.S." THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

CORNWALL.—Few Guests received in ladies' bungalow. Beautiful sea view, garden, excellent country produce, good excursions.—MISS WOOD, "Boskenna," Tintagel.

IN BROADLAND.—Easy reach six coast resorts. Delightful wooded country. Vegetarian or meat. £2 2s.—WILKINSON, Poultry Farm, Tunstead, via Norwich.

RYE, SUSSEX.—OLD HOPE ANCHOR. Ideal Guest House. Modern comforts; good cooking. Separate Vegetarian cooking a speciality. Write for booklet.

PYRENEES TOURING CLUB (Registered). Parties personally conducted by lady, £25 inclusive. 1,000 kilometres motoring, hotel, 1st class boat, 2nd rail. From May 15th, every third week.—French, Spanish excursions.—Apply by letter, SECRETARY, 14, Park Lane, London, N.16

HOTEL.

MONTAGUE HOTEL, Montague Street, Russell Square, London, W.C. First-class accommodation; room, breakfast and attendance from 7s. 6d. En pension from 3 guineas.—Phone: Museum 4660. (Highly Recommended.)

TO LET.

OFFICE OR STUDIO. Well-lighted room in High Holborn.—Apply "M.E.G.," THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

WELL-FURNISHED FLAT for August. Large sitting-room, two, three or four bedrooms, kitchen, gas cooker, electric light. One min. from sea, park, tram—133, Park Road, Bexhill-on-Sea. Also at above—Unfurnished Flat, four rooms, kitchen, charming position.—Terms on application.

WANSTEAD PARK.—2 or 3 Unfurnished Rooms to let. Use of bathroom, etc. New house, pleasantly situated, suit business or professional woman. Easy access train, bus or tram.—Write box "G.E.F.," THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

UNFURNISHED.—West End. Third Floor Flat. 1 or 2 ladies. 4 rooms. 30/-. Vacant July 15th.—Box "R.O.," 144, High Holborn, W.C.1

Prepaid Classified Advertisements

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

MISCELLANEOUS.

DANCE PIANIST and Accompanist requests engagements for Piano/orte Lessons or Accompanist.—Apply MRS. SILVESTER SPARROW, 43 Black Lion Lane, W 6.

CHAUFFEUSE, 6 years' reference, would like a change for the South. Fond of outdoor life.—MISS WINIFRED HUMPHREYS, 128, Alton Street, Crewe.

CLUBS.

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

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

NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, July 4th. 6.30. Dr. Lionel Browne.

WANTED.

WANTED.—September, in or near London, unfurnished rooms or flat by Lady (daughter training), garden, moderate.—"W," THE VOTE Offices, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

MEDICAL.

PARK LODGE NURSING HOME, Bath Road, Reading. For Medical, Nerve, Chronic, and Rest Cure Patients. Terms moderate. Phone: Reading 1948.

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

Just facing the W.F.L. is

GOOD'S CAMEO CORNER

with its wonderful selection of old wide Bracelets and Bangles, long Farrings, ancient Gem Rings, and countless real Bead Necklets.

Selections sent on approval.

1 NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1.



Membership Application Form.

To be returned to the Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

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

Name

Address

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

Minimum Annual Subscription 1/-