

THE VOTE.
APRIL 1, 1927.

WAITING FOR JUSTICE!

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1927

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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A YOUTHFUL COUNCILLOR!

TOTTENHAM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR.

Elected top of the poll to the District Council, followed by victory in a by-election for a vacancy on the Middlesex County Council, at the age of 23, is a good record for anyone, and that it has been achieved by a girl without spectacular outstanding qualifications may surely be taken as a sign that the young woman has arrived where the young man has been for generations. Arrived, that is, where it is the normally accepted thing for women to take their share of work, their share of civic responsibility, as men have done and do. Miss Bernice Prescott was born and has lived all her life in Tottenham, where her father has a fine record of work in the public interest. She went to the Tottenham High School and now, so few years after leaving, finds herself one of its governors, a situation she is young enough thoroughly to appreciate. After leaving the High School, she had two years in Switzerland, in a school in Lausanne. Her father has always encouraged her in her desire to do useful public work, and on her return to Tottenham she soon got on to the local Council. Education is one of her chief interests, and she was put on the Education Committee



MISS BERNICE PRESCOTT.

and then on the Higher Education Committee. Her family is a Conservative one, but Miss Prescott is opposed to the intrusion of Party politics into work for the public welfare. She has a bias against the extreme elements of Socialism, but maintains herself as Independent. She believes in a balance of the sexes in public authority, seeing as much objection to an all-woman authority as she sees at present in the all or preponderantly man authority. The Tottenham Guardians are, at present, all women. On the Middlesex County Council there are only four women. Both these proportions Miss Prescott finds harmful.

When a vacancy occurred on the Middlesex County Council, Miss Prescott stood as candidate, and on February 21st this year was elected. Her address was a spirited, practical statement of the position and her intentions. She points out that Tottenham has 35,000 women electors, and sends eight representatives to the County Council, all of whom are men. She instances the Mental Institutions, in which are to be found women and children of Tottenham, with no representative with official access to these Institutions.

Her main work, she says, will be directed to alleviation of the sufferings of the mentally defective.

Miss Prescott is a courageous young woman, taking her work and her play in a fine spirit. She keeps her winter Saturday afternoons clear, and plays a vigorous game of hockey, accepts occasional spells of busy evenings on top of busy days with cheerfulness; in fact, lives a normal life of useful and healthy activity. In her own words: "It is quite easy with a little brain-work to fit it all in."

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

First Woman at Parliamentary Bar.

The Greenock Corporation briefed Miss Kidd as Junior Counsel to three K.C.s in their application to Parliament for power to extend their burgh boundaries. Miss Kidd is the first woman to appear as counsel before a Standing Committee of the House.

Women in the Independent Labour Party.

At a conference called by the Women's Group of the Independent Labour Party at Norwich recently the following resolutions were carried:—"That this conference declares the work of women in industry should be considered on its merits apart from sex, and that where women are engaged on equal terms with men they should receive equal pay." "That this conference declares the desire for reasonable economic independence among working women who ceased to be wage earners at marriage is a growing force, and urges the I.L.P. to shape its policy to meet this demand." "That this conference pledges itself, by increasing propaganda of Socialism, to do all possible to secure equality of opportunity and conditions with men for all women."

British Women Composers.

At Bournemouth's Easter Municipal Music Festival, the first concert will consist exclusively of works by British women composers—Dame Ethel Smyth; Susan Spain-Dunk, who will conduct two of her own compositions; Dorothy Howell, who will be the soloist at her own piano concerts; Vivien Lamblet; Dora Bright; and Edith Swepstone.

The King's Balmoral Housekeeper.

Miss Victoria Grant, daughter of the Balmoral head keeper, has been appointed housekeeper at the Castle. She is under thirty, and is fully trained in domestic science. Perhaps she may become a voter soon.

Women's College Races.

Newnham College, beaten by University College (London) on the 21st, were again defeated by King's College (London) on the 23rd. King's went ahead at the start and increased the lead all the way until Newnham gave up some lengths from the finish.

Air Race for Women.

Among the events arranged for the Bournemouth Easter meeting of the Royal Aero Club is a race for women pilots.

Women's International Hockey.

The Englishwomen's hockey team has returned, after defeating Ireland, Wales and Scotland, with a total of 24 goals to only 1 against.

A Successful Woman Mayor.

Mrs. Rebecca E. Winston, Mayor of Estelle Manor in New Jersey, head of a Council of men only, has during her term of office markedly reduced rates while maintaining considerable improvements in all the public services. She was on the committee for four years and on the school board for three years. She was elected to the Mayoralty in 1924. Finance is her strong suit.

No Votes for Frenchwomen?

The Times reports that, by seven votes to five, with one abstention, the French Senate Committee on Woman's Suffrage has rejected a proposal to give women the vote and eligibility to sit in Parliament. An amendment giving women of 30 a vote in all elections, and eligibility to sit in Municipal Councils to the extent of one-quarter of the seats to be filled, was rejected by one vote.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League was held at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, last Saturday, those present being Dr. Knight, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs. Brading (Portsmouth); Miss Alix M. Clark (Montgomery Boroughs); Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), who was appointed to the Chair; Mrs. Flowers; Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P. (Deal); Miss Anna Munro; Miss C. Neal (Swansea); Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester); Mrs. Pierotti; and the Secretary.

The Committee was grieved to learn that Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence was not well enough to attend the meeting; and sent to our President its very best wishes for her early and complete recovery. Letters of apology for absence were also received from Mrs. Dexter and Mrs. Fiske (Scottish representative), both, unfortunately, on account of health.

Report of Work.

Reports of the work of the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary, the Secretary, the Political, Literature and Vote Sales Departments since the last Committee meeting were considered, discussed, and passed by the Committee, as well as the annual reports, which are to be submitted to the Conference.

Spring Sale.

Dr. Knight reported on the Spring Sale, held the previous day, at 25, Wimpole Street, W., by kind permission of Dr. Lewin, which had been very successful, and the Committee passed cordial votes of thanks to Miss E. Berry for so skilfully organising it, and to Dr. Lewin for so kindly having it at her house.

Jumble Sale.

Dr. Knight drew special attention to the Jumble Sale for the funds of the Women's Freedom League, which is to be held (by kind permission of Miss Cole) at the Women's Freedom League Settlement, 2, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W., on Friday, May 6th. Delegates to the Conference, members, and friends of our League are urgently appealed to for parcels, which should be brought or sent to 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Equal Political Rights Campaign.

Further plans for the prosecution of the Equal Political Rights Campaign in constituencies in and outside London were considered by the Committee, and Miss Anna Munro was asked if she could arrange to make a tour of our Northern and Scottish Branches at an early date. This she has consented to do.

Married Women (Employment) Bill, 1927.

The Committee gave its full support to this Bill, and was delighted to learn that Sir Robert Newman, M.P., who introduced it in the House of Commons, has kindly promised to speak on it at a Public Meeting, to be held at the Minerva Club, on Tuesday evening, April 5th. The Committee is also gratified to know that this Bill is being supported by members of all Parties, and that Mr. Pethick-Lawrence is to second it when it is brought forward for its Second Reading on April 29th.

THE WOMAN'S WAY.

Mrs. Simon, of Manchester, sent out postcards to the city electors asking their opinions for or against Sunday cinemas and Sunday games in the public parks. Mrs. Simon deduces considerable civic indifference on both questions, as only half the electorate used the stamped cards sent for reply. Of those who did send in replies, 4,113 were for and 5,907 were against games on Sundays in the public parks, and 2,979 were for and 7,063 were against the opening of cinemas on Sundays. Apparently, there has been somewhat acrid local controversy on these two points, and Mrs. Simon took the practical course of asking the main body of citizens.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Income Tax (Allowances).

MR. T. WILLIAMS (Lab., Don. Valley) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware of the inequality of allowances, as granted to the widower who has a female relative, or other female acting in the capacity of housekeeper, and the spinster, whose profession necessitates the same female assistance; and will he consider amending this particular section of Income Tax law, so that allowances shall be equal in each case? MR. CHURCHILL: Opportunities for discussing this and similar questions will no doubt arise in the course of the Debates on the forthcoming Finance Bill, and the hon. Member will not expect me at the present time to anticipate those discussions. MR. WILLIAMS: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of this inequality, and can he not say to the House, at all events, that he will consider seriously the squaring of the matter as between a spinster and a widower who are in similar circumstances? No reply was given.

Land Registry (Typists).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Sutton, Plymouth) asked the Attorney-General whether he is aware that, on the 29th, April, 1926, a deputation waited upon the Chief Registrar of His Majesty's Land Registry, and presented a claim on behalf of certain of his women staff; that the claim was promised early and careful consideration; that up till now it has neither been accepted nor rejected, nor have alternative proposals been put to the staff; and whether, in these circumstances, he will arrange for an early statement of the official position to be made? SIR DOUGLAS HOGG: I presume that the noble Lady refers to a claim made on behalf of certain typists, that they should be graded as clerical officers. I understand that discussions have been proceeding with the Association concerned, but it has not yet been possible to reach a decision owing to the matter having involved a larger question concerning the reorganisation of the Department, in order to cope with the vastly increased work due to recent legislation. It is hoped to communicate a decision on the matter at an early date.

Juvenile Training Centres (East London).

MR. LANSBURY (Lab., Bow and Bromley) asked the Minister of Labour whether it is proposed to establish any day training centres in East London for the purpose of training young men and women at present unemployed? MR. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour): There is at present a Juvenile Unemployment Centre in Poplar for unemployed boys and girls from 14-18 years of age. I am prepared to consider any proposals which the London County Council may make for additional centres of this kind in East London.

Juvenile Offenders (Departmental Committee).

MR. SHEPHERD (Lab., Darlington) asked the Home Secretary when he expects to receive the Report of the Departmental Committee on Young Offenders? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The Report has been received and presented to Parliament. I understand it is likely to be published next week.

Unemployment.

MR. BARNES (Co-op., East Ham, S.) gave notice that, on April 5th, he would call attention to the neglect of the Government to deal with the problem of unemployment, and move a resolution.

MR. T. HENDERSON (Co-op., Tradeston) gave notice that, on April 6th, he would call attention to the problem of unemployment, and move a resolution.

We hope that both these hon. Members will draw the attention of the Government to the plight of unemployed women.

Relief Schemes (Women).

MR. SHORT (Lab., Wednesbury) asked the Minister of Labour what was the number of women employed

upon unemployment relief schemes undertaken with Government assistance during 1926? SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND: No schemes providing for the direct employment of women were submitted to the Unemployment Grants Committee or Ministry of Transport during 1926.

Women's Franchise.

SIR JOHN LEIGH (U., Clapham) asked the Prime Minister whether he has now considered the arrangements for a conference of Party representatives of the House of Commons preliminary to the introduction of legislation for granting the Parliamentary franchise to women on the same terms as men; and on what date the House may expect an announcement thereon? THE PRIME MINISTER: I would refer my hon. Friend to the answer which I gave on the 15th March in reply to questions on this subject. (That reply was that a statement on the subject would be made in the House before Easter.)

Palestine (Municipal Franchise).

MR. BECKETT (Lab., Gateshead) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what are the qualifications for the franchise in Palestine; and what majority of the adult inhabitants were on the register at the last election? MR. AMERY: Any male person is eligible for the municipal franchise in Palestine who (1) is a Palestinian citizen not less than 25 years of age; (2) is not under any disability; (3) has not been sentenced in Palestine to a term of imprisonment of one year or more, or, if so sentenced, has received a free pardon; and (4) had paid prior to the 31st December last, taxes on immovable property owned by him within a municipal area of an amount of at least 50 piastres in respect of the financial year 1926-27. As regards the latter part of the question, there have not previously been any municipal elections under the British administration in Palestine.

Sexual Offences Against Young Persons (Scotland).

MR. R. W. SMITH (U., Central Aberdeen) asked the Secretary of State if the Government propose to introduce legislation dealing with the question of sexual offences against young persons in Scotland; and, if so, when such legislation will be introduced? SIR JOHN GILMOUR: I propose to await the Report of the Scottish Committee on Young Offenders, which is now sitting, and to consider the two Reports together. I may add that I have already taken action on recommendations of the Committee which did not require legislation. MR. SMITH: When does the right hon. Gentleman expect that the Juvenile Offenders Committee is likely to report, as it is more than a year since it was set up? SIR J. GILMOUR: I cannot say the actual date, but, I hope, before very long.

Electoral Reform.

MR. ERNEST BROWN (Lib., Leith) gave notice that, on April 12th, he would call attention to the results of recent by-elections, and the need for Electoral Reform, and move a resolution.

House of Commons Attendance.

MR. BECKETT (Lab., Gateshead) secured leave, on March 29th, to bring in a Bill "to render vacant the representation of any constituency which has not been represented in the House of Commons for a period of 12 months, unless special leave of absence has been granted by the House of Commons." This Bill was read a first time.

Adjournment.

The PRIME MINISTER stated that he hopes it may be possible to move the Adjournment on Thursday, April 14th, and for the House to adjourn until Tuesday, April 26th.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 1st, 1927.

WAITING FOR JUSTICE!

We are still awaiting the Prime Minister's pronouncement "before Easter," on the subject of Equal Franchise. During the past week the Press has been telling us that it is now practically certain that the Government will decide to bring in a measure giving votes to women at 21 years of age and on the same terms as men; that all members of the Cabinet are not enthusiastic about this measure, but those who do not like it have come to see that the raising of the voting age for either sex is an impracticable proposal, and therefore they will not oppose the larger measure of franchise reform; that there is little feeling either way on the subject among members of the Government; and that the Conservative Associations throughout the country are prepared to make the best of the Government's decision. The fact remains, of course, that no one knows anything about the nature of the pronouncement, just as no one knew that the only reply Mr. Baldwin would give to members of the recent deputation would be that he would make a pronouncement on the subject in the House of Commons before Easter! Meanwhile, the time for getting an Equal Franchise measure on the Statute Book in time for women to vote at the same age and on the same terms as men is becoming dangerously short, and we have not implicit faith in the Government's calculations about the length of the life of the present Parliament. On November 16th, 1923, before the General Election, which took place on December 6th, we wrote, asking Mr. Baldwin, should his Party be returned to power, if he would pledge himself to secure that women shall have equal political voting rights with men. A few days later, his Private Secretary replied that "the Prime Minister desires me to say that the Government are in agreement with the view expressed by the late Prime Minister (Mr. Bonar Law) that the discrimination in age between men and women contained in the Franchise Bill of 1918 cannot be permanent. A Bill to alter the existing franchise could only be introduced towards the close of the next Parliament, and the Government, if returned to power, will then be ready to consider with an open mind whether this question should not be reopened." That Parliament was returned to power, but nothing was done by it to secure the equal enfranchisement of women with men, the Government evidently not foreseeing that its first Session would also be its last. It was defeated on January 20th, 1924, on the Labour Party's Amendment to the Address declaring that the Government did not possess the confidence of the House. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and a Labour Government then took charge, and, by their persistent delays in dealing with Mr. Adamson's Equal Franchise Bill, although this subject had been on their programme for 30 years, went out of office before Mr. Adamson's Bill passed through the House of Commons. All through the life of that Parliament we urged again and again and again that delay was highly dangerous, and it was delay alone that killed women's chances of voting at the same age and on the same terms as men at the last election. The present Government was then returned to power. Before the election in October, 1924, Mr. Baldwin made a public pronouncement that he was in favour of equal political rights for men and women. The subject has not yet been mentioned in any King's Speech, and in February, 1925, the Government secured the defeat of Mr. Whiteley's Equal Franchise Bill, through its promise of a considered scheme of franchise reform within the lifetime of the present Parliament, when the Home Secretary stated that the Prime Minister had pledged himself to give equal voting rights to men and women at the next election.

All we have, so far, towards the fulfilment of that pledge is the promise of a pronouncement on the subject by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons before Easter! Is the Government determined to carry through the Prime Minister's pledge, or is it prepared again to kill women's chances of equal voting rights with men at the next election? That is the question of paramount importance to the women of this country.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

The Federation of Women Civil Servants have issued an instructive leaflet on their demand for Equal Pay for Equal Work in the Civil Service. They ask for the establishment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to consider and report upon the best means and the cost of giving effect to the principle of Equal Pay for men and women in the Civil Service as recommended by the Resolution of the House of Commons on May 19th, 1920. They point out that the women who do the professional, administrative, clerical and other work in Departments of State, and hold important executive positions side by side with men, receive a lower rate of pay, and give the following comparative salary scales:—

| Men. | Women. |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Clerk, £150. | Clerk, £120. |
| Senior Clerk, £350. | Senior Clerk, £265. |
| Executive Officer, £450. | Executive Officer, £350. |
| Administrative Officer, £800. | Administrative Officer, £675. |

Why should there be this difference in salary? Not only do the women do equal work with the men, but they also enter the service by the same examination. Women lawyers, doctors, accountants and journalists all receive the same remuneration as their men colleagues, and the Professors at the London, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Manchester Universities are remunerated irrespective of sex. Moreover, the two women appointed within recent years as Parliamentary Secretaries were appointed on the same salaries as their male predecessors, and women M.P.s receive the same salary as men M.P.s.

The principle of Equal Pay for men and women in the Civil Service has been approved by the House of Commons, and the Women's Freedom League together with other women's organisations will continue to press for it as a measure of justice to women long overdue.

WHY ONLY TWO WOMEN MEMBERS?

When the Home Secretary stated in the House of Commons that he was setting up a Departmental Committee "to inquire into the working of the Shops (Early Closing) Acts, 1920 and 1921, and to consider and report whether it is desirable that those Acts should or should not be made permanent, and if made permanent whether with or without modifications," we at once wrote asking that an adequate number of women should be appointed to this Committee, in view of the fact that there was so large a proportion of women acting as shop-assistants. The Committee which has been appointed by the Home Office consists of thirteen men, in addition to a man secretary, and two women—Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., and Miss Margaret Irwin, C.B.E. We emphatically protest that this Committee shows a grossly inadequate number of women. From the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants we learn that in 1911, in the Drapery Trade alone, there were 111,248 men and 100,465 women, but in 1921 these figures had changed to 62,000 men and 150,000 women! This is a very remarkable change in ten years over the relative employment of men and women. But is it not grotesque that the Home Office should appoint a Departmental Committee consisting of thirteen men and only two women to inquire into the conditions of employment of men and women when the number of women so employed so greatly exceeds the number of men?

A CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN POLICE.

By D. M. NORTHCROFT.

A campaign is being organised, during 1927, for the appointment of more women police. The need for such a campaign is all too evident, for there is no doubt that, at the moment, the question of policewomen in this country is in a very parlous position. It is now close upon three months since Sir William Joynson-Hicks issued his Circular to local authorities calling their attention to the desirability of appointing "one or more policewomen where the circumstances justified that course," and although there have been occasional encouraging results, in the remaining cases the reception of the Circular has been most disappointing.

A few of the incidents related in the Press concerning women police since the Circular was made public may be of interest. Worcestershire refused to appoint women constables, the Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee being of opinion that "it would be a great mistake to have a lot of women going about gossiping and saying they were police women. I was going to say, drinking in public houses," he added, "but I had better not say that." At Boston (Lincolnshire), the Chief Constable stated that he would not know what to do with a policewoman if he had one! At Plymouth, an important garrison town, with all that this implies, and in spite of an influential deputation, last December, from the Devon Council of Women to the Standing Joint Committee at the Castle of Exeter, the Plymouth Watch Committee endorsed the opinion of a sub-Committee that there was no justification for the employment of women police in that city, whilst a widely representative deputation to the Exeter Watch Committee met with a similar fate.

Three times over the Women Citizens' Association at Rotherham pressed its Watch Committee to appoint at least two policewomen, but each time without success, though Rotherham, unlike the majority of towns which have made this refusal, appears to have a sympathetic Chief Constable. At Derby, the Watch Committee turned down the appointment of women police on the grounds of expense, but a non-Party vote of the Town Council sent the Report back to them for consideration, the majority against it being 29 to 20. A large number of women were present in the public gallery and applauded vigorously whenever a speaker scored a point for women police. Councillor Mrs. Petty is much to be commended for the spirited stand she made on this occasion against the conservative attitude of the Watch Committee of that town. At Hull, the Chairman of the Watch Committee, referring to the

work of the women police in that district during the war, although at the time he had praised it, said "they showed their uniform, but I never saw any work they did satisfactorily." We are glad to note that a fellow alderman informed the Chairman he was "fifty years behind the times."

At present, against 53,734 policemen employed in this country, we have only a tiny handful of 137 policewomen attached to some 39 towns and counties in England and Scotland.

It will be remembered that, by the Police Act of 1890, the Watch Committees in boroughs, and the Standing Joint Committees in counties, were expressly defined as the police authorities for their areas. Only boroughs with a population of over 20,000, however, may maintain a police force of their own at their own expense. The Municipal Corporations Act of 1882 imposed certain duties upon the Watch Committees, as distinct from the City Council, and the acts of the Watch Committee do not require the approval of the City Council, although elected by it. The Watch Committee appoints the members of the Force, including the Chief Constable, and has the power of dismissal, subject to the approval of the Home Office.

Apart from legislation—and it is much to be regretted that, in the present Parliamentary session, no member has so far been successful in gaining a place in the ballot for a Private Members' Bill on this subject, nor has any resolution on the matter yet been discussed—there is at least one important weapon in the hands of women, viz., their municipal vote.

The Home Secretary has already indicated this method. "The way for local authorities to have women police," he said on a recent occasion, "is for women to use their votes in municipal elections, and see that proper Councils and Watch Committees are appointed. The power is already in the hands of the people."

This power may be used by women in two ways:—

1. Mark down individual members of Watch Committees who oppose this reform, and carry on intensive campaigns in season and out of season among the women voters in their wards.

2. Get more women councillors on to Watch Committees. To-day in this country, out of some 128 Watch Committees in England and Scotland, there are rather less than a dozen women councillors serving.

An educational campaign on these lines up and down the country would do much to stabilise and increase the force of women police.

MONSIEUR ALBERT THOMAS AND PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION.

La Française, of March 26th, has an account of a meeting of various women's societies arranged by the *Union féminine pour la Société des Nations*, at which M. Albert Thomas spoke on the attitude of the International Labour Office towards what this account calls the Protection of Women and Children. M. Thomas brings forward no new arguments in favour of what is more exactly called special protective legislation for women. He uses the same arguments as are used by the supporters of such special legislation the world over. One is that shorter hours, easier conditions, and abolition of nightwork must be beneficial to women. These things, beyond argument, are beneficent in themselves, but maleficent where applied to one worker in such a way as to endanger her employment, leaving the next-door worker not subject to their operation. M. Thomas does not mention the throwing out of work which too often follows such differentiation when applied to women and not to men. The next argument is that, by obtaining such improvements in industrial conditions for women, the chances of then obtaining similar improvements for men are increased. This is having it both ways: first restrict because women need protection as men do not,

and then say you are using the women as the wedge to admit the men to the protection you have just said is not necessary for them. The two main arguments against special legislation are not, by *La Française's* account, touched on by M. Thomas. Feminists have always protested against a different industrial classification for men and for women. Men are classified according to the work they do. Occupations and grades of occupations are used to classify them in industry. Women are classified by their sex, always they are "women." Such industrial legislation for women as has already emerged from the International Labour Office has been directed to "women" as a class. For instance, night-work is to be abolished for all "women," not for women engaged in this, that, or the other trade or process. On the other hand, we hear no suggestion to abolish night-work for all "men," but much of abolishing it in certain trades or processes. This is a differentiation which feminists feel derogatory to their status as adult workers. The second argument against is directed to the persistent tying together of "women and children," making working conditions the same for the adult independent woman of any age and the child or young person under 18. It is to be regretted that such a good friend as M. Albert Thomas has proved in the past should be so misled in this matter.

OUR SPRING SALE.

This year's very enjoyable and successful Spring Sale was held, by the kindness of Dr. Lewin, at 25, Wimpole Street, last Friday, March 25th. To the great pleasure of all, we had the satisfaction of welcoming our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, among us after her serious illness.

Dr. Lewin cordially welcomed all present. Letters of regret at being prevented from attending were read from Sir Robert Newman, M.P., Miss E. R. Conway, the Hon. Mrs. Franklin, Prof. W. Cullis, Miss Ada Moore, and others.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, from the Chair, said how pleased she was to be back with us. During her travels, she had all over the world found the women's movement in progress; the last 10 years in India, as far as the women's movement was concerned, had amounted to a revolution. In India the women could not believe we had an unequal vote. In Madras alone, there were 25 women magistrates. In many ways, Indian women were more advanced than we were; the possession of a husband and baby was not held to incapacitate a woman for public work. The educated men of India, those who were students in England during the Suffrage agitation in our pre-vote days, and used to attend Suffrage meetings and hear the speakers, determined that in their Indian national movement women should play an equal part. Here in England we had no idea of the influence of our movement upon India. Indian women recognise that their political freedom is due to the militant movement here. British Suffrage workers are hailed in India as mothers, leaders, and pioneers.

The Chairman introduced Dr. Isabel Turnadge, Ph.D., B.Sc. and Fellow of the Linnean Society but dismissed from her position as headmistress of the Twickenham County School for Girls by the Middlesex Education Committee after 18 years of teaching, because "the responsibilities of motherhood are incompatible with her school duties."

Dr. Turnadge said that the women's movement was now in its most difficult and critical stage, and the last lap was the hardest. We must have an equal vote now; from 21-30 it is more necessary than later, as women are then entering their professions. Voteless women are worth less and in a lower position; they must have equal terms with their brothers; with their present handicap women are always expected to be better than men. The bulk of wives and mothers with young children, too, are under 30, and are particularly interested in housing, education, etc., the expenditure on which is always being cut down.

Dr. Turnadge loved the splendid name of the Women's Freedom League. Freedom is what women want; not privilege but equality. It was the failure of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act that had done so much mischief. It was absurd to suggest that a woman who had succeeded in running for four years a school of 400 girls could fail to run one small household. The dismissal of successful professional women on marriage prevented them from giving their children the chance and opportunity they would like them to have. To be compelled to change from a professional woman into a housewife caused intense mental irritation; one had suddenly to turn into another kind of person. Women must be treated as individuals, not interfered with by outside people. No individual can be cramped without harming and robbing the community. She had the greatest pleasure in opening the Sale, and recommending the purchase of all the delightful things she saw. A Suffrage Society must be supported, and they all owed a tremendous debt to the workers.

Two resolutions were then put from the Chair, and carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting urges the Prime Minister to include in his promised statement in the House of Commons before Easter, an indication of the intention of the Government to introduce immediately, and to pass through all its stages

into law this Session, a simple franchise measure giving votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as men; and

"That this meeting wholeheartedly supports Sir Robert Newman's Married Women (Employment) Bill, the object of which is to prevent the dismissal or enforced resignation of women because of their marriage, by the Government or Local Governing Authorities, and calls upon the Government to adopt this Bill and pass it into law without delay."

A vote of thanks to our Chairman, opener, and kind hostess was proposed by Dr. Knight, seconded by Mrs. Brading, and carried with acclamation.

A brisk sale ensued at the many attractive stalls, laden with dainty lingerie and useful overalls, children's clothing, jumpers, woollies for babies, dolls, etc., pottery and flowers, Welsh country produce, cakes, and marmalade, fascinating white elephants, cauliflower, books, and, on an appropriate and up-to-date household stall, a new and much improved pattern of knife sharpener, the new and perfect cleaner for everything, aluminium saucepans, kettles, egg poachers, teapots, etc., towels, tea-cloths, dusters and table-cloths. During the afternoon and evening, delightful, humorous little stories were recited by Mrs. Harvey James; exquisite violin solos given by Miss Foulis; and charming songs by Miss Joan Dunsford; Mrs. Sparrow most kindly accompanying.

Dr. Lewin gave a short address on personal hygiene at 6 p.m. We were glad to hear from her and from some teachers present, who had grasped the importance of her methods, that there are now a few schools where handkerchiefs are the rule, and nasal hygiene a part of the daily routine, though pockets are still rather scarce. Fathers, too, were taking more interest in their children's good health, and taking trouble to remedy defects.

We heartily thank all who so kindly helped in the success of our little Sale; our most kind and able artistes; Miss Wall and Miss King, who worked hard all the time at character readings and numerology; our stallholders:—**Dr. Lewin**, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Jacoby and Mrs. Lloyd (pottery and flowers); Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Knight (white stall); Montgomery Boroughs Branch, Miss Alix Clark, Mrs. Elias, Mrs. Bengé and Mrs. Dickson (Welsh produce); Mrs. Delbanco and Mrs. Wilss (household); Mrs. Lindus and Miss Lyndon (white elephants); the Minerva Club, Miss Reeves and her helpers, Miss Skinner, Miss Glasgow, Mrs. Bell, Misses Myra and Emily Sadd Brown, Mrs. Ostler and Miss Harvey James, who so comfortably arranged the quick service of dainty teas, and the friends who sent contributions, cakes, and sweets, etc.

To Miss Berry, our indefatigable "Fair" Secretary, the Women's Freedom League is greatly indebted for all the hard work of organising a successful Sale, and to **Dr. Lewin** for her constant generous kindness and hospitality.

BEST WISHES FOR SPEEDY RECOVERY.

We are sorry to state that Miss Lind-af-Hageby, with Her Grace the Duchess of Hamilton and Brandon, and our member, Miss Logan, were victims of a motor accident on March 18th, while driving back to Paris from the South of France. The bad state of the road caused the difficulty, and only Miss Lind-af-Hageby's skilful steering prevented fatal results. All escaped with cuts and bruises, but a companion, Miss Delius, was severely injured.

It is with great regret we learn that Dame Ellen Terry last Monday had the misfortune to fracture a bone of her left arm. With characteristic pluck, she congratulated herself that her right arm was uninjured, and she is now at a nursing home, making good progress.

All members and readers will join us in much sympathy with all our friends in their pain and enforced temporary inaction, and in giving them our best wishes for a speedy, complete restoration to health and strength.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

President—Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Tuesday, April 5th at 8.15 p.m.

Public Meeting at Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C., on "Employment of Married Women." Speakers: Sir Robert Newman, M.P., and others.

Friday, April 22nd, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Members' Meeting at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3 (by the kindness of Dr. Knight).

Saturday, April 30th, at 10 a.m.

Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Friday, May 6th, at 2 p.m.
The Women's Freedom League Jumble Sale, to be held (by kind permission of Miss Cole) at The Women's Freedom League Settlement, 2, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W. Send your parcels from now onwards to 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, April 6th, at 3 p.m.
Portsmouth. Members' Meeting at 2, Kent Road.
Tuesday, April 12th, at 7.30 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Portsmouth. Goodie's Café, Elm Grove. Speakers: Miss Froud and others. Chair: Mrs. Whetton.
Saturday, May 7th.
Portsmouth. Jumble Sale.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, April 1st, 4-5.30 p.m.
In aid of the Six Point Group. Miss Ada Moore's Party Lady Rhonda. Madame Bertha Moore will tell Stories. Miss Eva Moore will Recite. Cards of admission from Miss Ada Moore, 153, Elm Park Mansions, S.W.10.
Saturday, April 2nd, at 3 p.m.
The Speech Club. Debate: "That, in the production of character, environment is more important than heredity." Proposer: Mrs. Boyd. Opposer: Mrs. Wilton.
Monday, April 4th, at 3 p.m.
The Six Point Group. Miss Chrystal Eastman on "Recent Tendencies of American Fiction."
Monday, April 4th, at 8 p.m.
The Open Door Council. Annual Meeting in Caxton Hall. Miss Monica Whately, Mrs. Abbott, Mrs. Aldridge, and others. Chair: Professor W. Cullis.
Thursday, April 7th, at 3 p.m.
Meeting of Peckham Women's Social Guild. Speaker: Mrs. Ewen. Subject: "Equal Franchise and the Work of the Women's Freedom League."
Thursday, April 7th, at 5 p.m.
Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations. Public Meeting at Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, Westminster. Speaker: Dame Janet Campbell (British Expert on League of Nations Committee on Infant Welfare) on "Work of the League of Nations Committee on Infant Welfare." Chairman: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc.
Thursday, April 7th, at 7.30 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Bradford, Mechanics' Institute, Public Meeting, on "Equal Franchise." Speakers: Miss Froud (N.U.W.T.), and others.
Thursday, April 7th, at 8.15 p.m.
Meeting at The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. Dame Rachel Crowdy on "The Report on the Traffic in Women."
Thursday, April 7th, at 8.15 p.m.
Fabian Women's Group. Meeting at 6, Phené Street, S.W.3. A Lecture on "The Work of the Women Police," by Commandant Mary S. Allen, O.B.E. (Women's Auxiliary Service).
Friday, April 8th, at 6.30 p.m.
Women's Engineering Society. Miss E. M. Kennedy on "A Business Woman's Trip to America." Chair: Mrs. Willson.

SIR ROBERT NEWMAN'S VISIT TO MINERVA CLUB.

Sir Robert Newman, M.P., who has presented the Married Women (Employment) Bill in the House of Commons, the Second Reading of which will take place on April 29th, has most kindly promised to speak on this Bill at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C., on Tuesday, April 5th, at 8.15 p.m. All interested in this subject are cordially invited to attend this meeting, for the subject concerns most vitally the independence of women. As we go to press, we learn that Mr. Pethick-Lawrence will second this Bill when it comes up on the 29th; and we are glad to learn that it is supported in the House by Members of all Parties.

BRANCH NOTE.

PORTSMOUTH.

A Members' Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6th, at 2, Kent Road, at 3 o'clock, to make final arrangements for the Equal Franchise Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, April 12th, at Goodie's Café, Elm Grove, at 7.30 p.m. Miss Froud, Gen. Secretary, N.U.W.T., will be the principal speaker, and several women's organisations are co-operating with us.

The Jumble Sale has been fixed for Saturday, May 7th. Time and place will be announced later.

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

MRS. MUSTARD AT CROYDON.

Mrs Mustard delighted the Women's Guild of George Street Congregational Church, Croydon, last week, when she spoke on "Why Women should take an interest in Municipal Affairs." During her speech she gave examples of laws now in force which placed women in an unfair and often intolerable position as compared with that of men. She quoted the case of a married couple who disagreed about their child's upbringing and education. The father wished to send the child to a boarding school and the mother wanted to keep him at home. Both applied to the Court, and the magistrate naturally supported the father. She also pointed out the inequalities of our franchise laws as between men and women. Practically any young man, whether he possesses furniture or not, can claim a Parliamentary vote at 21 years of age, yet no woman under thirty can do so; and before a woman over 30 can get a vote she must have either a husband or furniture. It is rare to meet a better speaker than Mrs. Mustard; she is so clear and thoughtful, and she brings her subject straight home to her audience without any apparent effort. Tea was served after the meeting, those present spent a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, and THE VOTE was sold out.

E. H. B.

DAME RACHEL CROWDY AT THE GUILDHOUSE.

Dame Rachel Crowdy, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., Chief of the Social Section of the Secretariat of the League of Nations at Geneva, who was Secretary to the Committee that drew up the Report on the Traffic in Women, will speak on that subject at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, at 8.15 p.m. on Thursday, April 7. Miss Alison Neilans, Secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, will preside.

THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

The Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations held its monthly meeting last week, when three important resolutions were passed. The first, on Equal Franchise, urged increased activity on the part of the constituent societies. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship offered valuable co-operation, the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee told of arrangements already in being, and the National Union of Teachers announced that their Parliamentary Committee had set its machinery in motion in the constituencies. Support was also given to the proposed appointment of a Select Committee to consider the best methods of applying the principle of Equal Pay and Equal Work in the Civil Service, and again to the Married Women (Employment) Bill, recently introduced by Sir Robert Newman. A representative of the Association of Assistant Mistresses in Secondary Schools addressed the Committee on Primary Education in Secondary Schools. She was in favour of Preparatory Departments in Secondary Schools, a view from which the National Union of Teachers' representative dissented, urging instead increased provision in Elementary Schools. The Fabian Women's Group's representative deprecated the retention of the phrase, "class distinction," maintaining that the only distinction nowadays was a money one. All the speakers agreed that the opportunities for the child endowed with brains but no money were lamentably insufficient, thus blocking many early in life from opportunity of education conducive to advancement, losing valuable material to the nation. One took the view that the schools should be improved before putting more children into them; another that it was best to put the children in, and they would insist on improved conditions. The Annual Meeting, at which Lady Astor, the President, will preside, was fixed for June 23rd.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

Miss Helen Douglas-Irvine has been elected Chairman of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance for the coming year.

TO BRANCH TREASURERS.

To Branch Treasurers.—Please send in Capitation Fees, 6d. for each member, to secure your full representation at the Annual Conference.

To all Readers.—Women's Freedom League Report, now ready, 3d., 144, High Holborn.—E. KNIGHT.

FRIDAY,
APRIL 1,
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NOTICES.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, April 3rd, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Cyril Bailey, M.A. 6.30. Maude Royden.

MISS CONSTANCE CONNOLLY, 37, Norfolk Street, W.C.2. Specialises in circularising, printing, duplicating, and verbatim reporting. Rapid Secretarial Course for Gentle-people.

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

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN CITIZENS.—The Edward Wright and Cavendish-Bentinck Library contains sections on current political and social problems, including the Woman's Movement, Family Allowances, and League of Nations. Book Boxes of 20 books available for Study Circles.—Apply Librarian, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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