

THE VOTE.  
FEB. 4, 1927.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS, S.E. ST. PANCRAS MEETING.

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVIII. No. 902. (Registered at  
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1927

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

### PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

DEPUTATION TO OUR HOLBORN M.P.  
POLITICAL NOTES.  
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.  
EQUAL FRANCHISE.

WHY NOT?  
DEFRAUDING THE RATEPAYER.  
THE MENACE OF THE LEISURED WOMAN. Debate.  
BOOK REVIEWS.

## DEPUTATION TO OUR HOLBORN M.P.

Last Tuesday Dr. Knight introduced a deputation to Col. Sir James Remnant, M.P., at the Holborn Conservative Association, in Red Lion Square, to discuss with him the best way of getting an equal franchise measure on the Statute Book in time to ensure that women should vote at the age of 21 and on the same terms as men at the next election. The members of the deputation, who were all voters or potential voters in Holborn, were Miss Margaret Harvey (Women's National Liberal Federation), Miss Escreet (League of the Church Militant), Miss M. J. Wall (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance), and Mrs. Howson (Women's Co-operative Guild).

In introducing the deputation, Dr. Knight explained that it was the result of a Public Meeting held at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, on January 20th, when two resolutions were unanimously passed: (1) "That this meeting calls upon the Government to include an Equal Franchise measure in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament on February 8th, granting the Parliamentary vote to women at 21 years of age and on the same terms as men"; and (2) "That Sir James Remnant should be asked if he would kindly receive a deputation from members of his constituency on the subject." Dr. Knight thanked him very cordially for consenting to see them. They came to him as a friend and they wanted his help in getting this measure on the Statute Book in time for women to vote at the age of 21 and on the same terms as men at the next election. The societies co-operating with the Women's Freedom League in the meeting and having members in his constituency were the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, British Commonwealth League, British Federation of University Women, International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, League of the Church Militant, London Labour Party, London Teachers' Association, London Young Liberal Federation, National Union of Teachers, National Union of Women Teachers, National Women Citizens' Association, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, Women's Co-operative Guild, Women's Engineering Society, Women's International League, Women's National Liberal Federation, and the Young Suffragists. Dr. Knight pointed out that the five women on this deputation asked him to consider that there were more than five million voteless women in this country over the age of 21, about three millions of them being under the age of 30, and about two-and-a-half millions over 30, and the deputa-

tion wanted to know what he could do to secure equal voting rights for men and women. Miss Harvey stressed the need for women under 30 having the vote, and urged that every adult woman who paid direct or indirect taxes and shouldered the ordinary responsibilities of citizenship ought to have a Parliamentary vote. Miss Escreet also urged the right of women of adult age to have a voice in the government of the country. She and Miss Harvey pointed out that in Holborn, perhaps more than in any other constituency in the country, there was an exceedingly large number of women living in furnished rooms, boarding houses and hotels, professional and business women earning their own living, and who needed the protection of the vote, but under the present franchise law could not get it. Miss Wall urged that the granting of the vote at 21 years of age to women on the same terms as men was a just demand and ought to be conceded, because it was right and just. Until this matter was put right all legislation was on a wrong basis. She pointed out that the matter brooked no delay. We wanted the promise of an Equal Franchise measure in the King's Speech, and legislation in the coming Session. Mrs. Howson laid special stress on the need of the vote for working men's wives. They certainly had all the responsibilities of citizenship. They brought future citizens into the world and were primarily responsible for their care and upbringing. These young women had as much right to the vote as their young husbands, and were quite as competent to exercise it, but because they were under 30 years of age, a vast number of them living in Holborn had no vote.

Sir James Remnant discussed the question in a very friendly way. He was a convinced supporter of women's equal voting rights with men, and promised to vote for any measure (or if that was impossible pair in its favour), which would give the vote to women at 21 years of age and on the same terms as men. When pressed to say what further could be done to ensure that women would have equal voting rights with men at the next General Election, he said the best advice he could give them was to go on holding public meetings and creating public opinion for equal franchise. A good many questions were asked, and it was interesting to learn that if women had the vote on equal terms with men in Holborn, there would be added to the Register another 15,000 electors. The deputation left after thanking Sir James very cordially for so kindly receiving them.



## POLITICAL NOTES.

## Opening of Parliament.

Parliament will be opened Tuesday, February 8th, and it is stated that Ministers have begun to draft the King's Speech. Major the Hon. Oliver Stanley, M.P. for Westmorland, will move, and Major C. G. MacAndrew, M.P. for Kilmarnock, will second the Address, in reply to the Speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament.

## Memorial to the Prime Minister.

Over 130 Members have signed a memorial to the Prime Minister, asking the Government to take the earliest opportunity to carry out its pledge to give equal voting rights to men and women before the next General Election. This memorial was drafted by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

## Mrs. Baldwin and Votes for Women.

Speaking to members of a Women's Conservative Club at Canterbury, Mrs. Baldwin said that she had always been in favour of the vote for women since her early married days. It was the one thing in those old days on which she and her husband did not quite see eye to eye.

## The Factories (No. 2) Bill.

The Six-Point Group propose to present the following Petition to the Government at an early date:—

We, the undersigned men and women representatives of many occupations, professions, and trades, members of non-party and educational organisations, and of the three political parties, desire to draw your attention to an opportunity which is before you of removing past and preventing future injustice to both adult and juvenile workers.

In Factories (No. 2) Bill there is restated an out-of-date and harmful classification of women with young persons for purposes of protection. We think that the dividing line should be drawn instead between (a) adults of either sex, and (b) young persons.

Our reasons for desiring this alteration may be summarised as follows:—

The classification of women with young persons is detrimental—

1. To the young persons, because—
  - (a) It involves an unequal and injurious competition with adult women.
  - (b) Regulations adequate for the protection of adults are not always sufficient for the protection of children.
  - (c) The young person is regarded primarily as a wage-earner rather than as a future citizen, thus impeding any measures for the extension and improvement of adolescent education.
2. To the women, because—
  - (a) It denies them the status of fully responsible adult citizens.
  - (b) It restricts their field of employment.
  - (c) It tends to reduce their wages to the standard of those of the non-adult worker.

We therefore ask that a new Factories Bill be drafted, in which the old classification of women with young persons in industry is abolished, and a new classification is substituted which distinguishes between the degree of protection necessary for the adult worker, and the special type of protection which is required for young persons.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH SCHOOL, PECKHAM RD.

Sunday, February 6th, at 7 p.m.

DR. STELLA CHURCHILL, L.C.C.,

on  
"Social Service; its Use and Abuse,"

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN LUNCHEON.

The fourth of a series of International Luncheons, arranged by the International Council of Women, was held on Friday, January 28th, at the Lyceum Club, under the presidency of the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair. About 50 guests were present, including Council members from quite a number of European and overseas countries. Lady Aberdeen welcomed the visitors, and drew attention to the Council's forthcoming meetings at Geneva.

Lady Samuel, the wife of the late Governor of Palestine, gave an account of the work of the National Council of Women of Palestine, and showed how the Council had brought together women of all creeds and all sections of society and had united them in social work for women and children. Miss Dingman, Industrial Secretary of the World's Y.W.C.A., spoke of the influence exercised by women in the family in China and how this had trained them for public work. She had been present at the inaugural meeting of the National Council of Women of China, and felt sure that it had in it the elements of growth. Lady Whyte brought news from the National Council of Women in India, as did Mme. Grouitch from Yugoslavia, and Mrs. Rheinallt Jones from South Africa. Other countries represented at the luncheon were Australia, Newfoundland, Switzerland, Roumania, The Netherlands, Germany and Iceland.

## THE FIRST ALL-INDIA CONFERENCE OF WOMEN.

The first All-India Conference of Women was held at Poona on January 5th, 6th and 7th. Rancee Sahab of Sangli, Chairman of the Reception Committee, said that woman's education had passed through all the stages of total apathy, indifference, ridicule and criticism, and the time was ripe for further advance. The President, the Maharanee of Baroda, made a stirring call for action. She surveyed the position of woman in India and the problems confronting her, and declared that "a few decades saw the curse of suttee removed from our land. With a like determination all social evils could be overcome."

It was noteworthy that many of the resolutions discussed during the course of the Conference showed the same tendency as our Western discussions. Marriage or a career, their relative importance; how and to what end should girls be trained. Other resolutions dealt with difficulties, such as child marriage and the age of consent, peculiar to the country. Many practical resolutions were also passed on college administration, the appointment of women teachers, and women advisers.

A Standing Committee was appointed, and great hopes are held for the future of practical usefulness launched at this most successful first Conference.

*New India* welcomes the Conference in a leader, of which the text is the truism that a nation as a whole cannot be far in advance of its women.

## APPEAL TO "VOTE" READERS.

Whenever you see THE VOTE being sold outside a public meeting or in the streets, PLEASE BUY A COPY. You may be a subscriber, or a regular reader, and have your copy at home; but do encourage our efforts to increase its circulation, and pass your extra copy on to a friend, who may also become a regular reader of our paper.

Getting THE VOTE read by those not already converted is the best possible propaganda, so for the sake of our cause buy the paper whenever you see it.

Volunteers for selling THE VOTE outside meetings and in the streets are urgently needed. Will YOU give one, two, three, four, five, or six hours a week to it? Please come and see, or write to Mrs. Flowers, VOTE Secretary, at this Office. Your help would be most keenly appreciated.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

## Women and the Health Ministry.

A deputation representative of women's organisations, which waited recently upon the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, received a definite assurance that equality of opportunity for men and women would be the policy of the Department. This undertaking has been received with great satisfaction by the London and National Society for Women's Service.

## Three Women called to the Bar.

Miss Cynthia N. R. Gover, Middle Temple, daughter of Mr. John Gover, K.C., her mother's father having been a judge of the High Court of Jamaica, Miss O. R. Morris, Liverpool University and Gray's Inn, and Miss Kathleen A. Burgess, Dublin University and Middle Temple, were called to the Bar on Wednesday of last week. Miss Gover obtained a Certificate of Honour at the Bar Final last year and won the Campbell Foster Prize in 1925.

## Woman on B.B.C.'s Programme Board.

Miss Hilda Matheson, at one time Lady Astor's secretary, is serving with six men on this Board, and deals chiefly with the "Talks." The Board meets every Thursday and is in conference for several hours.

## Woman Councillor for Hove.

Mrs. F. Kenyon-Stow has recently been elected for the Adelaide Ward on the Hove Town Council. For several years past she has been a valued member of the Steyning Board of Guardians.

## Women in Majority on a Jury.

Last week for the first time in the High Courts there was a majority of women jurors for a case which came before the King's Bench Division—seven women and five men.

## Women Heroines.

Mrs. James Proud, by a courageous dash through a smoke-filled passage to the street, saved four children from a burning house in the East End of London. For assisting to save two men from drowning in the Medway at Watlingbury, Mrs. Margaret Sutcliffe, a young married woman, has been awarded a gold wrist watch by the Carnegie Hero Fund trustees. It was her third rescue from the river. Mrs. Sutcliffe gained several prizes for swimming while at school, and was captain of the school swimming club.

## Women help to Launch a Lifeboat.

Last week more than 20 women waded waist high in the sea to launch the Newbiggin lifeboat, to assist the fishing fleet which was caught in the storm which lashed the coasts of England and Wales.

## WOMEN AT GENEVA.

The International Council of Women will meet at Geneva from June 7th to 17th, under the presidency of the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, when, in addition to the business meetings, addresses will be given by experts from the League of Nations and from the International Labour Office. The report of the International Economic Conference, to be held in May, will be presented, and the help that the International Council of Women can afford to the League of Nations in its work for Public Health, Intellectual Co-operation, and Arbitration and Security, will be considered. Public meetings will be held in the evenings, at some of which the increasing part taken at the present time by women in the administration of law and justice will be considered, as well as their crusade against traffic in women, and their furtherance of emigration for the right type of emigrant.

## Woman Presides over Legislative Council.

Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammal, the first woman member of any Indian Legislature, who was recently elected Deputy-President of the Madras Legislative Council, presided last week during a portion of the Session. Mrs. Ammal said that Madras had set an example to the whole world in placing a woman in the high position she held.

## Bombay Women Councillors.

A report comes from Bombay that the Governor will nominate, certainly one, and perhaps two, women to the Council. Madras already has one.

## Burmese Woman Barrister.

Miss Ma Pwa Hmee, the first Burmese woman barrister, was last week enrolled a member of the Burmese Bar by the Chief Justice, Sir Guy Rutledge, in the Burmese High Court, Rangoon. Mr. Gaunt, the senior Government advocate, introduced Miss Hmee, and the Chief Justice gave her a cordial welcome.

## Girl Guides in India.

An All-India Girl Guides' Camp has recently been held in the Government House grounds at Allahabad, and was attended by a Guide Commissioner from Ceylon, by Guides from Great Britain, and also by Guides from Hong Kong. The movement has increased rapidly in the last few years.

## Wives of Magistrates.

*La Française* comments very sensibly upon a decision given that the wife of a magistrate may herself engage in commerce. *La Française* begs for common sense, not legal interference, to judge the matter. Only, if what the wife does seriously endangers the official dignity of her husband, should legal interference be necessary.

## Short-Skirt Licences.

The Mayor of Almedralejo, a town in the Province of Badajoz, has already collected 200 pesetas in fines paid by women who have refused to obey his recent anti-short-skirt decree. Payment of fine entitles a woman to wear a short skirt for one month. Policemen with tape measures are empowered to measure in the streets skirts of debatable length.

## Woman Senator.

Texas State Senate welcomes its first woman Senator, Margie Neal, former teacher and publisher.

## Woman Architect's Work in Honolulu.

Julia Morgan, of San Francisco, is the architect and structural engineer of the new business quarters of the Young Women's Christian Association, Hawaii. This is said to be one of the largest and most beautiful buildings in that town.

## MORE WOMEN ON LEAGUE OF NATIONS HEALTH COMMISSION.

Sir Austen Chamberlain recently brought forward to the Council of the League the request of the Joint Standing Committee of the Women's International organisations that more women should be appointed on the Health Commission of the League, and this was accepted in principle.

## NO WOMEN POLICE FOR SWANSEA?

The Swansea Watch Committee, after hearing a report from the Chief Constable, decided that the time was inopportune for appointing policewomen. The report, giving particulars from other centres, stated generally that in most districts policewomen were unnecessary, that the difficulty experienced was that of finding the right type of woman, and that only up to a certain point were women police useful.



## THE VOTE.

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1927.

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

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

### EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

### EQUAL FRANCHISE.

During the past week the Press has given quite an unusual amount of space to the subject of Equal Franchise, the Tory papers competing with one another to find means of evading the specific pledge given to women that they shall have equal voting rights with men at the next General Election. This Government was returned to power in October, 1924, with more than 200 majority over all other Parties. On February 20th, 1925, the Government, through the instrumentality of the Home Secretary, secured the defeat of Mr. Whiteley's Equal Franchise Bill by promising themselves to deal with this matter during the lifetime of this Parliament, Sir William Joynson Hicks declaring: "The Prime Minister's pledge is for equal rights and at the next election. I will say, quite definitely, that means no difference will take place in the ages at which men and women will go to the poll at the next election." This all happened two years ago, yet Conservative papers are still pleading for delay, pointing out that "a great deal of preliminary consideration must be given to the position which will arise when the change has been made," and suggesting that at the end of this year, or next, a Speaker's Conference, Commission, Committee, or indeed any old thing, can then be set up, presumably to create further delay in this matter, and ensure that women's equal political enfranchisement with men is not an accomplished fact before the next General Election, probably in 1928, and certainly not later than 1929. Another paper supporting the Government tells us that "to give the vote to women as well as men at 21 would mean an enormous extension of the electorate and a far-reaching Redistribution Bill. The idea of making the age 25—of course, not disfranchising men already 21 and 25 (—will there then be no difference in the ages at which men and women go to the poll at the next election?), is growing in favour, though it will always have many opponents." We strongly urge this Government not to be misled by these ill-advised advisers. In politics, as in every other walk of life, honesty is the best policy, and justice in the long run is infinitely more powerful than procrastination or expediency. A definite pledge was given to women that they would have equal voting rights with men at the next General Election, and women expect to see this pledge honoured. To shelve it would alienate the great mass of women in this country, including a very great number of Conservative women as well as those countless women who are still unattached to any political party, but who believe profoundly that the Government should act impartially as between its men and women citizens. We cannot imagine this Government shelving any such definite pledge if it had been given to a large number of men, and we do not expect to be treated differently from men in this matter, especially since so many of us now have a Parliamentary vote. Women will certainly not be satisfied with anything less than a Government measure, to be placed on the Statute Book at the earliest possible date, granting the Parliamentary vote to women at the age of 21 and on the same terms as men.

### WHY NOT?

The Senate elections have now taken place in France, no women eligible as elected or elector, no women participating in any way. By what might be called the triumph of "Why?" one woman saw the election in progress. An American, Doris Stevens, writer, feminist, Vice-President of the National Woman's Party, found herself a spectator outside the building. She saw a lane left between the waiting crowds, leading to the entrance. She went up to it, to be told at the entrance that women were not admitted. "Why?" she asked, and answer came there none. Repetition of "Why?" finally opened that door and got her as far as the Inquiry Office, where again she was told women were not admitted. Again "Why?" Again no answer. The Inquiry Office telephoned for help to answer the awkward question, but answer came there none. Finally, giving it up in despair, a *laissez passer* was given to Miss Stevens and she entered the polling hall and viewed the crowd of senators past, present, and future, conducting their election very much as all elections are conducted—a great deal of noise and excitement, but with nothing unattainable by the average woman. Miss Stevens then visited the café frequented by Senators and talked to some of the patiently waiting wives whose husbands she had seen engaged in the election over the way. Some were very cross at being left so long, and to these Miss Stevens again asked "Why?" "Why don't you go in yourselves?" Indeed, those of us who have won the right to enter the legislative assemblies of our countries, who are busy asking "Why?" where doors are still closed, may well ask of our French sisters, "Why don't you follow this young American?" Politely to ask "Why?" is one of the most effective actions possible to take against baseless prejudice.

### DEFRAUDING THE RATEPAYER.

Lindsey, Lincolnshire, Council has advertised for a woman doctor for its welfare work at £400 a year—£200 a year below the minimum required by the British Medical Association and the Ministry of Health. The decision will cost this Council an additional £100 a year, as the Ministry of Health would have paid half the salary of the appointment had it been in accordance with their regulations. We hope that the electors of the Lindsey Council will remember this fact when their votes are being asked for at the next local election. Lord Heneage, a member of the Council, is reported to have said that he considered it was a matter of principle whether the Council were to pay £100 more out of the rates, or were to be dictated to by the British Medical Association. If the electors are prepared to pay at the rate of £100 for this curious principle of Lord Heneage, little remains to be said. But £600 a year is the fair remuneration for the special work of a woman Medical Officer of Health recognised both by the Ministry of Health and the British Medical Association, and what right has Lord Heneage, or any other member of Lindsey Council to ask a woman to be a blackleg in securing this post? Lindsey Council may succeed in getting a "cheap" employee, but they may possibly not succeed in getting the best woman for this post, and her services will be costing the ratepayers more than if the just rate of pay had been decided upon. We are curious to know if Lindsey Council treats its other employees in this shabby fashion. Are the salaries of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, the Town Clerk, and the members of this municipal office paid less than the members and officials of other Borough Councils? Do the road sweepers and the dustmen employed by the Lindsey Council receive less than trade union rates of pay? Or is it only in the case of a woman employee that the Council offers just two-thirds of the recognised salary for the post?

## CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

### INDEPENDENCE OR PROTECTION.

The Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations varied its usual monthly meeting, held on January 27th, by having a debate in addition to the formal business and resolutions. The motion chosen for debate was "that protective legislation for women is not desirable." The affirmative was taken by Doris Stevens, Vice-President of the National Woman's Party, 1925 Lecturer in Labour Temple School on Feminism, former member of Advisory Committee to Women's Bureau, United States Department of Labour, etc., etc., supported by Mrs. Abbott, member of Executive, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, International Like Conditions of Work Council, and Chairman, Open Door Council. The negative was taken by Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., supported by Miss Manicom, of the Workers' Union. Lady Galway was in the Chair. Two resolutions only were taken: one in favour of equal franchise passing unanimously without discussion, the second on alterations in the law governing the conditions for jury service of women. This was, by consent, postponed. Lady Astor, the President, then opened the debate by introducing Miss Stevens.

All protectorates, declared Miss Stevens, are harmful in effect, and the oldest and the worst is the protectorate of women by men. The only explanation to be found for not asking for equality was that those who did not ask did not consider that they deserved it. Miss Stevens traced prohibitions placed upon women to ancient taboos, to a conception of woman as filled with a capacity for evil. We may call it fear, fear of competition. Frazer called it terror, and gave it deeper roots than competition. Just as in the ancient days woman was "protected" from the rays of the sun because of the evil in her, so to-day woman is to be "protected" from work. The result is the same in both cases, tragic for the "protected" one.

Miss Stevens followed with a skeleton history of protective legislation for women in the United States, and was loudly applauded on saying that it was the joining of feminists to the protesting industrial women that checked the making of further differential legislation. She also gave the case of the Postes, Télégraphes, Téléphones women in France. Women entered the service during an epidemic of cholera, which

alarmed the men to the extent of deserting, and had worked side by side, in work, pay, and Union for 27 years. In 1925 the Government considered the service salaries, and Union representatives attended in consultation. The men refused to allow a woman representative, and returned with a schedule showing for the first time lower pay and worse conditions for the women. The women held a meeting to discuss this happening, and the men attended and implored them not to leave the Union. They yielded, and six months later a further reduction in their pay was agreed to by the men. These women are now balancing the relative values of independence and protection.

Miss Stevens then traced the growth of differential, bogus protective, legislation for women in the League of Nations and its progeny—the International Labour Office.

Miss Wilkinson opened the negative by brushing aside the idea of ancient voodooism and said she was concerned only with facts of to-day. She accused feminists of being middle-class sitters in drawing-rooms, deciding that they know what the industrial woman needs. She would, she said, fight them to the death; under the cloak of equality, they were arrayed on the side of the exploiters of labour.

Mrs. Abbott followed by rebutting by official, accepted figures some statements made by Miss Wilkinson. Lady Astor said that she had always been amazed at the lack of courage shown by Labour women in their conflicts with Trade Union men, and she announced her complete willingness to support the application of factory legislation to persons instead of only to women and children, an announcement loudly applauded. Miss Wilkinson had made the same promise, but on condition that feminists would not attempt to disturb special restrictions on women already in force, a bargain the meeting did not accept.

Dame Adelaide Anderson closed the debate with a plea for a better spirit in humanity, and quoted from the French—there can be no equality without liberty, no liberty without fraternity. As Miss Wilkinson had been obliged to leave, there was no further reply from the negative, and the meeting dispersed with an expression of appreciation of the success of this addition to their monthly assembly.

## THE MENACE OF THE LEISURED WOMAN.

Debate between Lady Rhondda and Mr. G. K. Chesterton, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Bernard Shaw.

Feminists must have felt that their cause was on the broad road running close to victory as they listened on Thursday evening last week to a debate: "That the leisured woman is a menace to civilisation." Mr. Bernard Shaw was in the Chair, wise, witty, willing towards womanhood. Not there was any opposition. Lady Rhondda took the affirmative and by hard, clear argument, proved her case to the hilt. Mr. G. K. Chesterton took the negative, and did his utmost with ideal homes, peopled with ideal husbands, ideal wives, ideal children, and presumably that even more elusive thing, the ideal domestic staff. Not even there did one sense any real opposition. One enjoyed—yes, but farce is enjoyable to most of us.

Lady Rhondda asserted that all idleness is bad, but that, under present conditions, an idle woman is a peculiar danger. She is in all classes. In the governing class, she is there, with the ear of those responsible for our laws, listened to as if, being a woman, she was competent to speak for all women. She pervades the small towns, the suburbs, killing time, filling time by means of a variety of occupations, domestic, social,

philanthropic, many of which are actively harmful. Lady Rhondda would have all women honestly doing a day's work. For those whose home conditions are such that attention to them is a full day's work, she had no criticism, but for those who pretended that their domestic occupations were a day's work when they were not so, she had come to the conclusion that they were a danger to themselves and to the community. Mr. Chesterton waxed fantastic about "the home"; the only place, he declared, where man could do, think and speak as he liked. Beyond that she was an ornament to the world when she walked in the garden, he did not further define the woman's position in "the home," but as he said that this "home" was the only place where one could continue to live the "original human life," one's imagination could riot from amœba to slime, cave, slum and palace, picturing the "original human life" of woman. He accused Lady Rhondda of wishing to replace service to the home by service to the community. The former was a beautiful, satisfying thing, and the latter was, in a spate of words, horrible.



Lady Rhondda retaliated by describing the woman who took refuge in the home from possible difficulties outside as a "modest violet" or a "shrinking snail," both inadequate, she thought, as an ideal. She repudiated Mr. Chesterton's view that to bring up the next generation was all sufficient, and quoted an 1870 writer, "like hammers eternally producing more hammers, but never doing anything as hammers."

Mr. Chesterton again claimed the home as the only place for thinking, and said that it was obvious that Lady Rhondda omitted thinking from her sociology.

Mr. Shaw, in the Chair, had opened by a brilliant bastinado on the Postmaster-General on Broadcasting methods, giving full measure of "the Reproof valiant." He gave a masterly exposition of chairmanship all through. In his intervening remarks, he said that the opponents had in debate followed the advice of Robert Owen, "Never argue; repeat your assertions." They had, he said, attributed to each other opinions they did not hold, could not hold, that no sane human being could hold. Lady Rhondda seemed to think strongly that:—

"... Satan finds some mischief still  
For idle hands to do,"

while Mr. Chesterton was deeply convinced that Satan had found it. The antagonists had agreed that they were both controversialists, that both were totally at variance, and that neither was a philanthropist.

Lady Rhondda, in the final word, took exception to the assumption by both the men that one only needed to wait for the establishment of the perfect Socialist State for all to be well. Women, she declared, had been put off too often by yielding to this waiting for something to happen. They were waiting no more, but were taking action and hastening changes themselves.

**A GROSS IMPERTINENCE.**

Last week the Exeter Equal Citizenship Society debated whether women in public service should resign their positions on marriage. Miss Bryant maintained that they should, and said the lifelong work of married women was the organisation of family life and the making of the home. Miss Macaulay, on the other hand, declared that married women should retain their posts if they wished to do so, and that compulsory resignation on marriage struck at the roots of a liberty painfully won. Several speakers took part in this debate, the balance of opinion being against resignation. We are glad to note that Sir Robert Newman wrote saying that to compel women to resign their work at marriage was a gross impertinence.

**PHYSIQUE OF WOMEN WORKERS.**

The Times reports that Dr. E. P. Cathcart, Gardiner Professor of Chemical Physiology, Glasgow University, who had been requested by the Medical Research Council to undertake an inquiry into the physical condition of women workers, read a paper before the members of the Royal Institution last week. The heaviest work that he had noted was that carried out in the chemical works of Glasgow and the brickworks in the Midlands. In the chemical works the girls employed were remarkable for their physique and the grace of their carriage. The astonishing thing was that the majority of these young women—no girl was employed under the age of 16—were born and bred in one of the worst districts in Glasgow, and the mothers and grandmothers of many of the women employed had done the same work before them. As evidence of what these workers could do, he had seen one woman who shovelled 20-25 tons of raw material a day. In the brickworks the girls carrying bricks, although they were permitted to select their own load, as a rule carried over 100 lb. at a time for a distance of 70-80 yards, and the women, who conveyed their bricks in barrows, had normal loads of 4 cwt. to 4.5 cwt. Here, again, the good carriage of the women employed was noteworthy.

**BOOK REVIEWS.**

*Homo Rapiens, and other Verses.* By Henry S. Salt. (Watts & Co.) Price 1s. net. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Some time ago an interesting book, "Seventy Years Among Savages," by the same author, appeared. We now have a little book of satirical verses on the belated savage and the profiteer, the "Homo Rapiens," who still so often masquerades with pride as "Homo Sapiens."

"What mocking elf, on impish mischief bent,  
Called Man, this barbarous Man, the Sapient;  
In 'Homo Rapiens' the true tale is told!"  
Much fun is poked at knowing man sublimely superior to his fellow-creatures; in "A Sympathetic Lady":  
"The fields were full of summer sound;  
The lambs were gaily bleating;  
Small birds were gossiping around,  
Their joyful news repeating;  
In tones vociferously clear,  
Rooks chattered overhead.  
'Sweet creatures! How I love to hear  
Dumb animals,' she said."

The best verse is "Peace at any Price," at the end of the book:—

"What know ye, then, of Peace, who mock her name,  
Brand her as craven, haggle at her 'price,'  
And vaunt war's courage o'er her cowardice.

That listless, drowsy thing ye thus defame  
Is but a halting-space 'twixt war and war.

Her price? It soars all wordly wealth above.  
Think not your dross from Hatred's mint can buy  
Her splendours; for the price of Peace is Love.

E. K.

*Spoken Poetry in the Schools.* By Marjorie I. M. Gullan. (Methuen & Co.) 3s. 6d. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

Mr. Clark, Director of Education for Glasgow, adds a preface to this book, in which he writes enthusiastically of the effect of Miss Gullan's lectures in that town on Speech Training for Teachers. Miss Gullan has realised that before the teacher can teach, the teacher must learn, and certainly the speech of the great majority of us contains many faults. Miss Gullan bases her system on rhythm, where Mr. Clark agrees with her that "all life is founded on rhythm." He adds "that some have a marvellous power of elaborating theoretical principles for the guidance of others; many can put these precepts into practice with surpassing skill; few have both gifts equally developed. It is just the fact that Miss Gullan can play this double rôle, which makes her work of such value to teacher and to child."

The book is designed as a textbook for Miss Gullan's system and gives clear directions and explanations of the connection between rhythm and speech, with many examples of suitable poetry for use in demonstration and in practice. They are practical also in that they are adapted to the too common difficulties of many teachers, over large classes and over small space. Those whose ears are offended by the ugliness of the present-day common speech will hope that the one Miss Gullan will, by the spread of this book, become so many that the ugliness will give place to beauty.  
H. A. A.

**EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN**

**PUBLIC MEETING  
FOR  
S.E. ST. PANCRAS**

(Organised by Minerva Club Branch.)

**Monday, February 7th.**

See Notice.—We Want Your Help.

**WHERE TO GO.**

**WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.**



**LONDON AND SUBURBS.**

**Monday, February 7th, at 8.15 p.m.**  
Equal Political Rights Campaign. Minerva Club Branch. Public Meeting at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speakers: Miss Collison, Miss Edwardes, Miss Froud, Miss Reeves, Miss Ida Samuel. Chair: Mrs. Dexter.

**Wednesday, February 9th, at 4 p.m.**  
Political Sub-Committee at 144, High Holborn.

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

**Friday, February 11th, at 8.15 p.m.**  
Reception to Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Informal dinner at 7.30 p.m. Tickets 3/6.

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

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

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

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

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

**PROVINCES.**

**Monday, February 7th, 4-6 p.m.**  
Hastings Branch. Whist Drive at the Glenroyale Hotel (by kind permission of Mrs. Sparkes).

**Wednesday, February 23rd, at 4 p.m.**  
Bexhill Branch. Whist Drive at Albany Hotel, Lea Road.

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

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

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

**SCOTLAND.**

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

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

**OTHER SOCIETIES.**

**Saturday, February 5th, at 10 a.m.**  
Discussion Meeting at 25, Wimpole Street, W.1., to be opened by Dr. Lucy Naish, on the "Teaching of Personal Hygiene."

**Saturday, February 6th, at 3 p.m.**  
Speech Club. Debate: "That the Parliament Act of 1911, which deprived the House of Lords of the Veto, should be repealed." Proposer: Miss Bourchier. Opposer: Miss Elisabeth Edwardes.

**Monday, February 7th, at 3 p.m.**  
Six Point Group. Dr. Isabel Turnadge (late Headmistress of Twickenham Secondary School), on "Marriage or Career."

**Tuesday, February 8th, at 8 p.m.**  
Equal Political Rights at 39, Gordon Square, W.C.1. Discussion on the King's Speech.

**Wednesday, February 9th, at 8 p.m.**  
Wood Green Young Liberal Association. Meeting at Wood Green Liberal Club. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard, on "Equal Political Rights."

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

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

**BRANCH NOTES.**

**HAMPSTEAD.**  
The members and friends of the Hampstead Branch spent a very pleasant evening on Wednesday, January 26th, when Mrs. Harverson kindly gave the Annual Social Gathering at the Isis

Club. Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., presided, and Commandant Mary Allen gave an interesting and instructive address, taking for her subject, "The Present Position of Women Police in this Country and on the Continent." Delightful songs and recitations were given by Miss Joan Dunsford and much appreciated by all present. Dr. Knight said a few words on the work of the League in general, and especially the work of the Hampstead Branch, and afterwards proposed a most cordial vote of thanks to the speaker and chairman, also our kind hostess and Miss Dunsford. This was seconded by Mrs. Northcroft.

Members and friends are reminded that they should make a point of being present at the Equal Franchise Meeting at the Town Hall, Haverstock Hill, on February 17th, at 8 p.m., to hear Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and other speakers. Any friends willing to help in any way with the meeting should write to the Hon. Secretary, Miss Elizabeth Berry, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

**EDINBURGH.**

On Saturday, February 12th (not March 1st, as erroneously announced last week), there will be a Public Meeting in the Philosophical Institution, 4, Queen Street, at 7.45 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle will speak on "Recent Laws as they Affect Women," and Lady Dobbie will preside. Mr. Dan McArthur and his company have very kindly promised to entertain with comedy sketches.

**GLASGOW.**

A Public Meeting has been arranged to take place in the McLellan Galleries, on Wednesday, February 16th, at 7.45 p.m., when Miss Eunice Murray will preside, and Miss Nina Boyle will speak.

The fate of the black silk shawl, embroidered by Miss Murray, will be announced at this meeting.

**OUR TREASURY.**

**NATIONAL FUND.**

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1927, to December, 1925, £43,514 4s. 11d. £ s. d. £ s. d.

Amount previously acknowledged ...	762	19	6
Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund (previously acknowledged) ...	333	1	3
Mrs. Udney Atkinson ...	1	1	0
Green, White and Gold Fair (previously acknowledged) ...	344	9	9
Special Emergency War Fund:—			
A Friend ...	1	5	0
Equal Political Rights Campaign:—			
Dr. Knight ...	5	0	0
Miss M. Taylor ...	1	0	0

"Office Expenses" ...	13	12	4
Mrs. Sargant Florence ...	2	2	0
H. S. L. Fry, Esq., M.A. ...	2	0	0
The Misses Sherwood ...	2	0	0
Miss Ada E. Farmer ...	1	1	0
Per Miss Lenton ...	1	1	0
Christmas Present from an "Anti" "Glasgow" ...	1	0	0
R. G. Joyce, Esq. ...	10	6	
Mrs. B. Holmes ...	10	0	
Mrs. Sloane ...	10	0	
Mrs. Crosland Taylor ...	10	0	
Miss E. Gulland ...	7	6	
Miss M. E. Askew ...	5	0	
Mrs. Evans ...	5	0	
Miss Jewson ...	5	0	
Miss Lenton ...	5	0	
Miss E. M. McDonald ...	5	0	
Miss V. E. M. Patch ...	5	0	
Dr. G. Miall-Smith ...	5	0	
Miss F. A. Underwood ...	5	0	
Miss D. Watterson ...	5	0	
Miss F. L. Fuller ...	3	6	
Mrs. Delbanco ...	2	6	
Mrs. D. Dickson ...	2	6	
Miss J. Gulland ...	2	6	
Miss A. B. Howlett ...	2	6	
Mrs. Grace Hyde ...	2	6	
Miss A. Jones ...	2	6	
Mrs. Keelan ...	2	6	
Mrs. Northcroft ...	2	6	
Miss M. Taylor ...	2	6	
Mrs. Terry ...	2	6	
Miss Underwood ...	2	6	
Mrs. R. Carpenter ...	2	6	
Miss M. W. Watson Petty ...	2	6	
Miss E. M. Adams ...	1	0	
Mrs. L. Archibald ...	1	0	
Miss A. Campbell ...	1	0	
Edwy E. Clayton, Esq. ...	1	0	
Mrs. N. Jones ...	1	0	

Collections (per Miss Lenton) ...	1	13	4
Tickets (per Miss Lenton) ...	2	7	6
Sundries ...	18	13	11
" (per Literature Department) ...	2	0	0
Telephone ...	2	12	6

£1,595 5 1



FRIDAY,  
FEB. 4,  
1927.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Please send me *THE VOTE* every week, post free, for 6 months, for which I enclose 3/3.

Name .....

Address .....

**THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.**

## REST AND HOLIDAYS.

**BRIGHTON.**—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.

**RYE, SUSSEX.**—OLD HOPE ANCHOR. Ideal Guest House. Modern comforts; good cooking. Separate Vegetarian cooking a speciality. Write for booklet.

## CLUBS.

**ISIS 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.

**MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1.** Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Museum 4791.

**FAMOUS FOR ITS 1/6 LUNCHEON.** 10/6 First Fifty Members Join. The Owls Club in the 16th-century "Wig & Pen," 230, Strand. Open till midnight. Very cosy Writing Room, etc., for people of literary and kindred pursuits. Excellent Devonshire cooking. Founded by H. & F. Ames.—Apply Secretary, Owls, 230 Strand.

## HOTEL.

**MONTAGUE HOTEL, Montague Street, Russell Square, London, W.C.** First-class accommodation; room, breakfast and attendance from 7s. 6d. En pension from 3 guineas.—Phone: Museum 4660. (Highly Recommended.)

## TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

## TO LET.

**OFFICE OR STUDIO.** Well-lighted room in High Holborn.—Apply "M.E.G.," THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

**BOARD-RESIDENCE** in small comfortable home at Leamington Spa. Suit business woman, or lady requiring care.—Box J.M.F., THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

**HAYERSTOCK HILL, HAMPSTEAD, N.W. 3** (opposite Belsize Park Tube). Pleasant bed-sitting-room in private flat, electric light; gas stove with ring and check-meter. 35/- weekly including electric light, breakfast and baths. Recommended.—THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

## FOR SALE.

**OLD OAK TILED HOUSE, 8 rooms.** Indoor Sanitation. Coy.'s Water. Phone. Garden. £450. Possession.—OWNER, "Hornash," Shadoxhurst, Ashford, Kent.

## MEDICAL.

**PARK LODGE NURSING HOME,** Bath Road, Reading. For Medical, Nerve, Chronic, and Rest Cure Patients. Terms moderate.—Phone: Reading 1948.

**"MUSICAL PLAYTIME!"**

**GIANT MUSIC STAVES AND ATTRACTIVE TOYS.**

*Intelligent, organised play.*

**CHILDREN LOVE IT!**

MISS GLADYS WAREHAM,  
Wigmore Hall Studios, Wigmore St., W. 1.  
Tel.: Mayfair 5672.

## NOTICES.

**INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED.**—Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, February 6th, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Maulvi A. R. Dard, of the London Mosque, on "The Soul of Islam." 6.30. Maude Royden: "Happiness."

**MISS CONSTANCE CONNOLLY,** 37, Norfolk Street, W.C. 2. Specialises in circularising, printing, duplicating, and verbatim reporting. Rapid Secretarial Course for Gentle-people.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING.**—Lectures, classes, and private lessons. Saturday Speech Club.—MISS LUCY BELL, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1. Tel.: Museum 4791.

**OF INTEREST TO WOMEN CITIZENS.**—The Edward Wright and Cavendish-Bentinck Library contains sections on current political and social problems, including the Woman's Movement, Family Allowances, and League of Nations. Book Boxes of 20 books available for Study Circles.—Apply Librarian, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster.

**SUFFRAGETTE DINNER,** February 6th. Restaurant, Craig's Court, Whitehall, 7 p.m.—Tickets 5/-, from MISS HODGSON, 27, Grove Terrace, Highgate Road.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**CLOTTED CREAM, 3/- lb.,** post free. Furnished House to let at NEWQUAY, 5 rooms.—Apply SELSEY, St. Stephen's, St. Austell, Cornwall.

## GOOD'S CAMEO CORNER

SPECIALISE IN

ANCIENT INTAGLIOS      RUSSIAN ENAMELS  
ANTIQUÉ CAMEOS      OLD IVORIES  
STONE CARVINGS      GEORGIAN SILVER  
ORIENTAL JEWELS      RARE SNUFF BOXES

Etc., etc.

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C. 1.

We buy entire collections or single specimens to any amount for cash.

Phone: Museum 4296.

## Membership Application Form.

To be returned to the Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose £      :      s.      d. as my first Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1/-