

THE VOTE.
JULY 10, 1925.

MARRIAGE TAX PROTEST.

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVI. No. 820.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1925

OBJECT : To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men ; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

FOURTEENTH YEAR.

On Friday of last week, a goodly company of friends and members met together in the Council Chamber at Caxton Hall to celebrate, for the fourteenth year in succession, the birthday of the beloved First-President of the Women's Freedom League. The reception of the guests by Mrs. Despard, and a short musical programme, preceded the speeches and presentation of the Birthday Gift. Songs, contributed by Mrs. Norman Bengé and Miss Elsie Langston, were much appreciated, as were also the piano accompaniments kindly rendered by Miss Lucy Bell.

Mrs. Mustard, in the Chair, pointed out that since the Women's Freedom League was founded nineteen years ago, part of the programme of the League had been accomplished. Forty countries had now enfranchised their women, and upon the same terms as men, with the sole exceptions of Great Britain and Hungary, which had introduced terms of differentiation. Great Britain, in fact, was the only big country which had not given an equal suffrage between the sexes. There was still, therefore, plenty of work for the Women's Freedom League to do. Mrs. Mustard then referred to a speech Mrs. Despard had made on a previous Birthday Party, when she said that there would be plenty of work for the League even after the vote was gained, for women needed not only enfranchisement, but complete freedom. Considerable disappointment was being felt at the moment over the question of Widows' Pensions, which the women's societies thought ought not to be a contributory scheme, but determined on broad and national lines. There was also a great need for more women M.P.s, and for more women to enter public life, where the woman's point of view was sorely needed.

The President, Miss Anna Munro, in a racy speech, described how Mrs. Despard had brought her, the speaker, into the Woman's Movement, in 1906. At first she had not realised the importance of the movement, but it was not long before she began to see that woman's suffrage was a basic principle of democracy, and so organised her first suffrage meeting in a little town in Scotland, with Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Mrs. Snowden, Miss Pankhurst, and Mrs. Billington Greig, as speakers. Much had been achieved since those early days, but much still remained to be done. The

price of Liberty was eternal vigilance, for even those laws which women had helped to place upon the statute book were constantly being overruled.

Miss Horniman observed that, when in Manchester, she had never made any difference between actors and actresses in her company. She was repeatedly receiving advice to the effect that the stage should be raised, but in her opinion what wanted raising was the intelligence of the public!

Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., referred to the Railway Centenary now being celebrated, and hoped that the Women's Freedom League would have the privilege of celebrating Mrs. Despard's centenary. She, the speaker, much regretted Mrs. Despard had never been elected to Parliament, and wished very ardently there were more women members in the House of Commons. There were still also far too few women on local government committees, and on magisterial benches. Many councils throughout the country were entirely without women representatives. The exercise of the vote was not enough. Women were called to activity in many directions.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence described life as a journey back to the Eternal Mind, where each individual had his or her special work to do. In Mrs. Despard's case, increasing age was merely the thinning of the veil. In an age when widows were chiefly regarded as "men's dependants," there was still much work for the Women's Freedom League to do. In the House of Commons we had women Members on our side. There were also one or two men there who were holding up the women's cause. Mrs. Despard's many years of work in the past must be linked up with that of Lady Astor's and Miss Wilkinson's in the present day.

Dr. Knight then read out the list of contributors to the Birthday Fund, and presented the cheque to Mrs. Despard.

Mrs. Despard, who was received with great enthusiasm by all present, then handed back the Birthday Gift to Dr. Knight for the work of the Women's Freedom League.

In the Birthday speech which followed this picturesque little annual ceremony, Mrs. Despard said that night's celebrations linked both the living and the dead,

and expressed her wonderment of the way in which the Women's Freedom League had held together through so many years. "The world," said Mrs. Despard, "will never reach peace, or run on its course with joy, until humanity becomes united in love and peace." As regarded the vote, she wished the younger women would show themselves a little more conscious of the fact that they had had an insult put upon them in keeping them voteless until 30 years of age. Referring to the suffrage campaign of past days, Mrs. Despard said these were fine days to have lived in; she then briefly reviewed the Woman's Movement in its past, present, and future. Every woman, she concluded, was, in a very special way, the builder of the world of the future.

The Women's Freedom League offers its cordial thanks to all the many friends who helped the success of this enjoyable gathering: to our kind and able artistes; to Miss Peggy Reeves for so competently presenting to our First-President the Birthday Bouquet; to Miss Pyzer, who organised and stocked the lovely flower stall, and to her energetic nieces; to Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Lamartine Yates, Mrs. Knight, and Mrs. Standen, who helped with flowers; to Mrs. Knight, for presiding over the strawberries and cream, and her busy helpers—Mrs. Keelan, Miss Brouneau, Mrs. Bell Lloyd, who also brought strawberries and cream, Miss Mary Knight and Miss Mollie Steward; to our Montgomery Boroughs Branch and Miss Alix Clark for the welcome Welsh produce; to Mr. Elias for his generous contribution of ice cream, and Mrs. Elias, the Misses Codd, Mrs. Norman Bengé, Miss Freda Felix-Jones, and Miss Sybil Wilkins, for helping; to Miss Hindshaw for her charming little Cornish sketch which has been framed and given to Mrs. Despard as a memento; to Miss F. A. Underwood for organising, and Mrs. and the Misses Potter for presiding over a very successful pound stall; to the Minerva Club, Mrs. Hanscomb, Miss Reeves, Miss White, Miss Adams, our kind waitresses, and Mrs. Bell for cakes, etc.; to our hostesses and to every supporter.

WOMEN ON THE JUVENILES COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY.

In reply to our letter asking that suitable and experienced women should be included on the above Committee, we have received the following letter from the Minister of Labour:—

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, MONTAGU HOUSE,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1, 2nd July, 1925.

DEAR MADAM,

I have received your letter of the 26th June, and I note your suggestion. We are also very much alive to the fact that the question concerns girls as well as boys. There is perhaps one point which I should make here. I do not ever think it is right to appoint women on a committee just because considerations affecting women are to be dealt with, or *vice versa* as regards men. The proper principle to my mind is to get hold of the best brains in either case, and if anyone, by reason of sex, is likely to have greater experience of the question, then, of course, that is a factor to be taken into consideration, but not the simple question of a possible member of a committee being a man or a woman.

I have no reason to believe from your letter that you disagree with me, but I think I should make this point clear.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND.

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HALL & GLOVER, Incorporated Insurance Consultants,
BARDON CHAMBERS, LEEDS.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

More Women M.P.s?

Miss Ursula Williams, daughter of the late Mr. Aneurin Williams, has been invited by the Liberals of the Consett Division to let her name go forward again as a candidate at the next election, and has promised to consider the matter during the next few days. At the last contest Miss Williams made an excellent showing against a powerful Labour candidate backed by the miners' lodges.

Woman's Suffrage in Belgium?

Lively discussion on the question of granting votes to women, in connection with the provincial elections which are due in October, has taken place in the Belgian Parliament. The Socialists declared they would support the Government so long as it respected the Ministerial declaration, which made no reference to women's suffrage. After a violent debate, it was understood that the Catholic Members of the Government would remain free to vote in favour of votes for women if such a proposal were made by a Deputy.

Australian Women Associates.

When Judge Gavan-Duffy, now in this country, was elevated to the High Court of Australia, he appointed his daughter, Miss Mary Gavan-Duffy, as his Associate, thus following the precedent set by his colleague, Mr. Justice Isaacs, who was the first judge anywhere in the world to have a woman as his Associate. The lady was his daughter, Miss Nancy Isaacs. For some years the High Court's two women Associates were familiar figures in many big *causes célèbres*, both invariably sitting in front of their respective fathers, dealing with "exhibits," and administering oaths as though to the manner born.

Honour to Woman Astronomer.

Miss Annie Jump Cannon, the noted American woman astronomer of Harvard Observatory, is the first American woman to receive the degree of D.Sc. at Oxford University. The conferring of the degree is in recognition of valuable contributions to astronomy, foremost among which is the completion of a catalogue of 225,000 stars known as the "Henry Draper Catalogue of Stella Spectra."

Workgirls' Clinic.

Professor Louise McLroy is to be in charge of a women's evening clinic, which is to be opened shortly in the Essex Road, London, where the Royal Free Hospital is creating a new maternity district. The clinic is intended for the use of working girls between the ages of 15 and 25, who can attend any evening between 6 and 8 after their day's work is over.

TOO LATE FOR THE PARTY BUT IN TIME FOR THE FUND

The Birthday Fund first list of Contributions will be printed in our issue of next week.

Donations are still coming steadily in, so if you have a belated contribution about which you are doubtful, please send it to me by next Monday for inclusion in THE VOTE list to swell our total.

Very best thanks to all kind friends who have already generously responded.

E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Treas.

144, High Holborn,
W.C.1.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Maternity Welfare.

COL. DAY (Lab., Southwark, Central) asked the Minister of Health if he was prepared to consider the advisability of making provision under the National Health Insurance Act so that general practitioners attending cases of childbirth might have consultation with, or assistance from, a brother practitioner when necessity arose, in order that every endeavour might be made for the safety of both the mother and child? MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN replied that under the existing Acts attendance at confinements was not included within the scope of medical benefit. The question of providing a maternity service under the National Insurance Acts had been brought to the notice of the Royal Commission, and pending their Report he was not prepared to take any steps in the direction suggested by the hon. Member.

India (White Slave Traffic).

COL. WEDGWOOD (Lab., Newcastle-under-Lyme) asked the Under-Secretary of State for India if he would make inquiries as to a system known as Rit, prevalent in the Simla Hill States, under which girls were sold for immoral purposes even outside the States in question; and, if he found that such traffic took place, would he recommend that the Political Department should put an end to it? EARL WINTERTON replied that he had at present no official information on that subject, but he would make inquiries.

Wages and Labour Conditions.

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., Middlesbrough, E.) asked the Minister of Labour if the investigations into wages and conditions in the retail drapery trade, the fancy goods trade, and the light refreshment and dining-room branch of the catering trade, stated to be approaching completion on 4th March last, were yet completed; and, if so, when and in what form publication of the results might be expected? SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND replied that the investigations mentioned in the question had been completed, and he hoped that a summary of the information obtained would be issued as a Stationery Office publication before the close of the present Session.

Telephone Construction Programme.

MISS WILKINSON asked the Minister of Labour whether, in considering measures for the relief of unemployment, he had consulted the Postmaster-General with regard to the advisability of putting in hand a programme of immediate and extensive development of the telephone system, in view of the employment which would thereby be created, especially for women, in the telephone manufacturing industry, as well as in a wide range of industries allied thereto? SIR W. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Postmaster-General) said he had been asked to reply. The programme of telephone construction for the current year was an extensive one, and he hoped to have the opportunity of explaining it to the House before the Summer Recess.

Rochford Petty Sessions (Sentence).

COL. DAY asked the Home Secretary if he was aware of the recent sentence of one month's imprisonment passed on a young woman at the Rochford, Essex, Petty Sessions, on a charge of wilful damage to the amount of 7s. 6d., and in view of the fact that it was a first conviction, would he consider a remission of the sentence? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS replied that he caused inquiry to be made in that case, but the facts elicited supplied no sufficient ground for interference with the sentence.

Unemployed Persons (London).

MR. HANNON (U., Moseley) asked the Minister of Labour the total number of unemployed registered for the year ending 31st March, 1925, at Employment Exchanges in the County of London, and the

approximate number of men, women and young persons for whom employment was found during that period? SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND replied that it was not possible to say how many individuals were, at one time or another, on the register of Employment Exchanges in the course of a year, but the average number of persons who were on the registers in the County of London at any one time in the twelve months ended March, 1925, was 171,590 (men, 129,369; women, 32,337; and juveniles, 9,884). The number of vacancies filled in the twelve months ended April 6th, 1925, was 240,387 (men 97,411; women, 60,795; and juveniles, 82,181).

Horses (Export).

MR. H. WILLIAMS (U., Reading) asked the Minister of Agriculture the number and value of live horses shipped from this country to France and Belgium respectively, during the first five months of the present year? MR. E. WOOD replied that during the first five months ended 31st May last, 358 live horses of the value of £46,787 were shipped to France, and 1,765, of the value of £76,502, to Belgium.

Factories Bill.

MR. ROBINSON (Lab., Elland) asked the Home Secretary if he was now able to give the date when it is proposed to introduce the Factories Bill? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS replied he regretted he was still not in a position to fix a date for the introduction of this Bill. CAPT. GARRO-JONES (Lib., Hackney, S.) inquired if the right hon. Gentleman would consider deferring the introduction of this Bill until he had been able to incorporate in it some provision to enable satisfactory provision to be made in offices? MR. SPEAKER intervened by saying he was afraid that that was quite another question.

Oakum Picking (Women).

MISS WILKINSON asked the Minister of Health why he retained the oakum task for women when he had already received requests from the National Association of Masters and Matrons, the Union and Rural District Clerks' Association, and other Associations to abolish it, and none in favour of retaining it, especially considering that those two Associations were composed of a large number of persons immediately engaged in the work of the Poor Law; and why he had increased the task for the one-night visitors? MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that, as he explained to the hon. Member in reply to a previous question, the other Associations to whom the draft order was submitted did not suggest the abolition of oakum picking for women casuals. Nothing in the order required a board of guardians who disapproved the task to apply it. He therefore saw no ground for altering the existing regulations on the point. With regard to the last part of the question, he referred the hon. Member to the reply given to a previous similar question put by the hon. Member for Houghton-le-Spring, which was "The recent Consolidating Order brings the task for one night into the same relation to that for two nights as is laid down in the Order of 1882 for the time to be occupied in the task." MISS WILKINSON inquired if she might ask why, when the right hon. Gentleman received an overwhelming, in fact a unanimous, body of opinion from experts on the matter, he did not consider it necessary to carry out their recommendations. MR. CHAMBERLAIN replied that he did not think the hon. Lady understood the answer he had given. MR. WEBB (Lab., Seaham) asked if the right hon. Gentleman had received a single representation in favour of the practice? MR. CHAMBERLAIN replied that as that matter had not been mentioned, he took it that they did not hold any very strong opinion on the subject. MISS WILKINSON asked if the Minister of Health had not been a little casuistical in that matter in having stated that it was unanimous, whereas he now stated that no strong opinion had been expressed against it? F. A. U.

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FRIDAY, JULY 10th, 1925.

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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

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.

"THE BEST BRAINS"!

During the past week, the question of brains seems to have divided Members of the Cabinet. Speaking last Saturday to the boys, their parents, and friends at the Speech Day at Dean Close School, Cheltenham, the Home Secretary (Sir William Joynson-Hicks) is reported to have said: "It is no use having a first-class brain if there is a second-class character behind it. Speaking as a business man, I think a first-class character and a second-class brain will carry you a good deal further than a first-class brain and a second-class character." Cheers greeted this statement; but earlier the same week, in reply to a letter we had sent asking him to consider the appointment of suitable and experienced women as well as men to the Juveniles Committee which was being set up "to inquire into and advise upon the public system of education in England and Wales in relation to the requirements of trade and industry," and asking him to bear in mind the fact that there are many thousands of girls continually registered as unemployed as well as many thousands of boys, the Minister of Labour (Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland) says: "I do not ever think it is right to appoint women on a Committee just because considerations affecting women are to be dealt with, or *vice versa* as regards men. The proper principle, to my mind, is to get hold of the best brains in either case, and if anyone, by reason of sex, is likely to have greater experience of the question, then, of course, that is a factor to be taken into consideration, but not the simple question of a possible member of a committee being a man or a woman." This is quite a nice little homily from the Minister of Labour, but it was not greeted with cheers in our Office. We are sure he desires to be kind, but we are not so sure what his meaning is. The present Government appointed a Royal Commission on Food Prices—fourteen men and two women. Food prices is a question of great importance to the women of the country, and they can only see that the "best brains" principle did not succeed in reducing food prices. The previous Government, in 1924, appointed a Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder, consisting of eleven men and two women. There are more women than men mental patients in this country, but the "best brains" arrangement has, so far, secured little evidence concerning women patients. The Committee recently appointed to inquire into the management of public-houses has nine men, but only one woman. We wonder what the brains of that Committee will accomplish. Forty-seven men and three women were appointed to the Standing Joint Committee on Teachers' Salaries (Burnham Award), although approximately four-fifths of the teachers concerned are women. The "best brains" forming that Committee succeeded in lowering the women teachers' salaries, but not the men's. The

Home Office appointed a Committee, last January, to consider the best ways of dealing with young offenders—ten men and three women. We are still awaiting the Report of that collection of "best brains." Does not the Minister of Labour and the Government think it a little curious that men have apparently so great a monopoly of the available "best brains"? And, judging from results in our national scheme of things, is it any wonder if women inquire what is the use of men having the best brains if they fail to use them? If men alone form the personnel of the Juveniles Committee of Inquiry, we feel fairly confident that their "best brains" will work in the direction of arranging for an educational system for girls which will aim at sending the majority of them into domestic service, while boys will have a training for openings in all kinds of interesting trades. We insist that women—even if it is conceded that they have only second-class brains—are absolutely necessary on this Committee. We did not ask for any kind of woman to be on it, but mentioned specifically that they should be suitable and experienced women—women with experience of our present educational system, and the possibilities and prospects for girls as well as boys in all avenues of employment. Women citizens are looking for results in the Government's arrangements of our national life. Since men have failed to score successes, why shouldn't women be given a chance to show what they can do?

MARRIAGE TAX.

Dr. Marie Stopes and her husband, Mr. H. V. Roe, registered a strong protest before the Income Tax Commissioners on July 2nd. They pointed out that for the year 1919, as separate individuals, neither was liable to super-tax, but now that their incomes were added together they were charged super-tax. This they refused to pay, claiming that "it is an immoral thing in a Christian country to tax two people who are living in holy matrimony when two exactly similar people living in sin would not be taxed." They also claimed that this super-tax was illegal, and against the enactments of the Married Women's Property Act, and that the Clause in the Finance Act for 1920, which authorised it, was null and void, as it was counter to the Married Women's Property Act. They also claimed that not only was it immoral, but it was anti-racial, and a great danger to the British nation.

The Commissioners gave them twenty days in which to decide whether they would fight a case in the Law Courts or not.

It will be remembered that successive Chancellors of the Exchequer have pleaded that if husbands and wives only paid the tax on their own incomes instead of these incomes being assessed and taxed jointly, the revenue would lose £20,000,000 a year. Dr. Marie Stopes argues that this would not be the case if all individuals were assessed as units, so that everyone paid a share of the tax.

We cordially congratulate both Dr. Marie Stopes and Mr. Roe on the protest they have made; and, if they decide to take it to the Law Courts, we trust that the decision will be in accordance with justice and equity, and that this "marriage tax" will be repealed once and for all.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS in SASKATCHEWAN.

The Labour Press Service reports that Mothers' Pensions to the amount of about £50,000 were paid to more than a thousand recipients last year by the Government of Saskatchewan, in Canada. This sum represents an average of more than £4 a month per family, and went to support 3,188 children under sixteen years of age. Among the beneficiaries were 779 widows, and 114 women whose husbands were incapacitated from earning a living. In 24 cases, benefits were paid where the husband and father was in gaol.

THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT WEMBLEY.

The International Conference of Women in Science, Industry, and Commerce, convened by the Women's Engineering Society, in co-operation with various women's industrial organisations, which takes place at the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley, next week, is the first Conference hitherto arranged to include the work which women are doing in the realm of Science, Industry, and Commerce. Not only will university women be represented, but women working as metallurgists, employment managers, members of industrial concerns, and also labour women.

H.R.H. The Duchess of York has consented to become President of the above Conference, and to attend the Opening Session on July 15th, which will be called Women's Industrial Day. Exhibitors are giving a special display of women's work on this occasion.

Among those speaking on the opening day will be The Viscountess Astor, M.P., The Viscountess Rhondda, J.P. (Commerce), Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. (Industrial Organisation), and Professor Winifred Cullis, O.B.E., D.Sc. (Science).

The two following days will be devoted to papers by women experts on such subjects as Engineering, Chemistry and Research, Industrial Welfare and Factory Inspection, Commerce and Salesmanship, and Electricity in relation to Domestic Science. The following papers have been promised:—"Electricity applied to Mining" (Miss H. M. Davis); "Some chemical problems in the cotton industry" (Miss Isabel H. Hadfield, M.Sc.); "Automotive Research" (Miss Ethel Bailey, America); "The Woman Factory Inspector in Industrial History" (Miss Constance Smith); "The Effect of Welfare Work on Health and Efficiency" (Miss C. U. Kerr); "The Possibilities of Advancement for Women in Industry" (Miss E. E. Wilson); "Salesmanship" (Miss G. Burlton, B.A.); "The place of the wholesaler in the scheme of distribution" (Miss L. F. Nettlefold, LL.B.); "Producing and Distributing Electricity" (Miss M. Partridge, B.Sc.); "At Home with Electricity" (Miss

T. J. Dillon, B.Sc.). The last two lectures will be accompanied by a special demonstration of electrical apparatus.

In connection with the Conference, a large Advisory Council has been formed of prominent men and women Industrialists, Scientists, and Engineers.

The social side has not been neglected, and a reception and dance are being arranged.

A tremendous response has been received from exhibitors at Wembley to a request made by the Women's Engineering Society that they should give a display of women's work at their stands on July 15th, the opening day of the Exhibition. A programme will be issued in the course of a few days giving a full list of all the displays which will take place. These will include the work which women are doing in the factory, welfare department, drawing and general office, and laboratory. By means of attractive posters, photographs, and even girls working on the stands, it is hoped to create an interest in the work which women are doing in the large field of Industry, Science, and Commerce. Such a display will assuredly be a revelation to the man in the street with regard to the work which women are performing in these large fields of activities.

The British Electrical Development Association has kindly offered to give a lunch to all the women attending the Conference as delegates and speakers. The toast will be given of "Women in Science, Industry, and Commerce," which will be responded to on behalf of women workers by Miss Margaret Bondfield. Greetings will be brought by Miss Ethel Bailey, from America, from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the American Society of Automotive Engineers. Greetings are also expected from Belgium, France, and Holland.

On Friday afternoon, July 17th, an interesting display of electrical apparatus is being arranged by the North Metropolitan Electric Supply Co., and the Jackson Electric Stove Co.

THE WORK of THE DRESS CONSULTANTE.

Miss Fielding, the winner of the £200 Prize in the Colleen Moore Ambition Contest, tells of her Ambition:

Though I have often felt I would like to help those with very little money to spend on dress, I did not realise until recently that the idea might successfully be put into practice.

There are such numbers of busy women who appreciate good dressing, yet who haven't the time to spend hours among the shops "trying on" to see what really does suit them, that I think they would be delighted to give fifteen or twenty minutes of their time and a small fee to the Dress Consultante to be advised. They would be told not only of what would be suitable and attractive, but of the average price they would have to pay, and where to buy the articles.

There are many women who have to make one dress and coat meet various occasions, and it is here where the art of the dress consultante could be of so much value. The consulter would state the type of occasion, or occasions, for which she needed the garments and the maximum price she would pay, and the consultante would weigh these facts together with the "line" and colour the individual ought to adopt, and base her advice on a general common-sense footing.

Another branch of the dress consultante's work would be to go to the homes of clients and be shown their entire outfits: frocks, hats, underwear, shoes, stockings, gloves, etc., and give advice as to alterations, eliminations, and additions to the wardrobe.

My idea is to serve women of all classes, women with large as well as very small incomes. I have so often seen beautiful women wearing the wrong colours, and plain women making themselves plainer, that it makes me long to bring out the points they do possess.

GIRL DELINQUENTS.

In a recent address at the offices of the Six Point Group, London, Miss Lilian Barker, Governor of the Girls' Borstal Institution, Aylesbury, gave some interesting details of her life at Aylesbury, and of the girls under her charge. Very few girls, she said, were nowadays being sent to the Borstal Institution, so few, in fact, that a part of the Institution had now been divided off into a convict prison for women, over which Miss Barker also presided. Most of the girls who were sent to Borstal had been before the courts for three, four, or perhaps six times, and some of them had done short sentences in prison. These girls chiefly came from the provinces. There were very few London girls among them. Miss Barker's method was to inculcate broad principles rather than a number of rules and inhibitions. One of these was the right use of freedom. She would argue with the girls thus: "You are here because you had your freedom and did not know how to use it. I want to give freedom and teach you how to use it. As you learn to behave you get more and more freedom." Miss Barker then described how an ever-increasing freedom was allowed at Borstal right up to the end of the sentence.

Punishments Miss Barker regarded not so much as something given as something taken away. At Borstal there was a schedule of offences with their corresponding punishments. The sins of the individual were looked upon as sins against the community, and punished accordingly. When Miss Barker first went to Aylesbury, she found the girls simply loathed "school." To-day, besides ordinary lessons, they do leather work, crochet, knitting, embroidery, raffia work, and painting. Lady Astor had given a wireless set and a loud speaker, and as recreation the girls had dancing, football, cricket, netball, etc.

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League was held at 144, High Holborn, Saturday, July 4th, those present being Miss Anna Munro (President) in the Chair; Dr. Knight (Hon. Treasurer); Miss Alix M. Clark (Montgomery Boroughs), Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), Mrs. Dexter, Miss Harvey (Glasgow), Miss Haugh, B.Sc. (Minerva Club), Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P., Mrs. Foster Lumb (Thames Valley), Miss C. Neal (Swansea), and the Secretary. Apologies for absence were received from Miss E. Morton, M.B.E., Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), and Mrs. Strickland (Hastings).

Reports were considered and adopted from the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary (Mrs. Whetton), the Secretary, and from the Political, Literature, and VOTE Sales Departments. It was decided to urge our Branches to run open-air campaigns wherever possible during the summer, at which they could sell THE VOTE, and our new pamphlet, written by Miss Muriel Pierotti, "What we have and What we want." Very cordial thanks were offered by the Committee to all who had helped to make Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party a success. Dr. Knight reported that the "Fair" Committee would be meeting again shortly, and Branches were urged to begin at once to get together goods for the stalls at our Green, White, and Gold Fair to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st. Reports were received of work done by our organisers in Glasgow, Brighton, Deal, Bexhill, Hastings, and Ashford; and reports of work from Branch Secretaries in Portsmouth and Thames Valley.

With regard to the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women, to be held at Birmingham, Sept. 19th to Sept. 26th, Miss Anna Munro was asked by the Committee to represent the Women's Freedom League, and consented to do so. This year the subject selected for consideration at that Annual Meeting is "Practical Idealism," and the resolution sent forward by our Committee is "That the National Council of Women demands the actual removal of sex disqualification in all branches of the political, social, and economic (professional and industrial) life of our country as the first step towards practical idealism."

The Secretary reported on meetings she had attended of the National Council of Women's Parliamentary and Legislative Sectional Committee; Dr. Knight and the Secretary on a meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, and on meetings of the Consultative Committee. Mrs. Dexter was appointed to represent the Women's Freedom League at the Annual Meeting of the Consultative Committee on July 7th. Mrs. Dexter also reported on the recent meeting of the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union.

The Women's Freedom League has had a good deal of correspondence with the Heads of the Government, and Members of both Houses of Parliament, and this was considered by the Committee. The Committee decided to give every support in its power to the protest by Dr. Marie Stopes and her husband against the joint assessment of their incomes for the purpose of Income Tax.

The next meetings of the Committee will take place Saturday, October 10th, and Saturday, December 5th.

OUR LENDING LIBRARY

"Women in the Factory." By Dame Adelaide M. Anderson, D.B.E., M.A.
 "What I Remember." By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P., LL.D.
 "Ancilla's Share." An Indictment of Sex Antagonism. Anonymous.
 "The Police Court and Its Work." By Henry Turner Waddy.
 May be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.

OUR LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

What we have, and What we want. By Muriel Pierotti. Price 3d. net.

Every reader of THE VOTE should have a copy of this admirable pamphlet. The first part of it—*What we have*—chronicles the victories women have gained since their partial enfranchisement in 1918. The second part—*What we want*—sets out the chief aims of women's organisations at the present time. Miss Pierotti has carefully weighed the present position of women in the balance, and found it wanting.

Women and Politics. By Charles Kingsley. Price 6d. net. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This is a reprint of an article by Charles Kingsley, published in Macmillan's Magazine, October, 1869. Kingsley's centenary was celebrated recently. Many columns appeared about this distinguished Englishman in the general Press, yet no one seems to have remembered that he regarded the right position of women as necessary to civilisation. "Women and Politics" shows this point of view most clearly. His sane, sound common sense will make a special appeal to readers of THE VOTE. He confesses that the subtle distinctions drawn between the intellect of women and that of men escape him. He declares that "the only important difference, I think, is that men are generally duller and more conceited than women. The dullness is natural enough on the broad ground that the males of all animals are duller than females. The conceit is easily accounted for. The English boy is told from childhood, as the Negro boy is, that men are superior to women. The Negro boy shows his assent to the proposition by beating his mother; the English one, by talking down his sisters. That is all." This, of course, was written in 1869, since which time both the English and the Negro boy have become improved and modernised—their mothers and sisters having seen to that; but readers will find many passages which they will be delighted to quote, and which are strangely applicable to the life of to-day.

CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN,
1925.

July 18th to August 15th.

Miss Alix Clark is again undertaking to organise this valuable and important piece of work by which we reach hundreds of thousands of men and women. She starts on Saturday, July 18th, and will continue for four weeks. Miss Lilian Lenton is again the speaker. Open-air meetings will be held nightly at the Pier Head, Rothesay, and in the afternoons at Largs, Dunoon, Millport, &c.

The work is very strenuous. 1,500 copies of THE VOTE will be sold each week, and about 2,000 pamphlets in the month.

Helpers will be welcomed.

Expenses are heavy—who will send in money to enable Miss Clark to go and do the work? Contributions gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer,

144 High Holborn, W.C.1.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, October 10th, at 10.

National Executive Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st.

Green, White and Gold Fair at Central Hall, Westminster.

Saturday, December 5th, at 10.

National Executive Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

Monday, July 13th, at 3—6.

Middlesbrough Branch. Garden Party at "Agercroft," Linthorpe (by the kindness of Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.). Tickets 6d.

Thursday, July 23rd.

Swansea Branch. Garden Party (by kind invitation of Mrs. Dawson), at "Cwm Garw." Collection in aid of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, July 10th.

British Commonwealth League. Conference, 10 a.m. "Some Legislative Inequalities." Miss Chrystal Macmillan. 1 p.m. Luncheon at the Criterion Restaurant. 2.15. "Economic Equality." Mrs. Oliver Strachey. Chair: Lady Rhondda.

Sunday and Monday, July 12th (2.30) and 13th (8.15).

London Society for Women's Service. Performance of "The Son of Heaven," by Lytton Strachey, at the Scala Theatre, Charlotte Street, W.C.

Monday, July 13th, at 4.30.

British Commonwealth League. Garden Party, at Bedford College, Regent's Park, N.W.

Wednesday, July 15th—17th.

British Empire Exhibition, Wembley. International Conference of Women in Science, Industry, and Commerce.

July 20-27th.

World Federation of Education Associations. Edinburgh.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF
WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

At the last ordinary meeting of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations this session, held on June 25th, much time was devoted to a prolonged discussion on the new proposals to give pensions for widows and orphans. General gratification was expressed that the claims of civilian widows with dependent children had at last been recognised, but many societies felt that a number of Clauses in the Bill ought to be amended.

Very careful consideration has been given by the women's organisations to this complicated question, and the main criticisms of the Bill made during the debate were directed against the following points:—The inadequate allowances for children; the fact that a large proportion of women contributors will never reap the benefit of their contributions since they are unable to remain in employment until the age of 65, or because they marry an uninsured man; the proposed cancellation of a widow's pension for reasons which would not deprive other pensioners of their allowances; and the proposal to pay an allowance to young widows with no dependent children.

With regard to the last provision, many divergent views were expressed. On the one side were members of the Committee who felt that it was unfair to the ordinary woman wage earner to subsidise the young widow who would still be competing in the labour market; and on the other side were members who considered that since it was a contributory scheme, every widow ought to be entitled to a benefit. Evidence was given showing that marriage, even for a short time, was a handicap to a woman who wished to obtain employment after her husband's death, and further, that Service widows with a pension did not in fact undercut other women. It was finally agreed that a certain saving would be effected, and could be used to increase children's allowances, if a duration of marriage qualification of not less than 5 years, or not more than 15 years, were made a condition of receiving the pension. It was believed that this would mean the minimum of hardship and would ensure that those who most required assistance would have it.

Two suggestions were made in order to remedy the injustice to the permanent spinsters; first, that they should be allowed to continue as voluntary contributors for the purposes of Old Age Pension only, and alternatively, that those women who ceased to be insured before the age of 65 should be allowed a reduced rate of benefit.

BRANCH NOTES.

THAMES VALLEY.

Members of the Thames Valley Branch and their friends were delighted with Miss Anna Munro's championship of the modern girl last week when she spoke on "Is the Modern Girl Decadent?" Miss Munro pointed out that all women who had left the beaten track—Mary Wollstonecraft, Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Fry, the blue stocking, the suffragette, and now the modern girl—had been criticised. She insisted that the modern girl had as much right to freedom as generations of women who had preceded her had claimed for themselves. Mrs. Foster Lumb, who presided, expressed her admiration of and confidence in the modern girl; Miss Underwood shared that admiration, but one gentleman seemed to dislike any comparison being made between Florence Nightingale and the modern girl. Members of the audience, however, were clearly on the side of Miss Munro. Copies of THE VOTE and the new pamphlet, "What we have and What we want," were sold, contributions given to Miss Underwood for the Pound Stall, and a collection taken for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS BREWER, 15, Fleece Road, Ditton Hill.

GLASGOW.

The local branch of the Women's Freedom League, meeting in the Central Halls on Wednesday, June 24th, discussed the new Pensions Bill, which it was agreed, if not an ideal measure, was at least a step in the right direction. Miss Jane Thomson opened the discussion with a brief but interesting paper, and the following resolutions were passed:—

1. That we support Lady Astor's amendment, with a deferred pension for the young childless widow. 2. That we ask for a further amendment to make it possible for those insured women who find themselves unable after a time to continue to pay the full contribution to remain insured until the age of 65. This should be brought about by enabling all voluntary contributors to the Insurance Bill to insure for Pensions only, and not for Health purposes as well, or by allowing a reduced rate of benefit to those insured persons whose contributions cease before the age of 65, or by allowing a contributor the option of either of these methods. 3. That we consider that the allowances for children are insufficient, and should be increased to 8s. for the first child, and 6s. for the second, etc., and that the consequent increased expenditure should be borne by the State. 4. That children receiving full-time education should be eligible for pensions up to the age of 16. 5. That existing widows should not cease to receive a pension after the last child reaches the age of 14. The second resolution was ably supported by Miss McLean, of the Women Citizens' Association, who pointed out that advancing years made it increasingly difficult to find employment, and that many women, after contributing faithfully for ten, twenty, or more years, would yet lose both their pensions, and in many cases the greater part of their contributions, because they found themselves unable to keep up their payments for the last few years before the pension became due. She also instanced the cases of those whom domestic duties claimed, some returning to country homes to take care of aged or invalid relatives, some acting as mothers to the orphaned children of a brother or sister. These women were likely to be penalised for their virtue unless the amendment were inserted.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. FISKEN, 2, North View, Westerton.

BEXHILL.

A very successful garden party was held at "Holmwood," Hastings Road (by kind permission of Dr. and Mrs. Bryan) last Monday. Councillor Mrs. Meads presided. Mrs. Miles, of Ashford, gave an interesting address on the subject of the League of Nations. During tea, which was provided by Mrs. Bryan and several members of the League, Mrs. Miles delighted all those present by reciting exquisitely some beautiful poems. A whist drive, held in the garden, proved very attractive. We warmly thank all those who helped us, Mrs. Meads, Mrs. Ringland, Mrs. Skinner, and Mrs. Golding very kindly gave the prizes. Mrs. Turnbull, Mrs. Meads, Miss Skinner, and Mrs. Bryan gave the cakes. Our cordial thanks are due to Mrs. Bryan for again lending her garden.

(Org.) Miss M. L. WHITE, 8, Holmsdale Gardens, Hastings.

SWANSEA.

A Garden Party will be held, by kind invitation of Mrs. Dawson, at "Cwm Garw," on Thursday, July 23rd. All members and friends are cordially invited to attend. There will be a collection in aid of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund, and we hope to have a stall for the sale of cakes, jam, sweets, fruit, etc., any contributions to which will be gratefully received.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss JELLEY, 14, Carlton Terrace, Swansea.

W.F.L. PAMPHLETS.

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 "The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. 3d.
 "Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-af-Hageby 3d.
 "Women and Income Tax," by Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant) ... 3d.
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 "What we have and What we want," by Muriel Pierotti 3d.

FRIDAY.
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