THE VCTE

# THE TRUTH ABOUT INEQUALITY"

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

Vol. XXIX. No. 993.

(Registered at the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1928

OBJECTS: To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

# PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

MISS DORIS STEVENS.

VICTORY-AND-AFTER CELEBRATIONS.

THE VICTORY GREEN WHITE AND GOLD FAIR. NEW NORTHERN IRELAND FRANCHISE.

"THE TRUTH ABOUT INEQUALITY." OUR FIRST-PRESIDENT. THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POLICE. BOOK REVIEW: Mr. BLETTSWORTHY ON RAMPOLE ISLAND; Reviewed by H. Sheehy Skeffington.

#### STEVENS. DORIS MISS

# AN INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST.

To the list of illustrious students of Oberline, Ohio -the first co-educational University in America, and the first to admit coloured races—must be added Doris Stevens, whose name has penetrated to all parts of the world where the feminist movement is alive

When Doris Stevens was sixteen years of age, into

the progressive and international atmosphere of Oberline came the news of the militan' suffrage movement in the British Isles. The suffragette leaders one of whom was invited to lecture at the University and to the inspiration of whom she attributes the vitality of American feminism to-day — became the moving force in her life. As a direct result of this influence, she became one of the most dynamic leaders of the Militant Campaign for Women's Suffrage in the United States of America, the history of which is related in her book, " Jailed for Freedom."

When the fight for the vote was brought to a triumphant conclusion, it was inevitable that Miss Stevens should become a leader of the National Women's Party of the United States: The success of the deputation to the Pan-American Congress at Havana last spring must be attributed to her brilliant

generalship. Speaking of the launching of the Equal Rights Treaty, Miss Stevens said: "They heard it respectfully, then asked twenty-one women, one repre- because, instead of fifteen men hearing it, the whole sentative from each Republic of the Pan-American Union, to state what they wanted. This," Miss Stevens continued, "is the first time in the history of

the world that a body of Governments has created a commission of women to improve their own status. As a result of the deputation, the Congress appointed Miss Stevens Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, with jurisdiction to study the legal position of women throughout the Americas.

When the Equal Rights Treaty-Article 1 of which lays down: The contracting States agree that, upon the ratification of this Treaty, men and women shall have equal rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions—is signed by two nations and becomes operative, discrimination between men and women must cease: hence the enthusiastic eagerness with which Miss Stevens and her party pursue their campaign.

Miss Stevens organised the International Com-mittee at Paris, which asked the plenipotentiaries signing the Kellogg Pact to receive a presentation of the Equal Rights Treaty. Of the protest at the gate of Rambouillet, Miss Stevens said: "When we were tired of being hung about like children, we tried to interview individuals. Representatives of the United States, England,

Germany, France and Italy took part in the final protest. "It was an irregular way of launching a treaty," Miss Stevens continued, "but of great benefit, world did! Congratulatory cables reached us from all parts. It was not good enough to be denied a hearing after we had travelled so far,



MISS DORIS STEVENS

As Chairman of the Codification of Law Commission, Miss Stevens went to the League of Nations Assembly this year. It was largely due to her influence that the Codification of International Law. "We shall now Stevens goes, history follows in her wake.

proceed to get women appointed," said Miss Stevens with characteristic directness.

Miss Stevens is a telling writer, a fine speaker, and Assembly accepted the resolution that adequate atten- a brilliant organiser. She has great faith in united tion should be given to women's interests while composing the delegations to the Hague Conference on the of America. It is said that wherever Miss Doris

# VICTORY-AND-AFTER CELEBRATIONS.

Over two hundred suffragists, among them militants women, and no man or woman must be subject to and non-militants, over-thirties and under-thirties, lunched together in the Banqueting Hall of the Hotel Cecil on October 24th, to commemorate the Equal Franchise Victory and to press forward their demand for equal rights everywhere for men and women. The Celebrations were arranged by the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, and behind the Chairman (the Viscountess Rhondda) at the Luncheon and at the Reception at the Caxton Hall the same evening was a banner bearing the inscription: "Nothing is ever Settled until it is Settled Right." That things were not right, and that women's full claims were by no means settled, formed the basis of every speech at

At the Luncheon, Lady Rhondda paid a tribute to the pioneers who worked for the women's cause before victory was even in sight. She said that the Parliamentary vote was a great concrete symbol of citizenship, but she urged that women's equality with men, either nationally or internationally, was not yet complete.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence emphasised the inequality of status as between married men and married women, and referred to the Public Auditor's intervention at Woolwich in order to discriminate between the wages of men and women doing equal work. She further pointed out the great discrepancy between the principles and practice of the League of Nations in regard to equal opportunities for men and women on its various commissions, delegations, and in the secretariat itself. When women realised their inequalities in national and international life, they would work for a revolution in their economic position.

Miss Doris Stevens, Chairman of the Inter-American Women's Commission, stressed the need for international action in securing equal rights for women, and recommended the treaty method—the adoption of the following Treaty by all civilised countries: "The Contracting States agree that, upon the ratification of this treaty, men and women shall have equal rights within the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions." Miss Stevens claimed that this document of human rights would lift our movement and keep us united

Mrs. Abbott, speaking against restrictive legislation for women, and maintaining that the International Labour Organisation held reactionary views on women in industry, said those views were reflected in its office decorations. There was a very fine window illustrating the world's workers. Brawny men were singing at their tasks. Where were the women? Down in the corner of the fifth light, the picture of agricultural workers, is a little figure of a womangleaning what the men had left. A lovely pastel described an outdoor scene-stalwart men handling logs as they came down a river. There was a foreman doing nothing, and beside him a woman in cap and apron holding a kettle and giving him a cup of tea. Another picture showed an angel announcing to Abraham that his seed would be as the sands of the seashore. Where is Sarah? She is found with difficulty—a shrouded figure half hidden at the door of

Miss Alison Neilans, speaking on behalf of an equal moral standard for men and women, said that when the would have to make up their minds what their attitude would be towards the women of the streets. There must be equal laws and equal protection for men and shared in the Victory Celebrations last week,

special laws because of his or her moral character.

Dame Millicent Fawcett, who received prolonged

applause, gave delightful reminiscences of John Stuart Mill and Jacob Bright.

Mr. Pethick-Laurence said that women were securing more than an equal sovereignty with men, and begged them not to make the mistake men had made when they decided what was good for women and forgot to take into account the views of women themselves.

Mr. Laurence Housman described a dream he had had the previous night—he had helped Dame Millicent Fawcett over a stile when she was wheeling a perambulator filled with tomatoes. The meaning? The perambulator was the woman's movement, and the tomatoes the flappers' vote!

Mr. Brailsford congratulated the women on their victory, which was a victory not for one sex only, but for civilisation itself—a victory as much for men as for women. The stigma of inferiority in citizenship had been removed from all the women in this country.

Long before 7 o'clock that evening women, a great number of young women among them, began to fill Caxton Hall, where they were received by Lady Rhondda. Short speeches were afterwards given by Lady Rhondda, Miss Nina Boyle, Mr. Victor Duval, and Miss Nancy Lightman, on why they worked for votes for women, and included some amusing experiences in their campaigns. Then followed some brief, racy speeches by Miss Gimingham, Miss Winifred Holthy, Miss Monica O'Connor and Miss Woodman, on what they meant to do with the vote which had been won. All these younger speakers were emphatically of the opinion that the vote was only a first step towards full equality between men and women, which they were determined to secure.

The great treat of the evening was the performance of "How the Vote was Won," written by Cicely Hamilton and Christopher St. John, and performed for the first time in 1908 at the Royalty Theatre. Some of the members of the original caste took part in the production, and it was unalloyed joy again to see women paraders bearing posters with the device: "To the Workhouse," and to hear the ringing cries, "Votes for Women!" At the close of the performance the artistes and Miss Hamilton were repeatedly cheered. To Miss Winifred Mayo and Miss Willoughby who produced the play, we offer our warmest thanks.

The evening festivities concluded with community singing, all joining in "The Awakening" and "The March of the Women."

# TWENTY TWO YEARS AGO.

At the Victory Celebrations last week, Mrs. How Martyn reminded us that twenty-two years ago-October 24th, 1906-the following suffragists, after a Demonstration outside the House of Commons on the previous day, were brought up at Westminster Police Court and bound over in their own recognisances, or, alternatively, were to serve two months' imprisonment:-Mrs. Baldock, Mrs. Billington Greig, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Mary Gawthorpe, Mrs. How Martyn, Miss Annie Kenney, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Miss Irene Miller, Mrs. Montefiore, Miss Adela Pank-Street Offences Committee published its Report, women hurst, and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. They all elected to go to prison. Mrs. Billington Greig, Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, and Mrs. Montefiore

# THE VICTORY GREEN WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

November 13th and 14th, and will be opened each day at 3 p.m:—On Tuesday, November 13th, by The Viscountess Astor, M.P.; and on Wednesday by Miss Margaret Beavan (the Rt-Hon. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool). The Chair will be taken on Tuesday by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence (President of the Women's Freedom League), and on Wednesday by Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1928.

STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

Hampstead Branch. — Handkerchiefs. Miss Trotter, Mrs. Patrick Graham, Miss James and Miss F. M. C. Collier. Hampstead Branch.—Antiques and White Elephants. Mrs. Waring, Mrs. Harvey James, Mrs. Ostler and Mrs. Williams. Mid London Branch.—Stationery Stall. Mrs. Antill, Miss Barton Mrs. Legge, Miss Sparkman and Miss Webb.

Montgomery Boroughs Branch.—Country Produce, Cakes, and General Goods. Miss Alix M. Clark, Mrs. Elias-Pritchard, and Branch Members.

Portsmouth Branch.-Household Goods. Mrs. Whetton and Members.

South-Eastern Branches. - General Stall. Mrs. Cloke, Miss White and Members.

Scottish and North Country Stall.—Mrs. Eason, Miss Munro.

China Stall .- Mrs. Lindus and Miss Lindus. Mrs. E. J. Rubra, Miss Jonquière, Miss J. Thompson, Mrs. M. A. Sidley Rose. Literature Stall.— Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Marriott, Miss Steven, and Miss M. Pierotti.

Overalls and Aprons.—Miss Underwood, Miss F. A. Underwood, Miss Brewer, Miss Charles, and Mrs. Turriff. Underwood, Miss Brewer, Miss Charles, and Mrs. Turrin. Shilling Stall.—Mrs. Delbanco and Mrs. Wilss. Sweets.—Mrs. Hugh Glaisyer, Miss Mary Knight and friends. Toy Stall.—Mrs. J. R. Knight, Mrs. Shore. Underclothing.—Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Abbott and Mrs. Boxall.

General Stall.—Mrs. Lloyd.
"Yote" Stall.—Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Evans and Miss Burgoine. PLEASE HELP!

Will every reader of THE VOTE and member of the League send some contribution towards the stalls? All useful and pretty articles will be acceptable, and will help to provide the charming Christmas presents for which our Annual Fair is so noted. No gift will be too large or too small; please send us all the pretty things that your purses will allow you to buy. Some of the goods that are most needed are overalls and aprons; these useful garments always sell well, and a large number are required. Lingerie, too, is in much demand and dainty garments of every description will be most acceptable for the Underclothing Stall. Handkerchiefs make charming Christmas presents, for men, women, and children; and every variety will be acceptable for the stall. Gifts of table cloths, tea cloths, dusters, sheets, pillow cases, towels, pots, pans, kettles, scrubbing brushes, etc., are wanted for our Household Stall; and note-paper, blotters, post-cards, Christmas cards, pens, etc., will be very acceptable for the Stationery Stall. The Shilling Stall will be most attractive to the New Voters. Small articles of every kind are required to make this stall bright and attractive. Will all our readers remember the Antique and White Elephant Stall; please send us all the things you are tired of and no longer wish to keep; we will find room for them on our Hampstead Stall. The Sweet Stall is attractive to both young and old, and home-made sweets are urgently implored. Dolls and toys are wanted for the Toy Stall, and really nice and suitable books for children for our Literature Stall. Gifts of china. especially useful cups and saucers, tea-pots, hot-water jugs, etc., are needed for the China Stall, and all kinds of goods will be acceptable for our South Eastern W.C.I.

The Green White and Gold Fair will be held at the Branches Stall, and our Scottish and North Country Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday and Wednesday, Stall. Please give us all the help you can. Whatever else you do, please write to the Hon. Fair Secretary for 30, 40, or 50 handbills of the Fair, and send them to your friends and ask them to come and meet you at the Caxton Hall on one of the days of the Fair; they are sure to have a happy time and enjoy themselves.

## ENTERTAINMENTS.

An excellent programme of entertainments is being arranged, and will include a Display on Tuesday, November 13th, at 6 p.m., of Operatic, Classical, and Character Dances by the little pupils of Miss Grace Woollacott, and a fencing display on Wednesday, November 14th, at 6 p.m., arranged by Professor Tassart. The following will take part in the display: Miss J. Rogers v. Miss Rosenheim; Miss B. Price Hughes v. Miss Bonser; Miss A. Walker v. Miss Sheila Nash. A concert will be given on Tuesday, November 13th, at 4.45 p.m., arranged by Madame San Carolo, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.; the artistes kindly helping are Miss Vere Manooch, A.R.C.M., Miss Davis and Mr. Frederick Threadgold; also songs and recitations by Miss Joan Dunsford, violin solos by Miss Lilian Foulis and Miss Mollie Seymour, and piano solos by Mrs. Sparrow.

### CHARACTER READING.

Mrs. Goddard Watts has kindly promised to organise these Side Shows.

Readings will be given by Miss Wall and Mrs. Gilchrist; Numerology by Miss King; Phrenology by Madame Gena, B.Sc.; and Psychometry by Mrs.

# TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS.

Miss Reeves has most kindly undertaken the Teas and Refreshments, and will be assisted by Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Keelan, Mrs. Scott, and the staff and members of the Minerva Club. Teas will be served in the Lounge from 3.30 to 6 p.m., and Refreshments will be served after 7 p.m.

# THE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Mrs. Seymour Pritchard has very kindly promised to manage this part of the work.

Other Societies and Friends taking Stalls:

Barclay Workshops (for Blind Women). The Canning Town Women's Settlement. The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and

Equal Citizenship.
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. The Open Door Council. The Psychological Aid Society.

The Women's Exchange. The Yugoslav Peasant Industries. Mrs. Aston (Filigree Work and Artificial Flowers).

Miss Burwood (Beads). Mrs. Clifford (Wax Flowers).

Miss Minnie Culverwell (Hand-made Jewellery). Mrs. M. E. Moreton (Lacquer Work and Lamp Shades). Miss Dorothea Page (Unika Sports Wear).

Miss Sevfang.

Miss Coignou.

Tickets, 1/10 (including tax) the first day until 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. and on the second day, 1/2 (including tax). On sale at 144, High Holborn, or from the societies and friends taking stalls.

All communications and gifts should be sent to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Fair Secretary, at 144, High Holborn,

# "SUFFRAGE MEMORIES."

MR. LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

At the Minerva Club, 56. Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1,

Chairman: MRS. ZANGWILL.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, AT 8.15 P.M.

ADMISSION FREE

# THE VOTE.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, 1928.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Holborn 9301, London." Telephone: HOLBORN 9301.

### "THE TRUTH ABOUT INEQUALITY"!

Now that women have secured political equality, they are able to press forward more effectively their claim to economic equality with men. Women teachers are specialising on equal pay for women and men in their own profession, and, in the Civil Service, there is a very definite demand for equal pay for equal work as between men and women. In a leaflet issued by the Civil Service Equal Pay Committee, we are reminded that the House of Commons on two occasions affirmed the principle of Equal Pay in the Civil Service, first on May 19th, 1920, and again in August, 1921, but so far nothing has been done to put that principle into operation. Successive Governments have pleaded that the state of the finances of the country does not warrant them in incurring the extra expense of giving women Civil Servants the same rate of pay as their men colleagues, and the Civil Service Equal Pay Committee now ask for the setting up of a Select Committee to consider and report upon the best means of giving effect to the principle accepted by the House of Commons. The demand for a Select Committee is based in part on the necessity for obtaining an authoritative statement as to the cost of applying the principle of Equal Pay. It is pointed out in the leaflet that the question has never been impartially or adequately explored, and that the estimates given from time to time by the Treasury have been both widely divergent and misleading. It further states that women are now employed on professional, administrative, executive, clerical, technical, and other work in almost all Departments of State. They hold important and equally responsible positions with men, but generally at a lower rate of pay. Even in cases where the starting pay is equal, the increments are less and the maximum is considerably lower. That women do equal work with men has been officially recognised. Departments, when reorganising their work, have decided the grade to which posts should belong, irrespective of the sex of the official who would be subsequently appointed. Moreover, in a few instances in the Service, the salary scales of men and women are the same. In Parliamentary work, equal pay seems to be given to men and women as a matter of course. The two women appointed within recent years as Parliamentary Secretaries-Miss Bondfield and the Duchess of Atholl-were appointed on the same salaries as their male predecessors, and women Members of Parliament receive the same salaries as men Members of Parliament. In the professions, too, women as lawyers, doctors, accountants, or journalists all receive the same remuneration as their men colleagues, and the Professors at the London, Birmingham, Edinburgh, and Manchester Universities are remunerated irrespective of sex. It is more than time that this glaring injustice of unequal rewards for men and women in our Civil Service should be swept away. All women's organisations are solidly behind the women Civil Servants in their demand for equal pay for equal work, and the members of women's organisations have votes. Before the Book, Mr. Baldwin said: "Once this Bill is law, the last fraction of truth about inequality will have gone." to women, not because their work is of less value than the work of men, but because of the sex of the worker. many thanks for all kind messages.

### WHY NO WOMEN MEMBERS?

Yet another Committee of Inquiry has been appointed by the Home Secretary concerning young people, and we see there is at present no woman amongst its members. This most recent Committee is to inquire into the working of the police courts and juvenile courts in the Metropolitan district and to consider and report, after consultation with the magistrates, whether any changes are desirable in the organisation of work at the Courts, or of the work of the Courts as a whole, or as regards the jurisdiction, in the district, of police court magistrates and county justices respectively. The members of the Committee are: Lord Cornwallis (Chairman), Sir William Bull, M.P., Sir Vivian Henderson, M.P., Mr. A. Locke, Mr. J. F. Moylan, and Mr. Roland G. Oliver, K.C. The Secretary to this Committee is Mr. S. Hoare, of the Home Office. We should have thought that the necessity for appointing women on to any Inquiry into the working of Juvenile Courts would be obvious to anyone; and there are plenty of women who would have been eminently suitable for this work. There are now women M.P.' women magistrates, and women lawyers. We should like to know why none of these have found their way this particular Committee. Is it because they might have been expected to press for the appointment of women police?

## NEW NORTHERN IRELAND FRANCHISE

A Representation of the People Bill has been introduced in the Northern Parliament. It provides for votes for women at twenty-one, as in Great Britain, and for the first time gives votes to companies. A company owning premises of a valuation of £10 and upwards will be entitled to one vote at local govern ment elections. Where the valuation exceeds £20, the company will be entitled to more than one vote. The maximum number of votes obtainable by any company will be six, and the actual number will be determined by dividing the valuation by ten.

The Government of Northern Ireland was, of course, obliged to give women at twenty-one the vote on the same terms as men, following the extension of that vote to women in this country, but we very greatly regret that, instead of assimilating women's and men's votes, as was done under our own Government's Equal Franchise Bill, Ulster utilised the popular demand for increasing women's votes to secure a large additional vote for men in local government, an additional vote which will go a long way to swamping the extra votes which women will secure locally. Under the enfranchisement of companies, there will be an immense addition of men voters, for nearly every little company will secure its six votes. Surely this question of the Companies' Franchise should have waited until it could be discussed by an electorate of men and women who had the vote on equal terms.

# OUR FIRST-PRESIDENT.

Many of our readers will have seen notices in the Press of a serious accident to our dear Mrs. Despard. She was feeling exceptionally well and strong and thinking of coming to the Victory Fair, when, late on Wednesday night, October 24th, she fell down a stone staircase, where a door had just been altered, into the basement, broke her right wrist, and cut and bruised her head and face badly, but managed to get up the stairs again and arouse the household. The next day, Government's Equal Franchise Bill was on the Statute she was moved into a private hospital, the wounds were very skilfully operated upon, and a perfect result is expected. All is going on beautifully, the pain is That Bill is now law, but many inequalities remain diminishing rapidly, and she is very comfortable and which it is the women voters' business to abolish; not in excellent health and spirits, looking forward to the least of these inequalities being the lower pay given coming among us again later on. She sends her dearest love to all her old friends and colleagues, and

# THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POLICE.

of the Portsmouth City Police, with thirty-eight years' police experience (twenty-one at Portsmouth and three as Chief Constable at Hove), desired a Home Office standard book, to set the general tone and tradition, and "a Central Staff College" to which he could send men, specially selected for high intelligence and honour, to He thought cautioning was rather overdone and sometimes stopped a useful statement. Getting convictions statements would be perfectly fair and possible, though difficult.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1928.

Identification Parades.—They went out and got eight men resembling the prisoner to come to the station from the street, Labour Exchange, or nearest public-house, and gave them 6d. It was more difficult to collect women of uniform appearance.

Women Police.—They had three during the War for welfare work. They were not a success, and were given up. Pressed for details, he said one went off with one of their best inspectors, and they both had to be dismissed; the other two fell under the Geddes' economy cuts. He thought them splendid for welfare work, but useless as police and useless in patrolling streets or parks. He had whole-time matrons at two stations; women were taken to these stations as quickly as they could be fetched. These matrons could be trained to take statements.

Complaints against Police.—He suggested an appeal to an Inspector of Constabulary when Chief Constable and Watch Committee differed.

Traffic Control.—Took 20 per cent. of his men. It must blunt the edge for police work. Scouts sworn in as special constables seemed suitable. His police were very short indeed for their primary duties; his Watch Committee had asked the Home Office for increase of strength, but were refused. In reply to Mr. Pick, the three policewomen come quite untrained, did not take statements, and were hardly ever used for detection of crime, had no power of arrest, and were not sworn in. Police stations were homely but not comfortable.

Mr. H. H. Sanders, Chief Constable of Plymouth City Police for twelve years and twenty-one years in the Metropolitan Police as constable and detective, stated that, as regards statements, "justice errs on the side of the prisoner on every occasion." Verbatim statements were always used in Plymouth. He had plenty of good shorthand writers in his department. Only answers were recorded, not any questions, to save time. In complaints against the police, both questions and answers were recorded.

Identification Parades.—Persons were collected as at Portsmouth and had 6d. He did not know whether women got 3d.

Women Police.—Their two left six years ago. The Watch Committee found them unjustified. They quarrelled with each other, so their duties suffered. One was a trained policewoman, the other a teacher; neither was sworn in. He had two resident matrons. The probation officer took women's statements in sexual cases. The women police took statements from women in such cases, and were useful in patrolling parks and streets. He was cutting down police stations, and putting up police boxes with telephone for the public to summon police by motor. Women were dealt with only at one station. Traffic control took 10 per cent. of his men.

Mr. St. John Hutchinson, Recorder of Hythe, for one year, who had for many years at the Criminal Bar defended prisoners, doubted if the public understood police powers. The reports of that Commission would instruct them. He thought the Judges' Rules had been strained since the War by a stiffening up in the them. He doubted if a uniformed woman could be

On October 29th, Mr. T. Davies, Chief Constable interests of justice and against the individual. The poorer class do not realise they can refuse to answer. They should be told verbally, in a simple approved form, their legal position and if their words may affect their own personal character afterwards, and know as much as themselves. Police constables should not take statements (as in India); let the person write it be trained with the C.I.D. for local detective work. or dictate it, to be taken verbatim. A lot of rubbish was talked of the need for clear statements; if too neat they often misled the jury, and the guilty escaped. made no difference to a police constable. Verbatim He condemned the new spirit of leading prisoners on to say more than they meant to, not by force, but by finesse. In a serious case a police statement was never an advantage to a prisoner. He could tell his story before the magistrate or judge, and give evidence if he wished. Examinations were sometimes too long; the Crumbles murderer was questioned from 9 p.m. to 2.30 a.m., fainting in the middle. Park prosecutions had increased since the War, not due to general greater freedom. It was very difficult for police to understand their duty; the law was indefinite. They should only enforce the law as to annoyance, etc. He did not think they should follow known offenders to trap them, or even provoke offences. Statements often contain passages which are disowned by the person. The police should be open to healthy public comment from a magistrate or judge.

> Sir Reginald Coventry, K.C., Chairman of the Worcestershire Quarter Sessions, Recorder of Stokeon-Trent, said that of recent years the police were very kind and fair to all. Statements should be written by the person; a very small percentage of people could not write. The police should not keep witnesses, etc.,

Traffic Control.—Unsuitable for police; tendency to make him arbitrary and rather spoil the proper police work for which he is educated; also collisions with the public and danger of bribes.

On October 30th, Mr. A. L. Dixon, Assistant Secretary of the Home Office, in charge of the division dealing with police matters for the ten years since its formation, elucidated certain points which had been left to him by Sir Ernley Blackwell.

Home Office Control.—Absolute over Metropolitan Police, limited over provincial police. Now under Police Act of 1919 and the Regulations of 1920, the Home Office had very wide powers as to conditions, pay, organisation, and administration of the Forces; in fact, in the administrative sphere the control was now almost predominating. In the executive work there was not control or power of revision over the day-to-day work of a local Force, but they kept in touch through H.M. Inspectors of Constabulary, direct intercourse with Chief Constables at District Conferences, occasional visits to Forces, and by the Police Federation. More than this would be impossible and unconstitutional, because essentially the responsibility rested with the local Forces,

Women Police.—In their view there was probably a certain amount of scope on specialised lines; at present, both in principle and methods, they were experimental. Local authorities and Chief Constables must experiment. Two Committees had each recommended them. The women must find their own level. In taking statements of children, especially in assaults, and probably in criminal investigations and inquiry in the case of women, they could work, and in the custody and conveyance of women they should be employed. Some policewomen were employed in welfare work among young girls, which was a part of police work as preventing crime He was watching reports from different areas, on quite various lines, and could not dogmatise vet, the Home Office was strictly impartial; they agreed to women police, but did not urge

more useful than a uniformed man. He did not think there was much reduction in numbers the last few years.

In reply to Dame Meriel, he thought in some places policewomen had been given a full and thorough trial, as an integral part of the Force within a specialised sphere. It was obvious to him that the Police Force, was bound to be predominantly male, and womens sphere bound to be specialised.

In reply to Miss Beavan, Metropolitan policewomen were all attested; he favoured this. Similar training was necessary to give a fair trial; this was given in some Forces. In general criminal cases he saw no reason for a woman; women went to their men solicitors. The Forces had been increased by 10,000 in the last twenty years. Each beat, worked by three constables, cost £1,000. There was no evidence that investigation of crime was suffering from weakness of the Force. Since 1919 the Home Office has a good deal of responsibility in the recruiting of police, and it must approve each Chief Constable. On his tone depends the local Force. Police do too many outside duties just because they are an existing efficient, organised body. central organisation to train women police selected by Chief Constables might be possible. In Liverpool twenty women police, plain clothes, were employed in investigating crime and were successful. Metropolitan policewomen were all in uniform and patrolled. The Commissioner was responsible for the uniform.

Superintendent E. S. Woodeson, M.B.E., Deputy Chief Constable of Norfolk, and Superintendent John Carr, Deputy Chief Constable of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Police, delegates of the Superintendents' Central Committee, felt quite satisfied with the present system, though they would not like to suggest that much preferred to administer a straightforward Act of Parliament. Park duty was unpopular.

Traffic Control.—Highly trained police were not needed. Special constable Scouts would be as good

Capt. A. C. Dawson, Chief Constable of the Birkenhead Borough Police, with thirty-eight years' police service, would always, before beginning to question, state that it was an important police inquiry and give the caution. Statements from a female in sexual matters were always taken by a female assistant, generally at the woman's home, no male member of the Force being present. When he went to Birkenhead all such statements were taken by a policeman and some parents came to him and objected. He was opposed to producing exhaustion, which would bring confusion, and hoped that would never be our aim in

Women Police.—They had none sworn in. The one female assistant was a nurse and an inquiry officer under the National Health Insurance scheme, not otherwise trained in taking statements. Since 1925 she had interviewed 300 women and girls, and conducted inquiries in sixty-two other cases with great success. During the War they had eighteen women, not sworn in, who took the places of men at the Front, but not in real police work. He did not at the moment find policewomen needed. The parks had women patrols.

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### OUR BOOK REVIEWS.

Blettsworthy on Rampole Island. By H. G. Wells. (Ernest Benn, London.) 7s. 6d. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This, the latest novel from the prolific pen of H. G Wells, is frankly disappointing, and at times very du l. As his works now run to about 30 volumes, including over 30 novels and romances, this is not surprising, for like most popular authors, Mr. Wells overwrites himself and must, therefore, of necessity, often repeat. His Mr. Britlings, Mr. Lewishams, Mr. Pollys, Mr. Blettsworthys, have a strong family likeness. I like the present hero least—he is a dreary, futile personage, of unimaginable depths of dullness, with never a gleam of humour. His idea of getting his own back on the brutal sea captain, his inveterate enemy (who tried to murder him half way through the story, but, unhappily, did not succeed), is to eat soup noisily after him, when a chance encounter at a London restaurant brings them face to face at last! "I watched him tuck his serviette into his neck in the old familiar fashion and seize his spoon in his freckled hand. I had an inspiration . . . He still drank soup with the same loud indraught. I took my spoon and followed suit with a perfect imitation." The frankly fantastic inset of Rampole Island (the dream of a lunatic with lucid intervals) is the best, together with those portions that deal with war and post-war psychology. One almost forgets at times that Mr. Wells himself once fell from grace badly and became as war-mad as the rest. In spite of an ever-growing, half-paralysing pessimism-alas for Mr. Wells' young Utopias, which inspired us all and enthused us when we were young and he was not yet middle-aged !abuses never occurred. In moral matters the police there are on Rampole Island with Mr. Blettsworthy, gleams of a better world. The prophet still clings to his earlier visions. "Stoicism-creative stoicism. What else can there be? And it need not be even stern. . . . There are endless lovely and exciting things in life. Admit, Blettsworthy . . . that for all our frustrations, you would rather have lived than not. The individual life isn't everything." Like Goethe's Faust, two sou's dwell and forever struggle in the Wellsian breast. In Mr. Blettsworthy and his Rampole Island one sees the play of the one upon the other endlessly. And, because it is Mr. Wells, after all, there is much gold among the dross. The Orpen design for the cover is characteristic. It strips the hero naked, but leaves him his gloves and cane.

H. SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON.

## In Memoriam

Busch-Michell.—On October 13th, at Colwyn Bay, after a long illness, Harriet Mary Busch-Michell, of Crosswood, Guilsfield.

We much regret to record the death of one of the founders of our Montgomery Boroughs Branch. At a meeting in her house in July, 1911, the branch was started, with Mrs. Scott, of Pennant Hall, as President, Mrs. Felix Jones, Treasurer, and Miss Clark, Secretary. Both her father and mother were descended from ancient kings of Wales; she was an artist of distinction, kindly and hospitable, and took a full share in local public work.

To her husband, Mr. A. P. Busch-Michell, our member and staunch supporter, we offer our deepest sympathy.

FISKEN.—At 2, Stirling Avenue, Westerton, on October 21st, 1928, Florence May Davey, aged 44 years, beloved wife of Alexander Fisken.

Mrs. Fisken was for some time Honorary Secretary of our Glasgow Branch, but resigned that position two years ago on account of ill health. She was also at that time a member of our National Executive Committee. It is with deep sorrow that we record her death, and we offer our sincere sympathy to her husband and little boy.



# WHERE TO GO.

# WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, November 7th, at 8.15 p.m. Public Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Mr. Laurence Housman on "Suffrage Chairman : Mrs. Zangwill. Informal Dinner

at 7.15.

Friday, November 9th, at 3 p.m.

"At Home" at "Craigieburn," Ballard's Lane, Finchley, N. (by kind invitation of Mrs. Marriott). Speakers: Mrs. Bigland on "Women at Work in the League of Nations," and Miss F. A. Underwood on "The Work of The Women's Freedom League." Chairman: Mrs. Marriott. Tea will be provided.

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 13th and 14th.

Green White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster,

m to 9 p.m. each day

Wednesday, November 21st, at 4.30 p.m.

Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington on "The Free State Censorship Bill as it affects Women." Questions and Discussion. Tea at 4. as it affects Women." Questions a Saturday, December 1st, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn,

PROVINCES. Wednesday, November 7th, at 3.30 p.m.

Bexhill. Whist Drive. Albany Horel, Sea Road.

Friday, November 23rd, at 2 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Gift Sale at the Hempsted Street Hall.

Stalls:—Produce, Fancy Clothes, White Elephant. Tea.

Friday, November 30th, at 3 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Branch Meeting at the Hempsted Street Hall. Lecture: "How to do French Laundry."

SCOTLAND.

Friday, November 2nd, at 7.30 p.m. Glasgow Branch. Franchise Victory Celebration, at "The Rhul," 123, Sauchiehall Street. Speaker: Mrs. Pethick-Rhul," 123, Sauchiehall Street. Speaker: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. Chairman: Miss Eunice Murray. Tea and Music. OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, November 3rd, at 3 p.m.
Saturday Speech Club, at the Minerva Club, 55, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Debate: "That it is the duty of the State to provide the necessities of life for its poorer citizens." Proposer: Mrs. Boyd. Opposer: Miss Bromley.

Monday, November 5th, at 6 p.m.
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Meeting at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, W., on Education—
"Equalities still to be Won." Speaker: Miss Froud (National Union of Women Teachers). Chairman: Mrs Smiley, M.A.
Tuesday, November 6th, at 5 p.m.

The Six Point Group. Meeting at 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Mrs. Abbott, of the Open Door Council, will speak on "Equal Occupational Rights," with special reference to the Minimum Wage-Fixing Machinery Convention. Chairman: Miss E.

British-American Women's Crusade. Conference on the Kellogg Pact and After, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, Mrs. H. M. Swanwick and Mr. W. Arno'd Foster. Chairman : Lady Acland.

Thursday, November 8th, at 8 p.m. Guild of Girl Citizens. Public Meeting at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1, dealing with "The Responsibility of the New Voter." Speakers: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and Miss Ida Samuel. Chairman: Miss Helen Ward. Tickets 6d.

### APRONS AND OVERALLS STALL.

The Misses Underwood and Mrs. Turriff cordially thank the following for Gifts for the above Stall: Miss Cather, 5s.; Miss Charles, 5s.; Mrs. Gilbert, 10s.; Miss MacGregor, 5s.; Mrs. Sutcliffe, 5s.; Miss A. K. Williams, 5s.; Miss A. Williams, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Clifford, Mrs. Curwen, Miss C. Newman (third parcel), Miss Sidley, and Mrs. Strickland, for Aprons and Further Gifts will be gratefully acknowledged by the

# A CORRECTION.

We regret a mistake which occurred in our issue of October 26th. The contributor to our "When I am M.P." series in that number is Lady Stewart, not Lady Frances Stewart.

# EQUAL FRANCHISE is WON !—CELEBRATE the VICTORY!

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Gifts should be addressed to Mrs. Flowers, The Vote Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1

#### BRANCH NOTE. ASHFORD.

We had a splendid meeting at Ashford last Friday. The room was full, and we were pleased to welcome a good number of strangers, who had come to support the Liberal speaker, Mrs. Price. Mrs. Miles presided. In her opening remarks, the chairman said that she was sure that all those present would like to send their love to Mrs. Despard and earnest, wishes for her recovery. Miss White was asked to send the message. The usual business meeting was held before the address. We heard that the Gift Sale had been postpored, but that it would be heard

that the Gift Sale had been postponed, but that it would be held on Friday, November 23rd, in the Hempsted Street Hall, at 2 p.m. On Friday, November 30th, we are to have an unusual lecture, "How to do French Laundry."

Mrs. Price, an attractive and fluent speaker, gave an instructive address on "Free Trade, and how it Affects the Housewife." She congratulated an organisation like the Women's Freedom League for its fairmindedness in allowing the members to hear the views of all parties. After a cordial vote of thanks, settled down to tea while Mrs. Cave busily sold The Vote. A our next meeting we are to have a Social, and then a Labour speaker will address the members again at the same place—the Hempsted Street Hall. Mrs. Cloke has kindly consented to help at our Stall at the Fair.

M. L. White.

The meeting in support of Mrs. Barton, arranged by our branch and the National Union of Women Teachers, was crowded and enthusiastic. The speakers were Mrs. Malcolm, J.P., P.L.G., Miss Wadeson, N.U.W.T., Councillor Eng.-Commander Langmaid, and Miss McCoy, P.L.G., with Mrs. Whetton in the chair. All the speakers stressed the need for women on our City Council. Mrs. Barton received a rousing reception, and the resolution

pledging the meeting to support her was carried nem. con.
Gratefully acknowledged for our Stall at the Fair: Mrs. Ware, 5s.; Miss Peacock, Gift for the Stall.

# ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL & POLITICAL ALLIANCE

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

A Special General Meeting of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance was held at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, on Saturday, October 27th, Miss Douglas Irvine, M.A., in the chair. Now that the first object of the Society, Equal Franchise, had been obtained, the future of the Alliance had to be discussed. It was proposed from the chair :-

That the Alliance shall continue to work for the remainder of its programme, i.e., to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens."

This was enthusiastically passed. It was further agreed that

the Alliance should do its utmost to help and encourage the women of the Latin countries in their fight for political freedom.

A very long discussion then ensued on the subject of the incorporation of "Active Work for Peace" in the constitution of the poration of "Active Work for Peace" in the constitution of the Society. It was felt that this would be a distinct menace to the objects for which the Alliance was originally founded... There was still so much to do in winning the "political, social and economic equality between men and women," that all its energies should e devoted to that end. At the same time, St. Joan's was anxious to show its desire to support any national movement for peace, and therefore peaced the resolution that, "while giving its moral support and sympathy to any movement likely, in the judgment of the majority of the Committee, to promote a permanent world peace, the Alliance shall not embody any active participation in work to that end in its constitution, but shall endeavour to carry

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house. No attendance; every convenience. Garage, if required. Good motoring centre. —SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell.

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### NOTICES. Etc.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, November 4th, 1928. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Rev. A. Peel, M.A., Litt.D. 6.30. Mrs. Joyce Pollard: "Beauty is Truth."

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