

THE VOTE.
DEC. 9, 1927.

“OUR FLAPPERS.”

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVIII. No. 946. (Registered at the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 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.



By kind permission of the Proprietors of "Punch."

“Flapper” is the popular catchword for an adult woman worker, aged 21 to 30, when it is a question of giving her the vote under the same conditions as men of the same age.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman Lawyer's Success.

A sentence of three years' penal servitude and 20 strokes of the "cat" was passed at the Old Bailey recently on a man who had brutally assaulted a young woman. Mrs. Helena Normanton prosecuted on behalf of the young woman. The Recorder (Sir Ernest Wild, K.C.) described the man as "a human satyr."

British Association Presidents.

The Sectional Presidents for the meeting of the British Association next year, at Glasgow, in September, have been announced, with the exception of Section F (Economic Science and Statistics). No women are so appointed.

A New School for Girls.

Among the provisions made by alteration of the apportionment of the Trust Funds of Alleyn's College is one to establish a school for girls, of the same standing as the existing Dulwich College for Boys, under the same Foundation.

Girton Award.

The Gamble Prize for 1927 has been awarded to Miss D. S. Russell. The Gamble Prize is given annually to a Girton student for an essay on a subject connected with mathematics or science.

French Poet Honoured.

Madame Leroy-Denis has been awarded the *Prix de Baye* by the Society of French Poets.

Women's Suffrage in France.

The Ligue des Droits des Femmes held its Annual Conference last Sunday. Three subjects, in the following order, were on the agenda:—Nationality of married women; How to combat the high cost of living; Votes for women.

French Postal, Telegraph & Telephone Inequality.

A fresh injustice has been ordained in the postal, telegraph and telephone service in France. Owing to the rise of the cost of living, an increase in salary becomes payable to the employees in this Department. It works out at 1,150 francs for men, and 24 francs for women.

Frenchwoman Chemical Engineer.

Mademoiselle Paris is to read a paper upon the scientific and technical progress of women at the Congress of Industrial Chemistry.

Swiss Feminism.

The *Mouvement Féministe*, whose editor is Mademoiselle Gourd, and the manager Mademoiselle Micol, celebrates, in the current number, its 15th anniversary, surveying its own past and the past of the women's movement in Switzerland, and taking courage from that survey for a happy future.

League of Women Voters.

The Georgia League of Women Voters by one vote postponed, until 1928, consideration of the proposal made by their President that they should become the League of Voters, to include men.

Financial Prize won by Woman.

An American financial weekly offered a \$1,000 prize for the best article on investing \$100,000 for a business man. Over 700 articles were sent in, and a woman, Hazel Freeman, was adjudged the winner.

American Woman Civil Engineer.

The American Society of Civil Engineers has been in existence for 75 years, and has only now admitted a woman, Miss Eaves, practising in New York, to full membership. It did admit women to junior membership with no voting power.

Woman State Councillor.

The Massachusetts Governor's Council, which holds control over the Governor in expenditure, appointments, etc., has, for the first time, among its eight members, a woman—Mrs. E. M. Andrews, a business woman of Boston, with large experience of legislative welfare work.

Negro Women's Clubs.

The Federation of Negro Women's Clubs in Mississippi have subscribed \$7,000 to provide homes for adults, orphans, and delinquents of their own race in Mississippi. Over 100 acres of land adjoining a main road have been bought for market gardening and farming.

NEWS FROM INDIA.

The United Provinces removes Sex Disqualification.

The Members of the Legislative Council of the United Provinces have removed the sex disqualification which prevented women from entering the Council. The motion to allow them to be nominated or elected to the Council was moved by the Deputy-President. It received hearty support from all sections of the House, and was adopted *unanimously*.

Bombay Early Marriage Bill.

In the next Session of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Mr. Jadhav proposes to move three Bills—one to prevent early marriages of girls below 14; another for the compulsory registration of marriages; and a third to restrict the right of adoption by widows.

Indian Women's Protest against the Statutory Commission.

The following letter has been received from the Women's Indian Association:—

Madam,—The womanhood of India feels deeply the injustice done to India by the composition of the Statutory Commission, for the following three reasons:—

(1) The women, as much as the men, of India feel the insult of the entire exclusion of Indians from the Commission. The argument of his Excellency the Viceroy that Indians would be too biased in favour of self-government to give the subject impartial judgment, and the implication that the British members of the Commission are unbiassed, seems to women to be mere sophistry. The wearer of the shoe knows best where

it pinches. Women believe that an international understanding will only fairly be arrived at when both Indians and British serve as equals on the same Commission of Inquiry and Recommendation.

(2) Indian women protest that there has not been an Indian woman appointed among the personnel of the Commission. As we believe that the interests of Indians cannot be justly ensured by a Commission of British only, so we believe that the interests of the womanhood of India cannot be fully ensured by a Commission of men only; and an Indian woman could easily be selected from the many who are now serving in responsible public capacities.

(3) Apart from the exclusion of Indians from the Commission, Indian women protest against the non-inclusion of a British woman, particularly at this time when Miss Mayo's false generalisations about the womanhood of India are being made political material antagonistic to India's claim for Home Rule. Indian women have full political rights in advance of British women, and an Englishwoman should be appointed to inquire into the conditions and problems of the fully enfranchised woman-half of the Indian nation.

The Women's Indian Association therefore calls for a revision of the personnel of the Statutory Commission. It cannot see its way to co-operate with it in its present composition.

S. MUTHULAKSHMI, *Vice-President*.

DOROTHY JINARAJADASA, *Vice-President*,

M. E. COUSINS, *Hon. Sec.*

IN PARLIAMENT.

Parliamentary Franchise.

MAJOR KINDERSLEY (U., Hitchin) asked the Home Secretary whether he can state, assuming the existing Parliamentary franchise to be extended to women upon the same terms as men, how many of the electors would be males and how many females? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: On the basis of the most recent available figures, it has been estimated that the total electorate for Great Britain will approximately comprise 12,250,000 men and 14,500,000 women. MR. MONTAGUE (Lab., W. Islington): Does the right hon. Gentleman not think that the good old English words, "men" and "women" would be preferable in questions of this character? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The hon. Member will see that I have used the good old English words. SIR FREDERICK HALL (U., Dulwich): Assuming that the proposals with regard to women of 21 are carried, we shall have about 2,000,000 more women voting? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: If my hon. and gallant Friend had listened carefully to my answer, he would have found that there would be 2,500,000 more. VISCOUNTESS ASTOR (U., Sutton, Plymouth): May I ask the Home Secretary whether he thinks justice has anything to do with sex? Will he make any difference? MR. SPEAKER: I do not think that arithmetic has any sex. [*We think arithmetic is not a strong point of either the Home Secretary or some other politicians.*]

MR. WARDLAW-MILNE (U., Kidderminster) asked the Prime Minister whether he will consider the advisability of including in any Bill that provides for votes for women at 21 years of age Clauses ensuring that no person in receipt of any sort of public relief shall be entitled to vote? THE PRIME MINISTER: As I have repeatedly announced, it would be premature to make any statement on this subject at present. MR. WARDLAW-MILNE: Is the Prime Minister aware that there is probably more demand for the reform stated in the second part of this question than for that stated in the first part? [*No reply was given.*]

Training Centres.

LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK (U., South Nottingham) asked the Minister of Labour how many adult workers are receiving training, under the Ministry of Labour scheme, for alternative employment either at home or overseas? MR. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour): The number of unemployed men over 18 now in training for alternative employment either at home or overseas is 1,083. [*Apparently no unemployed women come under this scheme. We wonder why?*]

LORD H. CAVENDISH-BENTINCK: Is it the intention of the Government to increase the grants to these training centres in the coming year? MR. BETTERTON: I am not in a position at this time to answer that question.

Traffic in Women and Children (Report).

COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when the Second Section of the League of Nations Report on the Traffic in Women and Children will be published? SIR AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Unless for any reason the Council of the League decides otherwise, Part II of the Report will be published immediately after the meeting of the Council of the League of Nations, which takes place this month. COL. DAY: Can the right hon. Gentleman say why this Second Section has been suppressed so long? SIR A. CHAMBERLAIN: I take exception to the word "suppressed." The Second Section dealt with the facts concerning the inquiries held in particular countries, and it was thought a matter of ordinary courtesy to the Governments of these countries to give them an opportunity of making any observations they want before that part of the Report was published. I myself, as *rapporteur*, proposed an earlier publication than will now take place, but it was pointed out by another member of the Council, who represents a State not immediately concerned, that some of the Powers

who were concerned would not have time to reply if that earlier date was fixed, and accordingly the present arrangement was made by the Council. LT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Lab., Central Hull): Is it not a fact that we have a perfectly clean record in the matter? SIR A. CHAMBERLAIN: There is nothing in Part I of the Report, which has been published, or in Part II, which reflects on the conduct of the administration of this country.

Probation Officers.

MR. SHEPHERD (Lab., Darlington) asked the Home Secretary the number of probation officers appointed during the year 1926-27; age and sex of these officers; and character of their qualifications? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Since July 1st, 1926, 19 men and 10 women, between the ages of 25 and 35, have been newly appointed as full-time probation officers. They were selected on the ground of previous experience in welfare and social work. I hope the hon. Member will not press me as to the individual ages of the women.

House of Lords.

COMMANDER KENWORTHY asked the Prime Minister whether he now intends to introduce legislation next year for the alteration of the constitution of, or other reform of, the House of Lords? THE PRIME MINISTER: I would refer the hon. and gallant Member to the answer which I gave on November 21st, in reply to a question by the Member for Thanet (Mr. Harmsworth). [*This reply was that the Prime Minister was not in a position to make any statement on the subject which is under consideration.*]

Peersesses.

COMMANDER KENWORTHY asked the Prime Minister whether, in considering legislation to equalise the political position of men and women, he is considering the position, as hereditary legislators, of peersesses in their own right? THE PRIME MINISTER: No, sir.

IMPERTINENCE.

Once again we have to call attention to the impertinence of local authorities, elected and financed by all ratepayers, in taking it upon themselves to make the private affairs of citizens a public test of their suitability for employment. The greater impertinence is that this interfering with private affairs when considering public appointments is only indulged in where women are concerned. A man, applying for employment under a local authority, does not have to explain whether he is bachelor, husband, widower, or even bigamist, although, no doubt, if he is notoriously ill-living in his private life, the fact would be taken into consideration, not by public inquiry or statement, but more or less in confidence by the members in whose hands the choice lies. In the case of women, the inquiry into their private affairs is made public, and on whether the applicant is spinster, wife, or widow, may depend her employment. The Salford City Council has upon it one, Alderman Bretherton, who is sponsoring a motion to the following effect: "That all departments should be instructed to discharge all married women cleaners and give preference to poor widows"; a motion exhibiting that male assumption that widows must necessarily be worse off than wives, a belief based on their own self-valuation, rather than upon fact.

Tea and Politics-up-to-date.

Wednesday, December 14th.

Tea from 3.30.

Speaker: Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE, at 4.30

In the Smoking Room, for

OUR LAST CHRISTMAS SALE,

we shall have a display of books, toys, and many useful and fancy articles, from 4 till 7.

All members are urged to come and bring friends, hear our views, and complete their Christmas presents.

THE VOTE.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
printing, and merchandise, etc.

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

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.

RAISING THE AGE OF MARRIAGE.

In this country the legal age of marriage for girls is 12, and for boys 14 years. It is true that there are very few girls or boys in Great Britain married under the age of 16; but, as in China and Egypt, the marriage age for girls is 16 and 18 for men; and in India no marriage can be legally consummated before the girl is 13; it is generally felt that the legal age for young people in this country should be 16. At the annual meeting of the National Council of Women, held in Bournemouth last October, a resolution, proposed by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, urging the Government to raise the marriage age in Great Britain was passed with acclamation; and, on November 8th, the Home Secretary received a deputation (organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship) of delegates of women's organisations, on which the Women's Freedom League was represented by Dr. Knight, which pressed for the raising of the age of marriage. To that deputation the Home Secretary replied that he was willing to bring in a Government measure if women's organisations could agree as to its chief provisions. The possible provisions of such a Bill were fully discussed at the recent Executive Committee meeting of the Women's Freedom League, and the conclusions unanimously arrived at were: (1) That the legal age of marriage should be raised to 16 years without exception; (2) that no marriage under 16 should be legal; (3) that fraudulent marriages under that age should be void. The Committee felt strongly that in marriage there should be full liberty of choice between the parties; and that under the age of 16 it was difficult to maintain that there was a possibility of free choice with the necessary knowledge of all that that free choice implied. The Committee recognised that it might be the parents' wish that a girl about to become a mother under the age of 16 should be married to the father of her unborn child, but they could not agree that a girl so young should be tied for life to that man. If both decided later to marry, they could do so, and under the present law the child could then be legitimised; but the girl herself should be the one to be considered, and she herself should have the right to decide whether or not she should marry that man. A great deal has been said about the sanctity of marriage, but it is idle to suppose at this time of day that this will count for much if one of the contracting parties is subject to duress of any kind. As we said above, there are very few marriages in this country under the age of 16—since 1924, eight girls were married at 14 years and 77 at 15. In our own view, these few too early marriages could easily be avoided by a simple law declaring that 16 shall be the legal age of marriage in Great Britain, and that all marriages under that age are illegal and void. Clergymen and registrars should be responsible for seeing that this law is carried out—they should be able to insist on the production of a birth certificate if they had the slightest doubt of the age of either or both the contracting parties. We do not see that any exceptions should be provided for, or any loopholes suggested for evading this law.

WHEN WOMEN'S BRAINS ARE "BEST."

It is curious how some men continue to cling to the old idea that they can settle everything concerning women without consulting them. From the *Irish Times* we learn that the Irish Free State Government recently appointed a Committee to consider what steps should be taken to relieve unemployment. In the Irish Free State, as in this country, there are, unhappily, a great number of unemployed women; but no woman was placed on this Committee. Miss Louie Bennett, therefore, on behalf of the Irish Women Workers' Union, sent a letter to the Minister of Industry and Commerce urging that this Committee should include at least two women—one to represent rural, and the other urban interests. With the pomposity which seems to be peculiar to Ministers of Labour or Industry (Do we not remember that our own Minister of Labour, when asked to appoint women on the Juveniles' Committee "to inquire into and advise upon the public system of education in England and Wales in relation to the requirements of trade and industry," because there were practically as many unemployed girls as unemployed boys, told us that, in questions concerning our own sex, he could only select those people whom he thought had the "best brains" to deal with them, and promptly appointed six men and one woman when we thought there should have been an equal number of women and men?), the Minister of Industry's Secretary replied that the Government had decided that the Committee should not be chosen with a view to giving representation to different sections of the unemployed, but that there should be selected persons with an intimate knowledge, not only of labour, but of general conditions in the country, and a Committee selected in this way would, it was felt (*but not by unemployed women, we presume*), be able to give adequate consideration to the problem of unemployment as it affects women. Needless to say, this reply did not satisfy the Irish Women Workers' Union, and Miss Bennett sent another letter to the Minister stating that her Committee had instructed her to convey to him their deep indignation at this decision, and added: "They reiterate their conviction that the problem of unemployment as it affects women cannot receive adequate consideration from a Committee which lacks the point of view of women on a subject of vital importance to them, and lacks also the specialised knowledge and interest which only a woman could give to the problem of unemployment as it affects women." Miss Bennett further said that her Committee were also extremely indignant at the implication contained in the letter from the Ministry that no women could be found in Ireland who had as intimate a knowledge of general conditions in the country as the men now selected for the Unemployment Committee, and added that such a point of view certainly betrayed a strangely inadequate knowledge on the part of the Government of the intellectual resources of the country! We fully share Miss Bennett's point of view; and we suspect that the result of the findings of this masculine expert Committee, with its boasted "intimate knowledge" of things, will amount in the end to—nothing, exactly as the findings of our Minister of Labour's "best brains" Committee has done.

MISS RUTHERFORD AT GLASGOW.

Last month we recorded that at a meeting of Glasgow University General Council, Miss Helen Rutherford headed the list at an election for two vacant assessorships on the University Court. She was the first woman candidate for this office, and on a show of hands she received 184 votes, Dr. David Murray 168, and Dr. Freland Fergus 85. The defeated candidate, Dr. Fergus, demanded a postal vote, as he had a right to do; and the men's voting strength being twice as great as the women's, the result was a foregone conclusion. Dr. Murray went in first, and Miss Rutherford came last.

TEA AND POLITICS UP-TO-DATE.

On Wednesday, November 30th, our Tea and Politics-up-to-date was held as usual at the Minerva Club. Our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, presided, and spoke of three outstanding features, during the week, in the political world, of particular interest to members of the Women's Freedom League.

First, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence dealt with the parts of the Unemployment Bill which directly affected women; as the reduction of benefit for all under 21, where, she pointed out, a boy or girl between 18 and 21 often earned a full adult wage, was, when on the unemployment benefit, to be classed as a juvenile, with juvenile benefit of 8s. Further, the Blanesburgh Report, while recommending the reduction of juvenile benefit from 15s. to 8s., had bracketed the recommendation with the provision of training for a trade and with one hot meal a day during such training. The Bill, as drafted, reduced the benefit, but omitted the coincident training and hot meal. Certain concessions had been made for training boys in the mining districts, but it was pleaded that such training might necessitate the removal of boys to towns or other districts, where facilities for training were available, and to remove girls was impossible, therefore girls were not to receive training. In the House, Lady Astor had protested that it was perfectly easy to move girls and to house them in hostels and similar institutions, but this was rejected. Dealing with the 7s. benefit to a man for a wife, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence said that Miss Wilkinson had called this an insult, in line with the prevalent inadequate recognition of the value to the State of the wife of a working man. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence then drew attention to the transference of the financial burden from taxes to rates, urging that if the necessary funds were supplied from taxation the chief tax supply would be the income tax, which, broadly, was a tax upon profits; whereas, if supplied from rates, all would be charged, whether doing good business or bad. She added that in districts where business was bad unemployment benefits would correspondingly increase, and with them the rates, thus heavily burdening those already in difficulties. On this point, she said, some Conservative Members had voted against the Government, and she found they represented thickly populated northern industrial districts where unemployment was great, business not flourishing, population dense, and rates already almost unbearable.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence's second point was the constitution of the Indian Statutory Commission formed to deal with the problems of men and women, and on which only men were appointed. She alluded to a question asked in the House by Mr. Pethick-Lawrence as to whether, if expert advisers were to be attached to the Commission, some of these might be women. To this, Mr. Baldwin had replied that Sir John Simon, Chairman of the Commission, "had complete freedom to take every means to attain the ends," a hint which the Women's Freedom League will at once act upon by suggesting to Sir John Simon the appointment of women. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence last spoke of the Disarmament Debate, outlining the main points. That afternoon, there had appeared M. Litvinoff's sweeping proposals for world disarmament, and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence spoke of the value of even such seemingly impossible suggestions in helping to create the mental disarmament which must precede the physical.

Miss Underwood then made several announcements for this week, and one for December 12th, when, at 25, Wimpole Street, by the kindness of Dr. Octavia Lewin, Mrs. Bigland would give an account of the Peace Study Conference at Amsterdam. Appeal was also made to buy THE VOTE and to join the Women's Freedom League. Some discussion followed on peace and disarmament; the futility of the nations talking of disarmament, while at the same time piling up armaments; the need to replace the present spirit of distrust by a spirit of trust, and to remove the present motive of fear. Agreement was felt as to the waste of giving unemployed girls and young women under 21,

the future mothers of the race, 8s. a week on which to starve themselves, and the Women's Freedom League was urged to demand equal insurance as well as equal pay.

Miss Underwood then asked whether the best method of helping towards general peace was to work for the placing of women in all Councils, national and international, up to the highest in the League of Nations. This was warmly received and applauded, the members present having evidently no doubts or hesitations that such was the best method.

STREET OFFENCES COMMITTEE.

On December 1st and 2nd, the Street Offences Committee again sat in public. The witnesses were Mr. Millar Craig, of the Lord Advocate's Office in Scotland, Mr. Cairns, Metropolitan magistrate at Thames Police Court, and Mr. Mead, Metropolitan magistrate at Marlborough Street Police Court. On the 1st, the Inquiry kept mainly to the Scottish law in the matter, how it differed from the English, and the respective merits or demerits of the differences. A definition of the word "night-walker" was sought, it being used in both countries and now applied only to women. A member of the Committee asked whether it might not have been the case that when legislation was first applied to offences of solicitation, the phrase used, *i.e.*, "prostitute, or night-walker," might have been intended to apply, or actually have been so applied, to both women and men. Johnson's definition of a night-walker as "one who roves in the night upon evil designs," lent credence to the suggestion, but neither witness nor Committee would or could define the word in any sense.

The extraordinary diminution of such offences in the Provinces was accounted for by the witnesses by a wider and simultaneous diminution of all crimes, but the lack of a corresponding diminution in London remained unexplained. Contributing causes to diminution were offered, as—the better position of women; their ability to earn better wages; the introduction of women police; the use of the telephone for solicitation instead of accosting in the streets; a general all-round improvement in conditions of living.

Mr. Cairns brought out the wide difference in custom between the East and West of London—that what might be most offensive in the West, might be merely friendly introduction in the East—an obvious difficulty in framing a law effective in checking the same offence, so differently presented and practised.

A point noticeable with all the magistrate witnesses was their rejection of any suggestion of injustice to, or hostile bias towards, a woman charged with molesting, who is introduced to their notice as "a common prostitute." They evidently consider it true that the women who come before them so charged almost invariably are professional prostitutes, and that the possibility of their being unjustly charged in that one instance was small and not of great matter.

A suggestion was made that special police should be trained and used to check immorality in public places, and Mr. Mead, for 38 years magistrate at Marlborough Street Police Court, took first the strong view that, as sexual intercourse was the strongest instinct in human nature, prostitution would always be a necessary element of civilisation; that to drive it from the streets would be disastrous, as it would then invade and destroy the home. When asked, "What, then, is the law trying to do?" he replied that the object of legislation was only to check the extent of the trade and to prevent its being carried on to the discomfort of other citizens. Mr. Mead also expressed the opinion that probation officers were superfluous, he preferring to use "lady missionaries," who are volunteers paid and trained by a Church of England philanthropic society. He also said that women police were of no use.

On Friday, December 2nd, in the afternoon, the first woman witness was called—the lady missionary in Mr. Mead's Court—but, at her own and at his request, she was heard in private.

"DARE TO BE FREE."

On November 29th, Miss Reeves spoke at the "Open Forum," at the Friends' Settlement, Greenleaf Road, Walthamstow, on "Modern Women in Public Life." The Warden (Mr. A. S. Le Mare, B.A.) was in the Chair. Taking the motto of the Women's Freedom League, "Dare to be Free," for her text, Miss Reeves traced the influence of women in public life from the very early ages up to the present day, and pleaded that women should have an equal choice with men as to what career they wanted to follow, and that all trades and professions should be open to women on the same terms as men. The address was followed by questions and discussion. Many of the audience seemed to think if all trades were open to women, it would tend to lower the standard of living. Some seemed to think every woman in the land would want to rush into heavy manual work, for which they were not fitted—such as mining or scavenging. Miss Reeves pointed out that there would still be women who would be quite content to be wives and mothers, and also that, before the scavenger (which was a well-paid job) could empty the dustbins, the women in the homes had to fill the dustbins, which meant much more work. One lady was afraid if woman had equal rights with men, she would lose the reverence and homage which is now her due. Several women in the audience were against "equal opportunities" being given to women, and there seems to be ample room for propaganda work by the Women's Freedom League in this district.

"AT HOME" AT LINCOLN'S INN.

Many friends and members of the Women's Freedom League availed themselves of Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence's generous invitation on Monday, December 5th. Her charming flat was crowded with those who came to buy the goods displayed and who were most kindly entertained to tea by their hostess. We had a delightful surprise when Dame Millicent Fawcett came and made a short speech recalling the fun that suffragists extracted from their great movement. She praised the younger generation, and said that one of our present tasks was to help our old enemies, now turned friends, to descend gracefully from their fences. Mrs. Despard, on a most opportune flying visit to us, followed with a cordial greeting for old comrades, and said that, while she found in places a tendency to hold back, she knew that the Women's Freedom League would never falter or halt, but go right ahead.

In response to many calls, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence also spoke, greeting all comers and inviting them to tea. Many charming things were on sale, making one wonder how they had escaped the eye and buying at our Green, White and Gold Fair. The many guests of Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence were quick to take this second chance so kindly offered to them.

The tea was under the expert management of Miss Reeves and the Minerva Club; to them and to the stallholders and helpers—Miss Cockle, Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. J. R. Knight, Mrs. Fisher, Miss Berry, Mrs. Pritchard and Miss Trotter—as well as to our very kind hostess, we give grateful thanks. The Little Sale yielded nearly £30, and new members joined the League.

WOMEN WORKERS IN AMERICA.

The following paragraphs appear in recent issues of a New York journal:—

Women's Small Wages.

Women's wages are smaller than men's. The National Bureau of Economic Research reports them as being about three-fourths of men's earnings, but a typical comparison made in April, 1926, in New York State, showed them receiving \$18.30 on the average each week, as against the \$32.70 the men were paid, or little more than half as much. They earn low wages for two reasons. Most of them are at work in the

poor industries that can't afford to pay decent wages. And those who work in more prosperous fields are in inferior positions. Even when they do the same type of work as the men, they get smaller wages. In textile manufacture, they get less for every kind of work. In clerical occupations, the position of head bookkeepers is fairly representative. Men head bookkeepers get \$44.08; women, \$33.21. Their weak economic position forces them into low-paying jobs. Their small earnings reduce their efficiency, so that they really cannot ask for any more money.

2,000,000 Married Women Work.

The growth in the number of older women at work is due largely to the fact that the wedding ring no longer means farewell to a pay envelope. Two million married women work for wages, 10 per cent. of all those so employed. They work on farms, in other women's kitchens, at their own professions, but more and more, as time goes on, they are taking their places beside their single sisters in factories and offices. They come, investigations have shown, not because they dream of economic independence, but because the family needs their earnings.

DEBATE ON PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION.

The Six Point Group ended their autumn series of meetings and other similar activities with a debate on "Protective Legislation for Women." Mrs. Hoster kindly lent her large room in Grosvenor Place, and Mrs. Abbott, Chairman of the Open Door Council, spoke for equality in protective legislation, while Dr. Marion Phillips, Chief Executive Officer for Women of the Labour Party, took the side of special protective legislation applied only to women. Mrs. Barbara Drake was in the Chair, and Lady Rhondda, President of the Six Point Group, introduced the debaters and their chairman.

Mrs. Drake, declining impartiality, declared that the fight on protective legislation was between feminist and industrialist, between those who regarded protection imposed upon women as a step up, or who regarded it as an injustice. Mrs. Abbott then spoke to the following resolution, "That protective legislation for women is undesirable." She stressed that the acid test of protective legislation is not whether it is wanted, but what is its effect. Mr. Clynes had said that the condition which distinguishes a free worker from a slave is his right to sell or withdraw his labour. She claimed that men were under no restraint in that respect, while women were much restricted. She then took the recent statement upon protective legislation for women issued by the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, and drastically exposed the fallacy of the whole statement, based, she said, upon expediency rather than justice.

Dr. Phillips then gave a summary of the view of the Labour Party on protective legislation applied to women. She said that women are at a special disadvantage, have a low bargaining power, bear special difficulties in being organised, have only recently emerged from a belief that they are an inferior sex, have the extra burden of motherhood, and the care of a family. She declared that it was better to get betterment of conditions for women first, then to seek similar betterment for men, and added that sometimes exclusion was the only way to safeguard women. From the audience came many questions and discussion, in which the hoary gibe of "middle class" was hurled against those who object to protective legislation applied to women only. Another speaker made a good point in describing those opposed as looking to the future, those in favour as looking to the past. Mrs. Drake then cast impartiality to the winds, and took upon herself to reply to Mrs. Abbott. Dr. Phillips, in reply, said she had nothing to answer, and Mrs. Abbott closed the debate by making it clear that she was in favour of protective legislation for workers, and not in any sense opposed, so long as it applied to all workers and not to women alone.

Women's Freedom League.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, December 9th, at 8.30 p.m.

Recital by Miss Florence Marks (Irish Disease) Songs by Miss Clare O'Brien, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Tickets 2/-.

Monday, December 12th, at 7 p.m.

Mid-London Branch. Drawing-room meeting (by kind permission of Dr. Octavia Lewin), at 25, Wimpole Street. Mrs. Bigland on "The Peace Study Conference at Amsterdam," held by the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

Wednesday, December 14th, at 4 p.m.

Tea and Politics up-to-date, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Speaker: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. Little Christmas Sale, 3-7.

Thursday, December 15th, at 6.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Open-Air Meeting at Highbury Corner, arranged by the Women's Freedom League.

1928.

Friday, February 10th, at 5 p.m.

Organisation Sub-Committee at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, February 11th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, April 28th.

Annual Conference.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, December 14th, at 3 p.m.

Portsmouth. Tea and Politics up-to-date, at 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Mrs. Speck.

Wednesday, December 14th, at 3.30 p.m.

Bexhill. Whist Drive at the Albany Hotel.

Friday, December 16th, at 2.30 p.m.

Rye. Public Meeting at The Old Hope Anchor Hotel. Chair: Miss Bellhouse. Speaker: Dr. Lewin.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, December 9th, at 7 p.m.

Edinburgh. Whist Drive at 27, Rutland Street. Tickets 2/-.

Wednesday, December 14th, at 7.45 p.m.

Edinburgh. Public Meeting in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, St. Andrew's Square, to "protest against compulsory methods of dealing with venereal disease. Councillor Gibson, J.P., will preside, and Miss Eunice Murray and Dr. Alison Hunter will speak. (For further particulars see Branch Notes.)

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, December 10th, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Symposium: Five-minute Speeches on "To-day's News."

Tuesday, December 13th, Wednesday, December 14th, and Thursday, December 15th, 10 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. each day.

Conference at Guildhall, London, on "International Economic Conference" (arranged by League of Nations Union).

Thursday, December 15th, at 2.30 p.m.

League of Nations Union. Public Meeting at the Guildhall, on the "World Economic Conference." Speaker: The Lord Mayor, Sir Kerbert Samuel, Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., Sir E. Hilton Young, M.P., and Monsieur Albert Thomas.

Thursday, December 15th, at 8 p.m.

N.U.S.E.C. Equal Franchise Demonstration, Community Singing Practice at 4, Barton Street, Westminster (by kind permission of Miss Leff).

Saturday, December 19th, at 3 p.m.

Speech Club. Debate between Dr. Marion Phillips and Miss Marian Reeves on "Protective Legislation for Women," at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Saturday, December 31st, 3-6 p.m.

Children's Carnival and Fancy Dress Ball at Hammersmith Palais de Dance, in aid of the Six Point Group. Tickets 2/6.

1928.

Wednesday, February 8th (probably).

Equal Political Rights Campaign. On the evening after the King's Speech, at the Opening of the New Session of Parliament, a Meeting of Women's Organisations to decide "Policy of Action."

FOUND AT THE "FAIR."—Umbrella, Apply to Dr. Knight,

BRANCH NOTES.

HASTINGS.

A very successful Whist Drive was held at the Glenroyde Hotel last Monday afternoon. Our warm thanks are due to our kind hostess Mrs. Sparkes, and to the Committee, who very kindly gave the cakes for tea. The prizes were won by Miss Rance, Mrs. Meeks, and Mrs. Buckingham. Mrs. Felton Smith carried out the duties of M.C. with her usual kindness. S.E. BRANCHES STALL.—Very many thanks to those who contributed to this stall.

RYE.

A Members' Meeting was held at the Old Hope Anchor Hotel, by kind permission of Miss Bellhouse, last Thursday evening. The following members were elected to the Committee: Miss Bellhouse (Chairman of Committee); Miss Seed, Mrs. Mossop, Mrs. Aiken, and Mrs. d'Almeida Cory. Miss White will act as Secretary, *pro tem*.

It was arranged to hold a Public Meeting at the Old Hope Anchor Hotel, on Friday, December 16th, at 2.30 p.m. Chair, Miss Bellhouse. Speaker, Dr. Lewin.

EDINBURGH.

On Friday, December 9th, at 7 p.m., there will be a Whist Drive at 27, Rutland Street, in aid of the funds of the Women's Freedom League. Tickets, 2s. each, may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Miss Manclark, 71, Conister Road, or the Organiser, at "The Quest," Liberton, Edinburgh.

In order to raise more money, we shall be very grateful to members who can help with the refreshments—by sending or bringing anything eatable.

There will be bridge tables for those who prefer that game to whist. Will all members please help to make this venture a success, by coming and bringing their friends?

On December 14th, at 7.45 p.m., there will be a Public Meeting, run jointly by the Women's Freedom League and the Edinburgh National Society for Equal Citizenship, to protest against the proposed compulsory methods for dealing with venereal disease.

The meeting will be held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, St. Andrew's Square. Councillor Gibson, J.P., will be in the Chair, and Dr. Alison Hunter and Miss Eunice Murray will speak. After the speeches, the meeting will be thrown open for discussion. (Organiser) LILLIAN LENTON.

DUNOON.

On Saturday, November 22nd, we had a very successful meeting, which was addressed by Miss Haslett, Secretary of the Women's Electrical Association, on "Electricity in the Home." Miss Haslett said that electricity was one of the greatest forces in the emancipation of women, and told us how cheap, clean and healthy electricity was, both for lighting and cooking, and described an electrical machine capable of 40 different operations, from sweeping a floor and cleaning knives and boots to making cream. The Electrical Association for Women had been established in London to supply pupils in domestic science, and any women who were interested, with a practical knowledge of electricity, so as to enable them to mend a fuse and put right any little thing that might go wrong in their homes. Women would all agree that that would be much better than sitting in darkness until the electrician arrived!

Provost Turner, who occupied the Chair, said he would much like to see the machine referred to, but feared it might reduce men to a mere cipher. He went on to explain what had been done in Dunoon to bring electricity into the town, and what was being done at the present time. Miss Haslett was accorded a most cordial vote of thanks, moved by Mrs. M. D. Macpherson, for her delightful lecture, and a similar vote of thanks, moved by Mrs. May Robertson, was offered to Provost Turner. (Hon. Sec.) MRS. SMITH.

GOLDERS GREEN MEETING.

Our new Golders Green Branch held its first meeting at The Institute, Hampstead Garden Suburb, on the evening of November 30th. From the Chair, Miss Underwood stated briefly the objects of the Women's Freedom League, and explained that the League was affiliated to the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, which had recently held a Peace Study Conference at Amsterdam, to which Mrs. Bigland, the speaker that evening, had most kindly gone as our delegate.

Mrs. Bigland gave an extremely interesting account of her impression and the work of that Conference. Twenty countries had been represented, and among the speakers were Miss Ruth Morgan, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Chapman Catt, Lady Astor, M.P., Lord Astor, Dr. Luders, Mr. Madriaga and Sir George Paish. Greetings had been brought to the Conference from the League of Nations, and the women delegates discussed with international experts the problems of peace, the economic causes of war, the possibilities of disarmament, the need for security, and the work that women of all nations could do in the cause of Peace. Many questions were asked, and at the close of the proceedings a very cordial vote of thanks to Mrs. Bigland and Miss Underwood was proposed by Mrs. Jaynes, the Hon. Secretary of this new branch, seconded by Miss Turner, and carried unanimously.

A meeting of members of this new branch is being called next week, when plans for future work will be considered. Miss Cockle, our London organiser, is now working in Finchley district, where we hope soon to form another branch.

FRIDAY,
DEC. 9,
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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, December 11th, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Rt. Hon. Reginald McKenna. 6.30. **Miss Maude Royden**: "The End of the World:—4. The Hope of the Early Church."

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