

THE VOTE,  
FEB. 1, 1924.  
ONE PENNY.

FIRST WOMAN IN THE GOVERNMENT.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, FEB. 1, 1924.

**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.

**VOTES FOR WOMEN MEETING,  
ESSEX HALL, STRAND.**

*WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 8 p.m.*

**MISS SUSAN LAWRENCE, M.P.**

**MISS DOROTHY JEWSON, M.P.**



OUR EIGHT WOMEN M.P.s PHOTOGRAPHED ON THE TERRACE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,  
January 21st., 1924.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

The following are some of the questions put by Members, and answered by Ministers, in the House of Commons on the two last days before the Adjournment of Parliament until February 12th:—

### Docks (Boy Labour).

MR. LINFIELD (Bedfordshire, Mid. Division) asked the Under-Secretary for Labour what steps had been taken to deal with the Report of 1920 on the conditions under which boys were employed at the docks? MR. BETTERTON replied that the Government had been in touch for some considerable time with the associations of employers and workpeople concerned, and had prepared a scheme for dealing with the method of engagement of boys employed at the docks, which, in his opinion, should do much to decasualise this employment. The scheme had been submitted to the associations of employers and workpeople, and was still under the consideration of the employers. Till replies were received from them, it was impossible to take action. The conditions under which the boys were employed, however, as opposed to the method of engagement, was a matter for the Home Office.

### Laws of Health (Instruction).

MR. LOWTH (Manchester, Ardwick Division) asked the Minister of Health whether there was at present in existence in the Ministry of Health a draft scheme for carrying out the instruction of the public in the laws of health at an expense to the taxpayer not exceeding £2,000 a year; and whether, if such scheme existed, he would consider the advisability of making it public? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS replied that the answer to the first part of the question was in the negative. The second part did not, therefore, arise.

### Justices of the Peace, Ayr.

MR. CLIMIE (Ayrshire and Buteshire) asked the Solicitor-General of Scotland if he was aware that in the County of Ayr, Kilmarnock Division, there was a very great scarcity of Justices of the Peace, and that only one Justice of the Peace had been appointed since February, 1920; and if he would take such steps as might be necessary to have this state of matters remedied at the earliest possible moment? MR. F. C. THOMSON replied that Justices of the Peace were appointed by the Lord Chancellor, after considering the advice of an Advisory Committee, whose duty, amongst other things, was to inform the Lord Chancellor of the necessity—when it existed—for appointing additional Justices. He was informed that the Kilmarnock Committee had not laid any such information before the Lord Chancellor since January, 1920, when twelve magistrates resident in the district had been appointed; and that if there was now any scarcity, it was open to the Committee to represent the fact to the Lord Chancellor.

### Houses Completed since 1923.

MR. LOWTH (Ardwick) asked the Minister of Health how many tenders for houses had been approved since the passage of the Housing Act, 1923; how many houses were included in the tenders; how many houses had been completed; and how many schemes had been submitted for approval? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS replied that it was not a condition of consent to the erection of houses under the Housing Act, 1923, that local authorities should submit tenders for approval. He had authorised the erection of 89,510 houses under the Act, and they were included in 907 schemes. On January 1st, 44,183 houses had been included in contracts, or in direct labour schemes, or in certificates approving plans issued to private persons; 3,506 houses had been completed on January 1st.

### Unemployment (Statistics).

MR. A. T. DAVIES (Lincoln) asked the Minister of Labour what was the number of unemployed men and women on the register drawing unemployment pay;

what national work, giving employment, had been begun in the interests of the unemployed since December 1st last; how many men and women had been employed as a result of starting such work; what was its nature; and what additional new national work was now contemplated in the immediate future? MR. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour) said that, in reply to the first part of the question, the number of unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges who were claiming unemployment benefit was as follows:—Men, 916,509; women, 235,027; juveniles, 32,710; total, 1,184,246. The total figure included a small number of persons who were serving the waiting week, or whose claim to benefit was awaiting the decision of the local Employment Committee. It was not possible for anybody to say how many men were really employed and affected by the schemes now in operation, but the Minister of Labour had estimated that some 300,000 would probably be employed directly, and 100,000 indirectly.

F. A. U.

## WOMEN DIRECTORS.

The appointment of Mrs. F. M. Sharpe to the directorate of Messrs. Southall Bros. & Barclay, Ltd., Birmingham, makes an interesting addition to the number of women directors of business firms in this country. Mrs. Sharpe entered the Birmingham business twenty years ago as a wrapper-up at a few shillings a week, and has ever since devoted herself heart and soul to the firm. The value of her services to her employers may be gauged by her present position. For some time past, Mrs. Sharpe has been in charge of a department containing hundreds of girls. Two years ago she started a sick club for the firm, which, under her management, has become entirely self-supporting. Her business capacity and enterprise were particularly useful during the war, when she was largely responsible for maintaining the supply of certain articles required by the Government.

The firm of Messrs. Sutton & Co., London, a private company, is practically controlled by women. This firm is well known in the carrying trade of London, since it handles a considerable proportion of the dry goods business of the City. The business is managed by a board of three women directors, two of whom are Miss Annie L. Watson and Mrs. Florence E. W. Bell. They are entitled to retain office so long as they each hold 200 ordinary £1 shares—a condition which virtually gives them permanent control of the company.

Two women directors of public companies, conspicuous for their commercial capacity, are the Viscountess Rhondda, and our member, Mrs. Louisa Thomson-Price. Lady Rhondda sits on the boards of no fewer than 33 concerns, of 11 of which she is Chairman. Mrs. Thomson-Price is Vice-Chairman of S. Hildesheimer & Co., and a director of Slater's.

## HOUSING SCHEME FOR WOMEN

Women's Pioneer Housing, Limited,  
announces a

## PUBLIC DINNER

ON

Tuesday, February 5th, at the Hotel Cecil.

Reception at 7 for 7.30 o'clock.

Speakers: The Viscountess Astor, M.P., Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., Mrs. Fawcett, J.P., LL.D., Mrs. C. S. Peel, O.B.E., Captain Reiss.

Tickets (12/6) from the Secretary, Women's Pioneer Housing Limited, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### First Indian Woman Barrister.

Miss Mithan Ardeshir Tata, M.Sc., B.A., who was admitted last week as an Advocate at Bombay High Court, is the first fully qualified Indian woman barrister to practise in her native country. Miss Tata is a member of a famous Parsee family who are progressive Nationalists, and pioneers in Indian industry. Their contributions to education include the gift of the Rattan Tata Foundation to the London School of Economics.

### Another Woman M.P.?

Lady (John) Henry, who is a sister of Sir Arthur Lever, former M.P. for Central Hackney, has been invited to contest the seat in the Conservative interest at the next election. She has promised to give a decision after Sir John Henry's return from Washington with Sir Auckland Geddes early next month.

### Women Travellers.

Travelling off the beaten track is finding favour amongst women. Lady Dorothy Mills is visiting the black Republic of Hayti, Lady Polson is to motor in Tunis and Algeria, whilst Mrs. Elinor Mordaunt, the well-known novelist, has just commenced a journey round the world in a cargo boat.

### Girl City Merchant.

Mincing Lane has recently been invaded by Miss Constance Wilkins, who has offices in Cross Lane, E.C., and deals in Colonial produce. As no woman may yet be a member of the commercial sale-rooms of the City, she does her buying through a broker, specialising in peppers and spices.

### Woman Relieving Officer for Fulham?

Subject to the sanction of the Ministry of Health, the Fulham Board of Guardians are to appoint a woman general relieving officer at a salary and bonus of £238 a year and expenses.

### Woman "Crack Shot."

Miss D. Pain, the famous woman revolver shot, of the Insurance Rifle Club, beat ten men out of eleven who competed with her for a spoon in a revolver contest at Bisley last week. Miss Pain scored 35 points, but lost the spoon.

### Women Police at Cologne.

Consent has been given to the British Squad of Women Police at Cologne to remain there for another period of six months.

### A Long Record.

Miss E. Crane, the sub-postmistress at Middlezoy, near Bridgwater, who has recently attained her 80th birthday, daily undertakes the duties at the office.

### Women's Estate Agency.

Lady Gertrude Crawford and the Hon. Emily Borthwick are organising an estate agency in Park Lane. They have already run a successful restaurant, garage, and hostel for business men and women.

### Policeman's Daughter Wins L.C.M.

Miss Jessie Thompson, daughter of Inspector I. Thompson, of the Manchester Dock Police, has been successful in gaining the Licentiate Diploma of the London College of Music.

### American Woman Postmaster.

Mrs. Dickerman, who is Postmaster in Arizona, U.S.A., the second largest office in the town, is also President of the Arizona Postmasters' Association, and State President of the League of Business and Professional Women.

### Capital Punishment in Germany.

Although the recent Bill to abolish capital punishment in Germany was defeated, all the women Members of the Reichstag voted in favour of the measure.

### A Sign of the Times.

Three girls are among the applicants for chorister-ships in Durham Cathedral, and the Dean says he regards this as a sign of the times.

### More Women Barristers.

The following women were called to the Bar last Monday:—Miss Chrystal Macmillan, B.Sc., M.A., Miss Rita Reuben, LL.B. (both of the Middle Temple), Miss Mary R. Stevens and Miss Sydney Alice Malone, B.Sc. (both of Gray's Inn).

### Woman J.P. Officer.

Miss Eliza Smith, who has been appointed a J.P., has assisted her father as Sheriff's officer at Falkirk for the past eight years.

## WOMEN M.P.s. IN CONFERENCE.

Four of the new women M.P.s, and several of the candidates at previous Parliamentary elections, were present last Wednesday at a Conference at Church House, Westminster, convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, to discuss the possibilities of obtaining more women M.P.s.

Miss Eleanor Rathbone (President) emphasised the anxiety of the various women's organisations to assist women candidates to get into Parliament, but pointed out that these were up against various legal difficulties. The time was ripe for getting women adopted to more hopeful constituencies than had been the case in the past.

Miss E. Picton-Turbervill (candidate for N. Islington in 1922) stressed the problem of the non-Party woman, who came offering help at elections, and who sank her own predilections for the time being. There were also the difficulties with Party election agents, who looked with suspicion on non-Party workers. There was a danger of grinding the Feminist axe too freely. Women to-day were taking part not only in the Councils of the State but also in World Councils, both industrial and international, and if too much stress was laid upon Feminist principles, other departments of life would suffer.

Lady Terrington, M.P., referred to the heavy responsibilities of the women M.P.s, because they carried all the women and children on their shoulders. The question of the equal franchise was most essential. If women had had more power in the State, there would not have been the recent war. Women could always be depended on to support a real League of Nations.

Miss Jewson, M.P., said the present number of eight women M.P.s was quite inadequate. They were trying to help all the women and children in the country. The Labour Party was the first to adopt women's enfranchisement on their programme.

Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., referred to the extraordinary progress recently made by women in political affairs. In the past, to be a woman meant suffering under a one per cent. handicap, but since the last Election this handicap seemed to have vanished. Women to-day were taking ten times as much interest in politics as in the old days. The possession of the vote was in itself an education. Women's questions, too, now roused much greater enthusiasm than in the past, and Bills were now being balloted for in the House which would gladden the hearts of all women. The Representation of the People Bill would sweep away, once and for all, the irritating political inequalities between the sexes.

Lady Astor, M.P., also referred to the much greater interest women were taking, not only in home politics, but in foreign affairs. Party politics were essential, but what women cared most about were great moral issues. The women of Great Britain and the United States were alike characterised by strong moral feeling. If women had been voters for the last fifty years, it was doubtful if the world would have been in its present state. There were right-thinking men in all Parties, but she (Lady Astor) was depending on the women to make the world a brighter, sweeter, and healthier place. The woman's view was the mother's view, alike protective and courageous.

## THE VOTE.

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 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST, 1924.

### 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 a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

## MISS BONDFIELD'S APPOINTMENT

We wholeheartedly rejoice that Miss Margaret Bondfield has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour. She is the first woman Minister in this country, and we offer her our warm congratulations on this appointment, while at the same time we congratulate ourselves that she has it; we congratulate the Government which made the appointment, and our country whose interests she will serve in this appointment. We, of course, would like to have seen her a Cabinet Minister, and perhaps even more a Member of the Privy Council, for we believe that, when once women become Members of the Privy Council, there will be no barrier to women filling any office of the State. *Whitaker* tells us that the Privy Council is of very ancient origin; that a Council, the number of which was about twelve, was instituted by King Alfred in 895, and it discharged the functions of State now confined to Members of the Cabinet. In the Middle Ages, the Chief Advisers of the King, who were permanently about him, formed the Privy Council. Having become unwieldy, it was reconstituted in 1679. Members of the Cabinet must be Privy Councillors, and they principally form the acting Privy Council. The Lord President of the Council (a post to be filled by Lord Parmoor in the new Government) is the Fifth Great Officer of State, and, as such, is always a prominent Member of the Cabinet. We look forward to the time, at no distant date, when Miss Bondfield and other women will become Members of the Cabinet, and, as such, Privy Councillors. There will then be less possibility, and less probability, of the State refusing to act impartially as between its men and its women citizens. In the meantime, we think Miss Bondfield will find her present post a thoroughly congenial one, a post for which her long training and wide experience will be of incalculable value. She is Secretary of the National Union of General Workers (Women Workers' Section), and has just resigned her chairmanship of the Trades Union Congress. She was Assistant Secretary of the Shop Assistants' Union, 1898-1908. She was appointed Labour Adviser to the Labour Convention at Washington, and this year Labour Adviser to the International Labour Congress at Geneva. She is also a member of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Unemployment, and last week it was officially announced that the Minister of Labour had appointed Miss Bondfield to be the representative of the Government on the governing body of the International Labour Organisation. We cannot imagine that the interests of women workers will be forgotten while Miss Bondfield is at the Ministry of Labour, or the interests of the boys and girls who are leaving school in thousands with no present hope of employment. With a woman of Miss Bondfield's calibre in the Ministry, the Government of this country should become a much more humane machine working in the interests of its women citizens as well as in the interests of its men citizens. She is not likely to forget that there are at present nearly a quarter of a million women in this country wholly unemployed, and that vast numbers of them have been unemployed for some years past. We feel sure that working women will take fresh courage from the fact that there is a woman in the Government who knows their needs at first hand. We send Miss Bondfield the heartiest good wishes of the Women's Freedom League for a brilliant success in her post at the Ministry of Labour.

## WOMEN PEERS.

According to *The Scotsman*, a Bill has been prepared, chiefly at the instance of Lady Rhondda, to enable Peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords. As the Bill is drawn, it provides that any woman who is the holder in her own right of any peerage other than a peerage of Scotland or Ireland shall, if otherwise qualified, be entitled to receive a writ of summons to Parliament, and to sit and vote in the Lords as fully as if she were a man. This right is to be conferred notwithstanding the fact that the Royal Charter or Letters Patent, if any, creating such peerage, do not expressly confer upon her the right to hold and possess a seat, place, and voice in Parliament. As regards Scotland and Ireland, the second clause of the Bill suggests that a woman who is the holder in her own right of any peerage in Scotland or Ireland shall be entitled to vote at the elections of Representative Peers of Scotland and Ireland respectively, and to be an elected representative of the peerage of either country. It had been hoped to get some Member of the House of Commons to ballot for this Bill, but so far any prospective promoter does not appear to have been successful in the ballot. *The Scotsman* expresses the opinion that there does not in any case appear to be much chance for a purely private Member's Bill on the subject. We hope, therefore, unless the new Government can enforce the provisions of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act and make them mean what women were led to suppose they did mean in 1919, that it will bring in a Bill on the lines given above to secure the right of women Peers to a seat and a vote in the House of Lords, and pass it through all its stages into law at an early date. Women are as necessary in the Upper House as they are in the Lower House to deal with legislation affecting the interests of the men, women, and children of this country; and Peeresses in their own right ought to be as much entitled to express their views on measures before Parliament as the present Members of the House of Lords.

## WANTED—MORE WOMEN MAGISTRATES

A little while ago, we drew attention to the fact that *thirteen* men Justices of the Peace had been appointed in Surrey, but only *one* woman, making altogether nine women magistrates for that county, whereas the men probably numbered some scores. Last week, seven new magistrates were, with the approval of the Lord Chancellor, appointed for the Borough of Tynemouth—*six* men, but only *one* woman. There were already 37 magistrates for this borough, *one* of whom was a woman; so that there are now 44 Justices of the Peace for the Borough of Tynemouth, but only *two* of them are women—Mrs. A. A. Metcalfe, the newly appointed magistrate, who, as a co-opted member of the Education Committee, a member of the Tynemouth Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment, and of other bodies, has done much useful public work in the district, and Mrs. Annie Maud Burnett, O.B.E., who was appointed to the Bench in 1920. We again protest against the inequality of women and men on the magistrates' benches throughout the country. Women should be on every rota, and this is impossible when only one or, perhaps, two women are appointed for a borough, or just a few for a whole county in which there are several Courts. No case should be tried in which either the accused or the victim is a woman or a child, without a woman, or woman, being on the magistrates' bench, and we think it should be made illegal to try such cases unless there is a woman on the bench. Before women were appointed Justices of the Peace, or were allowed to serve on juries, the Women's Freedom League urged that there should be an equal number of women with men serving on all juries and on all magistrates' benches. We still press for these reforms, and are asking the new Lord Chancellor, Viscount Haldane, to see that women are appointed Justices of the Peace in more equal proportions with men than has hitherto been the case.

## VOTES FOR WOMEN NOW!

Six years have passed since, on February 6th, the Representation of the People Act, 1918, gave the vote to some eight million women, and left half as many more still denied all voice in the government of their country. These six years have seen many changes and much progress; they have brought us eight women Members of Parliament, in whom we rejoice to-day; women barristers and solicitors, women magistrates, women on juries, and a woman Governor at Aylesbury.

## BUT STILL OVER 4,500,000 ADULT WOMEN HAVE NO VOTE!

This can be no longer tolerated; nobody now defends it; the great majority of these women are young, and working in the labour market; they require the vote for their own protection. Many others are mothers of young children; they need the vote for their children's sake. There is no open opposition; the Government is officially pledged to end this political injustice; the Liberal Party is also pledged. Quickly and quietly it can be achieved; all that is needed is to strike the match and apply to this mass of support the fire of a strong united demand from women and men, young and old, for

## VOTES FOR WOMEN NOW,

—a Government measure enfranchising all men and women over 21, on a six months' residential qualification.

On Wednesday, February 6th, at Essex Hall, at 8 p.m., we have our opportunity, and we call upon every member and friend and reader for help. If we will not trouble to ask, we do not deserve to have it.

Many organisations are supporting us, and sending banners, blocks of seats being reserved for their members. Our speakers are:—**Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., Miss Dorothy Jewson M.P., Miss C. Haslett** (*Women's Engineering Society*), **Miss S. Savage** (*National Union of Women Teachers*), **Mrs. Basil Herbert** (*Women's National Liberal Federation*), CHAIRMAN: **Mrs. Mustard.**

## COME IN CROWDS TO ESSEX HALL,

to send out a resounding call that cannot be neglected for this great fundamental reform NOW!

## YOU MUST BE THERE!

## WOMEN AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES.

The women of the rural districts of Great Britain are adding to their independence, and raising the standard of home life, by taking up various country crafts, which, though usually worked as part-time occupations, can, nevertheless, be run on an economic basis. In spite of the competition of factory-made articles, the rivalry of town shops, the want of market facilities beyond the immediate neighbourhood, and lack of credit and capital, a considerable number of traditional hand industries, suitable for women, still survive in country districts, such as hand-spinning, hand-loom weaving, the preparation of reeds and osiers, the making of baskets and matting, and various underwood trades. To these may be added to-day more modern industries, such as the breeding of rabbits for making fur gloves and slippers, the manufacture of peat or composition fire-lighters, and straw rope and envelopes (for bottles). The two latter industries also offer a part solution of the utilisation of wood and straw waste.

Various agencies are at work all over the country, not only to revive the spirit of the old handicrafts, but also to prevent exploitation of the workers, who are often scattered and unorganised, and ensure their receiving an economic price for their work. The Women's Institutes, of which there are now some 2,700 scattered over the country, are doing an invaluable work, not only in the revival of handicrafts amongst village women, but in training these women to supply their own domestic needs. The Rural Industries Intelligence Bureau places information and advice, without charge, at the disposal of country workers, and persons wishing to engage in, or to promote, rural industries, and has arranged for the services of experts in most of the country crafts and industries. It also tries to indicate to the workers suitable sources of supply for materials and equipment, and possibilities for sale of the articles he or she produces. A co-operative society, known as Country Industries, Ltd., works in close association with this Bureau as a disinterested middleman, and provides methods of trading which frequently secure for workers larger returns than they would otherwise receive. Other bodies, such as Village

Clubs, and Arts and Crafts Associations, are natural allies, and it is hoped that before long the various branches of the National Farmers' Union, and of the Workers' Union, seeing how closely their own interests are involved, will be prepared to co-operate.

Hand-weaving, in spite of the universal adoption of power-driven machinery, will probably always provide a distinct, though limited, opening as a means of livelihood. Hand-weavers, for instance, will almost always be employed by the Textile Companies for pattern and experimental work, on account of the greater adaptability of the hand-loom. There are a few kinds of woven fabrics which it has been found difficult or impossible to produce on a power loom, and the hand loom is still regularly used for the most expensive and elaborate fabrics, viz., finest silks and ceremonial fabrics. In addition to individual clients and high-class ladies' tailoring firms, there is now a steady and increasing demand for English and Scottish hand-woven stuffs from the United States. The average wage of a hand-weaver, working about 44 hours a week, works out at about thirty shillings weekly. Spinning, however, is more monotonous, and is usually reckoned as a part-time occupation. The wages of an average spinner work out at about 4d. or 6d. an hour, but one more highly skilled can command from 8d. to a shilling. Wool and wool-bordered mats made on the loom form an allied and remunerative occupation.

The preparation of reeds and osiers, and the making of baskets, employ numbers of women, especially in Norfolk and Somerset, where some thousands of acres are under cultivation as osier-beds. The preparation of the rods for basket-making provides whole families in the osier districts with remunerative occupation practically all the year round. Basket-makers, too, like osier-growers or peelers, tend to live in colonies both in this country and abroad. Osier-growing is attractive for two reasons. It requires no great outlay or expenditure, and the returns are speedy. Success in willow cultivation also depends upon proximity of the beds to a railway station, and to a town where weaving is practised. Basket-making as a national industry may be expected to thrive in the immediate

future, because of the rapid development of small holdings, and the accompanying necessity for suitable receptacles for market produce in its conveyance to the train.

Fur-farming is not yet fully developed as an industry in this country, but many women are taking it up as a side-line, with success and profit. Keeping rabbits for fur is a suitable part-time occupation for women who are accustomed to animals, and who have a certain amount of surplus produce available for feeding. The cost of feeding the rabbits naturally varies according to the amount of food which has to be bought specially from outside. Where the breeder collects his own green-stuff, and buys hay, roots, and oats as required, the cost should not be more than 2d. per head per week. Instruction in curing and making up the skins into gloves, moccasins, caps, etc., with useful patterns, are usually procurable from any local Women's Institutes, or, in Scotland, from the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes. Such articles, if really well made, will always command a good price.

Any mention of village industries should include the considerable amount of home-work which is still carried on, chiefly by women, in the ordinary course of trade, for large firms in the towns. In Somersetshire, Wiltshire, and Worcestershire, gloving and clothing firms give out work to the surrounding villages which can better be done by hand, or by hand-worked machines, than by power-driven machinery. In Leicestershire villages, a considerable amount of hand-knitting is done at home for shops both in the county and in London. This system, however, if unregulated, has its dangers, as it provides an opportunity for sweated labour.

### THE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, MANCHESTER.

Miss Sara Burstall, Headmistress of the Girls' High School, Manchester, since 1898, contributes an interesting column to the *Manchester Guardian* on the growth of the School, now celebrating its Jubilee. In 1898, the number of pupils was 350. To-day there are 700. The growth has been largely at the top, the age of entry having been raised from six to ten, by slow degrees, and more and more girls staying on to the end and studying in special courses, whether in preparation for the University or not. A housecraft course was started in 1900, and a secretarial course in 1901. The girls who had taken the housecraft course did remarkable work during the war as V.A.D.s. Spanish in 1901, and Russian during the war years, were introduced for the benefit of the secretarial girls, though the classes were open generally. Spanish is now a regular higher-certificate subject. Gymnastics was established on a new system in 1900, and has become of very great importance in the life of the School, with its challenge cups, teams, form competitions, students in training, and its splendid new home in the Day Memorial Gymnasium. Games, here as elsewhere, have become an essential part of education. Fives courts were added, the playground improved, and playing-fields purchased.

One of the most marked changes in the School has been the growth of science teaching. The first State grant was spent on transforming the south-west wing into a fine cookery school and biological laboratory, and greenhouse. The introduction of zoology has become a most important subject, especially for intending teachers and medical students. Of the 100 old pupils now studying at different universities, the majority are in science or medicine. In 1898, there was one part-time science mistress, four days a week; now there are five full-time science mistresses, for chemistry, botany, zoology, physics, and applied mathematics. This growth of science teaching in the School has owed much to the influence of the University of Manchester.

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### AMERICAN WOMAN JUDGE'S CAREER.

A recent number of the *Christian Science Monitor* gives an interesting account of the career of Judge Florence Allen, of the Ohio Supreme Court. After graduating in Western Reserve University, Florence Allen, with other members of the family, was sent to Berlin to study music, where she acted as musical critic for two English papers. Teaching and journalism occupied the next few years, and then Miss Allen became thoroughly convinced that her life-work must be law. She therefore went to Chicago, and entered the Law School of that University, finishing her first year at the head of the class. She was then persuaded to come to New York and make legal researches for the New York League for the Protection of Immigrants, during which time she continued her law studies at New York University. In 1913, Miss Allen graduated with honours from the New York University Law School, after which she returned to Cleveland, and immediately opened an office. During the intervals of building up a law practice, she gave her services to the Legal Aid Society, for the sake of the experience, and also worked hard for municipal suffrage for women. In 1919, Miss Allen resigned her practice to become assistant County Prosecutor of Cuyahoga County, being the first woman in Ohio to hold such a position. In 1920, she was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, by the largest number of votes ever given any judicial candidate for that Court. A movement was then started to create a Court of Domestic Relations, of which she was to be put in charge; but Judge Allen did not wish to have her work circumscribed, and maintained that a woman was needed in the general courts. She carried her point, and during the next two years tried about 600 cases of all kinds. She was the first woman in the world to preside over a large murder case. In 1922, she became elected Judge of the Supreme Court of Ohio, out of five men candidates and two vacancies, Judge Allen receiving the second highest number of votes, and 500,000 more votes than the candidate who stood third.

### WOMEN AND RAILWAYS.

On inquiry from the Ministry of Transport as to whether the provision of "Ladies Only" and "Smoking" carriages on railways was obligatory or an act of courtesy on the part of the railway companies, we were informed that "the Minister is not aware that the railway companies are under any statutory obligation to provide compartments for ladies only on their trains," but that under Section 20 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1868, "all railway companies, except the Metropolitan Railway Company, shall from and after the first day of October next, in every passenger train where there are more carriages than one of each class, provide smoking compartments for each class of passengers, unless exempted by the Board of Trade."

In view of the fact that there has been a vast increase in the number of women who travel on the railways at all hours of the day and night, since the year 1868, we think that it is time that some statutory provision was made for women who prefer to travel in compartments reserved for women passengers.

### WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE, BRITISH SECTION, 55 Gower Street, W.C.1.

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### WASHINGTON PEACE CONGRESS,

May 1st-15th, 1924, will speak in the

### ESSEX HALL, ESSEX STREET, STRAND,

On MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, at 8 p.m.

Chair: Miss K. D. COURTNEY.

Madame DUCHÈNE and Madame RAMONDI-HIRSCHMANN may also speak.

Admission Free.

Reserved Seats, 1/-

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

#### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, February 4th, at 3 p.m. "Fair" Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, February 6th, at 8 p.m. Public Meeting at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C., to commemorate the anniversary of women's political enfranchisement, and call for its immediate extension to women on equal terms with men. Speakers: Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., Miss Dorothy Jewson, M.P., Miss C. Haslett, Miss S. Savage, and Mrs. Basil Herbert. Chair: Mrs. Mustard.

#### DARE TO BE FREE.

Monday, February 11th, at 3 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting (members only), at 53, Willow Road, N.W.3 (by kind permission of Miss Lyndon).

Wednesday, February 27th, at 8 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting (open to non-members), at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by kind permission of Mrs. Harverson). Speaker: Mrs. Northcroft. Subject: "Women at Work in the League of Nations." Chairman: Mrs. Sadd Brown.

Friday, February 29th, 3-7.30 p.m. Spring Sale (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin) at 25, Wimpole Street, W.

Friday, February 29th, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday March 1st, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, April 5th. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Women's Freedom League Seventeenth Annual Conference.

#### SCOTLAND.

Tuesday, February 5th, at 7.30 p.m. Glasgow. Public Meeting in the Christian Institute. Speakers: Miss Eunice G. Murray, Miss Mary P. Grant. Collection.

#### PROVINCES.

Monday, February 4th, at 7.30 p.m. Middlesbrough. Public Meeting at Suffrage Café. Speaker: Miss E. Morton, M.B.E. Subject: "Proportional Representation" and Model Election.

Monday, February 11th, at 7.30 p.m. Bexhill. A Model Election at the Victory Hall will be conducted by Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E.

Tuesday, February 12th, at 7 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Meeting, 2 Kent Road. Speaker: Mr. J. Lacey. Subject: "The Capital Levy." Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

Saturday, February 16th, at 2.30 p.m. Montgomery Boroughs. Monster Rummage Sale, for Head Quarters, Congregational School Room, Newtown.

Wednesday, February 20th, at 8 p.m. Brighton. Public Meeting at Hove Town Hall. Speaker: Miss Elsie E. Morton, M.B.E. Subject: "The Need for Women Members of Parliament." Chair: Miss Hare.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, February 4th, at 5 p.m., 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Six Point Group "At Home." Speaker: Sir James Greig.

Sunday, February 17th, at 3.30 p.m. West London Mission, Kingsway Hall, W.C.2. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Jewson, M.P. Subject: "Women Calling."

#### BRANCH NOTES.

#### WALLASEY.

On Thursday, January 24th, a Public Meeting was held in the Town Hall, when Mr. J. P. Kennedy, Manager of the Wallasey Labour Exchange, gave an address on "Unemployment." Dr. Dobbin presiding, Mr. Kennedy explained that the more industrialised and "progressive" a country became, the more inevitable was a condition of unemployment. The unemployment question was vastly greater than the question of Free Trade or Tariff Reform. As a social problem, distinct from poverty, it did not emerge until 1894, the impression up to that time being that, if a man were unemployed, it must be due to some moral depravity on his part. The high-water mark of unemployment was in April, 1921, when there were 1,799,242 persons unemployed, in addition to 1,077,317 on short time. At the present time there were 927,000 men, 253,000 women, and 70,000 juveniles totally unemployed, and 52,000 persons on short time. It was obvious that in a country like England, in which for many generations past foreign trade had been the breath of its nostrils, the sudden cutting-off of demand from a large part of Europe must of necessity produce its results in this country. Wallasey's record, in the matter of relief work, bore comparison with that of any town in the country. A dozen or more schemes had been assisted in Wallasey by the Ministry of Transport, or the Unemployment Grants Committee. Mr. Kennedy, in reply to questions, said that 99 per cent. of the men drawing unemployment pay were absolutely genuine. The stoic and heroic nature of these men gave them an appearance of nonchalance, but he had witnessed terrible sights in the privacy of his room—men crying like children.

#### PORTSMOUTH.

A very enjoyable Whist Drive was held on Saturday, January 26th, at the Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street. Mrs. Sawyer kindly gave the prizes, and Mrs. Colleypriest, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Brading, Mrs. Bilney, Mrs. Ware, and Mrs. Whetton gave the refreshments. Miss Mottershall managed the refreshments very efficiently. For Public Meeting on February 12th, see above.

#### MIDDLESBROUGH.

A splendidly attended Public Meeting was held on Thursday, January 24th, at the Suffrage Café, under the auspices of our Middlesbrough Branch and the District Women Citizens' Council. Great pleasure was given to all present by Mrs. Northcroft's lucid and informative address on "Women at Work in the League of Nations," dealing capably with various phases of the League's activities, with special reference to the parts played by women of various Continental nations. Much interest was aroused, and many questions asked at the close of the meeting.

#### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

#### Cost of Living.

According to the Returns of the Ministry of Labour, the cost of living remains at about 77 per cent. above that in July, 1914. For food alone, the corresponding percentage for January 1st was 75, as compared with 76 a month ago, and 75 a year ago. Increases in the price of coal and cotton goods counterbalanced the decrease in food prices. On January 7th, 1,226,000 men, women, and young people were registered as unemployed at the Employment Exchanges, the number on January 8th, 1923, being 1,527,000. Iron and steel manufacture, engineering, ship-building, and cotton and wool textiles were the industries which showed most improvement. Charges in wages reported to the Ministry of Labour resulted in a net reduction of nearly £480,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 3,000,000 workpeople, and a net increase of nearly £170,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 1,200,000 workpeople.

#### An Eyesore Removed.

Everyone will rejoice that the wooden barriers at Downing Street and King Charles Street have disappeared, by order of the new Government. The heavy wooden erections had stood for over two years, and the approaches to both streets are much improved by the removal of the obstructions.

#### Women Voters in the City.

In view of the by-election which takes place to-day (Friday), women voters in the City are receiving a good deal of attention from the champions of the contending parties. Out of the 44,000 electors, 17,000 are women. Most of them are on the register by reason of their husband's property qualification. In a General Election they would have to choose whether they would vote in the City, or in the districts in which their husbands have residential qualifications. At the present by-election, the whole block of women's votes is available.

#### Domestic Training of Birmingham Girls.

Last week, 40 unemployed girls began a three months' course of training as domestic servants, arranged by the Birmingham Education Committee, in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour. All of them were over 18, and the Superintendent is reported as saying, "I don't think there will be any fear that they will not turn out to be satisfactory servants if the mistresses will only remember that domestic servants cannot be treated as they were in pre-war days." When her training course is complete, no girl is expected to go to a situation where the wages are less than 10s. to 12s. a week, and it is made clear to the employer that, as the maid becomes more expert, this wage should be increased.

#### Women's Long Hours.

At East Ham, last week, a firm of confectioners were fined £2 on each of four summonses. A factory inspector stated that the women worked from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m., whereas the period under the Act was 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

#### Teachers' Salaries.

The *Observer* reports that at a special Conference of the National Union of Teachers, held at the Kingsway Hall last Saturday, it was decided to consent to the continuance for the financial year commencing April 1st, 1924, of the 5 per cent. reduction from the gross salaries paid to teachers in elementary, secondary, and technical schools in areas where the allocated Burnham Scales are in operation, on condition that the consideration of scales for 1925-6 onwards be postponed until later in the year. A resolution expressing admiration of the stand taken by the Lowestoft teachers, and assuring them of continued support, was also carried.

#### LITERATURE.

We are pleased to learn from our old friend, Mr. F. W. Soutter, that his latest customer for a copy of *Recollections of a Labour Pioneer* is H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. This book can be obtained from our Literature Department, price 10s. 6d. net; and, in view of the coming into power of a Labour Government, a great deal of most interesting information will be found in Mr. Soutter's "Recollections" about the first working-class candidates who put up for Parliament.

#### THE STANSFELD LECTURE, 1923-1924.

The Stansfeld Lecture on "The Economic Position of Married Women under the Law" will be given at Bedford College (Regent's Park; Entrance, York Gate), by Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, at 5.15 p.m. on Thursday, February 7th. Chair, G. W. Johnson, Esq., C.M.G., M.A. Admission free. Tickets at 144, High Holborn.

FRIDAY,  
FEB. 1,  
1924.

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### NOTICES.

**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, February 3rd. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "Labour in Office."

**L**EARN to write for the CINEMA. Instruction Course, with specimen play, 2/6 post free from "Editor," 75, Princes Street, Edinburgh.

### REST AND HOLIDAYS.

**B**USY Women requiring Rest will find comfortable Board Residence at MISS TURNER'S, "Sea View," Victoria Rd., Brighton. Early Dinner. Tel. Brighton 1702

**M**AIDA VALE. Accommodation for one or two ladies in service flat. Central heating. Restaurant. Constant hot water. Telephone. Box 110, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

**F**OOD REFORM GUEST HOUSE, 13, Marine Parade, Dover. Excellent cooking. Gas-fires in bed-rooms. Specially recommended Eustace Miles. Unequaled excursion centre.

**T**HE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance *pro tem*. Town Members £5 5s. : Country and Professional £4 4s.

**I**SIS CLUB, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue (2 minutes Hampstead Tube Station). Magnificent Reception Rooms. Central heating. Sunny bedrooms. Sandy soil. Lectures, dancing, listening-in. Telephone: Hampstead 2869.

**F**URNISHED Bungalow, until Easter. 4 rooms, scullery and electric light, 20/- weekly. MACRAE, Walberswick, Southwold, Suffolk.

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