

THE VOTE,
Nov. 24, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

SPECIAL ELECTION NUMBER

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 24, 1922

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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OUR ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.

P.R. AND THE WOMEN CANDIDATES.

BY ELSIE E. MORTON, M.B.E.

The General Election is over, and, to our intense regret, no additional women members have been returned to Westminster to help Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham in their splendid work.

Our thanks indeed are due to all the women candidates for the plucky fights they have made, but our thanks must be turned into action; our determination to secure before another election an alteration in our electoral system, so that a more adequate number of women may be returned, should be so strong that P.R., instead of being a plank, should be the plank in the women's programme.

We must make no mistake about it; if we want women M.P.s, and we do, then we must get P.R. And so women, just as they wanted the vote and got it, must want P.R. and get it.

We only have to look at those places where P.R. is used, to see the difference it has made in the composition of their Parliaments.

In Germany, in the Reichstag, out of 469 members 34 are women; in Holland, out of 100, eight are women. In the Northern Parliament of Ireland, two out of 52 are women. In the House of Laity (the Parliament of the Church of England), composed of 356 members, 41 are women. Examples such as these show that in larger constituencies, where several members have to be elected—as is the rule under P.R.—experienced women find no difficulty in securing election.

But there is another way in which P.R. makes the

career of the woman candidate less troublous. It is not easy when a party in a constituency has to choose only one candidate to get a woman selected, but experience has shown in Ireland and on the Continent that parties under P.R. welcome the inclusion of women in their lists; it is considered a source of strength, rather than of weakness.

What would have happened last week? There is no doubt that many women would have been returned. Miss Bondfield, a popular member of the Labour Party, polled nearly 15,000 votes in the borough of Northampton, but failed to secure election. Under P.R., Northamptonshire would have been one constituency returning five members, and she would easily have polled one over a sixth of the total number of votes recorded—all that she would have required.

Similarly with Lady Cooper, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Mrs. Burnett Smith, Miss Rathbone, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, and other candidates. All would have been fighting in larger areas returning several members, and all would have required only a quota of votes to secure election—one over a fifth in a four-member constituency, one over a sixth in a five-member constituency, and one over a seventh in a six-member constituency, and



BACK TO PARLIAMENT!

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so on.

It is possible that with P.R. we might have seen some fifty women in Parliament at the present time; and so P.R. must be the plank in the woman's programme if we really want to see women elected.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Women "Freemen."

The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights last month conferred the freedom of the Company upon Lady Abel, Lady Biles, Lady Brassey, Lady Inverclyde, the Hon. Lady Parsons, Lady Watts, and Lady White. All freemen of a City company are eligible to become freemen of the City, but the right of a freewoman of a company to the same privilege has never been put to the test. Marriage is a bar to the admission of women to the freedom of the City, according to an old regulation, and there have been only two freewomen—Miss Florence Nightingale and Baroness Burdett-Coutts—the honour being paid to the latter before marriage.

Pastor's Wife in Pulpit.

Mrs. Downham, wife of the pastor of the Park-road Congregational Chapel, Blackburn, occupied the pulpit last Sunday, at Harwood Street Wesleyan Church, Blackburn, thereby inaugurating a new departure. This is the first service conducted by Mrs. Downham since she settled in Blackburn. Mrs. Downham was formerly lecturer for the Sussex Sunday School Union, and had experience of public speaking as a member of the Education and Health Committees of the London County Council.

Women and a New Peace.

The Conference summoned by the Women's International League to meet at The Hague on December 7-9 to discuss "A New Peace," will be attended by delegates from most of the countries of Europe and from America. They will include: Mlle. Jeanne Melin, France; Dr. Alice Salomon, Fraulein Lida Gustava Heymann, Count Kessler, Germany; Lord Parmoor, Mrs. Swanwick, and Miss Marshall, Great Britain; Dr. Surowzova, Ukraine; and Count Lucidi, Italy.

PROGRESS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN FRANCE.

Women of nine nations were represented at a demonstration held in the Sorbonne, last week, in favour of women's suffrage. They included delegates from the United States, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, China, and Uruguay. Among the speakers was M. Justin Godart, president of the Woman Suffrage group in the Chamber, Mrs. MacCormick, leader of the movement in the United States; Mrs. Planque, as British delegate; and Mlle. Hélène Varesco, the Roumanian woman delegate to the League of Nations. Most of the speakers devoted themselves to describing the happy results which had attended the grant of the franchise to women in other countries, paying particular attention to what they had accomplished in the spheres of education, health, and infant welfare work. Mlle. Amelie Tivoli, of Italy, reminded the audience that women had played an important part in conducting the affairs of ancient Pompeii, and their names had been found in the buried city engraved on tablets with those of famous politicians. She had also something to say of their contribution to the success of the Fascisti movement. As an instance of woman's fitness to take an active part even in the financial affairs of the State, Mlle. Claire Baril, of Belgium, quoted the case of a woman Senator of Belgium, who had been appointed Rapporteur of the Budgets. The Chinese delegate, Mlle. Comme Tchong, went a step further by telling of the women who had written their names in the history of China as generals and Ministers. The speeches were received with demonstrations of warm enthusiasm by an audience which included a large proportion of men.

On Tuesday, of this week, however, the hopes of French women who had counted upon the passing of the Suffrage Bill in the Senate were crushed, when the Senators, by 456 votes to 134, declined to proceed to the consideration of the articles of the Bill.

OUR WOMEN BARRISTERS.

Ten women law students were "called" to the Bar last week, so that, including Dr. Ivy Williams, who was "called" at Inner Temple on May 10th, and Miss Kyle and Miss Deverill, of Belfast, who were "called" at the Four Courts, Dublin, in November of last year, there are now 13 fully qualified women barristers in Great Britain and Ireland. Nine of the women who were "called" last week belong to the Middle Temple, and one to the Inner Temple. Their names are as follows:—Miss Helena Florence Normanton; Miss Monica Mary Geikie Cobb, Miss Auvergne Doherty, Miss Ethel Bright Ashford, Miss Naomi Constance Wallace, Miss Sybil Campbell, Miss Elsie May Wheeler, Miss Lilian Maud Dawes, Miss Beatrice Honour Davy (Middle Temple), and Miss Theodora Llewellyn Davies (Inner Temple). Seven other women have passed the final examination, and are now completing their full qualifications by keeping terms. They include Miss Cornelia Sorabji, who has been engaged for some time by the Government of India as legal adviser and consulting counsel in the civil courts of India in matters relating to the main to the interests of women. She already possesses the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law, Oxford, and came to England some months ago with the special object of keeping terms, in order to become a member of the English Bar.

Each Inn has its own customs in regard to "call" night, and at the Middle Temple the ceremony precedes the dinner in the Hall. In honour of the historic occasion last week, the women led the procession to the Benchers' table, where Sir Forrest Fulton presided. The Junior Treasurer read out the names of the students to be called, and the women, led by Miss Normanton, walked up to the table in their black gowns, bands, and wigs, and signed the book.

Sir Forrest Fulton heartily congratulated the women barristers, and imparted much useful advice. "The Bar," he said, "is a great profession; the prizes are many, both great and small. . . . I need not exhort you to uphold the best traditions of the profession. I am quite sure you will do so. I would rather counsel you not to be discouraged at the many difficulties you will have to encounter. . . . Keep a stout heart, and remember that most things come to those who know how to wait."

It remains to be seen, of course, how the women barristers intend to pursue their new calling, but Miss Normanton has already announced that her aim is to practise in the Divorce Court, whilst Miss Ashford is joining the South-Eastern Circuit, and intends to practise wherever she can.

Council for the Representation of Women on the League of Nations.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

will be held in the
CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER,

ROOM 1, on

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, 1922,

11 a.m. to 1 o'clock.

To be followed by a

PUBLIC MEETING

In the Council Chamber, Caxton Hall,

On the work of the recent Assembly of the League of Nations,

3 to 4-30 o'clock.

Chairman: **MRS. OGILVIE GORDON, J.P.**

Speakers:

MRS. COOMBE TENNANT, J.P.

British Alternate Delegate to the League of Nations.

MR. WILSON HARRIS, M.A.

Diplomatic Correspondent to the *Daily News*.

AND OTHERS

A RECEPTION and TEA at the close of the Meeting will be held in Room 1, 4-30 to 5-30 o'clock.

Tickets for Public Meeting and Reception, price 2/6. Tea included. Apply—Miss de Alberti, Hon. Sec., c/o Miss Green, National Council of Women, Parliament Mansions, S.W.1.

Societies invited to affiliate. Individuals, men or women, can become Associates on payment of a yearly subscription of 5/.

WOMEN'S VILLAGE COUNCILS.

By G. HOME.

Women's Village Councils were started in 1917 by Mrs. Hamilton (offices, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1), with the primary object of bringing to bear the experience of village women upon the subject of housing. Closely connected with housing are maternity, infant welfare, and sanitation, so that every Women's Village Council concerns itself with these essentials of a good home. The President is a working woman, assisted by the honorary secretaries, who are trained women in touch with village life, and able to organise. Monthly meetings are held, at which addresses are given, followed by discussions.

The general paralysis of the housing scheme throughout the country has been a cause of great disappointment to the Women's Village Councils, but the members are still on the *qui vive*. Where Government houses have been erected in a village, the women, by means of their Council, have often been able to give valuable advice regarding details, and, now that there is a temporary stoppage, they keep in mind the fact of the number of houses which are still wanted in their village, and in two cases a Women's Village Council has sent a report to headquarters when there was a proposal to sell the land bought for the express purpose of building Government houses. Mrs. Hamilton is on the Executive Committee of the National Housing and Town Planning Association, so that expert advice is readily available for these Village Councils. Quite recently, during the Borough Elections, Mrs. Hamilton and Miss Gertrude Eaton (the chairman of the Federation of Women's Village Councils) helped to stir up an agitation in Kensington upon the shameful housing conditions in North Kensington. A Women's Ward Council has been formed in Kensington to work on similar lines to the Women's Village Councils, and it is hoped that such Ward Councils may be formed in other places. An empty shop was taken in Church Street, Kensington, to advertise this little campaign. It proved a great help to electors who wanted to vote conscientiously, but who were very vague about the policy of the candidates. A large doll stood in the window, with the legend, "We Babies want Good Homes," and many a working man looked at it with approval!

Sanitation is always in the thoughts of the Women's Village Councils. They concern themselves with plans for the collection of dust, the water supply, drainage, and the cleaning up of insanitary places, such as refuse dumps and stagnant ponds. In this connection, the Federation of Women's Village Councils in 1921 organised a deputation, representing thousands of women, to Sir George Newman, at the Ministry of Health. Arising out of protests against bad sanitation has come a valuable bit of constructive work—the "Beautiful England" scheme, which aims at capturing the future generation by means of the Children's Promise—all details of which will gladly be furnished by Mrs. Hamilton. A good deal of interest has been aroused by this scheme, in papers such as the *Spectator*, and the General Omnibus Company has issued a poster under its inspiration.

In June, this year, the Federation held its third annual Conference. In the morning session, women delegates spoke with quite surprising force upon the work of their Councils during the past year. In the afternoon, Lady Buckmaster took the chair, and there was an interesting discussion following papers by Mrs. Higgs, of Oldham, and Mr. Elgood, of the National Housing and Town Planning Association, describing how to preserve and increase the beauty of villages.

The work of the Women's Village Councils varies. In the monthly meetings, lectures are given upon such subjects as Local Government, the League of Nations, Penal Reform, Maternity, and Infant Welfare. One Council—Aldridge, Staffs.—was bracketed first in a competition on the Art of Citizenship; some are concerned in raising funds for village halls; one has presented a sign to warn motorists of a dangerous hill; and in times of elections, special pains are taken that the women may realise the great responsibility of using their votes intelligently.

The work of the Federation of Women's Village Councils is constantly developing, and it is becoming known on the Continent. Bulgaria recently applied for information as to the Councils, and whilst Mrs. Hamilton was in Rome, last winter, she was able to give very valuable help to an Italian women's housing committee.

WOMEN AND INTERNATIONALISM.

This week, in London, is an important one for women's international interests, when the Executive Boards both of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance and of the International Council of Women will be holding meetings, separately and together.

The object of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance and of its auxiliary organisations in each country, as is well known, is to work for equality of citizenship between men and women. At present it has 33 countries affiliated. In 14 of these the suffrage has already been won, but in 19 even women's franchise has to be won, countries which include not only France and Italy, but also certain of our Dominions, such as South Africa and Newfoundland.

The Board, in addition to its routine business, will discuss many proposals as to the future work of the Alliance. Its more immediate duty, however, will be to consider the programme for the Congress which is to be held in Rome next May. This programme, in addition to the main object of work for the enfranchisement of women, will deal with other equality questions for which the Alliance stands, viz., the equal moral standard, equal pay and equal right of work, motherhood and the illegitimate child, and the nationality of married women.

An important piece of work this year is a joint meeting arranged with the Board of the International Council of Women to discuss the possibility of closer co-operation between the two organisations, and, at the suggestion of Mrs. Chapman Catt, a further meeting will be held to discuss how best to promote co-operation between the International women's organisations, with a view to strengthening active work on those items of their programme which they have in common.

It is hoped that all the International members of the Board, with the exception of Mme. Anna Wicksell, will be present. They are Mrs. Chapman Catt (U.S.A.), Honorary President of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, President, National League of Women Voters; Mrs. K. Dexter McCormick (U.S.A.), Treasurer, and for many years an official of the National American Woman Suffrage Association; Frau Schreiber-Krieger (Germany), Member of the Reichstag, and Director of the "Mother and Child" Section of the German Red Cross; Dr. M. Ancona (Italy), President of the Lombard Suffrage Committee; Mme. de Witt-Schlumberger (France), first Vice-President, I.W.S.A., and President of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes; Mme. Girardet Vielle (Switzerland); Frau Anna Lindeman (Germany).

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24th, 1922.

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.

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.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

ITS PRIMARY DUTY.

We are pleased that so many of our well-known friends, belonging to all parties, have been returned to the new Parliament. A few of our friends fared ill at the polls, and every woman's organisation will deplore the fact that Major Hills was among them, for he was one of our staunchest and most reliable champions. We look forward with confidence to the success of our cause under the new Government. It is true that Mr. Bonar Law, who has been returned as its head with a small working majority, proved most unsatisfactory in his attitude towards women's interests when questioned by ourselves and other women's organisations during the recent Election; but we rely upon our friends in the Labour and Liberal Parties to carry out the item on each of their programmes which refers to women's disabilities, and to press the present Government for the removal of all the existing political and legal inequalities as between men and women. We are confident that they will have the full support of Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham, and we are sure, too, that they can depend upon the co-operation of our friends in the Conservative Party in securing these reforms. We are at once asking the Prime Minister to receive a deputation on the subject of the equal enfranchisement of women and men. This is a reform of first-class importance. During the recent Election, women of all classes, both married and unmarried, deeply resented the glaring political inferiority of women. Why should any inexperienced youth who has just attained the age of twenty-one be allowed to exercise a vote on a six months' qualification only, when no woman, no matter what her experience of life, her abilities, or usefulness may be, is permitted to have a vote until she is thirty, and even then finds numerous obstacles to her enfranchisement which do not exist in the case of men? Women must give this Government no rest until a measure granting the Parliamentary vote to women at the same age and on equal terms with men is safely on the Statute Book. We cannot contemplate another General Election with men and women exercising an unequal franchise. Women pay taxes, both direct and indirect, for the upkeep of the country, equally with men. They are responsible citizens, and are affected by legislation, just as men are, and young women, especially in the professions and in industry, are at a great disadvantage because they have no political power. They have no say in regard to legislation dealing with the conditions of their work, and, when many thousands of them are faced with unemployment, the Government, so far, has not thought it worth its while to devise any scheme to provide them with work! We do not intend to be put off with the well-worn excuse that a Franchise Bill can only be carried through in the last Session of Parliament. Any Session might be the last of the new Parliament, and women must make sure that the first Session does not pass without a determined and united effort on the part of all their friends in the House of Commons to carry through all its stages into law, an Equal Franchise Bill. This we consider to be the primary duty of the new Parliament.

LAW AND ANNOYANCE.

The recent Hyde Park case has, obviously, had a beneficial effect on Marlborough Street Police Court. Last week, cases failed against a man and a woman for lack of corroborative evidence. A man was charged by a police sergeant with wilful obstruction in Soho, and Mr. Mead, when remanding the man on his own recognisances, said: "Whatever view I may take of the officer's evidence, as to which I express no opinion now, I am not sure whether a superior Court has not laid it down that it would not be right to convict unless the persons annoyed are present." He added that he must pay respect to a superior Court on questions of law, and if the rule was as he had stated, it would be idle to convict. In our view, a very sensible decision! The other case, in the same Court, was against a woman who was alleged to have annoyed men in Charing Cross Road by speaking to them. A police officer stated that she had within a short period annoyed three men, and she was arrested as she was leaving a café with a man. He added that he had known her for several months as a woman of loose character. The woman, from the witness box, declared that the officer was what was known as a "cocaine man," and that he had previously sent a cripple girl to her as a "trap." Further, that when she came out of the café, he held both her hands, took the paper from her, and said she would be charged with being in possession of drugs. He found none, and preferred the charge of "annoyance," as an afterthought. The woman denied that she was in the street when the police officer said he first saw her. She was asked, and gave, the name of the man who came out of the café with her, and told the magistrate it wasn't fair, and that there should be a law to protect women. The magistrate, Mr. Waddy, asked the police sergeant if he was working with another policeman. The reply was in the affirmative, and the policeman's name was given. The magistrate inquired if he was present, and received an answer in the negative. Mr. Waddy then asked if the officer took the names of the men whom the woman was stated to have annoyed. The answer was "No," and the magistrate declared, with emphasis, "Case dismissed." Again and again we have called attention to the injustice of convicting six thousand girls and women each year for "annoyance," etc., on police evidence only. It now looks as though they may in the future get a little more justice in our police courts than they have had in the past.

DESERTED WIFE'S EJECTMENT ORDER

A case came before the Bloomsbury County Court last Monday, in which a woman's husband who had deserted her also gave notice to the landlord that he was quitting, and giving up possession of the premises. The wife wished to keep on the tenancy, and said in Court that her husband had not supported her for over a year, that she had worked all the time, had frequently paid the rent out of her earnings, and that if she had to move she would lose her work. The landlord would not accept her as a tenant, and, as the wife refused to quit the premises, he brought an action against her for ejectment. Mr. Scott Duckers (for the wife) maintained that when the husband deserted, the wife became an agent to pledge the husband's credit for necessaries, but the Judge held that the husband was the tenant, and therefore he had no alternative but to make an order for possession within a month. The widow of a tenant, on the latter's death, could not be turned out of the premises under the existing Rent Act, and we certainly think that a deserted wife ought to have the same protection as a widow, in such circumstances. This ought to be considered when the Rent Act again comes up for review in Parliament.

WOMEN'S LUCK AT THE POLLS.

Women's organisations whole-heartedly rejoice that Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham have been returned to Westminster. All the women candidates had a very strenuous fight. Not one of them was unopposed, and some of them had to contest seats which were practically hopeless from their own Party point of view. Only five of the unsuccessful women candidates had previously fought a Parliamentary election, and when we remember the many times some men have to try their luck before they become Members of the House of Commons, and the way in which some long-experienced and popular Parliamentary hands have been defeated at this Election, we consider that the women candidates have done remarkably well at the polls. We wish them one and all complete success on the next occasion. While thirty-eight men have scored less than one-eighth of the total poll, and thereby forfeit the deposit of £150, only four women come into this category—Commandant Allen, Lady Emmott, Miss Alison Garland, and Lady Lawson.

The following is the list of women who stood at the recent Election, with the number of votes recorded for them and for their opponents:—

Devizes, Wiltshire:	
Lt.-Col. W. C. H. Bell (C.)	9,598
Lady Currie (L.)	6,576
Glamorgan, Ogmore:	
V. Hartshorn (Lab.)	17,331
J. W. Jones (N.L.)	7,488
Mrs. D. C. Esmond (C.)	6,557
Oldham (2):	
Sir E. Grigg (N.L.)	24,762
W. T. Tout (Lab.)	24,434
S. Smethurst (C.)	23,200
W. T. Davies (L.)	9,812
Lady Emmott (L.)	6,186
Glasgow, Govan:	
Neil McLean (Lab.)	15,441
Miss Helen Fraser (N.L.)	9,336
Dartford, Kent:	
G. W. S. Jarrett (N.L.)	16,662
J. Mills (Lab.)	14,744
Miss Alison Garland (L.)	2,175
Lambeth, North:	
Frank Briant (L.)	8,132
E. Roy Bird (C.)	7,362
Mrs. Ayrton Gould (Lab.)	3,353
Leeds, South-East:	
J. O'Grady (Lab.)	13,616
Miss M. P. Grant (N.L.)	9,554
East Ham, North:	
C. W. Crook (C.)	7,215
Miss Susan Lawrence (Lab.)	6,747
E. E. Edwards (N.L.)	4,775
H. Osborne (L.)	4,021
J. N. Emery (L.)	1,504
Bedford:	
S. R. Wells (C.)	13,460
Rt. Hon. F. G. Kellaway (N.L.)	5,714
A. Sells (Lab.)	5,477
Lady Lawson (L.)	2,075
Surrey, East:	
J. F. W. Galbraith (C.)	12,498
Mrs. Marjorie Pease (Lab.)	3,667
Chelmsford, Essex:	
Rt. Hon. E. G. Pretyman (C.)	11,267
S. W. Robinson (L.)	6,380
Mrs. Rackham (Lab.)	3,767
Liverpool, East Toxteth:	
J. S. Rankin (C.)	15,149
Miss Eleanor Rathbone (Ind.)	9,984
Acton, Middlesex:	
Sir H. Brittain (C.)	10,208
Miss M. Richardson (Lab.)	5,342
N. Dixey, (L.)	4,877
Huntingdonshire:	
C. K. Murchison (C.)	10,079
Mrs. Scott-Gatty (L.)	5,123
Major Freyer (Lab.)	4,697
Glasgow, Maryhill:	
J. W. Muir (Lab.)	13,058
Sir W. Mitchell-Thomsou (C.)	10,951
Mrs. Burnett-Smith (L.)	5,617
Brentford and Chiswick:	
Col. W. Grant-Morden	10,150
Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Ind.)	7,804
Forest of Dean:	
J. Wignall (Lab.)	10,820
A. G. C. Dinnick (Ind. C.)	5,966
Mrs. Coombe Tennant (N.L.)	3,861
Plymouth, Sutton:	
Lady Astor (C.)	13,924
Capt. G. W. Brenan (Lab.)	10,831
Dr. H. W. Bayly (Ind. C.)	4,643
Majority	3,093
Louth, Lincs:	
Mrs. Wintringham (L.)	11,609
Sir Alan Hutchings (C.)	10,726
Majority	883
Edinburgh, South:	
Sir S. Chapman (C.)	14,843
Mrs. Alderton (L.)	7,408
St. George's, Westminster:	
J. M. Erskine (Ind. C.)	11,252
Col. Leslie Wilson (C.)	7,559
Com. M. Allen (L.)	1,303
Richmond, Surrey:	
H. Becker (Ind. C.)	12,075
C. B. Edgar (C.)	6,032
Mrs. Corbett Ashby	5,763
High Peak, Derbyshire:	
Sir S. Hill-Wood (C.)	14,892
Frank Anderson (Lab.)	7,698
Lady Barlow (L.)	5,802
King's Norton, Birmingham:	
Sir H. Austin (C.)	8,870
Mrs. Barton (Co.op.)	7,017
W. Meakin (L.)	5,474
East Islington:	
Capt. A. V. M. Hudson (C.)	11,954
Sir Godfrey Baring (L.)	8,107
Dr. Ethel Bentham (Lab.)	5,900
Northampton:	
Rt. Hon. C. A. McCurdy (N.L.)	19,974
Miss Bondfield (Lab.)	14,498
Henry Vivian (L.)	3,733
Denbigh:	
J. C. Davies (N.L.)	12,975
Hon. Mrs. Brodrick (C.)	9,138
L. J. Williams (L.)	1,974
Waterloo, Lancashire:	
Lt.-Col. A. Buckley (C.)	12,967
Mrs. Stewart Brown (L.)	6,300
Walsall:	
Pat Collins (L.)	14,674
Lady Cooper (C.)	14,349
Robert Denison (Lab.)	8,946

Wycombe :	
Col. W. B. Du Pre (C.)	15,627
Lady Terrington (L.)	11,154
S. Stennett (Lab.)	4,493
Islington, North :	
Maj.-Gen. Sir Newton Moore (C.)	13,520
Miss E. Picton-Turbervill (Lab.)	7,993
Camberwell, North :	
N. L. Sargant (L.)	7,256
C. G. Ammon (Lab.)	8,320
Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan (C.)	8,066
University of Wales :	
T. A. Lewis (N.L.)	497
Sir E. T. Ellis Griffith (L.)	451
Miss O. A. Wheeler (Ind.)	309

MEN AND HOUSECRAFT.

An amusing Debate on the subject, "Should Boys be trained in Housecraft and Cookery?" was held in the Minerva Café last Monday evening.

Miss Anna Munro, who presided, referred to the new Parliament, which had assembled earlier in the day, as good, but not as good as they would have liked it to be, because of the inclusion of only two women members. The return of Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham was most encouraging, as also the fact that many of the other women candidates polled very much higher than at the last General Election in 1918. Even if the recent Election results had not been all it could have wished, the Women's Freedom League was in no way downhearted, and was going forward with renewed hope.

Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser, who opened the Debate, took the affirmative, claiming that the teaching of Housecraft and Cookery to men and boys would help to solve some of the many problems in our midst, especially that of unemployment, and incidentally that of equality between the sexes. It was a curious fact that amongst all the arguments put forward against women taking part in public work, no objection was ever raised against a woman doing public charing, though this work made greater demands on the health and physique than any other occupation. Housework, said Dr. Chesser, was very arduous, and, as men usually had greater physical strength than women, they should certainly undertake the rougher portions. Men also excelled in the science of cookery to a greater extent than women. In France, China, Japan, and also in other countries, men undertook the whole of the housework and cooking. Women, however, were proverbially better nurses, because of their inherited mother instinct, and for this reason should specialise in all that concerned child psychology and child rearing. The cause of so much unhappiness amongst women was due to the thwarting of the mother instinct in unmarried women, but this instinct could be sublimated by directing it along certain lines of activities, such as Teaching, the Home, or the Church, the last-named a source of activity which had not yet been tapped. Boys and girls should be trained in domestic work from their early years, irrespective of class, each sex specialising along the lines for which it was most fitted.

Mr. Clephan Palmer, of the *Daily News*, maintained that, as women were steadily becoming more masculine, the only way men could keep a reasonable distance from them was in their turn to be more masculine. It was quite unnecessary in these days, he said, for anyone to be trained in housecraft, the difficulties of which had been greatly exaggerated. The modern ideal was to be as homeless as possible, viz., to live in a very small house, thus imitating the American ideal, which had been described as two rooms and a Ford!

Many questions and an animated discussion followed, and at the close of the Debate the audience supported Dr. Sloan Chesser, the opener, by an overwhelming majority.

OUR ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.

In addition to all possible support of women candidates, we gave special help to the following:—
COMMANDANT MARY ALLEN.—St. George's, Westminster.

Mrs. Mustard spoke. Clerical work and canvassing was done by Miss Alix Clark, Mrs. Elias, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Whelan, Miss Allwork, Mrs. Northcroft, and Miss Wolfe Murray. On polling day Miss Marianne Elias drove electors to the poll in her car all day long, and Mr. and Mrs. Sloane lent their car.

MISS MARY RICHARDSON.—Acton.
Mrs. Tanner spoke at several meetings. Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Arney, and Mr. Fry helped in clerical work and canvassing. We supplied a car for polling day.

MRS. AYRTON GOULD.—Lambeth, North.
Mrs. Tanner and Miss Newsome canvassed.

MRS. MARJORIE PEASE.—Surrey, East.
We had our own Committee rooms in Sanderstead, in charge of our organiser, Mrs. Preece, and canvassed the surrounding district. Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. MacMichael drove speakers, etc., in their car all through the Election, and we supplied a car for the last three days. Canvassing was also done by Mrs. Terry, Miss Beecher and friends, Mrs. Eagle, Mrs. Lloyd, Miss Janet Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Hudson, Miss Mennell.

MRS. STEWART BROWN.—Waterloo.

Our organiser, Miss Brimson, gave all her time to the Election campaign in organising, canvassing, Press work, etc. Our Crosby branch and some Liverpool members worked very hard in canvassing and clerical work, including Mr. and Mrs. King, Mrs. Kershaw, Mrs. Wild, Mrs. Hague, Mrs. Evans, Miss Garron, Mrs. and Miss Criddle, who lent their car, Mrs. Grossart, Mrs. Reader, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Savage, Miss Goodman, Miss Herbison.

MRS. ALBERTON.—Edinburgh, South.

Our Edinburgh branch members shared in canvassing and clerical work.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

The Women's Freedom League has issued a black and white Greetings Picture Christmas and New Year's Card, specially designed by Miss Willis (of the *Suffrage Atelier*), price 2d. each. Send us an order, so that you can let your friends have them at Christmas. We have also a Women's Freedom League Diary, price 2s.; and everyone should have a copy of Mrs. Nevinson's latest pamphlet, "The Wrongs of Married Women," price 3d.; postage in each case extra.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Subject: "The Health of its Women, a National Asset to the State." Chair: Mrs. Tanner.

Friday, December 1st, at 6 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, December 2nd, at 10 a.m., 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, National Executive Committee Meeting.

Monday, December 4th, at 7 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser. Subject: "Domestic Drudgery; Woman's Failure."

Wednesday, December 13th, at 3 p.m. Public Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss V. V. J. Acheson. Subject: "Current Events Abroad."

Tuesday, January 23rd, 1923. Social, 7.30 to 10 p.m., at the Isis Club, Rockeslea, Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, N.W. 3. (by kind invitation of Mrs. Harverson). Speech 8 p.m., by Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., on "The Experiences of a Suffrage Speaker." Coffee.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, November 28th, at 8 p.m. Southend-on-Sea and District. Public Meeting, Crowstone Lower Hall, King's Road, Westcliff. Mrs. Mustard on "The Need for Women to Organise for Public Service."

Wednesday, November 29th. Portsmouth. Work Party, 3 to 6 p.m., at 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, November 28th, at 4 p.m. Discussion on "St. Paul's Views on Marriage and Celibacy," at 4.30. Tea 4 p.m. At 14, St. Quintin's Avenue, North Kensington, W.10. Members and friends wishing to attend are requested to send a card to that effect to Miss Raleigh.

Tuesday, November 28th, at 5 p.m. Women's Engineering Society, 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W.1. Lecture on "Co-Partnership at Guise" by Miss C. S. Bremner.

Wednesday, November 29th, at 8 p.m. Oak Room, Kingsway Hall, Women's League of Union. Speaker: Barnet Kenyon, M.P. Subject: "Women and Labour."

Thursday, November 30th, at 3-4.30 p.m. Public Meeting in the Council Chamber, Caxton Hall. (See notice, p. 370.)

Saturday, December 9th, at 3 p.m. The Women's Group of the Ethical Movement. Meeting at Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "A Woman's View of the Recent Elections."

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—In these days, when the Prayer Book of the Church of England is being revised, is the Women's Freedom League endeavouring to bring any pressure to bear upon the Bishops and Clergy to get the notorious obedience phrases struck out of the Marriage Service? It is rather hard that enlightened Churchwomen should be unable to marry in their own Church, and a great pity that those of less education should be led to imagine that a woman's duty is to obey her husband. THE VOTE is so splendid, I think; but we really ought not to allow this opportunity to pass, for, once the new form of the Prayer Book is printed, and circulated amongst Churchgoers, it will be too late then to get this important change made.—Yours sincerely,

(Miss) DOROTHY F. MIALI SMITH.

MADAM,—Will you allow me to correct two slight misunderstandings which seem to have crept into my explanation of St. Paul's words (see THE VOTE, November 17th, p. 362). (1) The words, "In the old pagan days," should be followed by "men never wore veils, except when offering sacrifices or taking part in ritual." (In daily life, Roman men had their heads uncovered.) (2) The passage quoted from and Tim. is in chapter ii. (not ix.).—Yours, etc., K. A. RALEIGH.

NEW BRANCHES.

Preparations are being made for the formation of new Branches as follows:—

- (1) Croydon, Sanderstead, Woldingham and district.
 - (2) Stroud Green, Hornsey, Finsbury Park, Haringay, Crouch End, Highbury and district.
 - (3) Teddington, Richmond, Kingston and district.
- Will readers living in any of the above neighbourhoods, interested in the formation of these Branches, kindly communicate at once with (1) The Secretary, Women's Freedom League Office; (2) Miss Jamieson, 3, Oakfield Road, Stroud Green, N.; (3) Miss Underwood, 26, Cedar Road, Teddington, Middlesex?

POLITICAL WORK.

Following a meeting of the Political Sub-Committee held at these offices last Monday, the Secretary of the Women's Freedom League has written to the Prime Minister asking that an Equal Franchise measure shall be included in the King's Speech. Failing this, the League has asked Mr. Bonar Law to receive a deputation, among the members of which will be included women under thirty years of age, to put before him their reasons for, and the urgency of, the immediate enfranchisement of women at the same age and on the same terms as men.

JUMBLE SALE.

A Jumble Sale is being arranged by our Montgomery Boroughs Branch, the proceeds of which are to come to Headquarters. It will be held on December 15th, and Miss Clark still has empty "Fair" cases at our Offices. These she wants to take back with her to Wales, and appeals to all our readers in London to bring or send at once any old clothes, boots, hats, household goods, books, etc., so that she can return with cases filled for this Jumble Sale. Readers outside London are urged to send goods direct, addressed to her at The Hut, Severn Street, Newtown, Montgomeryshire.

NO WOMAN ATTENDANCE OFFICER!

By nine votes to two, Lt.-Col. Merrick's resolution that one school attendance officer should be a woman with training and experience in the recognition of diseases, was lost at the meeting of the Twickenham Education Committee this week. The proposal had already been made by Dr. G. H. Dupont, the Medical Officer, from whose 1921 report the following extract was read:—"Ninety-six children were found in the classes quite unfit for school, and were sent home. Of this number, thirty-six were found to be suffering from acute infectious disease." Prebendary H. J. R. Osborne opposed the motion, on the ground that there were already too many women in the country "robbing men of employment." He also described it as most extravagant, unnecessary, and altogether ridiculous. In reply to Prebendary Osborne, Dr. Dupont said he thought that male officers were not the best people to make a thorough examination of little children or big girls.

WOMEN'S POLLS AT PREVIOUS ELECTIONS.

At their previous elections, Lady Astor polled 14,495 votes, Mrs. Wintringham 8,386, Mrs. Corbett Ashby 1,552, Miss Margaret Bondfield 13,279, Miss Alison Garland 4,283, Miss Susan Lawrence 4,733, Mrs. Oliver Strachey 1,263.

PAY FOR THE FAIR.

Many thanks to all our members and friends who have during the past week sent donations for "Fair" Expenses; the "Fair" accounts are not yet quite completed, so please continue to send in your contributions. I have not yet received donations enough to cover expenses.

Women-in-Parliament Fund.

As will be seen in this Number we have done a great deal of work and must now pay the bills; please send in to me as soon as possible. We have spent a considerable sum and done all we possibly could to help the Women Candidates, relying on our members and friends, who never fail us, to do their part and make up the deficit.

E. KNIGHT,

Hon. Treasurer.

144, High Holborn,
London, W.C.1.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, Nov. 26th, 3 15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Percy Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden.

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Dec. 7th.—Back of the Black Man's Mind. The African Periodic Law. A Study in Numerology.

A course of 6 lessons on Numerology starting Friday November 17th, at 6.30, will be held at The Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn. Fee £1 1s.

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