

THE VOTE,
JUNE 2, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

OFFICIAL WRIGGLES!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1922

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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OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

I.

MRS. ELLEN CHAPMAN, MAYOR OF WORTHING.

MRS. CHAPMAN was elected Mayor of Worthing in November, 1920, and re-elected in November, 1921. She is also an Alderman of the Borough, J.P. for West Sussex, a Member of the West Sussex County Council, Vice-President of the Women Citizens' Association, President of the Worthing Branch of the National Council of Women, President of the Worthing Branch of the British Music Society, Vice-President of the Worthing Branch of the Archaeological Society, President of the Allotment Holders' Association, a Member of the Board of Guardians in West Sussex, and for Eight Years the only Woman Councillor on the Worthing Town Council.

Although I have always recognised the great need Then' they should for women representatives on public bodies, my Mayoralty has brought the need home to me much more vividly. The Housing Committee, the Public Health and Child Welfare Committee, the Board of Guardians, and especially the Magisterial Bench, all need the co-operative work of both sexes. But it is essential to ensure that the right type of woman is appointed. I do not agree that because a candidate is a woman, women should vote for her. The whole question rests on suitability. There is great need for the broad-minded, self-reliant, educated woman, who is unfettered, and who is willing to devote her energies to the welfare of her constituents. The amount of leeway which the average woman has to make up is enormous, and I speak from experience when I strongly advise all those who are thinking of taking up public work to obtain a good sound training in the general routine work.



thoroughly familiarize themselves with the methods of the particular body with which they may be working, and when conversant with its procedure can gradually work for anything in which they are especially interested or which especially needs improvement. I am amazed at the number of keen, well-meaning women who must have attended public meetings for many years, and who are quite incapable of themselves conducting a meeting.

Briefly, my impressions of public life of the present day as represented in Municipal work may be summed up in the words Co-operation and Equality of the Sexes, though Socrates does remark that "Woman once made equal to man, becometh his superior!" As to this I can but say "Experientia docet."

ELLEN CHAPMAN,
Mayor of Worthing.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD

Women Plantation Owners.

Miss Beatrice Grimshaw, the novelist, is not the only woman planter in New Guinea. Mrs. Mahony owns a large cocoon plantation in Papua, as well as being governor of the Island of Sud Est in the Torres Straits. A clever Frenchwoman manages both rubber and cocoon plantations on Murua Island. Another woman owns a cocoon plantation in Trinidad. In Assam, a woman acts as managing director of an indigo plantation, whilst there are at least four women planters in India, owning one coffee, one rubber, and two tea plantations.

A Triumph Over Circumstances.

Mrs. Emma Bunnell, of Hammond, Ind., is a most successful business woman, in spite of the fact that she has been bedridden for 29 years with an injured spine. Not only has she built up a real estate business, which brought her last year close upon a million dollars, but she has initiated a successful taxi business in Hammond and the neighbourhood, and also taken a degree by means of a college correspondence course, which she studied between spells of pain.

New Women's Club.

London's new club for nurses and professional women, known as the Cowdray Club, 20, Cavendish Square, W., will open on June 22. The work of converting the house, which formerly belonged to Mr. Asquith, for the purposes of a ladies' social club has cost about £100,000. The new dining-hall on the ground floor can seat 150 persons. A special point will be made of the catering at prices that will meet the economic necessities of nurses and other professional women.

Woman Engineer's Invention.

The winner of the first prize in the domestic Labour-saving Competition recently offered by the Women's Engineering Society, is Miss Annette Ashberry, Works Manager of "Atalanta," the first all-women engineering works in the country, where women apprentices are welcomed. The prize was awarded for a dish-washing machine that washes dishes as well as plates. The second prize was won by Miss Ramage for her "ideal oven."

Musical Prodigies.

In an open elocution competition at a musical festival at Derby last week, a ten-year-old maiden beat competitors from many parts of the county, whilst three schoolgirls—sisters—won, respectively, the 'cello open competition, the second prize for the violin, and the first prize in a pianoforte competition.

Femina Award.

Miss Rose Macaulay last week received the prize of the Femina Vie Heureuse—1,000 francs awarded by a Committee of French Women to the best novel published during the current year—for her novel "Dangerous Ages."

Woman Film Producer.

Miss Peggy Hyland, well-known as a film actress, has produced her first film, "With Father's Help," the first of a series of comedies she is producing for the Pioneer Film Agency. The film took Miss Hyland exactly a fortnight to act, title, and produce.

Burmese Women to Vote.

Duly qualified women are to vote for the Councils which are to be established under the new Burmese Constitution. This proposal has the support of the Government of India and of the Government of Burma. It is also in contemplation to remove the sex disqualification from candidature.

Girl Organist.

Miss Aileen Bransden, the 16-year-old deputy organist at the City Temple, has been appointed to act as deputy organist to Sir Frederick Bridge at Westminster Abbey.

Dutch Women as Voters.

Dutch women will vote for the first time at the General Election which takes place in Holland this Summer.

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee was held at 144, High Holborn, last Saturday, those present being, Miss Berry, Miss Alix Clark, Councillor Ballard Dawson, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Morton, M.B.E., Miss Munro, Mrs. Mustard, Miss C. Neal, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Whetton, and Miss M. I. Neal (in the Chair). Great regret was expressed that the Secretary's illness prevented her from being present.

The Committee passed a special resolution of warm congratulation to Dr. Ivy Williams, the first English woman barrister, and of indignation at the rejection of Lady Rhondda's appeal to sit in the House of Lords.

The Treasury, Secretarial, Political, Literature, and Vote Sales reports were read and adopted.

Miss Berry reported the work of the "Fair" Sub-Committee. The Organisation Sub-Committee had met the previous evening, and reported very satisfactory work by our organisers, Miss Brimson in Liverpool, Manchester, Southport, and Bolton, and Miss White in Ashford, Bexhill, and Hastings. It was decided that Miss Brimson should return to Lancashire early in June to continue her very successful organising work there. It was decided to draw up a scheme of suggestions for the branches in carrying out the Conference resolutions. Miss Alix Clark reported on the Clyde Campaign.

Organisation Sub-Committee:—All the members of the retiring Sub-Committee were reappointed:—Miss Alix Clark, Councillor Schofield Coates, Miss Lyndon, Miss Munro, Mrs. Mustard, and Mrs. Whetton.

Political Sub-Committee:—Miss Berry, Miss Hodge, Miss Morton, Mrs. Mustard, and Mrs. Nevinson were appointed, with any other National Executive Committee members who could possibly attend; meetings to be held about midway between Committee meetings, the first on June 19th.

"Green, White, and Gold Fair" Sub-Committee:—All the retiring members were re-elected, with hearty thanks.

Meetings of the National Executive Committee were fixed for July 8th and September 16th.

Dr. Knight gave an account of the combined deputation of Women's Societies to Mr. Fisher on the previous morning, on which Miss Munro represented the League, to urge him not to yield to the artificial agitation against the London Day Continuation Schools. Plans for obtaining wider support for the Continuation Schools from other bodies of women were elaborated.

Miss Munro gave an account of the deputation the previous evening to Miss Susan Lawrence, Parliamentary Labour Candidate, on which she represented the League. She found Miss Lawrence, after close questioning, to be perfectly satisfactory on all our points.

Correspondence was read giving details of cases of women teachers whose war work, though permitted by their Education Authority, was now made to penalise them in salary and standing.

Miss M. I. Neal reported on the success of the fight in Manchester, which has culminated in the closing of the public cleansing stations there.

A number of Conference resolutions were selected, with a view to their inclusion in the agenda of the National Council of Women Annual Conference at Cambridge in September.

DEPUTATION TO MISS SUSAN LAWRENCE.

In pursuance of the scheme of interviewing the London Parliamentary Candidates in good time for the General Election, the Women's Freedom League was represented by Miss Munro on the combined deputation of Women's Political, Social, and Professional bodies organised by the London Society for Women's Service on May 26th.

A very large number of societies took part in the deputation. Miss Lawrence was minutely questioned, and completely satisfied those present as to her views on women's questions. She agreed that the age of consent should be immediately raised to 18, and would make it illegal to dismiss a woman for any personal reason, such as marriage, or the possibility of her financial support by any other person.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Married Women (Contracts).

MR. HINDS asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the unsatisfactory position of the law in regard to the contracts of married women, he would introduce legislation to deal with the matter? SIR J. BAIRD replied that he could not hold out any prospect of immediate legislation on the subject.

Superannuation of Teachers.

A motion for the appointment of a "Select Committee to consider and report whether, in fixing the present scales of salaries for teachers in grant-aided schools, any undertaking by the Government or Parliament was given or implied that the provisions of the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1918, should not be altered while these scales remained in force," was, after a Debate, agreed to. Those nominated members of this Committee were Mr. Acland, Mr. Grant, Mr. Gregory, Sir Ellis Huine-Williams, Lt.-Col. Hurst, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, Mr. Rhys Davies, and Mr. Spoor. Later it was decided that a supplementary sum, not exceeding £375,000, be granted "for the salaries and expenses of the Board of Education, and of the various establishments connected therewith, including sundry Grants-in-Aid."

Probation of Offenders Act.

LORD HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the statement contained in the Report of the Departmental Committee on Probation Officers, that out of 1,034 courts of summary jurisdiction in England and Wales, there were still, 14 years after the principal Act was passed, no less than 215 courts without a probation officer, the Government would state what steps they proposed to take to enforce the proper carrying out of that Act? MR. SHORTT replied that the use of the procedure provided by the Probation of Offenders Act, and the appointment of probation officers, rested with magistrates. The Home Office had on several occasions drawn their attention to the desirability of releasing offenders on probation in all suitable cases, and urged the appointment of probation officers, and he proposed to send to every Bench a copy of the Report of the recent Departmental Committee. He hoped also that the Advisory Committee which, in accordance with the recommendation in the Report, it was proposed to appoint, would be able to assist greatly in the development of the probation system in this country.

Ministry of Health (Outdoor Staff).

CAPT. ELLIOT asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether the revised regrading of the outdoor staff of the Ministry of Health gave the same proportion of higher to lower posts for men and women; and, if the proportion was fixed with strict regard to the requirements of the work, what was the cause of the differentiation, seeing that the men and women were engaged on the same work? SIR ALFRED MOND said that the answer to the first part of the question was in the negative. The general position was that women inspectors were engaged to inspect trades where women were mainly employed, and in inquiries as to the benefits of insured women. The proportion of higher to lower posts was fixed with reference to the requirements of the work, which was more limited in scope than that of the men inspectors. The proportion was rather more favourable in the case of women.

Seniority Lists.

MR. RENDALL asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether it was the intention of the Government to abolish, if possible, separate establishment lists for men and women, so that vacancies should be filled by the most efficient officer, irrespective of sex; and, if so, why women had been removed from branches where they had been for some years working side by side with men, and why the segregation of the sexes, which in many Departments had been abandoned during the war, had been reintroduced as a result of reorganisation? MR. YOUNG replied that a Committee was being appointed to examine and report on the application of the general principle of common seniority lists for men and women to the classes included in the Report of the

Reorganisation Committee of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service. The last part of the question raised matters referring to the detailed organisation of the various Departments; but, speaking generally, he would not regard the modification of special temporary arrangements adopted during the war period as in any way prejudicing the position. MR. RENDALL inquired when that Committee would be set up, or if it had already been set up; to which MR. YOUNG replied that the Committee which would be set up, if it had not already been constituted, would be of a very representative character. It would be set up without delay. "Will women be on that Committee?" asked MR. RENDALL. "Undoubtedly," answered MR. YOUNG.

Infantile Mortality (Grimsby).

MR. ALFRED T. DAVIES asked the Minister of Health if his attention had been drawn to a statement made by the Medical Officer of Health for Grimsby to the effect that, of the deaths during April, 15 children were too weak to live, and that they were born weaklings because the mothers, through distress caused by unemployment, were not properly nourished, and what steps he proposed to take to arrest infantile mortality, the result of such cause? SIR ALFRED MOND replied that his attention had been drawn to a Press report of the statement referred to, and he was in communication with the Town Council with regard to it. The object of the maternity and child welfare work carried out by local authorities with his sanction, and with the aid of the Government grant, was to arrest infant mortality, and to safeguard the health of mothers and children. That work included the supply of milk, and in some cases meals, to expectant and nursing mothers.

Elementary Schools (Head Teachers).

MR. FISHER, replying to a question by Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, said that the numbers of men and women certificated head teachers of mixed departments in public elementary schools in England and Wales on March 31st, 1920, were; men 9,385, women 6,001; and on March 31st, 1921, men 9,361, women 5,984. He regretted he could not give corresponding figures for 1910 and 1916, nor state the number of men and women head teachers of senior mixed and junior departments separately. The head teachers of infants' departments were, of course, all women.

F. A. U.

LONDON'S GIRLS AND BOYS.

DEPUTATION TO MR. FISHER.

The combined Deputation in support of the Day Continuation Schools of the London County Council, organised by the Women's Freedom League, was received by the Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher at the Board of Education on May 26th. The Women's Organisations represented were the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship (Mrs. Hubbard); Women's International League (Mrs. Raymond Unwin); Women's Political and Industrial League (Miss Haythorne); Women's Co-operative Guild (Mrs. Brown); National Union of Clerks (Miss Somers); Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries; Catholic Women's Suffrage Society; and Women's Freedom League (Miss Munro). Dr. Knight introduced the Deputation, which was received very sympathetically by Mr. Fisher, who explained the Board's position. Among thinking women and men there is a great mass of potential opposition to the proposed closing of these Schools which are now in actual being, and afford the only opportunity that the great majority of London's little girls and boys, who are now 14 years of age, will ever have of learning how to bring beauty and gladness into their monotonous lives, to develop their latent powers, their judgment and self-control, and to become good and responsible citizens. The enemies of the Schools are very loud and busy; therefore we must demonstrate this latent support of the Schools by individually writing to our members in the London County Council, and in Parliament, and by getting all bodies of women to send up resolutions to the Prime Minister and Minister of Education urging their continued existence.

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EDITORIAL.

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

OFFICIAL WRIGGLES!

The whole position of married women in this country is an anachronism. We have heard a good deal about the "coercion" of wives, and we now expect to hear more of the husband's power to "restrain" his wife. It is difficult for married women to make business contracts on their own behalf; the income of a married woman is lumped together with that of her husband for the purposes of income tax, and, if there is any rebate, this is paid to the husband; a married woman is sometimes legally responsible for her own debts, and sometimes not. She is refused any employment in the Civil Service, and under most local governing authorities; and she has no rights of guardianship, compared with those of her husband, over her own children. Apparently, by law, she has little freedom of existence, and is suffered to live continually under the tutelage of her husband. Women who followed the work of Commander and Mrs. Haslewood, in the interests of the *mui tsai* in Hong Kong, were almost as indignant concerning the official pressure put upon Commander Haslewood "to restrain" his wife from continuing her agitation, as they were against the system of child slavery prevailing in a British Colony. We are glad to see an explanation has been asked for by Mr. Inskip, in the House of Commons, of the following letter, sent by the Admiralty to Commander Haslewood:—"As regards the interference with your wife's action in Hong Kong, such action was taken by the naval authorities to induce you to restrain your wife from interfering publicly in a controversial matter." Mr. Inskip asked the Lord Privy Seal, among other things, if his attention had been drawn to this letter, but Mr. Chamberlain asked the Admiralty to deal with the matter. Mr. Amery said that the Governor asked the naval authorities at Hong Kong to induce Commander Haslewood to restrain his wife from propaganda, which, in the opinion of the Governor, was being conducted on injudicious lines. He presumed the Governor of any Colony was entitled to express his views as to the judiciousness or otherwise of propaganda, which, however well intentioned, might possibly be likely to create trouble in a community of a very different character from our own; and, "as was quite proper," continued Mr. Amery, "in view of such a request made by the officer responsible for the government of the Colony, the Naval Commander-in-Chief interviewed Commander Haslewood, who, however, was not willing to use his influence as suggested." Mr. Inskip then wanted to know if it was to be understood that the Governor of Hong Kong was at liberty to request a British lady, whether she was the wife of a British officer or not, to refrain from opposing something which was inconsistent with the constitution of the British nation? As Mr. Amery could throw no further light on that subject, Col. Wedgwood inquired if it was in order for a Governor of any Crown Colony to approach either an Army or a Navy Commander in that Colony with a view to interfering with the action of the wife of a subordinate officer? Mr. Speaker then intervened, by stating that any further questions on this point should be addressed to the Colonial Office, and Col. Wedgwood promptly promised to address his question to the Colonial Office. We shall look forward with great interest to the reply he receives.

WOMEN'S BILLS IN THE HOUSE.

Two Bills of special interest to women were brought before the House of Commons last Friday afternoon. Sir Robert Newman moved, and Mrs. Wintringham seconded, the Second Reading of the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill, which proposed to amend the law relating to the summary jurisdiction of magistrates in reference to married persons. Sir Robert explained that the Bill would add to the grounds upon which a man could claim a separation order from his wife; it would enable the Court to grant a maintenance order, whether the parties were living together or were separated, instead of, as at present, only after a separation had taken place; and it strengthened the powers of the Court to enforce an order relating to maintenance or to the custody of the children, or access to them. He further stated that the Bill affected only the poorest classes, who were obliged to go to the Court for orders arising out of jars in married life. Mrs. Wintringham said that the present law led to great inequality between rich and poor. The rich, through their solicitors, arranged separations without going to Court, but the poor had to go to Court and make public the sordid conditions in which they lived, very often greatly to the detriment of the children. At present, a man could get a separation from his wife only if she were an habitual drunkard, not for the mismanagement of her domestic affairs or for the neglect of their children; but under this Bill he would be able to obtain an order for separation under the same terms as his wife. Under this measure, too, cruelty would include venereal disease, and that was bound to have the effect of reducing the number of children born affected by that complaint. Maintenance without separation would mean that children would often be spared the unhappiness of divided family life. The fear that the number of separations would be increased was unfounded. Maintenance without the necessity of leaving the home would help to keep the couples together. Mrs. Wintringham claimed that there was a genuine necessity for this measure, which would remedy real hardships. This Bill received considerable support in the House, although Sir Frederick Banbury described it as a retrograde measure, and declared that, notwithstanding the good intentions of its promoters, they were not going to make the foolish people wise or the wicked people better by taking them into the police court, and endeavouring to set them by the ears when they came out of Court! Sir J. Baird, Under-Secretary of the Home Office, said that the Bill undoubtedly proposed considerable additional interference by the Courts in the private affairs of individuals, and the House, before they finally consented to it, should see not only that that interference was justifiable, but that it was exercised to the smallest possible extent. On that ground, the Bill would have to be carefully considered in Committee if it were read a second time, as he hoped it would be. The Bill then secured its Second Reading, Capt. Bowyer, Capt. Loseby, Mr. Wignall, Col. Dalrymple White, and Commander Wilson speaking in support of it.

The next Bill which came before the House was the Guardianship of Infants Bill. Sir Robert Newman formally moved the Second Reading, but the Debate was immediately adjourned, on Sir J. Baird intimating that the Lords, who had a similar Bill, intended to send a message suggesting the appointment of a Joint Committee of both Houses to consider the two Bills.

We sincerely hope that our friends in the House of Commons will continue to press for the further stages of these Bills to be taken, so that there will be two further measures on the Statute Book this Session, the objects of both of which are to secure the removal of some existing inequalities of the law as between the sexes.

PROTEST MEETING AGAINST SUPPRESSION OF WOMEN POLICE.

A keenly animated Protest Meeting, convened by the Feminist League, was held in the Kingsway Hall last Monday evening, for the purpose of protesting against the suppression of the Women Police. Miss Abadam, President of the Feminist League, was in the Chair.

Miss Abadam pointed out that there were two bodies of women police, the older voluntary association of Miss Damer Dawson, and the Metropolitan Women Police Patrols, instituted by the departmental officials themselves. There never had been any question of rivalry between these two bodies, never any question of disbanding one and keeping the other. It was a sweeping away of the whole order which was proposed. Against this the meeting had met to protest, for the women police were a useful and necessary moral force. The *vox populi*, asserted Miss Abadam, was the voice of the mother, and the words of that mother, whose child was assaulted in Hyde Park the very day after the women police were removed from that area, could not be given sufficient publicity. That poor mother had said, "Had I known that the women police were no longer in Hyde Park, I should never have allowed my child to go there to play."

The Duchess of Hamilton then rose to move the following resolution:—"That this meeting, holding that it is in the highest interests of the people that women should be included among the official guardians of the streets of London, protests against the proposed suppression of the Metropolitan Women Police Patrols, and demands their retention with extended powers, and that they should be employed on all-night duty." The Duchess asserted that the women police were essentially a body for the protection of women and girls, and that no country could rise in civilisation which neglected its womanhood. Last year the women police found shelter and beds for 6,465 girls, and 1,131 girls and women were passed on to voluntary homes and hospitals—girls who else would certainly have come on the rates, or drifted into a life led half in and half out of prison. No fewer than 70,140 persons were cautioned by the women police during 1921, of whom

20,747 were found loitering. These figures alone, the Duchess maintained, were a justification for the existence of the women police. She called on women to refuse to have a "cut" which economised on womanhood, and surely earnestness of purpose and faith in a good cause would carry the day.

The Bishop of Kensington gave a vivid little sketch of the history of the women police patrols, telling how, in war time, the Ministry of Munitions had to appeal to the Women Police to protect the girl munition workers in areas where masses of men were gathered in training camps. He asserted that the country would have great difficulty in believing in the sincerity of purpose of the officials, who, having formed the Women Police Patrols, now, in spite of their splendid record of work, advocate their suppression. There were certain police duties which were impossible of satisfactory fulfilment by any except women officials. These were:—Handling cases of child assault, escorting of women prisoners, inspecting dancing halls, inspecting detention homes, supervising the instructions of magistrates in respect of women prisoners, supervising parks and recreation grounds. The Bishop stated that in one month, 112 children between the ages of 3 and 13 were victims of child assault. In hearing these cases, even the mother was often excluded, and the children were frequently entirely alone with male officials. Could anything resembling justice be done under such circumstances?

Miss Lindaf Hageby showed how the women police were an enormous moral and spiritual force in crime prevention. And crime prevention was surely one of the first duties of the guardians of the law. If economy was the ground for the suppression of the women police, then the best method of economy was to grant them the power of arrest. The whole question of solicitation could then be left in their hands.

The Mayor of St. Pancras, Councillor Jessie Stephen, Rev. R. Shepherd, and Dame May Witty all spoke in eloquent protest against the proposed disbandment, demanding for the women police extended powers. The resolution was carried unanimously. The music was under the direction of Mrs. May Layton, F.R.C.O.

MAUDE ROYDEN'S AMERICAN TOUR.

In a series of vivid word pictures, Miss Maude Royden, speaking at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, on May 26th, on "What I saw in America," related what she saw, did, and thought in America during her tour on behalf of the Y.W.C.A. The meeting was a public one, arranged by the Guildhouse branch of the Women Citizens' Association, of which Miss Royden is President. Her tour in America lasted two months, and she was enthusiastically welcomed on her return.

Miss Royden paid a fine tribute to Lady Astor, who was in America at about the same time, and expressed the opinion that, because of her American parentage, Lady Astor was a wonderful ambassador for England, and for the League of Nations. In this connection she related a delightful anecdote, typical of Lady Astor, who, at a big meeting, declared that she had been warned not to speak about that particular subject, or at any rate only to mention it under her breath while in America. She then made a megaphone of her hands and shouted through them: "It's the League of Nations!" This action was like throwing a stone into a pool, which set in motion ever-widening ripples of discussion on a subject previously more or less tabooed.

Miss Royden dealt sympathetically with the colour problem in the Southern States of America, which she had ample opportunity of observing, owing to the geographical position of the town where the Y.W.C.A. Congress was held. Although Miss Royden remarked that, if her party dared to share a meal with a coloured delegate, they would have been broken up by the Ku Klux Klan, she apparently braved this secret society by preaching in a negro church, which was considered an extraordinary thing for a white woman to do; but it appeared to give great satisfaction to the coloured

people themselves. She urged that those who spoke of the colour problem should only do so with an understanding of the actual facts. It was true that eleven million negroes had been brought over to America originally, but the racial problem was indeed a difficult one. She had met numerous people who believed that intermarriage was a solution, but she had never met anyone who would allow her to use their names in public. The colour problem was not only an American problem, it was a world one.

The quality that struck her most about Americans, so refreshing to one coming from the Old World, was their innate hope and enthusiasm. In this land of opportunity, hope was normal; it was the absence of it that was less ordinary.

On the great question of Prohibition Miss Royden had much to say, although she admitted that she had not very much opportunity of judging whether or not the law could easily be evaded, as was the proud boast of the "silly type of American." She had, however, been informed on very good authority that there was no possibility of the Prohibition law being repealed. It did not make one feel proud of the British Empire to realise how easily alcohol was being smuggled over from Canada to the United States, or continually to have to listen to the stupid jokes that Englishmen in New York made about Prohibition, and of England's freedom from it.

"If it is a failure, it will be a most mournful one; but if, on the other hand, it is a success, I believe it will in time to come make America one of the greatest countries in the world," were the concluding words of a remarkably interesting address.

MARTIN'S ACT CENTENARY CELEBRATION.

A Mass Meeting was held in the Queen's Hall on Friday evening, May 26th, to celebrate the conclusion of Animals' Welfare Week, and the Centenary of Martin's Act, the first Animal Protection Act passed by the British Parliament.

A charming Children's Pageant, "The Ideal of the Future," the words of which were written by Mrs. Baillie-Weaver, who contributes the delightful Christmas Story each year to our columns, under the pseudonym "G. Colmore," preceded the Meeting.

Mr. H. Baillie-Weaver, LL.D., who presided, moved the following Resolution, which was carried unanimously:—

"This meeting desires to express its profound admiration for the work of Richard Martin, through whose efforts the principle of Animals' Rights was first recognised in English Law. It deploras the fact that animals still suffer acutely in connection with transport, slaughtering, science, fashion, and amusement, and it calls upon the Government to enforce to the full the legislation against cruelty already in existence, and, where necessary, to strengthen the same, in order to put an end to the ill-treatment and exploitation of the sub-human kingdom."

Miss A. M. F. Cole, in seconding the Resolution, referred to the traffic in old horses between this country and the Continent, which the Government still permitted to continue. Two hundred horses a week were still being sent across the North Sea into Belgium under thoroughly bad conditions. Miss Cole enumerated the sufferings caused to these animals by the rough crossing, hunger and thirst, and antiquated slaughter methods, on arrival.

Mr. H. M. Brailsford, speaking in support of the

Resolution, explained that Martin's Act had been carried by Richard Martin, a private Irish Member of Parliament, in the teeth of the opposition of the Government of his day, which included Peel and Canning.

Dr. Hadwen, J.P., recalled the fact that a hundred years ago not a single country or State had any regard for the rights of men, much less the rights of animals.

Mr. Bernard Shaw pleaded on behalf of performing animals, and declared himself to be in a similar position at that moment! Performing animals, he contended, were at this disadvantage, however, compared with performing human beings, inasmuch as they had no choice, were carried in closed boxes from one town to another, lodged under the stage, and forced to perform unnatural actions at the command of a trainer. Such amusements would stop to-morrow if the public would only stop paying money to see them. An inquiry upon the subject of Performing Animals was now going on in Parliament, and the Reports would show the methods employed to produce so-called amusement for the public. Proprietors of such entertainments must be made to realise that such shows were not popular. There was no need to make an active disturbance in the theatre itself. A far more potent means of suppressing these amusements was to receive them in dead silence! Women were not more nor less humane than men, but, now they were electors, this gave them a magnificent opportunity to heckle their Parliamentary representatives on this question. A great deal of cruelty towards animals was also perpetrated, frequently unconsciously, by the upper classes, the "equestrian" members of Society. At the great public school at Eton (so called, said Mr. Shaw, because no member of the great public had any opportunity of going there!), packs of dogs were kept in readiness for coursing helpless hares.

Have you sent for your card for the Birthday Party?

Have you sent your contribution to the Birthday Fund?

If not, DO IT NOW—There will be Speeches, Singing, Recitations, a Welsh Product Stall, Strawberries and Cream, Ices, Refreshments.

ADMIT ONE TO :: ::

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party

ELEVENTH :: YEAR

AT
CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER

(Nearest Station, St. James's Park, District Railway)

On THURSDAY, JUNE 15th, at 7 p.m.

ADMISSION 1/-

Refreshments at moderate prices

Mrs. Despard is coming specially from Ireland to spend her Birthday with us, and we shall gather in great crowds to offer our congratulations and to wish her "many happy returns of the day."

Women's Freedom League.

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Thursday, June 15th, at 7 p.m.—Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, Westminster. Tickets, 1s. each. Apply Ticket Secretary, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, June 19th, at 3 p.m.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting at 144 High Holborn.

Friday, July 7th, at 6 p.m.—Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting at 144 High Holborn.

Saturday, July 8th, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn.

Friday and Saturday, November 24th and 25th.—Caxton Hall, Green, White, and Gold Fair.

PROVINCES.

Friday, June 9th, at 3.30 p.m.—Ashford. Garden Meeting at 62, Albert Road (by kind permission of Mrs. Knock). Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Nasal Hygiene." Tickets, including tea, 9d. each.

Tuesday, June 13th, at 7 p.m.—Portsmouth. Social Evening at Unitarian School Room. Entertainment. Refreshments. Speaker: Mrs. Purchase. Subject: "Prohibition."

Friday, June 23rd.—Bexhill. Meeting at Infant Welfare Centre. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Training Children in Personal Hygiene." Chair: Mrs. Meads (President of the Local Branch of Women's Freedom League).

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, June 7th, at 8 p.m.—Women's League of Union, Lecture Hall, Kingsway Hall, W.C.2. Open Lecture: "The Gattie System of Transport." Illustrated with Slides.

BRANCH NOTES.

HAMPSTEAD.

A very pleasant afternoon was spent on Tuesday, May 23rd, when Miss Goodliffe and Miss Vibert kindly entertained the members of the branch to tea at 62, High Street. Dr. Lilius Hamilton (Warden of Studley Agricultural College) gave a most interesting address on Agricultural Work for Women, both at home and abroad—with special reference to the work done by students at Studley College, where the training covers two years at a cost of about £100 a year. After girls had finished their training, work could always be found for them at good salaries, which would enable them to save money for the future. Dr. Hamilton expressed the opinion that if more women were trained in Agriculture the food production of the country would be largely increased, and would thus be a great help to the country financially. After tea the Monthly Business Meeting of the Branch was taken, and it was decided to open a branch collection on behalf of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Miss Collier, Miss C. Collier, Miss Goodliffe, Dr. Knight, and Miss Vibert each promised £1; Miss E. Berry, 10/-. Gratefully acknowledged for the Fund: Mrs. James, 2/6; Miss Lane, 2/6; Mrs. Moscheles, 2/6.

Hon. Sec.: MISS E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road.

SWANSEA.

Our best thanks are due to all those who helped to make the Jumble Sale a success by sending parcels, and by assisting at the Sale. Mrs. Dawson has kindly offered to hold a Garden Party again this year at "Cwm Garw" on Thursday, June 29th. Members are invited to come and bring their friends.

Hon. Sec.: MISS C. M. JELLEY, 14, Carlton Terrace.

MR. GILL'S SCHEME.

Mrs. Williams (Swansea) writes us as follows: "I will take two copies of THE VOTE a week for a year, and will circulate them."

I will also pass on my own paper, so that the three copies will thus mean three new readers." We are most grateful for this generous offer.

WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.

The Women's Freedom League and VOTE Offices will be closed from Friday Afternoon, June 2nd, 5.30 p.m., until Tuesday Morning, June 6th, 9.30 a.m.

THE VOTE.

We should like to thank those friends, who, although unable to come to our Whist Drive on Saturday, sent us the money for tickets.

We should also like to thank those subscribers who have so kindly sent us postcards saying they do not wish us to credit them with the excess post they have already paid. These little signs of appreciation of our paper are very welcome.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Women's Protest.

At a meeting of the Executive of the Women Workers' Section of the National Union of General Workers a resolution of protest was passed against the arrangement by which unemployment benefit is allowed only for a period of five weeks, applicants then being disqualified for a further period of five weeks. This provision, the Women Workers' Executive points out, "falls with special hardship on single women living in rooms, who are only waiting for a revival in their own trade to restart work."

Housing Shortage in Yorkshire.

In presenting the Report of the Public Health and Housing Committee at the County Council meetings held recently, Alderman Ben Turner stated that, before the war, 5,000 houses were built every year in the West Riding. Practically none were built during the war, and in the last three years only about 5,000 houses had been built. About 17,000 houses, were, therefore, needed to meet the requirements of the West Riding. Mr. Turner said that at Cudworth eleven people were living in two rooms, one up and one down; at Wombwell eight adults and five children were living in two rooms; at Bentley eleven persons shared one living and two bedrooms. What can women do in homes of this description?

National Health Insurance Bill.

This Bill, which had its origin in one of the recommendations of the Geddes Committee, passed its Second Reading last week by a majority of 113 votes to 52. Mrs. Wintringham voting with the minority. It proposes to stop the annual Exchequer grant of £350,000 to the Women's Equalisation Fund. Sir Alfred Mond explained that this fund was originally started on the idea that the admission of women into health societies would place an undue burden upon them. Those fears had not been realised, and there was at present something like £2,000,000 in the fund to meet any deficiency that might arise under that head. Mr. Myers and Mr. G. Barker strongly opposed this provision, pointing out that at the present time there are direct evidences of the upward tendency of sickness benefits paid to women by the whole of the approved societies.

What is Sauce for the Goose—i

"They tell me that you ladies are coming to the Bar. If you do, you must learn to speak up, otherwise you will be no good." Mr. H. F. Dickens told a woman witness, at the Old Bailey, whose voice was inaudible. In pre-suffrage days, when we found ourselves in police courts, it was a fairly general complaint amongst us that some of the magistrates (who, of course, were all men) so mumbled their sentences that it was extremely difficult for the accused to catch the length of the sentence. And some of those magistrates were also "very hard of hearing." We have no fear that women barristers and women magistrates will not compare very favourably with their male colleagues.

Member's Drinks.

Sir James Agg Gardner (Chairman of the Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms Committee in the House of Commons), replying to a question by Mr. White, said that they had been compelled to add the small amount of 1d. to the charge per glass of whisky, in consequence of the deprivation of the Treasury subsidy, which had been allowed them for more than 50 years. He contended, however, that their price for whisky was still below the average price in restaurants and clubs, whilst the measure they supplied was more generous. We see no reason why women taxpayers should have had to contribute all these years to Members' refreshments. Under capable management, this Department surely ought to pay its own expenses!

Mothers' Pensions.

Extension of the Mothers' Pension scheme which came into operation in Ontario (Canada) last year will involve the expenditure this year of about £280,000, or twice the amount expended in the first year. There are at present 3,075 widows and 9,500 children enjoying the benefits of the Act, which owes its origin largely to the active work of the Labour women of the province.

N.U.S.E.C. SUMMER SCHOOL.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship (62, Oxford Street, W.) is organising a Summer School, to be held at St. Hilda's College, Oxford, from Saturday, August 19th, to Saturday, September 2nd. Lectures and classes will be held on the following subjects:—Programme of the N.U.S.E.C., Administration of Justice, League of Nations, Local Government, Parliamentary and Election Work, Family Endowment, etc. Among the lecturers and speakers will be: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., Walter Layton, Esq., Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Miss Margery Fry, J.P., Miss Ruth Fry, Dr. Potts, Alexander Paterson, Esq., Mrs. Ross, M.A., and Sir Sidney Olivier, K.C.M.G. Registration fee 10s. on application, which will be deducted from the fee for the whole course. Fees for the whole course: Members £2, non-members £3. Charges for board and lodgings in the College, £7 for two weeks. Students may also attend the School for half the period, viz., one week, when the fees will be correspondingly reduced. The School will be under the direction of Miss Macadam, M.A., Mrs. Hubback, and Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc.

FRIDAY,
JUNE 2,
1922.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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MISS NICHOLAS, Ex-transport Driver. R.A.F. Landaulette Car for hire. Tel. Hampstead 8341. Private address: 3, Christchurch Road, Hampstead.

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WORK undertaken; mending; plain needlework; machining; washing blouses and fine goods; terms moderate. Enquiries at MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

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LECTURING.—Experienced Feminis Speaker, Practising Midwife (C.M.B., Health Visitor's Certificates). Terms: Write GATTY, 30, Retreat Place, Hackney. Telephone: Dalston 741.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. Sunday, June 4th, 6.30, Miss Maude Royden, "Friendship."

Prepaid Classified Advertisements.

Number of Words.	Once.	Three Times.	Six Times.
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MISCELLANEOUS.

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

THE PEASANT SHOP, 41 Devonshire Street.—Smocks, Jerkins, Dalmatics. Special Show of Shoes, Floor Rugs, at summer prices.

MOTOR CARS.—Lady (ex-motor transport officer in French Army) undertakes motor repairs, coachwork, painting. Personal Supervision. Tyres stocked. Cars for hire.—Miss LEWIS, 23, Mount Avenue, W. 5. Tel. Ealing 158.

WANTED.—Costumes, coats, furs, underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing. House furnishings. Specially good price given for high-class goods.—HÉLÈNE, 361, New King's Road, Fulham, S.W. 6.

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Old furniture renovated and treated for worm, also polished and cared for weekly, or as required.
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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.
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Join the Women's Freedom League.

Fill in your name and address and send it, with subscription (minimum 1s.) to the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

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