

# THE VOTE

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

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**OBJECTS:** To use the power of the Parliamentary vote, now won for Women upon equal terms with men, to elect women to Parliament, and upon other public bodies; to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes; and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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## A WOMAN SENATOR OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The women of Czechoslovakia, by virtue of the important part they have always taken in the daily life of their country, are an independent and freedom-loving race. In recognition of their services, the Bohemian Diet—the all-important land parliament—accorded women the right to vote as far back as 1861.

Since 1864 women taxpayers, employers, teachers and others holding official positions have voted at council elections for towns and villages. In 1912, the election of a woman to the Bohemian Diet marked a definite step in the forward movement of women towards admittance to a share in their country's administration.

Madame Plaminkova, who saw that the women of Czechoslovakia must gain political enfranchisement before they could take their rightful position in the country, in 1905 founded an organisation for women's suffrage. The war brought to a crisis the activities of Czechoslovak women suf-

fragists—as of women suffragists elsewhere—and in 1918, they were given the vote on equal terms with men.

It is fitting that one who threw her energies into the campaign for enfranchisement should herself have been elected a Senator of the Czechoslovak Legislative Assembly. Her experience, knowledge and the forceful-

ness of her convictions, make her a most valuable representative from the women's point of view.

The Faculty of Law was thrown open to women when Czechoslovakia was declared a Republic, but although women have since qualified and practised as notaries and lawyers, the judgeship is withheld. Madame Plaminkova, who feels that in Czechoslovakia women judges are essential to the administration of justice, is carrying on a vigorous campaign for their appointment. She states that although a Council of the Ministry declared against women judges in 1922, she knows the majority of the members of the council to be now in favour.

In appointing a woman to the Diplomatic Service on an equal status with other members, Czechoslovakia has acknowledged women's right of entrance to the Diplomatic Service.

Madame Plaminkova declares that voting is a serious matter in Czechoslovakia. All who are entitled to vote are compelled

to do so by law; exemption is only granted in the case of illness, and cannot be claimed on behalf of business or other personal matters. Women take a keen interest in the elections and in the affairs of their country. Ten women sit in the Czechoslovak Chamber of Deputies and five in the Senate.



MADAME PLAMINKOVA.



## CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN.

*Organiser and Speaker:* Miss Lilian Lenton.  
*Assisted by* Mrs. Ash, Miss Jones, Miss Ritchie, and Miss Scott.

*Headquarters:* "Ardlea," Ardmory Road, Ardbeg, Rothesay.

Almost, it seems, there are those who think that the vote being won, we should demand no more, but rest content, for they appear surprised that once again we have entered upon our Clyde Coast Campaign. But it is our aim on this campaign to show to all whom we can reach, wherein woman still lacks opportunities for as full and free a life as man enjoys. We arrived two days ago; since then we have held three meetings. At two of these—in Rothesay and Dunoon—the speaker dwelt on the thoughtless foolishness of those women who, by contemptuous phrase or laughing acquiescence, insult their own sex, not realising what they do. Then, last night, she spoke of the wrongs of the married woman—wrong the happy wife may not feel, but which are wrongs, nevertheless. She showed how laws and social customs alike conspire to render it almost impossible for a woman to enter the marital state and still retain her independence and her individuality. And no man cried that, being unmarried herself, she knew not what she said!

There has been no serious opposition; the inevitable drunken man has somewhat spoilt our evening meetings, but on the whole the crowds seem sympathetic and interested. In all ways our Campaign has started well. Even the weather—that most important factor in open-air work—has been glorious since our arrival. May it so contrive for a month, that nightly we may hold our meeting on the Pier Head at Rothesay, and twice weekly in Dunoon, Largs, Helensburgh, Millport, and Gourrock.

We have four enthusiastic young helpers, who will be engaged daily in "Vote" and literature selling. Miss Eunice Scott is particularly good at taking the chair, but in this respect someone else will have to develop ability during the coming weeks, for we propose holding two open-air meetings daily in different towns, besides the usual one at Rothesay in the evening. They are diffident, for not one has spoken in public before, but doubtless confidence will come when the occasion arises. After all, there must be a first time for all things!

There is just one further point I should like to emphasise. This Campaign, being for effectiveness undertaken during the "season," is very expensive. Donations, therefore, will be gratefully received by the Organiser at the address given above.

LILIAN LENTON.

## WHAT WE ARE WORKING FOR.

FULL EQUALITY FOR WOMEN WITH MEN IN EVERY DIRECTION.

1. Women Members of the House of Lords and Women on the Privy Council.
2. More Women Members of Parliament.
3. Women upon every Magistrates' Bench throughout the Country; and women on all Juries.
4. Women on the Prison Commission, Women Governors and Women Medical Officers of Women's Prisons; Women Inspectors of Prisons; Women Police Commissioners; and Women Police in every Police Force in the Country.
5. An equal number of women and men of equal status on the Board of Control.
6. More women on all local governing bodies, all committees of which must be open to women equally with men.
7. Equal opportunities and equal pay for men and women in all branches of the Civil Service at Home and Abroad, including the Diplomatic, Consular, Trade Commissioner Services, &c., and in the teaching profession, and the opening of all trades and professions to women, with equal opportunities, equal responsibilities, and equal pay for equal work.

8. The right of married women to work for pay.
9. Automatic separate assessment and separate taxation of incomes of husbands and wives for the purposes of Income Tax.
10. The immediate restoration to British women of the right to retain their own nationality on marriage with an alien.
11. The recognition of an equal moral standard for men and women, and the passing into law of the Public Places (Order) Bill, under the provisions of which no man or woman charged with soliciting or similar offence shall be convicted on the uncorroborated evidence of the Police.
12. Women on all Royal Commissions and Departmental Committees appointed by the Government, and Women on all Commissions of the League of Nations.

## EQUAL PAY NOTES.

The Federation of Women Civil Servants in their pamphlet on Equal Pay state that the Re-organisation Committee of the National Whitley Council, which reviewed the organisation of the Treasury Classes in 1920, recommended equality of pay for the early years of service, but left considerable differences in increments and maxima. The following are the scales of salary of the Treasury Classes as they stand at present:—

	Basic Grade.		Higher Ranks.	
Administrative	Men	£200—£500	£700—£900	£1000—£1200
	Women	£200—£400	£600—£750	£850—£1000
Executive	Men	£100—£400	£400—£500	£550—£700
	Women	£100—£300	£300—£400	£450—£550
Clerical	Men	£80—£250	£300—£400	£400—£500
	Women	£80—£180	£230—£300	£300—£400

The pamphlet points out that attention must be drawn to the invidious position of women in higher posts where the equivalent men's work commands higher salaries. The salary of a lower rank man touches or overlaps the salary of a higher rank woman. In departments where the segregation of the sexes has been abolished, or has never existed, it frequently happens that women have as their assistants men who are receiving higher pay. For example, a recently appointed higher executive officer (woman) found on taking up her new duty that she had working under her a male higher clerical officer receiving £400 (maximum) and an executive officer (male) receiving £375. She herself was being paid £300. While the two standards of pay are allowed to obtain, the women of higher rank have only a nominal and complimentary status.

## Medical Women and the Post Office.

The July number of the *News-Letter*, the organ of the Medical Women's Federation, states that the subject of the salaries paid to the medical women in the Post Office Medical Service had again been under consideration by the Standing Committee of the Federation, and correspondence had taken place with the Secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Services who had been negotiating with the Post Office on the matter. As a result the basic salary had been raised at once by £40, for both men and women, and a scale had been agreed upon, viz., for male medical officers, £375, increasing by £20 yearly to £650, together with cost of living bonus; and for female medical officers, £320, increasing by £20 to £520, together with cost of living bonus. Although the women's salaries have been increased they are not only still paid at a lower rate than the men but the commencing salary of £320 plus bonus (£114) is below the accepted scale of £600.

The *News-Letter* further states that it was reported to the Council by the Medical Secretary that information had been received that two half-time appointments now vacant in the Post Office were being offered to medical women at salaries of £175 for four hours' work on six mornings a week (three weeks' holiday), and carrying with them no pension and no sick pay. This scale worked out at 2s. 9d. per hour. A discussion followed and a letter was sent to *The Times* and published by that paper on May 10th stating these facts.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

## Hong Kong (Mui Tsai System).

MR. FOOT (Lib., Bodmin) asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has yet received the Report promised by the Governor of Hong Kong upon the question of the abolition of the system of mui tsai? MR. LUNN: The further report promised by the Governor of Hong Kong has just been received, and is now under consideration.

## Civil Service (Royal Commission).

SIR WALTER DE FRECE (U., Blackpool) asked the Prime Minister whether, before deciding on the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the Civil Service, he ascertained the views of the Staff Side, National Whitley Council, which is the official voice of the civil servants; and if so, what opinion was expressed by that body? THE PRIME MINISTER: No, Sir, but I have no reason to believe that the decision which has been taken on this question is unacceptable to Civil Service Associations represented on the National Whitley Council.

MR. W. J. BROWN (Lab., Wolverhampton, W): Will the right hon. Gentleman receive at as early a date as possible a deputation on this matter from the National Civil Service Whitley Council, Staff Side, for which they have asked? THE PRIME MINISTER: No request has been made to me, so far as I know, but a request has been made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and he proposes to receive the deputation.

## Hampstead Heath (Women Police).

MR. HARRIS (Lib., Bethnal Green, S.W.), asked the Home Secretary whether he has received a Report as to the necessity for providing women police on Hampstead Heath; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter? MR. CLYNES: The Commissioner of Police, after full consideration, has decided that the circumstances would not justify him in transferring women police to Hampstead Heath from other parts of London, but when the establishment is increased, he will consider the desirability of allotting some women police for duty there.

## Women Police.

SIR GEORGE PENNY (U., Kingston-on-Thames) asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what are his intentions as regards the compulsory appointment of women police? MR. CLYNES: I think the employment of women police by local police authorities may properly be encouraged where there is scope for them, but it is not, in my opinion, a matter for compulsion.

## Income Tax Inspectors (Women).

MR. DAY (Lab., Southwark Central), asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury the number of women at present employed by his Department as Inspectors of Income Tax? MR. PETHICK-LAWRENCE: The number is 21. All of these are at present in the cadet class of assistant inspectors.

## Electoral Law Inquiry.

MR. S. BALDWIN (U., Bewdley) asked the Prime Minister if he has any announcement to make with regard to the setting up of the Committee referred to in the King's Speech to consider certain experiences of the recent Election? THE PRIME MINISTER: Yes, Sir, I cannot announce the exact terms of reference, as they are still the subject of consultations between the Leaders of the parties in the House; but I am happy to say that I have approached Lord Ullswater with a view to his presiding over the Committee, which will be formed on the model of the Speaker's Conference, 1916-1917, and he has been good enough to put his services at our disposal. I desire to take this opportunity of thanking his Lordship for acceding to the request I made to him with the support of the Leaders of the other two parties.

## London Lock Hospital.

DR. PHILLIPS (Lab., Sunderland) asked the Minister of Health if the Committee of Inquiry on the London Lock Hospital has yet submitted its Report; if so, whether the Report is unanimous; and whether he proposes to publish it? MISS LAWRENCE (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health): The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative. As regards the third part, papers as to the administration of the hospital have been presented and are in the printers' hands. I hope that copies will be available for hon. Members this week.

## Juvenile Offenders (Punishment).

MR. LOVAT FRASER (Lab., Lichfield) asked the Home Secretary if he is aware of the practice, adopted by some magistrates, of ordering juvenile delinquents to be birched, and at the same time putting them on probation; and whether he will introduce legislation to make this illegal? MR. SHORT (Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Home Office): Yes, Sir, cases of this kind have been reported to my right hon. Friend, and he thinks that the combination of a punishment, such as birching with a probation order, is contrary to the intention of the Statute. If the wording of the Statute leaves any room for doubt, he will consider the question of amending it when a suitable opportunity occurs.

## Probation Officers.

MR. LOVAT FRASER (Lab., Lichfield) asked the Home Secretary if any, and, if so, how many, benches of magistrates have failed to appoint probation officers as required by the Criminal Justice Act, 1925; and whether he intends to take any steps to enforce the law? MR. CLYNES: Apart from one combined area, where arrangements are in progress but are not completed, only twelve out of 1,028 Petty Sessional Divisions were returned as being without probation officers at the end of last year; and this figure includes casual vacancies. Before the Criminal Justice Act of 1925, 137 Courts were without probation officers. A good deal has been done in recent years to improve the organisation of the probation service with encouraging results, and I do not think there are any other steps which my Department should take at present.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

## Miss Olga Nethersole Honoured.

The British Medical Association has invited Miss Olga Nethersole to be a Vice-President of a section of Medical Sociology at its 97th annual meeting, to be held in Manchester next week. This honour has been conferred on her in recognition of her ten years' work in connection with public health. Miss Nethersole founded the People's League of Health in 1917.

## Woman Bell Ringer.

Miss Nora Johnston, England's first woman carillonneur, and the first woman of any country to perform on the bells in public, gave recitals every day last week on the Wellington War Memorial peal in the grounds of the North-East Coast Exhibition, Town Moor, Newcastle.

## Women Accountants.

Eight women sat for the last examination held by the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors, five of whom were successful—one in the Final; two in the Intermediate; and two in the Preliminary.

## Greek Women and the Vote.

*The Times* correspondent at Athens reports that M. Venizelos, the Prime Minister, replying to a question in the Chamber on July 10th, stated that the Government was ready to introduce a Bill on the re-opening of the Chamber granting votes to Women in the Municipal Elections subsequent to those of August 4th, but it did not consider that the time was ripe for granting the Parliamentary vote to women.



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### NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The question of the nationality of married women is one of great importance to the women of all nations. The League of Nations proposes that it shall be dealt with at the Conference on the Codification of International Law, which is to be called probably next year. In Great Britain and in the Dominions a woman loses her own nationality when she marries a foreigner, but the British and Australian Parliaments have unanimously adopted resolutions in favour of a woman retaining her own nationality on marriage with an alien unless she makes a declaration that she wishes to adopt that of her husband, but these resolutions have not been translated into the law of the land. The question of the nationality of British women was discussed at the Imperial Conference in 1926, and will come up again for discussion at the next Imperial Conference.

The Committee on the Nationality of Married Women, appointed by the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, has, under the chairmanship of Miss Chrystal Macmillan, collected a great deal of information, and presented an invaluable report on the subject to the recent Berlin Congress. From the July number of *The International Woman Suffrage News*, which gives a summary of this report, we learn that for a long time the Argentine, Brazil, Chili, Uruguay, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, and Paraguay have accorded to married women their own nationality, and that between 1918 and 1926 the countries of Russia, the United States of America, Belgium, Roumania, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland gave to married women important nationality rights. In 1927, Finland granted to its women nationals with foreign husbands the right to retain their own nationality so long as they resided in their own country. In 1927, France adopted a law which provided that a Frenchwoman, on marriage with a foreigner, should retain her French nationality, and that a foreign woman who marries a Frenchman should not acquire French nationality unless she expressly asks for it or unless by such marriage she loses her own nationality. In 1927, the rights of nationality similar to those extended to the French women were also granted to the women of Algeria, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion. In 1927, the Law of Jugo Slavia provided that a Jugo Slav woman who marries a foreigner should retain her own nationality, if on marriage she makes a written declaration to this effect; and that a foreign woman should not have Jugo Slav nationality imposed upon her on her marriage with a Jugo Slav if she makes a written declaration that she does not want to take Jugo Slav nationality. In 1929, the law of Turkey provided that a Turkish woman who marries a foreigner should retain her Turkish nationality.

With regard to the Conference on the Codification of International Law to be appointed by the League of Nations, the Congress at Berlin urged that its meetings should be held in public, and welcomed the following resolution which was adopted by the League of Nations Assembly in 1928:—

"The Assembly, considering that the question of the nationality of married women, which is on the Agenda of the Conference, is of special interest to women, and that Article 7 of the Covenant of the League embodies the principle that all positions under or in connection with the League shall be open equally to men and women, expresses the hope that the members of the League when invited to the forthcoming Conference, will consider the advisability of taking these considerations into account in composing their delegations."

The Berlin Congress strongly recommended that all the auxiliaries of the Alliance should bring this resolution to the notice of their respective Governments, urging them to include in their delegations well-qualified

women who support the policy of the Alliance, which is, briefly, that the woman should have the same right as the man to retain or change her nationality. This policy means that (1) The nationality of a woman shall not be changed by reason only of her marriage or of a change during marriage in the nationality of her husband; the right of a woman to retain her nationality or to change it by naturalisation or denationalisation shall not be denied or abridged because she is a married woman; and the nationality of a married woman shall not be changed without her consent except under conditions which would cause a change in the nationality of a man without his consent.

The Berlin Congress decided to urge the League of Nations to provide for the inclusion of a representative from the Alliance as a Consultative Member of the Conference on the Codification of International Law, who would press that the principles outlined above should be incorporated in the laws of all the different countries. It further resolved that a meeting of the Committee on the Nationality of Married Women of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship should be called at the same time and place as the First Codification Conference of the League of Nations.

For many years women's organisations have been pressing the Government to restore the old right of British women to retain their own nationality when they marry a foreigner, a right always enjoyed by them until 1870. Ever since 1924, the Government have taken up the attitude that this question of the nationality of married women can only be settled when an agreement on it is reached by Great Britain and the Dominions; but whether the Imperial Conference or the League of Nations will decide the matter is not known. Every year, however, makes the early settlement of this question of greater importance to British women, because more and more countries are making changes in their nationality laws. If at present a British woman marries an American, she cannot at once acquire the nationality of her husband, even if she desires to do so, but she automatically loses her own, so that for a time at any rate she has no nationality at all. All these laws affecting married women are built up on the now obsolete theory that a married woman is merely an appendage of her husband, and has no individuality. The only way out of the tangle is for every civilised country immediately to recognise that a woman, married or unmarried, has the same right as a man to change or retain her nationality, and immediately to incorporate this principle in its nationality laws.

### WOMEN OF THE EMPIRE.

The Empire Marketing Board was established in 1926 by the late Government, and has been recently reconstituted by the present Government. Its declared policy is "to invite the public to buy first the produce of their own country, and next the produce of the other parts of the Empire." We should have thought that women would have made excellent members of this Board and that they would have done excellent work on it. There are, however, no women on the Empire Marketing Board, although we are told that "there are sub-committees which make recommendations to the Board, and women are on these." As at present constituted, this Empire Marketing Board consists of Lord Passfield, the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, and eighteen other distinguished gentlemen belonging to this country or to the Dominions. Women speakers are employed by the Empire Marketing Board to enlarge upon its policy to the public up and down the country. We are sure that women fill the various subordinate positions allotted to them quite competently; but we strongly urge the new Colonial Secretary, Lord Passfield, to reverse the previous policy of the Colonial Office towards women, and to appoint suitable women to all the various Committees and Boards for which his department is responsible. A good beginning of this change of policy would be made by the addition of women to the Empire Marketing Board.

## FORWARD!

By EUNICE G. MURRAY.

In reviewing the progress of women in Scotland there are various things that strike one. As far as the Parliamentary vote goes there is no doubt that women have used it largely, and in as far as the vote is the outward symbol of citizenship, all is well. But citizenship means much more than just the right to vote at a Parliamentary election. It means more than to elect a man or woman to represent one in Parliament. We need the sense of citizenship much more developed in all forms of local government, such as Municipal Councils, County Councils, etc. We need women on these public bodies, and we want women to take an intelligent interest in all the questions that must come up in the different Councils. Take for example the work done on County Councils; every kind of question is discussed there, from health to road making. Town planning and slum clearance schemes are discussed and carried out; these are matters of vital importance to women. Soon the poor law and education are to be administered by the County Council. The work is becoming increasingly more far reaching and important, and there is another urgent question awaiting the attention of women, quite as important as slum clearance and house planning, and that is country preservation. Unless we do something to preserve the natural beauty spots of our country they will disappear.

National well being demands contact between the town people and the health-giving conditions of country life, but in the influx of town dwellers into the country we run the risk of ruining the country, and the country dwellers require protection.

Women should bend their energies to considering how hideous buildings can be prevented from springing up all over the country—houses laid down without plan or thought for the general effect. Scenery is defaced by hoarding boards, advertisements and glaring petrol pumps, placed often in such a position as to ruin a beautiful peep or obstruct a distant view.

To cope with the steadily increasing number of road travellers, old bridges are ruthlessly swept away, and rebuilt with cheap materials and ugly styles, instead of keeping them as they were, objects of beauty. Great arterial roads are being cut and banked with a view entirely as to how many motor charabancs can race ahead at top speed, with no consideration of safety to the pedestrian or of preserving the amenities of the country.

A Highland loch with its twisting road is a thing of beauty, but it can be quickly spoiled when it is turned into a straight broad smooth boulevard. Old buildings are demolished, historic landmarks pulled down, statues of men and women who have made history scrapped and monuments removed without compunction, to allow a road to be widened, when it could be diverted, or to permit a new building totally out of harmony with the surroundings to be erected. Is this progress? Assuredly not. To cultivate beauty, order and seamliness, and to reverence what is noble in the past is progress.

No one wants to close the joys of the country to the

### LONDON MEMBERS' MEETING.

London members met at the Minerva Club on Wednesday evening, July 10th, at 7.30 p.m. The meeting was called by the Barnsbury and District Branch. After coffee was served, Mrs. Burton (Chairman of the Branch) called upon Miss Underwood to address the meeting. Miss Underwood showed, as in previous months, the vast amount of work carried out at headquarters—work in connection with Mrs. Despard's birthday party; attendances at conferences of other Societies, etc. Items of special interest to members present were the letters received from women members of Parliament in answer to letters of congratulation sent to them by the League. Miss Underwood referred to the fact that we were co-operating with the N.U.S.E.C. in a deputation to the Government on the Factories Bill, and that we shall be represented at the Annual Meetings of the National Council of Women. Miss

town dweller, but has the town dweller the right to destroy the country with unsightly roads, or to leave a trail and litter behind him of rubbish and paper in every spot known as a beauty spot?

Women could do much to lead public opinion in this matter. It is not so much legislation that is required as organised public opinion.

No one has the right to have defective sanitation. In the interests of the community every drain must be kept in good repair. In the same way none have the right in the public interest of making what is beautiful, ugly and sordid for the convenience of their selfish pleasures.

We live in a beautiful country, none more so, and it is our bounden duty to be alive to every question that concerns the common good, to stir up public opinion to act as a bulwark against destruction, dirt and ugliness.

Women have won much, but it is not enough to secure a victory, the fruits of victory must be garnered. Having won citizenship they must act the part of alert good citizens, not be content to allow apathy to envelope them.

They must not suffer administration to fall into the hands of those who lack civic pride, and who have no ideals or love of beauty. Women have a natural love of beauty and order, and they must see to it that their point of view is made effective.

To beautify the land, to preserve its nature charm, to make it accessible to all who love it, is woman's work.

In conclusion, I should like to say a word upon one special point of political activity that should engage the attention of all earnest-minded women. It is the question of protective legislation—until that spectre is laid to rest, no industrial worker can enjoy a sense of security.

Unfortunately, all women are not united upon this question, but, personally, it seems to be a question that has only one side. The word protection means restriction. It means the closing of doors upon the best paid jobs. Protect every industrial worker, make every occupation as safe as it is possible to make it, but protect equally men and women. Where protection is applied solely to women, it means restricting their choice of occupation, and, incidentally, their earnings. Let our watchword be vigilance. Vigilance secured equality in citizenship, vigilance will retain it. If we are vigilant we can prevent our beautiful country from being spoiled, and in doing so we work for progress.

If you have sorrows, take them to the hills,

Or to the clean-swept spaces of the moors,

And you shall look on Nature as she is,

A stern-browed mistress, or a gentle friend.

Go forth, and bare your sorrows to the sun,

And lie in adoration at the feet

Of Nature. Seek, and find her at her best,

And at her worst, in sunshine, wind and storm,

In ruthless anger, and in springtime love.

Know her in all, and sleeping on her breast,

Learn the sweet secrets whispered in the dreams

Beneath the open sky—and wake to find your

spirit healed.

Underwood hoped that in the autumn Branches would avail themselves of the opportunity of inviting speakers from the Society for the Ordination and Full Ministry of Women to address their meetings; This Society is interdenominational: representatives from the various Churches could be invited to be present.

Dr. Knight then presented the financial side of the work, and told the members of a new scheme for raising money by means of collecting boxes. The proceeds were to be divided equally between headquarters and the Branches. Dr. Knight then interested the audience with some of her experiences at the Berlin Congress. Short accounts of work in London Districts were given, and Miss E. Berry, Honorary Fair Organiser, announced that the Green, White and Gold Fair will be held at the Caxton Hall on November 14th and 15th, and appealed to Branches for support.



MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY FUND. EIGHTEENTH YEAR.

FIRST LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Table listing contributions to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Columns include donor names (e.g., Barnsbury and District, Minerva Club, Mrs. F. G. Hamilton) and amounts in pounds, shillings, and pence. Total amount is £226 19 11.

The Birthday Fund still remains open, and more contributions are most urgently needed in this busy time. A second list will be published in THE VOTE later on. Meanwhile, a warm welcome awaits all supporters who have been unavoidably delayed. E. KNIGHT, Hon. Treasurer. 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1. Telephone—HOLBORN 9301. Telegrams—"DESPARD, HOLBORN 9301, LONDON." Colours—Green, Gold and White. President—Mrs. PETHICK-LAWRENCE. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT. Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON. Hon. Head Literature Department—Mrs. PIEROTTI. Hon. Head of THE VOTE Sales Department—Mrs. LEGGE. General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.



WHERE TO GO. WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DARE TO BE FREE. LONDON AND SUBURBS. Monday, July 22nd, at 4.30 p.m. Public Meeting at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Dhamvanti Rama Rau, M.A. (Secretary of the Child Marriage Abolition League). Tuesday, July 23rd, at 6.30 p.m. Mid-London Branch. Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. All members are asked to be present. Thursday, August 1st, at 3 p.m. Brentford and Chiswick Branch. Garden Meeting at 5, Brook Road, Gunnersbury (by the kind invitation of Mrs. Parkin). Thursday, August 8th, at 8 p.m. Brentford and Chiswick Branch. Meeting at 5, Brook Road, Gunnersbury, to arrange for Junior Section. Thursday, August 15th, at 7.30 p.m. Social Evening for London Members at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, W.C.1. Wednesday, August 28th, at 4 p.m. Social Afternoon for London Members at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, W.C.1. Thursday, August 29th, at 8 p.m. Brentford and Chiswick Branch. Dance at 65, Harvard Road, Gunnersbury, in aid of Branch funds, tickets 1/3. Thursday, September 5th, at 3.30 p.m. Brentford and Chiswick Branch. Meeting at 65, Harvard Road, Gunnersbury. Tea, music and speaker. This will be followed by a Dance at 8 p.m. Tickets 1/3, in aid of Branch funds. Saturday, October 5th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Thursday and Friday, November 14th and 15th, 3 to 9.30 p.m. Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Saturday, November 16th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES. Saturday, July 20th. Portsmouth Branch. Garden Party at "Bellevue," Finchdean Road, Rowland's Castle. Hostess: Mrs. Whitehead. Saturday, August 3rd, at 3.30 p.m. Hastings Branch. A Garden Meeting will be held at "Rossiana," Pine Street, Ore (by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Prelooker). Speaker: Mrs. Zangwill: "What we expect from the present Government." An entertainment arranged by Miss Miriam Prelooker will be held after the meeting. Saturday, September 14th (Proposed date). Middlesbrough Branch. Picnic for members and friends. Monday, October 14th. Middlesbrough Branch. Whist Drive, at the Grey House.

OTHER SOCIETIES. September 2nd to 15th. Women's International League. International Summer School in Lepence Visegrad, Hungary. Subject: "Effects of Public Economics on the Interior and Foreign Politics of Different Countries."

SOCIETY FOR THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN

The above Society, which is interdenominational, works for (1) Equal opportunity in training and service for women ministers in those churches in which the principle of equality is already recognised; and (2) the full ordination of women in those churches which do not at present grant it; or, in the case of those churches which do not use the word "ordination," its exact equivalent. Branches or Societies who would like to have a speaker on this subject should communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Miss I. L. Pryke, 1, Catherine Street, S.W.1.

BRANCH NOTES.

GOLDERS GREEN AND FINCHLEY. At Mrs. Legge's kind invitation, a number of her friends met at 24, Village Road, N.3, on Thursday afternoon, July 11th, to hear Miss Reeves speak on Restrictive Legislation for women. The weather was glorious and a delightful meeting was held in Mrs. Legge's pretty garden. Dr. Knight was present and spoke on the objects of the League. Mrs. Legge, in extending a welcome to those present, introduced Miss Reeves who, in an extremely enlightening address pointed out that owing to the present laws women were prevented from earning their living in certain skilled trades, such as house decorating, certain work in factories, etc., this being laid down to be dangerous. Miss Reeves said that conditions should be made safe for all, irrespective of sex. If the laws were equal for men and women, the latter would have a higher status, and conditions all round would improve. Questions were then asked and an interesting discussion took place during tea, and the meeting closed with a cordial vote of thanks to Miss Reeves for her speech, and to Mrs. Legge as hostess. Second-hand novels were sold on behalf of Mrs. Despard's birthday party, and a sum of 18/6 was handed to the Hon. Treasurer of the League. BRENTFORD AND CHISWICK. A delightful meeting was held at Harvard Towers, Gunnersbury, on Wednesday afternoon, July 10th, at 3 p.m. and new members were enrolled. Mrs. Parkin (chairman of the branch) presided, and in her opening remarks showed the necessity for women to band together to work for the reforms for which the Women's Freedom League stands. Mrs. Boyd, representing headquarters, in a most convincing speech, dealt with the various reasons as to why women should support equal pay for equal work, and went on to show that women should have the right to undertake paid work should they so desire. Tea was then served, and the audience expressed the hope that it would not be long before Mrs. Boyd visited them again in Chiswick.

MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY. We very much regret that the following names were omitted from our cordial vote of thanks to those who so kindly helped with the Pound Stall at Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party:—Miss Creak, Miss Gwen Paine, and Mrs. Sorrell.

Sunnydown School, Langton Matravers, Dorset. Country Home School for Girls near the Dorset Coast. Individual attention to health and to a well-balanced development of mind and character. Principals: Miss Dawson, Miss Ballard Dawson, N.F.U.

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Membership Application Form. To be returned to the Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1. Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League. Name Address I enclose £ : s. d., as my first Annual Subscription. Minimum Annual Subscription, 1/-.



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