

# THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 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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## WOMEN MAYORS IN 1925.

### SIX WOMEN ELECTED.

Six women Mayors have been elected this year as against eight in 1924. They are Mrs. Coxon, for King's Lynn; Miss Lucy Dales, for Dunstable; Miss M. E. Neville, for Lincoln; Mrs. Phillips, for Honiton; Mrs. F. G. Simpson, for Higham Ferrers; and Miss Mary Short, for Eye, Suffolk. Two out of the six have served as Mayors before, viz., Miss Short, last year, and Mrs. Phillips. The latter, in fact, is now entering upon her fifth term of office, with an interval of a year, in 1924, when Mr. H. R. Harris accepted the office.

We are interested to note that Mrs. Coxon is succeeding her husband, Major Coxon, at King's Lynn, for whom she acted as Mayoress in 1923-24. Miss Lucy Dales has also acted as Mayoress for her father, Alderman Dales, when he was Mayor six years ago. Mrs. Simpson is the wife of the Town Clerk of Higham Ferrers, who had the duty of swearing-in his wife as Mayor. We may expect some amusing situations in this borough in the future, since Mr. Simpson will frequently be required to address his wife as "Your Worship." Mrs. Simpson is a Californian by birth, and during the war was a demonstrator in the Food Production Department, and afterwards was organising secretary of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Land Army. She is also President of the local Women's Unionist Association.

Practically all these ladies have had previous experience as councillors. Miss M. E. Neville is the only woman member of Lincoln City Council, and is Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, which carries with it representation on the Finance Committee. Her work as a councillor also included the Watch, Health and Hospitals, Housing and Town Planning, Mentally Defective, Superannuation, Public Library, and Insurance Committees, as well as membership of the Education, the School Management Sub-Committees and Juvenile Committee. From the beginning she has been Chairman of the Children's Care Committee, and is one of the Council's representatives on the Hospital Board. For a time she was a Home Office visitor to the Lincoln Prison, while women's work was needed there. Miss Lucy Dales was only this week returned at the head of the poll in her ward for the third time in six years. She, too, is the only woman member of the Dunstable Town Council. Miss Dales has also been a girl guide commissioner, school manager, and housing committee vice-chairman. It is amusing to hear that her father, an older man and ex-mayor, was the only councillor to vote against her election, as he feared the additional duties of mayor would be "too much for her strength."

Special issues of "Our Women Mayors."—XV. Alderman Miss Smee, J.P., Mayor of Acton, October 30th, 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 28th, 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 Winter botham, 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.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

## Norway's National Council of Women.

The "Nylaende" reports that the Norwegian Women's National Council recently held their seventh Conference at Drammen. At this meeting the progress made by the woman's cause was amply testified by the large and enthusiastic gathering, reports received, the able manner in which speakers well known throughout Scandinavia dealt with matters affecting women and the welfare of children, and the number of important resolutions that were passed. It is significant that the first telegrams received by the Conference were from King Haakon and the Storting's President Lyche.

## Equal Suffrage in Palestine.

The question of equal suffrage for Jewish women in Palestine will be decided at a referendum to be taken in accordance with the recent decision of the National Jewish Council. The Orthodox members, although boycotting the assembly on account of women's participation, have agreed to the referendum, while not opposing women taking part in it, believing, apparently, that most Jewish women are opposed to equal rights.

## New Zealand's First Woman M.P.

Miss Melville, the first woman to be elected to the New Zealand Parliament, is a barrister, and has for some years been practising in Auckland, where she is also a city councillor. She contested a Parliamentary Election in New Zealand before, but was unsuccessful. Miss Melville spent some months in England last year, and spent a good deal of time studying the work of Englishwomen's organisations.

## A Noted Girls' School.

Glasgow High School for Girls is noted for a number of pupils who have afterwards hewed a path as pioneers. Dr. Janet S. F. Niven's recent success as the first woman to win the Brunton Memorial Prize, the medical blue ribbon of the year, will be remembered. Other pioneers are Miss Muriel Jeffrey, who was the first woman to enter the Faculty of Procurators, and Miss Isobel Clyaie Guthrie, the first woman chartered accountant in Scotland.

## Woman Assistant Judge in the High Courts.

Mrs. Ruth Sörensen Bie has been appointed as an Assistant Judge in the High Courts of Oslo, Bergen, and Trondhjem. This is the first appointment of the kind held by a woman in Norway.

## Women's Progress in Argentine.

The Argentine Senate has approved the Bill granting women, single, married, and widowed, the same civil rights as men. Up to now Argentine women have been unable to transact business and even to own property without the consent of their husband or father.

## An Unprogressive Council.

New South Wales Legislative Council, by 28 votes to 25, recently rejected the second reading of a Government Bill to enable women to sit in the Council.

## Women Motor-Cyclists.

A considerable number of women now earn comfortable incomes as riders for motor-cycle firms.

## NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

We are pleased to learn that Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, at the recent Interparliamentary Conference held at Washington, introduced the subject of the nationality of married women. He suggested that the matter should be referred to the existing juridical committee of the Interparliamentary Union, a proposal which met with no opposition and was adopted. The *New York Herald and Tribune*, which otherwise gave very little space to the Conference, except to the matter of Saklatvala, devoted a third of a column to Mr. Pethick-Lawrence's speech under the title of "M.P. Pleads for Cupid."

## NEWS FROM INDIA.

The following paragraphs are taken from the October issue of *Stri Dharma*, the official organ of the Women's Indian Association:—

## Woman Suffrage for All India.

The Majority Report of the Reforms Inquiry Committee included Resolutions in favour of the removal of the sex disqualification for the franchise throughout India. It also included a recommendation that even women in places which would not ordinarily come in under this rule through a vote of the Legislative Council, namely the women of the Delhi and Ajmere-Merwar constituencies, should become eligible for the suffrage by the passing of a Resolution in the Assembly. The Report also recommended that "the bar against women being elected or nominated as Members of either Chamber of the Indian Legislature or of the Provincial Councils should be removable by the passing of Resolutions in the Chambers and the Councils." Sir Alexander Muddiman has now brought these matters one stage nearer success. He moved a resolution in the Assembly to find out whether the Assembly were in favour of the recommendations of the Report regarding woman suffrage. The vote in its favour then taken was unanimous. Sir A. Muddiman said that before it became effective the rules connected with elections, etc., would have to be altered, and that would take time, but the conferring of the vote on all qualified women in India and the recognition of their right of entry to the Legislatures was assured. This is very good news.

## Spirited Action by Calcutta Women.

Calcutta women held a protest meeting in September against the Management Committee of the Wellesley Square Tank. These gentlemen had decided that the tank was in future to be closed to women bathers. For years women and girls have been allowed to enjoy bathing in it, but some reactionary ideas had got into the heads of the new Board of Management, who now include members of the Calcutta Municipality. These absurd people thought it was not moral or nice for the two sexes to use the same tank. Miss Lloyd, herself a member of the Corporation, presided at the women's meeting. Speeches were made by both women and men, including one from Mrs. Kumudini Basu, Secretary of the Women's Indian Association in Calcutta, who is always vigilant for the interests of women, and from Dr. Moreno, who recently carried through woman suffrage for Bengal. It was pointed out that mixed bathing has been an age-long custom in Indian society, and that neither prudery nor self-consciousness was connected with it. This matter is still under discussion.

## WOMEN COUNCILLORS OUTSIDE LONDON

We are pleased to learn that the following women, besides those mentioned in last week's VOTE, have been returned to Councils outside London:—

**DERBY.**—Miss Violet Markham, J.P.

**GATESHEAD.**—Mrs. A. M. Wicks, J.P.

**GLASGOW.**—Mrs. Mary Babour, Mrs. Kate Beaton.

**GREENOCK.**—Miss Isabella Kerr, Mrs. Jessie Laurie.

**HOVE.**—Mrs. Fothergill.

**SOUTHPORT.**—Miss Needham, Mrs. K. Limmer, Miss C. Hartley.

**STIRLING.**—Miss Elizabeth Colville.

**SWANSEA.**—Mrs. H. D. Williams.

**WALLASEY.**—Nurse McFall.

## 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.

## GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

The Annual Green, White and Gold Fair will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st, in the Basement Hall, at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will be opened each day at 3 p.m.—on Friday, November 20th, by Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.; and on Saturday, November 21st, by Miss Lind-af-Hageby.

The Chair will be taken on Friday by Miss Anna Munro (President, Women's Freedom League), and on Saturday by Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

## STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

The Stalls arranged for the League are:—

- Hampstead Branch.**—Handkerchiefs, Antiques, and White Elephants. Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, Miss Vibert, and Miss Trotter.  
**Montgomery Boroughs Branch.**—Welsh Produce and General Stalls. Miss Alix Clark and Friends.  
**Portsmouth Branch.**—Household Goods. Mrs. Whetton and Members.  
**South-Eastern Branches.**—General Stall. Miss White and Mrs. Dunhill.  
**South-Eastern Penny Stall.**—Miss Margery Dunhill.  
**Overalls and Aprons.**—Miss Underwood, Miss F. A. Underwood, Miss Brewer, Miss Charles, Miss Cole, Miss A. Golding, Mrs. Nicholls, Miss Stone, and Mrs. Turriff.  
**General Stall.**—Mrs. Lloyd.  
**Hygiene Stall.**—Dr. Lewin and Friends.  
**Literature Stall.**—Mrs. and Miss Mustard, Miss Armstrong, Mrs. Harverson, Miss Horniman, and Miss L. Pierotti.  
**Pound Stall.**—Mrs. and the Misses Potter.  
**Shilling Stall (supported by the Minerva Club Branch).**—Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Arney, and Miss Gibson.  
**Scottish Stall.**—Miss Munro, Mrs. Rose, Miss Sidley, and Miss Steven.  
**Sweet Stall.**—Miss Mary Knight and Friends.  
**Toy Stall.**—Mrs. Knight and Friends.  
**"Vote" Stall.**—Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Northcroft, Mrs. Evans, Miss Barton, Mrs. Newsome, and Mrs. M. M. Abbott.  
**White Stall.**—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Lindus.

## PLEASE HELP.

Only a week now remains before the Fair, and there is still much to be done if the Fair, this year, is to be an unprecedented success. Members and friends are asked to do their utmost to make the Fair known, and to bring their friends to the Central Hall on November 20th and 21st.

Please remember all the stalls; they are all in need of help. Gifts should be priced, and sent to the Hon. Fair Secretary, at the Office, before November 19th.

## COMPETITIONS AND GAMES.

The competitions will, as usual, be one of the chief attractions of the Fair, and will include a "Hidden Treasure Hunt," Houp-La, Dart Throwing, and various other novelties. Mrs. Beardsley, Mrs. Preece, and Mrs. Blake have kindly promised to help with this part of the work.

## ENTERTAINMENTS.

An excellent programme of entertainments is being arranged, and will include a Dancing Display on Saturday, November 21st, at 6 p.m., by Miss Grace Woollacott's dainty little pupils. Solo Dancing on Friday, November 20th, at 6 p.m., by little Miss Margery Dunhill, M.A.O.D. (semi-finalist All-England Classical Dancing Competition, 1924).

A Thé Chantant will be held each day from 4 to 6 p.m. The following have kindly promised to assist:—Mrs. Cunningham, Miss C. O'Brien, Miss Mollie Dutchman, Miss Horniman, Mrs. Harvey James, Miss Mary Lyne, Miss Lettice Newman, Mr. Eric Richmond, Miss Potter, Miss M. Prelooker, Miss Margery Potts, Mrs. Morris-Wood, and Mrs. Sparrow. There will be Character Readings by Mrs. Spon, Miss Wall, and Mr. Richard Mowatt, also Preenology by Mr. Sons, and Numerology by Miss Fitzsimmons and Miss Glasgow.

## TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS.

Mrs. Fisher has most kindly undertaken the teas and refreshments, and will be assisted by Miss Reeves, and the staff and members of the Minerva Club. Miss Haugh has undertaken the work of Head Waitress, and will be in charge of the Tea Room.

Teas will be served from 4 to 6 p.m., and refreshments will be served at moderate prices after 7 p.m.

The Bureau for the sale of Tea tickets and Character Reading tickets, etc., will be in charge of Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Pierotti.

## SOCIETIES TAKING STALLS.

**St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.**  
**British Commonwealth League.**  
**The League of the Church Militant.**  
**Catholic Stage Guild.**  
**Council for International Service.**  
**The Food Education Society.**  
**Nine Elms Settlement.**  
**The Montessori Society.**  
**The National Institute for the Blind.**  
**The Mizrah Co., Ltd.**  
**The Rally Rendo.**  
**The Bryn Rhodyan Pottery.**  
**Miss Burwood (Beads).**  
**R. P. Clapperton.**  
**Miss Nettleton (Association Deaf and Dumb).**  
**Miss D. Page (expert Hosiery Knitter).**  
**Mrs. Rogers (South Indian Village Industries).**  
**Miss A. M. Sworder (Needlework and Mending Bureau).**  
**Miss Waldram (Art Pottery).**

Tickets—(including Tax, 1/10 the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on second day, 1/2)—are on sale at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, or can be obtained at the doors.

All communications and gifts, also applications for Stalls, should be sent to Miss Elizabeth Berry, Hon. Fair Sec., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMITTEE.

The Minister of Labour (Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland) has appointed a Committee of Inquiry, consisting of *eleven men and two women*, "to consider, in the light of experience gained in the working of the Unemployment Insurance Scheme, what changes in the scheme, if any, ought to be made." The members of this Committee are Lord Blanesburgh, G.B.E. (Chairman), Miss Margaret Bondfield, Sir James Curtis, K.B.E., Professor Carless Davis, C.B.E., Mr. J. Hamilton, Sir Hugo Hirst, Bt., Mr. Frank Hodges, Mr. A. Holmes, Mr. Laurence Holt, Sir James Lithgow, Bt., Sir William McLintock, K.B.E., C.V.O., Viscountess Milner, and Sir Glynn Hamilton West. The Secretary to this Committee is Mr. J. A. Dale, C.B.E., of the Employment and Insurance Department, Ministry of Labour, to whom all communications should be addressed.

We do not consider that two women to eleven men is an adequate proportion of women to deal with the special difficulties concerning Unemployment Insurance for women workers. The latest unemployment figures are:—Men 970,700; Boys 36,100; Women 172,000; Girls 28,000; making a total of 1,207,700 as compared with 1,228,023 this time last year.

## COMPULSORY VOTING IN AUSTRALIA.

One or two unsuccessful attempts have been made in this country to make voting for Parliamentary candidates compulsory. In Australia the attempt has been successful; and at the Election, which is to be held in the Commonwealth on November 14th, the whole community will not be asked to vote, but ordered to vote. A recent Act of the Federal Parliament makes it compulsory, under a penalty of £2, for all eligible persons to enrol themselves—and that means every adult in the community—and for all persons to vote, under a similar penalty.

## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13th, 1925.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,  
printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

### EDITORIAL.

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

### PARLIAMENT REASSEMBLES.

Next Monday, November 16th, Parliament re-assembles for the remainder of the Session, and this week the Cabinet meets to consider what is to be the programme for the next four, or at most five, weeks before the Session closes. Throughout the Recess, although Ministers have been talking a good deal about many other subjects, nothing has been said by any of them in regard to the Government's proposed Conference on Equal Franchise which is, presumably, to be set up next year. From the first the Women's Freedom League has regarded this proposed Conference not only as unnecessary, but as distinctly mischievous. It is unnecessary because so recently as February, 1924, Mr. Adamson's Bill, the principal object of which was to confer the franchise on women at the same age and on the same terms as men, secured a majority of 216 for its Second Reading. In April, 1923, under the ten-minute Rule, Mr. Isaac Foot moved a Resolution in the House of Commons—"That leave be given to introduce a Bill to extend the suffrage to women on the same terms as men"; and leave was granted without a Division. In 1922, a similar Resolution was moved by Lord Robert Cecil, and leave on that occasion was granted by 208 votes to 60. In 1920, Mr. Grundy's Equal Franchise Bill passed its Second Reading by 122 votes to 38. In 1919, the Women's Emancipation Bill, conferring equal franchise to women and men, passed its Second Reading without a Division, and its Third Reading by 100 votes to 85. We think, therefore, that there has been enough talking on the subject of equal franchise. In our view, the Conference proposed by the Government is deliberately intended to obscure the issue of equal franchise by the discussion of other questions connected with the anomalies of our present franchise laws. That is why we consider that this Conference is a distinctly mischievous proposal. We therefore see no reason to alter our original demand, and we again call upon this Government to introduce and carry into law, without delay, a simple franchise measure conferring the vote on women at the same age and on the same terms as men. This (Friday) evening our autumn campaign on behalf of Equal Franchise begins with a meeting at the Minerva Club; another public meeting on this subject will be held before the close of the year, and Sunday morning meetings are being arranged in Hyde Park, at which the justice of our Cause will be insisted upon. Wherever we have a Branch, in England, Scotland, or Wales, meetings will be held to demand the equal enfranchisement of women and men, and we rely upon all our friends, both inside and outside of the Women's Freedom League, to support all such efforts to the best of their ability. Women must make sure that at the next General Election they will have the opportunity to vote on equal terms with men. During the present Session we must let the Government know exactly what we want, and during next Session we must leave no stone unturned in making sure that we get it.

### PENALISING MOTHERHOOD.

According to *Equal Rights*, the official organ of the National Woman's Party, Washington, the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore City, on October 15th last, passed a new rule, to become effective the following day. The rule reads:—

"As soon as a married woman teacher becomes aware of her pregnancy she shall immediately apply for a leave of absence, without pay, which leave of absence shall continue for a period of at least two years beyond the date of the birth of the child. Failure to do so shall be considered neglect of duty, and shall be dealt with accordingly. In the case of the death of the child, the period of leave of absence may be shortened on the discretion of the Board of School Commissioners."

Until June, 1924, this Board of School Commissioners penalised marriage for women school teachers by instant dismissal. This was corrected by Act of the Legislature, and since that time, *Equal Rights* assures us, "celibacy has not been regarded by the School Board, at least officially, as essential in the profession of teaching." Now that is altered. The School Commissioners make no reservation in the case of the woman's husband being unwilling, or unable through illness, incapacity or death to support her and the child; they simply state that a woman shall apply for leave of absence, without pay, in other words, she shall be dismissed, from the first recognition of her pregnancy until at least two years after the birth of her child. Could male impertinence and interference with the private life of professional women go further? If a woman or a man employed by a local governing body is unable, through illness or any other cause, to do her or his work efficiently, it is the duty of the governing body, in the interest of ratepayers, to dismiss that employee, but it is not in the interest of anyone that a local governing authority should make arbitrary rules concerning the marriage or the family of its employees. The private life of men and women citizens is not the business of the people for whom they work; and certainly not a matter of jurisdiction for local governing bodies, whose chief concern should be to secure the best value in the matter of efficiency from those who work under them, and who are paid by the money collected from the general public, and held in trust by the local governing authority.

The *Daily Telegraph* reports that King Alfonso of Spain recently told a representative of a Montevideo newspaper that after peace with Morocco had been declared, single women of 23 years of age, and widows who were heads of families, would be eligible for the vote. Asked why a distinction was made between married and single women, the King replied that it had been decided to give the vote to women who by their labour had become an integral part of the economic system of the country; that is to say, those women who by contributing to the country's production and paying taxes played their part in its politics. Asked whether he did not consider maternity of equal value to the nation, the King replied: "Precisely, for this reason we desire women disposed to motherhood to devote themselves to husband and family, which is a much higher privilege and a much greater responsibility for a woman than registering her vote." Evidently the King is persuaded, like our anti-suffragists of pre-war days, that woman's highest good lies in self-renunciation—whatever that might mean, and like many other members of his sex at home and abroad seems to delight in "fancy" franchises for women. The justice of the political equality of the sexes eludes them. If wifehood and motherhood were paid professions, the King of Spain might consider that married women and mothers were as much an "integral part of the economic system of the country" as single women.

## AGAINST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

The National Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty, a recent amalgamation of some half-dozen organisations, to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated, held its first public meeting as an amalgamated body last week in the Essex Hall, London. Mr. Harold J. Morland (Hon. Treasurer of C.O.P.E.C.), who presided, read letters of regret for unavoidable absence from Lord Buckmaster (President of the Council), Sir Robert Newman, Mr. Fenner Brockway, Dr. Temple, Dr. Norwood (of the City Temple), Dr. Orchard (of King's Weighhouse), Miss Maude Royden, Canon Donaldson, etc., and pointed out that an agitation for the abolition of the death penalty had been going on in this country for 40 years. The reform was long overdue in our penal administration.

Sir Henry Slessor, K.C., M.P., put the following brief resolution to the audience, which was later carried with acclamation:—"This meeting believes that capital punishment should be abolished."

Sir Henry then explained that the meeting that night was the inauguration of a campaign to abolish capital punishment, which he was sure would be ultimately successful. Many weighty arguments were advanced against the abolition of the death penalty, but these came chiefly from minds of a conservative type. In the past an appalling amount of life had been sacrificed, lawfully and unlawfully, on scaffolds, and at executions, sufficient to make us ashamed of the human race. The number of cases to which capital punishment had been attached as a penalty had lessened with the progress of time, and the present campaign sought to achieve the end of this iniquitous system.

Fear of an increase in the number of murders if the death penalty became abolished was most frequently in the minds of the ordinary man and woman. But these objectors should bear in mind that murderers were of three types:—(1) The most frequent type of murderer was the sexual murderer, this crime arising out of jealousy, or some other perversion of the emotions, or sexual aberration; (2) The cold-blooded type, such as the poisoner; and (3) Persons who committed murder for pleasure. None of these three types were likely to be influenced by the thought of the consequences of their crime. The chance of execution following crime was becoming more and more slender. Agitation by the Press, and petitions, were now frequently successful, especially in districts where the residents were interested in the question. To-day, punishment by death was more or less an accident, and extraordinarily uncertain. The power of life and death possessed by the Home Secretary was too monarchical, and not fair to him as a human being. The whole question was in a state of complete chaos,

and there was always a sporting chance that the murderer would escape. If executions were still held in public, the Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty would long ago have carried its point. The present method of carrying out executions behind closed doors clogged the progress of this particular reform; although in other directions every magistrate was rejoicing in the fact that crime was decreasing, and punishment becoming less severe.

Opposition, continued Sir Henry, was inevitable in this matter, but it would not come from the mass of the people. In the past, whole towns had been stirred to obtain the reprieve of persons who were without any real merit. These activities were really an unorganised protest against executions. The effect of reading about executions in the Press was nothing short of abominable. Certain of the less reputable newspapers were still sufficiently bestial to endeavour to make capital out of the horrors of other people, and their disgusting descriptions of sensational trials, chiefly issued on Sundays, entered the homes of more than half the population, and were more often than not read by innocent children. He (Sir Henry) hoped that meeting would be the forerunner of many others. A Bill for the Abolition of the Death Penalty would shortly be introduced in the House of Commons, and its success depended upon the amount of public opinion which could be stirred up in its favour. If society was doing an injustice, every member of the public had an individual responsibility in the matter.

The Rev. Thos. Nightingale, who seconded the resolution, enumerated some of the countries which had either abolished capital punishment, or had agreed to ignore it, mentioning more particularly Holland, Austria, Roumania, Greece, Norway, and Sweden, and asked pertinently whether taking life was less a murder when done by the State than by the murderer. He dwelt particularly on (1) the sacredness of life; (2) that no man was past redemption, whatever his crime; (3) that capital punishment was a relic of the days of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth; and (4) that society needed to be governed less by expediency than by principle. The question was not whether it was best for society, but whether it was right in principle. If a referendum could be taken in this country, he was convinced there would be a majority to abolish capital punishment.

Miss Margery Fry, J.P. (Hon. Secretary of the Howard League), who supported the resolution, said the question of security would be the chief ground upon which the battle for abolition would be fought. The council was not a group of sentimentalists who were urging a fanatical reform. It had no vested interests, either in murderers or against hangmen.

## EXPORT OF HORSES.

The Departmental Committee on the Export of Horses to the Continent, appointed by the Board of Agriculture on March 5th, 1925, has just issued its Report (price 1s., from H.M. Stationery Office, S.W.1.).

Major J. W. Hills was chairman. One woman, the Lady Emmott, J.P., sat among nine men. It met 16 times, and took evidence from over 40 men and women, including 14 veterinary surgeons of the Department, one of the Port of London, one of the Belgian Government at Antwerp, and one representing the Horse Slaughterers' Association, 12 British and one Belgian representatives of societies protecting animals, 5 horse dealers, railway and boat officials, farmers, horse-breeding societies, etc.

In 1914, the present Act was passed—No horse may be exported without an official veterinary certificate that it can be "carried and disembarked without cruelty, and is capable of being worked without suffering," the veterinary inspector having power to

order the immediate slaughter of those found "permanently incapable of work without suffering, or in a physical condition of suffering." The Act came into force in 1919, as during the war the trade ceased.

Horses are shipped from London, Tilbury, Folkestone, Harwich, Hull, Poole, Leith, and Southampton. Official veterinary inspectors are at these ports. Horses are taken to Belgium, France (Boulogne), and Holland (the Hook, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam).

At the present time only Holland can afford to import live horses for food. France and Belgium import horse carcasses, and horses for continued work.

Particulars are given of what the Committee found to be the conditions in boats and in British and Continental ports. All these conditions were found to be almost invariably excellent, and in many cases our own conditions compare very unfavourably with them, so that one is left with the impression that, while not relaxing vigilance and the fight for stopping the misery of the animals exported, even when no "cruelty" is involved,

we should secure an immediate levelling up of our British conditions, under which the less fortunate horses who remain, live and die at home.

Members of the Committee paid visits to the ports of embarkation, and Rotterdam, Antwerp, Ghent, and Paris, inspected the abattoirs, and travelled on the horses' boats.

Various recommendations are made:—That compulsory slaughter of rejected horses at British ports should be more common—suitable places should be provided; conditions on all ships carrying horses should be brought up to standard; it should be an offence to carry horses in rough weather; and the Ministry should try to foster the trade in horse carcasses rather than live horses for food.

The last suggestion seems to indicate the real solution of this difficult and horrible question.

Needless to say the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and similar bodies do not accept the conclusions of the Committee, and much of the evidence of representatives of the societies is characterised by the Committee as vague and unreliable—the rather familiar language in a Departmental Report.

#### BOOK REVIEWS.

*Constance Grande.* By Julian Grande. (Chapman & Hall.) 15s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

The late Constance Grande is fortunate in having for her biographer a devoted husband who is himself a journalist. The story the book contains is a fascinating but rather a breathless one, for the heroine seems to have been richly dowered with vitality. She burned the candle at both ends, and the result was a short life but a singularly full one.

Mrs. Grande was a New Zealand woman, who, after graduation in the University of New Zealand, became a professional shorthand writer. Then she came to England, and was the late W. T. Stead's confidential secretary for eleven years, till her marriage in 1911 to the well-known foreign correspondent, Mr. Julian Grande. Both being on the foreign staff of a number of papers, their wedding tour took the form of a prolonged absence from England, which was followed by their permanent residence in Switzerland; for Mr. and Mrs. Grande, knowing more than a little about continental matters, felt that soon, and probably very soon, a European war would break out.

During the war, Constance Grande rose to the full height of her great powers. Pro-ally from the first, and well furnished in the matter of knowing foreign languages, she worked prodigiously hard. Some of her most valuable work was done in seeking to counter German propaganda. So seriously was this work regarded by the enemy that the Germans tried to bribe the Grandes' hotel-keeper to kidnap them across the frontier, where Miss Cavell's fate, or at least imprisonment, would have been their portion. It must be confessed that Britain and her Allies owed much to the labours of this devoted woman, living in the centre of Europe at an extremely critical time in the nation's history. Mr. Grande's record of his wife's life is made attractive by reason of her gracious, dignified, and able personality. It is good to read about her; it must have been a stimulus to know her.

G. J. H. N.

*The Equipment of the Social Worker.* By Elizabeth Macadam, M.A. (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd.) 6s. net. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

The author of this book is the Honorary Secretary of the Joint University Council for Social Studies, and has had a long experience of settlement work both in Liverpool and London. She is therefore well qualified for her task, which is "to describe the development of social study inside and outside the universities, as a method of preparing men and women for the coming profession of social administration in all its forms, public and private." In addition, she has endeavoured "to indicate future lines of development and the

increased equipment that will be necessary if departments of social study are to rise to the level of the great opportunities opening before them."

As a university woman, Miss Macadam is naturally enthusiastic about the necessity of scientific training for social work, and she puts the case for the university as the centre of social study very ably. Certainly, the student who has taken a two or three years' course in social history, economics, political economy, philosophy, psychology, social ethics, and other subjects, combined with practical work, should be a great improvement upon the old type of untrained "district visitor"!

The prospect of "social administration" becoming one of the learned professions may seem a little alarming to those who are likely to be administered, and the author herself recognises this objection. But it will probably be necessary for many years to come that properly trained people should administer the complicated system of ambulance work required to succour the wounded in life's battle, and prepare the young to take their place in the fight. Some day, perhaps, these endless committees will be unnecessary; in the meantime, those who feel called to the work of social administration will find much valuable information and not a little inspiration in Miss Macadam's pages.

W. M. S.

*Marget Pow.* By Catherine Ponton Slater. (Robert Grant & Son, Edinburgh.)

This is the humorous autobiography of an old Scottish nurse and housekeeper, to whom "The Family" was the only society worth knowing, and round which her little world revolves. Although written in the Scottish dialect, it is quite easily understood, as the speech is that spoken to-day, not that of a bygone generation, when the Scottish accent and vernacular presented a real problem to those born and bred south of the Cheviots. Where Marget does indulge in some rare gems of the old speech, the context makes the meaning quite clear. Marget's description of her travels with her "young ladies" through France, Switzerland and Italy, sent in letters to the cook at home, are highly diverting, especially if the reader has been over the same ground. Her descriptions are so shrewd and so human as to completely captivate the reader, and her French and place-names are a sheer joy. She spells the language as she hears it, quite phonetically, and if it were at all possible to miss the meaning, Marget herself gives the key by putting the phrases into what she calls "plain English." Out of a long series of diverting incidents it is difficult to make a selection, but Marget at the telephone is something to remember. It would make a very funny recitation, and her annals of the war as affecting the people at home have that sure touch of romance and simple humour which but half conceals the tears. The frontispiece, a water-colour sketch of "Marget Pow," by Henry W. Kerr, R.S.A., is worthy of a place in any modest collection.

"L."

#### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE DIARIES.

The Women's Freedom League Diaries for 1926, in green, white and gold, are now on sale, price 2/7, post free 2/2. These Diaries contain a short account of the aims and objects of the League, and make attractive presents. Please send your orders as soon as possible to the Literature Department.

#### THE VOTE STALL.

The "Vote" Stall this year will again represent a Chemist's Shop with Toilet Accessories and Fancy Goods. This Stall provides an opportunity yearly to all "Vote" readers to show their appreciation of our valuable little paper. This year we want to make the "Vote" Stall a greater success than ever before, and so we appeal to ALL our readers to send a gift, either in goods or money. These should be addressed to THE VOTE Secretary, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

President—Miss ANNA MUNRO.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### WHERE TO GO.

#### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.



#### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, November 13th, at 8.15 p.m.

Minerva Club Branch. Public Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, to demand Equal Franchise.

Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st. Green, White and Gold Fair at Central Hall, Westminster. Openers, November 20th, 3 p.m., Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D., November 21st, 3 p.m., Miss Lind-a-Hageby.

Monday, November 23rd, at 4 p.m.

Political Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Saturday, December 5th, at 10 a.m.

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

#### PROVINCES.

Tuesday, November 17th, at 2.30 p.m.

Wallasey Branch. Public Lecture in Town Hall (No. 2 Committee Rooms), by Councillor N. Larsen. Subject: "Citizenship." Chair: Mrs. Francis Williams, B.A.

Thursday, November 19th, at 7.30 p.m.

Portsmouth Branch. Social Evening at the Goblin Market, Palmerston Road. Lecture on R. L. Stevenson, by Mrs. Hart. Musical illustrations, Miss Isie Jocelyn. Refreshments 1/-.

Thursday, November 26th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Members' Meeting at the Hempsted Street Hall.

#### SCOTLAND.

Thursday, November 26th.

Edinburgh Branch. Public Meeting in the Gartshore Hall, 115, George Street (See Branch Note).

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, November 13th, at 5 p.m.

London Society for Women's Service, Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, S.W. Speaker: Mr. E. J. Lidbetter (Senior Relieving Officer). Subject: "Hereditry, Pauperism, and Mental Deficiency."

Saturday, November 14th, at 3 p.m.

Saturday Speech Club, at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. Debate on "The Influence of Greece (Miss Solomon), of Rome (Mrs. Morris Wood), of the British Empire (Miss Wyatt)."

Monday, November 16th, at 5.45 p.m.

Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Speaker: Miss M. Geikie-Cobb, on "The Law relating to Children and Young Persons." Chair: Mrs. Crofts, M.A., LL.B.

Tuesday, November 17th, at 4.15 p.m.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Reception at the Lyceum Club, 138, Piccadilly, W.1., to meet Her Grace The Duchess of Atholl, D.B.E., LL.D., M.P., and Miss K. D. Courtney (Chairman of the Women's International League). Tickets 2/6 from the Secretary, 15, Dean's Yard, S.W.1.

Wednesday, November 18th, at 4 p.m.

Royal Institute of Public Health, 37, Russell Square, W.C.1. Speaker: C. W. Saleeby, M.D., F.R.S. Edin. Subject: "The Role of Clothing in the Prevention and Arrest of Disease."

November 23rd—25th.

League of Nations Union, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W. Conference on Social Insurance, at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C.2.

Thursday, November 26th, at 6 p.m.

Child-Study Society (London), 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. Speaker: Brig.-General R. J. Kentish. Subject: "Playing-Fields for Children."

Thursday, November 26th, at 8 p.m.

The Drama Study Circle. Public Lecture at Keat's House, Keat's Grove, Hampstead. Speaker: Miss Emma Goldman. Subject: "Tougueniev and Tolstoy."

Monday, November 30th, at 4.15 p.m. (Business Session 2.30.)

Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations. Annual Meeting at Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, Westminster. Speaker: The Duchess of Atholl, M.P. Chair: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc. Admission free. Tea 9d.

Wednesday, December 2nd, at 4 p.m.

Royal Institute of Public Health, 37, Russell Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss A. Helen A. Boyle, M.D. Lond. Subject: "The Attainment of Nervous and Mental Health." Chair: The Lady Emmott, J.P.

Wednesday, December 2nd, at 8 p.m.

St Albans Debating Society, Public Library, St. Albans. Debate: "Is Motherhood the first Duty of Woman?" Affirm.: Dr. Beatrice Galsworthy. Neg.: Miss Anna Munro (President, Women's Freedom League).

Friday, December 4th, at 8 p.m.

Henry George Club, 11, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W. Speaker: Miss Sadie Bourne, J.P. Subject: "Social Conditions and Political Work in the Potteries."

### BRANCH NOTES.

#### HAMPSTEAD.

The League's questions, with the addition of a special one relating to "An Income Limit for Future Tenants of the Flats at South End Close," was sent to all the 50 candidates in the four wards where there were contests at the Borough election. Fourteen candidates were in favour of all questions, and four others of all but one. Seven of the other candidates agreed to several of the questions, but could not pledge themselves to all. Others wrote that, although they were in sympathy with most of the questions, they did not feel able to give promises upon subjects which are often governed by the circumstances of the case under which they arise. One candidate wrote, "May I say that the paper is a very excellent one, and deals with many of the pressing problems of to-day, which could be removed by a borough council sufficiently determined in its actions." Members and friends are reminded that this is the last week before the Fair. Will all those who have some gifts to send for the Stall kindly send them before November 17th? Members and friends will be pleased to hear that our member Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, J.P., will be the speaker at the Branch social gathering, to be held (by kind invitation of Mrs. Harverson) at the Isis Club, on January 24th, at 8 p.m. All friends will be most welcome.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

#### EDINBURGH.

On Thursday, November 26th, a Public Meeting will be held in the Gartshore Hall, 116, George Street. We are very pleased to be able to announce that Lady Dobbie will preside; Bailie Mrs. Ella Millar, Miss Edith Tancred (British Delegate to the International Council of Women), and Miss I. McLelland (Hon. Treasurer, Glasgow Branch Women's Freedom League) will speak, and Mr. Cairns has very kindly promised to bring members of his famous children's choir to entertain. Admission is free, but tickets for reserved seats, price 1s., may be obtained from Miss Spriggs, Hon. Secretary, 22, Dick Place, Edinburgh. (Org.) LILIAN LENTON.

#### GLASGOW.

A Social gathering will take place in the Central Halls, Bath Street, Glasgow, on Thursday, November 12th, at 8 p.m. There will be speaking, entertainment, and refreshments. On December 10th, a Public Meeting will be held in Glasgow, probably in the McLellan Galleries, at which Miss Eunice Murray has very kindly promised to speak. Other details concerning this event will appear later.

(Org.) LILIAN LENTON.

#### PORTSMOUTH.

To raise funds for the Branch it is proposed to hold a Jumble Sale early in the new Year. Members are urged to send anything saleable to 89, Festing Grove, or 25, Shaftesbury Road, Southsea. Parcels will be sent for if the Secretary is notified.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

#### WALLASEY.

We have started our winter campaign, and we invite all our friends, men and women, to come to the Town Hall (No. 2 Committee Room), Tuesday, November 17th, at 2.30 p.m., when Councillor N. Larsen will give an address on "Citizenship." The Chair will be taken by Mrs. Francis Williams, B.A., We had only one woman candidate at the recent municipal elections, and she (Nurse McFall) was returned unopposed.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. ANDAN, 22, Cromer Drive.

#### HASTINGS.

We had a splendid meeting at the Grand Hotel on Monday, November 9th. Mrs. Darent Harrison, who presided, spoke about the coming Franchise Bill before calling on the speaker to address the audience on the subject of the League of Nations. Mrs. Miles gave an eloquent speech, and impressed her hearers with her knowledge of the intimate side of the League of Nations. At the close of the meeting an appeal was made for members. Literature was sold and a good collection made.

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

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## NOTICES.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, November 15th. 3.30 p.m. Music. Lecture. Prof. Frederick Soddy, F.R.S. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden, "The Authority of Christ."

## TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

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