

THE VOTE,
FEB. 20, 1925.

THE LUCK OF THE BALLOT.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1925

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

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WOMEN M.P.s IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

I.—MME. ADELHEID POPP, M.P.

Mme. Adelheid Popp is the leader of the Women's Social Democratic Party in Austria. When Austrian women became enfranchised in 1918, her Party gave Mme. Adelheid Popp a good place in the ballot list for the ensuing Parliament, and she has been a Member ever since 1919, when women first became eligible for Parliament. Previous to her election to Parliament, she had been for many years a member of the Vienna Municipality, but has since resigned this office, owing to her Parliamentary duties.

Mme. Adelheid Popp has had an extraordinarily interesting career. Born in humble life, of working-class parents, she was forced to begin earning at the early age of ten, when she helped her mother in a home industry. At fifteen years old she entered a factory, and never having been able to acquire much schooling she now spent all her leisure hours in self-education. She was just 21 when she first became acquainted with the ideals and aspirations of the Social Democratic Party in Austria, and eagerly joined as a member. A little later on she was appointed editor of the first Social Democratic women's paper in Austria, then called "Arbeiterinnenzeitung," but now changed to the title of "Die Frau." Though no longer editor, Adelheid Popp is still its chief inspiration. In 1893, she commenced an agitation for a better standard of living for domestic servants, and led in the first strike among Austrian women workers. In

1896, she suffered a fortnight's imprisonment for a too bold condemnation of the conventional marriages of the day. She had herself married by then, and was the mother of two children. But her husband's early death, after a long period of illness, left her a widow at 32 years of age, with two little sons to provide for. Both these are since dead. The elder disappeared in Italy during the war, and her beloved younger son, a talented young man of 23, died only recently.

The struggles and privations of Mme. Adelheid Popp's life since early childhood may be read in her well-known autobiography, "The History of a Woman Worker," to which August Bebel has contributed a Foreword.

The account of how she worked her way from social obscurity into the front rank of Austrian speakers and authors reads like a fairy romance. Her strong personality, fearless convictions, and self-denying services to all who need them, have all combined to make Mme. Adelheid Popp's name beloved and honoured, not only in her own political Party, but in the Woman's Movement all over the world.



MME. ADELHEID POPP, M.P.

Austrian women have shown themselves very progressive since the new Constitution in 1920. Many Societies have been formed of late years to promote women's interests, chief of which are the Austrian Council of Women, and the Association of Women's Political Interests.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Noted French Feminist.

A tablet has recently been affixed to the house, 151 rue de la Roquet, where Hubertine Auclert, the foundress of the first Frenchwomen's Suffrage Society, lived for many years. Mme. Auclert was known for her devotion, during the siege of Paris in 1870, to the interests of those who were stricken. Six years later she created the first woman's rights group. She was the first to refuse to pay her taxes on the ground that she had no part in voting them.

Chicago Women Councillors.

Three women are candidates for the Chicago City Council at the February 24th election. They are the Rev. Rowena Morse Mann, Unitarian preacher and speaker of note; Mrs. Irene M. Lefkow, a lawyer; and Mrs. Frank Townley Brown, a club-woman.

Woman President.

Mrs. George Cadbury, the first woman President of the National Free Church Council, will preside at the Council's annual Conference at Leeds, on March 9th. Miss Margaret Bondfield will address the women's session at the Conference.

Jersey Women's Progress.

The Jersey States (Parliament) last week passed a similar law to the Women's Property Act of this country, so that Jersey women are no longer legally regarded as chattels.

Japanese Business Women.

Miss Emma Kaufmann, General Secretary of the Y.W.C.A. in Tokio, states there are 1,500,000 Japanese women and girls working in offices in that city. More than 1,100 of these have enrolled to study shorthand, typing, and commercial English.

Woman Suffrage in Italy.

It is not yet certain whether the Bill extending the municipal franchise to women, after the sharp criticism made by the Parliamentary commission, will be withdrawn altogether, or submitted to the Chamber when it reassembles this week.

Chinese Women's Progress.

West China Union University, Chengtu, Szechwan Province, has just admitted its first women students to college classes. A dean of women has been appointed. This action in the most remote province of China shows the changing status of woman in the Orient.

Girls' Education in Egypt.

In 1883, the number of girls receiving instruction in Egypt was negligible, but in 1921, of the 320,000 scholars in schools, either under the management of, or inspected by the Ministry of Education, no less than 53,000 were girls.

Japanese Women to Wait?

The Manhood Franchise Bill will be passed, as now amended, says the *Daily Telegraph*, by the Privy Council. It extends the voting age to 30 years, denies peers the right to vote or to become candidates for the Lower House, and refuses the franchise to convicts after they have served sentences.

Votes for Newfoundland Women?

This month the Government of Newfoundland is to submit to the Legislature a woman suffrage measure and a Redistribution Bill, creating 40 single-member constituencies instead of the present 18 districts.

A Woman Engraver.

Miss Dorothy E. C. Woollard, at a meeting of the Council held recently, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Painter Etchers and Engravers.

Women Park-keepers for Croydon?

Croydon Council is considering the appointment of women park-keepers.

BILLS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO WOMEN.

Representation of the People Bill: "to assimilate the Parliamentary franchise for men and women and to reduce the qualifying age for the university and local franchises for women," has been presented by MR. WHITLEY (Lab., Blaydon), supported by Mr. Arthur Henderson, Miss Wilkinson, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, Mr. Lansbury, Mr. William Murdoch Adamson, Sir Henry Slessor, Mr. Lees-Smith, and Mr. Snowden. This Bill is down to be read a second time to-day (Friday).

Adoption of Children Bill: "to make further provision for the adoption of children by suitable persons," presented by SIR GEOFFREY BUTLER, (U., Cambridge University), supported by Sir Robert Newman, Capt. Wedgwood Benn, Mr. Dalton, Major Ropner, Mr. Robert Hudson, and Viscountess Astor; to be read a Second time Friday, April 3rd.

Abolition of Capital Punishment Bill: "to provide for the abolition of capital punishment and to substitute other punishments therefor, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid," presented by MR. RENNIE SMITH (Lab., Penistone), supported by Mr. Lansbury, Mr. Hayes, Miss Wilkinson, Mr. Clynes, Mr. Johnston and Mr. Pethick-Lawrence; to be read a Second time Friday, 15th May.

Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act (1919) Amendment Bill: "to amend the law with respect to disqualification on account of sex," presented by SIR ROBERT NEWMAN (U., Exeter), supported by Viscountess Astor, Miss Wilkinson, Mr. Hurst, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, Captain Bowyer, Mr. George Thorne, Sir Martin Conway, and Rear-Admiral Sueter, to be read a Second time Friday, 24th April.

Bastardy Bills: "to amend the Bastardy Laws and to make further and better provision with regard to bastard children; and for other purposes in connection therewith," presented by CAPT. BOWYER (U., Buckingham), to be read a second time to-day (Friday).

Guardianship of Infants Bills: "to amend the law with respect to the guardianship, custody, and marriage of infants," presented on behalf of the Government by Sir William Joynson-Hicks, Home Secretary.

The texts of the above Bills have not yet been issued.

AMERICA'S WOMAN SECRETARY OF STATE.

Mrs. Florence E. S. Knapp, of Syracuse, America's first woman Secretary of State, entered on her new office last New Year's Day, after years of public service and interest. She is primarily an educationist, and was elected Dean of women at Syracuse University previous to her present appointment. Mrs. Knapp has recently introduced a Bill into the Legislature which authorises the taking of the most complete census in the history of the State, a census which aims not merely to count the people, but to collect a mass of valuable information, such as statistics showing the drift from the country to the town, and vice versa. For this undertaking, Mrs. Knapp will be in charge of the appointment of over 1,000 census officials. As Secretary of State, she was the first woman to administer the oath of office to a Governor, which she did last New Year's Day, when Governor Alfred E. Smith was inaugurated as Chief Executive of New York State for the third time. She was also the first woman to call the State electors together, and to swear-in the 45 electors who recently cast their votes for President and Vice-President. Mrs. Knapp is forming a "women's Cabinet," the first of its kind in Albany, which will include the wife of the Governor and wives of State officials. Its aims, however, are mainly social.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Export of Horses.

MR. GERALD HURST (U., Moss Side) asked the Minister of Agriculture if he had now inquired into the abuses attending the export of horses for slaughter on the Continent, and if he would take action in the matter? MR. EDWARD WOOD (Minister of Agriculture) replied that he had been giving the matter his careful consideration, and he proposed to appoint a Departmental Committee to inquire into the conditions under which the export of horses to the Continent was carried on, and to advise whether any further restrictions were necessary.

Juvenile Unemployment.

MR. HARRISON (U., Bodmin) gave notice that on February 24th he would call attention to the question of juvenile unemployment and move a Resolution.

Nationality of Married Women.

MAJOR S. E. HARVEY (U., Totnes) gave notice that he would this week call attention to the status of British women who may marry aliens, and move a Resolution.

Food Prices Commission.

MR. CECIL WILSON (Lab., Attercliffe) gave notice that on February 25th he would call attention to the Royal Commission on Food Prices and its proceedings, and move a Resolution.

Benefit Applications (Women).

MR. HANNON (U., Moseley) asked the Minister of Labour if his attention had been drawn to the statement that the Rochdale Employment Exchange, by the appointment of a special committee to interrogate each woman applicant for unemployment pay, had resulted in a fall in the number of applicants within ten days from 1,239 to 40; and if, with a view to safeguarding the interests of genuine applicants, and to conserving public funds, he would use his endeavours to secure that that example should be followed in other parts of the country? Sir ARTHUR STEEL MAITLAND (Minister of Labour) replied that he was very familiar with the statement to which his hon. friend alluded, and had the facts ascertained some time ago. A sub-committee was appointed, as stated, last December, but its object was limited to the examination of about 120 women, not on short time, some of whom it was thought might be made available to meet a shortage of weavers. Between 50 to 60 of those women disappeared from the register at about that time, and it was not unlikely that their disappearance was due to the inquiries that were addressed to them through the sub-committee, but that was the utmost extent to which a reduction of the register could be attributed to that cause. At the same time a large number of other operatives, previously on short time, went off the register owing to longer hours of work being started. The reduction of the register owing to this cause during the first fortnight in December probably exceeded 1,200. The two facts above mentioned had no connection with each other, and their occurrence at the same time was a coincidence. He would, however, like to make it clear that he thoroughly approved of the action taken by the local employment committee. Within the limits he had mentioned, the work of the sub-committee was useful, and steps were being taken to suggest similar action in other places where the circumstances were similar. Miss WILKINSON (Lab. East Middlesbrough) asked if the Minister of Labour could give the House any idea as to the nature of the questions that were addressed to those girls by the Committee? Sir ARTHUR STEEL MAITLAND replied that he could not say off-hand, but he would be very glad to try to procure any information of the kind if she desired it, and would write to him. He would only repeat again, because he wished to make it quite clear, that the object of these inquiries, or any other, was not to make an inquisition, but was simply to try to discriminate, in the interests of deserving persons, between those who deserved unemployment benefit, and those who did not.

Housing.

LT.-COM. KENWORTHY (Lib., Central Hull) asked the Minister of Health how many working-class houses were now under construction; and how many were being built of materials other than brick? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health) replied that on the 1st January last, the latest date of which Returns were available, there were 54,027 houses in course of construction in connection with State-assisted Schemes. On the 1st October last, the latest date for which Returns were available, there were 18,512 houses of five rooms or less under construction without subsidy. Statistics were not available showing the numbers being built of materials other than bricks.

Young Female Offenders.

MR. CADOGAN (U., Finchley) asked the Home Secretary if young female offenders on remand were at any time associated in the prison with older prisoners; if there were any means of communication between the two classes of prisoners on the way from the Court to the prison; and, if so, whether he could give the House the assurance that the matter was receiving the attention of the Committee which was now considering the subject of the treatment of young offenders? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS (Home Secretary) replied that there was no association between such prisoners and older women in prison, except in the hospital ward. In such cases, however, the women were never left alone, but a trained nurse was always present by day and night. Communication was sometimes no doubt possible when prisoners were being conveyed from a Police Court to a prison. The question whether any further precautions were possible and desirable would be brought to the notice of the Committee referred to, and would no doubt receive their careful consideration.

Food Preservatives and Colouring Matter.

CAPT. GARRO-JONES (Lib., S. Hackney), asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of the widespread support which the Report of the Departmental Committee on the use of preservatives and colouring matter in food had received, and in view of the specific nature of the Committee's conclusions, he could now tell the House if he would introduce legislation at an early date to give effect to those conclusions? MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN (Minister of Health) replied that he was proposing to publish at an early date draft Regulations designed to give effect to the majority of the Committee's recommendations, which, he was advised, could be carried out without legislation.

Legitimacy Bill.

CAPT. BOWYER (U., Buckingham) asked the Prime Minister if he would introduce as soon as possible the Legitimacy Bill? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS said that he had been asked to reply to that question. He hoped that it might be possible to introduce this Bill in another place at an early date.

Child Adoption.

LT.-COL. HEADLAM (U., Barnard Castle) asked the Home Secretary if the Departmental Committee on Child Adoption, presided over by Mr. Justice Tomlin, had presented a Report; and, if not, when such Report might be expected. SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS replied that the Committee had not yet presented a Report, and he was unable to say when the Report might be expected. He understood that the Committee had not yet finished taking evidence.

Equal Franchise.

In reply to a question by CAPT. BENN (Lib., Leith), the PRIME MINISTER said that the Government did not propose to make any statement on this subject until the Private Bill was being considered by the House. LADY ASTOR asked if the Prime Minister would remember that many of his supporters were pledged to this? No answer was given. F. A. U.

THE VOTE.

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

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

THE LUCK OF THE BALLOT.

All suffragists will be pleased that an Equal Franchise Bill has secured the first place in the Ballot, and that Mr. Whiteley's Bill comes up for its Second Reading to-day (Friday) in the House of Commons. We whole-heartedly wish this Bill every success, and we have written to all Members belonging to the Liberal and Labour Parties (both of which are pledged to the cause of the equal enfranchisement of women and men), and to our known friends in the Conservative and Unionist Party, asking them to be in their place in the House of Commons, and to vote for and support the Second Reading of this Bill by every means in their power. If our friends will rally to its support, the Second Reading cannot fail to secure a majority; and we and all our friends, both inside and outside Parliament, shall then be in a position to ask the Government to adopt the Bill, at any rate as far as its equal franchise clauses are concerned, and to pass it into law without delay, so that women shall have the right to vote at the next General Election at the same age and on the same terms as men. The second Bill, in which we are very specially interested, is the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act (1919) Amendment Bill "to amend the law with respect to disqualification of sex." The text of this Bill has not yet been issued, but since it is being presented by such a staunch friend of the women's cause as Sir Robert Newman, we cannot but hope that it will also deal with disqualification on account of marriage. We cordially agree that the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act (1919) requires amending, especially in view of Command Paper 1244, which, so far as the Civil Service is concerned, reserves to men (1) all posts in the Diplomatic Service and in the Consular Service; (2) all posts in the Government Services of the Colonies and Protectorates, to which appointments are made in the United Kingdom; (3) all posts in the Civil Services of His Majesty in India, to which appointments are made in the United Kingdom; and (4) all posts in the Commercial Diplomatic Service and the Trade Commissioner Service. These reservations ought certainly to be removed, and the Civil Service appointments, both at home and abroad, thrown open to the competition of women and men on equal terms. Moreover, since Clause I of the Act states that "a person shall not be exempted by sex or marriage from the liability to serve as a juror," we hope that it will be found possible in the amending Bill to provide that no person shall be excluded from a Court of Justice on grounds of sex. With regard to the disqualification of marriage, we think it is a blot upon our legislature that, while there is an Act on the Statute Book which clearly states that "A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from being appointed to, or holding any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation," the London County Council, and other local governing bodies, can with impunity dismiss, or compel to resign, their women employees, solely on account of their marriage.

WOMEN'S WAGES AND CONDITIONS.

We are glad to see that Miss Wilkinson, on the Committee of Supply Vote for Wembley Exhibition, raised the question of the wages paid to men and women, particularly the women, employed at the Wembley Exhibition last year. She pertinently asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Overseas Trade Department (Mr. A. M. Samuel) if he considered that the conditions of those workers could be a good advertisement for the British Empire, and whether men and women from Australia, for example, who were protected by all kinds of fair wage legislation, were not shocked at the wages and conditions that prevailed at Wembley? She pointed out that wages were not the only question involved. It was a fact that the women employed at the Exhibition had to pay for lavatory accommodation. That was a thing which would not be tolerated by the law of the land in factories, shops or offices, and she wanted to know if that scandal would be removed this year. Many of the girls worked very long hours indeed; there was no proper rest-room provided except by a certain firm, and there again the girls had to pay. Miss Wilkinson suggested that general conditions with regard to public health, conditions of labour, and the fair wages clause, could be laid down by the Government before the Exhibition started. Mr. Samuel replied that he would make it his business to look into the matter. The Government would not allow anything in the nature of a scandal of that kind to go on if they could stop it. He would welcome any representations made by the hon. member, and, if necessary, he himself would go to the Exhibition and look into the matter.

Last week the Lewisham Borough Council appointed an assistant librarian, a young woman of twenty, at a salary of eighteen shillings a week. We think this salary offered to a young woman assistant librarian is scandalous, and we hope that it will be remembered when the members of this Borough Council are asking for the votes of the electors of their district. A London organiser of the women's section of the General Worker's Union stated that, in taking statistics of minimum wages required by women, it was found that a rag-picker in a factory was only just able to exist on a wage of 25/- a week.

The *Morning Post* reports that, speaking at the annual dinner of the Women Sanitary Inspectors' Association, at which Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., was also a speaker, Dr. Seekings Friel referred to the salaries of health workers, and said she thought if women were to spend two or three years in training to be health visitors they must be assured at the end of that period that they would receive a salary which would enable them to live in comfort. Without an adequate salary it was impossible for the woman health visitor to settle down to her work, and if she and her colleagues stood for the welfare of the public, then the public in turn must see that they received adequate remuneration. With these remarks the Women's Freedom League is in full and cordial agreement.

PEERESSES AND THE LORDS.

The text of the Bill introduced last week by Lord Astor, which secured a first Reading in the House of Lords, has been issued. It provides that a woman, being the holder in her own right of any peerage, other than a peerage of Scotland or Ireland, shall, if otherwise qualified, be entitled to and receive a writ of summons to Parliament, and to sit and vote in the House of Lords as fully as if she were a man, and notwithstanding that the Royal Charter or Letters Patent (if any) creating such peerage do not expressly confer upon her the right to hold and possess a seat, place, and voice in Parliament. It is also provided that a woman being the holder in her own right of any peerage of Scotland or Ireland, if otherwise qualified, shall be entitled as fully as if she were a man to vote at the elections of representative peers of Scotland or Ireland respectively, and to be an elected representative of the peerage of Scotland or Ireland, and as such to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

UNITED STATES FELLOWSHIPS FOR GREAT BRITAIN.

The *Times* reports that the Commonwealth Fund of New York announces the establishment of twenty annual fellowships at American Universities for British graduate students. The directors of this Fund have been influenced by two considerations. It is their belief that international understanding can be forwarded in no more practicable way than through the provision of international opportunities for education and travel to young men and women of character and ability. Such men and women, potentially leaders in their own country, becoming familiar through residence and education with the institutions, customs, and ways of thinking of the people of another country, can but be a force for mutual understanding and good feeling. Secondly, the importance of unity of thought and purpose on the part of the two great English-speaking nations of the world, lends a special value to reciprocal educational opportunities in the two countries. It is the hope of the Commonwealth Fund that the fellowships here offered to British students may promote the mutual amity and understanding of Great Britain and the United States. The fellowships will be available for graduate students in any of the 26 universities in the United States, which were on January 1st, 1925, members of the Association of American Universities. Candidates may be nominated by recognised universities in Great Britain and Ireland to a British Committee of Award, which will examine each candidate. Appointment will be made of either men or women, unmarried, and not over 30 years of age, who satisfy the Committee of Award as to their character, ability, qualities of leadership, health and general fitness. Twenty fellows will be appointed each year; each fellowship is for two years, with the possibility of a third year being granted to a limited number for satisfactory reasons. Each student may elect the university in which he or she

wishes to study, but not more than three fellowships may be awarded at any one American University, this provision having been made in order to secure the distribution of students throughout the United States. An important provision of the plan is that each student shall have at least three months' travel in the United States at the close of the first year of study. Through this arrangement, and through the presence of students at educational institutions in various parts of the United States, the Fund hopes that mutual understanding will be promoted.

The Prince of Wales is honorary chairman of the British Committee of Award, and, according to *The Times*, the following have agreed to serve on the Committee: Sir Walter Robert Buchanan-Riddell, Principal, Hertford College, Oxford (Chairman); Sir Hugh Kerr Anderson, Master, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge; Sir James Colquhoun Irvine, Principal of the University of St. Andrews; Sir Theodore Morison, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Durham, Principal of Armstrong College; and Mr. Percy Lunn, Principal, London Day Training College, and Professor of Education.

While congratulating all concerned in connection with this generous scheme, we cannot refrain from expressing regret that no woman's name is included in this British Committee of Award, and perhaps more especially in view of the fact that the Commonwealth Fund, from which the amounts of the fellowships have been derived, is a philanthropic foundation established in 1918 by a woman, Mrs. Stephen Harkness, who has made several gifts amounting in all to between £5,000,000 and £6,000,000. We notice, too, that the president and treasurer of the Fund, as well as the directors, are men.

HOUSEWIVES AND FOOD PRICES.

Speaking recently at the offices of the Six Point Group, 92 Victoria St., Mrs. Juson Kerr, President of the Kentish Housewives' Union, described various successful boycotts which members of the Kentish Housewives' Union had instituted at different times during the last three years, whenever prices of foodstuffs rose inordinately high. In the Dover constituency alone, 23,000 women signed a Petition to Mr. Lloyd George in 1921, asking him to lower the prevailing sugar prices. Later the women's campaign spread practically over the whole of Kent, and was well supported by the Press. A big Public Meeting was held at Dover on the subject of high tea and sugar prices, and it was an interesting coincidence that American women were also holding a Meeting for the same purpose at the same time. Mrs. Flora Drummond, of the Women's Guild of Empire, pursued a similar campaign amongst the women of Scotland. In Scandinavia, and some of the British Overseas Dominions, Housewives' Associations had been in existence for a number of years.

The Kentish women's sugar boycott resulted in the wholesalers at Canterbury keeping the prices even, instead of raising them as had been threatened. The same result was noticed at Lichfield, where the Press took up the matter. During the Campaign practically every member of the House of Commons received a Petition from different women's organisations, and a few months later the "*Daily Express*" published statistics of the sugar consumption per head in the country, and stated that this had fallen by as much as one pound per head of the population, "probably owing to a consumers' strike." The women boycotted steadily for a year.

If the Royal Commission on Food Prices, which was now holding public sessions in London, did not accomplish what it set out to do, Mrs. Juson Kerr said the women of the country must again go forward. A Women's Committee had already been formed, and would take action directly the Royal Commission terminated. Mrs. Philip Snowden was one of the members of this Committee.

THE SPRING SALE.

The Spring Sale, which is always one of the most attractive of the Women's Freedom League's activities, is to be held on March 13th, at 3 p.m., at 25, Wimpole Street, by kind invitation of Dr. Lewin.

This year we are especially anxious to have a profitable Sale in order to raise the funds which are badly needed, so that the Women's Freedom League may continue its necessary work of giving publicity to women's grievances and to women's successes, and of helping to add to the latter.

There will be speeches, singing, and recitations at intervals throughout the afternoon, and continuous entertainments in competitions, character-reading, etc. The Stalls will include the following:—Household Stall, White Stall, Pound Stall, White Elephant Stall, Flower Stall; and Miss A. M. Clark is bringing the goods for a Cake Stall from Wales. Members and friends are asked, not only to come to the Sale, but also to help beforehand by sending, or promising to send later, any of the following:—

For the Pound Stall. Pounds of rice, tea, sugar, jams, sweets, etc.

For the White Elephant Stall. All those things which are turned out, year after year, at Spring Cleaning, dusted and put back "in case they may be useful one day."

For the Flower Stall. This Stall will largely depend for its success upon our country members, and promises of help from them will be much appreciated.

For the Household Stall. Useful articles are needed such as dusters, ironholders, scrubbing brushes, soap, etc.

For the Competitions. Small articles suitable for prizes; and lastly,

IDEAS

We will welcome all suggestions that can be given for helping to make the Sale a success.

Letters and parcels may be addressed to me at the Women's Freedom League Offices, 144, High Holborn, E.C.

(Sgd.) A. M. PIEROTTI,
Hon. Sec. of Sale Committee.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION.

The Triennial election of the London County Council takes place on March 5th, and the members of the London Unit of the National Union of Women Teachers are making strenuous efforts to secure the return of Miss Agnes Dawson, the Labour candidate for North Camberwell. The National Union of Women Teachers resembles the Women's Freedom League, in that it is a non-political body; and is free, therefore, to support a woman candidate of any political party, if she stands for "Equality." Apart from her varied experience as a London Teacher, and past President of the N.U.W.T., Miss Dawson has personal force and ability which will certainly bring her to the front when she succeeds in becoming a member of the Council. Readers of the "Vote" will no doubt remember her as a colleague during the fight for Women's Suffrage, and may therefore rest assured that she stands not only for better and wider education, but for equality of opportunity in all spheres. A tremendous amount of work has to be done before March 5th and offers of help will be welcomed at Old Kent Road.

IMPRISONMENT FOR NON-PAYMENT OF FINES.

The Home Secretary, replying to a question put by Mr. Pethick-Lawrence last week, stated that the number of persons committed to prison during the year ended March 31st, 1924, in default of payment of a fine, who were allowed no time for payment, was 11,874. 484 committed in default of paying their fines were under 21 years of age; but, of these, 198 were allowed time to pay, and 169 paid their fines before reaching prison. Mr. Pethick-Lawrence asked if the Home Secretary would recommend to the Courts that in all cases where an offender under the age of 21 years, who had been given time in which to pay a fine, failed to pay, he should be brought before the Court again before going to prison; but Sir William Joynson-Hicks replied that a defendant under 21 years of age, who had been fined and allowed time for payment, might apply to the Court for an extension of time, or might be placed by the Court under supervision, but the Court had no power to compel his appearance before it again before committing him to prison, so that he could not make the recommendation which the hon. Member suggested.

BORSTAL GIRLS (TRANSFERS TO PRISON).

Mr. Pethick-Lawrence asked the Home Secretary if he would give directions that, in future, when a young woman, on account of bad behaviour in a Borstal Institution, was transferred to prison, the Court should be consulted as to the length of sentence to be served there, instead of the unexpired residue of her Borstal sentence being automatically imposed? Sir William Joynson-Hicks replied that when a girl was transferred from a Borstal Institution to a prison, she was not necessarily held to serve a period equal to the unexpired part of her sentence. The duration of her imprisonment was determined by the Secretary of State in the light of all the circumstances, and of her conduct both in the Borstal institution and in prison, and her prospects on discharge. The Court was consulted whenever circumstances required such consultation.

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BOOK REVIEW.

The Church and Woman. By A. Maude Royden. With a chapter on the Evangelical and Free Churches, by Constance M. Coltman, M.A., B.D. (James Clarke & Co.) 6s. (Can be obtained at this Office).

This book contains a comprehensive survey of Women in the Early Church, the Middle Ages, the post-Reformation period, and the present position, with respect to Women in the Ministry in the Church of England. In her opening chapter on "The universal subordination of women," Miss Royden will have none of that contention of certain enthusiasts that in many of the ancient civilisations women held an equal place with men, and asserts that when all exceptions, such as matriarchates, etc., have been allowed their full weight, the outstanding fact in the history of women has been their universal subordination to men. She will not even make excuses for St. Paul, as many feminists do, pleading faulty translation for many of his "hard sayings," but asserts boldly that St. Paul, in spite of his high calling, was unable to rise above the average masculine Jewish regard for women. Her statement regarding the position of women in the Early Church, except "as martyrs and as deaconesses," is equally depressing, and will no doubt give great satisfaction to the clergy as a whole. Miss Royden, however, deals very skilfully with the alleged "reasons" which are constantly being advanced *ad nauseam* against opening the Ministry to women, and which feminists know too well to want to hear them repeated in these pages. And she raises our hopes by drawing attention to the fact that of the three great prophecies of St. Paul, of the disappearance, in Christ, of racial barriers between Jew and Gentile, class barriers between slave and freeman, and sex barriers between men and women, two have already come to pass, and the third—the sex barrier—is slowly yielding.

The chapter on Women in the Evangelical and Free Churches, contributed by the Rev. Constance Coltman, is both scholarly and illuminating, and if it serves no other purpose, amply proves women's contention that they have a special contribution to give in furtherance of the things of the Spirit. Though regretting many of the excesses committed by the authors of the Reformation, Mrs. Coltman pays Protestantism the tribute of having claimed an independent value for the soul of woman, apart from her human functions. The martyrdom of Catholic women, and women in various post-Reformation sects, is noted, and certain leaders cited, such as Joan of Kent, the most famous of the Anabaptist martyrs, and a theologian of no mean repute, who was burnt at Smithfield in 1550, Anne Askew, and the Holy Maid of Kent, a nun who courageously protested against Henry VIII's scandalous divorce of Katherine of Aragon. The list of women preachers is surprisingly full. Of these the most noted were the Quaker women, who crossed continents, challenged Princes and Governors, and endured floggings, imprisonment, and death itself, in the service of the Gospel.

In the section on the present position of women among the Free Churches, Mrs. Coltman maintains that the ministry of women is becoming more articulate every year, and it is only a question of time before every one of the Free Churches will have women as well as men in their ministry. At present in this country there are two women on the official list of Congregational Ministers, Mrs. Coltman herself, and the Rev. Mary G. Collins, of North Bow Church, London; two women Baptist Ministers, Rev. Mrs. Living-Taylor, co-partner with her husband of Zion Jubilee Baptist Church, Bradford, and Miss Gates, pastor of Tew and Cleveley, Oxfordshire; and no fewer than 7 Unitarian Women Ministers. The full acceptance of the spiritual equality of men and women, however, Mrs. Coltman thinks is only really held by the Friends, and the Salvation Army, but she forgets the Christian Scientists, who not only make no difference at all between the sexes, but who frequently appoint a woman as leader before a man.

D. M. N.

Women's Freedom League.

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WHERE TO GO.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, February 23rd, at 3. **Women's Freedom League.** Spring Sale Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, February 23rd, at 8. **St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.** The Emerson Club, 14, St. George Street, Westminster (corner of Whitehall). Soirée in honour of Miss L. de Alberti (Editor, "Catholic Citizen"). Tickets (including refreshments) 3/6.

Tuesday, February 24th, at 10—5. **5, Old Palace Yard, Westminster.** Royal Commission on Lunacy.

Tuesday, February 24th, at 5. **Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, Westminster.** Speakers: Messrs. Hubert Phillips, and John Turner. Subject: "Family Endowment: Its effect on the Wage Earner."

Tuesday, February 24th, at 5.15. **Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street.** Speaker: Mr. Gerald Gould. Subject: "The Contemporary Novel."

Tuesday, February 24th, at 6. **Montessori Society, 11, Tavistock Square, W.C.** Study Circle. Subject: "The Life of Language in the Montessori System."

Wednesday, February 25th, at 10—5. **5, Old Palace Yard, Westminster.** Royal Commission on Lunacy.

Wednesday, February 25th, at 11 and 3. **Board of Trade Offices, Whitehall.** Royal Commission on Food Prices.

Wednesday, February 25th, at 3. **Consultative Committee, Council Chamber, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.** Lecturer: Miss Lucy D. Bell. Lecture: "Impromptu Speaking."

Wednesday, February 25th, at 5. **Fabian Women's Group, Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill Street, Westminster.** Speaker: Miss Margaret MacNamara. Subject: "Social Life and Amenities in Rural Districts."

Thursday, February 26th, at 11 and 3. **Board of Trade Offices, Whitehall.** Royal Commission on Food Prices.

Thursday, February 26th, at 5. **Joint Parliamentary Advisory Council, The Governor's House, The Royal Hospital (East Gate), Chelsea.** Speaker: Sir Oliver Lodge, F.R.S., D.Sc., LL.D. Subject: "The reality of the Unseen." Tickets 10/6, from Miss Harley Bacon, J.P.A.C., 7, Hobart Place, S.W.1.

Thursday, February 26th, at 6.30. **Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.** Meeting for Women City Workers. Speakers: Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Miss Helen Fraser, Miss Dorothy Evans, etc.

Thursday, February 26th, at 8. **Women's Freedom League, Thames Valley Branch.** Public Meeting at "Holmwood," Waldegrave Road, Teddington. Speaker: Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P.

Thursday, February 26th, at 8.15. **Sociological Society, Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.** Lecturer: Mr. C. B. Fawcett. Lecture: "Distribution of Population over the Land."

Friday, February 27th, at 3. **National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W.** Annual General Meeting. Speaker: Lt.-Col. F. E. Fremantle, M.P. Subject: "Parliament and the Public Health."

Tuesday, March 3rd, at 6. **Women's Freedom League, Mid-London Branch Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.**

Friday, March 13th, at 3. **Women's Freedom League, Spring Sale, 25, Wimpole Street, W.** (by kind invitation of Dr. Lewin).

Saturday, March 14th, at 10. **Women's Freedom League, National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.**

Saturday, April 25th, at 10. **Women's Freedom League, Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster.**

Saturday, April 25th, at 8. **Women's Freedom League, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square.** Dinner to Miss Phipps, B.A. Tickets 3s. 6d. each.

WALES.

Saturday, February 21st. **Women's Freedom League, Montgomery Boroughs Branch.** Rummage Sale in the Congregational School Room, Newtown.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, February 24th, at 4-6. **Women's Freedom League, Hastings Branch.** Whist Drive at the Glenroyde Hotel. Tickets 1s. Tea 9d.

Wednesday, February 25th, at 7. **Women's Freedom League, Swansea Branch.** Meeting at 9, Sketty Road.

Friday, February 27th, at 3-30. **Women's Freedom League, Ashford Branch.** Social Tea, followed by a Whist Drive at the Hempstead Street Hall. Tickets 1s.

Wednesday, March 4th, at 4-6. **Women's Freedom League, Bexhill Branch.** The Chantant at the Albany Hotel (by kind permission of Miss Skinner).

BRANCH NOTES.

THAMES VALLEY.

By the kind permission of Mrs. Foster Lumb, a Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 26th, at 8 p.m., at "Holmwood," Waldegrave Road (entrance by gate in Claremont Road), Teddington, when Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P. (President of the Kent Housewives' Union), will speak on "How to form a Housewives' Union and bring down the Prices of Food." As Mrs. Juson Kerr has regularly attended the meetings of the present Royal Commission on Food Prices, she will be able to give information as to its proceedings. Opportunity will be given for a full discussion on this question, and all our members and friends in the Thames Valley district are not only urged themselves to come to the meeting, but to bring other men and women with them.

GLASGOW.

On Monday, February 9th, a very successful Women's Freedom League Meeting was held in the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street, several people even being unable to find standing room. Miss Marjorie Gullan made a most sympathetic chairman, whilst three of her students delighted the audience with their perfect speaking of poetry. Bailie Mary Bell gave us an interesting account of her work on the Council, followed by many amusing anecdotes of little episodes connected with her duties as a magistrate. After her came Miss Anna Munro, who, in her usual brilliant, stirring way, spoke of the work the League has done, and is doing, and of the continued necessity for agitation on the part of women if they would complete the work that they have begun, and eventually reach full equality with men.

The following resolution, which was proposed by Bailie Bell, seconded by Miss Anna Munro, and passed unanimously, has been sent to all the Glasgow M.P.s, to the four women members of Parliament, and the Prime Minister:—"That this meeting of the Women's Freedom League, held in the McLellan Galleries, on February 9th, calls upon the Government immediately to bring in a Bill giving women votes on the same terms as they are given to men, and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure to women equality of opportunity with men in all respects."

Twelve ladies joined the Women's Freedom League, a collection of £5 2s. 6d. was taken, 100 "Votes" were sold, and literature to the value of 8s. 1d. disposed of.

In the absence of Dr. Chalmers Smith, a vote of thanks to all who helped was proposed by Miss Jane Thomson, and seconded by Miss McLellan.

The most grateful thanks of the Women's Freedom League are due to Miss Marjorie Gullan and her students, to Bailie Bell and Miss Anna Munro; to Miss Stewart, who so kindly "ran" the sale of "VOTES" and literature, and to Miss Sinclair, the Misses Crane, and others, who so effectively helped her; and to Miss McDougall and Miss McDonald for their kindness in sending out notices, etc.

It is now proposed to give a whist-drive, tickets for which will be 2/6, in order that there may be some funds in hand for the branch. This will take place about March 7th.

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MIDDLESBROUGH.

At a meeting held on February 9th, Mrs. Holtham moved, and Mrs. Harrison seconded the proposal that some of the remaining goods left over from the Green, White, and Gold Fair should be sent to the Spring Sale.

Members who have any things suitable for a Jumble Sale are asked to kindly send them to Mrs. Deuchars, 39, Emerald Street, or Mrs. Harrison, 40, Bush Street, as soon as possible.

PORTSMOUTH.

A very enjoyable Whist Drive was held on Saturday evening, February 14th, at the Unitarian School-room, High Street. Mrs. Brading, Mrs. George, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Slatter and Mrs. Whetton kindly gave the prizes, and Mrs. Yelf, Mrs. Pockett, Mrs. Ware and Mrs. Dimmick contributed to the refreshments. Mr. C. Davis was a most genial M.C. and Miss Mottershall did the catering. (Hon. Sec) MRS. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

MADAM.—May I very cordially endorse all you say in your article in the current issue of THE VOTE on "Women and the Courts." But may I point the moral? You say: "We cannot think how any woman magistrate could have shirked her duty (to attend in Court) to spare his feelings. Surely, it was the two girls—mere children—who had the first claim to her consideration." This, in reference to a case of an elderly man, charged with indecent assault, when two girls of 12 years old had to give evidence. Does not this show very clearly the futility of that "feminist" policy of securing the return of "a woman," merely because she is a woman, to Bench or Council or other responsible position? Press by all means for the appointment of courageous, able, public-spirited women, who can be relied on not to shirk their duty, but do let us show some discrimination against appointing the *wrong* sort.

Yours, etc.,

E. M. WHITE,
General Sec., Federation of Women Civil Servants.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, February 22nd. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Sir Banister Fletcher, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.I. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "A way of Life outside the Churches: Part IV. Discipline."

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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