

THE VOTE.  
MAY 21, 1926.

## CONCILIATION AND CO-OPERATION.

# THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1926

**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 PIONEER WOMAN CHORAL CONDUCTOR.

Mme. Clara Novello Davies (mother of Ivor Novello), who has just returned home for good after establishing herself for the past 12 years as the most successful "voice-builder" in New York, inherited her musical talent from her father, who was a noted Welsh conductor. Her grandfather and great-grandfather were famous Welsh divines, all five generations being present when Ivor Novello was christened by his great-great-grandfather.

From her infancy her father encouraged her towards a career which began in public at 5 years old, when, standing on a piano stool to equalise her height with three others, she helped the quartette win a first prize. It was on her father's advice that she became a conductor, starting with a choir of girls about her own age, and little dreaming that she would one day conduct 12,000 voices in the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, with Caruso and Alda joining in. This choir also took a first prize for Choral and Solo work at the World's Fair, Chicago, and afterwards toured the United States.

To Mme. Novello Davies fell the distinction of receiving the first Royal Command given to a choral conductor of either sex, by Queen Victoria, when she was summoned with her Welsh Ladies' Choir to Osborne House. At the close of the performance, Her Majesty gave the Choir her Royal Patronage, and presented its youthful conductor with a brooch-pendant of the Crown surrounded with the Queen's initials.

Again, at the Paris Exposition, Mme. Novello Davies and her Choir carried all before them, and won a

special commendation at the Trocadero from Saint-Saëns. On this occasion the Choir received a Gold Medal and Certificate of Merit, the ex-President of the Paris Conservatoire of Music, M. Bergault de Coudray, paid Mme. Novello Davies the highest compliments, and the French Government presented her with a priceless Sèvres bowl and pedestal.

Mme. Novello Davies is also a pioneer in the discovery of a "lock" or control on the breath, which has proved invaluable as a means of voice production, not only to public singers and leading theatrical artistes in London and New York, but to a world-famous statesman who now "locks" his breath when making his speeches. To-day the Novello Davies method is followed by many teachers in Great Britain, Paris, Canada, and the United States. Its founder preaches the astonishing doctrine that "Everybody can sing if they are shown how," and maintains that if everyone obeyed the Bible's command to "Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice," so much spiritual harmony would be radiated that wars would cease.

Mme. Novello Davies is now 65 years of age, although she looks at least 20 years younger, for her vitality is amazing. Her

recipe is "Work, work, and more work," and she has brought her hours of sleep to a minimum. In these troublous days of prohibitions against married women's work, Mme. Novello Davies is also a striking example of a woman who has managed to combine a highly successful career with a happy married life.

KATE EVANS.



MME CLARA NOVELLO DAVIES.

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LABOUR WOMEN.

The National Conference of Labour Women, which was to have been held last week in the Town Hall, Huddersfield, has been postponed until July. It will be presided over by Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and other women taking a prominent part in the proceedings are Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., Miss Margaret Bondfield, Miss Dorothy Jewson, Dr. Ethel Bentham, and Dr. Marion Phillips. Over 200 resolutions appear on the Agenda, but it is expected that many of these will not be reached in the two days' Conference. We are glad to see that the first five resolutions deal with the demand for the equal enfranchisement of women with men. Other resolutions call for improvements of benefit in regard to Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Pensions. Several resolutions deal with factory legislation, and we regret to note that one of them calls for "protective" legislation for women—that is, differential treatment for women and men. There are some excellent resolutions against children being born in prison, and in favour of the Government taking immediate action on the recently published Departmental Committee's Report on Sexual Offences against Young Persons. Nineteen resolutions deal with the subject of Birth Control. Others support the Labour Party's views in regard to International affairs, a constructive policy of Peace, and the Coal industry. Thirty-two resolutions concern themselves with the Government's policy in regard to Health services and Education. One resolution calls for the abolition of the revolting conditions imposed on women in the brothels of India and Hong Kong. There are resolutions regarding unemployed women and girls, demanding equal pay for equal work, and dealing with married women's employment—one asking for married women's full freedom to work, and another protesting against married women working when their husbands "can afford adequately to maintain them"! One resolution calls for more women doctors, and urges that the State should train women as doctors and allow them something while they are being trained; and another approves the formation of a Housewives' Union, to be affiliated to the Trade Union Congress. There is a very practical Resolution calling for a levy of 4d. per member per year to provide a fund for financing women candidates for Parliament, six section members to be elected by ballot as prospective Parliamentary candidates. It is gratifying to note that, in addition to the Labour Party's two women members in Parliament, there are already the following fifteen women endorsed by the Labour Party as prospective Parliamentary candidates: Lady Clare Annesley (Bristol West); Dr. Ethel Bentham (East Islington); Dr. Stella Churchill (North Hackney); Councillor Agnes Dollan (Dumfries); Mrs. Ayrton Gould (Northwich); Miss Dorothy Jewson (Norwich); Councillor Mrs. Mercer (Birkenhead); Lady Cynthia Mosley (Stoke-on-Trent); Mrs. Muriel Matters Porter (Hastings); Mrs. N. Shimmin (Salisbury); Miss Kate Spurrell (Totnes); Miss Jessie Stephen (South Portsmouth); Miss E. Stewart (North Edinburgh); Mrs. Streeten (Aldershot); Miss Picton-Turbervill (Wrekin). We sincerely hope that other political Parties will emulate the Labour Party's zeal for women Parliamentary candidates.

#### Norwegian Women's Activities.

Nylænde reports that representatives of twenty women's organizations, with a membership of 200,000, have signed a memorandum to the Norwegian Government protesting against the decision to abolish, on the grounds of economy, appointments as Inspectors of school kitchens and handicraft classes. In another memorandum they express their regret that the Government have broken their tradition of sending a woman delegate to the Labour Conference, opening on the 26th May, at Geneva.

### NEWS FROM INDIA.

From *Stri-Dharma*, the official organ of The Women's Indian Association, we take the following news:—

#### Compulsory Education in Indore.

Indore City has inaugurated a scheme of compulsory education, and has not, as have so many other cities in India, forgotten the girls, the scheme including girls equally with boys.

#### Women and Higher Education in Mysore.

In Mysore State a Committee of the University reports that the progress of women's higher education in the State is retarded by social and economic conditions such as the absence of a desire for higher education, the custom of early marriage, the segregation of women, poverty in certain communities, the unsuitable curriculum, the tendency of women to seek education solely for the purpose of employment, and the unfitness of a large number of girls in the schools for University education. They therefore suggest the award of more scholarships for girls and the imparting of instruction in their own homes. *Stri Dharma* urges women in India to get together and discuss most seriously the problem of the curriculum of education, and recommends the immediate appointment of a Commission of women, as representative as possible, to deal with the whole question of women's and girls' education in India.

#### Registration of Nurses and Midwives.

Madras Legislative Council has passed a Bill for registering Nurses and Midwives. This Bill was drafted by Major-General Symons in consultation with a representative Committee, of which the Secretary of the Women's Indian Association was a member. It provides for a Council whose business it will be to register all nurses and midwives who have undergone the training and passed the examination, also all who may be already practising, and dais, under certain conditions and restrictions. No woman, after the expiry of three years still unregistered as a nurse, midwife, or dai, can hold any appointment in any hospital aided by Government or local bodies, and after one year unregistered dais shall not be employed by Government or local bodies. These provisions should ensure a very great improvement in the conditions of maternity aid during the next three years.

### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

#### Women and Peace.

A plea for universal abolition of conscription and complete world disarmament has been presented to President Coolidge by Miss Jane Addams of Chicago, International League for Peace and Freedom, and a delegation from that organization. They urged that the American delegates to the preparatory Armament Limitations Conference at Geneva be instructed to work for the placing of these two subjects on the agenda of the full commission of the League of Nations Armament Conference.

#### Women Yacht Owners.

Among women yacht owners is Miss Mackinnon, owner of the 500-ton steam yacht "Sylvania," which she bought from Lord Tredegar last year. The yacht is now at Cowes, being prepared for a cruise. Another woman yacht owner well known in the Solent and at Bembridge is Mrs. M. C. Mackenzie, who owns the 45-ton yawl "Imatra," which was cruising at Cowes during the week-end.

#### Women and the Strike.

Over 40 per cent. of the car-drivers at the Whitehall motor pool during the recent strike were women, who took their full share of duties equally with men drivers. Of 9 motor drivers sent from London to Cardiff from this pool, 3 were women.

### IN PARLIAMENT.

The following Questions and Answers are taken from the Parliamentary Debates of May 5th, the latest date for which they have been issued up to the time of going to press.

#### Domestic Service.

COL. APPLIN (U., Enfield) asked the Minister of Labour whether he is aware of the growing demand for the services of girls for home employment; and, seeing that the payment of unemployment benefits to girls fit and suitable for this work is injurious to their own future as prospective wives and mothers, will he consider what steps he can take to encourage them to seek employment when it is open to them? MR. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour): I am aware that there is, and has been for a long time, a shortage of resident domestic servants. All vacancies in domestic service notified to the Exchanges are offered to suitable unemployed girls, and each case of refusal of such employment is dealt with on its merits by the statutory authorities under the Acts. COL. APPLIN: May I ask the hon. Gentleman whether these girls are not all infants in the eyes of the law, and therefore have to look for sustenance to their parents? MR. BETTERTON: No, Sir; that is not so.

#### Deserted Married Women (Disabilities).

MR. H. WILLIAMS (U., Reading) asked the Attorney-General if his attention has been drawn to the disabilities of married women whose husbands have deserted them or have acquired domicile overseas; and if he will consider introducing legislation to remove these disabilities? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: I have been asked to reply. The Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act, 1920, provides means for the transmission of maintenance orders to those parts of His Majesty's Dominions where the necessary legislation has been passed with a view to enforcement against defendants there.

#### Custody of Infants Act.

COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Home Secretary if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the father of a child making an application for custody under the Custody of Infants Acts is obliged to make such application to the High Court; and whether, in view of the Act allowing the mother to make such application for custody and access to a police court, he will consider legislation with a view to the present Act being so amended as to allow equal rights to the father? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I would refer to the reply I gave on the 17th February to the hon. Member for the Penryn and Falmouth Division (Mr. Pilcher). It is still too early to consider whether it is necessary or desirable to propose legislation. [The Home Secretary's reply on Feb. 17th last was as follows: I have seen reports raising suggestions as to the effect of the Act, but it is too early as yet to come to any decision as to the effect of this Act upon the rights of parents.]

COL. DAY: Is it not a fact that several magistrates in London have expressed the opinion that through this confusing Act it is impossible to mete out justice? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: That is not exactly the statement of the magistrates, but remarks have certainly been made which are rather derogatory to the legislation already passed. I am considering very carefully whether any amendment of the law is necessary.

### OUR LENDING LIBRARY.

"Women in the Factory." By Dame Adelaide M. Anderson, D.B.E., M.A.

"What I Remember." By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P., LL.D.

"Ancilla's Share." An Indictment of Sex Antagonism. Anonymous.

"The Police Court and Its Work." By Henry Turner Waddy.

May be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.

### "A SHOCKING RESULT!"

For the second time a Judge and Jury have found Mr. Harnett sane in 1912; but by an extraordinarily cynical view of the matter it has been contended that he is not entitled to redress, for the reason that he did not bring the action within 6 years of his Certification—the utmost period allowed according to the Statute of Limitations. Mr. Harnett was 9 years shut up in Asylums, deprived of all personal rights, his property withheld from him, and a ban placed upon communication with the outer world.

How is a man to sue under such circumstances? In Mr. Justice Horridge's words, "It seems to be a shocking result if a man who is sane, and is wrongly shut up for 6 years, cannot bring an action."

It must be borne in mind that the person who puts a man in is the person who can keep him in till the period of limitation has elapsed. Mr. Harnett, when he first escaped in December 1912, went to a solicitor and had every intention of defending himself by legal action. Being foiled in his purpose, he went to 66, Victoria Street, to appeal to Dr. Bond, of the "Board of Control," whose function is supposed to include the protection of the helpless; but the Commissioner, without giving him the opportunity he desired, took him into custody until the Asylum motor came to convey him back to the abode of misery.

It has been admitted in all the Courts that this high-handed imprisonment gave him a cause of action against Dr. Bond, but since the Commissioner represented a Government Department it was thought desirable to shield him from the result of an open trial by a payment to Harnett of a sum of money at the cost of the taxpayer.

This is not by any means the first time that interested parties have succeeded, through misuse of the Lunacy Act, in consigning to duration vile those whom they wish to get out of the way or render helpless. The Lunacy Act has been put to all manner of unholy uses; and in view of the perilous ease with which the transaction can be effected, it is high time that the terrible disability under which those labour who have been committed to "Mental Hospitals" (so called) should be inquired into and brought to light.

Harnett suffered from temporary delirium with temperature of 105°, due to a toxic agent, yet he is not only deprived through all these years of every personal right, but subjected at the end to unworthy tactics on the part of those who had a hand in it.

### OFFICES REGULATION BILL.

On April 21st, at a crowded meeting in the Memorial Hall, the need for the passing into law of the Offices Regulation Bill, which desires to obtain proper sanitary conveniences, prevent overcrowding and provide adequate means of escape in case of fire, was thoroughly discussed. Mrs. Hoster, President of the City of London Branch of the N.U.S.E.C., was in the Chair, and speaking from her experience of 32 years in the City said that the City of London was the black sheep, and that many offices in the area were unfit to work in.

Miss Ellen Wilkinson, though ill, gave a short and inspiring speech pointing out that many employers seemed to think that clerks could be put anywhere. Sanitary accommodation was a perfect scandal, and in one office, about which she herself knew, typists were working in a coal-cellar with no ventilation or window. The Bill, she said, was a moderate one, and ought to obtain the support of M.P.s of good will in all Parties. She pointed out that "it is only the people who make a fuss who get anything done," and in this connection Miss Maguire urged members of the audience to go to the House of Commons and "lobby" their members.

G. PHILMAN.

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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.

### CONCILIATION AND CO-OPERATION.

During the recent industrial dispute, women's organisations were unmistakably on the side of conciliation, and strongly supported the appeal made by the Archbishop of Canterbury and others, that a real settlement could only be achieved in a spirit of fellowship and co-operation for the common good and not as a result of war. Women are now urging that the same spirit of conciliation should be brought into the settlement of international disputes, and have arranged a Peace Pilgrimage of Women, who will walk into London on Friday, June 18th, in four detachments, from North, South, East and West of Gt. Britain, and on Saturday afternoon will hold an immense Demonstration in Hyde Park. From every platform the following resolution will be voiced: "We members and supporters of the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage, believing that law should take the place of war in the settlement of international disputes, urge His Majesty's Government to agree to submit all disputes to conciliation and arbitration, and by taking the lead in the Disarmament Conference of the League of Nations to show that Gt. Britain does not intend to appeal to force." In this Pilgrimage the Women's Freedom League is heartily co-operating, and we invite all men and women of good will, who have not yet decided to walk in it, to join our contingent, and gather at our office on the afternoon of June 19th and walk with us to Hyde Park to the Demonstration.

As citizens, women have as much interest as men in both national and international affairs; but it is grossly unfair that women's political power in regard to matters of vital importance should be so much less than that of men. We want the co-operation of women with men in the State in both home and foreign affairs, but it must be co-operation on equal terms; and because we believe so firmly in the value of the equal co-operation of men and women in political life, we are joining in the Great Procession through London and the Demonstration in Hyde Park on Saturday afternoon, July 3rd, on behalf of Equal Political Rights for men and women. In that Procession and Demonstration, members of women's organisations belonging to all classes and shades of political opinion, will unite to demand that women shall have the parliamentary vote at twenty-one years of age and on the same terms that men have it; and, further, that peeresses in their own right shall have a voice, a seat, and a vote in the House of Lords. We are convinced, that, until women have these elementary political rights equally with men—the same voting rights and the same eligibility for the House of Lords as well as for the House of Commons—women's struggle for equality with men in all other branches of our national life will be a hard and fruitless one. Political equality is at the basis of every other equality; and that is why the Women's Freedom League has always placed the equal political rights of men and women in the forefront of its programme. We therefore urge all our women and men members, old and new, and all our friends who believe in the equal political rights of the sexes, to join our contingent on July 3rd, march with us and under our banners from the Embankment to Hyde Park that afternoon, gather round our platform, and help us to carry our resolutions with acclamation.

### EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS.

Last Tuesday VISCOUNT ASTOR moved the Second Reading in the House of Lords of the Education (Employment of Children and Young Persons) Bill. This Bill gives local authorities the power to make by-laws regulating the employment of young persons between the ages of 14 and 18. LORD ASTOR said that in London alone 14,000 boys, aged 16 or 17, and 13,000 girls of the same age were employed without any legislative safeguards or protection. In some cases which had been investigated in the present year girls were working 58 hours a week, and some page-boys employed in certain night clubs were kept at work until 3 o'clock in the morning. The BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK stated that some girls were working 12 hours a day for six days a week. He thought that shortened hours might enable young persons who were in blind-alley occupations to equip themselves for a trade. LORD BANBURY said he had no sympathy with the objects of the Bill, and urged that, as this was a poor country which had lost a good deal of its business, the only way to regain business was by working longer hours and working harder. Besides, the proper persons to regulate the future of boys and girls were their parents and not local authorities. LORD JOICEY maintained that the Bill would do more harm than good. Many men of 18 years of age were married men with families, and men able to decide their own hours of work. THE BISHOP OF LONDON said that the last two speeches were of exactly the same character as those made against the legislation introduced by Lord Shaftesbury, and now generally approved. Though it was plausible to talk about the rights of parents, many young persons had to be protected from their parents. Moreover, many parents were struggling for a living and found no time to regulate the hours of employment worked by their children. On behalf of the Government, LORD DESBOROUGH said it was intended to deal with this matter at the earliest possible moment by a much better and surer method than that proposed by the Bill. It was quite clear that the matter ought not to be dealt with haphazard by by-laws introduced by 300 different education authorities. Such a method would lead to confusion. The Factories Bill had been drafted and would be introduced for general discussion during the present Session. The Home Secretary had also promised to make the Bill one of the principal Government measures in the next Session. He hoped, therefore, that Viscount ASTOR would be content with the present discussion and agree to withdraw his motion for a second reading. LORD ASTOR agreed to withdraw his motion, but stated that the debate had revealed that there were still some noble lords who disapproved of the measures of amelioration begun by Lord Shaftesbury.

Is it not grotesque that on a subject like this which deals with the employment of young people, and particularly with the employment of girls, only men are enabled to discuss it and vote upon it in the Upper House?

### "IS WOMAN TOO OBTRUSIVE?"

Woman is an inexhaustible subject for debate. At the London School of Economics last Tuesday, Major Elliot, M.P., and Miss Wilkinson, M.P., discussed whether she is too obtrusive. We agree with Miss Wilkinson in wishing she was more obtrusive. Major Elliot thought women were attempting to hold a dominant position! While men hold practically the monopoly of all high posts in the Government, the Civil Service, the legal profession, business, commerce and industry—and the whole of the Army and Navy, as well as the police force with the exception of 187 women police—it is hard to believe in woman's "dominance." Miss Wilkinson was also right in saying, "The low wages paid in some industries to-day are only possible because the wife is content to be an unpaid drudge in the home, working day after day, generation after generation, merely for her keep."

## THE GOVERNMENT AND CATERING AND DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES.

On April 28th, Mr. KELLY (Lab., Rochdale) asked the Minister of Labour what evidence was required to prove the existence of sweating in any trade, in view of the fact that in the Reports recently published by his Department it was stated that wages in some branches of the catering trade were less than 20s., including tips, for a 49 and 50 hour week; that women's wages in some branches of the grocery, retail drapery and fancy goods, and the meat distributive trades were also at a low grade, with long hours; whether, seeing that in the Reports on the meat, drapery, and catering trades it was stated that the degree of organisation among workers in those trades was no higher than 25 per cent., and in most of the trades less than 10 per cent., he would set up trade boards in those trades; and whether the trade board already in existence in the wholesale and retail grocery trades would now consider minimum rates of wages, and examine the question of length of hours, especially in regard to the large number of juvenile employees in this trade?

LT.-COL. WATTS-MORGAN (Lab., Rhondda, E.) asked the Minister of Labour whether in view of the fact that over 30 per cent. of female workers of 21 years of age and over in the retail grocery trade were shown by the Report recently issued by him to be receiving wages at less than 30s. per week, and that over 63 per cent. of female workers in that trade were shown to be working 50 hours per week, or more, and that less than 2 per cent. of all workers in that trade were estimated to be organised, he would reconsider his decision not to put statutory minimum rates of wages into operation in the trade; and, if not, what action he proposed to take with regard to the existing grocery and provision trade boards?

MR. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour): I will, if I may, take these questions together. I cannot within the limits of a Parliamentary answer add to the statement on the points raised contained in the replies given to the right hon. Member for Central Edinburgh (Mr. Graham) on the 11th of February, and to the hon. Member for Rhondda on the 15th March.

On 11th February, SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND'S reply to Mr. W. Graham was as follows:—In reply to this question, it will, I think, be convenient if I deal also with the results of the investigations which have been made into certain other trades, namely, the drapery and allied trades, the meat distributive trades, and the grocery trade. The results of the investigations have been considered in the light of the statement of the Government's policy with regard to trade boards which I made when the Government took office, namely, that they adhere to the principle that the great evil of sweating must be prevented, and endorse the view that the trade board system is necessary for this purpose, but that in considering the application of the Acts to

new trades they would only extend the Acts to trades where it had been clearly ascertained by systematic investigation that sweating conditions prevail, and then only after a public inquiry to examine the facts and to hear objections in any case of doubt. So far as regards the three new trades (catering, drapery, and meat distribution), after considering carefully the results of the investigations, I have decided that in all the circumstances the conditions that exist do not justify at the present time the application of the Acts. So far as regards the grocery trade (to which the Acts already apply) the investigations did not disclose that the conditions differ substantially from those in the other trades now under consideration. In all the circumstances, I have come to the conclusion that statutory minimum rates of wages should not, in present circumstances, be put into operation in the trade. I need hardly add that the conditions in the trade in question will be kept under review, and that the above decisions will be subject to reconsideration if there is a change in circumstances which would warrant it.

On March 15th, LT.-COL. WATTS-MORGAN asked the Minister of Labour if it was the intention of the Government to keep the grocery trade boards in existence, but not to allow them to carry out the duties laid upon them by the Trade Boards Acts; and, if so, whether in the view of his Department, the obligation under the Acts was being adequately fulfilled? MR. BETTERTON: My right hon. Friend has decided to dissolve the two trade boards. No question will therefore arise as to the fulfilment by them of the obligations imposed by the Acts upon a trade board.

Continuing his questions on April 28th, MR. KELLY asked if it was the opinion of the Minister of Labour that 20s. per week was anything other than a sweated wage? MR. BETTERTON referred him to the answer previously given by the Minister. MR. KELLY inquired again whether it was the opinion of the Minister that 20s. per week was an adequate wage at the present time in this country? MR. BETTERTON: That is obviously a matter which must be discussed in Debate, and which I cannot deal with in an answer.

MR. MACKINDER (Lab., Shipley) asked the Home Secretary what number of His Majesty's inspectors are employed under the Shops and Factories Acts to inspect the light refreshment and dining-room branches of the catering trades, the bespoke tailoring retail distributive trade, the fancy goods retail distributive trade, and women's and children's outfitting retail distributive trades? CAPT. HACKING (Under Secretary, Home Office): None of His Majesty's inspectors are so employed. The trades in question do not come under the Factory Acts. The retail trades are within the Shops Acts, but the enforcement of the Shops Acts rests not with the Home Office, but with the local authorities, who appoint their own inspectors.

## NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS.

The leading article of the *Schweizer Frauenblatt*, of April 9th, is devoted to the English campaign for Equal Franchise. Full details of the work of the various organisations are given, and special reference is made to the meetings which the Women's Freedom League have arranged in Hyde Park.

The Women's Movement in France has suffered a severe loss in the death of Senator Courju, who was one of the truest and keenest supporters for women's rights. Only on January 26th he urged the Senate to proceed with the Bill for the enfranchisement of women, laying stress on the fact that this Bill had been before the Chamber for the past twenty months.

A new Nationality Law has recently been adopted in France, by which it is possible for a Frenchwoman to retain her own nationality if she should desire to do so.

The sections of the new law relating to women provide that, in the case of a foreigner marrying a Frenchman, the marriage contract must definitely state whether the woman desires to retain her own nationality, or if she intends to take that of her husband. The same thing applies to a Frenchwoman marrying a foreign man. A Frenchwoman, however, loses her French nationality if, at the termination of the marriage, the husband's domicile is abroad. All Frenchwomen who, before the passing of this new law, had contracted a marriage with a foreigner, but who have been living on French soil for at least two years, have the right to regain their own nationality on making a declaration before a magistrate.

The Minister of the Interior (M. Federzoni) is responsible for the new Welfare Bill which is now before the Italian Chamber. It proposes to make a State grant for Welfare work among abandoned and

sick mothers and children, part of which will be given to the provincial and local authorities. The Bill also includes provisions to protect young people from the dangers of drink and indecent films.

Since last August it has been the law in Russia that no single woman, or widow with a child of under one year can be dismissed from work except in exceptional cases, and then only on the ratification of the labour inspector.

The International Council of Women has issued a Questionnaire to the various Councils asking for information in respect to the number of women who are organised in professions or trade unions. *Le Mouvement Féministe*, of April 2nd, gives the replies received from the Swiss Associations. These show that the unions are mainly composed of men and women members—the Lithographers and Typographers' Union, which only includes men, being one of the chief exceptions. In the Union of Telegraph and Telephone Workers, the women form a separate section with a membership of 2,014, as against 858 men. The membership of the Union of Hotel Clerks includes 2,781 men and 321 women; 120 men and 32 women are members of the Public Libraries Employees' Association; and 5,000 men and women are in the Banking Association.

The Associations composed only of women members relate to teachers, painters and sculptures, arts and handicrafts, gardeners and domestic workers. The Arts and Handicrafts Association includes 900 members, and that for domestic workers 1,761. The Federation of Catholic Workers includes 17,770 members.

The Central Association for the Care of the Blind in Switzerland has issued an interesting report for the past year. This states that there are now 55 institutions for the Blind, the number having been increased by three during 1925. The school for blind children at Freiberg is among the new institutions.

The Central Committee has taken steps to supply the various institutions with up-to-date apparatus, and special attention has been paid to the training centres. With the hope of securing new and wider markets for the goods made in the blind workshops, advertisements have been inserted constantly in the important daily papers, and the Government Departments have been urged to place orders with the blind workshops. For the first time a Government grant, amounting to 4,700 francs, has been made to the training centres; the grant has been given to the centres at Zurich, Spiez, and St. Gallen.

MARIAN BERRY.

### THE WOMAN WHO DID.

A FABLE.

Once upon a time, long ago before any of us can remember, there lived a little school teacher, with innocent blue eyes. She had been affianced to an honourable but poor young man for three years. But the Powers that Be came to her and said: "If you get married, though you are an efficient teacher, you must give up your work." So she was sorrowful and said to the young man: "I cannot marry you, because then I should lose my job, and all my time and training would be wasted. Moreover, the little capital I have managed to save would be added to yours, and we should be over-taxed accordingly."

And the young man was sorely grieved, for he loved her. "But," continued the little school teacher with the blue eyes, "I will live with you as your wife without the marriage service."

And the young man was sorely shocked, as well he might be, for he was an honourable young man. But, eventually, like Adam, the woman tempted him and he fell. And they lived together as man and wife, happily, but without benefit of clergy.

In the course of time, a child was to be born to them. "Now you must marry me," said the honourable young man.

"No. Now, more than ever, I cannot marry you," said the little teacher with the blue eyes, "because, though we agree about everything, and you are always kind and reasonable, if you should change, you would be the sole guardian of our child, and might educate it as I did not wish. Now it will be my child and I can do what I like." And the young man was sorely distressed. And they came as near to quarrelling as the honourable young man and the blue-eyed teacher ever did.

One day the Powers that Be came to her and said: "You are living in open sin. You are the mother of a child. You are not married, and are not a fit person to teach in our school." And she looked up at them with her innocent blue eyes and said: "I thought I was not a fit person to teach in your schools if I got married."

And the World said: "What she lost on the roundabouts she did not pick up on the swings." L. H. J.

### BOOK REVIEW.

*The Housemaid.* A Novel in Three Parts. By Naomi Royde-Smith. (Constable & Co., Ltd.) 7s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

In this brilliant novel, Miss Naomi Royde-Smith introduces us to two entirely different worlds. One is a world of small tradesmen and their families living dull, respectable lives in Canonbury, and the other is the world of cultured, moneyed people to whom beautiful surroundings and varied opportunities, leisure and pleasure and self-expression are the ordinary things of life. Miss Royde-Smith seems equally at home in both worlds, and she makes them both of absorbing interest.

In both worlds the same problem presents itself for solution. John Page, shopkeeper in Fetter Lane, and Michael Sherlock, scholar, aristocrat, explorer, and man of the world, have much in common. Both are idealists, born with the artistic temperament; each has married, in youth, the wrong woman, and finds in later life the woman of his dreams.

The author shows us the two solutions of the problem—the way of duty and the way of beauty—both stated so convincingly that it is hard to choose between them. Yet we know which is the better, and it is perhaps significant that the way of duty is chosen not by the great, with all their high traditions, but by the humble, with only the pative goodness of common folk. So, at the end, as at the beginning, "the housemaid" is the heroine.

All the characters are drawn with sympathy and insight, and some of them are unforgettable. Ann Page, housemaid and mother and forgiving wife, Dorothea Feilding and Eileen Tansley, whose strange, sad beauty makes them sisters, though far apart, and a delightful American named Demetrius Quin, who produces an all-star *matinée* of "Hamlet," played by music-hall artistes in a dazzling Woolworth Theatre built somewhere off the Strand! We have not come to that yet, but we may—I hope Miss Royde-Smith has not put the idea into some transatlantic head! Meantime, we are grateful to her for a very refreshing book.

W. M. S.

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## WHERE TO GO.

### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

#### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Thursday, May 27th, at 6.30 p.m.  
Mid-London Branch. Meeting at 144, High Hoiborn, W.C.1., to receive a report of the Conference.  
May 30th—June 6th.  
Tenth I.W.S.A. Congress at the Sorbonne, Paris.  
Saturday, June 19th.  
Peacemakers' Pilgrimage, Great Demonstration in Hyde Park.  
June 22nd, 23rd, and 24th.  
British Commonwealth League Conference.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Saturday, June 26th, at 10 a.m.  
National Executive Committee Meeting.  
Wednesday, June 30th, at 7 p.m.  
Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall. Chair: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.  
Saturday, July 3rd.  
Great Combined Equal Political Rights Procession and Hyde Park Demonstration.

#### PROVINCES.

Monday, June 7th, at 7.30 p.m.  
Middlesbrough Branch. Meeting at Agecroft, Linthorpe. Miss Lenton will be present.  
Wednesday, June 16th, 3—6 p.m.  
Middlesbrough Branch. Garden Party at Agecroft, Linthorpe.

#### SCOTLAND.

Friday, June 4th, at 7.45 p.m.  
Edinburgh Branch. Public Meeting on "Women in the Ministry," in the Y.M.C.A. Hall. Speakers: Miss Eunice Murray, Dr. Katharine Chapman, Dr. Mary McNicoll, Rev. Joseph Johnstone, and others.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday and Thursday, June 16th and 17th.  
National Federation of Women's Institutes. Tenth Annual General Meeting in the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W. 1.  
Tuesday and Wednesday, June 22nd and 23rd.  
Women's National Liberal Federation, Annual Council Meetings, Kingsway Hall, W.C. 1.  
Tuesday, June 29th, at 3 p.m.  
Croydon Women Citizens' Association. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "Why Women's Organisations are necessary."

### OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

#### The Right to Work.

DEAR MADAM,—As one of your constant readers and sometime correspondent, will you allow me to draw your attention to the following quotation from the *British Worker* of May 9th, 1926, page 1, column 1:—

"A London magistrate referred on Saturday to the right of every Briton to work when and how he will so long as he observes the law. This, he said, the great bulk of the people are determined to maintain."

The *British Worker*, in a following paragraph, warmly commends this.

Could you not draw a moral applying this to the attitude towards married women workers, or towards any other restrictions against women as women, which is often seen these days?

Yours sincerely,

EDITH A. STONEY.

### EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.—PROCESSION AND DEMONSTRATION.

We make a special appeal to all members, old and new, men and women, of the Women's Freedom League, who can possibly be in London, Saturday, July 3rd, to enrol themselves at once as members of our contingent in the Great Procession, which we hope will be led by Mrs. Despard, our First President, to the Demonstration in Hyde Park. Miss Elizabeth Berry is working hard for us on the Procession Sub-Committee, but we particularly want to have names of those who are walking under our banner to Hyde Park. We hope all our members will be in London on June 30th, and meet their fellow walkers in this Procession at Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, to be held at Caxton Hall that evening. Will all who can join us in this effort to secure equal political rights for women and men in this country? Communicate at once with the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Hoiborn, London, W.C.1. This will materially assist our organisers. Our contingent will begin to form up on the Embankment at 2 p.m., and will start marching 2.35 p.m. The Meeting in Hyde Park will commence approximately at 4 p.m.

### BRANCH NOTES.

#### HAMPSTEAD.

A meeting of the Branch was held at 16 Denning Road, N.W.3, on Monday, May 10th. Dr. Knight presided, and there was a large gathering of members present. Much interest was taken in the Report of the Annual Conference on April 23rd. The Procession and Demonstration for "Equal Political Rights" on July 3rd, and the "Peacemakers' Pilgrimage" Demonstration on June 19th were described; all present said they would take part in these Demonstrations in Hyde Park. Arrangements were made for the Annual Meeting of the Branch in June (Mrs. Harverson kindly offering the use of the Isis Club for the occasion). The date and speakers will be announced later.

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

#### EDINBURGH.

The meeting arranged for May 28th had been timed to take place during the Church Assemblies, as then the question of Women and the Ministry would be much in the public mind. Owing to recent events, however, the Assemblies have been postponed until June 1st, and so it has now been deemed advisable to postpone our meeting also. This will now probably take place on Friday, June 4th, in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, at 7.45 p.m. Speakers will include Miss Eunice Murray, Dr. Katharine Chapman, Dr. Mary McNicoll, Rev. Joseph Johnstone, and others.

(Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

### THE PEACEMAKERS' PILGRIMAGE

When the General Strike threatened to paralyse the whole Pilgrimage, the Council met and passed the following resolution:—"That we resolve to carry on and to meet every difficulty as it arises in the spirit of brotherhood and constancy, courage and faith, that characterises all true Pilgrims." As soon as the Strike was called off, the Council met again and decided to go ahead with the Pilgrimage and the demonstration in Hyde Park on June 19th, as far as possible as originally planned. The only route which has had to make drastic changes is the Scotland to London route. This will now officially start on May 29th from York, though it is hoped that some of the more northerly Pilgrims will still be able to join the Pilgrimage there. All the other routes remain as arranged, the Carlisle Pilgrims being the first to leave on May 20th. On Whit-Tuesday, after meetings in the district during the week-end, the Penzance pilgrims will set off on their long journey. It is hoped that, wherever possible, the lead of the General Pilgrimage Council will be followed, and that local secretaries and organisers all over the country will do their utmost to make of the Strike not an obstacle and a difficulty, but a spur to greater efforts to make the Pilgrimage a real contribution towards a better spirit of peace and conciliation.

The Women's Freedom League contingent leaves 144, High Hoiborn, W.C., at 2.30, on July 19th. Meeting in Hyde Park 5 p.m. Resolution, 6 p.m.

### WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS AND THE COAL DISPUTE.

We warmly congratulate the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship on its success in convening two large conferences of representative women connected with many women's organisations, at Caxton Hall last week, with a view to considering on what points in connection with the present crisis they could usefully express an opinion. The Women's Freedom League was represented at both these conferences, and at the one held on May 11th gave support to the Archbishop's Appeal concerning the resumption of negotiations. At a further Conference on May 14th, our representatives supported the two following resolutions:—

1. *Reinstatement*: "That with regard to the question of reinstatement, this Conference welcomes Mr. Baldwin's declaration that 'this occasion calls neither for malice nor for recrimination nor for triumph,' and that 'our duty is to escape as soon as possible from the consequences of this unhappy controversy.' This Conference believes that such an escape will only be achieved if both employers and Trades Unions recognise the principle that the obligation of loyalty to those who have stood by them in the past rests equally on both sides."

2. *Freedom of the Press*: "That this Conference regards the suppression of the Press of the Country by whomsoever exercised as a reactionary measure gravely hindering the possibility of a right understanding, which can be based only on the free circulation of information and opinion."

Other resolutions passed at this Conference, but not signed by our representatives on behalf of the Women's Freedom League, called for Children's Allowances in the Coal Industry, and asked the Government to set up an impartial Committee of Inquiry into the effect of financial policy on the production cost of coal and other industries.

### WHITSUN HOLIDAYS.

The Offices of the Women's Freedom League will be closed from Friday, May 21st, 5.30 p.m., until Tuesday, May 25th, 9.30 p.m.

FRIDAY,  
MAY 21.  
1926.

# THE VOTE

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## HOTEL.

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## Membership Application Form.

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Name .....

Address .....

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.