

THE VOTE,
FEB. 29, 1924.
ONE PENNY.

REMEMBER THE SPRING SALE TO-DAY!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, FEB. 29, 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.

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SARAH BENETT—FIGHTER, FRIEND, AND COMRADE.

Sarah Benett came of a distinguished family, was highly educated and cultured, delighting in beauty in every form, country life, and travel; of strong personality, keen intellect, entirely without fear, she was simple and direct in her methods, never hesitating, but gladly and cheerfully giving all that she had at the call of the helpless and oppressed. All her life greatly interested in education, she served on local educational bodies in the Potteries, with a passion for justice, mercy and pity, her sympathies were very wide, especially for women, children, and animals, and she was an impressive speaker and a clear writer.

A very early member of the Women's Freedom League, Miss Benett, on January 30th, 1908, was sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment, third division, as a member of one of our deputations to Cabinet Ministers, the King's Speech having again contained no reference to Women's Suffrage. Nine other members were also imprisoned. In the summer of 1908 she joined the National Executive Committee, became in September a joint tenant of our beautiful new offices at 1, Robert Street, taking part in all protests, militant and otherwise, and giving almost her whole time and energy to the League. In January, 1909, she was elected

Honorary Treasurer, continuing this till the middle of 1910. She shared actively in Tax Resistance, suffering distraints and sales of goods (first at Hanley in 1908), worked hard, was untiring in our great picketing

of the Houses of Parliament in 1909, when for 16 weeks, July 5th to October 28th, no legislator, day or night, might pass the portals and escape the reproachful gaze of a suffrage woman, and shared our Census protest of 1911, when, "because women did not count, they would not be counted."

On November 18th, 1910, she took part in the terrible struggle of "Black Friday," and was arrested, but later discharged. During other militant protests of the Women's Social and Political Union she was again arrested, being in November, 1911, committed for trial, and sentenced to two months' imprisonment, second division; and in March, 1912, again to two months' hard labour, and one month. This time she undertook a hunger strike, and was threatened with forcible feeding, but finally released. These hardships, and overwork

during the war, broke down her health. Death, the friend, came to her, but we grieve for the loss of her always ready help, and shall miss from our gathering her fine face, instinct with cheery, kindly humour.



SARAH BENETT.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Criminal Cases (Women Medical Examiners).

THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL (Kinross and West Perth) asked the Secretary for Scotland whether any women medical practitioners had been appointed as medical examiners in certain criminal cases, as recommended by the Lord Advocate's letter of October 20th, 1920, to the Procurators Fiscal; and, if so, in which Courts such appointments had been made? MR. ADAMSON replied that the Circular referred to by the noble Lady dealt with the employment in suitable cases of women medical practitioners, and he understood that, particularly in Edinburgh and Glasgow, the services of such practitioners were frequently utilised.

Women Police.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM (Louth) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department if he could see his way to consider increasing the number of women police in the Metropolitan area to the original strength? MR. DAVIES replied that, as he had previously informed the hon. and gallant Member for Leith, he was not yet in a position to make any statement on the subject, but the matter had not been overlooked. MR. LEIF JONES (Camborne) inquired if the matter had been seriously considered by the Government; but no reply was given.

Unqualified Teachers, London.

MR. COVE (Wellingborough) asked the President of the Board of Education if he was aware that the introduction of unqualified teachers into the infants' schools of the London County Council area was condemned by educationists as being educationally harmful and reactionary; and if he would reverse the previous policy of the Board of Education in recognising such unqualified teachers, and inform the London County Council that such unqualified teachers would not count for staffing purposes, nor for the payment of grants? MR. TREVELYAN replied that he was considering the whole question of school staffing, from the point of view both of what was desirable, and of what was immediately practicable. He was clear that an increase in the number of teachers possessing no recognised qualifications should be prevented, and in revising the Code it was his intention to omit from Article II. (a) and elsewhere the provisions authorising the appointment in urban areas of unqualified women teachers for children under six years of age.

Unemployed Boys and Girls.

MR. C. WILSON (Attercliffe) asked the Minister of Labour the number of boys and girls, respectively, who were on the live register of Juvenile Employment Committees on the last available date; and how many of them were in receipt of unemployment benefit? MR. SHAW replied that at the 4th of February there were 40,264 boys and 38,646 girls on the live registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain. Those numbers included juveniles registered for work in un-insurable occupations (in domestic service and agriculture), and juveniles between the ages of 14-16 who were not insurable. Roughly, only 50 per cent. of the juveniles on the registers were in the insured trades. The numbers of claims to benefit current at February 4th were 16,373 for boys, and 13,138 for girls.

Probation System.

MR. C. WILSON (Attercliffe) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Benches of Justices had, and how many had not, appointed probation officers; and whether any annual report on the working of the probation system was or could be published? MR. DAVIES replied that the latest returns showed that, out of 1,020 Petty Sessional Divisions in England and Wales, about 180 had no probation officers. A Report on the working of the probation system was published last April as Part III. of the Report of the Children's Branch of the Home Office,

Juvenile Centres.

Replying to a question by MR. E. HARVEY (Dewsbury), MR. SHAW said that the number of young persons in average attendance at the juvenile unemployment centres during the week ended February 13th was 7,180, composed of 4,422 boys and 2,758 girls. The number of centres now open was 79, in the area of 37 Local Education Authorities. The question of making provision for the continuance and extension of centres for unemployed juvenile workers was at present receiving his consideration.

Cost of Living.

MR. HARMSWORTH (Isle of Thanet) asked the Prime Minister if the Government intended to put forward any legislation, or take any measures whatsoever, to prevent the steady increase in the cost of living; and, if so, when this action would be forthcoming? THE PRIME MINISTER replied that the question could only be answered in Debate. Increases in the cost of living were due to many causes, not all of which were within the control of Governments. His Majesty's Government would lose no opportunity to check transactions known as profiteering.

Trade Boards Act, Shop Assistants.

MR. HOFFMAN (Essex, S.E.) asked the Minister of Labour if he was aware of the continued representation of shop assistants that the Trade Boards Act should be applied to their occupation, and that their action in this regard had received the repeated endorsement of the Trades Union Congress and the National Labour Party; and if he had any statement to make on the matter? MR. SHAW replied that he had the matter under consideration, but regretted he was unable to make a statement at the moment.

International Labour Organisation.

CAPT. BERKELEY (Nottingham, Central) asked the Minister of Labour what was the policy of the Government relative to the ratification of those recommendations and conventions of the International Labour Organisation which had not already been ratified by this country? MR. SHAW replied that the policy of the Government generally was to endeavour in every possible way to raise the prestige of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations. With that end in view, they had under consideration each of the conventions and recommendations referred to by the hon. and gallant Member, and announcements as to their intentions with regard to them would be made in due course.

Seed Supplies, Scotland.

THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL asked the Secretary for Scotland if the Government were prepared to supply seed oats and seed supplies to the distressed areas in the Highlands and Islands; and, if so, whether they were prepared to meet freight charges of same, and at what price they would supply the said oats and potatoes to those who required them? MR. ADAMSON said the reply to the first part of the question was in the affirmative. In cases where assistance was required, the Board of Agriculture would pay freight charges to convenient railway stations or piers, and contribute £1 per ton towards the market price of the seed.

Munition Factory Explosion.

LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK (Nottingham, S.) and MR. MILLS (Dartford) lost no time in putting questions to the Under-Secretary of State for Home Affairs in regard to this explosion, in which eleven girls and one man lost their lives. MR. DAVIES stated in reply that the factory at which the explosion occurred was a Government one, under the control of the Disposals Commission, which did not come within the jurisdiction of the Explosives Act. He was in communication with the Coroner and the Disposals Commission, with a view to a full investigation being made at the

inquest; and the officers of his Department would give any assistance that was required. He expressed the great sympathy of His Majesty's Government with the relatives of those who lost their lives in that deplorable accident. MR. DAVIES also said he would see that a public inquiry was held, if necessary, following the inquest. There were no Regulations under the Factory and Workshops Acts which dealt with explosives. The workshop was last inspected by the Factory Inspector in August, 1923, but at that time the processes referred to were not being carried on, nor was the shed where the explosion occurred in use as a workshop. The factory, being under the control of a Government Department, did not come within the jurisdiction of the Explosives Act. LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK asked if the hon. Gentleman was aware that, if this very dangerous work had been carried on under the Explosives Act Regulations, not more than three people would have been employed in any one shed; and why was this dangerous work exempted from the operation of the Explosives Act? MR. DAVIES said that, as that was rather a technical question, he would like to have notice. LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK then asked if the hon. Gentleman was in a position to say that this work in the future would be carried on under proper regulations, or else that the 10,000 cartridges that still remained would be tipped into the sea? *No reply was given.*

Children, Young Persons, &c., Bill.

MR. RHYS DAVIES (Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department), replying to a question by SIR LEONARD LYLE (Epping), said that this Bill was under consideration, but he regretted he could hold out no hope that the Government would be able to find time during the present Session to give facilities for its progress. F. A. U.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD

Dinner to Twelve Famous Women.

Twelve American women, who have been named by the National League of Women Voters as the greatest in America, are to be entertained as the guests of the League at a Public Dinner at Buffalo (New York) on April 28th. Their names are as follows:—Jane Addams, philanthropy; Cecilia Beaux, painting; Annie Jump Cannon, astronomy; Carrie Chapman Catt, politics; Anna Botsford Comstock, natural history; Minnie Maddern Diske, stage; Louise Homer, music; Julia Lathrop, child welfare; Florence Rena Sabin, anatomy; M. Carey Thomas, education; Martha Van Rensselaer, home economics; Edith Wharton, literature.

Vancouver Women's Building.

The erection of a building in which could be centralised the numerous women's organisations has been proposed for Vancouver. A women's society exists around every cause, and, when a campaign of almost any kind for the good of the community is inaugurated in Vancouver, women are called into action. It is urged by those favouring the plan that, in order to secure efficiency and provide platforms and programmes for all this scattered power, the erection of a women's building is needed as an exchange of intelligence, and a bureau for research work.

American Woman Expert.

Miss Edith Clarke, a transmission expert with the General Electric Co. of Schenectady, New York, was the only woman delegate to the recent Convention of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. She read a paper at one of the sessions on "High Power Transmission." The relation of electricity to the railroad development of the United States was the chief topic of discussion. All the speeches were broadcast.

Successful Woman Solicitor.

At Godalming County Court, recently, Miss W. Lewis made her first appearance as a solicitor, and was successful in eight cases out of nine.

Rhondda's New J.P.

Mrs. Elizabeth Andrews, the national organiser of the women's section of the Labour Party in Wales, has been appointed by Lord Haldane to the magisterial bench. Mrs. Andrews has acted as member of the Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Health, and member of the Welsh Committee of the Commission of Public Morals, War Pensions, etc. She gave evidence before the Galley Commission and the Regional Service Committee at Cardiff, and sat on the Committee that drafted the scheme for probational work in the Rhondda police-courts.

Woman Playwright's Career.

Mrs. Madeleine Lucette Ryley, author of the popular comedy, "Mice and Men," has written a comedy opera named "Love Lane," which will shortly be produced. Mrs. Ryley has to her credit nearly 40 plays. She is a Londoner, and went on the stage when she was 14. She was only 16 when she had an offer to go to America, where she remained nearly 18 years, singing first in operatic companies, often as *prima donna*, and playing in comedy.

Woman Welfare Officer's Career.

The University of London has conferred the degree of D.Sc. (Economics) on Miss G. M. Broughton for a book on "Labour in Indian Industries." During the war, Miss Broughton acted as Supervising Welfare Officer of the Ministry of Munitions, and later went out to India, where, as adviser in the Government Labour Bureau, she has been enabled to repeat in Bengal experiments made in Yorkshire and other North of England factories.

Women M.P.s in Jersey.

After a heated debate, the Jersey States recently passed a measure, by 30 votes to 17, granting women the right to be elected to the local Legislative Assembly as the people's representatives, but not as life members. At the last General Election, women's nomination papers were refused. Suffrage was granted to Jersey women in 1919.

Royal Dairy Manager.

Miss E. M. Watson, of Echt, Aberdeenshire, who has been appointed to take charge of the Royal dairies at Balmoral, is representative of the new type of woman agriculturist. Miss Watson is a distinguished graduate of Aberdeen University, and has, until recently, been in charge of the Duke of Buccleuch's dairy at Bow Hills, Selkirk. She succeeds Miss J. W. Strang, who is taking a position with the Northants Farm Institute at Moulton.

Congratulations to Mrs. Giblin.

The Dawn, the monthly organ of the Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia, reports that Mrs. E. M. Giblin, Hon. Secretary, Women's Non-Party Association, and a delegate to the Congress at Rome, last year, of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, is the first woman to be appointed by the Tasmanian Government to the Public Hospital Board.

Woman Chairman Reappointed.

Miss E. Biddle has been reappointed Chairman of the Residential Hotel Keepers' and Carerers' Association, founded in 1916, which looks after the interests of over 300 residential hotels in London. She is the proprietress of two West London residential hotels, and is not only the first woman to be appointed Chairman of the Association, but the first to be Chairman two years in succession.

Women M.P.s on Kitchen Committee.

Miss Dorothy Jewson, Norwich's Labour M.P., and Mrs. Hilton Philipson have been selected to serve on the House of Commons Kitchen Committee, the Chairman of which is Sir James Agg-Gardner.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH, 1924.

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

MARRIED WOMEN'S INCOME TAX.

We are greatly disappointed at Mr. Snowden's recent reply in the House of Commons on the question of the taxation of the joint incomes of husband and wife. Mr. Lorimer asked him, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, if in his Budget he would remove hardship by making it unnecessary for a husband to include his wife's income in his Income Tax returns? Mr. Snowden reminded him that in the Income Tax Acts full recognition of the principle of equality as between husband and wife was accorded by the provisions under which either spouse might elect for separate assessment. With regard to the rate of tax to be borne by each of the spouses, as was pointed out by the Royal Commission on the Income Tax, the adoption of a course under which a husband and wife would be taxed at a rate or rates determined by their individual incomes, and not by their joint income, would result in a shifting of burdens from the rich to the poor, and he was not prepared to introduce legislation on such lines. We do not think that this was either a clear or a satisfactory reply to Mr. Lorimer's question. Whether a husband and wife are assessed separately or not, the wife's income is still treated as part of her husband's income for purposes of taxation, and the assessment is on their joint incomes. This is a hardship to both. If the parties were not married, if a brother and sister or two friends lived together, each would be assessed on his or her separate income, and the tax would be smaller for each. The hardship of paying the larger tax generally falls more heavily on the wife if she has either an unearned or an earned income, because in the vast majority of cases her income is the smaller of the two. Because these incomes of husband and wife are assessed on the joint income, the larger the income of the husband is, the heavier the tax on the wife's income. It will be remembered that, in the Report of the Royal Commission referred to by Mr. Snowden, Dr. Lilian Knowles, the only woman on that Commission, drew up and signed a Minority Report in favour of husband and wife, each being responsible for and paying the tax at the rate of their individual incomes. It has been stated that this would be a loss to the Revenue of £20,000,000 a year, and that no Chancellor of the Exchequer can afford to make the change. We must point out, however, that this £20,000,000 is practically the amount of injustice to the married women taxpayers of this country, and that the case of these married women, a very great number of whom earn their separate incomes, ought to receive serious attention from the Government. It should surely be possible to adjust matters so that this burden does not fall so heavily on married women. Even if the Income Tax had to be slightly raised in the cases of single men and women, or in the case of those who had very large incomes, it would be much fairer than the present arrangement of extracting the rate of the joint incomes of married people. We think, too, that the principle of the separate entity of a married woman should be established in the State, and that it should be conceded that her income belongs to herself, and that it should not be treated as part of her husband's income for taxation, or for any other purpose.

MORE ABOUT EQUAL FRANCHISE.

The following letter has been received by the Secretary of the Women's Freedom League:—

"10, Downing Street,
"Whitehall, S.W.1.
"22nd February, 1924.

"DEAR MADAM,—The Prime Minister desires me to say that for the present he fears he cannot do more in reference to your letter of 9th February than to refer you to the answer which he gave to a question in the House of Commons on the subject on 18th February. For facility of reference I append copy of the Question and Answer.—Yours truly, (Sgd.) C. P. DUFF."

The Question and Answer were as follows:—

MR. FOOT asked the Prime Minister if it is the intention of the Government to introduce a measure during the present Session to secure to women the franchise upon conditions similar in all respects to those of men?

THE PRIME MINISTER: The Government have not yet had an opportunity of considering whether it will be possible to take any action in regard to this matter in the present Session.

Last Saturday, the text of Mr. W. M. Adamson's (Secretary for Scotland) Bill was issued. This Bill, which is to amend the Representation of the People Act (1918), is supported by Miss Jewson, Miss Lawrence, and Mr. Lansbury, and is to be read a Second time to-day (Friday). It has for its principal object the conferring on women of the age of 21 and upwards the franchise for Parliamentary and Local Government Elections.

The Bill also proposes to assimilate the Parliamentary and Local Government franchises by abolishing the occupational qualification, and the qualification of women as the wives of Local Government electors, and to place the whole franchise for both sexes (other than university electors) on a similar basis of residence.

It further proposes to abolish the statutory rights of the Universities to charge fees for registration, and to remove the disqualification in respect of election, membership, or chairmanship imposed by the Local Government Act, 1894, as regards certain Local Authorities and Boards of Guardians.

This Bill extends to Scotland, but not to Northern Ireland.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL.

The text of the Criminal Justice Bill introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Haldane, last week, has just been issued. It proposes to increase penalties for drunkenness and recklessness in driving a motor-car, and to abolish the rule by which a wife who commits an offence in the presence of her husband is presumed to have committed it under coercion by him; although on a charge against a wife other than treason or murder, it will still be a good defence if it is proved that the offence was committed in the presence of, or under the coercion of, the husband. The onus of the proof that she was acting under her husband's coercion will henceforth be thrown on the wife, who must prove it instead of having it presumed in her favour.

The Bill also proposes to amend the law on the subject of the probation of offenders, the main object of the amendment being to encourage the development of the probation system, by providing for the appointment of probation officers in each petty sessional division, by promoting the combination of petty sessional divisions for this purpose, and by improving the methods of supervising and paying probation officers. Other provisions of the Bill relate to the procedure to be followed in the case of a corporation charged with an offence; to the right of appeal against a sentence imposed by magistrates on a person pleading "Guilty"; and permitting a man to be committed to assizes in another county to expedite his trial.

One section provides that no person shall take any photograph, or make a portrait or sketch (with a view to publication) of any judge, witness, or party to any proceedings, whether civil or criminal.

THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS, &c. BILL

By EMMELINE PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

This Bill consolidates, extends, and amends the Children's Acts of 1908-1921. Some of its sections need to be closely scrutinised and deeply considered. They appear to me to be a step backward into the dark ages of ignorance and blind punishment rather than a step forward into the comparatively enlightened days when we recognise corporate responsibility for evils arising out of our chaotic social system.

Section 1 reads as follows:—

"The law of homicide, including all penal enactments for the time being in force relating thereto, shall extend to the protection of every living child which, or any portion of which, has issued from the body of its mother, whether it has breathed or not; but shall continue not to extend to the protection of a child wholly within the womb of its mother."

Section 2 renders any person who brings about the death of an unborn child—i.e., of a child no portion of which has issued from its mother—guilty of felony, and liable to a maximum penalty of 10 years' penal servitude.

In these days, when the penal system itself is being challenged, do thinking men and women really believe that extension of the law of homicide and felony to those miserable beings who are driven to the dangerous expedient of causing the death of an unwanted child affords protection in any effective sense to unborn children, or renders the world into which children are born a better or a happier place? Is it not plain to the reformer with any sense of actualities that the only effective protection of the unborn or the newly born which the State can give is the protection afforded by the community as a whole; and it has to be of a constructive kind?

As long as the conditions of unemployment and housing remain what they are, as long as life is made almost intolerable for the unmarried mother, as long as the widow with young children is treated as a pauper, the community is guilty of crimes against the unborn and the newly born, and it cannot rid itself of guilt by hypocritically heaping increasingly severe penalties on the parent who is a wretched victim to the conditions for which all are responsible. To intensify penal legislation in such conditions as prevail at present is too much like flogging the horse that falls

under a load too heavy for it. And whether this policy is undertaken to achieve a definite objective or in the interests of morality, it is, in my opinion, worse than futile in its effects, and should be opposed by all thinking people.

Cruelty to children is one of those sins which excite universal horror and detestation. It includes wilful neglect. Under Section 22, entitled "Punishment for cruelty to child or young person," the following definition is given:—

"For the purposes of this Section, a parent or guardian of, or any other person legally liable to maintain, a child or young person shall be deemed to have wilfully neglected that child or young person so as to be likely to cause injury to his health if he fails to provide for that child or young person sufficient and proper food and clothing, or sufficient lodging, or any requisite medical or surgical treatment, or if, being unable otherwise to provide such food, clothing, lodging, or treatment, he fails to take steps to procure the same to be provided under the enactments for the time being in force relating to the relief of the poor."

This definition of wilful neglect should be very carefully connoed and considered by all who have an intimate knowledge of the life of the very poor working women, especially in those cases where the mother or father is dead or incapacitated by ill-health. It places enormous power in the hands of officials, who have in the past been known to use it with extreme harshness against wretched women struggling with poverty and ill-health, and who deserve rather sympathy and help at the hands of the community than punishment.

Section 25 makes it a punishable offence for any child under 10 to be in any room containing an open fire or gas grate not sufficiently protected. As this offence is likely to be committed through extreme poverty, the purpose it has in view could best be served by putting upon the landlord the responsibility of providing a fireguard with the fireplace.

The main provisions of the Bill, dealing with the prevention of commercial exploitation of children and young persons, are useful and necessary, and, if due care is taken to make the Bill constructive rather than merely penal, it will be worthy for enactment by the present Parliament.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

MR. DUKES (Warrington), on February 20th in the House of Commons, moved, "that, in the opinion of this House, pensions adequate for the proper upbringing and maintenance of children should be paid to all widows with children, or mothers whose family breadwinner has become incapacitated, such pensions to be provided by the State, and administered by a Committee of the Municipal or County Council, wholly unconnected with the Poor Law." He pointed out that the Motion was not intended to cover the unmarried mother, the deserted wife, or the divorced woman, and argued that the provision of these pensions would be a very wise investment on the part of the State. He estimated that the cost of his proposal would be £20,000,000 a year. He asked the House to set off against it the cost of maintaining the large number of unemployables who, if there had been pensions for widows, would have received an upbringing that would have enabled them to take their places as virile men and women in the life of the community.

MR. SNOWDEN (Chancellor of the Exchequer) said he must pay some regard to the financial aspects of the question. They were dealing not with a concrete proposal embodied in a Bill, but with a Resolution which enunciated a principle and expressed a demand, and with that the Government were in entire sympathy. The Government had called in to help them some of the chief experts of their various Departments, and

he hoped, as a result of their inquiries, the Government would be able, without undue delay, to have before them the outlines of a practical scheme, and he would be much disappointed if they were not able to add to the record of their legislative achievements a measure which would do justice to those very deserving people whose claims ought to have been long ago met.

MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Leicester, W.) said he quite understood that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might not see his way to introduce so large a scheme as was put forward; but he appealed to him to make a beginning, however small, in this reform. It was quite possible he could make a beginning by giving pensions, say, to widowed mothers of two children and upwards, or three children and upwards. It was true that it was very much easier for a widow with one child to make arrangements for taking care of that child, or even of two children, but as the family increased, so the difficulty became greater.

MAJOR BIRCHALL (Leeds, N.E.) supported the Bill. He thought the figure of £20,000,000 was probably excessive, and asked if any account had been taken of the present cost to the Poor Law in connection with out-relief for the widows and their children? Ought not some account to be taken of the enormously increased health of the children if properly provided for by means of a pension? Had any account been taken of the present cost of juvenile delinquency which now

occurred owing to mothers being forced out to work when they ought to be looking after their homes, and the consequent running wild of many of the children? If all these things were taken into account, he thought that the cost to the State was very small indeed, and that Mothers' Pensions was one of the cheapest reforms.

MR. RATHBONE (Wavertree), in supporting the Resolution, said that various gentlemen who had gone into the matter, and who were accustomed to statistics, were inclined to put the cost a great deal nearer £15,000,000. He supported the Resolution on the ground of thrift, because he believed that these measures of social reform had induced thrift, and not stopped it.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM (Louth) said that in supporting the principle of widows' pensions they were asking the State to adopt the principle of looking after those who, through no fault of their own, were left in difficult circumstances. Other countries had adopted schemes for widows' pensions. In 1911, two States of America adopted it, and at the present time 40 out of 48 States had adopted such a scheme as part of their legislation. In Canada, six out of nine States had adopted this principle, and in Australia four out of six. It was also the law in New Zealand and Denmark. She wanted this principle of pensions established on the principle of an honourable allowance, and not regarded in the light of a dole. She wanted national effort to preserve the home rather than the institution, and she wanted the home to be a decent home. The strongest reason for giving a pension to a mother was the right of the mother to bring up her children. Motherhood was the greatest service that could be rendered to the State, and mothers should be allowed to bring up their children. She hoped, when the Bill came before Parliament, it would receive the same unanimous support as the Resolution had received.

Several other Members spoke in support of this Motion, which was agreed to unanimously without a division.

SPRING SALE OF WORK.

The Spring Sale of Work will be held this year (by kind invitation of Dr. Lewin) at 25, Wimpole Street, W.1, on Friday, February 29th, from 3 to 7.30 p.m. The Sale will be formally opened by the Viscountess Rhondda, J.P., at 3.30 p.m. Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., will preside.

The Stalls arranged are: Household, Mrs. Whetton; Underclothing, Mrs. Trafford Williams and Mrs. M. M. Abbott; Pound Stall, Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Waller; Fancy Articles and Toys, Mrs. Pierotti and Miss Underwood; Woollies, Mrs. Abbott and Mrs. Arney; Pottery, Dr. Lewin and friends; Welsh Produce, Cakes and Sweets, Miss A. M. Clark and friends. Dr. Lewin will lecture at 6.15 p.m. on Nasal Hygiene, and will also have an interesting hygiene exhibit in one room. There will be character-reading by Mrs. Spon, numerology by Miss de Pass, and a good programme of music. Among those who have kindly promised to help are Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. Legge, Mrs. Harvey James, Mrs. Sparrow, Miss Thomas, Miss Lettice Newman, and Mr. Richmond. Miss Lyndon has undertaken to arrange the tea, with the help of Mrs. Knight.

All members and friends of the League are asked to come themselves, and bring their friends to visit the Sale.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

The Unemployment Insurance Bill which was introduced in and passed through the House of Commons previously was read a Second Time, and passed through its remaining stages in the House of Lords on Thursday of last week. It was a one-clause Government Bill to remove "the gap" in the payment of unemployment benefit.

LEGITIMACY BILLS.

Last Thursday, Lord Buckmaster moved the Second Reading in the House of Lords of the Legitimacy Bill. He said the Bill was substantially the same measure as that which passed through the House of Commons last Session, and got a favourable reception in the House of Lords, but failed to reach the Statute Book owing to the dissolution of Parliament. The chief clause of the Bill provided that, "where the parents of an illegitimate person marry or have married one another, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, the marriage shall, if the father of the illegitimate person was, or is at the date of the marriage, domiciled in England or Wales, render that person, if living, legitimate from the commencement of this Act, or from the date of the marriage, which last happens." The Archbishop of Canterbury supported the Second Reading. He pointed out that the Bill assimilated the law of England with that of Scotland, but urged that it should include Scottish safeguards, and, with that object, said he was prepared to support the reintroduction into this Bill of the clause which was in the former Bill, providing that "nothing in this Act shall operate to legitimate a person whose father or mother was married to a third party when the illegitimate child was born." He did not underestimate the moral and religious questions involved in this subject, which were of the gravest possible nature. The Lord Chancellor said that the Government looked upon the Bill with favour. They thought it was conceived in the interests of the innocent person, the child. He suggested that Lord Buckmaster and himself should confer on points that had been raised. The Bill was given a Second Reading.

The text of the Legitimacy Bill introduced into the House of Commons on January 18th by Colonel Campion (Lewes), and supported by Sir Arthur Shirley Benn, Viscount Curzon, Col. Courthope, and Col. Windsor-Clive, was issued last week. Clause I. states that, "where the parents of an illegitimate person marry or have married one another, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, the marriage shall, if the father of the illegitimate person was, or is at the date of the marriage, domiciled in England or Wales, render that person, if living, legitimate from the commencement of this Act, or from the date of the marriage, which last happens; and such person is in this Act referred to as a "legitimated person." Clause 6 says: "(1) Nothing in this Act shall affect the succession to any dignity or title of honour, or render any person capable of succeeding to or transmitting a right to succeed to any such dignity or title. (2) Nothing in this Act shall authorise a legitimated person or his issue to take by descent under an estate tail or other entailed interest created before this Act."

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL.

Last week, the text of the Education (Employment of Young Persons) Bill was issued. This was introduced in the House of Commons by Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck. In a memorandum attached to the Bill it is stated: "The Employment of Children Act, 1903, which has now been included in Part VIII. of the Education Act, 1921, empowered local authorities to make by-laws regulating the employment of children up to 14 years of age. Except for those engaged in street trading, or employed in factories and other regulated industries, there is no legislative protection above that age. In order to effect the further supervision and regulation of employment, this Bill extends the present by-law-making power of Local Education Authorities from 14 to 18 years of age. The power is, of course, optional, especially as to what employments and up to what ages the law is to be extended; and the use of this power is strictly safeguarded by provisions of Section 105 of the Act, as to confirmation of by-laws by the Secretary of State, public notices, local inquiries, etc."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS



DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, February 29th, 3-7.30 p.m. Spring Sale (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin) at 25, Wimpole Street, W.
Saturday, March 1st, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Monday, March 17th, at 3 p.m. "Fair" Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Wednesday, March 19th, at 3 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting (members only), at 51, Willow Road, N.W.3 (by kind permission of Mrs. Harvey James).

Friday, April 4th, at 2.30 p.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.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, March 5th, at 3.15 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Meeting at 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Councillor Leonard Blake. Subject: "Housing."
Monday, March 17th. Middlesbrough. Meeting at Suffrage Café. Speaker: Miss W. Jones.
Thursday, March 20th, at 8 p.m. Wallasey. Public Meeting at Town Hall. Speaker: Alderman John Airey. Subject: "The Capital Levy." Chair: Mrs. Dr. Dobbin Crawford.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, March 2nd, at 6.30 p.m. Kingston Church of Humanity, 39, Orchard Road, Kingston-on-Thames. Speaker: Mr. William Platt. Subject: "Gluck the Humanist" (with Pianoforte Illustrations). Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood.
Thursday, March 4th, at 8 p.m. Teddington. Women Citizens' Association, Parish Hall Annexe, Elleray Road. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood on "Women in Politics."
Sunday, March 9th, at 6.30 p.m. Kingston Church of Humanity. Speaker: Miss Elsie E. Morton, M.B.E. Subject: "Should Married Women have a Career?"

BRANCH NOTES.

HASTINGS.

An excellent meeting was held at 44, Warrior Square, on Thursday afternoon of last week, when an appreciative audience came to listen to an interesting address by Mrs. Northcroft on the subject of "Women at Work in the League of Nations." Mrs. Darent Harrison presided. The speaker gave a vivid account of the part women play in the League—it was far greater than known by the general public. The League was divided into six sections, in four of which women were represented. Of the 55 nations, only six had appointed women representatives to the Assembly. Our warm thanks are due to Mrs. Mellis and Mrs. O'Connell for lending their rooms for the meeting.

BEXHILL.

Mrs. Northcroft gave an inspiring address on the subject of "Women's Work in the League of Nations," at the Kahveh Café on Thursday evening of last week. Miss M. L. White presided. There was an animated discussion, which made the meeting a very interesting one.

There will be a members' meeting shortly, when it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend. The next public meeting will be held at the Victoria Hall, when we shall again combine with the Bexhill Sisterhood, and hope to have a large gathering of friends.

(Organiser) Miss M. L. WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings.

THAMES VALLEY.

The first public meeting of the Thames Valley Branch was held at "Holmwood," Waldegrave Road, Teddington (by the very kind permission of Mrs. Foster Lumb), last Friday evening. Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., spoke on "Women in Parliament." She rejoiced that we now had eight splendid women in Parliament, but urged that women should do their utmost to increase that number at the earliest possible date. There was so much legislative work done in the House of Commons which directly affected women and their children, and it was essential that women Members should have a say in such legislation. Miss Morton encouraged the Branch to be fully active in the district, to try to find suitable women Parliamentary candidates, and suitable women candidates for local governing bodies in the district, and to support those women candidates, irrespective of the Party to which they belonged. The Chair was taken by Miss F. A. Underwood, who explained that the Women's Freedom League was first and foremost a suffrage society, and that its chief object was to secure votes for women at the same age and on the same terms as men. The League's next object was to secure the return of suitable women to Parliament, because that was the quickest and most effective way of getting real equality of status, opportunity, reward, and responsibility of women and men throughout all branches of our national life. A good discussion followed, and it is hoped to run monthly public meetings in the district.

The Hon. Secretary of the Thames Valley Branch is Miss F. Brewer, 15, Fleece Road, Ditton Hill, Surbiton; and the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Walton, 12, Bridgeman Road, Teddington.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGHS.

A highly successful Rummage Sale in aid of the funds of the Women's Freedom League was held in the Congregational School-room last Saturday. The sale was organised by Miss Alix M.

Clark, who was assisted by the following:—Doorkeeper, Mr. Roberts; cake stall, Miss S. Gwynne, Mrs. T. Lloyd, and Miss E. Jones; women's dresses and costumes, Mrs. R. Morgan, Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. A. Taylor, Miss Hazel Bumford; white stall, Miss Barbara Daniels, Miss Morris, and Miss Hilda Phillips; men's clothing, Mrs. Salter Lloyd and Mrs. Livesey; groceries, Mrs. Thomas, Dolfor Vicarage; woollies, Mrs. Lewis; boots and shoes, Mrs. Rickards, Mrs. Frank Oliver, and Miss Pilot; blouses, Mrs. Jackson and Miss N. Hamer; household stall, Miss Nancy Price and Miss May Roberts; competitions, Mrs. Pope and Mrs. Wilding; vegetables, Master John Morris; hats and odds and ends, Mr. and Miss Worrall; tea, Mrs. Colley, Mrs. Andrew, Sister Tisdale, Mrs. F. Bakratt, and Miss Blair Smyth; lucky dips, Misses Pope; bran tub, Miss and Master Leslie Colley; assistance with the competitions, Miss Dylis Oliver, Miss Vera Turner, Masters Ormrod and Melling Livesey. Valuable help was given by Mr. and Miss Roberts and Mr. Bennett. A Dutch auction sale by Miss Alix Clark brought the total to £34.

BRIGHTON.

The following is reprinted from the *Brighton Herald*, Saturday, February 23rd:—

Energetic steps have just been taken to secure the resuscitation of the Brighton and Hove Branch of the Women's Freedom League—an organisation which formerly fought hard for women's enfranchisement, and is still engaged in campaigning to advance the political and general interests of women. Mrs. H. B. Peters, of "Sunways," York Avenue, has agreed to act for the time being as Hon. Secretary of the Branch. At the close of a meeting held on Wednesday evening, under the auspices of the League, at Hove Town Hall, to hear an address by Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., on "The Need for More Women in Parliament," Mrs. Peters told a *Herald* representative that she had gladly consented to do so because she felt that such an organisation would be the means of keeping together women who were interested in political questions and desired to study them. Miss Margaret Hardy sent a letter, in the course of which she said: "I feel it to be of utmost urgency that women should be granted the franchise on the same terms as men. There are various inequalities between men and women still to be set right, and if our ardent young students from our colleges were permitted at 21 to express their opinions by means of the vote, I feel sure the remaining inequalities would soon be swept away."

Miss Morton, who is a member of the County Insurance and Old Age Pensions Committees in London, agreed that it is "nice to have eight women Members of Parliament, but I think we have to cultivate a profound discontent. We have got to be thoroughly dissatisfied with everything, and above all with ourselves, until we have so educated ourselves and so educated the community that we have got a really noble band of women doing good work in the House of Commons. We haven't done so badly," commented Miss Morton, turning to deal with the other side of the picture, and proceeding to refer to the granting of the franchise to women, and the entry of women to Parliament. Applause greeted the mention by Miss Morton of the names of Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham, whose pioneer work in the House of Commons she described as "splendid." They wanted, she continued, women of all Parties in the House, in order that the different points of view of all women might be represented. There is, she maintained, a special contribution which women can make to the work of the House of Commons.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Mental Tests for Boys and Girls.

Lecturing to the Educational Research Society at the University of Liverpool, Dr. Olive Wheeler, of Manchester, stated that mental tests applied to school children revealed the fact that in arithmetical and reasoning tests the boys came off the best, while girls scored heavily in questions of social tact, and generally had a better vocabulary than boys of the same age.

Sex and Inheritance.

It is reported in the Press that a lady living in Cornwall recently died and left the bulk of her fortune to her nieces, saying, "I feel that females are the more in need of assistance than males, who have their professional income; so the share of each niece shall be double the share of each nephew."

Money for Inquiry into the Traffic in Women and Children

The Social Hygiene Committee of the United States has given £15,000 for a special inquiry to be undertaken by the Advisory Committee of the League of Nations into the conditions in which the Traffic in Women and Children is carried on.

A Good Example!

A regulation has been passed by which every man and woman in greater New York who comes in personal contact with the public handling of food must obtain a licence from the Department of Health, certifying that he or she is free from contagious and infectious disease. It is estimated that about 180,000 persons will require licences.

Lowestoft Teachers' Dispute.

A final settlement of the teachers' dispute at Lowestoft has been reached, and the terms agreed upon between the National Union of Teachers (representing the old staff) and the new staff, which were rejected previously by the Education Committee, have now been agreed to. This means that the old teachers, to the number of over 160, will go back to their posts, and that the new teachers will receive salary in lieu of the specified notice.

FRIDAY,
FEB. 29,
1924.

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THE NEW PSYCHOLOGY. A correspondence course in Biology, Psychology, and Religion has been arranged under the title "The Ladder of Life." It is hoped that the course will help students to co-ordinate the ideas which are contributing to form the new age. Particulars will be forwarded to those sending a stamped and addressed foolscap envelope to—**THE PRINCIPAL**, Walsham Hall, Walsham-le-Willows, Suffolk.

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

NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, March 2nd. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture, Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden, "Capital Punishment."

DANECROFT, Poultry Farm. Bagshot. Direct supply—table poultry, 1/10 lb., hatching eggs, 6/6 doz, post free. Anconas, W. Leghorns, W. Wyandottes.—E. N. PARRIS, M.S.P.B.A.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BARGAIN—list free. Plants, Garden Utensils. Beautiful dwarf roses, named varieties, 6/- dozen, carriage paid.—**McELROY**, 33, Saville St., South Shields.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d. Send for one.—**TRIMNELL**, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

DRESSMAKING.—**CALISTA**, Dress Artist, would like to engage a very clever Bodice hand, who would be ambitious to learn cutting and fitting.—97 Wigmore Street, W. 1.

TO LET.—Hampstead Heath. Beautiful view. Unfurnished rooms, newly decorated, accommodation for cooking, etc.—80, South Hill Park, Hampstead.

WANTED.—Second-hand Clothing, best prices given; parcels sent, valued, and money sent by return. Stamped addressed envelope for reply.—**RUSSELL**, 100 Raby Street, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

COMFORTABLY furnished bed-sitting rooms (2) in private house. Close to station, W. district. Electric light, gas fire. £1 each.—Apply No. 50, **THE VOTE**, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

PROFESSIONAL Woman desires post as travelling companion, would escort invalid or children anywhere for expenses and commission.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult **H. M. BAKER**, the only woman Income Tax Expert, 275, High Holborn. Telephone: Holborn 377.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BUSY WOMEN requiring Rest will find comfortable Board Residence at **MISS TURNER'S**, "Sea View," Victoria Rd., Brighton. Early dinner. Tel. Brighton 1702

FOOD REFORM GUEST HOUSE, 13, Marine Parade, Dover. Excellent cooking. Gas-fires in bedrooms. Specially recommended Eustace Miles. Unequaled excursion centre

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

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.

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

SOCIAL Worker, invalid, ordered to live out of London, wants to rent country cottage, about six rooms, garden, conveniences, under an hour from town. Excellent references—"B.A.," 3, Upper Woburn Place, W.C. 1.

SOUTH COAST.—Lady, on Exhibition route, wishes to exchange her four-room London flat for similar accommodation at any South Coast resort for the months of July and August.—Apply No. 40, **THE VOTE**, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

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Two Courses of Instruction in Numerology will be giving during March.

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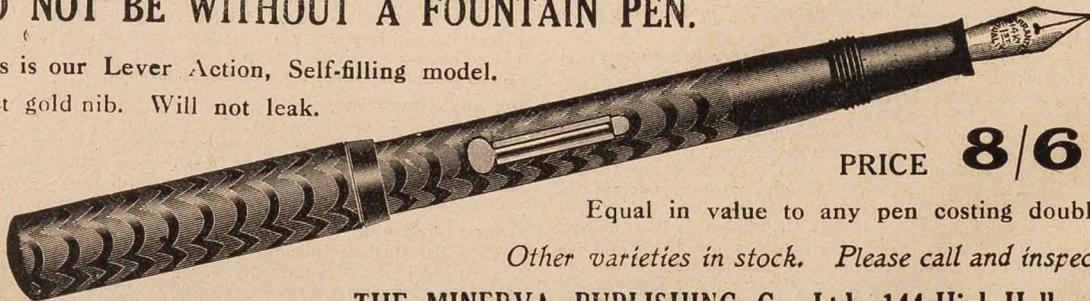
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