

THE VOTE.
FEB. 11, 1927.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS, HAMPSTEAD MEETING.

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVIII. No. 903.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1927

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

The Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee held a full meeting on Tuesday, to consider the King's Speech of that afternoon. There could be no doubt felt at this meeting of the entire dissatisfaction of women with the Speech.

The Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee came into being after the great Equal Franchise Procession and Demonstration held in Hyde Park last July. The Women's Freedom League was one of its original members, and is always to the fore in the councils and the work.

Lady Rhondda was in the Chair, and opened by expressing dissatisfaction with the King's Speech and by saying that it was obvious now that action was necessary by organised women. She read the following resolution:—

"This meeting expresses its indignation at the omission of any mention in the King's Speech of a Bill to enfranchise women at 21 on equal terms with men, and demands immediate legislation so as to ensure that the 'Prime Minister's pledge that women shall vote on equal terms with men at the next election' may be honoured."

Mr. Pethick-Lawrence spoke first. He told the meeting that after the mover and seconder of the Address had spoken in the House, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald dealt with two grave omissions: (1) The Factories Bill; (2) Equal Franchise. On the latter he spoke of the Prime Minister's pledge for equal franchise at the next election. Mr. MacDonald declared this omission was a breaking of the pledge. In reply, the Prime Minister did not refer to Equal Franchise; but in defending the omission of the Factories Bill, which defence may be assumed to cover the other and graver omission, he outlined an alteration in the Parliamentary time-table, which would end a Session in July and begin a new Session in November, in place of the present method of holding an Autumn Session. Mr. Pethick-Lawrence spoke after the Prime Minister, and stressed the point that, under whatever old or new arrangement of Parliamentary time, it was essential that an Equal Franchise measure should be law by June, 1927, if the pledge of the Prime Minister was to be kept. He added that responsibility cannot be shifted from the Government. Labour might introduce, as a Private Member's Bill, a Franchise Bill, and it would be difficult for the Government to resist its passage this Session. He did

not believe that opposition in the House of Commons to Equal Franchise was at all strong.

Miss Froud, of the National Union of Women Teachers, Vice-Chairman of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, surveyed the woman's movement since 1918, showing how the old suffrage workers had drifted into all sorts of activities, leaving the Key question, equal political rights, somewhat neglected. Women must, once again, realise that equal political rights was the Key question, affecting the status of all women. She then alluded to a phrase in the King's Speech that "other important measures will be brought to your notice as time permits," and urged that women must be convinced of the importance of their enfranchisement and must give their full energies to convincing politicians that Equal Franchise was an "important measure." "Do not look at this," she said, "in cold blood, but get hot about it, and give the House no peace until it grants Equal Franchise, so as to rid itself of the nuisance."

Miss Underwood, of the Women's Freedom League, regretted the absence through illness of Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, their President, and said that the Women's Freedom League felt deep indignation at the omission from the King's Speech of any mention of Equal Franchise. As an example of the insincerity of politicians, the King's Speech made one's blood boil. China was mentioned, of which women, whether over or under 30, only knew they had to pay the bill. A Trade Union Bill was mentioned. She hoped this would include a clause admitting women to all Unions. No House of Lords reform was mentioned, perhaps, because they knew that had to include the admission of women. Miss Underwood concluded, as did all other speakers, that it was only by pestering and pestering that equal franchise would be won. There was not a pin to choose between the three parties. Women had pestered the Liberal Party and the Labour Party, and would be quite glad to pester the Conservative Party.

Miss Woodman, of the Young Suffragists, urged more work among the younger women.

Lady Rhondda then put the resolution, which was carried unanimously. Many valuable suggestions were made by the meeting, and a big campaign were made by the meeting for details, and a big campaign in the constituencies and at street corners during the summer, winding up with a monster demonstration in Trafalgar Square, was enthusiastically decided upon.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

In the Debate on the Address in the House of Commons last Tuesday, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald said that in the King's Speech "there is no question of fulfilling pledges given with regard to the extension of the franchise to women." Mr. Pethick-Lawrence devoted the first part of his speech to this omission. He said that "even if the General Election is held in 1929, then this Session of 1927 is the one in which any changes should be carried into law. If it is contemplated to enfranchise several millions of new voters, it is not possible for those who have to compile the new Register to do their work unless they have the new Act before them for several months before the Register is made up. If they do not, and if as a result it is not possible for the new voters to vote at the next General Election, the charge will justly lie at the head of the Government that they failed to carry out their pledge in time for it to be put into operation."

In the Debate on the Address in the House of Lords, Earl Beauchamp said he hoped that Lord Salisbury would be able to explain the reasons for the delay in setting up a Speaker's Conference on the question of the franchise. There was the question of equality between men and women, with the very striking fact that there were over 2,000,000 women over 30 years of age who had not got votes. In his reply, Lord Salisbury said that, as to the franchise, the addition of an enormous number of voters was a complicated matter requiring a good deal of care. The subject was still under consideration, and he could not make any further promise in respect of it.

The *Times* reports that it was decided that the three Bills to be given priority by Labour Members in the Ballot for Private Members' Bills, which takes place on Thursday, should be the Prevention of Unemployment Bill, the Representation of the People Bill, and the Factories Bill.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

S.E. ST. PANCRAS MEETING.

The Minerva Branch of the Women's Freedom League held a meeting on behalf of the Equal Political Rights Campaign on Monday evening. Mrs. Dexter was in the Chair, and spoke movingly of the militants and most warmly of the speech by Miss Ida Samuel, a voteless woman under 30. Miss Samuel made a delightful and most finished speech, with wit and wisdom mingled. Miss Froud, Vice-Chairman of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, would not suggest that one of the reasons of opposition by men was their fear of women, but would assert it to be so. She said Mr. Baldwin was called "Honest Baldwin," but that it was beginning to look as if that was not a title he could much longer claim. He had pledged that women should have equal franchise rights, and the inference was, at 21, as it would be impossible to take away that right from men. Miss Froud urged action by all concerned now, not next year or at any later time, but now. Miss Chave Collisson, of the British Commonwealth League, compared the political position of women in England with those Overseas, and urged a closer touch. Miss Elisabeth Edwardes, Liberal candidate for S.E. St. Pancras, tried to find some reason for the division of the franchise between men and women. It was, she said, a grave and great responsibility which all adult citizens should share. The following resolution was carried unanimously and with acclamation:—

"That this meeting of the Minerva Club Branch of the Women's Freedom League demands immediate legislation, granting the Parliamentary vote to women at the age of 21 and on the same terms as to men."

It was then further resolved to ask the sitting Member for the division to receive a deputation from the meeting on the subject of Equal Franchise,

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

The following letter, sent by the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated, appeared in *The Times* last week and in the general Press:—

To the Editor.

Sir, February 4th, 1927.

We write on the eve of the opening of Parliament, when the one topic of conversation amongst the non-party women's organisations is of the suffrage. They all ask one question: Does the Government intend to include a promise of votes for women at 21 in the King's Speech?

We would wish to make one thing clear. We shall, at this late date, be satisfied with nothing less than a Government promise of such a measure.

We shall regard any suggestion of the setting-up of a Commission of Inquiry or Conference as nothing less than an attempt to evade the granting of votes to women on equal terms with men.

Yours faithfully,

RHONDDA (Chairman, Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee); JOHN KENSINGTON, Bishop (Vice-President, League of the Church Militant); LEONORA DE ALBERTI (Editor, *The Catholic Citizen*); N. K. ARGYLE (Association of Post Office Women Clerks); MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY (President, British Commonwealth League); FLORENCE A. BARRY (Hon. Sec., St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance); KATHERINE BOMPAS; ADELIN BOURNE (Hon. Sec., Actresses' Franchise League); M. CHAVE COLLISSON, M.A.; VIRGINIA M. CRAWFORD (Chairman, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance); WINIFRED C. CULLIS (President, British Federation of University Women); D. ALLISON ELEY (Guild of Girl Citizens); M. VIOLET ENGLISH (Org. Sec., Guild of Citizens of To-morrow); DOROTHY EVANS, M.A. (Gen. Sec., Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries); J. W. FISK (President, Federation of Women Civil Servants); ETHEL E. FROUD (Gen. Sec., National Union of Women Teachers); BEATRICE HARRADEN, B.A. (Vice-President, Six-Point Group); ELDRED HORSLEY; GABRIELLE JEFFERY (Hon. Treas., St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance); E. KNIGHT, M.B., D.P.H. (Hon. Treas., Women's Freedom League); OCTAVIA LEWIN, M.B., B.S. (Lond.); ANNA MATHEW, J.P.; EVA MOORE (Vice-President, Six-Point Group); CHRISTINE M. MURRELL, M.D. (President, Women's Election Committee); KATE MANICOM (Workers' Union); C. NEAL, L.L.A. (President, National Union of Women Teachers); MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON, J.P., L.L.A.; S. F. PERRY (Secretary, The Co-operative Party); EMMELINE PETHICK-LAWRENCE (President, Women's Freedom League); ELIZABETH ROBINS (Vice-President, Six-Point Group); C. J. ROBINSON (London Teachers' Association); FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD (Secretary, Women's Freedom League); SUSAN A. VILLIERS (President, League of the Church Militant); MARGARET WINTRINGHAM (President, Women's National Liberal Federation); DAISY D. SOLOMON (Hon. Sec., Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee).

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS—
LOCAL MEETINGS.

Miss Marion Reeves recently addressed the Women's Section of the Independent Labour Party at Clapham on Equal Franchise. The women were most enthusiastic, and asked a great many questions. Copies of *THE VOTE* were sold, and as a result of this meeting Miss Reeves will speak on March 7th to the Brixton Road Branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild, on the same subject—Equal Franchise. Last Wednesday Mrs. Mustard spoke to the Wood Green Young Liberal Association on Equal Political Rights, and a report of this meeting will appear in next week's *VOTE*.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Mrs. Pankhurst, M.P.?

Mrs. Pankhurst was unanimously adopted on February 2nd as Conservative candidate for White-chapel and St. George's, E.

Woman L.C.C. Labour Party Official.

Mrs. E. M. Lowe has been appointed Vice-Chairman and Deputy Leader of the London County Council Labour Party for the municipal year, 1927-28.

Woman Doctor's Appointment.

Dr. Lily Baker has been appointed Assistant Physician, with charge of the Ante-Natal Department, to the Bristol Royal Infirmary. This is the first time that a medical woman has become a member of the Medical Faculty of the University of Bristol.

A Woman's Success.

The Williams Memorial Prize for 1926 has been awarded by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to Miss Ida Lloyd Roberts, a graduate of the School of Veterinary Science, Liverpool. This is the first time that the prize has been won by a woman.

Woman Defender in Murder Trial.

For the first time a woman barrister has defended in a murder trial. Miss Ida Duncan successfully defended a boy of 16 on a murder charge at Gloucester Assizes last week. She eloquently pleaded for the reduction of the charge to one of manslaughter, and won the jury to her view.

Woman Blacksmith.

The lifetime occupation of Mrs. Moore, of Cradley, Staffs, has been forging chains.

An Oxford Scholarship.

Margaret Jones-Bateman, holder of a Winter Williams law scholarship, has been elected to an honorary scholarship by the Delegates of Home Students.

Woman Architect Builds College.

An American architect, Mrs. J. W. Riddle, is building a large College as a Memorial to her parents. She designed Roosevelt House in New York, a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt.

A Woman Whip.

The Conservative Party in the Liverpool City Council have appointed two assistant Whips—one of these being Lady Muspratt, who has for more than six years been a member of this Council.

Labour Women's Conference.

The National Conference of Labour women will be held on May 11th and 12th, at Huddersfield.

Woman Director of Association of Colleges.

Miss Lucia R. Briggs has been appointed President of the American Association of Colleges, and is the first woman to direct the affairs of this Association, which represents more than 300 liberal arts colleges, and is considered one of the chief College Associations in the United States. According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, officers of the Association declared that Miss Briggs was chosen simply because "she had administered in a very effective way a very good woman's college."

Inside or Outside.

President and Mrs. Coolidge received a group of Republican women recently at White House, and spoke, encouraging them to work inside the Party rather than outside. While one may doubt whether the Republican Party will so differ from every other Party as to give its women more than second place, it is easier to see the Party reaping full benefit from an increased army of fine and perfectly docile workers.

Jeypur Adopts Universal Franchise.

The Town Municipality of Jeypur, at its general meeting on January 11th, adopted a new by-law enfranchising every man and woman of the age of 21 and upwards, living within the municipal limits for six months prior to the General Elections. This is the first municipality in Western India to adopt universal franchise.

Votes for French Women.

Last week the Suffrage Commission of the Chamber of Deputies adopted unanimously a proposal favouring the principle of giving the vote to women in France.

Votes for Women in Switzerland.

The Swiss paper, *Le Mouvement Féministe*, describes the efforts being made by the women of the Canton of Bâle to break the opposition. In September, 1926, a widely-signed petition was sent to the General Council, who constantly postpone any reply, and the women's patience is becoming exhausted.

Sons and Daughters.

When the Swiss Government announced a bonus of 100 francs for a tenth son, the owners of tenth daughters indignantly protested. The first said sons were more expensive to educate, and the second said that without daughters it was impossible to perpetuate. The Government has now withdrawn the bonus altogether.

Women in the Danish Parliament.

No increase of women members occurred in the recent Danish elections for Parliament. Three women were re-elected to the Folketing.

Women in the Swedish Second Chamber.

Mrs. Christina Ekberg, Social Democrat, is the seventh woman to be elected to the Swedish Second Chamber.

Princess Juliana studies Law.

Princess Juliana is to attend the University of Leyden to study Dutch Constitutional Law and International Law.

Woman Head of Turkish Bureau.

Bedrie Hanoum has been appointed Head of the Bureau of Hygiene in Turkey. This is the highest post yet given to a woman.

Egyptian Marriage Laws.

The Governmental Commission set up to report on the changes needed in the present Egyptian marriage laws recommends the illegalising of polygamy, except in abnormal circumstances, and subject to the approval of the Religious Court, the cancellation of the law permitting a husband to divorce his wife by what is known as a triple divorce, being a mere verbal repudiation before witnesses, substituting for it civil legislation strictly regulating the causes recognisable for divorce and giving both parties equal rights.

Berlin Women Police.

Six women have passed the examination prescribed for candidates for the newly created women's section of the Berlin criminal police service. All of them have had practical experience in welfare and similar work.

International Presidium.

The Presidium, the inner circle of the Communist International, has admitted the veteran Clara Zetkin, who has been since 1920 in the German Reichstag, the only woman among 25 men members.

THE VOTE.

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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."
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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.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

We are told that it was "amid popular enthusiasm, that not even the bleakness of a February day could chill, the King opened Parliament in State" last Tuesday, but when we read the curious mix-up which formed the text of the King's Speech, we wondered what all the enthusiasm was about. Chinese affairs take up the greatest amount of space. We then learn that there are encouraging signs of improvement in trade and industry, and the hope is expressed that the improvement in the volume of employment will not be arrested by industrial strife. We note that, although women had little to do with industrial strife last year, their volume of employment is by no means improving, and we should like to know what the Government intends to do for unemployed women. The King's Speech refers to the importance of defining and amending the law with reference to industrial disputes, and promises legislation on this subject. We should like to know if such legislation will include the compulsory opening of all trade unions to women on the same terms as men. Bills in connection with agriculture are promised. Will equal pay for women and men in agriculture be among their provisions? Then, again, we are to have a measure dealing with Insurance against Unemployment, the contributors to which will presumably be men and women. But, apparently, women are to "pay without any say" until they are 30, while men will have some "say" through the ballot box at the age of 21! Then follows a regular hotch-potch of matters affecting a few vested interests, but of not the slightest importance or interest to the rest of the community—a Bill to encourage the production and exhibition of British films; proposals for the amendment of the Companies Acts; and proposals for the reorganisation of certain of the Departments in Scotland! The last paragraph tells us: "Other important measures, as the time of the Session permits, will be introduced to your notice."

Once again women are up against the insolent insincerity of politicians. Two years ago an explicit pledge was given by the Government that women should have equal voting rights with men at the next election. All through the Sessions the Prime Minister and other Government spokesmen have consistently refused to give any expression of intention to honour their pledge. It has been pointed out to them on many occasions that the time for fulfilling this pledge is short, and that unless a Bill, enfranchising women on the same terms as men, reaches the Statute Book before next June, women are not likely to have equal voting rights with men at the next election. The last Government succeeded in dishing women of equal voting rights by its continuous delays. Is this Government prepared to use the trickery of delay to defraud women of what should be the constitutional right of every adult citizen, and what was definitely promised to them in 1925? Women are fast losing their faith in the present Government. Why should women be treated so cavalierly? If this Government wishes to retain the confidence of the women of the country it will honour its pledge to women by immediately passing into law a simple franchise measure, granting the Parliamentary vote to women at the age of 21 and on the same terms as men.

EQUAL MARRIAGE.

The new Prayer Book was presented by the Bishops to the Houses of Convocation, sitting at Westminster, last Monday. Among the revisions is a modification of the Marriage Service, placing the woman on an equality with the man, and asking equal declarations from husband and wife. This alternative Book is permissive only. The right of a minister to use the present Prayer Book is absolute, and with regard to the Marriage Service the bride and bridegroom may insist on the use of the old form. We, however, do not anticipate that many brides and bridegrooms will use this right. The word "obey," which was so offensive to many women, has been deleted from the new Book, and the vows taken by the man and woman are the same. According to the new version, the bridegroom, instead of saying "With all my worldly goods I thee endow," will say "And all my worldly goods I with thee share." In the new Book also the crude suggestions respecting the meaning of matrimony are deleted. Women are genuinely pleased that the State Church has brought its Marriage Service more into line with modern ideas as to the equality of the sexes, the equal independent individuality of the man and woman, and that it recognises marriage as an equal partnership between husband and wife. In a fortnight's time the new Prayer Book will be discussed by Convocation; a final draft for approval will be made by the Bishops, to be submitted to the Church Assembly in July. If the Assembly approves of the draft measure, it will be sent on to Parliament for sanction.

MORE ABOUT WOMEN POLICE.

Speaking at Plymouth last week, Lady Astor, M.P., said it was not true that Plymouth did not need women police. Though they had not got them, women must go on fighting for them, because it was an absolute moral necessity. Some people might ask what the question had to do with a Member of Parliament, but she would remind them that she was a citizen of Plymouth, and a ratepayer, and so long as she was that, she was going to work for women police.

The *Birmingham Post* reports that a plea for the appointment of women police was made last week by Mrs. Petty, at a meeting of the Derby Town Council. A report, prepared by the Chairman of the Watch Committee and the Chief Constable, was adverse to the proposal, and the only recommendation of the Committee was that a woman attendant should be engaged at the lock-up when a female was likely to be kept in the cells for a period of more than 24 hours. The opinion contained in the report was that Derby was well conducted as compared with other towns of a similar size, and there was not sufficient work of the particular type to justify the innovation. Mrs. Petty said those concerned with the care of the youth of the town felt that women officers could render great service, particularly with regard to complaints from children and girls, and in dealing with juvenile delinquents. Parental control was less in evidence, and young people spent more time out of their homes, and it was essential that these modern difficulties should be countered by modern methods. Alderman Laurie, Chairman of the Watch Committee, replied that the Committee were prepared to train the wives of some of the policemen to take statements and inquire into cases regarding women and children. An amendment, requesting the Council to reconsider the question, was carried by 28 votes to 20.

OUR PRESIDENT.

We are exceedingly sorry to say that our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, after a delightful tour, was taken seriously ill on her return voyage from India. We rejoice that she is now well on her way to recovery, but she has not yet returned to London, and some of her first speaking engagements have had to be rearranged. We all send her our heartfelt good wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

THE MAKING OF CITIZENS.

The Bethnal Green Board of Guardians are showing the world that a Poor Law Institution need be no worse than any other institution, that it may be so much the better as to reflect happiness on all concerned. Two and a half years ago the Board appointed a new matron over their 400 Poor Law children—a new matron with new ideas who, in that brief time, has shown that she is one of the few who, having ideals, yet lacks nothing of the practical ability to translate those ideals into action. Miss Payne, the matron of the Bethnal Green Children's Homes, found the Homes divided by age groups into Houses, each in charge of a House Mother. A House Mother might have from 40 to 56 children in her charge, only out of her care during school hours. She had no help, and one cannot wonder that she was obliged to exercise very rigid discipline to maintain order. Order obtained by such means from youth resulted often in unnatural restraint and repression of natural instincts, leading to sullenness, distrust, and even hatred of authority. Miss Payne could tell of a boy who, whenever he saw her, hurled some missile at her. Caught and questioned sympathetically, the lad burst forth with a string of grievances, magnified by lack of outlet to dimensions which only violence could appease. That boy and all the other boys and girls at present under the sway of Miss Payne can now be seen happy and normal. The House Mothers now have sufficient help to enable them to be real mothers, knowing each of their children, tightening discipline here, easing the bonds there. A walk round the Homes shows in room after room, from the important girl captain to a mite in a cot, the faces of children at ease in their surroundings. This has not been achieved without ups and downs. The initial slackening of the hard discipline led to licence. As a joyous one shouted, "I can do what I like now!" and proceeded with his comrades to do as many as he could of the things previously forbidden. Of this licence the children themselves became tired, and gradually in House after House Miss Payne has found it possible to introduce an up-to-date form of self-government. Occasionally word goes round that this work is making the rates go up, but the majority of the Guardians are clear that, although the cost of the Homes is larger than 2½ years ago, the gain in fine young citizens coming out from within its doors is far greater than can be counted in cash.

WOMEN IN THE PULPIT.

Dr. Barnes, the Bishop of Birmingham, in reply to a letter received from the Secretary of the English Church Union protesting "against the invitation given to women to occupy Church pulpits, as has been recently done in the Parish Church, Birmingham, as being contrary to the order and discipline of the Church," and against the admission of Nonconformists and other unlicensed preachers to the pulpits of the Church, refers the Secretary to the resolution passed by the Lambeth Conference of 1920, which states: "In view of the prospect of reunion, a bishop is justified in occasionally authorising ministers who are not episcopally ordained to preach in Churches within his diocese." Dr. Barnes adds: "I would point out that this resolution is not confined to ministers who are men. In some Christian communions, such as the Salvation Army, women, equally with men, are ministers. I do not see how, without repudiating the authority of the Lambeth Conference, it is possible that objection could be taken were representative women, such as Mrs. Bramwell Booth or Miss Royden, to preach in Anglican Churches with the permission of the bishop."

Following the sending of this letter, Mrs. Bramwell Booth gave a pulpit address at the Birmingham Parish Church dinner-hour service. She drew a crowded congregation, and expressed her gratitude for being allowed to preach in this Church.

At present the Anglican Church will not sanction the ordination of women. Congregationalists have an efficient system of college preparation for women to enter the ministry, and have several regularly ordained women, among them being Miss Mary G. Collins, trained at New College, formerly a journalist, and minister since 1923 at North Bow, London; Mrs. Constance Mary Coltman, M.A. (Oxon), and B.D. (London), minister at Cowley Road Church, Oxford, jointly with her husband, the Rev. Claud M. Coltman, and Miss M. O. Paulden, minister of Berkeley Street, Liverpool, since 1919.

Wesleyans are divided on the subject of women in the ministry; English and Scottish Presbyterians are against admitting women to the ministry. There is nothing to prevent women preaching in Primitive Methodist Churches, but no women have presented themselves in recent years.

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.

The *Outlook* of February 5th has an article by Crystal Eastman, called "Women, Rights, and Privileges." In this Miss Eastman shows how women are not only still asking for "rights," but are beginning to study more closely some of their "privileges." Not only in England, but in many other countries are these privileges being questioned, especially those which are dressed as protection. Miss Eastman shows how in every case where protection has been applied to woman's work, the result has been to make her employment more difficult. In Britain, in the United States, in the Scandinavian countries, in all the foremost industrial countries, the restriction of woman's labour, ostensibly to protect her health, while leaving man's labour free, has been tried and is being tried. As Miss Eastman says: "This sudden concern for the health of women when they set out to earn their living in competition with men, seems a little suspicious to the feminist." So suspicious does it seem that feminists the world over are resisting its increase, new national groups are forming for the purpose, and an international association is likely to come into being as well, in order to co-ordinate and to give greater effect to the nationals. The work of this international group will mainly be directed to countering the protective proposals which emerge from the International Labour Office.

A VIENNESE WOMAN INVENTOR.

We have received the following from Gisela Urban, of Vienna. A young Viennese scholar, Dr. Franziska Seidl, invented an improvement of the telephone. Working as an assistant in the First Physical Institute of the University of Vienna, she found that a self-sounding crystal produces the human voice exactly and makes hearing more agreeable. So she constructed a telephone without metal plates, but with a self-sounding crystal. This invention is important, not only for the development of telephone construction, but also for other spheres of physical work. Scientists appreciate this invention very highly, and industry is looking for methods of utilising it.

Dr. Franziska Seidl is a young woman, with a delicately rounded face which does not suggest that she is a scientific personality. Between the windows of her studio the writing table, with highly piled up books and papers, is placed. The glass cupboards on the wall contain a mass of physical instruments. In the next room, the workshop of the young scientist, there are experimental apparatus, among them the big accumulator battery with which Dr. Seidl carried out her electrical experiments, the result of which forms the basis of her invention.

She finds poetry and beauty in her work. This poetry and beauty reveal themselves to her in the new wonders with which physical science continually enriches mankind. Women can be proud of the work and success and idealism of the young inventor.

PROTECTION FOR WOMEN?

An Associated Press dispatch, quoted in *Equal Rights*, is as follows:—

“SEA TELEPHONE SEX WAR.
MEN WANT JOBS, THOUGH GIRLS' VOICES
CROSS OCEAN BETTER.

Girls will not monopolise the 'Hello!' business at this end of the transatlantic radiophone if the men operators have their say. After much research work, the experts decided the girls had better voice qualities. The men contend they are perfectly competent to handle switchboards under the new Order, and, anyway, girls are barred from nightwork by union regulation.”

There are women who fight for these protections, “no nightwork for women,” “special legislation for women,” asserting that such protection never entails loss of employment. The final sentence of the above paragraph should shake their belief.

WHY RAILWAY CARRIAGES SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR WOMEN.

At the Folkestone Petty Sessions last week a man was summoned for having, on December 23rd, whilst in a railway carriage on the Southern Railway, unlawfully interfered with the comfort of a young woman passenger. The complainant was 21 years of age, and a schoolmistress, and stated that defendant entered her compartment, forced conversation with her, came to sit next to her, annoyed her by leaning his hands on her knees, and was a general nuisance. The defendant denied the charges, but the Chairman of the Bench (on which was a woman magistrate) said the Bench considered the case against the defendant was sufficiently proved, and he would be fined £2 and 1/2 4s. 6d. costs.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND INDECENT PUBLICATIONS AND FILMS.

A Bill for the prohibition of indecent and obscene publications has been drafted by the Czechoslovak Government. It deals with all kinds of indecent publications and pictures, including films, and prohibits the sale to persons under 18 of any literature likely to jeopardise their moral development or to excite their imagination.

THE WHOLE OF THE EVIDENCE.

“THE JURY MUST SEE IT.”

In the recent Hesketh Pearson case, which came before the London Sessions, a volume with illustrations was passed up to the Chairman (Sir Robert Wallace) by Sir Patrick Hastings, who asked whether the jury must be shown it. The Chairman, after examining the pages complained of, said: “I hope nobody is going to show this or have it read in open Court, but I think the jury must see it.” This, and also two other volumes put forward by the defence (we quote from *The Times*) were subsequently shown to all except the two women members of the jury. We protest most strongly against women jurors being treated differently from men when they are in Court to consider the whole of the evidence. It seems to us that it is a travesty of British justice to keep any part of the evidence from any member of the jury—man or woman. Women go into the jury box on exactly the same terms as men, and it is both their right and their duty to examine all the evidence in the case. Surely it is time that Judges and Records and Magistrates remembered that women on the jury are not there as women, but as members of the jury. There is nothing degrading to any member of the jury in hearing and examining the whole evidence in any case; but it is a degrading thing that women members should be treated differently from the men members, required to form a reasoned opinion on what has occurred, but prevented from weighing evidence that is considered essential to the formation of that opinion, and that they should have to listen to men saying what they would allow a decent woman to see.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Story of a Sub-Pioneer. By Sara M. Algeo. (Snow & Farnham Co., Providence, Rhode Island.) (Can be obtained through this Office.)

The author of this handsome volume calls herself modestly “A Sub-Pioneer,” but the prefix might well have been dropped, for indeed she belongs to the Apostolic succession. From 1907, when she helped to found the College Equal Suffrage League, till the proud day when she assisted at the Final Ratification in August, 1920, she has been a staunch champion of Women's Freedom, and her work is not yet done. Still in the prime of life and vigour, one feels sure that her fellow-citizens will yet send her to Washington with flying colours as Senator Sara M. Algeo.

Yet the book is far more than an autobiography. True, the author tells us about her four years at Boston University, her eight years of High School teaching, and her happy married life, full of strenuous work, along with her husband, in the Suffrage and other good causes. But she gives also a detailed history of the Suffrage struggle in the State of Rhode Island and a general view of the whole movement in the United States. As one reads these closely printed pages and studies the faces of the women who made history in the U.S.A., one realises what a tremendous amount of work had to be done before a United America, solid for the political emancipation of women, became an accomplished fact. In every State in the Union the struggle had to be waged, and repeated finally in Congress itself, before American women won the proud position which is theirs to-day.

Famous figures in the Suffrage Movement flit across these pages. One of the earliest is Harriet Beecher Stowe, and it is interesting to note that the movement for women's emancipation grew out of the movement for the freeing of the slaves. When the International Anti-Slavery Committee, sitting in London, refused to admit the two women delegates from America, they all unwittingly sowed the seeds of an even bigger agitation, which was destined to have still more momentous results. Susan B. Antony, Alice Stone Blackwell, Lucy Stone, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, Jane Addams, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, all are names familiar to us, but here we see the women themselves, working for the emancipation of their own countrywomen, before they were known elsewhere. And we must not forget Professor Lester Ward, the famous psychologist and feminist, whose teaching inspired so many of them, and others besides. Mrs. Algeo says that the hardest sacrifice she ever made was to give up her chance of studying for the Ph.D. at Brown University under Prof. Lester Ward, in order to continue her active work in the Suffrage movement!

All through the book one gains an impression of enthusiasm, efficiency and sheer hard work, which cannot but prove inspiring to Suffragists in our own country, and the story of the Pioneers in America should help to nerve us for the final struggle in our own day.

W. M. S.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

PUBLIC MEETING

(Organised by the Hampstead Branch)

at

THE SMALL TOWN HALL,
HAVERSTOCK HILL, N.W.3,

Thursday, February 17th,

at 8 p.m.

See Notice on next page.

Women's Freedom League.

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

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, February 11th, at 5.30 p.m.
Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144,
High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, February 11th, at 8.15 p.m.
King's Speech. Meeting at the Minerva Club,
Brunswick Square, W.C.1, informal dinner
at 7.30 p.m. Tickets 3/6. Mr. Pethick-
Lawrence has kindly promised to deputise
for the President.

Saturday, February 12th, at 10 a.m.
National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144,
High Holborn, W.C.1.



DARE TO
BE FREE.

Thursday, February 17th, at 8 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Hampstead Branch. Public
Meeting in the Small Town Hall, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3. Speakers:
Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, Mrs. Castell (Conservative and Unionist
Women's Advisory Committee), Miss L. Pierotti (National Union
of Women Teachers), Miss Myra Sadd Brown, Mrs. Joyce Pollard
(League of the Church Militant), Mr. Joseph Clayton, F.R.H.S.
(St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance), Miss B. Godwin (Associa-
tion of Women Clerks and Secretaries). Chair: Dr. E. Knight.

Monday, February 21st, at 3.30 p.m.
“Fair” Sub-Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, March 7th, at 3 p.m.
Hampstead Branch. Members' Meeting at 16, Danning Road, N.W.3
(by kind permission of the Misses Berry).

Tuesday, March 8th, at 7.30 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Mid-London Branch. Public
Meeting at the Central Library, Holloway Road, N. Speakers:
Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, A. S. Comyns Carr, Esq., K.C., Dr. Ethel
Benham. Chair: Mrs. Mustard.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, February 23rd, at 4 p.m.
Bexhill Branch. Whist Drive at Albany Hotel, Lea Road.
Wednesday, February 23rd, at 7 p.m.
Portsmouth Branch. Whist Drive, Unitarian Schoolroom. Tickets
1/6.

Wednesday, February 23rd, at 7.30 p.m.
Ashford Branch. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence at “Dr. Wilks' Memorial
Hall,” Ashford.

Thursday, February 24th, at 8 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Hastings Branch. Public
Meeting in the Ball-room at the Queen's Hotel. Speaker:
Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.

Friday, February 25th, at 3 p.m.
Deal and Walmer Branch. Public Meeting at 35, Victoria Road,
Deal. Speakers: Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, J.P., L.L.A., on “What the
Vote has done for Women.”

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, February 12th, at 7.45 p.m.
Edinburgh Branch. Public Meeting in Philosophical Institution,
4, Queen Street. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Lady Dobbie.

Wednesday, February 16th, at 7.45 p.m.
Glasgow Branch. Public Meeting in McLellan Galleries. Speaker:
Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss Eunice Murray.

Tuesday, February 22nd, at 7.45 p.m.
Dunoon Branch. Public meeting at the Masonic Hall. Speaker:
Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Councillor Mrs. M. S. MacPherson.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, February 12th, at 3 p.m.
The Speech Club. Poetry. “The Ode,” Miss Austen Page; “The
Ballad,” Miss Howells; “The Sonnet,” Miss Solomon. Tickets 2/-.

Wednesday, February 23rd, at 3 p.m.
Council of East Kent Women Magistrates, at the Guildhall, Canterbury.
Speaker: Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, J.P., L.L.A., on “The Work of
Justices.” Chairman: Mrs. Jason Keir, J.P.

Wednesday, February 23rd, at 8 p.m.
Equal Political Rights Campaign. St. Joan's Social and Political
Alliance. Fulham Town Hall. Meeting on “Equal Franchise.”
Speakers: Mr. Victor Duval, Councillor Miss H. A. Packer, Mr.
G. Falmer, Miss Gladys Waldron. Chair: Miss F. Butler-Bowden.

Thursday, February 24th, at 3 p.m.
Dover, Friends' Meeting House. Speaker: Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, J.P.,
L.L.A., on “Votes on the same terms as Men.”

Thursday, February 24th, at 7.45 p.m.
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Whist Drive at Minerva
Cafe.

Thursday, March 3rd, at 8 p.m.
National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Mass Meeting on
Equal Franchise. Speakers: Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Miss
Margaret Bondfield, M.P. Chair: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P.,
C.C., M.A. Tickets 5/-, 2/6, 1/-, 6d.

Monday, March 7th.
Meeting on “Equal Franchise,” at Brixton Road Branch of Women's
Co-operative Guild. Speaker: Miss Reeves.

BRANCH NOTES.

ASHFORD.

Those of us who were present at the Hempsted Street Hall had a great treat in listening to Mrs. Bidwell's delightful reading of “Dr. Marigold,” by Charles Dickens. Mrs. Miles, who presided, gave a graphic account of the “Wireless” version of the debate on “The Woman of Leisure,” held at the Kingsway Hall. Members, please remember that Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence is speaking at “Dr. Wilks' Memorial Hall,” Ashford, on Wednesday, February 23rd, at 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Miles in the chair.

BEXHILL.

A successful Whist Drive was held at the Albany Hotel, Lea Road, recently. We all enjoyed it so much that we prevailed on Miss Skinner to give another on Wednesday, February 23rd, at 4 p.m.

PORTSMOUTH.

A Whist Drive has been arranged for Wednesday, February 23rd, at the Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street, at 7 o'clock. Tickets, 1s. 6d. each. Arrangements are in hand for an Equal Franchise meeting, about the middle of March, at which we hope Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence will speak. All particulars will be announced later.

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

DUNOON.

Last week the Provost of Dunoon presided over a large Women's Freedom League meeting, held in the Masonic Hall, at which Miss Eunice Murray was the principal speaker.

The Provost said that, although he had agreed to take the Chair, and had always been in favour of the enfranchisement of women, he was not sure that he would agree with everything the speakers had to say, but was assured by Miss Murray that he would be quite sure by the time she had finished. She said he was obviously a sensible man. Miss Murray spoke of the days when women were voteless, when even higher education was closed to them; of the first woman doctor, of women pioneers of all kinds, leading up to the present time, when some women over 30 have the vote, “as a reward for the excellent work the young women did during the war.” (?) She mentioned the logical sex. She spoke of the professions that are now open to women, and some that are not, notably, the ministry, and prophesied the speedy collapse of all barriers. She proposed the resolution that “This meeting, organised by the Women's Freedom League, calls upon the Government immediately to pass a Bill, giving Votes to Women on the same terms, and at the same age, as they are or may be granted to men,” which Mrs. MacPherson seconded, and the Provost put to the meeting. It passed unanimously. Copies are being sent to the Prime Minister and the local M.P.

Mrs. MacPherson, a great advocate of the temperance cause, urged those women who have votes to use them, saying that if all who believed in “No-Licence” had taken the trouble to vote for it, Dunoon would now be “dry.”

Later ex-Bailie Miller proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, saying that it was with some trepidation that he had entered the hall that night, but now he realised that his fears were groundless, and Miss Murray patted him in approbation.

Whilst proposing a vote of thanks to the speakers, the organiser announced that another meeting, to appoint office bearers, etc., would be held as soon as possible, at which it is hoped Miss Nina Boyle will speak.

On Tuesday, February 22nd, at 7.45 p.m., there will be another Public Meeting in the Masonic Hall, at which Mrs. M. D. MacPherson will preside, and Miss Nina Boyle speak on “Winter on the Volga.” After Miss Nina Boyle's speech and a few remarks on the Women's Freedom League, tea will be served, and names of new members obtained. Tea over, the meeting will be declared closed to the general public, members being asked to stay behind so that committee and office bearers may be appointed, and plans for the future of the Dunoon Branch discussed.

(Organiser) LILLIAN LENTON.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

“The Leisured Woman.”

Dear Madam,—Your report in this week's issue of THE VOTE of the recent debate on “the leisured woman” gives food for much thought. May I put in a plea for the leisured woman? Many women are leisured through no fault of their own. That is to say, those responsible for their upbringing have failed to see to it that they should be trained to take their share in the work of the world. Does it follow that these leisured women should be a menace? I think not. Given the will to do their best, I believe the way still lies open to them to do good work in the world, but let each one take care that that work shall be in the truest sense for the well-being of their neighbours and themselves. And this applies in exactly the same way to the leisured woman and the leisured man. At the same time, I am convinced that definite and well-chosen work, for which there should be adequate training in the case of women and men alike, is the ideal towards which we should aim. And when women are placed on a political equality with men and thus obtain equal opportunities, the greatest step will have been taken towards realising this ideal.

Yours faithfully,

ADA E. FARMER.

FRIDAY,
FEB. 11,
1927.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, February 13th, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture, N. C. Len, Esq., on "Brahmo Somaj." 6.30. Maude Royden: "Simplicity."

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