

THE VOTE,
DEC. 7, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

OUR ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXIV. No. 737.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, DEC. 7, 1923

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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WOMEN'S CAREERS.— I. WOMEN ENGINEERS.

Our members will join us in welcoming to our ranks Miss Cleone de H. Griff, A.M.I.A.E., Member of the Iron and Steel Institute, etc., and in congratulating the Birmingham Branch of the Women's Freedom League on securing so valuable a recruit.

Miss Griff is, in every sense of the word, a pioneer woman. Since 1904 an owner driver of an automobile, she was the first woman to obtain the R.A.C. mechanical proficiency certificate, and was one of the first women technical contributors to the motor Press. She has handled cars of every description, from the high-powered racer to the heavy motor lorry, and at all times with marked success. She is not only the first woman member of the Institute of Automobile Engineers, but Chairman of the Women's Engineering Society.

Miss Griff holds certificates from the Board of Education, and from London City and Guilds, and is a member of the Iron and Steel Institute, and of one of the most important scientific societies in the Provinces—the Birmingham Metallurgical Society. She began her engineering career early in life, and has, by sheer pluck and determination, worked her way up to the position she now holds. Her articles in technical papers, and her lectures on technical subjects, are as much appreciated as well known in engineering circles.

In the early days of the war, Miss Griff carried on business in London as a consulting engineer, and on such matters as the installation of pumping and

lighting plants, especially in country houses, as well as on farm machinery, motor ploughs, and tractors, she had no serious rival. Later, during the war, Miss Griff was concerned with aircraft construction, and dealt with such questions as the production and supply of tools and raw materials.



MISS GRIFF.

She is at present the first woman Chairman and Managing Director of the Stainless and Non-corrosive Metals Company, the Board of which is composed solely of women, and has a woman auditor and a woman secretary. Owing to illness, Miss C. M. Davis, who with Miss Griff was joint managing director, has retired, and two other women, the Hon. Gabrielle Borthwick, and Lady Gertrude Crawford, have joined the Board as directors. Miss Borthwick, who is the daughter of a former Lord Borthwick, is the Governing Director of Borthwick Garages, Ltd., whose principal premises are in Brick Street, W. Lady Gertrude Crawford, who is a sister of the Earl of Sefton, is also a director of Borthwick Garages, Ltd. She is the only woman freeman of the Turners' Company.

Amongst the objects of the Company is the employment of women in all stages of the work. As a pioneer and leading woman engineer, Miss Griff is convinced that there is a wide field for women in that profession, and many openings should be available for women, who possess the necessary qualifications, as consulting engineers, laboratory assistants, lecturers, factory and

insurance inspectors, technical and mechanical managers to lady farmers, and lady managers of printing works, steam and electric laundries.

It is true that the busiest people can always find time for recreation, and, notwithstanding her varied interests and activities, Miss Griff manages to indulge in her favourite hobby of bulldog breeding, and her favourite sport of fencing.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Women Lawyers' First Cases.

The first woman barrister to practise in Leeds, Miss A. Horsman, conducted her first case last week at Leeds Assizes. She prosecuted a man for theft, and he was sentenced to three months' hard labour. For the first time a woman solicitor appeared professionally in the High Court in Dublin last week. This was Miss Helena Early, who was admitted a solicitor some months ago. She appeared for the defendant in a probate case, and agreed to the suggestion of counsel for the other side that £560, funds brought into court, should be invested in the Free State loan.

Woman Bailie for Clydebank.

At the first meeting of Clydebank Town Council held after the election, Councillors Mrs. Lappin and Frank Callaghan were elected as magistrates. Mrs. Lappin was the first lady to be elected to Clydebank Town Council, and is one of the very few ladies who hold the position of Bailie. She has always taken a prominent interest in the Co-operative movement, having held office as President in the Women's Guild for four years.

Miss Metcalfe's Bequest.

A bequest under the will of the late Miss A. E. Metcalfe has been accepted by London University, by which a scholarship and a studentship for women will be founded for the encouragement of the study of social economics and industrial conditions. They will be known as the "Metcalfe Scholarship for Women," and the "Metcalfe Studentship for Women," respectively, and will be tenable at the London School of Economics.

American Woman Advertising Director

Mrs. Ogden Reid, now in London, is the wife of the Proprietor and Editor of the *New York Tribune*, and claims to be the only woman advertising director in America. Mrs. Reid is responsible for the whole of the advertising side of the *New York Tribune*. All her clerical staff consists of women, and she has a woman office manager and three women canvassers.

Woman Farmer's Success.

Mrs. Stanley Threlkeld, who has recently taken over The Grove, Watford, an estate of 500 acres, formerly the seat of the Earls of Clarendon, was for four years herdswoman in charge of the Prince of Wales's home farm at Stoke Clunslund, Cornwall, where 150 cows and calves and 11 bulls were under her charge. The Grove is now to be put to the purposes of a farm and garden school.

Woman Omnibus Owner.

Miss Helen Schultz, of Iowa, U.S.A., is probably the only acting woman owner of an omnibus line in the States. Beginning with one, she now has a fleet of 16 motor buses, which traverse one of the longest bus lines in the world, as they carry passengers half-way across the American continent. Miss Schultz is still in her early twenties.

Women Gardeners in Demand.

Swanley Horticultural College reports a great demand for lady gardeners, and that all the students of the college who wanted posts in the past year were successful in obtaining them. Indeed, the college had offers of posts which it was unable to fill, as no students were available.

German Women M.P.'s Influence.

The Act abolishing State Regulation of Vice in Germany, as from October 1st, was largely the work of women M.P.s in the Reichstag. The Committee that prepared the Bill for the final plenary session had a woman as Chairman, and nearly half of the 28 members were women.

Blind Girl B.A.

Miss Sadie Isaacs, a blind girl of Bethnal Green, has just obtained her honours B.A. degree (London) in English and History. Having gained first place in the University, she has been awarded, at the same time, the George Smith Studentship, which she will accept if she decides to continue her studies, and work for her M.A.

Tasmania Comes into Line!

Tasmania has fallen into line with other Australian States by recently passing a Bill legalising the marriage of a woman to her deceased husband's brother, thus wiping out an anomaly in the marriage law of that State.

American Woman Judge's Appointment

Miss Mary M. Bartelme, for ten years Assistant to the Judge of the Juvenile Court of Cook County, has recently been made Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Limited Suffrage in Spain.

A news note in *La Prensa* reports that the military dictator of Spain, Primo de Rivera, has promised suffrage to Spanish women—but with heavy reservations, on the Mussolini model.

Dr. Montessori's Degree.

The Senate of Durham University has offered the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters to Dr. Montessori, the well-known educationist.

TRAINING FOR WOMEN.

At a meeting addressed at the Minerva Club on November 8th by Lady Rhondda on the Report of the Committee appointed by the Ministry of Labour to inquire into the present conditions as to the supply of female domestic servants, a resolution was passed unanimously by those present, and sent to the Minister of Labour, "urging the Government to give an immediate grant to the Central Committee for Women's Training and Employment, to enable this Committee to continue its fine work until trade conditions have become more normal." The following reply has been received by the Secretary of the Women's Freedom League from the private Secretary to Sir Montague Barlow:—

"Ministry of Labour,
"Whitehall, S.W.1.
"Nov. 30th, 1923.

"DEAR MADAM,

"Sir Montague Barlow desires me to refer to your letter of 10th November, in which you informed him of a resolution, passed at a meeting held under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League, on the 8th of November, relating to the work of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment during the coming winter.

"In reply, he desires me to inform you that arrangements have now been made for a Government contribution to the funds of the Central Committee for the purpose of Homecraft training, and it is anticipated that this grant will provide sufficient funds to enable the Committee to maintain Homecraft courses during the winter."

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD., 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1. Subscription: London Members, £3 3s.; Country Members, £1 5s.; Irish, Scottish and Foreign Members, 10/6. No Entrance Fee till January 1st, 1924. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte. All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932

PRISONS AND WOMEN.

Last week, it was announced that the King had appointed Mr. G. B. Griffiths, M.R.C.S., Medical Director of Prisons, to be one of the Prison Commissioners under the Prison Act, 1877. Dr. Dyer retired from the Commission last year, owing to impaired health, and Mr. J. R. Farewell, who had been acting as a Commissioner since the end of August, 1921, was formally appointed in January, 1923. With Mr. Alexander Paterson, there are three Prison Commissioners, each receiving from £1,000 to £1,200 a year; the Chairman of the Prison Commission, Mr. M. Lyndham Waller, who has £1,500; and Sir H. Bryan Donkin, who is unpaid. It will be noticed that all the members of the Prison Commission are men. So are the three Prison Inspectors, who each receive from £600 to £900 a year; so also is the Medical Inspector, who gets £780 to £880. The Chaplain-Inspector is a man with a stipend of from £600 to £700. The Surveyor (£700 to £900), and the Assistant Surveyor (£300 to £400) are men; so also are the Chief Clerk (£550 to £700); the Comptroller of Stores (£550 to £700); the Clerk in Charge of Accounts (£550 to £700); and the three Staff and Stores Clerks, who each get from £400 to £500 a year. There is not a woman member of the Prison Commission. For a few years, Dr. Mary Gordon was a Lady Inspector of Prisons; but she reached the retiring age in 1921, and since that date no woman has been appointed in her place, on grounds of economy. It is interesting to record the fact that her salary as Lady Inspector of Prisons was only £300 to £400, at a time when the three men Inspectors of Prisons were each receiving £700 to £800 a year, the Assistant Medical Inspector £680, and three First-Class Clerks in the Commission £550 to £500 a year each. Dr. Mary Gordon was, of course, a fully qualified medical woman, and her work in our prisons was invaluable. We protest again most strongly that no woman has been appointed as a Commissioner of Prisons, and whatever Government comes into power, we call upon it to appoint women as Commissioners of Prisons, women as Inspectors of Prisons, a woman Medical Inspector of Prisons, and women as Governors and Deputy Governors of all women's prisons, and women's sections of prisons.

The Commissioners of Prisons have just issued a Report for the year ended March, 1923, which is printed and published by H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, the price of which is 2s. net. Everyone who is interested in the working of our prison system, and the treatment of prisoners, should at once secure a copy of this Report, and we think they will agree with us that there is evidence on every page that the Prison Commission consists entirely of men, and that the bias, the thoughts, the plans for the future, the consideration, and the understanding of the writers of this Report are almost exclusively on the side of the male prisoners. We do not think it could be otherwise without a woman colleague. There are, however, women prisoners, and the Report states that the total number of receptions this year after conviction on indictment is 4,835 men and 339 women, as compared with 5,023 men and 369 women last year, thus showing a decrease in both sexes. The receptions after summary conviction for indictable offences were 10,808 men and 1,545 women, as compared with 9,800 men and 1,547 women last year. The receptions for non-indictable offences were 21,693 men and 8,151 women, as compared with 20,962 men and 9,425 women last year, or an increase of 3 per cent. in the receptions of men, and a decrease of 13 per cent. in those of women. The number of debtors sent to prison is greatly on the increase. This year it was 12,995, compared with 9,267 last year. The debtor class is composed chiefly of persons committed for the non-payment of wife-maintenance, bastardy arrears, or arrears of Income-tax. Some are men who will not

pay out of determined hostility to wives or to mothers of illegitimate children. Those who either cannot or will not pay, in most cases escape their debt by undergoing a short period of imprisonment at the public expense, without benefit to anybody. The taxpayer maintains them, and the creditor or the woman who is in need of support usually gets nothing. Two good suggestions are made to meet such cases: (1) Attachment of wages, which would meet the view of many women who believe that a wife or an unmarried mother should have a legal claim to a proportion of the husband's or the child's father's wages, salary, or income; and (2) arrangements for a man to be put to compulsory work until he has paid off the debt thereby.

A good deal of space is devoted in this Report to efforts on behalf of elementary and adult education in our prisons. We learn that concerts and debates are regular features in men's prisons, but the writers do not make it clear that this is the case in women's prisons. They tell us that "the new Convict Stage System is working successfully. Debates, concerts, etc., are arranged in the special and third stages by the men themselves, the second stage being permitted to attend. At Parkhurst there are two such associations of men in the upper stages—one for the star men, and one for the intermediates and recidivists; Maidstone and Dartmoor have one each. There has been no misconduct; the privileges of the upper stages are highly valued, and there is, as usual, a good response on the part of the men generally, to the confidence which is placed in them." We look in vain through the Report to find that anything on similar lines is being done for the women in the Convict Prison of Liverpool. There ought to be a woman Governor of this women's convict prison; and if anyone has any doubt as to the advisability of a woman Governor for a woman's prison, we commend that person to the paragraphs written on Holloway Prison by its Governor, whose only desire appears to be to transfer women prisoners from the Second to the Third Division. We question whether anyone on earth could show a duller or more dreary outlook. The Holloway Prison Chaplain says: "It would be very beneficial if there could be in the evenings small classes of specially selected women, who could be instructed by duly qualified paid teachers in technical subjects. I put first in importance a cookery class. Those who know how the poor live and feed, the unnecessary expense and waste, and the gruesome products of the housewife's activities, appreciate how invaluable such practical instruction might be; the additional comfort and cleanliness, and the benefit and the health of the young. A class for instruction in infant welfare, sick nursing, etc., would be highly beneficial." That is, of course, a man's view, and quite worthy as far as it goes. We venture to assert, however, that if Holloway Prison had a capable woman Governor, she would include other handicrafts, and a wider scheme of education, for the benefit of women prisoners.

Our readers will be interested in reading the following paragraph by the Governor of Aylesbury Borstal Institution—most fortunately a woman—which is included in the Commissioner's Report:—

"A review of these figures shows that the number of cases of violence is excessive, and includes, of course, 'smashings-up.' This is the recognised method at Aylesbury for inmates to get their own back for real or fancied grievances; it is also the outward and visible expression of general boredom. It is quite a common thing for an inmate who has been punished, and rightly punished, to turn round and say, 'All right; I'll show you to-night'; and if the smashing does not materialise that night, it will in due course. The destruction to property in the inmate's room is very complete, and the noise during one of these escapades is worse than anything I have ever heard in a mental hospital. The only way to counter this phase of life at Aylesbury is to provide more outlet for the pent-up emotions of these girls. Punishment alone will not suffice." F. A. U.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7th, 1923.

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 a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

WOMEN AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

We go to press before the General Election takes place, but the day on which THE VOTE is in the hands of our readers the results will be known, together with the name of the Party or the Coalition which will be in power. Whoever have the reins of Government, the demands and the policy of the Women's Freedom League will be the same. First and foremost we demand equal political voting rights for men and women—that every man and woman over the age of 21 shall have the Parliamentary vote on a short residential qualification. At the present time, no woman under 30 years of age can claim this vote; and, even when she has attained the age of 30, she must prove either that she has a husband or furniture before she is entitled to it. We rely upon our friends of all Parties in the House of Commons to remove this absurd piece of injustice to women. We do not believe any of our real friends will tell us to wait until the end of the coming Parliament. No man and no woman, even if they be Members of Parliament, can with safety prophesy when that end will be; and to suggest that women shall wait until then for their political rights is only to postpone the granting of those rights until the Greek Kalends.

Our next demand is that the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act shall be a real and effective Act for the removal of women's disabilities, and not the sham piece of legislation that it now is. We want to see an end made to the Orders in Council which prescribe the mode of admission of women to the Civil Service, so that all posts, both high and low, in the Home Civil Service, and all posts now reserved to men in the Diplomatic and Consular Services, in the Government Services of the Colonies and Protectorates, in the Indian Civil Services, in the Commercial Diplomatic Service, and the Trade Commissioner Service, shall be open equally on the same terms to women and men. In connection with that same Act, we further demand that Clause I., which states that a person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from entering, or assuming, or carrying on, any civil profession or vocation, shall be interpreted to mean what it says; and that it shall be declared illegal for local governing bodies to frame rules and regulations in order to secure the resignation of their women employees on marriage, to dismiss those women on marriage, or to refuse to employ married women. The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act received the Royal Assent on December 23rd, 1919, and, now that it has been on the Statute Book for four years, local governing bodies are continuing to defy it with impunity; and, in justification of this action, we are informed that this Act is merely an "enabling" Act. We do not pretend to understand legal quibbles, but we urge that a question be asked in Parliament, at the earliest opportunity, whether the Government will consult the Law Lords on this matter. If the Law Lords decide that Clause

I. does not mean what we believe it was intended to mean, and what women were led to believe that it did mean, then we shall urge the Government to pass an amending Bill without delay, so that the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act shall be a real charter of British women's liberties.

We shall press the new Government to secure an equal status for married women with married men in regard to the guardianship of their children, their equal right with men to retain or change their nationality on marriage, and their separate assessment for Income-tax. With regard to the unmarried mother and her child, we shall continue to press for further responsibility of the father for the welfare of his child. The Women's Freedom League will also urge the New Government to bring in, and pass through all its stages into law, a Bill to raise the Age of Consent for girls to 18 years, with a similar protection for boys. We believe that this would be the quickest and most effective remedy for the spread of venereal disease in this country.

We shall insist, too, whatever Government is in power, that it shall give its early consideration to unemployment amongst women, and we shall not fail to urge that an equal amount shall be spent on schemes of work or training for workless women, in proportion to their numbers, as on schemes for unemployed men, remembering that for every four men unemployed there is one woman unemployed; and, in order to relieve the pressure in the labour market, we shall continue to urge that boys and girls shall be kept at school, with maintenance if necessary, until they are 16 years of age. These children, the future citizens of this country, are the nation's greatest asset, and to allow scores of thousands of them to run the streets with nothing to do during the most impressionable years of their lives, and become unemployable, is, in our view, the most wicked waste of our national resources.

WOMEN FACTORY INSPECTORS IN OTHER LANDS.

Miss May Abraham and Miss Mary Paterson were the first women to be appointed Inspectors of Factories in this country in 1893, and it is interesting to learn from the *Christian Science Monitor* that Denmark, the first of the Scandinavian countries to start factory inspection by women, appointed its first woman inspector in 1901. Now there are three of them, Mrs. Arenholdt being special inspector for the bakeries, while Miss Gjessing and Mrs. Schou divide the remaining work between them. Mrs. Kjelsberg, Norway's first and only woman factory inspector, was present at the International Labour Conference recently held in Geneva, and also took part in the Labour Conference at Washington in 1920. She was appointed a factory inspector in 1910. Now, 6,700 industrial plants are under her supervision, employing about 40,000 women, 15,000 minors, and 300 children. Hygienic measures improving the working conditions of these people are the result of her work. All the brewers, sausage makers, bakers, butchers—in short, the foodstuff industry of the country—are subject to her inspection. She has established one assistant in the western, and one in the northern sections of the country, residing herself with one assistant at the eastern centre of Christiania, from which she makes frequent inspection trips all over Norway. As Mrs. Kjelsberg has all Norway for her field of activity, Kerstin Hesselgren has all Sweden, and that means much more. She has only two assistants. Jenny Markelin-Svensen has been super-inspector of women's work in Finland since 1918. Directly under her supervision are eight male and four female inspectors, 50 municipal inspectors, and about 75,000 working men and women. The qualifications required for a woman factory inspector in Finland are very severe. College graduates or "gymnastic candidates" will do, but in any case they must have had practical work in factories, and possess a knowledge of social science.

A BELGIAN SORTING HOUSE FOR BOYS.

By S. MARGERIE FRY, J.P.*

An interesting psychological experiment is now being carried on at Moll, in Belgium, to investigate the causes of delinquency in boys. This experiment is housed in square buildings constructed round a quadrangle, and is divided into French and Flemish sections. The last block of all is devoted to mentally defective children, who remain on longer than the others. The boys are graded according to stages in their physical development, viz., pre-puberty, puberty, and post-puberty, and are housed in separate pavilions according to these grades. Their ages approximate from 10 to 21. The masters who supervise the boys are chosen with extraordinary care, and must serve a year's probation on the staff before becoming full Masters. One Master is appointed to every 10 boys, and there are 30 boys in each pavilion.

The establishment at Moll is not a school, nor yet a training-place, but rather a laboratory or observatory. The boys arrive direct from the police-courts, where they have appeared either as delinquents, or as being merely homeless. In some cases, boys come who have committed really serious crimes, such as murder. The cost of their stay at Moll varies in proportion to the offence for which they have been committed, and is divided between the Province from which the boy comes, the Commune, and the parents. On arrival, each boy is examined with extraordinarily sympathetic care. He remains in his own little room for the first few days, so as to enable him to become acclimatised to his new surroundings, after which he enters into the full life of his section, where he is carefully observed in his relationships with other boys. Lessons are quite informal, and given chiefly for the purpose of keeping the boys occupied, handwork being specially encouraged. If a boy shows any particular aptitude for any vocation, he is given full facilities to express himself in his own way. Plenty of outdoor exercise is provided, and, though the playground is situated close to the road, no attempt to escape has ever been made.

Each pavilion is self-governing, elects its own officers, and generally arranges its own affairs, as well

as making out its time-table of duties for the day. The boys cultivate the small gardens attached to each pavilion, in addition to other special domestic duties, and the greatest punishment a boy can suffer is to be deprived, for some misdemeanour, of his own particular job. The parents of the boys are allowed to visit their sons at all times, and, if the boys have behaved well, they may be taken out by their parents into the town. Great importance is attached by the Director, and the Masters under him, to friendly relations with the parents, as these form the chief factors in the after-lives of the boys. The boys are allowed a small sum weekly for pocket-money, and are allowed to help themselves to cigarettes, sweets, picture post-cards, etc., from a cupboard kept for this purpose, paying for anything they take. I was told that no boy had ever exceeded the amount he was entitled to. The boys' methods of spending this pocket-money frequently afford valuable clues to their character.

The boys may remain under observation as long as four months, but usually pay shorter visits. Before leaving, each boy is subjected to certain psychological tests, and is also very carefully medically examined by a doctor. The disposal of the boys after leaving Moll is a great difficulty, but the Belgian schools are, fortunately, beginning to classify themselves according to the children they have to deal with, and to-day many Belgian teachers voluntarily pass through the establishment at Moll as a means of training for the future. One hundred boys out of four hundred who have been under observation at Moll have been received back again into family life, the parents receiving special instruction from the establishment as to how to look after these children. Japan and Portugal, and many of the smaller countries, are now beginning to follow Belgium's example, and if only Great Britain would do the same, a great deal of school-work would be saved which is now thrown away, because we have no means of sorting out children as in the Belgian classification.

*In a Lecture.

INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS IN THE ORIENT.

In a recent interview, in the *Woman Citizen*, Mr. Sherwood Eddy, Y.M.C.A. Secretary for Asia, frames a terrible indictment against the industrial conditions in the Orient, which Mr. Eddy describes as "surpassing the shocking histories of the English industrial revolution of the 18th century."

China and Japan seem to be the greatest culprits in this matter. According to Mr. Eddy, the Chinese have imported the most modern machinery, and the latest mechanical inventions of the Western world, but are starting as England started 150 years ago, working their labourers 16 and 18 hours a day, underpaying them, crowding them into hovels, and thrusting women and children into the factories. To-day, capital and machinery are organised and powerful in China, but the third factor, labour, is cheap and helpless. Mr. Eddy saw women in the Chinese factories, working with babies strapped to their backs, and as the children grew older, they played around among the machinery. Those who escaped injury learned to do odd jobs, and at six, seven, and eight years of age, were regularly employed. In China, there are literally no labour laws of any kind enforced, and the 12-hour day prevails in nearly all modern factories. In the primitive factories, 12 to 18 hours a day, seven days a week, is the rule. There are no compensation laws, no safety rules, no industrial insurance.

In Japan, or rather in Japan of pre-earthquake days, conditions are only slightly better. In 30 years, the total number of factory workers increased from 25,000 to over a million and a half. In 1911, however, a factory law was enacted to make working easier for

women and children. It prohibited the labour of children under 12, fixed a maximum 12-hour day for women and children, and allowed them two holidays a month. This law, though very inadequate, has resulted in a slight reduction of child labour. A rough estimate puts the number of Japanese child operatives at 1,397,000, many thousands of them below the legal age. Conditions among women workers are probably worst in the mines. In 1920, out of 439,150 Japanese miners, 108,300 were women, and of these considerably more than half were working underground. Stripped to the waist, they work 12-hour shifts, pushing coal-cars to the shafts.

In India, curiously enough, labour works under better conditions, yet is worse off than in either China or Japan, due to the basic fact of the country's poverty, and the hundreds of years of destitution her people have suffered. In 1921, a Factory Act limited work to a maximum of 11 hours a day, or 60 hours a week, with six hours for children from 12-15 years of age, and one day's rest in seven. A recent inquiry in Bombay showed that the actual average working time of mills now is 10 hours a day for men and women, and five for children. In India, wages are still miserably low, though factories frequently make from 100 to 200 per cent. on their investments. Machines are generally unprotected and welfare work is discouraged. In 1921, there were 91,949 women, and 8,548 children under 12, working in Indian mines.

These conditions in the Orient certainly need altering, but we earnestly hope that reforms, when made, will apply equally to men and women.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Sea Songs and Ballads, 1917-1922. By C. Foxe-Smith. (Methuen.) 6s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

These poems, well known to readers of *Punch*, under the initials "C. F. S.," are the work of a woman, Miss C. Fox-Smith, and will make other women, also born sailors and wanderers with hereditary salt water mixed in their blood, wonder half-enviously where the writer got her first-hand knowledge of seafaring men, her nautical accuracy, her intimate acquaintance with the language of the lower deck, and her familiarity with that unknown and romantic country of the Thames Dockland—Wapping, Limehouse, Blackwall, Millwall, Deptford, and Lavender Pond. Like her own Lieutenant Shellback:

"She has learnt the ways of the seas that roll,
Broad or narrow or deep or shoal,
Gulf and channel and bight and strait,
From the Barrier Reef to the Golden Gate:
She has learnt the ways of the winds that blow
Off palm and coral and Polar snow,
The typhoon sweeping the China seas,
And the Trades, and the stormy Westerlies . . .
And there isn't a port the wide world round,
From London River to Paget Sound,
From Sand Head Light to Vallipo Bay,
But Lieutenant Shellback's passed that way."

And again one asks, How did she do it?

"Merchantmen," "Ships that pass," "Small Craft," sing of the seaman's love of his ship, and "In Prize" of the failure built at Glasgow, "who allus steered so crazy":

"They sold her into Norway because she steered so funny,
An' she nearly went to glory before they drewed the money."

They chartered 'er to Germans with a bunch of greasers forrard:
Old Shellbacks wouldn't touch 'er because she steered so 'orrid."
Miss C. Fox-Smith is well fitted by knowledge, sympathy, and genius to sing of that most loveable, gallant, and competent gentleman—the British sailor.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

Equal Pay. By Emily Phipps, B.A. (Published by the National Union of Women Teachers.) Price 1½d., post free 2d. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This is an admirable little pamphlet, and should be in the hands of every teacher, man and woman. Miss Phipps explains what Equal Pay means, and why the National Union of Women Teachers believes in it. She also gives valuable statistics in regard to the dependents of men and women.

The Woman's Year Book. (Published by Women Publishers, Ltd.) Price 5s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This seems to us a very useful production. It should be of great assistance in practically every branch of woman's work, and every woman who wishes to be well informed on matters pertaining to her sex will desire to have it by her for reference.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS—AND WOMEN

The Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations will be held at the Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill Street, S.W., on Friday, December 7th, the Morning Session being from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. An Afternoon Meeting will be held at 3 o'clock, when there will be an address by Dame Edith Lyttelton on "The Fourth Assembly of the League of Nations," the Chair being taken by Miss Helen Ward. Both meetings are open to the public. Admission is free, and no tickets are required. All who are interested in women's work in connection with the League of Nations should come to hear Dame Edith Lyttelton next Friday.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.

More contributions to the Election Fund are urgently needed. We have had to undertake responsibilities in response to the keen desire of our members and branches to do all we possibly could to help the women candidates to head the poll, and the bills due must be paid at once. Portsmouth and Hastings branches have worked hard for their candidates; many members at Swansea and Bournemouth have done the same. From Headquarters, speakers have been sent to Swansea, Bournemouth, and Hastings, and workers to Richmond, East Ham, and East Islington. We have printed and published 20,000 of a simple, telling leaflet for busy working women, and have sent them to the eight women candidates who accepted our offer. Everywhere the same fact stands out clearly, that it is the home-keeping women who can now turn elections, and that these women have a natural inclination to be represented in Parliament by a woman M.P. Party questions they neither understand nor wish to study, but the possession of a vote has already begun its work of education, and it seems only right and proper to them that a House elected by the votes of men and women should be composed of men and women members. We must, however, remember that these home-keeping women are very busy in their homes, and it is there that they must be sought and told of the need for their support. Here comes the opportunity for an independent, non-Party, political organisation of progressive women, and as such the Women's Freedom League has been welcomed by women candidates of all political Parties, and has been able to do effective work for women's freedom.

Now we must pay what remains owing for this Election, and build up and extend our League for still greater efforts at the next.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

WE HAVE SOME VERY NICE BOOKS SUITABLE FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

CHILDREN.

"A Little Book about London." Illustrated, 2/6.
Herbert Strang's Annual, 5/- (Boys).
Mrs. Strang's Annual for Girls, 5/-.
" " " Children, 5/-.
" " " Baby, 3/6.
"The Big Book for Girls," "Boys," "Children," and "Baby," all at 2/6, really excellent value, superbly illustrated.
Also seven splendid Books at 4/6 (size fep. 4to), coloured illustrations, sold last year at 7/6, including "Water Babies," "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," "The Arabian Nights," and "Tales from Shakespeare."
"The Sleepy-Song Book," 7/6.
"Old English Nursery Songs," music and coloured illustrations, 7/6.

GROWN - UPS.

"The Call Box Mystery," by John Ironside, a really thrilling detective story, 3/6.
"Dedication," by Henrietta Leslie, 7/6.
"Nor All Thy Tears," by C. Nina Boyle, 7/6.
"What Became of Mr. Desmond," by C. Nina Boyle, 7/6.
"Women at Work in the League of Nations," by Mrs. Northcroft, 6d.
"The Feminine in Fiction," by L.A. M. Priestley, 2/6 and 1/-.
POSTAGE EXTRA.
For admirers of Helen Taylor—Photograph of Grave at Torquay, mounted, 2/6.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—

Councillor Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P.

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Literature Department—Hon. Head: Mrs. PIEROTTI.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, December 10th, at 3 p.m. "Fair" Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, December 14th, at 7.30 p.m. Glasgow. Branch Meeting in Religious Institution Rooms, Buchanan Street. Address by Miss Minto on "The League of Nations."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, December 12th, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Hostess Night.

1924.

Friday, January 18th, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Saturday, January 19th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Saturday, April 5th. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Women's Freedom League Seventeenth Annual Conference.

BRANCH NOTES.

HASTINGS.

The League locally and at headquarters is doing all that it can to support Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon in her fight at Hastings, and so carrying out our Election policy, which is to support all women candidates, irrespective of Party, who satisfy the League. We are sorry that our President feels that she must resign the presidency of the local branch, owing to the fact that she must support the Labour candidate. At headquarters they are helping Mrs. Gordon by sending down Miss Underwood to speak at the Market Hall, George Street, on Tuesday evening, and any amount of leaflets have been sent to be distributed at meetings to help Mrs. Gordon in her campaign. Locally we are working in several ways. Mrs. Darent Harrison gave a drawing-room meeting last week, at which she presided. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon was the speaker. The room was crowded; we were pleased to see so many of our members present. THE VOTE is being sold at meetings, and there are some copies to be had at the Committee Rooms, 1, Claremont. Seats are being reserved for Freedom Leaguers on the platform at the big meeting next Tuesday.

South-Eastern Branches Stall.

The Organiser of the South-Eastern Branches Stall would like to thank the members of the Ashford, Bexhill, and Hastings branches, Mrs. Cavendish-Bentinck, Mrs. Juson Kerr, and Mr. Sullivan, for the very generous number of pretty and saleable articles sent to her for the above stall.

PORTSMOUTH.

When this is in print, the Election will be fought and won—or lost. The women electors of the Southern Division of Portsmouth are favoured by having a woman candidate to work and vote for. Councillor Jessie Stephen, Labour candidate, is having a glorious campaign, and putting up a splendid fight. At a branch meeting on Tuesday, November 27th, it was unanimously decided to support and work for Miss Stephens, and our members are speaking, canvassing, and helping in every possible way. The list of questions issued by Headquarters has been sent to all the candidates, and replies are coming in. The leaflet, "Send Women to Parliament," also issued by Headquarters, is being widely distributed, and we hope to publish it in the local *Evening News*.

A Jumble Sale will be held on Monday, December 10th, at 3 p.m. at the Memorial Hall, Waterloo Street, off St. James's Road. Members are earnestly asked to come and help, and send anything saleable to Mrs. Bilney, 20, Highland Road, or bring it to the room on the day of sale. Helpers meet at the Memorial Hall at 2 p.m.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHITTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

WALLASEY.

The branch had a very successful meeting on November 23rd, when Dr. Naylor Barlow, O.B.E. (the Medical Officer of Health), gave a very interesting address on Public Health, and Dr. Mrs. Dobbin Crawford took the Chair.

We have arranged another meeting for December 13th, at 8 o'clock, at the Town Hall, for Mrs. E. Stewart-Brown, who has consented to give an address on "Women's Interest in the League of Nations," with Councillor E. T. Browning in the Chair.

(Hon. Sec. and Treas.) Mrs. ANDAM, 22, Cromer Drive, Wallasey.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

More Women Magistrates Needed!

At the Annual Meeting of the Eastbourne branch of the National Council of Women, Miss Brodie-Hall complained that no women magistrates had been appointed for the borough. She said that Eastbourne was in this respect behind every other important town. We agree that Miss Brodie-Hall has just cause of complaint, so far as Eastbourne is concerned; but we have a further complaint to make in regard to the scarcity of women magistrates in many other important towns. Quite recently, in another seaside resort, where there is only one woman on the bench, a case of criminal assault on a girl was tried when the woman magistrate was absent. The man was acquitted, but there is a great body of opinion in that town that this case ought to have been tried when the woman magistrate was on the bench. It is impossible for one woman magistrate to be present at every session, and there ought to be sufficient women magistrates so that they could be included in every rota. No case in which a woman or girl is the victim or the accused should be tried in our ordinary police-courts unless a woman magistrate is on the bench.

A Convert!

Sir Ernest Wild, K.C., the City Recorder, at a dinner at the Ladies' Imperial Club last week, said: "Women are, in judicial matters, less emotional and less sentimental than men. I confess that I am a convert to the principle of women serving on juries." We have heard, of course, that it has been customary to rejoice over one sinner that repenteth; but we ourselves find it difficult to forget how much men's prejudices, stupidity, and hostility to women's elementary rights have cost us, and still cost us.

MARRIED WOMEN'S RIGHT TO TEACH.

At a meeting held at Essex Hall on Tuesday, November 27th, convened by the London and Extra-Metropolitan Married Women Teachers' Association, and addressed by Mrs. Normanton and Miss F. A. Underwood, the following resolution was passed unanimously, the Chair being taken by Mrs. K. Dice, Hon. Secretary to the Association:—"This public meeting, held in Essex Hall, London, on November 27th, 1923, condemns the policy of the late Government by which economy in education was effected by influencing Local Education Authorities to dismiss married women teachers from the staffs of their schools, and demands of the new Government a Bill making it illegal for Local Education Authorities to refuse to appoint, or to require the resignation of, or to dismiss, women teachers solely because they marry."

BRIGHTON MEETING.

Owing to the imminence of the General Election, and the very regrettable illness of both Mrs. Mustard and Miss Hare, who were to have spoken at our Public Meeting in the Hove Town Hall, we reluctantly decided to postpone it until early in the New Year. The Hall is booked tentatively for January 16th. We hope Mrs. du Plergny will be in Brighton a few days before that date, to work it up, and trust that all our members and friends in the neighbourhood will make a point of being present, and will do their utmost to make this Public Meeting a great success.

GOWER CONTEST.

Miss Anna Munro spoke at a crowded meeting in support of Mrs. Folland's candidature. She said more women were needed in Parliament, and made a moving appeal to the electors to return Mrs. Folland as the first woman M.P. for Gower.

GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

Articles Found.

Small bangle and small brooch. Apply to Dr. Knight.

Competitions.

The prize kindly given by Messrs. Hawes Bros., of Clapham Junction, for the Jumper Competition, has been won by Miss I. M. Lucas, 27, Chiltern Road, Hitchen; and the Camisole Competition, for which Messrs. Weldon & Co. kindly gave the prize, has been won by Mrs. C. S. Frost, 29, Gorst Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.11. Mr. I. Roth is asked to claim the book won by him.

Useful Presents.

We have a number of good, hand-made nightdresses and camisoles, children's overalls, tray cloths, little bags, etc., suitable for Christmas trees, two pretty Morland, framed, coloured prints, price 5s. each, a few lovely Japanese dolls, specially sent from Japan by a member, price 4s., 5s., and 6s., a number of balls and toys, etc. These are all waiting to be bought within the next week or two, after which they will be packed away till the Spring Sale at Dr. Lewin's.

DIARIES.

The Women's Freedom League Diaries for 1924 are now ready at our Literature Department, price 2s. 3d., post free 2s. 4d. They are attractively got up in green morocco leather cover, gusset paper pocket at front, and pencil. Please order quickly, as we have only a limited number for sale.

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NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, December 9th. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "The Houses of the People."

MISCELLANEOUS.

BARGAIN—list free. Plants, Garden Utensils. Beautiful dwarf roses, named varieties, 6/- dozen, carriage paid. —MCELROY, 33, Saville St., South Shields.

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