

THE VOTE.
MARCH 11, 1927.

WHAT MR. BALDWIN SAID.

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1927

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

THE DEPUTATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
THE DEPUTATION—AND AFTER.
ANTI-FEMINISM AGAIN!

PLUCKY WOMEN AND MEN MAGISTRATES.
OUR SPRING SALE.
IN PARLIAMENT.
"THE BLANESBURGH COMMITTEE REPORT."

THE DEPUTATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER.



MARCH 8TH, 1927.

THE DEPUTATION.

Once more a deputation of women has gone to the House of Commons, and has explained to a receiving group of men why they intend to be fully and equally enfranchised.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Prime Minister, in his room at the House, received a deputation, organised by the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, which was supported by 56 societies of women, although, owing to exigencies of space, only 24 could be admitted, and owing to exigencies of time, only seven could speak. These seven were chosen so as to make the deputation representative of as many disfranchised points of view as possible.

LADY ASTOR introduced the deputation, and reminded the Prime Minister of his Cambridge speech, stressing the point that the Lords had refused equality to women, and that he, as a great Commoner, might listen to and grant the petition of the deputation.

LADY RHONDDA, President of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, and representing the Six-Point Group, sketched the probable life of the present Parliament, and showed that a Bill to enfranchise women should become law in June this year if the Prime Minister's pledge, that women should vote on the same terms as men at the next General Election, was to be kept. She added that women were united in wanting a simple measure, devoid of extraneous matters, such as Proportional Representation, Plural Voting, etc. If, as a result of the addition to the Register of 5,000,000 women, a redistribution of seats became necessary, this should follow, not precede, Equal Franchise.

MISS RATHBONE, President of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, pointed out that the majority of women working for their living were disfranchised. She assured the Prime Minister that no one doubted his intention of keeping his pledge, not to the ear only, but to the sense, but she reminded him that Parliaments were subject, as others, to more risks in advancing years, and this Parliament was already in its third year.

MRS. HOOD, representing the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, spoke of the thousands of women her organisation represented, women workers and wives, all united in wanting the franchise, which their husbands, brothers, and fellow men workers enjoyed.

DR. KNIGHT, of the Women's Freedom League, alluded to the injustice felt by graduates from overseas, who, coming to the Old Country to work, found themselves disfranchised. She strongly urged the granting of Equal Franchise to allay the intense feeling of dissatisfaction constantly increasing among all classes of women.

MISS PARNELL, of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, speaking as an "under 30," pointed out that young women with the same education, the same standards as young men, found themselves at a great disadvantage in waiting nine years longer for enfranchisement. She mentioned the responsibilities allowed to women under 30, such as motherhood, care of young children, Municipal Office, Member of Parliament, but not allowed to vote. She believed that England and Hungary were the only two countries giving unequal franchise. She declared that to give the franchise must not only be considered as an act of justice, but it must be regarded as needed by women who have to depend upon their own earnings, and who also so often have dependents as well. Young women, eagerly entering the professions, encountered many difficulties owing to their inferior status. She added that her experience among young women was that the lack of political power caused lack of political interest.

THE HON. MRS. FRANKLIN, representing the National Council of Women, spoke for the 2,000,000 women over 30, but disfranchised because they lived in furnished lodgings. These, she declared, were mainly women of the professional classes, and it was dangerous to disfranchise educated people.

MISS FROUD, Chairman of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, and representing the National Union of Women Teachers, said that 50 per cent. of women teachers, keenly interested in their own subject, and in all matters of public welfare, were disfranchised. These women, she said, were by no means apathetic, but felt their unenfranchised condition most detrimental to their status. She ended by saying that nothing more needed to be said, except "When?" and that must be said by the Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER: I do not know, Lady Astor, whether it is your management of this deputation, but I have received a great many deputations, and I think I would put this equal to the best that I have received in the way in which each speaker has said clearly and succinctly what she desired to say and nothing more. The points could not have been put better, and in a little over half an hour I have heard all that I want to hear, and all you could possibly have said if you had taken twice the time.

Lady Rhondda observed that she wanted to hear my views. I will put it in this way: I wanted to hear yours. I do feel some sympathy with you, that you have not heard anything definite from the Government yet, but I would remind you that this last year has been rather an exceptional one for any Government. We, all of us, have been overworked, and we have had a great load of very difficult matters coming before us to be dealt with as a result of the labour troubles of last year, followed by one of the most extraordinarily difficult situations in China that any Government has had to face. These are constant and pressing anxieties, and with the ordinary routine of Government business and the gradual fulfilment, as I hope, of Government pledges, we have had our time very, very fully occupied. We are getting very near the time now when we shall make our definite pronouncement on this matter, and the pledges which have been given you have reminded me of, but I have promised the House of Commons that before Easter a full statement of the Government's intentions will be made, and there is nothing more that I can say to you this afternoon than that we shall make that statement to the House of Commons, which is the proper place to make a statement of such vital importance, before Easter.

You ask that whatever may be done should be done in this Session. I doubt very much the possibility of that because of time, but I do not quite accept the view which has been put forward about the life of a Parliament, nor do I quite accept all the dates that have been given. If it were the desire of the Government—and here I am speaking purely hypothetically, because I cannot say anything to you at all until I have met the House of Commons—there can be no difficulty, and I think the Home Secretary will confirm me here, so far as the Registers are concerned, if a certain Act is dated this year or early next year.

SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: That is so.

PRIME MINISTER: So far as that difficulty may be supposed to exist, it is not really one that need cause you any concern. This whole matter, together with a number of very important questions, is at the moment engaging the attention of the Government, and I am very glad to have seen you. I know you asked to see me last year, and you very kindly put off this meeting because of the amount of work that lay upon us in the autumn. This meeting will be useful to me in putting clearly your views and your desires, which I shall take care are handed to the Cabinet. And I also note what you have to say in the event of such a Bill as you desire being introduced, that you wish it to be a simple Bill and clear of matter which you regard rather as extraneous.

I do not think that there is any question I wish to ask you. You have covered the ground so admirably, and I think, amongst you, you have touched upon pretty nearly all classes of women and women in all kinds of work. I think I have got your points quite clearly in my mind, and it only remains for me, Lady Astor, now to thank you for having come, for the very small amount of time which you have consumed in this deputation, and to reaffirm the statement which I made in the House of Commons, that full information will be given to Parliament before Easter as to what the Government propose to do. There is nothing more that I can say to you this afternoon. I knew you wished to see me to state your views, and I was very glad to have them.

THE MEETING.

The members of the deputation met later at the Minerva Club, where other representatives of the societies composing the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee assembled to decide their future action. Listening to the speakers at this meeting, and their reception by the audience, there can be no doubt that the vigilance and the determination of the women are in no whit lessened by the Prime Minister's reply to their deputation. The members of the actual deputation gave their personal impressions of their reception by the Prime Minister, and all seemed to feel that, although he had not said anything against their wishes, what he had said should encourage and strengthen them in a vigorous campaign in the immediate future, both before the Prime Minister's promised statement to the House of Commons before Easter, and after, and always, until Equal Franchise goes on the Statute Book.

The following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"This meeting of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee thanks the Prime Minister for receiving the deputation of representatives of women's societies on the question of Equal Franchise, and hopes that the statement which he has promised to make in the House of Commons before Easter will indicate the intention of the Government to introduce immediately and pass through all its stages a simple franchise measure, giving votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as men."

A methodical and wide-covering campaign was proposed, to be put into immediate and vigorous operation. Constituencies, Members of Parliament, Hyde Park, and Trafalgar Square were all arranged for, and activities to influence the first two, and to secure a steady series of meetings in the two latter, were taken in hand by Sub-Committees.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

MEETING AT EAST ISLINGTON.

Under the auspices of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, a well-attended meeting, organised by the Mid-London Branch of the Women's Freedom League, was held at the Central Library, Holloway, last Tuesday evening. Mrs. Mustard presided, and said that for the past 20 years the political equality of women and men had been the chief plank in the programme of the Women's Freedom League. Since 1918 some women over 30 had the Parliamentary vote, but on unequal terms with men, and no women under 30 could vote, although men could do so at the age of 21. We wanted both men and women to vote at 21 years of age and on the same terms. Miss Matusch, speaking for women under 30 years, explained the technical differences in the voting qualifications of men and women, and claimed political equality for women and men. Dr. Ethel Bentham, the prospective Labour candidate for the Division, said the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act was being violated every day, and urged that the younger women of the country should have an equal share with the young men in running the country. There was no reason, only prejudice, against granting votes to women at 21 on the same terms as men. Miss Chave Collisson, M.A., speaking as an Australian who had voted in her own country at the age of 21, said she was amazed at the difficulties experienced by women in the Old Country in securing a Parliamentary vote. Miss F. A. Underwood gave an account of the Equal Franchise deputation which Mr. Baldwin had received that afternoon, and brought a message from Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, the President of the League, saying it was absolutely necessary to go on pestering the Government and Members of Parliament until an Equal Franchise measure was actually on the Statute Book. Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, M.P., pressed that an Equal Franchise measure must be passed into law this

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women in the Church.

A new Committee has been formed, to be called "The Advisory Council for Women's Service to the Church." Its function is purely advisory, and it desires to work for the achievement of the worthiest offering of women's service to God that the Church can make.

Domestic Training for Women Colonists.

The Oversea Settlement Committee and the Commonwealth Government are jointly establishing a residential centre to train women for household employment in Australia. Lancashire County Council is financing a wider scheme for housewifery, care of live stock, and fruit culture, for intending women emigrants.

Women in Drapery.

Speaking at a drapery store meeting, a director complained that "boys are not choosing drapery as a vocation, while girls are not trained for business careers."

I.L.P. Organising Women Members.

At the Scottish I.L.P. Women's Conference, it was announced that at the Women's Annual Conference in September, a Scottish National Committee should be formed to undertake the organisation of women's groups in every branch.

A Welsh Lady J.P.

Mrs. Llewellyn Price, a member of the local Board of Guardians, has been appointed a magistrate for the Borough of Wrexham.

Woman's Post on Land Commission.

Miss Iris Cummins, B.Sc., has been appointed a Surveyor on the Outdoor Staff of the Irish Land Commission.

First Woman Doctor in Bolivia.

Amelia Chopitea has graduated in Medicine and Surgery at Sucre, Bolivia. The Government has given her a Research Scholarship.

American Women Scientists.

The United States Government employs 87 women scientists in its various departments. The women are engaged in laboratory research and in compiling information concerning the various sciences, including chemistry, zoology, physics, botany, and pathology. Five women chemists in the Bureau of Home Economics are chiefly concerned with food, but mainly from its nutritive aspect and with its preparation and storage in the home.

Woman Labour Commissioner.

The Governor of Michigan has appointed a woman on the State Labour Commission. She is Miss Isabel Larwill, a member of the League of Women Voters, and also a member of the Republican State Central Committee. For many years Miss Larwill has worked in county offices, and now gains promotion to the State Office.

Woman in New York City Cabinet.

Mrs. Charles Bennett Smith, President of the Civil Service Commission, head of the New York State Department of Civil Service, has been appointed by Governor Smith of New York to his Cabinet.

Session if women were to be sure of voting at the next election. It was the Government's own responsibility now if they went out of office without redeeming their pledge.

Mrs. Mustard read an apology from Mr. Comyns Carr, K.C., who was prevented through illness from being present. A resolution calling for votes for women at 21 and on the same terms as men was passed with acclamation, and another resolution that Major Tasker, the local M.P., should be asked to receive a deputation from his constituents on Equal Franchise.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 11th, 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.

THE DEPUTATION—AND AFTER.

We are living on the edge of exciting times. The Prime Minister has heard from women themselves their reasons for demanding that a simple Equal Franchise Bill, granting votes to women at the age of 21 and on the same terms as men, shall be placed on the Statute Book this Session. Mr. Baldwin has promised to put the various points made by members of the deputation before the Cabinet, and to announce the Government's decision on the matter before Easter. The Prime Minister was not discouraging. Women still have hope—but nothing more than hope. It rests with women themselves to translate that hope into something more tangible. Women must not leave it entirely to Mr. Baldwin to put their views before members of the Cabinet, but should themselves see that every member of the Government is in possession of the reasons for their demand. Moreover, women throughout the country must get busy over this question of Equal Franchise, and in every constituency must make their Member of Parliament understand that if he does not want the opposition of the women in his electorate, he must do his utmost to see that the Prime Minister's pledge that women shall have equal voting rights with men at the next election, is carried into effect. In fact, the campaign for Equal Franchise must increase in intensity between now and Easter. The Prime Minister and the Home Secretary did not appear to be convinced that it was necessary to get an Equal Franchise Bill on the Statute Book *this Session* in order to secure that women should vote at the same age and on the same terms as men at the next election. Both were of the opinion that if an Equal Franchise Bill is passed through all its stages into law, it will be an easy matter to get the new women voters on the Register before an election. It seems to us that it will be a Herculean task to the Registration Officers to add between six and seven million new voters to the Registers when working against time, and we cannot share the complacency of Mr. Baldwin and Sir William Joynson-Hicks in this matter. We remember only too well that delay in dealing with women's enfranchisement has on previous occasions proved to be the most powerful weapon in bringing about the defeat of our cause. Women have explained to the Prime Minister their reasons for urging that this question should be dealt with immediately, so that if he and the Government choose to take risks now, they do so on their own responsibility. Mr. Baldwin has promised equal voting rights for women with men at the next election. Let him now fulfil his pledge, and prevent any possibility of the Government going out of office without this pledge being carried into effect. Should it do so, the Government may expect to face the full weight of the opposition of the women who place the securing of political equality with men in the forefront of their programme. The power of these women is at present an unknown quantity; but women themselves must at once set to work to organise it effectively in every constituency.

ANTI-FEMINISM AGAIN!

Last Monday, Col. Wedgwood wanted to know from the Colonial Secretary why British subjects are not allowed to vote for or sit on Municipal Councils in Palestine? Mr. Amery explained that Palestine was a mandated territory, and on general grounds it was felt desirable to confine the municipal franchise to Palestine citizens. Still, the hon. and gallant Member could not see why British subjects should be excluded from exercising this particular franchise, which gave Mr. T. Williams an opportunity to inquire if there were not women in England under 30 years of age, who are not allowed to vote? No reply was given to that question, so Col. Wedgwood asked another—Why are women not allowed to vote for or sit on Municipal Councils in Palestine? Mr. Amery's answer was: "I am advised by the High Commissioner that it would for some time to come be repugnant to the wishes of the great majority of the population of Palestine to give the franchise to women throughout that country, or to allow them to sit on Municipal Councils. In some areas, the objections to the franchise to women do not obtain, and they already have the right to vote in elections to the Tel-Aviv Council. I understand also that the High Commissioner has at present under consideration a proposal to include, in the law relating to municipal elections, clauses which may be adopted by Municipal Councils which desire that women should be allowed to participate in the elections to those Councils."

The anti-feminist point of view is not confined to any country or race. How else explain the fact that, on the afternoon that Mr. Baldwin received the Equal Franchise Deputation, London was placarded with the *Evening News* poster—"Votes for Girls—by Lord Hugh Cecil"? Lord Hugh took this opportunity to press that the voting age for both sexes should be 25, and to tell us that he regretted women being in Parliament and on juries because the sexes when together invariably attracted or irritated each other. What balderdash!

PLUCKY WOMEN AND MEN MAGISTRATES

Last week the Master of Worcestershire Foxhounds was fined 10s., and 16s. costs, for riding his horse on the footpath to the danger of the public, but at the same time received the sympathy of the Bench, who regretted they had no option but to administer the law. According to the evidence given by Mrs. Elsie Saul, at Worcester County Court, she and a companion were walking along the footpath, when the Master of the Foxhounds came galloping up, shouting "Get out of the road!" She resented this way of being addressed, and replied: "You have no business on the footpath!" and stood her ground, whereupon he swore at her, and the police were informed. The defendant did not appear, but a solicitor said he was riding on the footpath because he feared his horse would slip on the tarmacadam road. He was evidently not concerned about what would happen to pedestrians, who have to yield the road to the motorist. Apparently he thinks pedestrians have no rights at all except in the ditch, and the Worcester magistrates have expressed their sympathy with that point of view. We agree with the writer in *The Star*, who describes this particular horseman as a public nuisance, and the Worcester Bench as a public menace. We cordially congratulate Mrs. Saul for refusing to be intimidated by a bully.

We also congratulate a young married woman who brought an action before the Southend magistrates against a man who, without encouragement, left his seat to sit by her in a Southend house of entertainment, and completely spoiled her evening's pleasure. He was fined by the justices only 30s., although the police had informed them that the man, in the same Court, on a previous occasion, had admitted playing the part of "Peeping Tom" on young girls undressing in their home at Leigh! No woman was on the Bench.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

From Wednesday afternoon to Saturday morning last week, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship held its Annual Council Meeting in King George's Hall, Y.M.C.A. There was a good attendance of delegates from all over the country, and the long agenda was got through only by means of combining some groups into a single omnibus resolution. Resolutions dealing with the Equal Moral Standard passed without dissentients. Those dealing with possible methods of increasing the number of women on Local Government authorities, including Agricultural Wages Boards, went through unanimously. The Council showed itself at one in objecting to special protective legislation for women in industry, and also at one concerning the need for an increase in the numbers of women police. The Insurance Group, which was designed to improve the position of the insured woman, was merged into one, and carried by a large majority. Several resolutions dealt with methods of increasing the number of women in effective positions in the League of Nations and its various Commissions and pendants. The Council also urged upon its Executive to devise some scheme to shorten and condense the always growing agenda for future annual meetings. Finally, and most topically, Equal Franchise had pride of place among the 60 odd resolutions, and was carried with hearty unanimity.

WHY 6,000,000 VOTELESS WOMEN?

The *Morning Post* says that high praise was given to the woman voter by Mr. Amery, Dominions Secretary, at a mass meeting of women Conservatives, at Deptford Borough Hall, last week. The women of this country, he said, had shown a keener sense of public duty than the men in many constituencies. Women possessed the great quality of common sense, and were not so easily carried away by words and phrases as were men. They had a wholesome fear of political quack doctors. Women to-day were the very backbone of the Constitution.

We sincerely hope that Mr. Amery will press these views on the Prime Minister, and the unwisdom of keeping nearly six millions of women over the age of 21 in political tutelage simply and solely because they are women.

PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION.

Marcelle Benson, Avocate à la Cour d'Appel, writes in the Belgian paper, *L'Internationale Féminin*, on special protective legislation for women. She first says how impressed she had been at the Congress of the International Woman's Alliance last year, and then she gives some of her own reasons for opposing such legislation.

On the argument that woman, being potential mother, requires particular protection, Marcelle Benson replies that woman herself is the best judge of her powers and her duties. On the taunt that women refuse motherhood in order to gain a large salary, she is of opinion that a nation would be better without the motherhood of such women. If, again, it is sheer necessity that drives a woman to that choice, then the greater reason for not imposing upon her, in addition to her poverty, restrictions on paid work. She points out that many of the restrictions placed upon the paid work of women are not placed upon her domestic work, where weight-lifting, night-work, and long hours are a commonplace. Marcelle Benson asks where is the protection for the woman nurse, who does not happen to have to compete with men?

Marcelle Benson gives a striking summary of existing and proposed protective legislation, and shows how it does and must react harmfully to women, and asks whether the hardship of paid employment can be worse for the race than the hardship of unemployment. She ends with a stirring appeal to women not to be deceived into accepting this "protection."

EQUAL FRANCHISE.

The following resolution was passed by the Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League, February 26th, 1927:—"This Council of the Women's International League expresses its satisfaction with the action of the Prime Minister in consenting to receive a deputation on the subject of Equal Franchise. It demands the introduction of an immediate Government measure giving the vote to women on the same terms as men and at the age of 21."

SPRING SALE.

Our Annual Spring Sale is to be held on Friday, March 25th, from 3 to 7.30 p.m., by kind invitation of Dr. Octavia Lewin, at 25, Wimpole Street, W.1.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence has promised to preside at the opening ceremony, which will be performed by Dr. Isabel Turnadge, late of Twickenham County Girls' School, and many of our kind friends are going to assist in various ways. Among those who have promised to help with the stalls are Mrs. M. M. Abbott, Miss Burwood, Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Jacoby, Miss Lyndon, Mrs. Lindus, Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Trotter, and Mrs. Willis.

There will be Stalls for Household and Spring Cleaning Goods; Lingerie, Overalls and Aprons; Pottery; Fancy Articles; White Elephants; Beads; Country Produce, Cakes, Sweets, and Preserves.

A charming programme of Entertainments has been arranged, and members and friends would be wise to book the date to come and hear Miss Joan Dunsford, Miss Lilian Foulis, Miss Harvey James, Mrs. Harvey James, Miss Mollie Seymour, and Mrs. Sparrow; and, lastly, Dr. Lewin has promised to give a short lecture at 6 p.m. Character Readings in Numerology will be given by Miss King.

Efforts are being made to make the teas specially attractive. Miss Reeves has undertaken this part of the work, and will be assisted by the staff and members of the Minerva Club, also Miss Myra Sadd Brown, Miss Harvey James, and others. Members and readers of THE VOTE are urged to invite their friends to tea at the Sale. Tables can be reserved for any number of people between 3.30 and 6 p.m.

Gifts for all the Stalls and the teas will be most acceptable. Please send some contribution to help the Sale. Gifts for the Stalls should be sent to the Hon. Fair Secretary before March 24th, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, and gifts for the teas to Miss Reeves, c/o Dr. Lewin, 25, Wimpole Street, W.1, sent only on the day of the Sale.

All communications should be sent to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Fair Secretary, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

WHAT IS A COMMUNIST?

The *Christian Science Monitor* reports, under the above heading, the statement by Mrs. Robinson, president of the Massachusetts Public Interests League, of Boston, that "the program of these women's clubs fits right into the Communists' program, just like a picture puzzle." We know neither the lady nor the League, but have some acquaintance with the societies whose programs she identifies with the program of the Communists. Our readers will share our astonishment to find the following on Mrs. Robinson's list:—The General Federation of Women's Clubs, National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, National Board of the Y. W. C. A., National Council of Jewish Women, National League of Women Voters, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, National League of Mothers' and Parent-Teachers' Associations, Girls' Friendly Society of America, National Education Association, American Association of University Women, American Federation of Teachers, National Consumers' League, American Home Economic Association and Sacred Star Union.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Elementary Schools (Sanitary Accommodation).

MR. DALTON (Lab., Peckham) asked the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that in new schools now being built by the London County Council the sanitary accommodation is below that of the Board's Building Regulations of 1914; and whether he will take steps to see that the standard hitherto enforced in respect of the building and re-modelling of public elementary schools is preserved? LORD EUSTACE PERCY: I am aware that, in the case of some Girls' Departments, the County Council have provided rather less sanitary accommodation than that previously required under the Building Regulations of 1914. Authorities are free to suggest a departure from the current practice where it appears to them desirable to do so; but no individual proposal is approved until the Board are satisfied that the accommodation of all kinds to be provided is adequate, having regard to the particular circumstances of the case. MR. DALTON: Will the noble Lord take the opinion of a competent medical authority before sanctioning any reduction in the sanitary accommodation of the schools? LORD E. PERCY: I always take the opinion of a very competent medical authority. MR. DALTON: Will the noble Lord act upon it? LORD E. PERCY: Yes. MR. J. HUDSON (Lab., Huddersfield): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the reductions that have been suggested by the local authority are largely the result of the pressure he has put upon them by his Circulars? LORD E. PERCY: No. I am not aware of that at all, and I should have thought that an attitude of dealing with this question on the basis of the merits of the actual case, and not on the basis of paper Regulations, was one to which no reasonable person could object.

Training Colleges.

MR. HANNON (U., Moseley) asked the President of the Board of Education the exact amount per head expended from public funds during the two years' course at training colleges for teachers of men and women students, respectively; and if he can give the number of male and female teachers who have left training colleges last year and have not secured employment as teachers? LORD EUSTACE PERCY: The returns furnished by training colleges do not enable me to state the exact amount per head expended from public funds in respect of two-year courses, but, according to the latest available figures for voluntary colleges (1924-25), the average amounts of grant paid by the Board on account of two-year students were:—

	Per annum.	
	£	s. d.
Resident male student	70	9 9
Day male student	54	16 8
Resident woman student	59	7 7
Day woman student	45	8 7

From the accounts furnished to the Board for the same period, it appears that the average expenditure per student at colleges provided by local authorities was about £70. In addition, local authorities may pay the fees, etc., of students who attend colleges not provided by them. Of the 7,058 students who left college in July, 1926, 6,156 had obtained posts by December last; 146 had not attempted to obtain posts, and 756 had failed to obtain posts.

Teachers (Rural Training).

LORD EUSTACE PERCY announced that he had now appointed a Departmental Committee to consider this question. This Committee consists of nine men, in addition to two men secretaries, but only two women:—Miss M. M. Allan and Miss A. E. Wark, C.B.E., Chief Woman Inspector.

Shops Acts (Departmental Committee).

SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS reported that he had not yet received replies from all those to whom he had sent invitations to serve on this Committee, "to

inquire into the Shops Acts, 1920 and 1921," but that he hopes shortly to announce its composition. [We hope that it will contain an adequate number of women.]

Juvenile Delinquency (Report).

BRIGADIER-GENERAL MAKINS (U., Knutsford) asked the Home Secretary when the Report of the Commission on Juvenile Delinquency will be available? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I understand that the Committee is likely to present its Report towards the end of this month.

Juvenile Employment.

SIR ROBERT NEWMAN (U., Exeter) gave notice that, on March 15th, he would call attention to Juvenile Employment, and move a Resolution.

Offices Regulation Bill.

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., E. Middlesbrough) has presented a Bill, "to regulate offices and the employment of young persons therein, and for other purposes connected therewith," which is to be read a second time on March 23rd.

Abolition of Capital Punishment Bill.

LT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Lab., Central Hull) has presented a Bill, "to provide for the abolition of capital punishment, and to substitute other punishment therefor, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid," which is to be read a second time this week.

Trade Boards Acts.

MR. BARNES (Co-op., East Ham) asked the Prime Minister whether he can provide time for a discussion on the administration of the Trade Boards Acts? COMMANDER EYRES-MONSELL (Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury): There are many opportunities available to Private Members at this period of the Session to initiate such discussions, and the Prime Minister cannot give special facilities.

Female Prisoners.

SIR ROBERT NEWMAN (U., Exeter) asked the Home Secretary how many city and borough police forces there are in England who have no full-time police matron in their police force; and whether, in those cases, he is satisfied with the arrangements made for the searching and supervision of female prisoners? CAPT. HACKING (Under-Secretary, Home Office): On September 29th, 1926, the latest date for which details are available, there were in England and Wales 77 city and borough police forces where full-time police matrons are not employed. In all these cases, however, arrangements are made for matrons or police women to be called when necessary. On the information at present before him, my right hon. Friend sees no ground for considering these arrangements unsatisfactory.

Women (Nationality Law).

MR. BRIANT (Lib., N. Lambeth) asked the Prime Minister if he will consider the introduction of a Bill to facilitate the British-born wives of aliens resuming their British nationality, in the event of the decease or desertion of their husbands? CAPT. HACKING (who had been asked to reply): In the case of a woman who was a British subject before her marriage to an alien, and whose husband has died, or whose marriage has been dissolved, fresh legislation is unnecessary; special facilities for the resumption of British nationality are already available under the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914. My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, has previously announced the intention of the Government to propose the provision of somewhat similar facilities in the case of the woman who is or may be presumed to be permanently separated from her alien husband, and a recommendation to this effect was adopted by the recent Imperial Conference.

Women's Freedom League.

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

President—Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.
Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.
Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.
General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Tuesday, March 15th, at 8.15 p.m.
Minerva Club. Branch Meeting to discuss the Conference Agenda.

Friday, March 25th, 3—7.30 p.m.
Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Songs, Recitations, little stalls, and Dainty Teas.

Saturday, March 26th, at 8 p.m.
Minerva Club. Whist Drive in aid of the Branch funds. Tickets 2/- including refreshments, from the Secretary, The Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Saturday, March 26th, at 10 a.m.
National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, April 29th, at 10 a.m.
Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Friday, May 6th, at 2 p.m.
The Women's Freedom League Jumble Sale, to be held (by kind permission of Miss Cole) at The Women's Freedom League Settlement, 2, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W. Send your parcels from now onwards to 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

Thursday, March 31st, at 8 p.m.
Middlesbrough. Town Hall. Equal Political Rights. Public Meeting.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, March 11th, at 3 p.m.
The Women's Institute, 70, Victoria Street. Mr. Allan S. Walker, Lantern Lecture on "Westminster Abbey." Chair: Miss Jopling-Rowe.

Saturday, March 12th, at 3 p.m.
The Speech Club. "The Modern Englishwoman"—"In Art," Mr. Morris Wood; "In Business," Miss G. Madden.

Saturday, March 12th, at 5.30 p.m.
Polytechnic, 307, Regent Street. "Spoken Poetry in the Schools." A Demonstration by Miss Marjorie Gulland, School Children, Students and Teachers. Tickets 2/-.

Thursday, March 17th, at 3 p.m.
Joint Parliamentary Advisory Council. Dr. Montague James on "Some Minor Excellencies of Dickens," at 41 Upper Grosvenor Street. Lord Darling in the chair.

Thursday, March 17th, at 8 p.m.
The Parliamentary Labour Club, Tufton Street. The Fabian Women's Group. Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., L.C.C., on "The Problem of the Necessitous Areas."

Monday, March 21st, at 3 p.m.
The Six Point Group. Miss Smee (late Mayor of Acton) on "One of our Members as Mayor."

Tuesday, March 22nd, at 1 p.m.
The International Council of Women, at the Lyceum Club. Luncheon to meet Princess Radziwill of the Information Section of the League of Nations Secretariat. Tickets from Secretary, Lyceum Club, before March 19th, 3/-.

Tuesday, March 22nd, at 3.30 p.m.
Women's Guild of George Street Congregational Church, Croydon. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Why Women should take an interest in Municipal and Political Work."

Wednesday, March 23rd, at 3 p.m.
Joint Parliamentary Advisory Council. Sir Henry Hadow, on "Musical England," at 25, Park Lane. The Duchess of Atholl in the chair.

Thursday, March 24th, at 3 p.m.
The Six Point Group. Literary Lecture, Miss Sylvia Townsend Warner on "Witchcraft." Chair: Mr. St. John Ervine. Tea 4—5. Tickets 3/6, 2/6, from Secretary, Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street.

Friday, March 25th, at 8.30 p.m.
The League of the Church Militant. Public Meeting. Miss M. ude Royden on "Christ and International Relationships." Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., on "Christ and Industry." Canon Raven, D.D., on "Christ and the Ministry of Women." Chair: H. H. Judge Shewell Cooper. Reserved seats 1/-, from League of the Church Militant, Church House, S.W.1.

Wednesday, March 30th, at 3 p.m.
North Hackney Women's Liberal Association Meeting, at St. Michael's Hall, Northwood Road, Clapton. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "The Legal Position of Married Women."

Friday, April 1st, 4—5.30 p.m.
In aid of the Six Point Group. Miss Ada Moore's Party. Lady Rhondda. Madame Bertha Moore will tell Stories. Miss Eva Moore will Recite. Cards of admission from Miss Ada Moore, 153, Elm Park Mansions, S.W.10.

BRANCH NOTE.

ASHFORD.

At a meeting, held in Dr. Wilkes' Memorial Hall, on Wednesday, February 23rd, the problem of franchise for women was ably considered and discussed by Miss Chave Collisson, M.A. Mr. T. G. Kither presided, and was supported by Mrs. Miles (President) and Mrs. Kither (Vice-President). Miss Collisson urged upon all women to keep sending postcards to their M.P., urging Equal Franchise.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

The Committee had a busy afternoon last Thursday, with a wide range of subjects.

Representatives of 19 constituent societies signed a resolution, expressing satisfaction with the Prime Minister's decision to receive a large and representative deputation on the subject of Equal Franchise, and a hope that this deputation, on March 8th, would receive from him the promise of a Government Bill giving votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as men.

Next, the Committee considered the need for increasing the number of women Parliamentary candidates, and the desirability of assigning to those women candidates, "whose special qualifications or services to their Party deserve it," seats which have recently been held by the same political Party, the general feeling being that too many "forlorn hopes" fell to the share of women.

Other resolutions dealt with the need for more women police and more women sanitary inspectors in industrial areas, and one proposed that efforts be made for a Motion to be discussed in Parliament in favour of the removal of the anomaly by which, under the present law, a husband or wife can will away the whole of his or her estate from the surviving spouse or from their children.

WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC.

The Report of the White Slave Traffic Commission is expected to come before the Council of the League of Nations next week. We sincerely hope that this Report will be published and circulated widely. It is understood that the first part comprises a general review of the whole situation, and that the second part describes the conditions prevailing in each of the 28 different countries where an investigation was conducted. The *Daily News* says the Report shows that two things are essential if the White Slave Traffic is to be fought effectively—the abolition of the licensed house system, and relentless warfare, both by legislation and administrative methods, against the men who live on women's earnings by immorality.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

"The Blanesburgh Committee."

DEAR MADAM,—I notice in your issue of the 18th instant that you give a short report on the findings of the Blanesburgh Committee. I think, in fairness to the Committee, it is only right to elaborate one or two of the points in the first paragraph.

In the first place, there were two women members on the Committee, the Viscountess Milner being the second.

As Secretary of what I think is the only purely women's organisation which administers under Section 17 of the Act, I should like to point out that the scheme proposed by the Blanesburgh Committee is an advance on any of the previous Unemployment Insurance Acts from the point of view of women insured contributors. For the first time, women and men have been actuarially assessed separately. The point has been brought out that actually unemployed men have drawn benefit for 1.98 days per contribution paid, whilst in the women's case the number of days drawn per contribution is only 1.27. Further, the Actuary states that the proportion of men who have drawn the adult dependents' allowance is 45 per cent, whilst the number of women is negligible.

Under the new scheme, women will pay 3½d. per week and will receive 15/- Unemployment Insurance Benefit, whilst men will pay 5½d. per week and will receive 17/-. It will therefore be seen how, for the first time, women will actually receive their just dues under the Unemployment Insurance Scheme.

Whilst in agreement with your contention as to the need for equal pay, we must not lose sight of the fact that so long as pay remains unequal, and so long as there is so much work reserved entirely for women, the problem of the equalisation of contributions and benefits is not so simple.

The Blanesburgh Committee have adopted two guiding principles: first, that their scheme must be a contributory one, and secondly, that the benefit paid must be lower than the wage for unskilled work. So long as the system of wage payment remains as at present, the woman contributor is not in a position to make the same contribution as the man, and, of course, the higher the rate of benefit the nearer it approximates to her normal wage rate.

Though there are many criticisms which might be levelled at the Report, it is only right to give credit where it is due, and there is no doubt that the Committee have made a serious attempt to improve the position of women as compared with that of men under the National Insurance Scheme.

Yours sincerely,
DOROTHY EVANS (General Secretary),
Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries.

FRIDAY,
MARCH 11,
1927.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, March 13th, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Major W. Tudor Pole. 6.30. Maude Royden: "The Discipline of Body and Spirit."

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