

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1928

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

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XXXIX.—WHEN I AM M.P.

DR. MARION PHILLIPS, Prospective Labour Candidate for Sunderland.

If I become a Member of the House of Commons I shall hope to carry on within its walls the work which I have so long been doing outside—the work of the Labour Movement in seeking to create new and better conditions of society.

I find it difficult to say what subjects would concern me most, but I think those I am most interested in concern International Affairs, Maternity and Education. As to the first, I look at it not only from the negative point of view of “passive pacifism,” but from the very positive side of building a world at peace. We cannot prevent wars effectively until we have learned to develop the peaceful co-operation of the nations. While, therefore, I should do all that I possibly could towards disarmament and arbitration, I should specially devote myself to the progressive development of close economic relations between the workers in different countries. In the broad sense, International affairs cover nearly every phase of national concern, for, in my conception of a world at peace, I see all races working together to increase the material, intellectual, and spiritual content of their lives. Our industrial position, the horrors of unemployment, low wages and long hours, the degradation of ill-paid and heavy toil, are all closely connected with our treatment of other peoples in other lands.

Such International Affairs are not in the narrow sense woman's special concern, though I believe their horror of the wastage of war may sometimes be greater than that of men—save those who have served in the front line trenches. But there are some questions which will never be fully dealt with until

we have more women in Parliament. Of these, I think the most important is the prevention of maternal mortality. Yet we cannot create a happier life for the community until we give mother and child greater security, and I do not think that we can ever expect that men will deal adequately with this question unless they have women to point the way, and are helped by the active support of the women electors. This question, above all, is a woman's question.

The subject of education is also of primary importance. For Socialists like myself, the wastage of human happiness through war, poverty, and ignorance, is one of the nightmares of our modern world. Education—the cultivation of the mental and bodily powers of the individual—is, for us, both one of the means towards the creation of a Socialist Commonwealth, and one of the ends for which we seek its establishment. Kindness, tolerance, love of beauty, and the infinite variety of human activities at their best which the individual capacity of each can reach, are the aims of a good education. In Parliament I would look forward to creating for every child the fullest opportunity for the best nurture our country can provide.

Sunderland, the great industrial town for which I am standing, has been terribly hard hit by unemployment, and nobody who walks through its streets with seeing eyes could go to Westminster without a determination to make war against poverty, in every possible way, with all their strength.



DR. MARION PHILLIPS.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Aberdeen's Woman Candidate.

Dr. Laura Sandeman is contesting the by-election at North Aberdeen (caused by the death of the Labour Member, Mr. Frank Rose) in the Conservative interest. Dr. Sandeman opposed the late Mr. Rose at the General Election, when she polled 8,545 votes to his 13,249. Dr. Sandeman has been over twenty-one years in medical practice in Aberdeen, has been prominently associated with local public work, and is a member of the Consultative Council of the Scottish Board of Health. The other candidates are our old friend Captain Wedgwood Benn, who is contesting the election in the Labour interest; Mr. J. R. Rutherford, Liberal; and Mr. Aitken Ferguson, Communist.

Woman Clerk to the Guardians.

Miss Hellier has been appointed Clerk to the Honiton (Devon) Board of Guardians in succession to her late father, Mr. E. W. Hellier, who was Clerk for more than forty years and succeeded his father to this position. Miss Hellier has also been appointed Superintendent Registrar, and is said to be the only woman holding these posts.

From Typist to Manager.

Miss Maud Barrett, who started as a typist in the London Gas Light and Coke Company, is to-day the manager of a large section of the company's business and has control over 1,500 men.

Women and the London Chamber of Commerce.

In 1925, there were only five women members of the London Chamber of Commerce. There are now close on two hundred. Each of these women holds a high position in the business world, and earns from £1,000 to £10,000 a year.

Eight Men and One Woman.

Among the nine townspeople of Gateshead recently appointed Justices of the Peace for the borough, only one is a woman—Miss Lettice Jowitt, Warden of the Bensham Grove Settlement.

A New Swimming Feat.

Miss Alice Blowman has swum across the Humber from Hull to Lincolnshire and back—a feat never before accomplished by a woman.

The Women's Handicap at Brooklands.

Miss M. J. Maconochie, whose fine driving occasioned much admiration, won the Women's Handicap at Brooklands by 200 yards, at an average speed of 94.74 m.p.h.

Northern Ireland and Women's Franchise.

The Government of Northern Ireland propose to introduce a Franchise Bill conferring the vote on women of twenty-one, and next year a Redistribution Bill abolishing Proportional Representation.

Woman on Mandates Commission.

Mademoiselle Daunevig, a Norwegian, has been appointed a member of the Permanent Mandates Commission, to fill the place of the late Madame Wicksell.

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Mrs. C. D. RACKHAM, J.P., M.A., June 15, 1928; Miss ENID LAPHORN, June 1, 1928; Miss H. M. KEYNES, May 25, 1928; Mrs. HAMILTON, February 17, 1928; Miss F. B. WIDDOWSON, January 6, 1928; Mrs. TOWNSEND, September 16, 1927; Mrs. MASSINGHAM, August 19, 1927; Miss RUBY PART, June 3, 1927; Miss ELEANOR STEWART, May 13, 1927; Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, April 29, 1927; Mrs. PANKHURST, February 25, 1927; Miss MONICA WHATELEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDES, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NESBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

Finnish Women's Progress.

The President of the Finnish Republic has signed a decree empowering women to hold office as diplomatic representatives in foreign countries, and to serve as judges in the inferior Courts of the Republic.

American Woman Vice-Chairman.

Governor Alfred Smith has appointed Mrs. Nellie Ross, the former Governor of Wyoming, to be vice-chairman of the National Committee responsible for the Presidential Campaign.

Woman Chamber of Commerce President.

The only Chamber of Commerce of any standing in America to have a woman president is that of Corpus Christi, Texas, where the office is held by Mrs. Lorina J. Spontz, who has on hand a large scheme for beautifying the city's waterfront and building a municipal airport.

OLYMPIC GAMES.

WORLD'S RECORDS BROKEN BY WOMEN.

The High Jump.—Miss Catherwood, of Canada, who cleared 5 ft. 2 6/10 in. without apparent effort, has established a new world's record. Mlle. C. Gisolf, of Holland, who took second place, and Miss M. Wiley, of America, who took third, also broke the world's record by clearing 5 ft. 1 1/2 in.

Women's 400 Metres Relay.—Again Canadian women broke the world's record. The race, won by 2 yards in 48 2/5 sec., was a triumph due largely to splendid baton passing.

800 Metres.—Frau Radke, of Germany, who won by 2 yards in 2 min. 16 4/5 sec., beat her world's record of 2 min. 23 4/5 sec., set up at Breslau in 1927. This latter record was also beaten by Miss Hitomi, of Japan, who came in second.

100 Metres, Final.—Miss Robinson established a new world's record, beating the time of 12 2/5 sec., set up by Fraulein Wittman at Brunswick, in 1926.

Throwing the Discus.—Mlle. Konopacka's (Poland) throw of 39.62 metres has established a new world's record. The previous record, established by Mlle. Konopacka in 1927, was 39.18 metres.

Fencing.—Here the palm goes to Germany. Fraulein Meyer achieved 7 victories, 0 defeats, and 35 hits against 1. Miss Freeman, of Great Britain, gained second place, with 6, 1, 32, 2.

Swimming.—Although the Finals were disappointing to Great Britain, both Miss Tanner and Miss Stewart qualified.

Miss Norelius, an American of Swedish descent, in winning the 400 metres free style, final, in 5 mins. 42 4/5 secs., broke her world's record for the second time. In 1922, Miss Norelius set up a record of 5 mins. 51 2/5 secs. for the same distance; on Saturday she reduced this to 5 mins. 45 2/5 secs.; and has now knocked nearly 3 secs. more off the time. Mlle. Braun, of Holland, finished second in 5 mins. 57 4/5 secs.; Miss McKim, of America, third, in 6 mins. 0 1/5 secs.; Miss Stewart, of Great Britain, finished fourth.

AMERICAN WOMEN'S BID FOR EQUAL RIGHTS.

The Inter-American Commission of Women represents, as the name indicates, no political party in any country and no one point of view. It is a Commission composed of one woman from each country, dedicated to a careful investigation of the laws of each of the twenty-one Republics, and was created by Resolution of the Sixth Pan-American Congress in Havana. This investigation is being carried on in order to determine just what is the legal status of women in each and every one of the American Republics. A report of its findings, to be made to the Seventh Pan-American Conference, when it meets in Montevideo in 1933, will give the juridical and other information necessary for the Congress to deal adequately with the question of civil and political equality in this hemisphere.

The Inter-American Commission is concerned with the legal discriminations against women actually on the Statute Books, and in order to discover them is going word for word through the twenty-one constitutions, civil codes, and judicial decisions in which the information sought for, lies buried.

Six brilliant and forceful women form the initial group named by the Governing Board of the Pan-American Union for this Inter-American Commission of Women, which is undertaking so exhaustive a study of women's civil and political status in the Americas. Besides Miss Doris Stevens, appointed by the Governing Board of the Pan-American Union as Chairman of the Commission and representative of the United States, already representatives have been named from Argentina, Colombia, Haiti, Panama, and Venezuela. The Colombian representative, Doña Elena Capina de Capina, is a member of one of the most patrician families of Colombia, her father having been President of the Republic just before the present incumbent.

Dr. Ernestina A. López de Nelson, the Argentine member of the Commission, is distinguished as author and educator, and has been a professor in the University of La Plata. She has served on several occasions as delegate to international conferences, either alone or with her equally distinguished husband.

An extremely modern young woman, vivid and brilliant, is Venezuela's representative in the person of Doña Lucila Luciani de Pérez Díaz. She is the editor of a magazine, author of a number of short stories and a novel, and reported the proceedings of the Latin Press Congress, to which she was a delegate, in a series of stirring articles, which have been widely praised.

The Srta. Clara Gonzáles, LL.B., representative of Panama on the Commission, although several years under thirty, has already achieved distinction as a feminist leader, which would do credit to a veteran. Miss Gonzáles was the first woman to be admitted to the Bar in Panama. She specialised in education and law, has pursued graduate work in Columbia, and is preparing to take her Master of Laws degree at George Washington University. She was first President of the National Feminist Party of Panama, and has carried out several important commissions for her government. Some three years ago she organised the first school for adult women in Panama.

Mrs. Charles Dubé, member for Haiti, was Haitian

ANOTHER HIGHER POST LOST.

The July number of *Opportunity*, the organ of the Federation of Women Civil Servants, has the following paragraph under the above heading:—

"Only a short time ago we had to report that one of the few higher posts in the Ministry of Pensions held by women had been withdrawn on the retirement of the holder. To-day we have to record that yet another post—that of Higher Executive Officer attached to the Special Grants Committee—has been lost, part of the work being downgraded to Junior Executive, and the remainder handed over to a Higher Executive (man), whose own work has decreased. The woman, although the senior officer, has been removed from Headquarters to P.I.O., Acton. It remains to be seen

whether what is said to be the original intention, viz., that she should replace a male officer who has been transferred to another Branch, is carried into effect. At present, rumours are varied, but what does emerge is that, on some excuse or another, women are to be expelled from Headquarters."

delegate to the Pan-American Conference of Women in 1922, and has been deeply interested in work for social betterment. She is a woman of fine poise and judgment, thoroughly modern in training and interests. Miss Doris Stevens was made Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women by the Governing Board of the Pan-American Union, in recognition of her ardent labour for equal rights here and abroad, and in particular of her successful campaign at the Sixth Pan-American Conference at Havana, when, as Chairman of the Committee of International Action of the National Women's Party, she won the Conference to pass the resolution creating the Commission.

The first seven members named by the Pan-American Union will select representatives from the remaining fourteen countries, giving each of the American Republics equal representation. In the meantime, the Committee has begun work with characteristic zest and energy. Miss Stevens' desk in the beautiful Columbus Room at the Pan-American Union, the room where Lord Balfour made his famous address to the Disarmament Conference, and about which legends have already begun to cluster, is a centre of true Pan-American activity.

Since the Commission is a wholly non-political organisation, completely detached from all parties, it seeks the co-operation of every feminist group, dealing, as it does, with a matter of importance to all. The Harvard Committee on Nationality, which has conducted a world-wide investigation of this vexed question, has placed at the disposal of the Inter-American Commission of Women its information on the nationality of women. Miss Emma Wold, of the National Woman's Party, has likewise placed at the Commission's disposal her research into State Codes of the United States, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Suffrage Alliance, representing countries in all parts of the world, has offered heartiest co-operation. So have the Partido Nacional Feminista of Panama, the Liga Social Suffragista of Porto Rico, and innumerable other separate organisations.

In fact, the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women, though just beginning, has already acquired a highly international character. Mrs. Helen Archdale, a distinguished British feminist and internationalist, became so much interested in it that she stopped off in Washington on her trip around the world to volunteer her help to the Chairman, Miss Doris Stevens, who has begun the preliminary attack on the herculean task of listing every law concerning the status of women in the codes of twenty-one Republics. Mrs. Archdale's daughter, Miss Betty Archdale, has come down from McGill University in Canada to assist her mother, as a volunteer co-worker for the Commission.

The "far-reaching importance of this Commission" was commented upon editorially by Dr. James Brown Scott in the American Journal of International Law for April, 1928. Intense interest in its labour has been shown throughout Latin America, where the selection of each woman who is to represent her country on the Commission is a matter given great weight and consideration. And in the midst of this ever-increasing interest and enthusiasm, the work goes on.

WOMEN AND THE CHURCH.

Our Literature Department has two excellent little pamphlets, both by Miss Eunice Murray, on the above subject—"Women's Place in the Early Church," and "The Power of Women in the Church," price 2d. each, or, post paid, 2½d. They will be found most useful for speakers and others interested in women's position in the Churches.

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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.

"SPOILT DARLING OF THE LAW"!

Last week, at the City of London Vacation Course in Education, held at the Holborn Restaurant, Professor J. E. G. De Montmorency gave a lecture on "English Law." Touching on the position of women, he said that not only had a married woman more rights than her husband, not only might her civil wrongdoing before marriage fall on the hapless man, but her liabilities to strangers in the way of contract were limited to her separate estate, and some of her crimes might be imputed to the concern of her husband. Yet she was the political equal of her husband, and might follow him secretly to his place of business and cancel his Parliamentary vote. The married woman, he further declared, was the "spoilt darling of the English law." The ordinary married woman who has no recollection of civil wrongdoing before marriage may well wonder what special rights she has which do not also belong to the hapless man. It is true that her husband may be liable for his wife's debts contracted before her marriage, but only to the extent of any property belonging to his wife, which he has acquired from or through her. It is also true that he is liable for the maintenance of her illegitimate child born before their marriage, whether he is the father of the child or not, but those enactments are not "rights" which the ordinary married woman wishes to claim for herself, and they were never conceded because of any desire on the part of the authorities to confer on her a special favour. As for her crimes being imputed to the concern of her husband, no married woman in her senses would expect to escape the penalty for any crime she committed on the ground that her husband would be compelled to pay that penalty for her, although a husband may be liable for his wife's torts. On the other hand, far from being the "spoilt darling of the English law," a married woman in this country has some very definite grievances. If an English-woman marries an alien, she automatically loses her British nationality, whether she wishes to do so or not, and, in spite of the fact that she may not by the laws of her husband's country be able to acquire his nationality, and may therefore remain without any nationality at all. Under English law, no married woman has a legal claim to any proportion of her husband's salary, income, or wages. By law, the husband is compelled to keep his wife off the rates and provide her with adequate clothing, but he need only "lend" this clothing to her, as her creditors would find out if they tried to claim it, should judgment be given against the wife for any cause. A husband is not obliged to provide his wife with any pocket-money, and she may never have a sixpence for 'bus fares if she has no means of her own. A married woman has not the same chance as a single woman to earn money on her own account. The Government refuses to employ her in any branch of the Civil Service simply and solely because she is married, and for the same reason many local governing bodies refuse to employ her as a doctor, a teacher, or a charwoman, or in any

other post under their authority. Under English law, too, a husband has the right to will all his money and property away from his wife and children, and leave them practically penniless at his death. It is blatant mockery to call an English married woman "the spoilt darling of the law"! It is true that now women have equal voting rights with men, and we certainly hope they will use them to improve the position of the married woman. If the candidate whom the husband favours at an election is against any such improvement, by all means should the wife vote openly, not secretly, against that candidate, and thus cancel her husband's vote.

THE END OF THE SESSION.

Last Friday, August 3rd, the Fourth Session of the present Parliament came to an end, and Parliament now stands prorogued until Tuesday, November 6th. Then the last Session of this Parliament will begin, and we may look forward to a General Election next summer, when, for the first time in the history of this country, women will exercise their votes at the same age and on the same terms as men. In the King's Speech proroguing Parliament occurs the following paragraph: "I have given my assent to a measure assimilating the Local Government and Parliamentary Franchise of men and women. This will confer equal electoral rights upon the sexes." For that measure, closing as it does women's long struggle for equal voting rights with men, last Session will always remain a memorable one.

We are glad to see among the one hundred Acts to which the Royal Assent was given last Friday, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1928. This amends the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1922, by increasing the time-limit from nine months to twelve months in which proceedings can be taken against a man for a criminal assault upon a girl. The Bill was introduced by Mr. Hurd (U., Devises) on July 24th, in the House of Commons. On July 27th it secured a Second Reading, was considered in Committee, reported without amendment, and read a Third time. On Monday, July 30th, it came into the House of Lords, two days later it passed its Report stage there, and was read a Third time, and two days after that received the Royal Assent. There being no opposition to it in either House, this Bill had a quick passage into law, and will come into operation on the first day of January, 1929.

Last Session will also be remembered for the House of Commons' action in regard to the police interrogation of Miss Savidge, which resulted in the appointment of the Tribunal of Inquiry into this interrogation. Two reports were issued of the findings of this Tribunal, which were duly discussed in Parliament. On July 20th, the Home Secretary gave an undertaking in the House of Commons that, before the proposed Royal Commission to deal with Police methods got to work, he would see that the Metropolitan Police received a new Order in regard to the interrogation of witnesses. Last Tuesday it was reported that this Order had been given. It states that "Scotland Yard must now be consulted before any interrogation may be made in any case in which the character or reputation of the witness is chiefly involved, and in which the making of a statement may be to his or her prejudice. Detailed instructions will then be issued to the officer detailed to take the statement, and the person concerned will be clearly informed of the possible consequences involved to him or her in making it." All who care for the liberty of the subject will rejoice that this Order has been issued. For a long time there has been growing uneasiness among the public that the powers of the Police were not sufficiently defined, and that they were encroaching too much on the liberty of the individual. Now that Scotland Yard has to be consulted before interrogations take place, the public will know where responsibility rests, and the fact that witnesses must be informed of the possible consequences of their statements will do a great deal to restore the confidence of the public in the administration of British justice.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Police Investigations (Commission of Inquiry).

On July 31st, Mr. CLYNES (Lab., Platting) asked the Home Secretary whether he would indicate when he would be able to announce the terms of reference of the promised Inquiry into Police Methods and the appointment of the Commission? Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I am doing my utmost to settle the terms of reference and appointment of this Commission before the House rises. I need hardly say that the matter is not yet complete. Mr. CLYNES: In view of the part that this House has played in the treatment of this subject, may I ask whether other sections of the House will be consulted on the two aspects of the Inquiry? Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I am quite willing to submit the terms of reference to the right hon. Gentleman, but I must confess that I think the Commission is a matter for the Government. The Government must be responsible for the names which they submit. Mr. CLYNES: I quite accept the view that the final responsibility must rest with the Government, but I am pleading for some consultation in respect of the personnel of this Commission. Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The Leader of the Opposition spoke to me on the matter before he went away, and I told him then that I would go so far as to say that I do not propose to appoint any Member of the House on either side. I will make the utmost endeavours to get a Commission entirely apart from party politics.

Miss WILKINSON (Lab., E. Middlesbrough): Is the right hon. Gentleman bearing in mind the feeling of women in the country that there should be some suitable women on this Commission? Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: That is one of the points pressed upon me by the Leader of the Opposition.

Viscountess ASTOR (U., Plymouth): And is it not true that the women on this side also pressed that point upon him? Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I am almost inclined to say that both these ladies have been on a deputation to me only this morning.

Mr. LUNN (Lab., Rothwell): Does the right hon. Gentleman's reply mean that he will be able definitely to announce the terms of reference and the personnel before the House rises, in view of the possibility that he may not be in his present position when we come back? Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: It is quite true that I am doing my utmost. As a matter of fact, a cable has gone to one gentleman in America, whom I want

to get across here. I cannot promise to do more than my utmost.

Mr. THURLE (Lab., Shoreditch): Will the right hon. Gentleman bear in mind that the country wants neither lawyers nor judges on this Commission?

Lt.-Col. Sir FREDERICK HALL (U., Dulwich): And is my right hon. Friend aware that the country does not want politicians on it?

Mr. MACLEAN (Lab., Govan): Will the right hon. Gentleman give the names of the personnel in time for the House to discuss it before the Recess? Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I have answered that question already.

On August 1st, Mr. CECIL WILSON (Lab., Attercliffe) asked the Home Secretary when he will be able to give the names of the Royal Commission on Police Methods; and whether he can now state how many women will be included? Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I must refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave yesterday to a question by the right hon. Member for Platting (Mr. Clynnes).

Training Centres.

Mr. HASLAM (U., Horncastle) asked the Minister of Labour what progress has been made in the establishment of training centres in those areas where no alternative employment offers itself to the unemployed? Mr. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour): The training centres for young men recently opened at Bristol and Dudley are reserved mainly for men from the distressed mining areas. A further centre will shortly be opened at Glasgow, and, in addition, arrangements have been made whereby half the accommodation at the Wallsend and Birmingham centres is available for non-local men. It has been decided to provide a residential farm training centre in Scotland for men going overseas, in addition to those at Brandon and Claydon. The Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment has in operation thirty-one home training centres; of these, eighteen are in the distressed mining areas, and the Committee has arranged for places to be reserved at four other centres for women and girls from those areas. In addition, nineteen juvenile unemployment centres have been opened for boys in the distressed mining areas since the middle of last December, and six centres, which were already in existence, have been expanded to meet local requirements. It is anticipated that at least four further centres will be opened before the coming winter.

OUR VICTORY FAIR,

Our Annual Green, White and Gold Fair is to be held this year at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 13th and 14th, from 3 to 9 p.m. each day. Our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, will preside at the opening on November 13th, and Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., will preside on November 14th.

A wonderful programme of entertainments is being organised, including a short Concert, on November 13th, at 4.45 p.m., arranged by Madame San Carolo, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.; a display of Operatic, Classical, and Character Dances by the little Pupils of Miss Grace Woollacott the same day at 6 p.m.; and a Fencing Display on November 14th, at 6 p.m., arranged by Professor Tassart.

Mrs. Stedman has promised to organise the Character Reading. Readings will be given by Miss Wall and Mrs. Gilchrist; Numerology by Miss King; and Psychometry by Mrs. Thomson.

Stalls are being arranged for the sale of useful and fancy articles, including Handkerchiefs; Antiques and White Elephants; Household Goods; China; Literature; Overalls and Aprons; Toys; Underclothing; Sweets; Cakes, Preserves; and a Shilling Stall. Many goods are required to provide all these Stalls

with pretty and useful Christmas Gifts. Will all our readers remember our Victory Fair when they are away on their holidays, and bring something back with them for one or other of the Stalls, and thus help to make our Victory Fair a very great success.

Afternoon Tea will be served in the Lounge from 4 to 6 p.m., and refreshments will be served after 7 p.m. Miss Reeves has kindly undertaken this part of the work, and will be assisted by the staff of the Minerva Club and members of the Branch.

The following Societies and friends are taking stalls: Barclay Workshops (for Blind Women); The Canning Town Women's Settlement; The St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance; The Open Door Council; The Women's Exchange; Mrs. Aston (Filigree Work and Artificial Flowers); Miss Burwood (Beads); Mrs. Clifford; Miss Minnie Culverwell (Hand-made Jewellery); Mrs. M. E. Moreton (Lacquer Work and Lamp Shades); and Miss Page ("Unika" Sports Wear).

Tickets, price 1s. 10d. (including Tax) the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day, 1s. 2d. (including Tax).

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

THE CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN.

Organiser and Speaker: Miss Lilian Lenton.
Assisted by Mrs. Ash, Miss Ogg, Mrs. and the Misses Scott.
Headquarters: 18, Battery Place, Rothesay, Bute.

The third week of our campaign is over—a week of hot sun and cloudless skies, and so of delightful sails to and from the various holiday resorts, where we carry on our propaganda. Hatless, but lightly attired, we have sat on deck in the sun, in most pleasant contrast from last week, when, wet and uncomfortable, we were huddled together with other passengers in like plight, downstairs in the saloon. Under agreeable conditions, this time we have sold our thousand VOTES, hundreds of pamphlets, taken collections, and held thirteen open-air meetings.

Last week we remarked on the lack of active opposition. We spoke (or wrote) too soon. Twice, since writing, a group of objectionable, loud-voiced men have tried to break up our meetings, or, as one of them put it, to prevent our making any impression on the women, lest these should be misled. We had difficulty in grasping their grievance—to judge from their loudly-shouted remarks, it appeared to be chiefly that the speaker wasn't married and adding to the numbers of the next generation! Apparently they couldn't understand that it is just as well that there are women to whom marriage is not the main object of life, seeing that there are at least two million more women in the country than there are men—a disproportion due, of course, to nature's law of the survival of the fittest. Men are the weaker sex. More boy babies are born than girl babies, but the infant mortality rate amongst boys is much greater than amongst their sisters.

The slightest remark, however mildly put, tending to suggest that sometimes men have made mistakes—that some of their works are not perfection—was greeted with outbursts of rage from these staunch supporters of their own sex, forgetful of the continuous and serious slights that, as a matter of course, are placed on women.

A gentleman of similar mentality was asked by Miss Eunice Scott to buy a pamphlet. He responded by objectionable allusions to the modern girl's sensible dress, calling it immodest. Miss Scott retaliated by remarking on the unhealthy stuffiness of man's attire in the hot weather, with special reference to the stupid, hard, high, choking collars some of them still wear. He angrily asked her how she dared to criticise men!

A boy of about sixteen wouldn't buy THE VOTE, as to do so would be "against his principles." What principles can he have that are opposed to the emancipation of women?

But, of course, there are exceptions. Most of the men we meet are with us. Miss Eunice Scott is particularly good at getting youths to come along and support us at our day-time meetings. At Dunoon last week a tall boy—with a head of flaming red hair!—held aloft our flag, there being no railings to which to attach it.

A HYDE PARK ARREST & A CONVICTION.

An elderly man was recently charged at Marlborough Street Police Court and fined £2 for insulting behaviour in Hyde Park. A young woman, a housemaid living in the district, stated that the accused sat on the chair next to her and asked her to go for a walk, saying he would make it worth her while. She beckoned to a police officer, who arrested him. The man denied asking her to go for a walk. Mr. Mead, the magistrate, said: "I very much regret that my hands are tied in this matter, and that the biggest penalty is 40s. for your disgraceful behaviour. It is only a further illustration that such things do really occur, notwithstanding the incredulity of the public."

To the young woman Mr. Mead said: "The public are very much indebted to you for your courage in coming here and giving evidence, which is very repugnant to many young ladies."

Rather surprisingly, after all these years, the old-fashioned argument, that women cannot claim equal opportunities with men as they don't fight on the battlefield, has been advanced several times. We say that we hope that women's influence will make it unnecessary for anyone to risk his life in war in future, but, at the same time, point out that far more women die bringing life into the world than men die in a man-engineered orgy of killing. Besides, who says women cannot fight? We can and do when needs must. Most people are satisfied with this answer, but once the questioner was not. He asked politely if he might put a supplementary question, and, permission being given, repeated what he had already said, with but the slightest variation of the wording! Hadn't he listened?

On Wednesday our subject was Equal Guardianship—that the married mother might be as much the legal parent of her own child as its father. An aggressive opponent at frequent intervals shouted abusive remarks, carrying on a conversation with his friends between whiles—being told, in fact, what to shout. At question time he angrily demanded information as to why we were not satisfied—hadn't we got women as Parish Guardians already?

All our meetings in Rothesay this week have been unusual and not altogether satisfactory. At first they were small, as the July holiday crowds left on the 28th and the August people didn't begin to come in until the month had commenced. When they increased in size they were carried out against determined, noisy opposition. On the last two evenings a further difficulty arose—the speaker's voice almost disappeared, so that she could only whisper or emit a curious series of barks. She adopted the latter expedient.

One evening we varied our usual procedure. Mrs. Millar, who kindly came over from Leven to help us, gave her personal experiences. She is an M.A., with honours in modern languages, but because she is married she has not been allowed to earn her living in the profession for which she has been trained. But no one objects, on account of her marriage, to her taking in boarders and making money that way!

Now we have only one more week on the Clyde this year, and that a short one, but we hope and believe that it will be particularly good in all ways—may our faith be justified!—and so make up for some of the disappointments we have met during the last fortnight—disappointments due to bad weather and the "between season" dearth of visitors.

By the time this is printed, it will be too late to ask for personal help with our Campaign, but we repeat our request for donations from kind friends towards the heavy expenses.

LILIAN LENTON.

U.S. BUSINESS WOMEN'S VISIT.

The *Daily Telegraph* reports that sixty American professional and business women, who are to attend conferences in London and other European capitals, finishing at Rome, landed at Plymouth last week. Miss Lena Phillips, secretary of the party, said business and professional women in America were more and more coming to the fore, some of them now earning as much as 50,000 dollars a year.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

This autumn three women from English Universities are going to America to take part in debates at women's colleges in the States. This new departure should help to strengthen the link between women of different nationality. The women are Miss Nancy Samuel, daughter of Sir Herbert Samuel, of Somerville, and Miss Marjorie Sharp and Miss Lockhart, of Girton.

Women's Freedom League.

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

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Thursday, September 27th, at 3 p.m.

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

Friday, September 28th, at 5 p.m.

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

Saturday, September 29th, at 10 a.m.

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

OTHER SOCIETIES.

August 27th to September 22nd.

International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. A centre for the feminists of all countries will be opened at 11, Cours de Rive, Geneva, during the Assembly of the League of Nations.

September 4th to September 11th.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Summer School at St. Hilda's College, Oxford.

Wednesday, October 24th, at 1 for 1.15 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. "Victory-and-After Day." Luncheon at the Hotel Cecil. Chairman: The Viscountess Rhondda. Tickets 5/- each from Women's Freedom League Office.

Wednesday, October 24th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. "Victory-and-After Day." Reception at Caxton Hall.

A SUMMER SCHOOL at ST.HILDA'S COLLEGE, OXFORD, 4th-11th September,

(for ALL VOTERS, particularly the NEWLY ENFRANCHISED), is being organised by the

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The Courses will include:—

I.—PROBLEMS OF DEMOCRACY: Miss Majorie Maxse, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, Mr. Blanco White, and others.

II.—THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT: Miss Vera Brittain, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Mrs. Blanco White, and others.

III.—INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS: Miss K. D. Courtney, Mr. Walter Layton (engagements permitting), and others.

DISCUSSION GROUPS will be formed on such subjects as "WORK OF WOMEN MAGISTRATES," etc., if sufficient numbers of students desire them.

PRACTICE CLASSES for SPEAKERS will also be organised.

Full particulars with regard to fees, etc., may be obtained from N.U.S.E.C., 15, Dean's Yard, S.W.1.

OUR VICTORY DOUBLE NUMBER.

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THE BIRTHDAY FUND.

Belated Contributions are still coming in and are met with a warm welcome. Please swell the stream and send yours this week.

144, High Holborn, W.C.1. E. KNIGHT (Hon. Treas.)

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. 1/-

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

The League of the Church Militant.

Dear Madam,—At a meeting of members recently called, it was resolved to dissolve the League of the Church Militant before the close of 1928, and we shall be grateful if you will be good enough to give publicity to the reasons by which this decision was reached.

The members of the League, formerly the Church League for Women's Suffrage, felt that, with the passing of the Equal Franchise Bill, part, at least, of their society's aims had been achieved, and, while still desiring to see women ordained to the threefold historic Orders of Ministry in the Church, they felt that the movement within the Church had reached such a phase that the education of Churchpeople along these lines could now be carried on more satisfactorily through other channels than those of a society whose activities had been directed along political lines in the past.

Since the League started its work of education and propaganda, thought on women's service in the Church has advanced so rapidly that it was felt that ordination to the priesthood must inevitably follow in due time, and that the best way that women of this and future generations could further this cause was by prayer for its fulfilment and by preparing themselves mentally and spiritually to meet those opportunities and responsibilities of service in the Church that may open up to them in the future.

—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) J. G. SIMPSON (President).

E. LOUIE ACRES (Chairman).

[We regret the dissolving of a League with which we have so often co-operated, and can only say how heartily we should welcome into the Women's Freedom League any members who wish still to belong to a political society for Women's Equality.—Ed.]

15,000 Frenchwomen Reclaim their Nationality.

Madam,—I have been surprised at your statement that it is disappointing that, since the passage of the new French nationality law, only 15,000 requests have been received from Frenchwomen who had lost their nationality by marrying foreigners for reinstatement into French nationality.

It has to be remembered that, so far as this retrospective condition is concerned, such Frenchwomen can only be readmitted to French nationality with the authority of their husbands. It is not in their own hands. They themselves have to wish for the change, and have to persuade their husbands to give their authority. This may be a difficult and, in many cases, an impossible task.

Another point that is overlooked too is the machinery that has to be set in motion before they can make their application. I have no first-hand information from France on the question. But, in its issue of last Sunday, a writer in the *Sunday Times* tells of one case in which a woman had to go five times to the Palais de Justice before she could get any information or copies of the papers she had to fill up. After she had dispatched them and waited six weeks, she was told to apply at a local bureau in the suburbs. She made two train journeys, and two weeks after the second got further information and was told that the papers she had originally got to fill up were not the right ones. How many poor women could afford the time and money for such an effort? This is second-hand information, but, having had first-hand information from a British woman of similar difficulties when she tried to reclaim her nationality, and knowing the ways of officials, I have little difficulty in believing the tale.

In all the circumstances 15,000 seems a remarkable figure.—Yours, etc.,

CHRISTAL MACMILLAN,

Chairman of the Committee on the Nationality of Married Women, of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

NEWS OF DR. LEWIN.

Readers of THE VOTE will be glad to learn that Dr. Lewin continues to make good progress towards recovery. She has now gone away into the country, and we look forward to having her with us again in the Autumn. THE VOTE sends its heartiest good wishes to Dr. Lewin.

HOW TO ESTABLISH YOUR FUTURE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE BY SETTING UP A RETIRING FUND.

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, August 12th, 1928. 6.30. Rev. W. B. Selbie, D.D.: "Religion and Redemption."

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 0377.

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