

# THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 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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## XXXI.—WHEN I AM M.P.

MISS RUBY PART, Prospective Labour Candidate for Wells Division of Somerset.

I am not a feminist in the popular sense of the word. In the days of the militant suffrage movement, I was a young assistant in a millinery workroom. Having been trained in a Conservative home, and my grandfather, father, and four brothers serving in the Navy, I was imbued with all the traditions and ideals of Imperialism. My interest in politics began when I realised my position as a sweated worker, and I became associated with the trade union movement. I joined the Workers Union and, after being secretary of the Portsmouth Women's Branch, was appointed organiser, and it was as a result of my experience in the industrial movement that I became a Socialist. I learnt many things in that school of hard training, and amongst them I began to appreciate the absolute dependency of the sexes upon each other. I recognised the essential need for comradeship, good-fellowship, and a mutual understanding of each other's needs and difficulties. We may see things from different standpoints, but neither has an advantage over the other. That is why I do not stand for Parliament as a "woman" candidate. I will not submit to any sense of inferiority, neither do I claim any special consideration because of my sex.

Whilst making this position clear, I must admit, being a woman, that I am more interested in womanly

things, whilst I hesitate to put the claims of either sex first. My function will be, when I get to Parliament, to work for legislation which will safeguard the position of women. We are anticipating an extension of the franchise, which will give to women of 21 the vote on the same terms as men, and it has always been a matter of concern to me that this matter has not been taken up with more determination by women's organisations. But it is not only with respect to the suffrage that we must insist upon the rights of Equal Citizenship, and I should work for the amendment of any law which gave to men an unfair advantage over women, whether it be social, moral, or economic.

In regard to our Social Services, I should like to give particular attention to Education, and also to the question of child welfare and the health of the people. I would like to see all the hospitals brought under public control; in fact, I would endeavour to bring under public administration all those services which contribute to the physical and moral well-being of the people. I hope to place first in my programme the care and

development of human life. All tendencies which operated against that end should have my opposition. So I am a War resister, and will do all in my power to destroy the spirit of Imperialism which seeks to



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establish a state of militarism, which can only be protected by increased armaments and inevitable warfare. I believe in a complete disarmament and the co-operation of all nations.

In taking a review of the present position, it is almost impossible to say what I would like to do first, but let me sum up my position briefly. Whilst I recognise that legislation is necessary at the present time, and must be introduced to give to the people every opportunity to develop their lives in accordance with the highest ideals, I believe that complete freedom and happiness of the individual will only be possible when we have socialised all the means of life. I shall consequently work for a social order which will remove the burden of economic pressure from the lives of the people, and which will be maintained by an educated democracy which recognises the well-being of each member of the community.

#### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

##### Women Rejected on Training Ship Committee.

At last week's meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, the election took place for members of Committee for the training ship *Exmouth*. It appears that the Committee has 12 members, one of whom is a woman. On this occasion a second woman was nominated. Someone moved an amendment to the nomination to re-elect a man member who had retired, and the Board, infected by the prevailing flapper complex, carried the amendment.

##### Woman Chairman of District Council.

Mrs. Agnes Durant, J.P., has recently been elected Chairman of the Urban District Council in the Isle of Sheppey. Mrs. Durant is the first and only woman magistrate, and the first woman Councillor and Alderman. She is also Vice-Chairman of the Sheppey Education Committee and a manager of the Council schools.

##### Women at Cambridge.

The Council of the Senate have issued a pronouncement that, in their opinion, members of the Women's Colleges are eligible for all of the University scholarships and prizes to be competed for in the remainder of the year 1927.

##### Victorian Women Citizens.

*The Dawn* for April gives the presidential address at the annual meeting of the Victorian Women Citizens Association, in which are defined its objects as:—(1) the attainment of equal citizenship for men and women; (2) to interest women in preparing themselves to vote more powerfully, and to fill efficiently any positions of privilege which they may attain to, or that may be offered them by men whose privilege it is to do so.

##### Women in Chemical Engineering.

The *Christian Science Monitor* reports a leading chemical engineer as of opinion that an opportunity of work awaits women in his department. "The positions open to women graduates in chemical engineering are practically the same as those to men. I do not believe there is the slightest prejudice against them in the field. The work consists largely of consulting practice in laboratories, research work, and control work in factories. The last is concerned with analysing and keeping track of the quality of raw materials and products."

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Miss ELEANOR STEWART, May 13, 1927; Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, April 29, 1927; Mrs. PANKHURST, February 25, 1927; Miss MONICA WHATELEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDES, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NESBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGTON, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

##### Oxford Steps Forward.

In Convocation, Oxford University has admitted women to eligibility for all professorships, teacherships and readerships in its jurisdiction.

##### Woman Endows Institute of Music.

Mrs. Edward W. Bok has endowed the Curtis Institute of Music at Philadelphia with £1,400,000. Mrs. Bok founded the Institute in 1924, in memory of her father, C. H. K. Curtis, the publisher. This new endowment will be directed to the assistance of students whose financial position would otherwise deprive them of the opportunity of extended musical study. Mrs. Bok is estimated to have given altogether to this Institute a sum of £2,500,000.

##### Columbia University Honours for Women.

Columbia University has elected to membership of Phi Beta Kappa three women:—Señorita Maria de Maeztu, visiting Spanish professor at Barnard and Columbia; Mlle. Marguerite Mespoulet, visiting French professor at Wellesley; Elinor Wylie, author.

##### Woman Novelist's Success.

The Committee of the French 3,000 francs travelling fellowship, presided over by M. Auguste Dorchain, have awarded this year's fellowship to Mme. Germaine Acremant for her novel *Gai! Marions-nous!*

#### FRENCH WOMEN DEMAND THE VOTE.

Last week, a meeting of over 1,000 persons was held in Paris, in favour of woman suffrage, convened by a number of French feminist societies. Speeches were made by Deputies and by women, and a resolution was passed, declaring that woman suffrage has supporters among all political Parties in France, and calling upon Parliament to resume discussion of this question. An appeal was made to the Senate to reconsider its previous vote, and to associate itself with the majority of the Chamber in support of woman suffrage, which is already possessed by 160,000,000 women throughout the world, including women in Great Britain, Germany and the United States.

#### TURKISH MEN DEMAND EJECTION OF WOMEN WORKERS.

More direct than the men of some other nationalities, who seek to drive women from paid work under the guise of "protecting" them, the Turkish men have openly demanded that the number of women employed shall be limited. This has occurred in the State Tobacco Monopoly. Since Turkish women have been allowed to go out to work, they have proved so successful that they are tending to oust the men, who, instead of showing themselves as better workers, demand the strict limitation of the women.

"British Women M.P.s" (brought up to date), by D. M. Northcroft ... 4d.  
 "The Need for Women Members of Parliament," (Second Edition), by Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. 3d.  
 "Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-af-Hageby 3d.  
 "Women Police," by D. M. Northcroft ... 1d.  
 "Women at Work in the League of Nations," by D. M. Northcroft (Fourth Edition) ... 6d.  
 "What we have and What we want," by Muriel Pierotti 3d.  
 "The Pilgrim Mothers," by Eunice G. Murray ... 2d.  
 "Women and Politics," by Charles Kingsley ... 6d.  
 "Ecce Mater," by M. A. R. Tucker ... 3/6.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

#### Parliamentary Franchise (Age Qualification).

SIR EVELYN CECIL (U., Aston) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can obtain information in what countries having Parliamentary Government the age for qualification as a voter exceeds 21; what is the qualifying age in each of these countries, respectively; and whether, in each case, both sexes are included, or what differences are drawn between them? MR. LOCKER-LAMPSON (Under-Secretary, Foreign Affairs) gave the following reply:—

	Upper Chamber.	Lower Chamber.
Argentina—		
Men ...	18	18
Women ...	No franchise	No franchise.
Austria—		
Men ...	Not a popularly elected Chamber.	20
Women ...		20
Belgium—		
Men ...	21	21
Women* ...	21	21
Czechoslovakia—		
Men ...	26	21
Women ...	26	26
Denmark—		
Men ...	35	25
Women ...	35	25
Finland—		
Men ...	There is no Second Chamber.	24
Women ...		24
France—		
Men ...	21	21
Women ...	No franchise	No franchise.
Germany—		
Men ...	Not a popularly elected Chamber.	20
Women ...		20
Greece—		
Men ...	There is no Second Chamber.	21
Women ...		No franchise.
Italy—		
Men ...	Not a popularly elected Chamber.	21
Women ...		No franchise.
Japan—		
Men ...	Not a popularly elected Chamber.	25
Women ...		No franchise.
Netherlands—		
Men ...	25	25
Women ...	25	25
Norway—		
Men ...	There is no Second Chamber.	23
Women ...		23
Poland—		
Men ...	30	21
Women ...	30	21
Portugal—		
Men ...	21	21
Women ...	No franchise.	No franchise.
Rumania—		
Men ...	40	21
Women ...	No franchise.	No franchise.
Serb-Croat-Slovene State—		
Men ...	There is no Second Chamber.	21
Women ...		No franchise.
Spain—		
Men ...	Parliamentary institutions are at present	in abeyance.
Women ...		

	Upper Chamber.	Lower Chamber.
Sweden—		
Men ...	27	23
Women ...	27	23
Switzerland—		
Men ...	20	20
Women ...	No franchise.	No franchise.
United States of America—		
Men ...	21	21
Women ...	21	21

\*In Belgium only the following women may vote in Parliamentary elections:—

(1) Widows, not remarried, of soldiers killed in the Great War; widows of Belgian citizens killed by the enemy during the War, or, failing them, their mothers, if the latter are widows.

(2) Widowed mothers of bachelor soldiers killed in the War.

(3) Women condemned to imprisonment or subjected to preventive detention, for political reasons, during the enemy occupation of Belgium.

#### Contributory Pensions Act.

SIR MERVYN MANNINGHAM-BULLER (U., Kettering) asked the Minister of Health if he will give the latest available figures to date, showing the numbers of widows and orphans who have benefited under the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): Widows' pensions have been awarded to 202,147 widows. Additional allowances have been awarded in respect of, approximately, 262,000 children. Orphans' pensions have been awarded in respect of 16,300 orphan children. MR. TAYLOR (Lab., Lincoln): Can the hon. Gentleman say what proportion this represents of widows who are in need in this country?

#### The Peeresses Bill.

It is announced that the Second Reading of the Parliament (Qualification of Peeresses) Bill, introduced by Lord Astor, is postponed from June 21st to June 27th.

#### Adjournment.

The House of Commons will adjourn on June 2nd until June 13th.

#### Women Civil Servants and the Trade Disputes Bill.

In the Debate on the Trade Disputes Bill in the House of Commons last Monday, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Clause 5, which deals with Regulations as to organisations of which established Civil Servants may be members, would prohibit the affiliation of a body of women Civil Servants to women's political organisations, such as the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Women's Freedom League, or the National Council of Women, which are not Party political organisations? MR. CHURCHILL'S reply was entirely non-committal—that such questions must be dealt with on their merits, and each case must be considered separately and individually. MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE pointed out that this answer was entirely unsatisfactory, and that the Chancellor ought to introduce some words which would make it perfectly clear that legitimate political organisations of that kind should not be debarred from being the subject of affiliation to such women's organisations. Otherwise he would be striking a blow at the freedom of Civil Service bodies, and this would be bitterly resented, not merely by persons in the Civil Service, but by many persons outside, to whom such action will appear thoroughly unfair. We fully agree with Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, and we would also ask, if Clause 5 prohibits women Civil Servants from affiliating to non-Party women's political organisations, what is there to prevent women teachers and other women employed by local governing bodies being treated in a similar way at no distant date?



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### EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

### WHERE IS EQUAL FRANCHISE?

On April 20th, the Prime Minister stated in the House of Commons that the Government had decided to introduce a Bill during the next Session for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women of 21 years of age and upwards and on the same terms as men. The Prime Minister admitted that the Bill would take some time to prepare, but it would not be prepared before next Session; and, when asked by Mr. T. Williams if he meant the next Autumn Session or the Session of 1928, Mr. Baldwin said: "If the hon. Member reflects a moment, it will be present to his mind that I hope to bring this Session to an end at the end of July, and the new Session would begin in sufficient time to enable one or two principal measures of the next Session to be given a Second Reading before Christmas." At the end of last week, however, it was rumoured that, owing to the great pressure of Parliamentary business, the present Session cannot be brought to an end in July, and that Parliament will not be adjourned until August and will meet again in the autumn to finish up some of the arrears, so that the next Session will not begin until February, 1928. So far, we have no promise that the Equal Franchise Bill will be the first measure to be taken next Session, nor even that it will be taken early in that Session! All this is very disquieting to women, who know full well how difficult it will be to get the new voters on to the Register in time to vote at the next General Election. Even if this Parliament lasts its utmost possible length, it is essential that an Equal Franchise measure should be on the Statute Book by next June, but the risks of the "unexpected catastrophe," foreshadowed by Mr. Baldwin himself, of bringing the life of this Parliament to an end before its proposed time-limit are greatly increasing, and its proposed time-tables can be so easily upset! Ever since woman suffrage became practical politics, its greatest danger has come, not from direct opposition, but from the delay of politicians outwardly friendly to this cause. We, therefore, most earnestly press that the promised Equal Franchise Bill should be prepared *this* Session and passed into law before the House rises in the autumn. The Government missed a great opportunity by not allowing time for the Second Reading of the Labour Party's Equal Franchise Bill on May 20th, and by not adopting the Bill as its own. In spite of pressure of work, it was decided that Parliament should adjourn for the Whitsun recess from June 2nd until June 13th! When the life of this Parliament has run its course, it will be seen that many proposed measures of reform will be sacrificed because of lack of time to proceed with them. Women must make sure that Equal Franchise is not among the victims. We have seen how the Government can manage to get a Bill through Parliament when it has genuine interest in getting it through—the Trade Disputes Bill; no Government has ever been so fully pledged to Equal Franchise as the present Government; no Government has ever had greater opportunity to carry out that pledge, and women expect to see that pledge carried out in its entirety. In the meantime, women must continue to keep the subject of Equal Franchise alive in every constituency, and rally in force to the Equal Franchise Demonstration arranged in Trafalgar Square on Saturday afternoon, July 16th.

### MORE ABOUT WOMEN POLICE.

Representatives of women's organisations recently asked the Hull Watch Committee to receive a deputation on the question of the appointment of women police. At a meeting of this Committee the Chairman, Alderman P. T. Crook, urged that the Chief Constable was preparing a report on the question, and no useful purpose would be served by receiving a deputation. It was agreed that the views of the women concerned, if expressed in writing, would be considered at the same time as the Chief Constable's report.

At a Watch Committee meeting last week, the Chief Constable of Worcester said: "I don't say that women police are not useful, but I don't think there is scope for them in Worcester." It was reported that 20 replies had been received to the circular sent out to other authorities. The Chief Constable of Northampton had written saying that women police had more than justified their existence in his town, and added that their relationship with the public and the male members of the Force was most cordial. The Committee decided to ask the opinions of other Chief Constables as to the value of women police.

In Manchester last week, Commandant Allen spoke at length to the Moral Welfare Association on the need for women police, giving it as her opinion that the need was greater now than during the war, that the temptations were greater, and there was now far more traffic in indecencies.

Speaking at Kingston-on-Thames, at a meeting convened by the Kingston and District Christian Social Council and the Women Citizens' Association, and attended by the local clergy and men and women Councillors, Inspector Campbell, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, said that people did not realise that women offenders and women offended against suffered by being dealt with solely by men. She claimed that the establishment of women police in all police forces would be a great boon to women throughout the kingdom. Inspector Campbell quoted the case of a woman would-be suicide, who frequently had to interview a policeman as soon as she regained consciousness; the woman or girl charged with concealment of birth; juvenile beggars and smokers; child traders; and, most important of all, the case of assault on women and girls. In the last-named class of offence, the Inspector contended, women police were invaluable in interviewing witnesses, and in checking the committing of such offences in public places. It was the authority behind the uniform which did so much, and the speaker alluded to instances of clearance of such offences through the mere presence of women police. The Chairman, the Rural Dean of Kingston (the Rev. G. H. Marten), told the meeting that, following on reports received, the Christian Social Council had requested their Vigilance Committee to institute an inquiry into the conditions prevailing at Queen's Promenade and Canbury Gardens. A petition had been sent to the Town Council, but the matter had not gone any further. This meeting had, therefore, been called for the purpose of arousing public opinion, in order to bring pressure to bear upon the Town Council to take some action. Miss Ekin, Secretary of the Vigilance Committee of the Christian Social Council, read a letter from Scotland Yard, in reply to one sent by the Council asking for their assistance in the appointment of policewomen in Kingston, in which the request was refused. Before the meeting closed, the following resolution, moved from the Chair, was passed unanimously and with acclamation: "That this meeting is of opinion that, in the interests of public morality, the appointment of policewomen, particularly for duty at Canbury Gardens and Queen's Promenade, is of vital importance, and requests the Kingston Town Council to take action."

In a report to the City Council, the Chief Constable of Liverpool said he was opposed to the employment of uniformed women police, and that the male police, by reason of physical capabilities, could do all that was necessary.

### UNIONIST WOMEN.

[MR. BALDWIN AT THE ALBERT HALL.]

One of England's very worst summer days made the Albert Hall seem cheerful last Friday, when Conservative women filled it to listen to their Party leader, England's Prime Minister. Mr. Baldwin did his audience the honour of making to them a political speech, although scarcely that of a statesman; he did not talk down to them, except perhaps when he praised the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill. The audience applauded loudly his explanations and account of the diplomatic break with Russia and his strong support of the Trade Union Bill.

In dealing with the extension of the franchise, Mr. Baldwin said that Conservatism had nothing to fear from a democratic broadening of the basis of enfranchisement; that, in the past, any such broadening had resulted in gain to the Conservative vote. He recalled how, 80 years ago, Disraeli had said that in a country governed by a woman, where women took such a prominent part in the work of the State and the work of the Church, women could not rightly be denied the vote; 40 years ago, Lord Randolph Churchill founded the Primrose League, to include women members; 35 years ago, Lord Balfour declared in favour of votes for women; 28 years ago, Lord Salisbury did the same. This all indicated that the step decided upon, to give equality of franchise to women, was in harmony with the best traditions handed down in the Party. The audience being apparently more Conservative than Feminist, did not laugh when Mr. Baldwin added "we have not been unduly precipitate." Training in a strictly non-partisan attitude cut off at my lips the howl that rose within me, but a placid agreement was on the faces visible to me, and certainly no sound of mirth made itself heard. My feminist soul was also severely tested when Mr. Baldwin went on to say that, owing to the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, women were no longer under any disqualification, a statement of sheer nonsense, unworthy of the speaker and of his audience, but received without a murmur of protest, my own irrepressible groan being apparently taken by my immediate neighbours as indigestion of the body rather than of the brain.

However, Mr. Baldwin retrieved himself by saying that the equalisation of the franchise was an inevitable reform; that to talk of the new 5,000,000 voters as flappers was the most foolish of arguments; that the silliness of 21 was vastly less offensive than the silliness of middle age, and the silliness of middle age much less offensive than the silliness of senility. When Mr. Baldwin alluded to the wish expressed in some quarters that the voting age should be 25, he was interrupted by the loudest applause he had received since denouncing Russian diplomatic conduct. He said there was evidently strong feeling in the matter—(more applause)—and that it might well be worth thinking of;—(more applause)—it would be open for Members to give expression to this feeling in the Debate in the House.

Mr. Baldwin then challenged the possibility of any candidate for Parliament to stand up in public, and when asked "Are you in favour of men voting at 21?" to reply "No." Politically, that was impossible; for to take away from men of 21 the right to vote which had been theirs for centuries was not practical politics. He, personally, welcomed both at 21; democracy is incomplete, he said, lopsided, without both sexes on an equality.

Mr. Baldwin confessed that he had not always a profound belief in feminine logic, but had always a profound belief in feminine instinct. There was, he said, a great deal of specious and spurious logic going about to-day, by which many men were being deceived, but women's instinct was never deceived by it. The best essentials for the building of a State come through women; women can help in schools, in the home, in the Churches, and in the State.

Following Mr. Baldwin came Mrs. Pankhurst, who was received with much applause, and whose speech

was punctuated throughout by enthusiastic clapping. Mrs. Pankhurst was moving a vote of thanks to the Prime Minister and was purely Conservative in note. Her voice, every syllable, rang out as of old, in passionate intensity. Denouncement of Russia, praise of the Empire, roused the audience to real feeling. In replying, Mr. Baldwin alluded to such women as Mrs. Pankhurst, candidate for St. George's and Whitechapel, as the salt of the Party, and hoped to be leader in the next Conservative Government and to welcome her to Westminster. While such strong feeling is evident for the impossible equality at 25, while Parliamentary time runs daily shorter, and while now the Autumn Session, which was to see the introduction of an Equal Franchise Bill, may be cancelled, feminists must hold more and more closely and particularly, to that proved but sorely tried honesty of Mr. Baldwin, and to his honourable carrying-out in letter and in spirit of his promise that women shall, at the next General Election, vote on the same terms as men. In the meantime, rest not from work. HELEN ARCHDALE.

### VOTES FOR WOMEN AND ELECTORAL REFORM.

(From "Le Droit des Femmes," May, 1927.)  
 (Translated.)

In the *Matin*, of March 16th, 1927, there appears a note as follows:—

"In the discussion on the Ward Vote, we cannot expect to avoid debate upon: 1st, votes for women; 2nd, compulsory voting and penalties for abstention."

As M. Sarraut, Minister of the Interior, said, "Is this merely a plot to wreck electoral reform?" Personally, I do not believe it to be so. For some time past now, the *Matin* has been definitely on our side. It engaged in a campaign over the nationality of married women; later, M. Stéphane Lausanne eloquently championed votes for women, and M. Louis Forest has shown himself to be in favour of the majority of our claims. We must hope that the *Matin* will find that politicians in Parliament will make effective the principles it enounces.

Are we prepared to involve our own aims with the question of the Ward Vote? Certainly not. On the contrary, we maintain that, whatever form the franchise may take, universal franchise cannot exist without votes for women.

Do we wish to ensure true representative opinion by means of proportional representation? We reply, Are women not sensible human beings capable of holding and expressing opinions?

To those who wish the majority vote, we would say that the alleged male majority is, in reality, in the nation, a minority, and doubly so, as women outnumber men.

Frenchwomen, like their sisters in other countries, have long discarded the distaff, and the old objection to the Salic law no longer holds.

What, then, do we want? We do not want electoral reform and woman's suffrage dealt with as one—we see no good from such a marriage of carp with rabbit—but we do want the question of women's enfranchisement brought to discussion and decision. It appears to us that, unless the electoral college is transformed by the addition of a new element, no real reform can take place, political expediency ousting social reforms. Is it an impossible demand that the question of women's enfranchisement shall come up for discussion immediately after the Ward Vote, with a definite understanding that "immediately" does not mean some 20 years later?

Parliament cannot with justice deny us this opportunity, because if it can give time to discussing the method of voting for men, it can as easily give time for discussion of voting for women.

If we are to allow this opportunity to pass, it is certain that we shall then wait a long time before receiving the smallest enfranchisement.

MARIA VERONE.



SCOTTISH WOMEN AND SEX EQUALITY.

Writing in the *Edinburgh Evening News* last week, M. G. L. states that centuries ago it was the custom to admit women to the burghs-ship of Scottish burghs on exactly the same terms as men. With regard to Scottish peeresses, M. G. L. records that at least one Scottish peeress, the Countess of Atholl, is mentioned in a list of names of noble ladies who were summoned by the King to sit in Parliament in the 35th year of Edward III's reign—a 14th-century record which becomes the more interesting in view of the coincidence that the first popularly elected woman M.P. in Scotland in our own time is the Duchess of Atholl, representative of the same noble house.

Even further back there were women M.P.s, or their equivalents, in these islands. Gurdon, in his "Antiquities of Parliament," tells us that ladies of birth and quality sat in council with the Saxon Witas, the earliest form of Parliament in England. In Wighfried's great Council, held at Beconcelnd in the year 694, abbesses sat and deliberated, and five of them signed decrees of that Council, along with the King and representatives of the nobles and clergy.

In the reigns of Henry III and Edward I, also, certain abbesses were summoned to Parliament, and the noble ladies called by Edward III, as already mentioned, included, in addition to the Countess of Atholl, Mary Countess of Norfolk, Alienor Countess of Ormond, Anna Despenser, Philippa Countess of March, Johanna Fitzwater, Agnita Countess of Pembroke, Matilda Countess of Oxford, Mary de St. Paul, and Mary de Roos.

WOMAN POLICE DOCTOR.

Manchester Watch Committee decided last week to appoint a woman police doctor. The appointment will be the first of the kind made in the city. It will be the duty of this woman doctor to deal with all women who come into contact with the police, and especially with all cases of assaults on children, throughout the whole of the Manchester district. This appointment has nothing to do with the question of appointing a successor to the late Dr. Turner, the divisional police surgeon. His post will be advertised as vacant, and the applications of candidates considered in the usual way.

ROUMANIAN WOMEN DEMAND EQUALITY

Roumania's new Constitution, in Article 6, has it that the new civil code shall be based on the principle of full equality between the sexes. The Union of Roumanian Women, composed of all feminist groups, sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister asking for equalisation to be effective. The Prime Minister passed this on to the Minister of Justice, with the following:—"It is time women were given a better position in regard to their civil rights." The Minister of Justice rejoices that he can now deal with this question, and promises a single-clause Bill at the beginning of the Session to settle the matter.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

The Consultative Committee held its usual monthly meeting on Thursday last week, when plans were outlined for future work in the new financial year. An emergency resolution was allowed and passed, concerning the question of the legality of affiliation of sections of women Civil Servants to the Consultative Committee under the Trade Disputes Bill now before Parliament. Other resolutions passed dealt with Lord Astor's new Peeresses Bill, due for Second Reading on June 27th, which the Committee unanimously decided to support; with the raising of the marriage age to the age of consent; and with the work of Health Visitors. The Annual General Meeting is to be held on June 23rd, when the President, Lady Astor, will give an address, new officers will be elected for the coming year, and plans determined for future work.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.			
Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to	December, 1926, £ s. d.	October, 1927, to December, 1926, £ s. d.	December, 1927, £ s. d.
Previously acknowledged	...	198 8 3	...
Special Emergency War Fund—			
"A Friend"	...	3 2 6	...
Mrs. Angold	...	4 0	...
Total		3 6 6	...
Equal Political Rights Campaign Fund—			
Miss Ranken	...	17 6	...
Miss Chrystal Macmillan	...	10 0	...
Mrs. Pierotti	...	2 6	...
Total		1 10 0	...
John Stuart Mill Celebration—			
Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence	...	5 0 0	...
Miss F. A. Underwood	...	2 6	...
Hampstead Branch	...	14 0	...
Total		5 16 6	...
Verbatim Report	...	13 18 0	...
Mrs. E. Bennett	...	1 13 6	...
Madame Armar	...	1 7 0	...
Miss Lang	...	1 0 0	...
Miss M. I. Neal	...	1 0 0	...
Mrs. Pease, J.P.	...	1 0 0	...
Per Miss Lenton	...	16 9	...
Mrs. Percy Bigland	...	10 0	...
The Misses Sprentall	...	10 0	...
Miss Glaisher	...	5 0	...
Miss Brewer	...	3 0	...
Mrs. O. M. Aldridge	...	2 6	...
Miss H. H. Hipwell	...	2 6	...
Mrs. Stockwell	...	2 6	...
Miss Agnes Dawson, L.C.C.	...	2 0	...
Misses E. and F. G. Dupigny	...	2 0	...
Mrs. Swing	...	2 0	...
Miss M. Hooper Yates	...	2 0	...
Miss Annie Dawson	...	1 6	...
Miss E. Martin	...	1 6	...
Mrs. Grout	...	1 0	...
Mrs. Kent Jones	...	1 0	...
Mrs. Edythe Smith	...	1 0	...
Mrs. M. A. Tarrant	...	1 0	...
Branches—Capitation Fees—			
Ashford	...	1 6 0	...
Darlington	...	15 0	...
Deal and Walmer	...	6 0	...
Edinburgh	...	8 0	...
Glasgow	...	1 15 0	...
Hastings	...	1 0 0	...
Minerva Club	...	12 6	...
Montgomery Boroughs	...	1 11 0	...
Branches—Delegates' Expenses to Conference—			
Ashford	...	1 0	...
Deal and Walmer	...	14 5	...
Hampstead	...	14 5	...
Mid-London	...	14 5	...
Montgomery Boroughs	...	1 8 10	...
Collections	...	10 13 8	...
"    (per Miss Lenton)	...	14 3 7	...
Tickets	...	2 6 0	...
"    (per Miss Lenton)	...	21 2 6	...
Sundries	...	2 0	...
"    (per Miss Lenton)	...	6 3 5	...
"    (per Literature Department)	...	5 0 0	...
Total		£303 3 10	...

WOMEN'S PIONEER HOUSING SOCIETY.

The Women's Pioneer Housing Society launched a publicity campaign, for raising another £30,000 capital, at a crowded dinner on May 30th. This Society caters for the professional woman living independently, mainly by the conversion of large unoccupied houses into small occupied flats. Sir Josiah Stamp, K.B.E., was the principal speaker, and paid high compliment to the work of the Society in a speech, brilliant and instructive, which held the audience all through. He dealt with the use and abuse of capital, and said that Women's Pioneer Housing saved capital, in the form of houses, from becoming obsolescent and from lowering the capital value of the neighbouring property and transformed it into interest-bearing capital, to the benefit of the nation. He ended with a recommendation of the Society as an investment for small or large amounts. Mrs. Ralph Durand, Chairman of the Society, presided, and several leading professional women gave their views on the points to be considered in meeting the various requirements incidental to their various occupations. An interesting discussion resulted on what should be provided in the way of housing, and doubtless the Women's Pioneer Housing Society will consider all possibilities.

Women's Freedom League.

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

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Tuesday, July 5th, at 7 p.m.  
Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, at Caxton Hall.

Thursday, June 9th, 7 to 9 p.m.  
Portsmouth. "At Home" at 29, Shaftesbury Road, Southsea.

Wednesday, June 15th, at 3 p.m.  
Portsmouth. Garden Whist Drive at 14, Festing Gr.ve. Tickets 1/6 each.

Saturday, June 18th, at 3 p.m.  
Glasgow. Public Meeting in the McLellan Galleries.

Thursday, June 4th, at 5.30 p.m.  
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting in Hyde Park, arranged by the Six Point Group.

June 8th, 9th and 10th, 2-7 p.m.  
Six Point Group. Exhibition and Sale of Handicrafts and Hobbies at 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Thursday, June 9th, at 7 p.m.  
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting arranged by the Women's Freedom League, at Highbury Corner. Speaker: Miss Reeves.

Saturday, June 11th, at 5.30 p.m.  
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting in Hyde Park, arranged by the National Union of Women Teachers.

Sunday, June 12th, at 3.30 p.m.  
The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square. Course of Addresses on "Ancient Civilisations." R. E. M. Wheeler, M.C., M.A., D.Litt., F.S.A., Keeper, London Museum, on "Some of the Ancient Civilisations of Britain."

Sunday, June 12th, at 7.30 p.m.  
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting arranged by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, at "Jack Straw's Castle," Hampstead.

Tuesday, June 14th, at 8 p.m.  
At Caxton Hall, the Westminster Society for Equal Citizenship. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Macadam, on "Votes for Women." Chairman: Mrs. Hoster.

Thursday, June 30th, and Friday, July 1st, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
At the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi. Conference arranged by the British Commonwealth League, on "The Social and Industrial Positions of Women of other than British Race governed under the British Flag."

Saturday, July 16th, at 5 p.m.  
Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. Great Trafalgar Square Demonstration for Vote for Women.

A NEW FEATURE.

The Mid-London Branch of the Women's Freedom League are arranging monthly Debates and Discussions on topical subjects of interest to women.

On Tuesday, June 14th, at 7 p.m., at 144, High Holborn, the subject for discussion will be the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act. All members and friends of the League are cordially invited.

DR. HELEN HANSON'S LETTERS.

Some Journal letters, written from Salonica, Serbia and Constantinople by the late Dr. Helen Hanson, have been lost sight of, and Dr. Hanson's family would be glad to hear if they are in the possession of any of our readers. They know that Dr. Hanson intended to have them typed, but they seem to have disappeared.

Any information will be gratefully received by Mrs. Marston Acres, League of the Church Militant, Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, as the letters are needed for the Memoir that is being prepared.

WHITSUN HOLIDAYS.

The offices of the Women's Freedom League and the Minerva Publishing Company will be closed from Friday, June 3rd, 5.30 p.m., until Tuesday, June 7th, 9.30 a.m.

BRANCH NOTES.

HAMPSTEAD.

On Wednesday evening, May 25th, Miss Marian Berry spoke on behalf of the Hampstead Branch to the Kiburn Adult School, at the Health Institute, Kingsgate Road. The Chair was taken by Mrs. Staines, and there was a good attendance of members, who all showed much interest in the subject of Equal Franchise. At the close of the meeting, a resolution, in support of an Equal Franchise measure, was sent to the local Member, Mr. George Balfour.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

DARLINGTON.

We have had a very busy week in Darlington. On Wednesday evening we held an open-air meeting in the market place, the main object of which was to advertise our public meeting, to take place the following evening in the Temperance Institute. Apparently we succeeded, for, although it is so late in the year, on Thursday our hall was full. Our subjects were "Should the Married Woman Work—for Pay?" and "Equal Franchise." The Mayor of Darlington very kindly presided, and opened the meeting with a few remarks concerning the non-Party nature of our work, and expressed himself as in favour of our objects. Our two men speakers, Councillor Seaton Leng and the Rev. T. C. Gobat, spoke well for us. Mr. Gobat wished to know if Joan of Arc and Grace Darling were "flappers." Unfortunately, Miss Walker, Principal of the Darlington Training College, was prevented at the last moment from being present, but she sent an emphatic message by Miss Munro protesting against the practice which forces a woman to choose between marriage and a career.

Of course, the main speech of the evening was that of Miss Munro, who dealt with the two questions of the evening with her usual ability and eloquence. She particularly warned the audience of the necessity for seeing that no "unexpected catastrophe" is allowed to occur to prevent Mr. Baldwin from keeping his promise about Equal Franchise next Session. After the speeches there was discussion, in which several members of the audience took part.

Following this meeting, on Saturday afternoon we had a Branch Meeting in a cafe, that we might get together a few of the new people who were interested.

Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., very kindly came over from Middlesbrough to speak, which she did with such effect that five of the six non-members present joined at once. As Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Galloway, who were appointed Chairman and Secretary respectively last autumn, are, owing to pressure of other business, unable to continue in office, advantage was taken of this meeting to elect new office-bearers. Mrs. Bird, of Donnater Avenue, Eaglescliffe, was finally persuaded to act as Chairman, and Miss Mary Ward, of 74, Pensbury Street, Darlington, was kind enough to agree to act with Miss Mary McNulty as the new Honorary Secretary. It was agreed to hold Branch Meetings the third Monday in every month.

We are very grateful to all who helped in any way with these meetings. (Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

Members and friends spent a most enjoyable evening on Friday, May 27th, when a Whist Drive was held at the Grey House, by kind invitation of Mrs. Schofield-Coates. Miss Anna Munro and Miss Lenton, who had been working in Darlington, were able to be present. It was a great pleasure to see them and to receive a short, inspiring address from Miss Munro. Miss Green became a member of the branch, and several copies of THE VOTE were sold.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss E. H. HOLMES, The Grey House, Linthorpe.

PORTSMOUTH.

Many thanks to the members who sent the articles to the Jumble Sale, also to those who kindly helped. Quite a good profit was made. Mrs. Brading is inviting the members to an "At Home," at 25, Shaftesbury Road, on Thursday, June 9th, from 7 to 9 p.m. There will be music, and Mrs. Poole will give a report of the Annual Conference. On Wednesday afternoon, June 15th, Mrs. Slatter is giving a Whist Drive in her garden, at 3 o'clock. Tickets, 1s. 6d. each. Members are urged to make both these events a success.

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

WALLASEY.

The report of the 20th Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League was submitted by Mrs. F. J. Andain, the local delegate, at a meeting of the branch on May 24th, held at "Rayeroff." Mrs. S. P. Brick presided. Mrs. Andain has secured from Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, President of the Women's Freedom League, a promise to speak at a Public Meeting at Wallasey in the autumn, on Equal Franchise.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. ANDAIN, 22, Cromer Drive.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Correction Re Local Authorities (Women).

MADAM,—Will you kindly find space for the correction of an obvious clerical error in my letter of May 27th? In the paragraph which begins "Of the 2,000 women serving on the Councils of County and County Boroughs, only 105 are directly elected members of their respective Councils; the remaining 1,835 being indirectly elected or co-opted members of the Committees of these Councils." The figures should read 205 and 1,795 respectively, instead of 105 and 1,835 as previously printed.  
May 28th, 1927. I am, etc., BERTHA MASON.



FRIDAY,  
JUNE 3,  
1927.

# THE VOTE

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**F E L L O W S H I P S E R V I C E S.**—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, June 5th, 1927. 6.30. Maude Royden.

**P U B L I C S P E A K I N G.**—Lectures, classes, and private lessons. Saturday Speech Club.—Miss LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1. Tel.: Museum 4791.

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