

MR. BALDWIN SPEAKS.

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1928

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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ONE OF OUR MEN COMRADES.

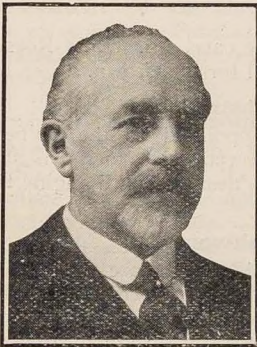


Photo: Russell.

Mr. W. R. SNOW.

All old members of the Women's Freedom League cherish the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Snow, whose business ability, untiring sympathy, and assistance in our early days gave invaluable encouragement to the League and THE VOTE.

Mrs. Snow was a delightful member of our National Executive Committee till 1915, and a Director of THE VOTE for many years till her death in 1916. To help the finances of the Minerva Publishing Co., she organised, and was Hon. Head of, the Merchandise Department.

Mr. William Ralph Snow had recently completed his 50th year of active business life. He was one of the principal silk merchants in this country, with interests far and wide, head of W. R. Snow & Co., Ltd., of Old Change, E.C., whose present directors include two of his sons and Miss A. Tireman.

Mr. Snow had travelled in all parts of the world, and we were grieved to learn that on a business trip to Calcutta for pioneering work in India, while off Colombo, he died suddenly, on January 22nd, from heart failure, and was buried in a beautiful spot on shore.

Throughout the silk trade he was held in high respect, and his kindness and courtesy endeared him to many. For ten years Deputy-Chairman of the Silk Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, and an Officer d'Académie of France; he was also Vice-President on the Education Committee of the Warehousemen Clerks' and Drapers' Schools.

As one of our always generous men members, Mr. Snow could always be relied upon for wise advice and ready help. One of his annual gifts to us was Mrs. Snow's VOTE Stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair, furnished with silk and Eastern goods, in which he took the deepest interest, and his cheery presence and kindness of heart helped to make every gathering a success.

SPRING SALE.

DR. OCTAVIA LEWIN,

"AT HOME," at 25, WIMPOLE STREET, W.1,

FRIDAY, MARCH 16th, 3 to 7.30 p.m.

OPENED AT 3 P.M. BY - - - - MISS ADA MOORE.

CHAIRMAN - - - - MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

LECTURE AT 6 P.M. BY DR. LEWIN.

TEA 3.30 to 6 p.m.

MUSIC.

RECITATIONS.

CHARACTER READING.

Stalls—Household and Spring Cleaning Goods, Lingerie, Overalls and Aprons, Pottery, Fancy Articles, White Elephants, Beads, Country Produce, Cakes, Sweets and Preserves.

INTERNATIONAL WORK.

Further news of the work of the American feminists at the Pan-American Conference at Havana has now reached us. It appears that at the Fifth Pan-American Conference a resolution was unanimously passed empowering the Commission of Jurists to study and report proposals on the political and civic rights of women. Somewhere during the intervening five years "political rights" was dropped from the Pan-American study and reporting. Latin-American delegates have said that this deletion was made in Washington when the Pan-American Union made out the programme of this Conference. The Pan-American Union disavows the responsibility for this deletion. The National Woman's Party has insisted that the study of political rights must be restored to the agenda. The United States delegates were reluctant to support this claim, but presidents of the delegations of Cuba, Argentine, Brazil, Colombia, Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Nicaragua, Dominica, and Uruguay arrayed themselves in favour of an open hearing.

In addition to this, Dr. Victor Maristus, Minister Plenipotentiary from Peru and Chairman of the Committee on Private International Law, spoke strongly on the subject to his Committee. This is believed to be the first time such a Committee has been addressed upon the subject of women's rights.

On February 7th, therefore, for the first time in the history of these Conferences, women put their case in plenary session. Speakers were chosen to represent the 21 States affected. Doris Stevens, Chairman of the Committee on International Action of the American National Woman's Party, made a statesmanlike, brilliant speech. She asked that women be allowed authoritative power, not as auxiliaries but as colleagues. "Since the beginning of time," she said, "men, with the best intentions, no doubt, have been writing laws for our good. Since the beginning of time brave and valiant women have been abolishing these laws written for our good." "No man, no group of men, no government, no nation, no group of nations ever had the right to withhold from us the rights we ask to-day. . . . These are our human rights. . . . We have chosen the treaty method because it is the most dignified. It is the easiest. It is the most permanent. It will not only abolish existing national and international inequalities. It will prevent new ones from being written."

Dr. Julia Martinez, of Cuba, made a fine appeal for her countrywomen, describing how on one side were the males of 21 and over, including illiterates and foreigners, with full rights; on the other side were children, criminals, lunatics and women, without rights. "These women," declared Dr. Martinez, "do not form part of the people of Cuba. This land upon which we stand, the land of our forefathers, where we were born, is not ours."

Miss Manna Lee, of Porto Rico, likened the position of women to the position among States of Porto Rico. "We have everything done for us and given us but sovereignty. We are treated with every consideration save the great consideration of being regarded as responsible beings. We, like Porto Rico, are dependents."

Mrs. Clarence Smith, Chairman of the National Woman's Party, gave an explanatory speech on the circumstances which had led to the hearing. Other speakers were Maria Montalbo de Soto Navarro, President of the National Federation of Feminine Associations of Cuba; Angela Mariana Zalbida, Cuban lawyer; Pilar Jorge de Tella, representing 15,000 working women of Cuba, and founder of the Cuba Feminine Club; Plintha Wos y Gil, daughter of the former President of San Domingo. A petition, bearing 5,000 signatures, was presented, and all delegates had copies of the speeches in English, Spanish and Portuguese. The delegates replied, warmly eulogising the women, and the Conference unanimously voted for the appointment of a Committee of 21 women, empowered to study the laws and to propose measures for equality for women to the next Pan-American Conference.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Honour for Girton Student.

Girton has again scored a success. The Chancellor's Gold Medal for Classics has been won by Miss G. A. Nairn. This is recorded as the first occasion on which this medal has gone to a woman student. Miss Nairn is only 21.

Woman Waterloo Cup Winner.

White Collar, who won the Waterloo Cup this year at Altcar, is owned by Mrs. Whitburn, well known as owner of racehorses. Mrs. Whitburn has only entered the coursing field since 1924.

Woman Freeman.

The new Borough of Twickenham has chosen, as its first Freeman, Mrs. Leeson, the Charter Mayoress.

Woman Conductor.

Listeners on the wireless lately heard two orchestral movements, composed and conducted by a young musician, Miss Guisne Creith.

Sport Facilities for Shop Assistants.

A movement has been launched to provide sport facilities for shop assistants. A meeting in support is to be held at 20, Hanover Square, on March 20th, at 5 p.m.

Women Cross-Country Runners.

The Second Women's Cross-Country Championship was held at Grange Park. Miss Styles, shop assistant at Littlehampton, won the Individual Championship, and the teams were placed as follows: Middlesex "A," London Olympiads, Kent A.C.

Miss Enid Rossen.

In the shot police-constable case, Miss Enid Rossen is appearing as junior counsel for the Crown.

Woman Motor-boat Demonstration.

Miss Bowden, recently appointed to the Bo'ness Engineering Company in a secretarial capacity, is also a demonstrator of the new Bo'ness outboard engine for motor-boats.

No Conscription for Frenchwomen.

When the Conscription Bill came before the Senate two clauses were rejected, which had been sent up by the Chamber. One was the compulsory military service of Members of Parliament; the other, the conscription of women.

WOMEN HEALTH VISITORS.

Considerable light was thrown, during a meeting called by the Women Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association, on the very unsatisfactory pay and status of Health Visitors. It would seem that Sanitary Inspectorships tend to be held by men, while Health Visitors, badly paid and given a lower status, tend to be women. It sounds like the same old story, and we hope the demand put forward by the meeting will be granted—that the Ministry of Health appoint a Committee of representatives of local authorities and health visitors to draw up suitable scales of salaries, holidays, and other conditions of service.

OPEN DOOR COUNCIL.

PUBLIC MEETING,

Y.M.C.A. Building, Reception Room,

On FRIDAY, MARCH 9th, at 8 p.m.

CHAIR - - - DR. CHRISTINE MURRELL.

Speakers:

MISS CAROLINE HASLETT on
"How Nightwork Restrictions affect Women Engineers."

MRS. ELIZABETH ABBOTT on
"Restrictive Legislation and Women's Wage Rates."

MISS C. GIMINGHAM on
"The Attack on Equal Education."

IN PARLIAMENT.

Franchise Bill.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the proposed introduction of a new Bill to extend the franchise to women on equal terms with men, he will take immediate steps for instructions to be given to the Registration Officers in all constituencies that, when making the annual survey in April or May next, they shall include in that survey the necessary particulars of the prospective new electors, in order that those particulars may be incorporated in the Register of Electors which comes into force in October next, thereby avoiding the expenditure and delay of an additional survey for that purpose, and expediting publication of the Register of Electors? SIR VIVIAN HENDERSON (Under-Secretary, Home Office): My right hon. Friend has no power to give any instructions of the kind suggested, but the noble Lady should be satisfied with the statement recently made by the Prime Minister that suitable provision will, if necessary, be included in the Bill, so as to enable the new voters to vote at the next General Election.

MR. R. MORRISON (Co-op., N. Tottenham) asked if the Prime Minister was yet in a position to say when the Franchise Bill will be introduced? THE PRIME MINISTER: It is impossible to name the date at this time of the year, because everything depends on the progress which is made in the necessary financial business, but, in any case, it is the intention of the Government to have the Second Reading before the House rises for the Easter Recess.

CAPTAIN CROOKSHANK (U., Gainsborough) asked the Prime Minister if the Franchise Bill, foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne, will be accompanied by any measure of redistribution? THE PRIME MINISTER: It would be premature to anticipate the provisions of the Franchise Bill.

Venereal Disease (Notification).

MR. BUCHANAN (Lab., Gorbals) asked the Secretary of State for Scotland the number of towns, if any, in Scotland which have approached him for power to make venereal disease compulsorily notifiable; and if he intends to exercise his powers in this direction in any town? SIR JOHN GILMOUR: Since August, 1921, resolutions in favour of the general principle of compulsory notification of venereal disease, in one form or another, have been submitted to the Scottish Board of Health by 29 burghal authorities representing burghs in Ayrshire and Lanarkshire, and by the Convention of Royal Burghs. The Corporation of Glasgow, at a deputation about a year ago, also raised the question of compulsory notification. In present circumstances, I do not consider that the exercise of such powers as the Board has under the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, would be an appropriate method of dealing with the matter. MR. BUCHANAN: In view of the fact that certain corporations are approaching the House for powers, would it not be better, before powers are granted to anybody, if a full inquiry were instituted into the subject by the Department? SIR J. GILMOUR: No. Much the best way would be to allow the matter to be discussed in the House. MR. ERNEST BROWN (Lib., Leith): Has the right hon. Gentleman not also received strong protests against the suggested course of action? SIR J. GILMOUR: Yes, there have been, pro and con. MR. HARDIE (Lab., Springburn): Is it not against the best interests of government, either national or local, to do things by piecemeal, such as taking one town as against another? Would it not be better to have a full review and then legislate? MR. SPEAKER: That is a matter that can be argued on the Bill.

Holloway Prison Hospital.

MR. HAYES (Lab., Edge Hill) asked the Home Secretary the number of staff, superior and subordinate, employed in connection with Holloway Prison hospital, and the daily average of patients in the hospital for October, November and December? SIR

W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The medical staff at Holloway consists of the Governor, who is also the medical officer, and two junior medical officers; the nursing staff consists of one hospital lady superintendent and 26 nurses. The daily average population of the hospital was 111 in October, 96 in November, and 113 in December last.

Married Women's Income Tax.

SIR ARTHUR HOLBROOK (U., Basingstoke) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in framing the new Finance Bill, he will consider an amendment of the present system of assessing the incomes of married people living together by the issue of separate assessments instead of treating them as one for income tax purposes? MR. CHURCHILL: Under the existing law either a husband or wife may elect for separate assessment to income tax, but the total amount of tax payable by the spouses is not thereby diminished. I assume, however, that what my hon. and gallant Friend is suggesting in his question is the adoption of a course under which a husband and a wife would receive individual personal allowances and be taxed at a rate or rates determined by their individual incomes, and not, as at present, their joint income. The Government are unable to incur the expense of a policy involving this result. SIR A. HOLBROOK: Is not that policy governed by the Married Women's Property Act? MR. CHURCHILL: Which policy? SIR A. HOLBROOK: The policy of dividing the incomes? MR. CHURCHILL: There is nothing new in the position, which has been established for many years.

Wife-Beating Convictions (Glasgow).

MR. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his attention has been drawn to a suggestion made at a meeting of magistrates in the City of Glasgow for the purpose of dealing with men convicted of beating their wives, wherein it was suggested that the best way to deal with persons so convicted would be to allow them to remain at work and to compel them to enter prisons each week-end until the term of their sentence was completed, so as to enable such convicted person to continue at his work during the weekdays in order that the wife and children should not be deprived of wages during the man's detention; and will he consider introducing legislation to amend the present law to make this suggestion practicable? SIR JOHN GILMOUR: I am informed that this matter had not been considered by the Glasgow Magistrates' Committee prior to the date on which notice of this question was given. The subject was, however, raised at a meeting of the Magistrates' Committee on February 21st, and was submitted for consideration and report at a special Sub-Committee of the Magistrates. MR. DAY: Is the right hon. Gentleman making any inquiries, and will he follow up this matter? (No reply was given.)

BRANCH NOTES—(continued from page 71).

MINERVA CLUB.

A most enjoyable and happy evening was spent by the members and friends of the Minerva Club Branch on Wednesday, February 15th, when Miss Edith Rodgers kindly gave the first of a series of Short Readings from the Greek writers.

Miss Rodgers delighted us all by the choice and renditions of the Epic and Lyric Poetry, and it was unanimously agreed that the Minerva Club Branch were exceedingly fortunate in having such an unusual and inspired artiste as one of our members. We are now looking forward to the second of the series, which Miss Rodgers has consented to give on March 4th, at the Minerva Club, at 8.30 p.m. We hope all members and friends will be able to join in our pleasure on that evening.

At the conclusion of the Reading, Miss Owen voiced the thanks of the members, and after a general discussion and light refreshments, a thoroughly refreshing and pleasing evening came to a close.

FINCHLEY.

By the kindness of Mrs. Marriott, a Meeting is being held at "Craigieburn," Ballard's Lane, on Monday afternoon, March 5th, at 3 o'clock, when it is hoped to form a new branch of the Women's Freedom League at Finchley. All interested in this matter are cordially invited to attend the meeting. Miss F. A. Underwood will speak on "The Objects and Work of the Women's Freedom League."

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd, 1928.

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.

MR. BALDWIN SPEAKS.

As we go to press, there is no fresh news regarding the promised Franchise Bill. The delay in its drafting, we are assured on all sides, is due to the differences existing among members of the Cabinet on matters of electoral reform not connected with equal franchise. All members of the Cabinet, as practically all Members of Parliament, are prepared to support a measure granting the Parliamentary vote to women at the age of 21 and on the same terms as men, but members of the Cabinet and Members of Parliament are at variance with one another on all other matters concerned with the extension of the local government vote or the disfranchisement of paupers. Since these differences have caused so much delay before the Bill is introduced, how much more likely are they to delay its passage through both Houses of Parliament if such extraneous matter is incorporated in the Bill? Again we say—a delay of the Franchise Bill is becoming more and more dangerous, and again we urge that the promised Bill shall be a simple Equal Franchise measure conferring the Parliamentary Franchise on women from the age of 21 and on the same terms as men. We fully trust the Prime Minister's good intentions, and confidently rely upon the pledges he has given us that women shall vote at the same age and on the same terms as men at the next General Election—but, time is passing, and the "unexpected catastrophe," admitted as a possibility by the Prime Minister himself, still casts its haunting shadow in the minds of women who have worked for this great reform for so many years, and will continue to cast it until the measure reaches the Statute Book. However, the Prime Minister will speak on this subject at Queen's Hall next Thursday evening. He is certainly assured of a great reception from the women gathered to listen to him. We hope sincerely that the promised Bill will be before the country when he makes his speech. Everything that can be said on the subject of equal voting rights for men and women has already been said over and over again. We do not think that even Mr. Baldwin can find anything fresh to say regarding the justification of this long-overdue reform; and he probably will not try to do so. What the women specially interested in this matter are longing to know is what the promised Bill will contain, and how the Government propose to expedite its passage through both Houses of Parliament so that the new voters get on to the Register in time to exercise their votes at the next General Election. The Bill before the country is the first thing. After that, its passage towards the Statute Book will be watched with the keenest interest by all women in the country. The Royal Assent was given to the Bill conferring the Parliamentary franchise on some women over 30 years of age in this country in February, 1918, in the stress of the Great War. The Women's Freedom League never for one moment hesitated to work strenuously for the next instalment which would enfranchise women at the same age and on the same terms as men. For ten years it has been our chief work. Now, in the time of Peace and what we hope is returning prosperity, the whole country is converted to this reform, and we look for the Royal Assent to be attached to a measure giving equal voting rights to women and men in this year of grace 1928.

MEN'S OFFENCES AGAINST GIRLS.

The *Daily News* recently reported that one of the prominent organisers of the White Slave Traffic had been arrested in Paris by the French police, and that a search of his rooms had brought to light numerous letters and other documents of a compromising nature. A list of names of girls whom he had induced to come to Paris from the provinces, some of whom were apparently destined for South America, was also found. This man was arrested because he had attempted to secure the release of one of his female agents by offering the police a bribe of £200.

According to the *Birmingham Post*, Mr. Justice Roche, addressing the Grand Jury at Salop Assizes last week, said he was not of the opinion that the cause of morality would be advanced by tightening up the law in regard to offences against girls between the ages of 13 and 16. Inquiries he had made indicated that the proportion of cases in which the police were communicated with did not amount to 50 per cent., from which he drew the moral that the law as it stood was rather ahead of than behind the average public opinion. People did not inform with regard to this class of offence, firstly because they did not regard it as a very serious crime, and secondly because considerations of family honour made them reluctant to give information to the police.

"A law ignored," said his lordship, "is worse than a law never passed. The true remedy is, by means of senior mistresses and masters in schools, or by whatever other method may be considered most apt, to teach to girls what self-respect should demand, and to boys what self-restraint should dictate." While we quite agree that boys and girls should receive instruction in this matter, we also think that there should be no slackening of the law or its administration in regard to offences against girls between the ages of 13 and 16, and we do not believe that public opinion would favour any such slackening. We should like to draw Mr. Justice Roche's attention to one of the reports read at the annual meeting of the Durham Diocesan Preventive and Rescue Association, held at Darlington last week. That report showed that, "during 1927, 71 girls and four babies had been admitted to St. Agnes Home, while 86 had been helped outside. . . . Numbers of the girls who had been helped were of tender years, children of 13, 14 and 15 being included." Our own view is that the whole problem of the social evil, including assaults on girls, will not be solved until the law is vigorously enforced against the men who ruin the lives of these children. We believe, further, that if women police were more general throughout the country, they would be more likely than the men police to be communicated with in cases of assaults upon young girls.

ELECTION OF WOMEN TO PARLIAMENT POLICY.

With the prospect of 5,000,000 new women electors taking part in the next General Election, we are inclined to think that women will not be satisfied with only seven women in the House of Commons during the life of the next Parliament. The present policy of the Women's Freedom League is to press for the nomination of more women candidates by all political Parties and to support all suitable women, and we are holding an informal Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Monday, March 19th, at 2.30 p.m., to discuss this and other possible policies for getting women into Parliament. Invitations to take part in this Conference have been issued to women's societies and individuals, including women M.P.s and women candidates for Parliament, and it is hoped that there will be a frank and open discussion on the question of policy on March 19th. Tickets can now be obtained from the Women's Freedom League Office, at 1s. each.

TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.

On Wednesday, February 22nd, at the Minerva Club, our Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting was opened by Dr. Knight, who had to leave early in order to attend a meeting of Members of Parliament and others interested in the Edinburgh Corporation Bill, summoned by Dr. Graham Little. Dr. Knight again gave her audience a summary of the portions of the Bill to which the Women's Freedom League objected. She described the introduction and frequent postponement owing to objection taken of the Bill, and quoted at length from an explanatory letter from Dr. Graham Little, which appeared in *The Times* of February 21st.

Miss Underwood then continued the meeting by reading the Prime Minister's reply to the Women's Freedom League, which was cordially received. This letter was printed in full in THE VOTE of February 24th. She then dealt with several points which concerned women in the House of Commons during the previous week. The first was the question of the £60,000 grant for the Women's Employment Committee. She alluded to Lady Astor's plea for a fairer share for women, and quoted figures (which can be found in the original in THE VOTE of November 18th, 1927). These showed a long and widespread list of occupations for which training was provided for unemployed men and boys, while for women and girls there was only one training provided—that for domestic service. She claimed that it was most unjust, in the face of these figures, for the Minister of Labour to state, as he did in the House, that women had their fair share. She also quoted Mr. Chamberlain as describing the training for men and for two classes of young men, and claiming that, although training for women was not so important, they were doing something for them in domestic service training.

Miss Underwood congratulated the women of France on obtaining entry to the Diplomatic Service, and then quoted our own Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, so well-sounding, and followed with the Orders in Council which annihilated its enactments, including the closing of the Diplomatic Service. She claimed that women were good diplomats and good linguists, and urged as one of the first things to be achieved with our franchise the removal of the bar to the Diplomatic Service. She

concluded by reminding her hearers of the imminent L.C.C. elections, and urged that help be given to the women candidates.

Miss Reeves then outlined some non-political events. First, the appalling figures given recently by the Bishop of Southwark of the number of accidents to children in the streets. She urged the provision of playing-fields, and instanced the threatened building over of the Foundling Hospital Estate as a lost opportunity for retaining and providing much-needed playing grounds for the children of the neighbourhood. She then dealt with the tragic position in the coal mining industry, its cause, and possible alleviation. That 28,000 boys between the ages of 14-16 were still employed underground seemed to her monstrous. She also alluded to some of the wording of a debate on the Companies Bill, in which anxiety was expressed by Members lest individual activities were fettered by fear of danger to someone else, and drew a parallel in the constant anxiety felt by feminists as to the fetters placed upon the activities of women through fear of danger to someone among them. She hoped no further fetters would be placed upon women in the forthcoming Factories Bill. Miss Reeves added that experience showed that such fetters were only brought out when women were competing with men; where there was no competition, no one seemed to think fetters were necessary. As a case in point, she told of the men painters, who explained to the women would-be painters that they longed for similar restrictions upon men, as the danger of poisoning was so terrible. Pressed as to whether they would encourage their sons to enter the trade as at present unrestricted, they replied, "Oh, yes!"

Considerable and valuable discussion followed on points made by the speakers, and Miss Underwood concluded by announcing the meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship in the Queen's Hall, on March 8th, at 8 p.m.; the Women's Freedom League meeting in the Caxton Hall, on March 19th, at 2.30 p.m., to discuss the best policy for increasing the numbers of women Members of Parliament, when Miss Billington Grieg would criticise the present policy of women's societies; and the Spring Sale on March 16th.

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES in THE FINNISH PARLIAMENT.

By ANNIE FURUHJELM, M.P.

Though I presume it to be a well-known fact that the women of this country were enfranchised on the same terms as men as early as 1907, I will begin by stating certain general facts.

The franchise age is 24, alike for men and women, and also eligibility at the same age. Representation is proportional. Every voting ticket may contain up to three names. The first on the list counts one vote, the second half a vote, and the third a third part of a vote. All the votes cast for a Party are counted for that Party, and decide the number of representatives each Party is entitled to send to Parliament. There is only one House (Chamber) of 200 members. The number of women have varied from 14 to 25. In 1927, 17 women were elected, one has since resigned. There is one Speaker and two Vice-Speakers. All the Bills, Government as well as Private, are sent to different Standing Committees, who have to report on the Bills and also propose any changes in the text they consider necessary. Government Bills take precedence over Private Bills. The Standing Committees number from 13 to 21 members, besides alternates of a certain fixed number. The Presidents of the Standing Committees form, together with the Speaker and the two Vice-Speakers, the Speakers' Council. It has happened twice that women have been Presidents of Standing Committees and accordingly taken seats in the Speakers' Council.

There is also a Grand Committee of 45 members. Bills are sent to it after the second reading in Parliament. I don't think I need go into further details, only to add that each Bill has three readings. At the third reading, proposals can be made either to adopt or reject the Bill as such.

Six political Parties are represented in Parliament: Swedish National Party 24 (1 woman), Finnish National Coalition Party 34 (2 women), Progressive Party 10 (1 woman), Peasant and Smallholder Party 52 (1 woman), Social Democratic Party 60 (9 women), Communist Party 20 (2 women). Many of these women M.P.s have been re-elected election after election, and thereby gained great political experience. Two women belonging to the Social Democratic Party have for many years been members of the two most important Standing Committees: the Fundamental Law, and the Finance to which the Budget is referred.

The President of the Republic is elected for 6 years by a specially elected body of 300; this has the right of Suspensive Veto.

Parliamentary Elections take place every third year, July 1-2, unless Dissolution has taken place between. Each political Party group has the right to elect members to the Standing Committees in proportion to its total membership. Women have always been put on Committees when special Bills of interest to women

have been before a Standing Committee. The Committee for Common Law consists of seventeen members, of which 7 are women (regulars and alternates). This Committee has to consider the new Marriage Bill built on absolute equality between husband and wife. This Bill has been introduced by different Governments several times. The Common Law Committee has succeeded in shelving it several times over. Impossible to predict if the new Marriage Law will pass the Committee stages during this session. There is in Parliament a silent and obdurate resistance to giving women in marriage equal rights.

The Standing Committee on Labour Legislation, of which Mrs. H. Gebhard and I are members, and two Socialist women, has had many important Bills lately under consideration. The International Conventions from the International Labour Bureau have been sent to it, to pronounce either for or against ratification. A few days ago (on February 10) Parliament adopted a law discriminating between women stewardesses and cooks on cargo vessels. The Government Bill was such as to exclude women altogether from serving on cargo vessels. Experts were called by the Committee. A director of one of our most important steamship companies reported most favourably, underlining that the women had shown they could take care of themselves; but the representatives of the Seamen's Trades Unions gave a very different report, chiefly based on moral danger. Anyhow, I think I venture to say that the women members had some merit that the Government Bill, excluding women *altogether* from serving on cargo vessels, was amended to include only ships going for transatlantic trade. Women may serve on vessels at home, on the Baltic, and on the North Sea.

At the second reading of this Bill, I proposed, and Mrs. Gebhard seconded, to exclude restrictive clauses. Only 28 votes were recorded, in favour, and so the Bill was carried at the third reading.

Another matter of considerable interest is a measure taken last November by Government (our first Socialist Government with a woman as Cabinet minister), giving women the right to sit as judges and also to enter diplomatic and consular services.

Parliament had passed a law a little more than a year ago, in which they first opened the door wide to women, at the same time authorizing Government to give instructions by *Verordnung* how this law was to be applied in practice. Government profited most generously by this *plein pouvoir* given by Parliament excluding women from Military Service, also from the Church, also from sitting as judges at Assizes, and excluding women from diplomatic and consular services. Now, these restrictions do not any longer exist.

The Bill restricting nightwork for women in industry, affecting some 12,000 women in this country, is not likely to be considered by the Labour Legislation Committee this session, as Sick Insurance is first on the Committee Programme and will take a considerable time.

AMERICAN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS.

The American League of Women Voters has been summoned to meet in Chicago on April 23rd to April 28th for its 8th National Convention. The summons to members includes the following:—

"To weigh the responsibility of women toward government, and to prepare to take their part in the political life of the day. Eight years ago, on the eve of a Presidential election, women throughout the United States were entitled to vote for the first time in the history of our nation. At that juncture in the evolution of democracy the League of Women Voters was formed, with the immediate object of equipping women to cast an informed and conscientious vote.

"The political education of women has in the intervening years deepened the meaning, the opportunities and obligations of their suffrage. The challenge to vote responsibly is more insistent to-day, though less clamorous, than in 1920."

WOMAN COURT REPORTER.

Miss M. Duggan, B.L., LL.B., has been appointed one of the official court reporters by the Incorporated Council of Law Reporters of the Irish Free State. This is the first time that a woman has been appointed to such a post. Miss Duggan, who has been active in the suffrage campaign in Ireland, contributing to the *Irish Citizen* (founded by F. Sheehy Skeffington and Dr. J. Cousins as the Irish suffrage organ), was one of the first women admitted to the Irish Bar. About five women barristers now practise in the Free State Courts, while three or four others have been admitted to the Bar, but do not practise regularly.

ANOTHER CLUB FOR WOMEN.

The Whitbourn Club, announced as a sister to The Langbourn, is opening this week at King's Court, 48, Broadway, Westminster. On weekdays the Club will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; on Sundays from 3 to 7 p.m. Electrically cooked and inexpensive meals are undertaken, and dressing and bath rooms provided. All professional and business women over the age of 18, working in London, are eligible for membership, and are invited to apply to the Secretary, at 48, Broadway, S.W.1. The Hon. Secretary and the Secretary are in attendance daily to show any intending members over the premises.

WOMEN'S FRANCHISE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Women's Franchise Bill passed Committee Stage, but with an amendment which will endanger its Third Reading. South African Labour has thought more of itself than of the women, and moved an amendment excluding all but European women. The Third Reading was expected to be taken to-day.

GREAT UNITED FRANCHISE DEMONSTRATION

(ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP)

IN THE QUEEN'S HALL (near Oxford Street).

THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH, AT 8 P.M.

Doors open 7 p.m.

Chairman: MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE, J.P., C.C.

Speakers: The Rt. Hon. STANLEY BALDWIN, M.P. Sir OLIVER LODGE, Kt., F.R.S., D.Sc., LL.D.
Miss MARGARET ASHTON. The LADY FRANCES BALFOUR, LL.D., D.Litt. Miss NANCY STEWART PARNELL.
Miss MARGARET RIPPE. Miss REBECCA WEST.

GREAT DISPLAY OF DECORATIONS & BANNERS. COMMUNITY SINGING.

Tickets 5/-, 2/6 and 1/- It is hoped to find a few more available seats at the Queen's Hall for applicants.

OVERFLOW MEETING.

MORTIMER HALL MORTIMER STREET, two minutes' walk from Queen's Hall.

Chairman: Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY. MOST OF THE ABOVE SPEAKERS. COMMUNITY SINGING.

TICKETS.—2/-, 1/- and 6D. Owing to the heavy demand for tickets, seats cannot be reserved after 8.5 p.m.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, March 5th, at 3 p.m.
Finchley. "At Home" at "Craigieburn,"
Ballards Lane (by the kindness of Mrs.
Marriott). Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood
on "The Work of the Women's Freedom
League.

Wednesday, March 7th, at 4 p.m.
Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Minerva Club,
Brunswick Square.

Thursday, March 8th, at 7.30 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Open-air
Meeting at Highbury Corner, arranged by the
Women's Freedom League.

Friday, March 9th, at 3 p.m.
Hampstead. Branch Meeting at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3 (by the
kindness of Miss Lyndon).

Wednesday, March 14th, at 6.30 p.m.
Mid-London Branch Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. To
discuss Conference Resolutions.

Wednesday, March 14th, at 8.30 p.m.
Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. Speaker: Miss Edith
Rodgers (see Branch Note for subject).

Friday, March 16th, at 3 p.m.
Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr.
Octavia Lewin).

Saturday, March 17th, at 10 a.m.
National Executive Committee Meeting.
Monday, March 19th, at 2.30 p.m.
Conference on Election of Women to Parliament Policy, at Caxton
Hall. Tickets: 1/- each.

Thursday, March 29th, at 8.30 p.m.
Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. Joephine Butler Meeting.
Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood and others.

Saturday, April 28th, at 10 a.m.
Twenty-first Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

PROVINCES.

Monday, March 5th, at 3 p.m.
Bexhill. Members' Meeting at Albany Hotel.

Friday, March 9th, at 4 p.m.
Newbury. Chief Inspector Champneys, of the Women's Auxiliary
Service, at the Magpie Restaurant.

Saturday, March 10th, at 3 p.m.
Portsmouth. Tea and Politics-up-to-date, 2, Kent Road. Speaker:
Mrs. Bradin.

Friday, March 30th.
Ashford. Branch Meeting. Dr. Littledale on "Local Birds."

SCOTLAND.

Friday, March 2nd, at 8 p.m.
Edinburgh. Public Protest Meeting, Usher Hall. Edinburgh
Corporation Bill Protest Committee. Chair: Lord Balfour of
Burleigh. Speakers: Lady As'or, M.P., Mrs. Bramwell Booth,
Councillor Dorothy Jewson, Dr. E. Graham Little.

Monday, March 5th, at 7.30 p.m.
Dunoon. Branch Social Evening in the Rosebery Restaurant.
Musical Items. Speaker: Miss M. Ramsay (of the League of
Nations Union).

Friday, March 9th, at 8 p.m.
Edinburgh. Branch Meeting at Heriot Hill House, Canonmills.
Thursday, March 15th, at 7.30 p.m.
Glasgow. Business Meeting and Social, "Cadora." Miss Eunice
Murray will preside.

WALES.

Thursday, March 22nd, 3.30—6.30 p.m.
Montgomery Boroughs. "At Home." Church House, Newtown.
Josephine Butler Centenary. Speakers: Miss Alison Neilans,
Clement Davies, Esq., K.C., and others. Chair: Miss Alix Clark.
Music, tea and coffee. Silver collection.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, March 3rd, at 3 p.m.
Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Debate: "That
Liberals and Socialists should unite and so leave only two great
Parties." Proposer: Miss Wyatt. Opposer: Miss Reeves.

Tuesday, March 6th, at 1 p.m.
British Commonwealth League. Luncheon at 17, Buckingham
Street, W.C.2. Speaker: Mrs. Marshall Hole on "Rhodesia."
Tickets 2/- each.

Tuesday, March 6th, at 5 p.m.
Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street. Meeting on "Equal Occupational
Rights and the Modern Girl." Miss C. Haslett on "Women in
Engineering." Chair: Miss Marie Naylor.

Thursday, March 8th, at 8 p.m.
National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Meeting in
Queen's Hall.

Friday, March 9th, at 8 p.m.
Open Door Council. Public Meeting in the Y.M.C.A. Building,
Reception Room, Great Russell Street, Tottenham Court Road.
Speakers: Miss Caroline Haslett, Mrs. Elizabeth Abbott, and Miss
C. Gillingham. Chairman: Dr. Christine M. Murrell.

BRANCH NOTES.

ASHFORD.

We had a successful Meeting at Ashford last Friday. Mrs. Miles presided. Nurse Scott, a member of the Women's Freedom League, gave a most interesting lecture on the subject of "Home Nursing." She demonstrated how to make a bed for a sick person, how to make a poultice and a hot fomentation, and what to do in cases of emergency. She very kindly promised to give a lecture on "Infectious Diseases" at a later date. Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Cave were busy selling THE VOTE.

The resolutions were read and discussed; the final voting for these and the amendments will take place at the next meeting. Miss Halksworth has been asked to act as delegate at the Conference. The members are splendidly attending the meetings, but we would like to suggest that they bring more friends with them. (Organiser) MAUD WHITE.

DUNOON.

The Annual Business Meeting of this branch was held in the Rosebery Restaurant on Friday evening, February 17th. The office-bearers gave their annual reports, and were re-elected as follows: Mrs. May, President; Mrs. Young, Vice-President; Mrs. Smith, Hon. Secretary; and Mrs. Heddle, Hon. Treasurer. A Committee was also formed. Plans were discussed for next winter's session, which are to include whilst drives, musical evenings, lectures, and debates. Miss McLelland, of Glasgow, was the speaker for the evening, and her address was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The President occupied the Chair, and a hearty vote of thanks was given to the speaker by Mrs. M. MacPherson.

A social evening was announced for Monday, March 5th, in the Rosebery Restaurant, at 7.30 p.m. The programme will be headed by Miss M. Ramsay (League of Nations), when musical items and tea will follow. Three new members joined. (Hon. Sec.) MRS. SMITH.

GLASGOW.

There was a packed meeting in the McLellan Galleries last Monday, presided over by Bailie Mrs. Bell, and addressed by Miss Ball, Miss Isabel Hamilton, LL.A., F.E.I.S., Miss Cunningham, M.A., Mrs. Hounton, O.B.E., J.P., Miss Knox, F.E.I.S., Miss Rutherford, Mrs. Scott, and Mrs. Wilson, all of whom are candidates for the Glasgow Education Authority. Those who are sitting members gave very interesting accounts of their work on the different Committees connected with the Authority, and the new candidates explained why they had agreed to stand.

Although all the speakers appeared to be in favour of raising the school-leaving age to 15, there seemed to be a diversity of opinion concerning the practicability of enforcing this measure at the present time. Miss Hamilton said that, much as she had regretted the necessity, she had felt bound to vote against the immediate execution of such a proposal, because of the heavy expenditure involved. Miss Ball, however, said that it only cost about £12 per annum to keep a boy (presumably she meant a girl also) at school for one year, but it cost £72 to keep him for a year in a Borstal Institute, to which abode, she seemed to think, many children, now aimlessly roaming the streets because they have left school and cannot find work, are destined. Others said that, although no child was compelled to remain at school until 15, neither was he compelled to leave—he always had the option of remaining there until he found a job.

Opinions were expressed in favour of equal pay and equal opportunities in the professions between men and women, and much was said of the improved teaching of domestic science in the schools. One gathered that no longer is so much time given to needlework by girls who show no aptitude for such industry—they are taught plain cooking instead.

During the remarks of the last speaker, one of the two men present interrupted persistently. It wasted time, of which we had too little. Bailie Mrs. Bell said he must leave the hall, and he said he would not, but Miss Malloy, policewoman, there unofficially, advanced upon him, and he went out.

We thank Bailie Mrs. Bell most sincerely for her able chairmanship, and we thank the speakers for their interesting addresses. Their views may differ, but we hope our members will support them all in their different Wards when polling day comes and before it, for we believe that every one of them is actuated by a high sense of public duty in seeking election on to the Education Authority, and that each will do what she honestly believes to be best for the good of the future generation—and we want as many women on the Authority as there are men. Let all members and friends of the Women's Freedom League give votes not only to the eight who spoke last night, but also to Mrs. Russell and to others who were unable to be there.

At present, out of 45 members, only six are women. (Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.
(Continued on page 67.)

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

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HAMPSTEAD.—Pleasant Bed-sitting-room in private flat, opposite Belsize Park Tube. Gas stove with ring, 25/- weekly, or 35/- including breakfast, baths, electric light. Seen by appointment. Recommended by Society of Friends.—Box "T 169," THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

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JESSIE D. WALLINGTON (Drugless Practitioner) treats all conditions of ill-health by natural methods—spinal therapy, osteopathy, dietetics, &c., particularly successful with nerve cases. Consultation by appointment.—37, St. George's Road, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1. Telephone: Franklin 6487.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BRIGHTON.—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.

FRENCH ALPS.—Furnished Chalet to let. View Mt. Blanc, Seven beds, bath, inside sanitation.—"E.C.F.," 31, Meadhurst Road, Leicester.

YORKSHIRE MOORS.—Apartments. Sitting and 1 or 2 bedrooms; inside sanitation; bath; garden.—ROBINSON, 6, South View, Eldwick, Bingley, Yorks.

NEAR FOLKESTONE.—Three friends offer a charming holiday home; large garden; tennis; garage.—MISS HASLAM, The Grey House, Lyminge, Kent.

BOSCOMBE, Bournemouth, 39, Parkwood Road. Comfortable Board-residence; 2 mins. cliffs; good locality. Terms from 2½ gns.—MISS MILLER.

BATH.—2 miles, ¼-hour by tram. Vegetarian Holiday Home. Parties taken. Cubicles 30/- week; single rooms £2 5s.; shared rooms £2 2s. 6d.—Batheaston Villa, Bath.

KENDAL.—Residential or Holidays, from 2½ guineas a week. Altitude 350 ft. Grounds 5 acres, open view to the sea. Tennis, golf links, motor-buses to all parts. Garage. Excellent cooking. Recommended.—MRS. WILLIAMSON, Underfell, Kendal.

FOR SALE.

NEW Brick Bungalow, double-fronted, square bays; verandah; six rooms, bath (h. & c.); inside sanitation; Co.'s water; good bus service; pretty piece woodland; ¾ acre. Price, freehold, £650 £500 mortgage obtainable.—MOCKFORD, Eastcote, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent.

EDUCATIONAL.

SCIENTIFIC RIGHT THINKING. Daily Public Meetings, showing method of healing by Right Thinking, 11—6 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 3 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. All interested invited. Literature on Sale and Loan. For full information apply:—SECRETARY, Society for Spreading the Knowledge of True Prayer, 12, Buckingham Palace Gardens, London, S.W.1.

CLUBS.

MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Museum 4791.

NOTICES.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Lectures, classes, and private lessons. Saturday Speech Club.—MISS LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tel.: Museum 4791.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, March 4th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Sir Evelyn Murray, K.C.B. 6.30. G. S. Holland, Esq.: "The Sense of Life."

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

HOTEL.

MONTAGUE HOTEL, Montague Street, Russell Square, London, W.C. First-class accommodation; room, breakfast and attendance from 7s. 6d. Pension from 3 guineas.—Phone: Museum 4660. (Highly Recommended.)

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