

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN of the WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
NON-PARTY.

VOL. XXVII. No. 863.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1926

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

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

IT is good news that we have another Woman Member of the House of Commons, bringing the number up to five, three Conservative and two Labour Party Women; and we very warmly congratulate Miss Susan Lawrence on her victory at East Ham last week. Five women, however, out of a total number of 615 representatives is a very small proportion; and now is the time for women in all three political parties and in all women's non-party organisations to press for the selection of women candidates for the next General Election. We are glad to learn that more than a score of women have already been endorsed by their parties as prospective parliamentary candidates, and that these women are steadily working in their constituencies. It is this steady, continuous work which counts for so much at the time of an election. A woman who comes into any constituency unknown to the electors and having little knowledge of the special needs of the locality, or even of its geography, just three or four weeks before the Election has a well-nigh hopeless task before her. How can she win votes for herself or for her cause in so short a time? It is steady, continuous effort for months and months beforehand which is the winning factor as Miss Lawrence herself has proved so recently. We therefore appeal to those of our members who live in or near any constituency in which there is a prospective woman parliamentary candidate at once to offer her all the help she can possibly give. We learn that Miss Picton-Turbervill will run a special campaign in the Wrekin Division in July, so if any of our readers contemplate spending their holidays in that district, their assistance would be most welcome.

Equal franchise for Women and Men, and More Women in Parliament are the two chief slogans of the Women's Freedom League. Our own organisation is genuinely a non-party organisation, which means that we gladly give all the help we can to women of any party or of no party, provided that those women are prepared to work inside and outside Parliament for the equality of the sexes. It means also that in our own organisation we have women who belong to party organisations, and we would urge them to use all the influence that they have in those parties to see that suitable women as well as men come before the Selection Committees, and to press the claims of suitable women as party candidates. There is no prejudice at all against women as Parliamentary candidates, indeed they sometimes win popularity where men fail to do so. Women candidates can now, although this was not always possible at earlier elections, be relied upon to poll the full party strength. In addition, if they are suitable women, they can rely upon the support of the members of local women's organisations, and, what is much more

important, they have every chance of winning the great mass of unattached women voters—women who are not overwhelmed by any party tradition but who like to listen to the views of a sensible woman on those political matters in which they are specially interested. And, be it noted, even the woman of the most early Victorian type has now lost her last illusion about men's superior capacity to manage the world's affairs. With all men's experience and all their resources they seem to have made a fairly big muddle of things, and the most unprogressive of women are bound to admit that women themselves could not possibly have done worse than the present generation of men. The scene is changed therefore for women Parliamentary candidates, and all they have now to do is to go in and win! A Government in this country in which women predominate may not be so far off as many had hitherto supposed!

OURSELVES.

We do not apologise for the smallness of our paper or for the lateness of its delivery. It is the best that we have been able to do under all the circumstances. In spite of the General Strike our workers have reached The Women's Freedom League Offices and are carrying on the work to the best of their ability. The Resolutions passed at our Annual Conference on April 24th have been sent to the Prime Minister, the Heads of Government Departments specially concerned, the Heads of the various political parties, and to the women Members of the House of Commons, and acknowledgments have been received in the majority of cases. We are looking forward to the issue of the next Honours List. Will any of the higher honours be bestowed on women? We should be glad if our members would, within the next week, send us names of women whom they think worthy to appear in the Honours List next month. Arrangements for the Peace Pilgrimage Demonstration in London, on June 19th, and the Equal Political Rights Procession through London and the Demonstration in Hyde Park on July 3rd are being proceeded with. Our First-President, Mrs. Despard, has promised to be with us Wednesday evening, June 30th, when we look forward to having a great reunion of members and friends at Caxton Hall, Westminster, to celebrate her birthday. Mrs. Despard will also lead the Women's Freedom League Contingent in the great Equal Political Rights Procession on July 3rd, and speak from our platform in Hyde Park. We rely upon all members of our League and all readers of THE VOTE, wherever they may be, to do their utmost to be in London on June 30th and July 3rd, and to take their share in these efforts for the full political freedom of women.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Enforcement of Maintenance Orders (Canada).

MR. HARRISON (U., Bodmin) asked the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs whether he will make representations to the Government of the Dominion of Canada with a view to effect being given to the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act, 1920? MR. AMERY: The question of the passage of reciprocal legislation in Canada to enable effect to be given to this Act has been the subject of recent correspondence with the Canadian Government. The matter is one which in Canada falls within the jurisdiction of the several provinces, and the latter are, it is understood, not at present prepared to take steps for the passage of the necessary legislation. In the circumstances, I doubt whether it would be of advantage at present to take the action suggested by my hon. Friend, but I can assure him that the question of bringing the matter again to the notice of the Dominion Government at some future date will not be overlooked. MR. HARRISON: Will the right hon. Gentleman say whether there will be any chance to bring this matter before the Imperial Conference in the autumn? MR. AMERY: It is one of the points that could very well be brought to the notice of the Imperial Conference.

Marriage (Legal Age).

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Lab., Leicester, W.) asked the Home Secretary whether he proposes to introduce legislation to raise the legal age of marriage? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: This is a very difficult question. It is still under consideration, and I am not as yet in a position to make a statement. MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE: Can the right hon. Gentleman give us any idea as to when this question may be put down again? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I am very anxious to be able to make some statement to the House on the subject, but the more I have dived into the marriage laws of the country, the more difficult the subject appears to me. I am not at all sure that it will not turn out that the legal age for marriage is two.

Cookery Instruction.

SIR H. BRITAIN (U., Acton) asked the President of the Board of Education what opportunities are afforded to the children in elementary and secondary schools to acquire a practical knowledge of cookery; and what percentage of those passing through the schools acquire this knowledge? LORD E. PERCY: It is generally recognised that, wherever possible, practical instruction in domestic subjects, including cookery, should be given to the older girls in elementary schools, and the latest complete returns show that 480,954 girls, out of 991,402 aged 11 and over on the registers, received such instruction. I regret that I have no corresponding figures as to pupils in secondary schools, but the Regulations provide that the curriculum for girls must include provision for practical instruction in domestic subjects. SIR H. BRITAIN: Is there any reason why a boy who shows aptitude should not learn something of this useful occupation? LORD E. PERCY: There is no reason, but, generally speaking, the practical instruction given to boys naturally takes another form.

Juvenile Delinquency Committee.

MR. CECIL WILSON (Lab., Attercliffe) asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Departmental Committee on Juvenile Delinquency first met; how many meetings have been held; and when it is anticipated that the Report will be received? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The first meeting of the Committee was held on the 20th January, 1925, and the Committee have met on 49 occasions. The field of inquiry is a large one, but I understand that the Committee is likely to present its Report in the autumn.

Unemployed Women and Girls (Interviews).

COL. DAY asked the Minister of Labour if he will cause instructions to be given that will result in applicants to Employment Exchanges for female workers being obliged to produce evidence of their *bona fides* before young women are allowed to be interviewed by prospective employers at hotels or private rooms? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: The existing instructions to Employment Exchanges already provide that the greatest care must be observed in dealing with vacancies for girls or young women. I do not think it would serve any useful purpose to issue a further instruction.

Factory Bill.

MR. ROBINSON (Lab., Elland) asked the Home Secretary on what date it is proposed to introduce the Factory Bill; and whether, in view of the great interest aroused among the industrial and clerical workers, he will submit the Bill to the House at the earliest possible date? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: As I stated in reply to a similar question last week, I am not at present in a position to fix the date for the introduction of this Bill. All I can promise is that it will be introduced during the present Session.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women in the Pulpit.

Miss Ainsworth, hon. secretary of the Tyneside District of the League of Nations Union, is the first woman to obtain permission to preach in Newcastle Cathedral. She will do so this month at a special service preliminary to the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage fixed for May and June. Miss Laura Ainsworth was prominent in the militant agitation before the War. She served three long terms of imprisonment for her suffrage principles and was the first of the suffragette prisoners to be forcibly fed. Miss Butterside (Sister Nellie), of Dacre, near Harrogate, has been invited to the pastorate of Parkgate Church, Rotherham.

Woman Sexton Appointed.

Mrs. Dunning has been appointed sexton of Holdenhurst (Hants) Church, in succession to her father, who held the post for 30 years. Her office embraces that of verger and parish clerk, and part of her duties will be to dig graves, and to give the responses at the graveside and inside the church.

Women Pageant Players.

Fifteen hundred women of eighty Oxfordshire villages will take part in a pageant of Plantagenet days to be called St. Frideswide's Fair. It will take place in Worcester College gardens on July 1st. All the village schools of the county are to be given a holiday on that date.

First Woman Guardian.

Miss Sarah Ward Heberden, of Broadhurst Gardens, Hampstead, who was the first woman to be elected to a Board of Guardians, died at 88 years of age. She was the widow of Colonel Henry Heberden, of the Royal Artillery. She was for many years a member of the St. Pancras Board of Guardians, and was on the committee of the School for the Blind at Swiss Cottage.

Jewish Woman President.

The death is reported of Miss Rose Brenner, who has been President of the National Council of Jewish Women since 1920. Under her presidency the membership of the Council grew from thirty thousand to fifty-two thousand, and branches were established in Europe and in Australia. Miss Brenner was widely respected, and her death, particularly at the early age of 42, is deeply regretted.

EQUAL FRANCHISE.

(Contributed.)

A large and enthusiastic meeting to demand equal franchise, convened by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, was held at Caxton Hall on April 29th, Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford presiding. His Lordship, the Bishop of Pella, in proposing the resolution "calling upon the Government to introduce and pass without delay, a Bill giving votes to women at the age of 21 and on the same terms as to men," spoke of the injustice of the present law which disfranchised some 5 million women, many of them over 30. He paid an eloquent tribute to the courage, generosity and charity of the mothers of families and working women—each year he found himself more and more amazed at their goodness. He praised not only the mothers who did their job so well, handicapped in so many cases by poor health, small means and bad housing conditions, but also the young girls in industry. His Lordship said there was ample evidence already that women thought for themselves at election time and did not necessarily always vote as did their husbands. He hoped more women would be allowed to take their share of responsibility in the affairs of the nation, saying the things that needed saying, and getting the things done that badly wanted doing.

Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., said her chief feeling was one of annoyance that busy people should have to waste time on a question which had already been well-thrashed out, and which certainly ought to have the attention of the Government. The law at present disfranchises not only women at a certain age, that would not be so serious, but practically the whole class of wage-earning women, that is those who have furnished rooms, or who live in lodgings.

There is a fear, Miss Wilkinson went on, that if all women were given the vote, the reins of government would pass into the hands of women, but obviously such fears were groundless. It had been proved that women do not vote or think as a class, any more than do men. Miss Wilkinson also dealt, as did following speakers, with the point raised that the age for voting should be raised to 25, instead of 21, and said that this view found favour very largely, she thought, among the present Conservative Party.

Excellent speeches in support of the resolution were made by Dame Millicent Fawcett; and by Miss Barclay Carter and Miss Monica O'Connor of the "Under Thirty" section of the Alliance, as being representative of those whom the present law affects, and the debt of gratitude that the younger women owe those who have done so much in the past was acknowledged.

The resolution, which was supported by 30 organisations, was carried unanimously. Letters in support of the meeting were received from His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham, Lord Morris, several Catholic M.P.'s, Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, Wilfrid Meynell, Father Philip Fletcher, Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., Father Guardian Franciscan Monastery, Reekham, etc.

WOMEN NOW ELIGIBLE FOR INDIAN LEGISLATURES.

From *The Times* we learn that important rules regarding the election of women to Legislatures have recently been issued. Hitherto, women have been ineligible for election or nomination to any Legislature save in Burma. The new rules provide that in all Legislatures, including the Council of State, a resolution may be moved, after one month's notice, permitting the election or nomination of any woman as a member. If the resolution is adopted, the Government concerned will make regulations giving effect to the decision. In connection with the emancipation of Indian women, it may be noted that Miss Cornelia Sorabji, the first Indian woman barrister, recently conducted her first case in an Indian Court.

Women's Freedom League

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

Telegrams:—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."
Colours:—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.
President—Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE
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.

Monday, May 10th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch, Members' Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

May 30th—June 6th.

Tenth I.W.S.A. Congress at the Sorbonne, Paris.

Saturday, June 19th.

Peacemakers' Pilgrimage, Great Demonstration in Hyde Park.

June 22nd, 23rd, and 24th.

British Commonwealth League Conference.



DARE TO
BE FREE

Saturday, June 26th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting.

Wednesday, June 30th, at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall.

Saturday, July 3rd.

Great Combined Equal Political Rights Procession and Hyde Park Demonstration.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, June 16th, 3.6 p.m.

Middlesbrough Branch. Garden Party at Agecroft, Linthorpe.

SCOTLAND

Tuesday, May 25th, at 7.45 p.m.

Edinburgh Branch. Public Meeting on "Women in the Ministry," in the Y.M.C.A. Hall.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, May 8th, at 10 a.m.

Animals' Welfare Week. Public Meeting at the Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand. Speaker: Miss Evelyn Sharp. Subject: "Animal Welfare in the School Curriculum."

Monday, May 10th, at 8.15 p.m.

Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: T. Hynes, Esq., LL.B., Barrister-at-Law. Subject: "Sumptuary Laws in Ancient and Modern Times."

Tuesday and Wednesday, May 11th and 12th.

Women's National Liberal Federation, Annual Meeting at Kingsway Hall. Public Meeting at Kingsway Hall on Tuesday, May 11th, at 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday, May 12th and 13th.

Labour Party, Women's Annual Conference at Huddersfield.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS KIRKLAND

We heartily congratulate Miss Margaret Kirkland (one of our oldest Swansea members) on her recent election as First Lady President of the Swansea Boot Trade's Association. She is, in fact, the first Lady President of any Boot Trade Association throughout the country. Miss Kirkland is the active member of the firm of Wm. Kirkland, Ltd., and is recognised in the trade as one of its shrewdest members. She is a regular visitor at the Annual Shoe and Leather Fair in London, and at all the Conferences and Meetings connected with the trade, where she has occasionally been the only woman present. She is also a member of the Retailers' Style Committee, and was recently elected as the only woman on the Committee of the newly formed Swansea Chamber of Trade. Miss Kirkland is keenly interested in women's questions, and serves on the local Rota Committee for Unemployed Women. All the family, including Miss Kirkland's father, are keen Feminists.

HEADQUARTERS JUMBLE SALE.

A successful Jumble Sale was held at the Women's Freedom League, Nine Elms Settlement, last Friday, for the Funds of the League. Our best thanks are given to Miss Cole for her kindness, hospitality and help; we also thank Mrs. Andain, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Miller and Miss Nicholas for help—and all the kind donors of goods for the sale, including Mrs. Bell, Miss Berry, Miss Bland, Miss Charles, Miss Clark, Mrs. Elias, Miss Alice Farmer, the Hon. Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. Harverson, Miss Hunt, Miss Lenton, Dr. Lewin, Miss Lyndon, Miss Nicholas, Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Reeves, Miss Sparkman, Miss Steven, Miss Underwood, Miss F. A. Underwood, Miss Vibert.

LOST.—At Caxton Hall, Saturday, April 24th, Fountain Pen with white star at end of it. Will finder communicate with Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1?

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

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

Name

Address

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

CLUBS.	REST AND HOLIDAYS.	NOTICES.
<p>I SIS CLUB, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue (2 minutes Hampstead Tube Station). Magnificent Reception Rooms. Central heating. Sunny bedrooms. Sandy soil. Lectures, dancing, listening-in. Telephone: Hampstead 2869.</p>	<p>B RINGTON.—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.</p>	<p>I NCOME 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.</p>
<p>P IONEER CLUB, 12, Cavendish Place, Oxford Circus, W.1. Bedrooms. Debates. Concerts. Town membership, £5 5s.; Professional and Country, £4 4s.</p>	<p>C ORNWALL.—Paying Guests received in modern farmhouse. £2 2s. week. Clotted cream 3/- lb., post free.—SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.</p>	<p>F ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, May 9th. 3.30 Music. Lecture. Mr. Compton Mackenzie. 6.30. Miss Margaret McMillan.</p>
<p>M INERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room, Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY, Telephone: Museum 4791.</p>	<p>C ORNWALL.—Near Perranporth and Newquay. Board residence, Lady's Country Cottage. Modern Improvements. Evening Dinner to allow for touring Luncheon Baskets.—"K.S.," THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.</p>	<p>P UBLIC SPEAKING AND CHAIRMANSHIP. Classes, Private Lessons and Lectures, also Saturday Speech Club. Miss LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.</p>
<p>TO LET.</p>	<p>R YE, SUSSEX.—OLD HOPE ANCHOR. Ideal Guest House. Modern comforts; good cooking. Separate Vegetarian cooking a speciality. Write for booklet.</p>	<p>BOARD RESIDENCE.</p>
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<p>O FFICE OR STUDIO. Well-lighted room in High Holborn—Apply "M. E. G.," THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.</p>	<p>P YRENEES TOURING CLUB (Registered). Parties personally conducted by lady, £25 inclusive. 1,000 kilometres motoring, hotel, 1st class boat, 2nd rail. From May 15th, every third week.—French, Spanish excursions.—Apply by letter, SECRETARY, 14, Park Lane, London, N. 16.</p>	<p>HOTEL;</p> <p>M ONTAGUE HOTEL, Montague Street, Russell Square, London, W.C. First-Class accommodation; room, breakfast and attendance from 7s. 6d. En pension from 3 guineas.—Phone: Museum 4660. (Highly Recommended.)</p>
<p>W ELL-FURNISHED FLAT for August. Large sitting-room, two, three or four bedrooms, kitchen, gas cooker, electric light. One min. from sea, park, tram.—133, Park Road, Bexhill-on-Sea. Also at above—Unfurnished Flat four rooms, kitchen, charming position.—Terms on application.</p>	<p>MISCELLANEOUS.</p>	<p>MEDICAL.</p> <p>P ARK LODGE NURSING HOME, Bath Road, Reading. For Medical, Nerve, Chronic and Rest Cure Patients. Terms moderate. Phone: Reading 1948.</p>
	<p>D ANCE PIANIST and Accompanist requests engagements for Pianoforte Lessons or Accompanist.—Apply Mrs. SILVESTER SPARROW, 43, Black Lion Lane, W. 6.</p>	<p>TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.</p> <p>64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Est. 1879.</p>

Membership Application Form.

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

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

Name

Address

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

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.