

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXX. No. 1,037. (Registered at the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1929

**OBJECTS :** To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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## XXXVI. OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

### Councillor Mrs. J. H. Davies, J.P., Mayor of Welshpool.

Mrs. J. H. Davies, Mayor of the Borough of Welshpool, has for many years been engaged in public life. The first woman to hold office as the borough's Chief Magistrate, she has been a Justice of the Peace for the County of Montgomery for nine years.

She has always taken the keenest interest in education, and is a Governor of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and of the Welshpool County Schools. She is also a Manager of the Welshpool Grouped University Schools.

The local hospital and district nursing work has absorbed much of Mrs. Davies' time and thought. She has been a Trustee and Vice-President for some years, and at the last annual meeting was elected President of the hospital. Mrs. Davies rendered valuable service to the borough as commandant of one of Montgomeryshire's Voluntary Aid Red Cross Detachments.

During the war, Mrs. Davies became widely known to the men of this district for her kindness to prisoners of war. She established and was President of the Welshpool Prisoners-of-War Society, which collected and sent parcels to all local men who were prisoners in enemy camps.

Her work on the Welshpool Town Council extends over nine years. She has been a strenuous member of the Housing Committee, and is Chairman of the Housing and Footpaths Committees.

Mrs. Davies shows very keen interest in Welsh literary and historical matters, and has taken part in Welsh Gorsedd ceremonies. Under the *nom de plume*, "Olwen," Mrs. J. H. Davies has published many poems and articles.

As a speaker, both in English and Welsh, Mrs. Davies is most fluent and impressive. Her lectures at Women's Institutes in Montgomeryshire and Shropshire are much appreciated. Her papers on various subjects at the Field Club have aroused much interest.

Her husband, the late Mr. Joseph Davies, at the time of his death in 1919, was senior member of the Welshpool Borough Bench. Of their three sons who fought in the Great War, the youngest was killed in the battle of the Somme while commanding his Company in the 1st R.W. Fusiliers, and a second was awarded the Military Cross.

As Mayor, Mrs. Davies takes her work seriously and attends all meetings and committees. As a member of the Recreation Committee she has taken great interest in playing fields for the children of the neighbourhood. The playing ground, which was recently opened by the Earl of Powis—who gave the land—has a charming paddling-pool, which adds greatly to its attractiveness from the child's point of view. At the opening ceremony the Mayor crowned the first Rose Queen of Welshpool.

Mrs. Davies' experience on the Magisterial Bench has impressed upon her the value of the woman's point of view in this office—particularly so in those cases where the interests of women and children are concerned.

We hope before long there will be many more Welsh women appointed to the Magisterial Bench, also more women holding office as Mayors. The success with which Mrs. Davies has filled that office should encourage other boroughs to try the experiment,



THE MAYOR OF WELSHPOOL.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### The only Woman Chief of Section at Geneva.

Dame Rachel Crowdy is the only woman Chief of Section on the permanent Secretariat of the League of Nations.

### Father and Daughter Air Pilots.

Captain F. E. Guest, Chairman of National Flying Services, one of the oldest passenger aviators in England, did not take his pilot's "A" licence until a few days ago, when his daughter, Miss Diana Guest, obtained her licence.

### Successes at Women's Athletic Meeting.

At the Middlesex Women's A.C. athletic meeting, at Paddington, last Saturday, there were three women Amateur Athletic Association champions in the field.

M. O'Kell, the W.A.A.A. champion, retained her high jump title with a leap of 5 ft., and also took first place in throwing the discus, with 77 ft. 8½ in. L. L. Howes, the W.A.A.A. walking champion and world's record-holder, won the mile walk, in which her sister, L. A. Howes, finished second.

### Woman's Appointment at Manchester University.

Miss Esther Lowe, M.Sc., for three years Assistant Lecturer in the Zoology Department of the University College of North Wales, has been appointed to a similar position in the University of Manchester.

### Daughter Succeeds Father.

Miss Maggie Freeman, of Normanton, Yorkshire, has succeeded her father as gravedigger, bellringer, and vergier of the village church. Her father occupied these positions for twenty-five years.

### Woman Lighthouse Keeper.

Miss Burgon, who has taken charge of the lighthouse at Berwick-on-Tweed several times in recent years when her father has been ill, has now taken her father's place on his retirement at the age of seventy-five.

### Woman Sea Captain.

Miss Gudrun Trogstad has passed the examination for a sea captain's certificate at Oslo, Norway.

### Girl Motor-Omnibus Driver.

Miss Dorothy Florence Springett, of Blaxton, near Doncaster, who is eighteen years old, has been licensed as a motor-omnibus driver.

### Woman Chairman of Dairy Farmers' Association.

Mrs. Robert Barbour, of Bolesworth Castle, Broxton, has been appointed Chairman of the Council of the Cheshire Dairy Farmers' Association, a position held by her late husband—whose death was due to an accident while riding—and his father, the late Mr. George Barbour, successively, for forty years.

### American Woman's Business Deal.

We learn from *Equal Rights* that, according to "real estate" men, the largest lease ever signed by a woman in New York City was signed by Mrs. George R. Van Namee, wife of Public Service Commissioner Van Namee, and President of the House of Flowers, formerly Thorley, Inc. The lease, which involves a rental aggregation \$5,355,000 over a period of years,

is for three new buildings to house the business of the House of Flowers.

Mrs. Van Namee began work for the late Charles Thorley at the age of sixteen. When Mr. Thorley died in 1923, the business was taken over by the Corporation, with Mrs. Van Namee—then Rose Fallon—as President.

### Woman Tax Collector's Record.

According to *Equal Rights*, Harriet Hayward has set a record for tax collecting in Ontario County, New York, by bringing in every penny recorded on her books. Her township tax roll of \$66,355.95, when handed over to the Ontario County Treasurer, Homer E. Snyder, showed for the first time in twenty years a perfect collector's record.

### THE FIRST WOMAN F.R.C.O.

Mrs. Mary Layton, who died in London last week in her eightieth year, was, in 1872, the first woman to become a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. Mrs. Layton, who possessed great intellectual attainments, was well known in all the leading musical circles of her day and was a pioneer in the woman's movement.

### MRS. MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON, J.P., L.L.A. AT THE MINERVA CLUB.

It was delightful to see so many old suffragists and new members of the League at the Minerva Club on Thursday afternoon of last week. After tea had been served, Dr. Knight, who presided over the meeting, introduced Mrs. Nevinson, one of the first members of the League and the first London magistrate to be appointed to a Criminal Court. Mrs. Nevinson, in speaking of the splendid work of the militants, said she had hardly ever hoped to see such improvement in the status of women as is seen to-day. The realisation that women must have some means of livelihood meant the opening of the Professions to women, and, further, industrial conditions had improved, though much is still lacking. These, Mrs. Nevinson said, were steps forward, but much remains to be done. Mrs. Nevinson referred to the muddle of the laws of property of married women, the taxation of incomes of married persons, and other inequalities which to-day lower the status of women. At the close of Mrs. Nevinson's speech, it was unanimously resolved to send a letter to the Rt. Hon. Margaret Bondfield, M.P., expressing the League's sincere regret at the accident which had befallen her, and best wishes for a speedy recovery. Much dissatisfaction was expressed by several members at the camouflage of the preamble of the Guardianship of Infants' Act, the preamble giving equal rights to the father and mother, which are not embodied in the Act itself, and, therefore, cannot be enforced. The audience desired this to be speedily put right. Mrs. Mustard, in proposing a vote of thanks, spoke of Mrs. Nevinson's wide knowledge of legal affairs, and this was seconded by Miss K. Raleigh.

Special issues of "Our Women Mayors":—XXXV. Miss S. B. Pettit, Mayor of Aldeburgh, March 29th, 1929; XXXIV. Mrs. L. E. Bidwell, Mayor of Thetford, March 22nd, 1929; XXXIII. Dame Maud Burnett, J.P., Mayor of Tynemouth, Northumberland, March 15th, 1929; XXXII. The Marchioness Townshend of Raynham, Mayor of King's Lynn, February 15th, 1929; XXXI. Mrs. M. B. Andrewes, Uthwatt, O.B.E., Mayor of Sandwich, December 28th, 1928; XXX. Councillor Miss Justins, Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon, Dec. 14th, 1928; XXIX. Councillor Miss Robinson, Mayor of Christchurch, Nov. 30th, 1928; XXVIII. Miss Violet Markham, J.P., Mayor of Chesterfield, Oct. 19th, 1928; XXVII. Alderman Mrs. B. M. Drapper, Mayor of Deptford, July 20th, 1928; XXVI. Councillor Elizabeth Lund, Mayor of Pudsey, March 23rd, 1928; XXV. Councillor Mrs. Jenkins, Mayor of Tenby, March 9th, 1928; XXIV. Mrs. Stuart Shaw, Mayor of Lichfield, February 24th, 1928; XXIII. Mrs. John W. Greene, Mayor of Bury St. Edmunds, January 13th, 1928; XXII. Margaret Beavan, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, November 25th, 1927; XXI. Councillor Miss Hudson, J.P., Mayor of Eastbourne, June 24th, 1927; XX. Councillor Mrs. Coxon, Mayor of King's Lynn, March 26th, 1926; XIX. Mrs. F. J. Simpson, Mayor of Higham Ferrers, Northampton, February 26th, 1926; XVIII. Councillor Miss Lucy Dales, Mayor of Dunstable, January 22nd, 1926; XVII. Councillor Miss Edith Neville, M.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Lincoln, December 11th, 1925; XVI. Alderman Miss Smees, J.P., Mayor of Acton, October 30th, 1925; XV. Dame Catherine Hunt, D.B.E., J.P., Mayor of Colchester, March 6th, 1925; XIV. Miss Margaret Wix, Mayor of St. Albans, February 13th, 1925; XIII. Mrs. Eva Hartree, Mayor of Cambridge, January 30th, 1925; XII. Mrs. Ethel Leach, J.P., Mayor of Great Yarmouth, January 16th, 1925; XI. Mrs. M. A. Mercer, Mayor of Birkenhead, December 19th, 1924; X. Miss C. Maude Eve, Mayor of Stoke Newington, November 24th, 1924; IX. Miss Ethel Mary Colman, Lord Mayor of Norwich, January 11th, 1924; VIII. Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, D.B.E., Mayor of Ramsgate, January 4th, 1924; VII. Councillor Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Mayor of Colchester, November 9th, 1923; VI. Miss Beatrice Cartwright, J.P., Mayor of Brackley, Northants, December 15th, 1922; V. Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Bermondsey, December 1st, 1922; IV. Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham, September 15th, 1922; III. Councillor Miss Christina Hartley, Mayor of Southport, Lancs, August 11th, 1922; II. Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton Devon, July 7th, 1922; I. Mrs. Ellen Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922.

## ROYAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR IN INDIA.

The Chairman (Mr. J. H. Whitley, late Speaker of the House of Commons) of the Royal Commission on Labour in India last week issued a schedule of the subjects falling within its terms of reference, and invites written evidence based on personal experience from witnesses in Europe, to be sent before September 14th to the Joint Secretary to the Commission, India Office, S.W.1, after that to the Commission in Simla.

*Terms of Reference.*—"To inquire into and report on the existing conditions of labour in industrial undertakings and plantations in British India, on the health, efficiency and standard of living of the workers, and on the relations between employers and employed, and to make recommendations."

The Inquiry falls under the following 18 headings:—*Recruitment.*—Its origin, methods, effect on family life, the case of seamen and workers for Assam, unemployment, relief of distress, insurance, etc.

*Staff Organisation.*—Management, supervision, promotion, works committees and councils, and industrial councils, contractors, etc.

### Housing.

*Health.*—Figures of birth and death-rates and infant mortality, dietary, physique, medical facilities provided by employers, Government and other agencies, provision of women doctors, trained midwives or dais, use of these facilities generally and by women, sanitation at work and at home, drinking water, bathing and washing, supervision, diseases, sickness, insurance and maternity benefits.

*Welfare.*—Work by employers and other agencies, welfare officers and workers, refreshments, shelters and crèches, physical culture and amusements, results achieved, educational facilities by employers for adults, half-timers and children, extent of use, old age provision, co-operation, etc.

*Education.*—Facilities for general education in towns of children not employed, of children in factories and of adults, for industrial and vocational training, and effect on standard of living and industrial efficiency.

*Safety.*—Existing regulations in factories, mines, railways and docks, accidents and their causes and prevention, first aid and medical relief, inspection and enforcement of regulations, effect on safety of hours, health, light, and general working conditions.

*Workmen's Compensation.*—Workmen's Compensation Act, its use, effects, and extension, etc.

### Hours.—In factories, mines, railways, etc.

*Special Questions Relating to Women, Young Adults and Children.*

(A.) *Factories.*—Effect of 1922 Act on employment, infants in factories, regulations for women's work and

for children, work and training of young adults, apprenticeships, "blind alleys," etc.

(B.) *Mines.*—Effect of 1923 Act, exclusion of women, suitability, probable effect on industry, economic effect on workers, speed of withdrawal.

(C.) *Other Establishments.*—Need for regulation.

*Special Questions Relating to Seamen and Inland Watermen.*

*Wages.*—Average earnings, recent changes, payment in kind and through contractors or headmen, basis of payment, minimum wages, deductions, indebtedness, profit-sharing, leave, etc.

*Industrial Efficiency of Workers.*—Recent changes, comparison of Indian and foreign workers, effect of migration, machinery, health, education, climate, etc., effect on production of changes in hours and other conditions of work, housing, wages, legislation, food, alcohol and drugs, and industrial fatigue, possible methods of securing increased efficiency.

*Trade Combinations.*—Organisation of employers and employed, its extent and effects, trade unions, negotiations, co-operation, etc.

*Industrial Disputes.*—Strikes and lock-outs, conciliation and arbitration machinery.

### Law of Master and Servant.

*Administration.*—Central and Provincial Legislatures, International Labour Organisation, various Government authorities, inspection of factories, mines, plantations, docks, etc., railways.

*Intelligence.*—Statistics and their improvement, special investigations, and necessary future developments.

The Royal Commission expects to leave England on September 26th and return next April.

The inquiry is very wide and it is also to be exhaustive, and in the great majority of the investigations as detailed above, women have a peculiar interest, yet its twelve members include only one woman, Miss Beryl M. le Poer Power, of the Ministry of Labour. Even in official circles, however, the opinion of women is recognised to be a necessity, so in connection with the twelve headings which relate to the employment of women, young adults and children, the Commission will probably from time to time co-opt Indian women of experience in this direction.

Information concerning women and children, however, given by women to a Commission almost entirely composed of men, is far less fruitful of result than the same facts heard and weighed by a more equally balanced body, and we consider it very unfortunate that this important Commission should be unnecessarily handicapped.

## THE INTERNATIONAL STALL AT THE BERLIN CONGRESS.

Those of our readers who were interested in the International Stall at the Berlin Congress will be pleased to read the following letter received from Miss Rosa Manus.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence,  
Women's Freedom League,  
144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

August 24th, 1929.

Dear Madam,

The work of clearing up after the Berlin Congress has taken some time, and it is only now that we have received the list of all the contributions sent to our International Stall, and that is why you have not received our thanks for your gifts earlier.

We very greatly appreciated your generous contribution, and especially the fact that so much care had been taken to send characteristic gifts of a kind likely to appeal to a public who would be taking the things back with them to their homes. It is this international aspect of our Stall which gives it a special interest, and we acknowledge with great gratitude the sacrifice of

time and money made by our affiliated societies for the benefit of the Alliance funds.

I am glad to be able to report that the takings of the Stall amounted to 4,000 marks, a very considerable sum, which constitutes a real contribution to our funds. Practically everything was sold, and the few things remaining are to be disposed of in Germany during the winter, so that a small addition may yet come in. The position of the Stall might, perhaps, have been more favourable, but the difficulties of finding suitable space for all our needs at Congresses must be realised by everyone. Since we hope to make such a Stall a regular feature of our Congresses, we shall bear in mind its organisation and needs in good time before our next meeting in 1932.

We can only send this letter to the President of the contributing societies, and we beg you to pass on our thanks to those of your individual members who may have given special help in collecting gifts.

Believe me, yours sincerely,  
ROSA MANUS.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.  
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 1929.

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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.

### CHILD SLAVERY IN CEYLON.

Our readers will remember that last March an article was reprinted in the British Press from a Ceylon daily paper, alleging widespread exploitation of native child labour throughout the island under conditions said to amount to virtual slavery, many thousands of impoverished Ceylonese being persuaded to lend, or even sell, young sons and daughters for heavy domestic work; instances being cited of boys and girls forced to work from dawn till dark, with no intervals for food, and under conditions of extreme cruelty and neglect. There was said to be no system for the registration of children employed on estates, and no official body to supervise their welfare or prevent abuses.

The Women's Freedom League communicated with the Colonial Office, asking if there were any truth in these allegations, and, if so, what steps would be taken to stop the abuses. We received a reply from Mr. Amery, M.P. (Secretary of State, Colonial Office), stating that our inquiry as to the alleged slavery of children in Ceylon was being referred to the Governor of Ceylon.

We have now received the following letter from Lord Passfield, the present Colonial Secretary:—

Downing Street,  
31st August, 1929.

The Secretary,

Women's Freedom League.

Madam,—I am directed by Lord Passfield to refer to the letter from this Department of the 3rd May last, relative to your enquiry as to the alleged slavery of children in Ceylon, and to inform you that a despatch has been received from the Governor of Ceylon stating that it has long been the practice in well-to-do Ceylonese households to "adopt" children of poor parents and to bring them up as companions of the children of the house or to employ them as domestic servants. They are not paid wages, but are fed and clothed and well cared for. The Ceylonese gentry treat these adopted dependents well, and in former days, no doubt, there was little to be said against the custom. The custom has, however, been extended in modern times, and it is now used as a means of obtaining domestic servants free of cost by Ceylonese of all classes, many of whom have little idea of the obligations imposed on an employer to treat his dependents properly. Several cases of cruelty and ill-treatment having recently been before the Courts, it was decided to take action to regulate the practice and prevent its abuse, and a Bill for the protection of children employed as domestic servants has been prepared and will shortly be introduced. This Bill provides for the registration before a police magistrate of all agreements made between the parents or guardians of the child and would-be employers. It requires the employer to provide proper food and medical attendance, and prohibits over-work, ill-treatment, and improper punishment. It further provides for the supervision of these cases of "adop-

tion" by a probation officer or by the police, to ensure compliance with the provisions of the law.

2. The Governor adds that a Child Protection Society has also recently been formed in Colombo, and it is hoped that the efforts of the Society will assist in the effective enforcement of the new legislation and in the creation of a right public opinion upon this subject.

3. As regards children employed on estates, the Governor states that no abuses exist. The treatment of estate labourers' children by the planters has always been more generous and sympathetic than that generally experienced by rural labour elsewhere. The conditions on estates as regards health, education, and employment of child labour are under Government regulation and supervision by the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services, the Education Department, and the Department of Indian Immigrant Labour, and there is, in addition, an Agent of the Government of India resident in Ceylon, whose sole duty it is to supervise the welfare of Indian labourers employed on estates.

I am, Madam, your obedient servant,  
H. R. COWELL.

From the above it appears that the allegations were well founded, that protection for these boys and girls was necessary to prevent abuses in cases where employers do not fulfil their own responsibilities, and that steps are being taken to protect the children.

We believe the Ceylonese women, our fellow-suffragists, are working hard in the Child Protection Society, and are sure they will not be satisfied until the conditions under which all these children live and work are thoroughly good and healthy. We hope they will also bring about the employment of a number of women officials in supervising these conditions.

### IVY HAWKE'S GALLANT FIGHT.

Our member, Miss Ivy Hawke, who is determined to crown her conquest of the Channel from France to England a year ago by swimming from England to France, made a determined attempt last week to achieve her ambition. She started from the South Foreland on Friday evening at 9.20, between St. Margaret's Bay and Dover, and after sixteen hours was taken from the water at 1.17 on Saturday afternoon, when only three miles from Calais, having swum a total distance of forty miles. When back at Deal she is reported to have said: "If Captain Pearson had not made me come out, I should have still carried on until I had sunk." With the exception of pain in her chest and arms, caused by the terrific buffeting of the waves, she suffered no ill-effects. The sea and fog were powerful opponents; to breast some of the waves she had to make three strokes instead of one.

We are all proud of this gallant failure of our comrade, and hope she will still win the "Both Ways Championship" this season.

### LADY HEATH.

We very much regret to record a serious accident to Lady Heath, the first woman to obtain a pilot's certificate to carry passengers regularly. On August 29th, while making an exhibition flight at the National Air Races at Cleveland, Ohio, her aeroplane, while gliding towards the landing mark with engine shut off, dropped unexpectedly, crashing through a factory roof.

In a Cleveland hospital she underwent a 3½ hours' operation for head fractures and other injuries, and on Wednesday was reported to be doing well.

We all sympathise with, and give best wishes for recovery to, this intrepid airwoman and athlete.

### THE MINISTER OF LABOUR.

We are glad to report that the Rt. Hon. Margaret Bondfield, M.P., is now back in London, and hopes to be able to resume her Parliamentary duties when the House reassembles.

## HOUSING.

By MURIEL MORGAN GIBBON.

During my canvass in the recent election, I was appalled at the housing conditions which existed in many parts of South Hackney, a borough which is rarely quoted, as Southwark and Bethnal Green often are, as requiring drastic reform and relief.

Since one fact is worth ten theories, it might give some idea of the prevailing conditions if I quote the results of two afternoon visits, not to specially picked, bad cases, but just going with a friend from door to door.

1. A house was inhabited by a woman, her husband and seven children. Four children slept with their parents upstairs; two girls had a bed in the living-room, while the eldest boy slept in the underground washhouse, which was infested by rats—said to come from a neighbouring fried-fish shop. These people have had their name down for years, trying to get a better house. Their rent is 8s. a week, and they cannot afford to pay the 19s. asked for a Council house. The woman is very unhappy, because the house has tragic memories for her in connection with a fatal accident to one of her children. But it is apparently impossible for her to be found anywhere else to go.

2. A man and wife and four girls, aged between nine and twenty-one, live in two rooms, both of which are scrupulously clean. There is one bedroom, and the living-room is an underground kitchen, in which the street-level is above the top of the window, which faces a concrete slab at about a distance of twenty inches, so that the room is always in twilight. I saw a paper, dated 1921, signed by a Town Hall official, stating that the place was insanitary owing to overcrowding. For this accommodation they pay 7s. 10d. a week, but the landlord had stipulated that they were to keep the place in repair.

3. A labourer, his wife, and five young children were living in one room. The wife works at home at sewing nursery shoes, for which she earns 1s. 8d. a dozen pairs. The three front rooms of the same house are occupied by a man, woman, and eleven children, aged from nineteen downwards. During the day this crowd is increased by the woman's sister, who with her children was turned out of Becontree for taking a lodger. Downstairs there is an old woman and her husband, and a married son and his wife. This house has one tap and one lavatory.

4. A woman, her husband and children were sent back from Becontree because they lived with her brother-in-law. So she was forced to return to her mother's house, where the accommodation is now as follows:—

Four sleep in the upstairs back room.

Six sleep in the upstairs front room.

Two sleep in the downstairs front room.

Two sleep in the kitchen.

5. A woman and ten children sleep in one room; the living-room at the back was filled with babies' washing. The plaster on the walls was in such a bad condition that I could easily have made a hole into the next room with my hand. The husband was away

in a Ministry of Health hospital, so that she could afford to pay the rent of a Council house from the sick benefit allowed to him—so long as he was away.

6. A woman, her husband and five children live with the woman's parents. As she has two rooms, four children sleep in the same room as their parents; the boy of fourteen has a bed in the living-room.

7. There was a young woman in bed with a five days' old child, in the room occupied by her husband and four other children. This was in the house of her parents-in-law, who live downstairs, and in one of the other rooms lives another daughter-in-law with her child.

I have only written of what I saw on two visits, but most of the women to whom I spoke told me that they were no worse off than their neighbours, and that these conditions were the usual accepted thing in the poorer parts of South Hackney.

As I am in no sense an expert on the housing question, I find myself puzzled by many questions when I think of the conditions under which the poor have to live.

1. How can an A1 nation possibly be built up on these lines?

2. What is the use of teaching personal cleanliness in the schools, when none of these houses are fitted with a bath-room, and as a rule there is only one tap?

3. What is the point of preaching purity of life, when in practice growing boys and girls have to sleep together and adult people of both sexes use the same room?

4. Is anything ever going to be done about it? Governments come and Governments go, but nothing drastic is ever done.

5. Since there are more women electors than men, would it not be possible to make housing the women's question in all future elections until something is done?

.....  
A cynical Frenchman once said that life was a joke. Perhaps. But whose joke?

### THE BOWLS CONTROVERSY AGAIN!

The aggressive attitude assumed by Pymmes Park Bowling Club in threatening to cancel their match with Edmonton Council if women are included in the Council's team again raises the humorous question as to whether women should be allowed to play that mildest of mild games—bowls.

Edmonton Council finds itself in a dilemma; women form one-third of its members, and the chairman, Mrs. L. Ithell, is a champion of what has come to be known as the women-for-bowls movement!

The match is an annual event and should take place on September 7th, but since all members of the Pymmes Park Club have signed a letter saying they will not play if there are women in their opponents' team, what is to be done? The situation is the more amusing as women played in the Edmonton Council team last year. We shall watch for the Council's decision with interest.

## TEA AND POLITICS.

MEETINGS AT THE MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square.  
AT 4.30 P.M. TEA AT 4 O'CLOCK.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17th.	Speaker: MISS JENNER (Organising Secretary of the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa, and Editor of the <i>Flashlight</i> ). Subject: "THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA." Chair: MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24th.	Speaker: MISS AGNES DAWSON, L.C.C. Subject: "WOMEN UNDER THE NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT." Chair: DR. E. KNIGHT.
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31st.	Speaker: MRS. BIGLAND. Subject: Part I. "THE RECENT ASSEMBLY." Chair: MISS MARIAN REEVES.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7th.	Speaker: MRS. ARCHDALE (Chairman, Woman Peers Committee). Subject: "WOMEN AND THE UPPER HOUSE." Chair: MRS. DORE.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21st.	Speaker: MRS. POLLARD. Subject: "WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY." Chair: MISS F. A. UNDERWOOD.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28th.	Speaker: MRS. BIGLAND. Subject: Part II. "THE RECENT ASSEMBLY." Chair: MRS. MUSTARD.

Please book these dates.

Collection.

## OUR BOOK REVIEW.

"Clash." By Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. Published by George G. Harrap & Co., Ltd. Price 7s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

In taking the General Strike as the setting of her first novel, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., made a bold stroke. She has laid her characters open to criticism not only in their behaviour as men and women, but as participants in a momentous issue. The workers had risked their all on a toss. If they lost—but, no, few were bold enough to face such a disastrous possibility.

It was no time for dalliance, hence the reader's surprise at finding himself neck and crop in a love story which threatens to become an intrigue, before he has travelled many chapters with Joan Craig, a woman organiser of the National Industrial Union of Labour. Although Joan makes no very strong appeal to the reader's imagination, she appears to have a fatal fascination for men. Her sex-consciousness—an obtrusive element which one is never allowed to forget—is exasperating; yet, as a Trade Union official, one never doubts her sincerity. One feels with the author that Joan is "good stuff at heart," and must somehow justify her existence before the end of the story.

Joan's excursions into Bloomsbury, where she has the privilege of entrance into a house in Gordon Square belonging to Mary Maud Meadows—a bachelor woman better endowed with wealth than brains—and her relations with the dilettante circle who meet there are relieved from monotony by the tension of the General Strike. The colossal blundering which jeopardised the issue from the outset; the muddling through, so typically English; the inevitable failure; and the bitterness and despair of men who felt they had been betrayed by their leaders, are graphically related. But the intervals in Miss Wilkinson's story are longer than the acts, and the reader whose chief interest is with the clash between Labour and Capital must be forgiven a little impatience when the action is held up for the development of Joan's love affairs.

In the midst of the fray Joan's struggle with herself as to whether she will sacrifice "all for love" in the approved Victorian manner, or make a stand for her career, becomes the dominating theme. Tony Dacre's outpourings:—

"A worth-while woman with the brains and power that you have, Joan, has to make a choice. She may decide on a career, she may think her work the most important thing in her life. Then, if she is to compete on equal terms with men of her calibre, she has to make it a whole-time job. . . ."

"And the alternative?"

"The other choice, my dear—well, if its success doesn't appear on the surface, it will not get into the newspapers, but the women I am thinking of—the woman I believe you are, Joan—may find their mate, and they may choose to be his mate. . . . In the ecstasy of their passion they would create wonderful children and train them finely. To their husbands they would bring fulfilment and the peace that passeth understanding. These men could do great things for the world!"

are reminiscent of that line of thought on which the submission of women was based.

Joan comes dangerously near to surrender, but at the eleventh hour she extricates herself from an entanglement which could only have ended in disaster, and throws in her lot with Gerry Blain—an ex-flying corps officer, who is heart and soul in the Socialist movement, and asked nothing more of her than a fair partnership.

Joan might have been a finer character, but her weakness adds to the value of her final conquest over her emotions.

E. A. H.

## A PIONEER NURSE.

An English nurse, Miss Dorothy Somers, has been appointed to the Hudson Bay Company's trading post at Nairn, Labrador, where the population consists of 200 Eskimos and a Moravian missionary and his wife.

The country is generally frozen up, the nearest white neighbours are 500 miles away in Newfoundland. A hospital is being built at Nairn.

## OUR ANNUAL FAIR.

The Green, White and Gold Fair will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Thursday and Friday, November 14th and 15th, from 3 to 9 p.m. each day. Our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, will preside at the opening on November 14th, and Mrs. Mustard will take the chair on November 15th.

## Stalls.

The Stalls at present arranged are Sweets—Toys—Handkerchiefs, Antiques, and White Elephants—China—Household—Overalls and Aprons—Underclothing—Pound Stall—Shilling Stall—General Stall—Country Produce, and Cakes. Will all our readers do their utmost towards providing these Stalls with pretty and useful goods, that will sell well and make delightful Christmas presents. Now that the holiday season is over, all members and friends will have time to think of the Fair, and consider what they can do to make gifts for the Stalls, and thus ensure for our 1929 Fair an unrivalled success.

## Afternoon Tea and Evening Refreshments.

Teas will be served in the Lounge from 4 to 6 p.m., and Refreshments will be served after 7 p.m. Miss Reeves, Miss New, Miss Owen, and the members of the Minerva Club Branch have undertaken this part of the work, and will be assisted by the staff of the Minerva Club and other friends.

## Entertainments.

Much care and thought are being given to the entertainments this year, and a Special Committee has been appointed to arrange the programme. Miss Auld is kindly acting as Secretary to this Committee; and all visitors to the Fair may look forward to a delightful and interesting programme. Details will be announced later.

## Character Reading.

Miss Ivy Hawke (who swam the Channel last year) has kindly promised that, if in London during November, she will organise the Character Reading. Readings will be given by Mrs. E. Espir, Madame Gena, B.Sc., and Miss Wall; and Mrs. Peters will tell stories from tea cups.

## The Information Bureau.

Mrs. Seymour Pritchard has very kindly promised to manage this part of the work.

## Other Societies and Friends taking Stalls.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

The Dames of St. Joan.

The Psychological Aid Society.

Miss Burwood (Beads).

Mrs. Clifford (Wax Flowers).

Miss Seyfang.

Cooper's Studios (Decorated Furniture, etc.).

TICKETS, price 1s. 10d. (including Tax), the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day, 1s. 2d. (including Tax). All communications and gifts, also applications for Stalls, should be sent to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Fair Secretary, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

## INDIA AND THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN.

According to *The Times*, the Government of India has informed the League of Nations that not only will it consent to, but co-operate in, an extension to the Far East of the inquiry into the traffic in women and children.

As our readers are already aware, an inquiry has already been carried out in Europe and certain parts of America. A proposal to extend such an inquiry to the Far East was made contingent by the League Council, in June last, upon the consent being obtained of the countries concerned.

India is the first country to respond!

## "THE CHANCELLOR'S TRIBUTE."

Summing up his work at the Hague, Mr. Snowden is reported to have said: "Without the help of my wife I could never have achieved my task."

Women's Freedom League.  
Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.WHERE TO GO.  
WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

## DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, September 11th, at 7.30 p.m.  
London Members' Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Underwood. Chair: Mrs. Pierotti.

Monday, September 23rd, at 6.30 p.m.  
Mid-London Branch Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Important business.

Friday, October 4th, at 7.30 p.m.  
Dinner at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speeches by Delegates to the Berlin Congress. Tickets 3s. 6d. each, from the Secretary, Minerva Club.

Saturday, October 5th, at 10 a.m.  
National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Tuesday, October 8th, at 7.30 p.m.  
North Kensington Branch. Meeting at 14, St. Quintin's Avenue, North Kensington (by kind permission of Miss K. Raleigh).

Wednesday, October 9th, at 7.30 p.m.  
London Members' Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speakers: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and Miss Underwood. Chair: Dr. E. Knight.

Thursday, October 17th, at 4.30 p.m. (Tea 4 o'clock.)  
Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Jenner (Organising Secretary of the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa, and Editor of the *Flashlight*). Subject: "The Development of the Woman's Movement in South Africa." Chair: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.

Thursday, October 24th, at 4.30 p.m. (Tea 4 o'clock.)  
Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Agnes Dawson, L.C.C. Subject: "Women under the New Local Government Act." Chair: Dr. E. Knight.

Thursday, October 31st, at 4.30 p.m. (Tea 4 o'clock.)  
Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Bigland. Subject: Part I. "The Recent Assembly." Chair: Mrs. Mustard.

Thursday, November 7th, at 4.30 p.m. (Tea 4 o'clock.)  
Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Archdale (Chairman, Woman Peers Committee). Subject: "Women and the Upper House." Chair: Mrs. Dore.

Thursday and Friday, November 14th and 15th, 3 to 9.30 p.m.  
Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Saturday, November 16th, at 10 a.m.  
National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Thursday, November 21st, at 4.30 p.m. (Tea 4 o'clock.)  
Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Pollard. Subject: "Women in the Ministry." Chair: Miss Underwood.

Thursday, November 28th, at 4.30 p.m. (Tea 4 o'clock.)  
Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Bigland. Subject: Part II. "The Recent Assembly." Chair: Mrs. Mustard.

## PROVINCES.

Saturday, September 14th (Proposed date).

Middlesbrough Branch. Picnic for members and friends.

Monday, October 14th.

Middlesbrough Branch. Whist Drive, at the Grey House.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

September 2nd to 15th.

Women's International League. International Summer School in Lepence-Visegrad, Hungary. Subject: "Effects of Public Economics on the Interior and Foreign Politics of Different Countries."

Sunday, October 13th, at 11 a.m.

The Hampshire House Discussion Circle, Hog Lane, King Street, Hammersmith. Speaker: Miss Marian Reeves, on "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

October 14th to October 18th.

National Council of Women. Annual Meeting and Conference in the Albert Hall, Manchester.

Thursday, October 17th, at 3 p.m.

Women's International League. Reception to the two women delegates of the British Government to the Geneva Assembly, at Aubrey House, Aubrey Walk, W.8. By kind permission of the Misses Alexander. Tickets 2/6 each, which will include tea.

Wednesday, October 23rd, at 3 p.m.

Women's International League. Meeting at Friends' House, Euston Road, to discuss the report of the work of this year's Assembly.

Wednesday, October 30th to Saturday, November 2nd.

National Council for Mental Hygiene. Conference at the Central Hall, Westminster, on "Mental Health."

Wednesday, November 13th.

Women's International League. All-day Conference on "Opium."

## JOTTINGS FROM THE PRESS.

We are indebted to the *Glasgow Herald* for the following:—  
(This story is so pleasing that it always bears repetition.)

In 1738, the decree had gone forth that women were to be excluded from the galleries of the Houses of Parliament, and it was resolved to make a determined fight for admission. At 9 o'clock in the morning, Lady Huntingdon, the Duchess of Queensbury, the Duchess of Amaster, and many others of similar rank, lined up outside. Sir William Saunderson assured them that the Chancellor's order brooked of no evasion, and when the Duchess of Queensbury persisted, he swore most forcibly. She proved her claim to rank by swearing back with equal effectiveness. (It was in this century that it was said of the Duchess of Marlborough that "she must be a great lady because she swore so dreadfully.") Even this did not move him, and the ladies waited on for eight hours. Then where force had failed, strategy was tried, and for half an hour they maintained a dead silence. This heroic effort was rewarded by a cautious opening of the doors, whereupon they rushed in and secured front seats in the gallery.

## WOMEN'S POSITION IN THE INDIAN CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

We learn from the *Co-operative News* that the Bombay Co-operative Institute reports that there are almost 10,000 women members of its affiliated societies, which are nearly all credit societies, while one woman is president, one secretary, and two are committee members of local societies. No woman at present holds office in the central credit banks, but there are two credit societies in Bombay composed entirely of women. One producers' society in Bengal has a woman chairman, but the Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society can give no statistics as to the women members of its constituent societies, but state that the number is not large and that women generally come in as guardians of minor sons or the sole heirs of their husbands. Except in the special women's societies, of which a few have lately been started, no woman holds office either in the union or its constituent societies.

The Madras Provincial Union states that, although many women are members of its constituent societies, in very few cases are women to be found on the boards of management. No woman has yet been sent as a delegate to any of the union's meetings or elected as an honorary member (of whom there are twenty) of the institution. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies for Madras reports that there are three societies in the Presidency exclusively managed by women. In the Punjab there are women members—for the most part widows—in about 50 credit societies, and in one or two cases a woman is president or vice-president. In the United Provinces, however, few women are eligible for membership, as women do not appear in public and are therefore debarred from taking part in the movement.

In a few cases women have been elected to the committees of primary societies, and in one case a woman is president of an agricultural primary society.

## BONAR LAW COLLEGE.

On September 30th, the Women's Unionist Organisation is going to hold an examination for women organisers at Palace Chambers, Westminster.

On its conclusion many of the entrants, organising secretaries, and central office staff organisers are to attend a special course of training arranged for them at Bonar Law College, the new Conservative Educational Institute at Ashridge Park, Berkhamsted. It is hoped that the course, which extends from September 30th until October 5th, will make a special appeal to women who wish to enter political life.

## WOMEN WIN ON EQUALITY POINT.

At the Biennial Conference of the Rechabites Friendly Society, held at Brighton last week, we learn from *The Times* that:—

Mr. Tasker (Swansea) moved that the incoming directors prepare a new scale of contributions and benefits for women members, based on the experience of the Order. He said that the much heavier sickness experience made it necessary that they should pay contributions under separate tables from male members. In the Swansea district they had been forced to raise the contributions and reduce the benefits of women members, after giving them £120 from their district fund to restore solvency.

Miss Fanny Farrer (Bradford) appealed to the Order to maintain equality of contributions and benefits between men and women. This appeal was successful, the Swansea proposition being defeated.

## Membership Application Form.

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

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Name.....

Address.....

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**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES**.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, Sept. 8th, 6.30 p.m. Miss Maude Royden on "The Voices of God: In Art."

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

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