

THE VOTE.
JUNE 4, 1926.

SHOULD WOMEN PREACH?

By FRED. V. EATON.

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 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.

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WORKLESS BOYS AND GIRLS.

MISS AGNES HUSBAND, J.P.

BURGESS OF THE CITY OF DUNDEE.

For Communal Service only!

On account neither of wealth, nor position, nor influence, but simply for years of unselfish and ungrudging service to the community, was the Freedom of the City of Dundee awarded to one of our first members, Miss Agnes Husband, on the 22nd of April last. She didn't want it, setting no store by honours and ceremonies; but it was the first time such a thing had happened to a woman, and she didn't think she ought to refuse. One stipulation only she made—the investiture should involve no wasteful expenditure of public funds; and there was none. A simple ceremony, and Miss Husband found herself a Burgess of the City of Dundee. It is a great honour; I suppose the highest the city could afford her. (Incidentally, I asked what material tangible benefits her new dignity brought in its train. Did "the freedom of the city" mean that one was free to do there as one would, without fear of arrest? Did it mean freedom from taxation? But all Miss Husband could tell me—and even on that point there was doubt—was that she believed that, if destitute, she could claim Poor Law relief without the formality of applying to the Guardians!!)

Over 70 years of age, and not yet quite recovered from a serious illness, Miss Husband looked very delicate and frail to have achieved so much. I said so, and was told that alone she could not have done it, but always she had had the devoted and unceasing support of her sister. I had come to interview one Miss Husband, but it ought to have been two, for it had taken them both to make one public woman. (Miss Husband's phrase!)

She was the first woman Justice of the Peace

Dundee had ever known. For 25 years she has been a member of the Dundee Education Authority, and for 20 years she sat on the Parish Council; she was one of the original members of the Women's Freedom League, and for years before the war was a valued member of our National Executive Committee, and worked hard in Dundee on behalf of our League. Miss Husband believes that, of all things, life is the

most precious, and may not wantonly be destroyed. She would guard it zealously. So, logically, she eats no meat and wears no furs. She would abolish capital punishment, and looks upon war as the most terrible of all evils. Indeed, her popularity waned somewhat during the war because of the strength of her pacifist principles.

She professes great faith in the oneness of life. Crime against the one is crime against all. The whole is harmed if a part be hurt. According to Miss Husband, the outstanding evils of the present day are due to neglect of this principle. Since the commencement of the industrial era, the life of the community, she says, has developed on wrong lines. Each for each, instead of each for all and all for each.

Questions of public health and morality have always received this active lady's helpful consideration. She has long sat on the National Council of Women as the representative of the National Hygiene Committee, and has worked strenuously in connection with this body to prevent the spread of venereal disease. Her position in connection with the Welfare Centres gives her much insight into questions affecting the health of the people. She is the Commissioner's nominee on the National Health Insurance Committee.

However, it would be superfluous to enumerate all



MISS AGNES HUSBAND, J.P.

the councils, committees, and societies to which she belongs; more space than can be spared would be needed. Suffice it to say, that any and every movement in Dundee which she believed to be for the betterment of the human race has had her active support. As already indicated, she is an ardent feminist and a strong pacifist. Her political views are undoubtedly Labour; but, she says, her fellow-Labourites are always accusing her of putting her pacifist and feminist before her socialist principles. Some years ago, the local I.L.P. offered to nominate her as their Parliamentary candidate, but she refused, feeling that she could do more good by working quietly where she was, even than by winning a seat in the House of Commons.

As a Theosophist, she believes that it is not necessary to wander afar seeking fields of service, but that the greatest sphere of usefulness is found by those who go steadfastly on from day to day, helping whenever they see help needed, always watching that no opportunity be missed. Not one good deed a day, but good deeds all the time.

Amongst these may Miss Husband be numbered. For forty years, regardless of self, she has worked for the common good. Some reward, or at least some grateful acknowledgment, has come to her now. *She herself* is respected and beloved of all, even if some oppose her views. Such opponents were angry with her during the war; but now, she says, they have decided to accept her for the work she has done, regardless of her pacifism, feminism, socialism, vegetarianism, and any other kind of "ism" in which she may believe. The people of Dundee are very glad that the Freedom of the City has been awarded to her. For those forty years she worked too hard; they culminated in a serious breakdown, and now she is told that she must accept the supposed limitations of her years, and curtail her activities. If, therefore, in future, she retires from public life to some extent, and spends her time peacefully working in the little garden of which she and her sisters are so justly proud, it will be a well-earned rest.

But will she? Looking into those fine dark eyes, burning with that inward fire only to be seen in the eyes of those whose strength is of the spirit, not of the body, one wonders.

LILLIAN LENTON.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Another Woman M.P.?

Miss Monica Whately, daughter of Major R. P. Whately, and an active member of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, has been adopted as prospective Parliamentary candidate by the Hythe (Kent) Labour Party. Our best wishes for the success of Miss Whately at the next election! The division is now represented by Sir Philip Sassoon, Under-Secretary for Air.

Oxford Degrees Conferred on Women.

This week, Miss Emily Penrose, whose Headship of Somerville is coming to an end, is receiving the D.C.L. degree; and Dame Ethel Smyth, the foremost British woman composer of the day, is being given the degree of Doctor of Music.

"Sophia Jex-Blake Chair."

The University Chair of Physiology tenable at the London School of Medicine for Women, now held by Professor Winifred Cullis, will henceforth be known as the "Sophia Jex-Blake Chair of Physiology in the University of London."

Perse High School.

Miss M. H. Cattley, M.A., Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, has been appointed Headmistress of the Perse High School, Cambridge, in succession to Miss Kennett, who is retiring at the end of the present term.

Prizes for Woman Solicitor.

At the Annual Meeting of the Chester and North Wales Incorporated Law Society, held recently at Chester, the "John Allington Hughes" and "Sir Horatio Lloyd" prizes for 1925 were presented to Miss Cicely Plumbe Smith, who served her articles with Mr. Cecil P. Smith, of Chester, and gained third class honours at the final examination of the Law Society, held in November, 1925. Miss C. P. Smith was also one of the guests at the annual dinner of this Society.

Manchester Girls Honour Public-spirited Women.

The Gorton Girls' Elementary School in Manchester recently decided to name one of its "houses" after Fru Betzy Kjelsberg, President of the National Council of Women of Norway, and convener of the International Council of Women's Standing Committee on Suffrage, calling it "The Betzy Kjelsberg House." The present Headmistress introduced the "House System" of government into the school. Three other "houses" are named after women who have rendered special service to the League of Nations—Dame Rachel Crowley, Madame Curie, and Fröken Karen Jeppe.

Women as House Planners.

Complaints having been made that the ground floors of Chertsey Rural Council houses were badly planned for family use, it has been decided that two competent housewives, selected by district visitors, are to be consulted in future concerning the plans.

Ban on Women Pilots Removed.

Women air pilots may now carry passengers for profit, and qualify for the licence which for the last year had been forbidden to them. After the Paris meeting of the International Air Navigation Commission, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker made this announcement to Mrs. Elliott-Lynn. When in America recently, it was pointed out to him that an American woman, Marjorie Stinson, taught eighty-three Canadian men how to fly during the war. He and Sir Samuel Hoare considered the case put forward on behalf of the women, and, with the support of France, Sweden, and Czechoslovakia, the ban on women pilots was lifted.

Woman Health Visitors.

Holborn Council have appointed Miss Muriel Stockwell, of Birmingham, Sanitary and Health Visitor. Barking is to appoint a woman Health Visitor at £150 a year.

Woman Barrister in £19,520,000 Case.

Miss Shirley Moore, the first woman graduate of the Yale University Law School, will shortly direct what is probably the largest legal action that a woman has ever been called upon to handle. She is counsel for a company which is bringing a suit against other companies involving £19,520,000.

Passports issued in Maiden Names.

Among the thirty-five delegates of the National Women's Party of America to the Paris Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance are several married women who are travelling with passports issued in their maiden names. Thus, Miss Doris Steven appears on the passenger list of the boat, and not as Mrs. Dudley Field Malone, her married name. Similarly, Miss Elsie Hill is travelling under her own name with her small daughter.

Women Members of Bucharest Town Council.

The *Bulletin* reports that Princess Cantacucène, one of the International Council of Women's Vice-Presidents, and Madame Zoë Romniciano, a member of the National Council of Women of Roumania, have been elected members of the Town Council of Bucharest. They are the first women in Eastern Europe to be elected as Town Councillors.

IN PARLIAMENT.

We take the following from the Parliamentary Debates of May 6th and May 11th, only just issued by the Stationery Office:—

Education (Size of Classes).

MR. H. WILLIAMS (U., Reading) asked the President of the Board of Education the reduction in the number of classes with over 50 children in the public elementary schools in England and Wales on 31st March, 1926, as compared with 30th September, 1924? LORD EUSTACE PERCY: The returns relate to the period ending 31st March, in last year, and the latest available for comparison are for the 31st March, 1924, and the 31st March, 1925. On the latter date there were 21,318 classes with more than 50 children on the registers, as compared with 24,972 on the 31st March, 1924, a reduction of 3,654. MR. T. WILLIAMS (Lab., Don Valley): Are we to understand that that is the direct result of the policy of the Minister of Education? LORD E. PERCY: The hon. Member can form his own conclusions on that point. MR. PALING (Lab., Doncaster): Is that procedure likely to continue during the next year? LORD E. PERCY: Yes, certainly.

Council Houses (Women Rent Collectors).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Minister of Health the names of local authorities, in addition to the Amersham Rural District Council, who employ women for the collection of rents and the management of Council houses; and whether he will encourage other Councils to appoint women for this work? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information as to what local authorities, other than the Amersham Rural District Council, employ women for the collection of rents and management of its houses. The advantages of the Octavia Hill system of management were especially brought to the notice of local authorities in a manual issued by the Ministry some time ago, and I will consider the advisability of repeating this suggestion on the next suitable occasion.

Non-Parlour Houses, Birmingham.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked the Minister of Health the exact floor area of the 122 non-parlour houses now being erected for the Birmingham City Council; what is the maximum rent at which these houses with a floor area of less than 600 square feet are to be let; and in what districts are smaller houses than these being built by local authorities? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: The superficial area of the houses to which I assume my noble Friend refers is 572 square feet. I understand that the Birmingham Corporation propose to let them at a rental, inclusive of rates, of 8s. 11½d. a week. As regards the last part of the question, I would remind my noble Friend that under the Act of 1923 I have no power to pay subsidy in respect of two-storey houses having a superficial area of less than 570 feet, and, so far as I am aware, no such houses have been erected.

Milk (Metropolitan Area).

MISS LAWRENCE (Lab., East Ham, N.) asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he will state the area to which the London Milk Order applies, and whether retailers are forbidden to sell milk at less than 8d. a quart? SIR BURTON CHADWICK (Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Trade): The area is the Metropolitan Police area of London. In reply to the second part of the question, the Government have issued no Order regarding the price of milk. All milk in the Metropolitan area has been required to be placed at the disposal of the London Milk Pool Committee, and the Government have issued a statement that the cost involved by the arrangements for the maintenance of supply justifies an increase in the price of 2d. a quart in London. F. A. U.

MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY FUND.

Dear Fellow-Members and VOTE Readers,

On Wednesday evening, June 30th, 7 p.m., at Caxton Hall, Westminster, Mrs. Despard is looking forward with the greatest pleasure to being with us again for the 15th year in succession to keep her birthday among her friends and fellow-members of the Women's Freedom League.

We must all make a very special effort to come and bring to our beloved First-President our congratulations and affection with appreciation of all that she is and gratitude for all that she has done for the Women's Freedom League, both by many years of untiring devotion and by the splendid inspiration of her ideals.

The Birthday Party includes the presentation of the Birthday Fund, which, as you know, is our birthday gift to Mrs. Despard, and is returned by her to the Treasurer of our League; on this we rely to pay our way until the November "Fair."

Just now our funds are completely exhausted, but our expenses must continue. We decided last year to concentrate on organisation of new branches and the strengthening of others, and have undertaken increased expenditure in travelling, salaries, etc., but I am sure you will agree on the wisdom of this course and its value in focussing the public opinion upon which our equality depends. The Government is only waiting to see and hear how strong is the demand of women for the equal vote, before deciding whether we shall have the equality that rests on justice or some small instalment of this overdue reform or be altogether disregarded.

On July 3rd we again have the joy of marching in immense numbers through the streets of London to Hyde Park with Mrs. Despard at the head of the Women's Freedom League detachment. Please come and do all you can to make our own detachment worthy of our League in this great combined Suffragé Demonstration, which we hope will crown our efforts.

We now have a great opportunity; our work is only limited by our funds, and you will, I know, share in it by sending as generous a donation to this year's Birthday Fund as is at all possible. Success is just within our reach if we are strong enough to grasp it; but our strength depends on the money sent in now, large and small amounts all help.

Relying on each one of our members and readers who so keenly value the work of our League, and hoping to meet you at the Birthday Party at Caxton Hall, with hearty thanks for your past help and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,
E. KNIGHT,
144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Hon. Treasurer.

WIDOWS AND THEIR VOTES.

The *Rochdale Observer* reports that the local Liberal Agent has been in correspondence with the Deputy Registration Officer for the Royton Division in regard to allowing women who became widows between one register and another to remain on the lists instead of having to requalify owing to the deaths of their husbands. The Deputy Registration Officer has now written to say that arrangements have been made for the retention on the lists of women who become widows between one register and another, and that Assistant Overseers have been asked to act accordingly.

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THE VOTE.

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WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS IN PARIS.

Over five hundred women delegates from more than forty different countries met last week for a ten-days' Conference in the great hall of the Sorbonne, which has been kindly lent them by the Rector of the University to hold the tenth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. The Dowager Duchesse d'Uzès welcomed the delegates, who have their President, Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, at their head, and Mrs. Chapmon Catt, as honorary President. The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair conveyed greetings to them from the International Council of Women. A special welcome was extended to the women from Turkey, Cuba, Porto Rico, Peru, and Portugal. The right of women to take their places with men in the work of the world on a basis of absolute equality, without restriction or special protection because of their sex, has been very keenly fought out. Members of the British delegation strongly supported this stand for women's independence, their view being that all regulations which aim at the true protection of the workers must be based not on sex, but on the nature of the occupation, and that any international system of differential legislation based on sex, in spite of any temporary advantage, must develop into an intolerable tyranny, and result in the segregation of women workers and impose fresh handicaps on their capacity as wage-earners. They agreed that no special regulations should be imposed on women different from the regulations for men, contrary to the wishes of the women concerned, and that all future Labour regulations should tend to equality for men and women. It was declared at the Congress that all the laws relative to women as mothers should be framed so as not to handicap them in their economic position; and that no obstacle must be placed in the way of married women who desire to enter and to continue paid work. By a large majority the Congress upheld the necessity for an equal moral standard for men and women. As we go to press the discussion on the nationality of married women has not taken place; but the Congress will make a bold effort to have the law changed in those countries in which a woman who marries an alien automatically becomes an alien; and the claim will be made for women to have the same right as men to change or retain their nationality. The Congress will also urge that women shall have the same opportunity as men to become members of the diplomatic service, and that in future there shall be women ambassadors and women consuls. Complete independence for women, and an absolute equality of rights as between men and women, are the demands of this Congress. Throughout the week the deliberations at the Paris Congress have made it abundantly clear that women's organisations are now more necessary than ever if women are to take their rightful place in the counsels of the nations. If women had not been organised nationally on non-party lines, this International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress could not have taken place. Because women's societies in every country have been working for many years for the improvement of women's position, and for equal opportunities, rights, and responsibilities for the sexes, their delegates have been able to deal with the special problems confronting women in the light of their own experience at this international Congress, to give invaluable help and encouragement to one another, and to emphasise the feminist point of view in the world of affairs in which men's counsels are still very largely the controlling factor.

ITALIAN WOMEN AND THE VOTE.

The National Council of Italian Women, affiliated to the International Council of Women, at its Annual General Meeting, held recently in Florence, expressed disappointment that comparatively few women had exercised the vote in Italy. It was stated that only about 100,000 women out of a million women qualified to claim the administrative vote had placed their names on the electoral lists of their respective communes. It must, of course, be remembered that even in other countries far fewer men and women exercise the administrative vote for local governing bodies than for Parliamentary contests; and in Italy there is no pretence that men and women have the administrative vote on equal terms. Before any woman can claim this vote she must have completed her twenty-fifth year, and must have passed an examination in the minimum elementary course of instruction. This second qualification, however, is not compulsory for any woman coming within the following categories:—(1) Mothers or widows of soldiers fallen in the war; (2) Women who, as widows or from special circumstances, are in the position of heads of households and legal guardians of their children; (3) Women who have been decorated for war service or civic merit; (4) Women who pay an annual minimum of one hundred lire in taxes and who can read and write. There are over twelve million women in Italy, but under the above arrangement only about one million women can claim this communal vote. No doubt if the vote were wider and all classes of women eligible as voters the percentage of voters would be very much higher, especially as women would be able to make their influence felt in questions of hygiene, public instruction, the regulation of food supplies and prices, the management of charitable institutions, etc. But when women voters are looked upon as a class apart from the rest of the community, and can only have a voice in the local administration of laws, and not in the making of the laws of their country, they can hardly be expected to show great enthusiasm in the exercise of their vote. We are convinced that if all women had the Parliamentary vote in this country from the age of twenty-one and on a short residential qualification instead of as at present at the ripe age of thirty, and with many technical difficulties to overcome after that age before they can claim a vote, the percentage of our women voters would be considerably higher than it is at present.

TRADE UNIONS AND WOMEN'S VOTES.

It is diverting to note Mr. Macquisten's newly acquired interest in Votes for Women. Last Tuesday he asked the Prime Minister another question on this subject—whether the Government propose to introduce any legislation directed to restoring to the ordinary members of trade unions of employers or employed better control of their organisations, and providing in such legislation that not only the male members of such organisations shall have a vote on all questions of the cessation or resumption of work, but also that the wives of all members of any union, in respect that they are more deeply affected by industrial strife than are their husbands, shall also be entitled to vote on such issues, and that the vote of the male members shall not be counted unless their wives also vote? The Prime Minister was rather uncertain about the matter, and wondered if the result desired might not be better effected by direct action. Commander Kenworthy was rather disturbed about this new attitude of the Head of the Government, and inquired if it was his intention or opinion that men who have not got wives should not have votes at these elections, or that women in trade unions are not to vote unless they have got husbands? We wonder he did not also ask if it would not be better in all cases to pay wages direct to the spouses of wage-earners. We cannot imagine trade unionists' wives getting up an agitation for this kind of industrial vote, but we wish these gentlemen would seriously press forward the Parliamentary vote for women on equal terms with men.

CHILDREN UNDER THE POOR LAW.

The National Council of Women has published an extremely interesting pamphlet, by Miss Fulford, Chairman of the Children's Committee, Fulham Board of Guardians, and Vice-Chairman of the West London School for Poor Law children, on Children under the Poor Law and the Proposals for Reform in Relation to Them, which can be obtained from this office at 3d. each. Miss Fulford briefly traces Poor Law legislation in regard to children from the Poor Law Act, 1601, up to the present time, and summarises present-day methods of providing for children who come under the Poor Law. She gives a classified statement of the numbers of children being assisted by the Guardians, January 1st, 1925, and a review of the duties of the Guardians to the children. In this section she says: "Many Boards of Guardians employ women relieving officers and women relief visitors, and, in view of the immense number of children assisted in their own homes, it is very desirable that they should be generally employed. Their visiting and supervision and the reports that they can give to the Guardians greatly assist the work and are desirable from every point of view."

We are particularly glad that Miss Fulford considers the proposals for Poor Law Reform in relation to the children. It will be remembered that under these proposals the administration of home assistance, *i.e.*, outdoor relief, will be decentralised, whereas the education and care of Poor Law children in institutions will be a function of the County Councils. Miss Fulford says, "It is unlikely that the same persons will administer outdoor relief or home assistance as will assume the control of the children in institutions. This means the loss of all continuous knowledge of the children and their families, the background is then necessarily unknown to those who will deal with their education, and if these persons also deal with their placing out and after-care the absence of this knowledge will be a loss to them in starting in life."

The writer asks, "Who are to be the administrators?" The Memorandum in regard to the proposals says, "It is recognised that in some cases the membership of the Council may require to be increased (by co-option or otherwise) to cope with the duties transferred to them," but Miss Fulford, quite rightly, points out the disadvantages of co-option. She quotes the latest returns of women elected to serve on County Councils, as follows:—London County Council, 20, and four Aldermen, making the total 24. In the provinces the number of women elected in 1925 to serve on 45 Councils was 91. This does not include Aldermen, of whom there are several. The total number of women County Councillors in England and Wales is 111 (excluding the Aldermen). Seventeen out of a total of 62 County Councils have still no women members. On the other hand, large numbers of women have given valuable services for many years on Boards of Guardians throughout the country, and are still giving them. The 1924 returns show that 2,330 women are serving on Boards of Guardians. Miss Fulford asks if these figures are not significant and pointing to the fact that the Poor Law work appeals more strongly to women than any other form of local government work? We whole-heartedly agree with her when she says, "I regard it as of vital importance that in the proposals for Poor Law reform the valuable work which women are doing on Boards of Guardians should be safeguarded, and that any new legislation should be such as to secure the number and status of the women who take part in its administration is likely to increase rather than diminish."

We warmly recommend this pamphlet to our readers. It is very necessary that women should realise just what is going to happen to these children under the proposals for reform in relation to them, and if they see ways and means of amending the proposals, to take action in the matter.

SHOULD WOMEN BE ALLOWED TO PREACH?

By FRED. V. EATON.

The question, "Should women be allowed to preach?" has been negatively ever since the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy, "I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" (1 Tim. ii. 12). On this authority, women have been precluded from teaching or preaching from the earliest ages of Christianity, and only one or two of the existing Christian organisations have dared to deviate from the command laid down by the Apostle Paul. Although I always considered this rather an unfair arrangement for womanhood, I must confess I was quite satisfied to leave it at that until recently, when I made up my mind to investigate the matter, independently and thoroughly and without prejudice, in the light of the Scriptures.

I would ask you to accompany me to that eventful meeting in an upper room at Jerusalem at Whitsun in the year 30 A.D., the proceedings of which are recorded in Acts i., from verse 13 onwards. From verse 14 we gather that among the assembled there was a number of women, and, going on to chapter ii., we find in the 4th verse that they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, causing them to speak in foreign languages, and, above all, enabling them to expound to the crowd, which had congregated in consequence of the consternation caused, the exact meaning of the prophecies relating to Christ. There can be no doubt that the women present at that meeting also commenced preaching and teaching. Eventually Peter stood up and, addressing the crowd, told them that there was no cause for assuming that the people who were suddenly speaking in foreign tongues were intoxi-

cated. He then reminded them of the predictions made by the Prophet Joel (Joel ii. 28), saying, "It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy" (Acts ii. 17-18).

Now for some reason or another we have been in the habit of attributing to the word "to prophesy" the meaning of "to predict," whereas to prophesy means simply "to make known or to explain"; in other words, to preach and teach. The prophets of old prophesied; that is to say, they made known the Word of God, which, by the way, contained certain predictions regarding the future. That prophesying means "explaining the Scriptures" is proved by the Apostle Paul himself in his first letter to the Corinthians, where he states, in 1 Corinthians xiv., verses 3 and 4, "He that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification," and in verses 5 and 31 he expresses the wish that all should acquire the ability to prophesy.

Returning to the prediction by the Prophet Joel, it is clear that at the close of this age our sons and daughters shall prophesy, making plain the Word of God. Here we have it—they shall preach.

Under these circumstances, I ask: Can we debar women any longer from taking a place in the pulpit? Have we not been quenching the Spirit (1 Thess. v. 19) by withholding them?

WORKLESS BOYS AND GIRLS.

Numerous Commissions and Departmental Committees have been appointed by the present Government. Among them are the Food Commission, the Royal Commission on Lunacy, the Coal Commission, the Committees on Sexual Offences Against Young Persons, and the Committee dealing with Juvenile Offenders. All these Commissions and Committees have issued lengthy Reports, which have been referred to in Parliament and reviewed widely in the Press. So far, however, no legislation has been passed to enforce their various recommendations, so that the ordinary citizen is apt to ask, What is the good of these official inquiries? During the last week the Ministry of Labour has issued a Report on an Inquiry into the Personal Circumstances and Industrial History of 3,331 Boys and 2,701 Girls Registered for Employment at Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux, and copies of this Report are to be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2, price 1s. 9d. net.

At the beginning of July, 1925, 33,311 boys and 27,010 girls were registered as unemployed at the Exchanges of the Ministry of Labour and Juvenile Employment Bureaux of Local Education Authorities, and an inquiry was made by each Exchange and Bureau into the personal circumstances and industrial history of ten per cent. (3,331 boys and 2,701 girls) on the registers of the office, the alphabetical method of selection being adopted to ensure that the sample taken should be as reliable as possible. Each interview took place in a private room, and girls were interviewed by women officers. Of the boys and girls interviewed, about 28 per cent. were under 16, and 72 per cent. over 16. The girls were, on the average, younger than the boys. The unemployed boys were registered for a variety of occupations—engineering, colliery workers, shipbuilding, transport, errand boys, building industry. The unemployed girls were registered for domestic service, various branches of the textile industry, shop assistants, clothing trades and undefined factory workers. These boys and girls were not of inferior physique or poor health, 69.9 per cent. being of "good" physique and 84.2 per cent. in "good" health. Only 5.5 per cent. were "poor" physique and 1.9 per cent. in "poor" health. The physique and health of the older boys and girls was markedly superior to that of the younger. 13 per cent. of the boys and 8.5 per cent. of the girls were suffering from physical defects, but cases of "poor eyesight" made up half the number. The appearance of only 5.9 per cent. of the boys and 2.2 per cent. of the girls was described as "slovenly." Indeed, the majority of boys and girls registered were of a type which, at a pinch, could be made "smart."

Results do not show that there is a definite tendency on the part of boys and girls to leave their first situations from sheer love of change at the earliest possible moment; the tendency to "change jobs" is not as marked as might have been expected. It is stated in this Report that there is no indication of a large class of boys and girls, verging on the unemployable, who have deteriorated markedly in consequence of long-continued unemployment; but the most significant fact disclosed is the unsatisfactory character of much of the employment which the boys and girls were seeking, and the apparently high proportion of situations which, though providing possibly some security of tenure, offered few or no prospects of training for a definite occupation.

This Report is well worth the perusal of all those who are interested in the industrial life conditions and prospects of the young people of to-day who will form the mass of working men and working women of the future.

TEMPERANCE WOMEN'S JUBILEE.

Fifty years ago, last April, a small group of women met in a drawing-room in Newcastle-on-Tyne to discuss a letter from America signed by "Mother" Stewart, the leader of the famous Women's Crusade against the American Saloons. The outcome of their discussions was the formation of the British Women's Temperance Association, which is celebrating its Jubilee this year. The inaugural meeting of the Association held in Newcastle, on April 21st, 1876, was only a small one of 150 women, but they belonged to that generation of women pioneers who will always be remembered for the work they did for educational and social reform. Among them were Rosalind, Countess of Carlisle, Lady Henry Somerset, and Mrs. Bright Lucas, the sister of John Bright, who all became Presidents of the Association. The British Women's Temperance Association has most fittingly decided to celebrate its Jubilee in its birthplace by holding its Fiftieth Annual Meeting in Newcastle-on-Tyne, and there hundreds of delegates will assemble for special meetings and services. The gathering, which will be the largest held by the Association since its formation, will illustrate the tremendous strides which a movement led with enthusiasm and keenness can make in fifty years. In the first year of its existence the British Women's Temperance Association had only six branches—Newcastle, Kelveon, Tynemouth, Jarrow, Leicester and Dundee—and a membership of a few hundred. To-day the Association has nearly eighteen hundred branches and a membership of 170,000 women.

An interesting link with the past, which the Association has always treasured as one of its most priceless possessions, is an ivory hammer presented to the first President, Mrs. Margaret Parker, with the name of the Association engraved on it. This will be used at Newcastle again by the President of to-day, Miss Agnes Slack. At the coming Council Meeting held during the Jubilee Week, it is to be proposed that the Association should change its name to the "National British Women's Total Abstinence Union"; and at a special session of the Council the amalgamation of the "Women's Total Abstinence Union" with the Association will be confirmed. This organisation separated from the parent body thirty years ago.

WOMEN PREACHERS IN GERMANY.

Women theological students in Germany have formed themselves into a society and formulated a number of demands in regard to the Ministry. The ecclesiastical authorities are now considering the whole question, and the Council of the Union of German Churches has recently sent round a circular to the various Churches asking for their opinion on the subject of the ordination of women. The majority of the replies received are in the negative. Most of the Churches are against a woman theologian having the same rights as a clergyman. Some Churches are only in favour of allowing a woman to preside over certain Biblical studies in the Church, to make herself useful in the parish, and to work on behalf of women in prisons and hospitals. The matter, therefore, is still far from being settled, and the Council proposes to give it further consideration.

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Women's Freedom League.

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President—Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.
Telegrams:—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."
Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.
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.

May 30th—June 6th.

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

Monday, June 7th, at 3.30 p.m.

"Fair" Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, June 14th, at 7.30 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Annual Meeting at The Isis Club, 79 Fitzjohn's Av., N.W.3. See notice.

Saturday, June 19th.

Peacemakers' Pilgrimage, Great Demonstration in Hyde Park. Members are asked to be at the Office, 144 High Holborn, by 2 p.m.

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. Chair: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.

Saturday, July 3rd.
Great Combined Equal Political Rights Procession and Hyde Park Demonstration. Members are asked to form up on the Embankment at 2 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Monday, June 7th, at 7.30 p.m.
Middlebrough Branch. Meeting at Agecroft, Linthorpe. Miss Lenton will be present.

Wednesday, June 16th, 3—6 p.m.
Middlesbrough Branch. Garden Party at Agecroft, Linthorpe.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, June 4th, at 7.45 p.m.
Edinburgh Branch. Public Meeting on "Women in the Ministry," in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, South St. Andrew Street. Speakers: Miss Eunice Murray, Dr. Katharine Chapman, Rev. Joseph Johnstone (Assembly duties permitting), and Mrs. A. Fahmy. Chair: Rev. John S. Ewen, B.Sc., B.D.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, June 6th, at 8 p.m.
Mass Meeting of Peacemakers' Pilgrims at Strand Theatre.

Monday, June 7th, 1.20—1.50 p.m.
Lunch-hour Address at Bishopsgate Chapel, 252, Bishopsgate, E.C.1, by r. Hilda Clark, on "The Peacemaker's Pilgrimage."

Monday, June 7th, at 8.15 p.m.
Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Carthew, on "My Recent Travels in Palestine and Syria."

Wednesday, June 9th, at 3 p.m.
Six Point Group, 28 Belgrave Square (by kind permission of Lady Cory. Miss Clemence Dane's reading of her play, "Naboth's Vineyard." Tickets from 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1.

June 11th—14th.
Education Conference at The New School, 40 Leigham Court Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.16. Tickets from Conference Secretary, 46, Gloucester Place, W.1.

Monday, June 14th, at 5.45 p.m.
Six Point Group, 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1. Speaker: Mr. Trevelyan Thomson, M.P., on "Equal Political Rights."

Wednesday and Thursday, June 16th and 17th.
National Federation of Women's Institutes. Tenth Annual General Meeting in the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W. 1.

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 22nd and 23rd.
British Commonwealth League. Conference on "Women and Migration," at The Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2. Sessions 10.15 a.m. and 2.15. Tickets from Miss Collisson, British Commonwealth League, 17 Buckingham Street, Adelphi.

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 22nd and 23rd.
Women's National Liberal Federation, Annual Council Meetings, Kingsway Hall W.C.1.

Tuesday, June 29th, at 3 p.m.
Croydon Women Citizens' Association. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "Why Women's Organisations are necessary."

BRANCH NOTES.

HAMPSTEAD.
On Monday, June 14th, at 7.30 p.m., the Annual Meeting of the Hampstead Branch will be held at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind invitation of Mrs. Harverson). At 8 p.m. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, President of the Women's Freedom League, will speak on "The Peacemakers' Pilgrimage," and "The Equal Rights Demonstration" in Hyde Park, on July 3rd. Chair: Dr. Knight. All members of the League and readers of THE VOTE will be most welcome.

WOMEN PILGRIMS ON THEIR WAY TO LONDON.

ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT EVERYWHERE.

In spite of the many difficulties resulting from the Strike and curtailed train services, the enthusiasm and interest shown everywhere in the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage have fully equalled the expectations of the promoters. Local organisers and secretaries all over the country are doing their utmost to make of the Strike not an obstacle and a difficulty, but a spur to greater efforts to make the Pilgrimage a real contribution towards a better spirit of peace and conciliation.

Rumours have been going round in some places that the Pilgrimage has been abandoned. This is not true. A few places have had to drop out owing to special local conditions resulting from the strike, but practically the entire scheme as originally planned is being carried out. The Pilgrims from Carlisle, Land's End, and Cardiff have already started, and reports have come in of the immense enthusiasm shown at all meetings held.

A mass meeting is being held on Sunday, June 6th, at 8 p.m., in the Strand Theatre. This should do a great deal towards preparing the way for a splendid welcome and a grand finale to the Pilgrimage in the suburbs and in London on June 18th and 19th respectively. The speakers will include Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, and Dr. Norwood. Miss Marjorie Gullan's Verse-Speaking Choir is kindly giving its services.

There is every indication that the mass meeting in Hyde Park, on June 19th, which is the culmination of the Pilgrimage, will be the biggest Peace Demonstration that the world has ever seen. From twenty platforms a resolution will be put urging "His Majesty's Government to agree to settle all disputes by conciliation and arbitration, and, by taking the lead in the proposed Disarmament Conference of the League of Nations, to show that Great Britain does not intend to appeal to force." The speakers in support of this resolution will include Miss Margaret Bondfield, Mrs. Wintringham, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Mrs. Frances Acland, Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Miss Maude Royden, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, and Miss Pictou-Turbeville.

Names of those willing to walk with the Women's Freedom League contingent of this procession should be sent at once to Dr. E. Knight, at this office.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION.

Plans for the great Equal Political Rights Demonstration on Saturday, July 3rd, are making rapid progress. One of the most encouraging features has been the response of the Youth Movements; the Guild of Girl Citizens and the Guild of the Citizens of To-morrow are both helping in different ways; the Federation of Young Liberals is eager to take part, and others are coming forward. In other organisations, special committees of the younger members are getting to work on the Demonstration, and the Six Point Group is definitely dividing its contingent into two sections—one for the "Veterans" of the old suffrage campaigns, and one for "Juniors" under 30.

In the procession these Youth groups will hold a prominent place. Equally important will be the contingents of women in different trades and professions, for it is the desire of the organisers to emphasise the valuable work which is being done by voteless women. Teachers, clerks, civil servants, local government officials have been making their preparations for some time. Now the Trades Union Congress has agreed to participate officially, and it will be represented at the Hyde Park meeting by Miss Bondfield and Miss Quail. It is hoped that this example will give the lead to many of the members of the two great General Workers' Unions, and encourage them to come to hear their leaders in the park and also to march in the procession.

The number of platforms, originally fixed at 12, has now been increased to 14 in order to make room for Youth, and also for a distinctively Labour and Trades Union platform. Amongst the individual societies, organisation is in full swing. Reports from different groups come in to headquarters daily: "200 marchers," "100 marchers," "500 marchers," "40 large banners," "four or five banners," "three banners and 50 pennons," and so on. Many groups are making new banners for the occasion; others will bring the old and really historic flags which have seen so many suffrage demonstrations in the past.

At the same time an organiser has been appointed by the Central Committee to go to shops, factories, offices, etc., and recruit among the young women workers who are at present unorganised politically. At the same time, individual support is coming in, in the form of offers of practical help, requests for further information, and sorely needed donations.

Times for the procession and the meeting have now been definitely fixed, and are as follows:—Form up at Charing Cross Bridge, 2 p.m.; start of the procession, 2.45 p.m.; arrival in Hyde Park and beginning of the meeting, 4 p.m.; resolutions one hour later.

ROTHESAY.

A meeting of this Branch was held on Wednesday, May 19th. After the business of the Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League had been dealt with, we had a discussion on the Strike and on the Housing problem.
(Hon. Sec.) MISS PARK, 89, BARONE ROAD.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, June 6th. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Mr. John Murray, C.V.O. 6.30. Rev. F. R. Barry, D.S.O., M.A.

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