

THE VOTE,
JULY 6, 1928.

VICTORY!

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXIX. No. 976.

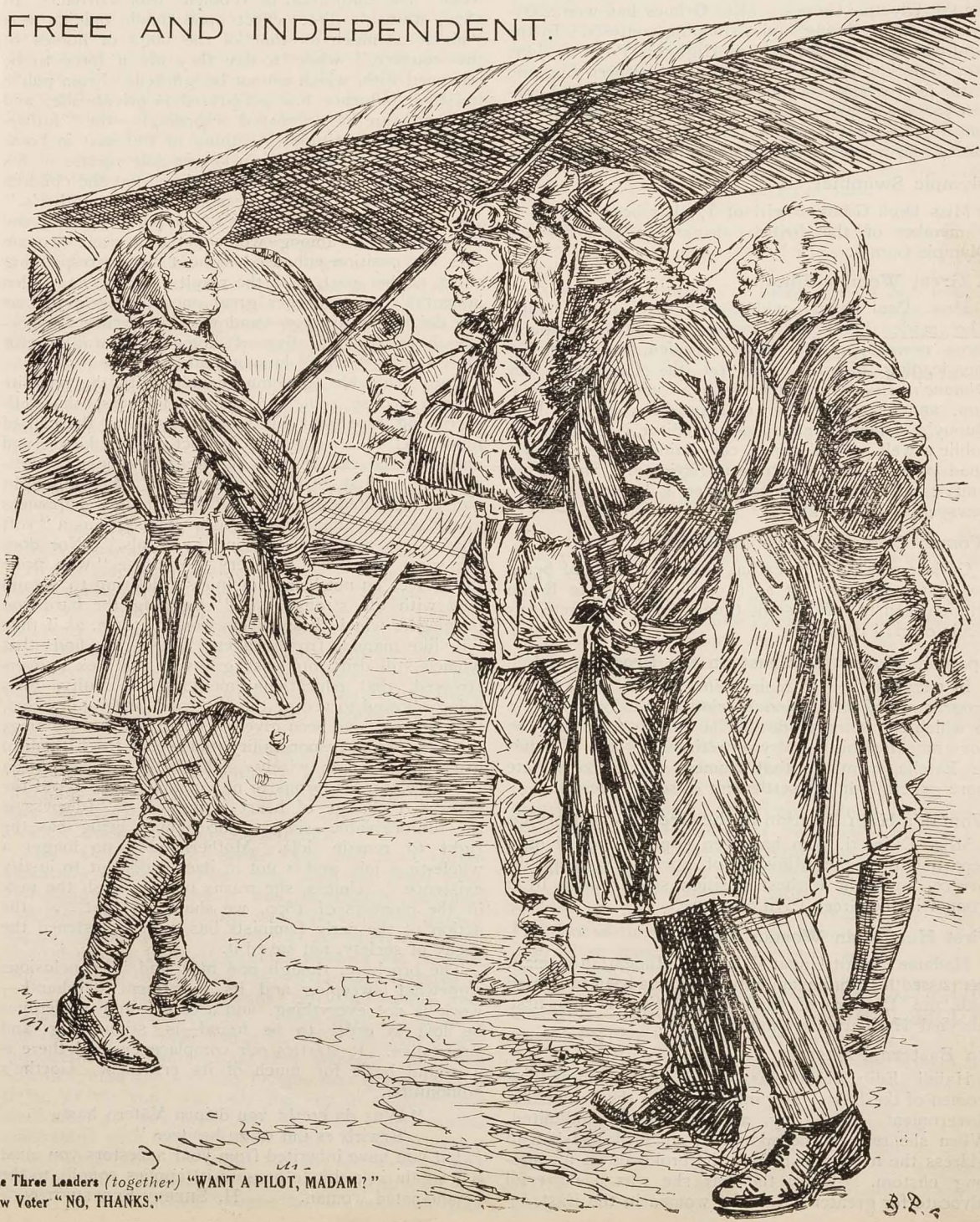
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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 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.

FREE AND INDEPENDENT.



The Three Leaders (together) "WANT A PILOT, MADAM?"
New Voter "NO, THANKS."

(By kind permission of the Proprietors of "Punch," June 27, 1928.)

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A New Record in Music Honours.

We offer our congratulations to Miss D. E. Ling, of Forest Hill, formerly a pupil at the Stillness Road Elementary School, Lewisham, and Mary Datchelor School, Camberwell, who, by securing a First in Honours in the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Music at Cambridge, has created a new record for women.

Another Woman Yacht Master.

Lady Rasch has passed the Board of Trade examination as yacht master. Other women who have qualified to take charge of ships are Mrs. Jennie Holmes Crocker, of the United States, and Lady Ernestine Hunt, who secured a Board of Trade yacht master's certificate.

Olympic Girl Diver.

Miss Doris Grimes, who is 19 years of age, has been chosen as a member of the British Swimming Team for the Olympic Games. Miss Grimes has won sixty-five medals in diving and swimming contests. In the Southern competition, held at Highgate Pond on June 9th, to decide who was to represent Southern England in the final trials, she finished third. In the final contest for the Olympic team, Miss Grimes was second, and thus secured a place in the British diving team of three, who will leave for Amsterdam at the end of July.

Olympic Swimmer.

Miss Dora Gibbs, a girl of 17, has been chosen as a member of the British swimming team for the Olympic Games.

A Great Woman Editor.

Mme. Paul Dupuy, widow of Senator Paul Dupuy, who made the *Petit Parisien*, personally conducts three newspapers—the *Petit Parisien*, the *Excelsior*, the leading picture paper on the Continent, the *Dimanche Illustré*, a paper with a very large circulation, and also a number of magazines. Mme. Paul Dupuy's policy as a newspaper editor is to give the public a well printed paper, containing accurate news, good pictures, and truth in advertising. She is an American by birth, and has taken a keen interest in newspapers all her life.

Woman Criminal Judge in Berlin.

Gerichtsassessorin Kuez has the distinction of being the first woman to act as a criminal judge in Berlin criminal courts. For some time women have acted as heads of civil courts.

Spanish Women at Least on the Programme!

In enumerating the main points of what is to be the programme of the Union Patriótica—the organisation to which the Marqués de Estella intends to entrust the government of his country on retirement—the Marqués de Estella mentions that women should participate more generally in the settlement of social questions.

Woman's High Position in the Greek Civil Service

Mlle. Dkiniéri, who has been appointed chief of a department in the Ministry of Social Economy in Greece, holds the highest position so far filled by a woman in the Greek Civil Service.

First Hungarian Woman Solicitor.

Madame Margit Ungar, LL.D., a Hungarian woman, has passed her final examination and has been presented with the Diploma of Solicitor. She is the first qualified Hungarian woman Solicitor.

An Eastern Pioneer.

Halidi Edib Hanum is one of the epoch-making women of the East. Her influence over the Nationalist Government and Army appears to be unlimited. When she received permission from Sheik-ul-Islam to address the male population, she broke down an age-long custom. Before the war she was a powerful advocate for greater liberty for women in the East.

OUR BOOK REVIEW.

Leisured Women. By Viscountess Rhondda. (Hogarth Press.) 2s.

In this brief pamphlet, built up from material already published in *Time and Tide* under the pseudonym "Candida," Lady Rhondda indicts with force and pungency the parasite woman of the leisured classes. What Veblen, in his erudite and over abstruse work, "The Theory of the Leisured Class," condemns in the American Mr. and Mrs. Dines of the millionaire class, with its reactions and ramifications throughout society, is done here with a lighter but equally sure touch with reference not to a class, but a sex. If one may criticise, while admitting the main thesis, it is the concentration upon parasite women rather than upon the parasite class which comprises both men and women, the male parasite being the more obnoxious. The swing of the pendulum is complete when the author lays down that "it is open to question whether women do not constitute a far greater danger to the community in these days of pseudo-equality of the sexes than they did when 'The Subjection of Women' was written." In 1870, women's direct effect upon public opinion was "about as much as that of the dogs or horses of the country," while to-day they are a force to be reckoned with, which cannot be ignored. From public life their influence has penetrated to private life, and their prestige has increased accordingly—the "father-knows-best" attitude is a thing of the past in home life. An Englishman is no longer sole master of his castle—"there is a growing feeling that the children are somehow a bit more mother's than father's." Because of the pioneer work of the public-spirited and the exceptional among women, the average woman sees her position enhanced without any corresponding effort on her part, with the result that she has fallen lamentably short of her great opportunities. Just as she did fifty years ago—and with no excuse to-day—she is content to live at home idle, waiting for marriage, a "kept" human being.

Lady Rhondda condemns equally with the parasite woman whose soul corrodes in idleness, the self-sacrificing type who flings career aside at the call of family—"the maternal instinct unregulated and unsublimated can be just as dangerous, just as anti-social, and just as non-moral as any other untaught and unregulated instinct." The "greatest happiness of the greatest number" she also challenges as a "soft ideal of an age that is losing its ideals." Nor does she spare the "sex snobbery" of those "who pride themselves on not being feminists," desiring to "stand well with the stronger sex," enjoying the hard-won privileges, which the pioneers won for them, as if they fell, like manna, from heaven. The writer finds that women still drift into easy grooves, that sex is overstressed, that educational methods are faulty, girls being allowed to accept the "second best"—in short, that women have been given freedom, but not training, or the sense of responsibility that would teach them to use that freedom wisely. The majority are still a "slave class dangerous to any community." And the cure? A change of heart is needed. "Idleness is the unforgivable sin . . . no human being has the right to remain idle. Motherhood is no longer a whole-time job, and is not in itself sufficient to justify existence." Unless, she warns us, we finish the task of the pioneers of 1870, we shall find that . . . the action of the early feminists has merely hastened the decay of society, not saved it.

The brochure, though one may find its conclusions somewhat sweeping and its indictment overharsh—work is not everything, and a career may sometimes be lost in order to be found—is stimulating and suggestive. It startles our complacency, and there is a sound basis for much of its criticism. Goethe's admonition,

"Was du ererbt von deinen Vätern hast,
Erwirb es um es zu besitzen"

(what you have inherited from your ancestors you must win again in order to possess it) applies equally to the emancipated woman. H. SHERRY SKEFFINGTON.

TEA AND POLITICS-UP-TO-DATE.
THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN AVIATION.

Those who were present at our Tea and Politics-up-to-date Meeting, held at the Minerva Club, on Wednesday, June 27th, had the privilege of hearing Lady Heath's fine address on the position of women in aviation. In the first place, Lady Heath expressed her thanks to the members of the Women's Freedom League for the welcome they accorded Miss Earhart at the Reception held in her honour at the Criterion Restaurant.

Lady Heath said that women in this country had done much in aviation. The modern light aeroplane—of the type in which she returned from Africa—is as easy to control as a two-seater. One can learn to fly for a little over £30. About twenty lessons are necessary, and, although at the commencement the art of flying may appear very difficult, after the third or fourth lesson it becomes much easier. The whole of flying is a combination of six movements.

In support of the theory that aviation should become an ordinary, every-day affair, Lady Heath said that the leather clothing usually associated with aviators is not at all necessary. A light 'plane can be managed in ordinary warm attire. In the whole of civil aviation, during the last three years, not a single passenger had received a scratch. At the present time one is much safer in the air than on the road. There are no traffic blocks!

Flying, continued Lady Heath, is a national necessity. This country is sadly behind, and has only 2,000 miles of air-lines running. Empire air-lines would prove of inestimable advantage.

To further the progress of aviation in this country, the moral support of women is needed. The Women's Section of the Air League of the British Empire has that aim in view, and all women who are interested in the future of aviation are asked to join.

Lady Heath's experience of Africa has proved to her how invaluable an efficient air service would be in that country. Although one of our strongest and finest Dominions, the train service is very bad. There

are at present five light aeroplane lines, and women are qualifying as air pilots.

In conclusion, Lady Heath said the more support given to civil aviation, the cheaper it will become.

In the discussion which followed mention was made of the all too frequent accidents which occur in the Royal Air Force. Lady Heath replied that aviation—although not in itself dangerous—can be made as dangerous as one likes. It must be remembered that in the Air Force many of the young men who pilot machines are learners, not highly qualified men like those engaged in commercial aviation. Also, these young men are practising dangerous feats for war. When one takes into account the danger to the public which arises from the feats of young men motorists, it is not surprising that they let themselves go when they get into the blue sky!

Mrs. Despard, whose presence greatly added to the interest of the meeting, asked if accidents did not frequently arise from aviators trying to outdo one another. Lady Heath's reply: "No new thing comes except through a pathway of blood," was well in keeping with Mrs. Despard's own philosophy. Lady Heath added that what is a record to-day, is a commonplace to-morrow. If she were Flight-Lieut. Kinkeard, and could come back in 500 years' time and see what advances had been made in aviation, she would not consider her life had been given in vain.

There are fifteen light aeroplane clubs in this country. £500 has been raised to give women who cannot afford to pay their fees an opportunity of learning to fly.

Miss Reeves inquired if there was an age limit to men or women becoming air pilots. Lady Heath replied that at the London Aerodrome Club a man of 67 said that, as women were being taught to fly, they would have to teach him. He succeeded in taking his certificate.

To reassure the timid, Lady Heath stated that moderate flying is a far safer means of travelling than train, car, or bus!

THE MINERVA CLUB'S BIRTHDAY.

The Minerva Club Branch of the Women's Freedom League celebrated its 5th birthday on Wednesday last.

It was indeed a joyous occasion, as we had with us our beloved Branch President, Mrs. Despard; and our inspiring President of the League, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, in the chair. She told Mrs. Despard that last year she had prophesied and hoped that for her next birthday present she would have news that the vote on equal terms with men would be on the Statute Book. She expressed her delight that her prophecy had come true.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence explained that with all the great joys we had with us, we must not be too disappointed to hear that Lady Balfour of Burleigh was unavoidably prevented from attending the "At Home" through a confusion in dates.

Mrs. Despard then spoke, and was most enthusiastically received. She spoke with her usual force and magnificence, and it was particularly fortunate that there was such a large and representative gathering to hear an address none of us are likely to forget. She referred to the past glorious work of the League, and remarked that one of the outstanding features of the fight for the emancipation of women was that "women had found women." That spirit of suspicion and fear of each other had gone—they were no longer apologetic—they knew what they wanted. She said how delighted she was the League was going to continue, as the vote was only the key to equality—old laws must go, new laws must be formed, and women must stand with men, not men alone; but women must be on equal terms. Reforms are only obtained through union—union of societies, union of individuals—and the Women's Freedom League has big work in front

of it, now that this first great victory is won. Mrs. Despard concluded by urging all present to unite, that unity had strength to conquer.

Dr. Knight wished the Branch many happy returns of the day, and said how proud she was of this dear little four-year-old, which she had watched from babyhood, which was now thoroughly sturdy and hopping about in splendid form.

Miss Underwood expressed her feeling of gratitude to Mrs. Despard for her wonderful address, which she said she felt she would never forget.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence then spoke. She referred to Edward Carpenter's "Towards Democracy," and quoted: "We dream the impossible dream, and it comes true." That is what the pioneer members of the Women's Freedom League had done, and the dream had come true. Now there were other dreams to dream, and political subjection must not be exchanged for spiritual and economic subjection. Freedom of the persons of women and the right of the married woman to work were two of the objects to be obtained.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence referred to the necessity for alterations in the Police System, and concluded on her usual high note of hope and encouragement.

Some delightful duets were given by Miss Clare O'Brien and Miss Jessie Bromley before and after the speeches.

The collection for the Birthday Fund was highly satisfactory. Six new members were obtained. This in no small way is due to the inspiration and grandeur of the speeches of Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 6th, 1928.

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 is enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

VICTORY!

Last Monday evening the Government's Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Bill received the Royal Assent, and is now the law of the land. Mrs. Despard, Dame Millicent Fawcett, Miss Garrett, and Lady Rhondda, together with other representatives of the Women's Freedom League, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and the Six Point Group were present in the House of Lords when the Royal Assent was given, which ended women's long struggle for equal voting rights with men. We give our heartiest thanks to the Government for introducing the Equal Franchise Bill, and to the Members of all parties in both Houses of Parliament who defeated the opposition to it by overwhelming majorities and carried it into law. Ever since 1867 men and women together, at first in very small numbers which gradually grew into great armies as the years rolled on, worked unceasingly for this elementary piece of political justice. Our grateful thanks go out to those fighters in our cause. While we rejoice in our great present victory, we realise that we have no time to remain inactive if we are to gather in its fruits, and our thoughts immediately turn to the future. Mr. Baldwin recently appealed to the younger women to keep their eyes on the blue distance. We cannot afford to look back, for it is the future alone that really matters. In their fight for political independence, women have learned many things, among them the priceless value of independence in every department of life. In daring to be free women have realised the incalculable worth of freedom. But no one can maintain independence and freedom without ceaseless effort and constant vigilance. A fair field and no favour will not appeal to those whose ideal is a life of leisure and ease, but it is an essential to women who want to do their best work in this world and to take their place everywhere on equal terms with men. For sixty-one years women have striven to win an equal political footing with men; it is only an equal footing they have gained, not equal political power. There are many more worlds to conquer before women can win their full freedom or their complete economic independence, and they have no time to rest on their present laurels. Much prejudice remains to be overcome, and, most of all, the prejudice against giving women any real authority. All through the ages men (and women, too) have been so accustomed to see women in subordinate positions, filling places "within woman's sphere," doing "woman's work," and putting up with "a woman's wage," that it has become practically impossible for them to visualise women taking an equal stand with men in the great scheme of things. To have won equal voting rights for women and men is a great victory, but it will be an infinitely greater achievement when we have succeeded in abolishing for ever the "woman's sphere," "woman's work," and "a woman's wage," and have decided that the whole wide world and all its opportunities is just as much the sphere of woman, as of man; that all work is open freely to men and women; and that payment should be regulated by the value of the work done and not by the sex of the worker.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Last week, the *Christian World* quoted the following extract from its issue of June 28th, 1878:—

"The debate on the Second Reading of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill occupied the House of Commons on Wednesday. Mr. Courtney contended that all the principles on which representative government was founded, and by which it was recommended, applied as much to women as to men. He denied that women were more ignorant, frivolous, or emotional than men, nor did he believe that women would all vote together, for there was as much difference of opinion among them as among men. The acceptance of the Bill was urged by him because it would develop a fuller and nobler woman by admitting her into the sphere of political thought and duty, and by advancing women they would be advancing men at the same time. The rejection of the Bill was moved by Mr. Hanbury, and it was ultimately thrown out by 219 to 140."

In 1890, a Bill to Remove the Disabilities of Women was prepared and brought into the House of Commons by Mr. Haldane, Sir Edward Grey and Mr. Haworth. This Bill had three provisions:—

1. In all Acts of Parliament relating to the right to vote at Parliamentary, municipal, local, and other elections, words importing the masculine gender shall include women.

2. No woman shall be subject to legal incapacity from voting at such elections by reason of coverture.

3. No person shall be disqualified from being elected or appointed to, or from filling or holding, any office or position, merely by reason that such person is a woman, or, being a woman, is under coverture.

That Bill did not go far on its way towards the Statute Book. We give thanks that women have now secured an equal right with men to vote at Parliamentary, municipal, and local elections, and that we shall no longer be called upon to recite arguments for women's right to the vote; but women in this country, merely by reason of being women, are still disqualified from holding any position in the Diplomatic and Consular Service, in the Commercial Diplomatic Service, the Trade Commissioner Service, or in the Civil Services of His Majesty in India; and, as we are all aware, no woman has yet a voice, a seat, or a vote in the House of Lords. For the right of women to fill these and all other positions from which women are now excluded, the new women voters must organise and work as their grandmothers organised and worked fifty years ago in order to secure the right to vote, which all women now enjoy.

OUR CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN.

Next week the Women's Freedom League will begin a six weeks' Campaign on the Clyde Coast. Year after year this Campaign has been held, with regular meetings at Rothesay Pier Head, at Dunoon, Milport, Largs, and other places in the district. The chief demand at all these meetings has hitherto been for Equal Franchise. Next week our workers on the Clyde Coast will begin by celebrating the Victory of Equal Franchise. One of the chief subjects of great moment to our Scottish friends is the right of a married woman to work outside her home for pay if she wishes to do so, and the economic independence of women will fill a large part of the programme of the campaigners on the Clyde Coast. A demand also will be voiced for women police, and the Centenary of Josephine Butler will not be forgotten. As a General Election may be expected before another Clyde Coast Campaign takes place, the need for more women Members of the House of Commons will not be forgotten, and the value of their work will be stressed. The subject of peeresses in the House of Lords will also be dealt with, and we are quite sure that our Scottish audiences will agree that women are as necessary in the Upper House as they are in the Lower House.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Women Police.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Plymouth) asked the Home Secretary how many of the women who were employed as women police at the time when Sir William Horwood was appointed Chief Commissioner have ceased to be so employed and have been replaced by others? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The strength of the Metropolitan Women Police, which was 105 when the Commissioner was appointed, was reduced in 1922 to twenty, as a measure of economy. It has since been increased to fifty. Sixteen of the twenty women who were retained on reduction of establishment were serving on the date of the Commissioner's appointment and are still serving.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked the Home Secretary what officer or officers have carried out the duties which were performed by Mrs. F. Stanley when she was Superintendent of Women Patrols, Metropolitan Police? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The duties, in so far as they have not lapsed with the reduced establishment and altered organisation, have since been performed by an inspector, Miss A. Clayden.

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., Middlesbrough, E.): Are there any women in any kind of position of authority at Scotland Yard, or are they all in subordinate positions? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: One is an inspector.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR: Is it not true that nobody has taken the place of Mrs. Stanley? and is it not also true that, if Mrs. Stanley had been at Scotland Yard, there would never have been the scandal which is now going on? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The first part of that question is a hypothetical one; and, as to the second part, it pre-judges the decision of the Committee which is now sitting, and I am quite sure that my noble Friend would not wish to do that.

MR. KIRKWOOD (Lab., Dumbarton Burghs): Does not the evidence before the Home Secretary show that employment as police has a degrading effect upon women? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I have no evidence of that.

Hyde Park (Prosecutions).

MR. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Home Secretary the number of charges for indecency brought by the police under the Hyde Park Regulations for the month of May, 1928; and how many of these charges were supported by other than police evidence? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The answer to the first part of the question is none. The second part, therefore, does not arise. MR. DAY: With reference to the very large number in the previous month, I would like to ask if special instructions were given to the police to try to obtain corroborative evidence? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The question put to me relates to the number of the charges of indecency, and the answer is that there were none in the month of May of this year. MR. DAY: The point I want to make is, that in the previous month there were 64 cases, of which only one was supported by corroborative evidence. May I ask whether the reason for this great reduction is that special instructions have been given to the police to try to obtain corroborative evidence? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: No, Sir; the hon. Member must form his own conclusion as to the reasons for the falling-off.

LT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Lab., Central Hull): Does that mean, as I hope was the case, that there has been an improvement in public manners in Hyde Park, or that the police have been hampered by recent events in carrying out their duties? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I think the hon. and gallant Member will see that these questions are putting me in a very difficult position. The fact is clear that there was an average number of from 30 to 40 cases per month in the previous months, and since certain events there have been none, and that is what always follows in regard to similar events. I hope that before very long the police will resume their normal activities. I must confess that I cannot say that there is any change in the position of affairs. LT.-COM. KENWORTHY: Is the Home Secretary aware

that a great majority of the Members of this House and the public outside are ready to support him in properly administering the law? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: As the hon. and gallant Member knows, the position is an exceedingly difficult one. I am exceedingly anxious not to take any false step in the matter, and I would ask him to leave it to me.

Night Clubs.

LT.-COM. KENWORTHY asked the Home Secretary whether, especially in view of recent cases, he proposes to introduce legislation to deal with bogus night clubs in the Metropolitan area? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The answer is in the negative. LT.-COM. KENWORTHY: Is the Home Secretary satisfied with his present powers? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The hon. and gallant Member has referred to recent cases. My present powers have nothing to do with them.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR: Was it not General Sir Nevill Macready, the Chief Commissioner of Police, who said that women police, trained and qualified under proper superintendence, would be a great help in dealing with night clubs, and will the Home Secretary bear that in mind when he is considering the question of increasing the Metropolitan Police Force? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Certainly.

MR. BUCHANAN (Lab., Gorbals): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there is a strong feeling against women police, and will he remember that fact? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: All relevant considerations will be taken into account.

Gloucester Assizes (Women Prisoners).

MR. L'ESTRANGE MALONE (Lab., Northampton) asked the Home Secretary what, if any, accommodation is provided for women prisoners appearing before the Gloucester Assizes; whether it is customary to bring prisoners each day from Birmingham Prison to Gloucester, entailing thereby journeys of more than 200 miles each day; and whether he will arrange for the provision of more satisfactory accommodation?

SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: There is no women's wing at Gloucester Prison, and the usual practice is to bring women prisoners from Birmingham. In a case now pending, where it is anticipated that the trial may last more than one day, special arrangements have been made to lodge the woman in a detached part of Gloucester Prison, under the care of female officers.

Boys and Girls (Unemployed), London.

MR. KELLY (Lab., Rochdale) asked the Minister of Labour the number of boys and girls registered as unemployed in the London area in May and June, 1928? MR. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour): At 18th June, 1928, 2,273 boys and 2,085 girls, aged 14 to 17 years, were on the live registers of Employment Exchanges in the area of Greater London, as compared with 3,132 boys and 2,881 girls at 14th May, 1928.

Aliens (British Wives).

MISS WILKINSON asked the Prime Minister whether any further steps have been taken towards giving to British women married to aliens the right to retain their own nationality; and whether he can promise this reform within the lifetime of the present Parliament? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I have been asked to reply. We must await the Report of the Committee of Experts mentioned by the Imperial Conference of 1926, and when the recommendations of that Committee are available, they will have to be considered by a further Conference. I fear, therefore, that the answer to the last paragraph of the question must be in the negative.

MISS WILKINSON: Has the right hon. Gentleman any idea as to when this Committee of Experts will report, and is he not aware that a great deal of hardship is caused to many Englishwomen by the present state of affairs, while foreign women, some of whom are quite undesirable, can obtain British nationality

by merely going through the formality of marriage? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: A Committee of the Imperial Conference dealt with the matter, and we have a Committee now sitting. Owing to the differences of opinion, it will be a long time before we can get a complete report.

MISS WILKINSON: As it is likely to be a long time before the matter is dealt with, can the right hon. Gentleman's Department be more elastic in its review of the cases of British women of undoubted respectability who are stranded abroad and wish to return to their own country and nationality? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I very frequently do relax. If the hon. Member has any case in mind and will let me know about it, I shall personally go into it.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Testamentary Provision.

Dear Madam, Mrs. Hubback says in her letter in your last week's number that the abolition of laws by which a husband is bound to maintain his wife during his lifetime would lead to the "home woman" being forced to earn her own living against her own inclination.

It is a fact that many men prefer their wives to work in the home only, and when they marry this arrangement is, I suppose, privately agreed to by the contracting parties. Now how many men only give their wives money because of the existence of laws that compel them to? What woman of spirit would not rather work her fingers to the bone than be compelled to take the degrading step of forcing support legally out of a reluctant male? That the husband should be responsible for the support of his children to some extent is a different proposition.—Yours faithfully, (Mrs.) A. L. MILLAR.

Leven.

Widows, Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act.

Dear Madam, May I ask you to be kind enough to correct one or two mistakes in the report, which are rather misleading?

In the report the last sentence of the second paragraph reads as follows: "Mrs. Townsend also said that widows whose husbands died before the Act came into operation did not benefit under its provisions."

What I actually said was that pre-Act widows, and widows whose husbands were over 70 when the Act came into operation, benefited under special clauses of the Bill. They receive pensions only if they have a child living under the age of 14, and the pension ceases when the youngest child attains that age.

In the case of the widows who benefit normally under the Act this does not apply. Their pensions do not depend on their having children under 14, nor does the pension cease when the youngest child attains 14. The allowance for the child only ceases.

There is one other slight correction, where you say: "And he must have paid 100 contributions"; the figure should be 104 contributions.—Yours sincerely,

M. TOWNSEND.

Brook Green.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL.

The Women's International League are arranging an International Summer School in Westhill Training College, Selly Oak, near Birmingham, from Friday, July 27th, to Friday, August 10th. The subject to be discussed is "New Theories of Government (Socialism, Bolshevism, Fascism, etc.), and their Relation to International Peace."

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Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "Barclay's Bank Ltd."

BIRTHDAY FUND S.O.S.!

The Victory Birthday Party is over, but the Victory Birthday Fund is still open, and we must make it a Record Fund. Much more is required for our League now. All donations will be very gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. E. KNIGHT.

Our First Birthday Fund list will be printed in next week's VOTE. BE IN TIME!

WOMEN MOTORISTS AND REPAIRS.

Women car drivers have become a commonplace of the roads. We now learn that not only are women learning to drive in ever-increasing numbers, but they insist on becoming efficient in repair work. So many women now motor alone that it is useless for them to take a course of training which does not include the practical side of motoring.

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/-

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, July 11th, 4 to 5.30 p.m.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date. Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, 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.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, July 11th, at 3 p.m.

Portsmouth. Garden Whist Drive at 14, Festing Grove. Tea. Tickets 1s. 6d. Indoors if wet.

Wednesday, July 11th, at 7.30 p.m.

Rye. A Branch Meeting will be held at the Mint Tea Rooms (by kind permission of the Misses Boielle). Mrs. Joan Cather will speak on "Women and Peace." Chair: Miss White.

Thursday, July 12th, from 8 to 12 p.m.

Bradford Branch. Victory Dance to celebrate passing of Equal Franchise Bill, at Springburn Academy. Tickets 2s. 6d. each, from Miss Hoey, 10, Carmona Avenue, Frizinghall, Bradford.

Saturday, July 21st, at 3.30 p.m.

Hastings. A Garden Meeting will be held at "Rossiana," Pine Avenue, Ore (by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Prelooker). Miss F. A. Underwood will speak on "The Life of Josephine Butler."

Saturday, July 21st.

Portsmouth Branch. Garden Meeting at Rowland's Castle. Hostess, Miss Whitehead.

Saturday, July 28th.

Ashford Branch. Garden Meeting at Grammar School Woods. Hostess, Mrs. Lamprey.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, July 14th, at 2.30 p.m.

Edinburgh. Garden Fair at Heriot Hill House, Canonmills, to be opened by Mrs. Blair, of Hoprig Mains, Macmerry.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, July 6th, at 8.15 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Dinner at Criterion. Tickets, 8s. 6d. each.

Friday, July 6th, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

British Commonwealth League. Conference at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi. "Some Problems of Government in Relation to Women within the British Empire." Chair: Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Speakers from all parts of the British Commonwealth. Admission 1s. each session.

Saturday, July 7th.

British Commonwealth League. Garden Party (by kind invitation of Mrs. Percy Bigland) at Jordans, Beaconsfield. Motor Coach leaves 17, Buckingham Street, at 2 p.m. Tickets, 7s. 6d.

Sunday, July 8th, at 10.30 a.m.

Mass at Westminster Cathedral, offered by request of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

Monday, July 9th, at 8 p.m.

Speech Club. Debate at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. "That, on the whole, English Literature is Deteriorating." Opener: Miss Solomon. Opposer: Roy Devereux.

Tuesday, July 10th, at 7 p.m.

League of the Church Militant. Thanksgiving Service at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square.

Wednesday, July 11th, 3.30 to 8.30 p.m.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Garden Party at Cliveden, Taplow, Bucks (by kind permission of the Viscountess Astor, M.P.). Tickets 5s. each, including entrance and tea, from N.U.S.E.C., 15, Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W.1.

Wednesday, July 18th, at 8.30 p.m.

Minerva Club Branch. Miss Edith Rodgers will give a Greek Reading (conclusion of series) at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Saturday, July 21st, at 3 p.m.

Conference on "The Eleventh International Labour Conference at Geneva." To be held in the Drawing Room, London Central Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1. Speakers: Mr. E. L. Poulton, O.B.E., J.P., Mr. J. E. Herbert, I.L.O. Staff, Geneva, and Captain L. H. Green, M.A. Chairman: Sir Atul C. C. Natterjee, K.C.I.E., High Commissioner for India.

Tickets 1s., including tea. Apply Mr. G. A. Innes, London Regional Federation, L.N.U., 43, Russell Square, W.C.1.

Friday, July 27th, to Friday, August 10th.

Women's International League. International Summer School in Westhill Training College, Selly Oak, near Birmingham.

BRANCH NOTES.

ASHFORD.

We had a successful gathering of members at "Glengarriff," Albert Road, last Friday afternoon. We were all delighted to have Mrs. Kither back again. Mrs. Miles presided. Mrs. Palmer read the annual report, which proved that we have had a successful year. Mrs. Goldsmith presented the balance sheet, which showed a balance on the right side. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Willis; Vice-President, Mrs. Kither; Secretary, Mrs. Palmer; Treasurer, Mrs. Goldsmith. These, with a good working Committee of ten members, will ensure successful work during the next year.

We warmly thank Mrs. Lamprey for her kind invitation to spend our next Garden Meeting in the Grammar School Woods. This will be on the last Friday in July. Will all VOTE members please pay Miss White for their papers at the monthly meetings in future? She warmly thanks those who gave her donations for her Birthday Fund card last Friday. A successful meeting terminated with an address by Mrs. Miles on "The League of Nations."

BRADFORD.

Victory Dance to celebrate passing of Equal Franchise Bill, at Springburn Academy, on Thursday, July 12th, from 8 to 12 p.m. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each, from Miss Hoey, 10, Carmona Avenue, Frizinghall, Bradford.

HASTINGS.

We want to have a full gathering of members and friends at Mrs. Prelooker's Garden Meeting on Saturday, July 21st. Miss F. A. Underwood will speak on "The Life of Josephine Butler." The Deputy Mayor of Hastings, Mrs. Badcock, C.B.E., has kindly consented to preside. Miss Miriam Prelooker will arrange an entertainment. We warmly welcome this youthful member, who has consented to act as our Hon. Treasurer.

PORTSMOUTH.

The following donations to the Branch's subscription to the Birthday Fund are gratefully acknowledged: Mrs. Speck, £1; Mrs. Whetton, £1; Mrs. Ware, 10s.; Miss Peacock, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Tremain, 1s.; Mrs. Whitehead, 1s.; Miss Whitehead, 1s.; Mrs. Sawyer, 1s.

Mrs. Whitehead has kindly invited members and friends to tea in her garden at Rowland's Castle on Saturday, July 21st. Particulars as to train, etc., will be sent to members. Proceeds to Birthday Fund. Please remember the Garden Whist Drive on July 11th, at 3 o'clock, at 14, Festing Grove. (Hon. Sec.) MRS. WHETTON.

EDINBURGH.

Will all members and friends please do all they can to help with the big "Victory" effort the Edinburgh Branch is making on July 14th? By kind permission of Mrs. MacLeod Easson this is to take the form of a Garden Fête at Heriot Hill House on that date, commencing at 2.30 p.m. The Fête will be opened by Mrs. Blair, of Hoprig Mains. Gifts for the tea, or any of the various stalls, will be gratefully received by Mrs. MacLeod Easson, and we hope that all will come and bring their friends. Admission by ticket, 6d. each, at the gate, or in advance from Heriot Hill House. (Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

GLASGOW.

Owing to holidays intervening, "Equal Franchise Victory" will be celebrated early in the Autumn. Members will be notified in due course as to date, place, time, etc.

LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT. THANKSGIVING SERVICE.

The League of the Church Militant is organising a Service of Thanksgiving at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, on Tuesday, July 10th, at 7 p.m., for the passing of the Equal Suffrage Bill. The Rev. Claude Hinscliff, founder of the Church League for Women's Suffrage, will be the preacher. It is hoped that all members of suffrage societies and other women's organisations will try to be present.

HOW TO ESTABLISH YOUR FUTURE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE BY SETTING UP A RETIRING FUND. Write or Telephone to— MISS W. MARY NEW, (Women's Section) SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY 13, CORNHILL, E.C.3. Phones: AVENUE 1672 and 2253.

FRIDAY,
JULY 6,
1928.

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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

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.

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.

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NOTICES.

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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, July 8th, 1928. 6.30. Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., M.P.: "The Love of God."

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SMALL Freehold Bungalow—3 rooms, 1 acre land, garage, etc. Company's water. Kingsnorth near Ashford, Kent. All at £95; bargain.—Write "L.C.," 20, Sutherland Avenue, W.9.

COMPACT BUNGALOW in Surrey Hills, Pine and Heather, 400 feet up. Sandy loam gravel; 4 miles Hindhead and Haslemere; secluded, good view over extensive country; living room, two bedrooms; ¼-acre. Cash sale, £275.—ARCHDALE, Moordell, Brier Avenue, Witley, Surrey.

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