

THE VOTE.
JAN. 16, 1925.

THE HOUSING SHORTAGE.

BY OLIVE M. ALDRIDGE.

THE VOTE

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 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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WHERE TO GO.

XII.—OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

MRS. ETHEL LEACH, J.P., MAYOR OF GREAT YARMOUTH.

Mrs. Ethel Leach was born in Great Yarmouth. She was educated at Boarding School in Reading, which she left at 18 years of age to be married, since which time most of her life has been spent in her native town, where she became keenly interested in Women's Suffrage, the Temperance Cause, Irish Home Rule, Moral Reform, and in politics.

She was the first woman to be elected to the School Board, in 1881, and in two months' time she will have given 44 years of continuous service to the administration of Education in her native town. She is Chairman of the Laundry and Cookery sub-committees, and also of the Managers of the two Gorleston schools, a Governor of the High School and Grammar School, and of the East Anglian Blind and Deaf School. She was also for some years a member of the Board of Guardians. For the last four years she has been the only woman Justice of the Peace, where her wise counsel, especially in the Children's Courts, has met with general appreciation. She has always been in the van of progress, in favour of free education, and an advocate of the rights of women.

While a Poor Law Guardian, she was instrumental in bringing about a trained nursing system, instead of the system that prevailed in the Workhouse, of old people being seen after by other old people. She was also largely instrumental in getting girls and boys removed to separate homes away from the taint and influence of the Workhouse.

In 1883, Mrs. Leach spent three months in America, where she visited many of the schools and public institutions, meeting many interesting people of note. At Colonel Ingersoll's house in Washington, where she spent a fortnight, she met that gifted and extraordinary coloured man, the Hon. Frederick

Douglas, who, born a slave, self-educated, became preacher, orator, and editor. He was chosen to deliver the address at the unveiling of the Monument to Abraham Lincoln at Washington, and later was created by President Garfield, Marshal of the district of Columbia. The life of Douglas, written by himself, with a preface by John Bright, is as romantic and soul-stirring as that of "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Mrs. Leach contested and won eight triennial elections at a time when the labour involved was almost equal to that of a Parliamentary election, only far more complicated.

During her first School Board election, she won the friendship of Miss Helen Taylor, the gifted step-daughter of John Stuart Mill, then a prominent member of the London School Board, and well-known eloquent speaker and exponent of social and

political questions. She was a frequent guest at Mrs. Leach's house.

In 1885, Miss Taylor became a candidate for Parliament for North Camberwell, and appointed Mrs. Leach her election agent. It was a terrifying experience of the roughness and bitterness of elections that prevailed in those days. Miss Taylor was therefore the pioneer



MRS. ETHEL LEACH, J.P.

woman candidate twenty years in advance of Lady Astor, the first woman to get elected to Parliament.

Mrs. Leach is a pioneer of many reforms, and her varied and long experience of public service in municipal life must be unique.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Noted Welfare Worker.

Lady Chatterjee, wife of the High Commissioner for India, who has recently taken up office in London, was one of the most indefatigable of the Whitehall staff concerned with National Munitions Factories during the war. Miss Gladys Broughton, as she was then, travelled up and down the country supervising welfare conditions for the women workers in those establishments. After the Peace, she was appointed Adviser in the Labour Bureau of the Industries Department of the Government of India, and last year received the degree of Doctor of Science in the University of London for her book, "Labour in Indian Industries."

Miss Wilkinson to Preside.

Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., has been elected Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee of Women's Industrial Organisations, in the place of Mrs. Harrison Bell (resigned). This carries with it the Chairmanship of the National Conference of Labour Women to be held at Birmingham this year from May 27th to 28th. The Standing Joint Committee is a body composed of representatives of the Labour Party, Trades Union Congress, Trade Unions having women members, and the Co-operative Movement. Thus there are affiliated to it, either directly or indirectly, practically all the organised labour women in Great Britain.

Frenchwomen and Honours.

France, which has not yet given women political enfranchisement, is more generous than our own country in the matter of Honours. Since its foundation, in 1802, its highest decoration, the Legion of Honour, has been given to about 550 women. Five of these were British—Edith Cavell, Miss Frazer (for dispatch riding), Miss Edith Pye (for Quaker relief work), Lady Bathurst, and Miss Maud McCarthy (Nurse-in-Chief to the Army in the war); Sarah Bernhardt and Mme. Curie were also among the women recipients.

American Woman's Award.

Mrs. Edward A. MacDowell, widow of the composer, has been awarded 5,000 dollars by the *Pictorial Review* for her establishment of a colony to provide ideal working conditions for artists. Several hundred American women competed for the award, some of them well-known names, such as Miss Grace Abbott, Head of the United States Children's Bureau; Mrs. Annie Jump Cannon, the astronomer; Judge Florence Allen; and Mrs. Margaret Sanger.

Woman Savings Department Head.

Miss Jessamine G. Hoagland, who was recently appointed as Head of the Savings Department of the third largest national bank of Chicago, is the only woman officer of a large Chicago bank, and is said to be the only woman managing a savings department of a bank of this size in the United States. Miss Hoagland has under her supervision approximately 45,000 accounts, handled by a staff of about 50.

Women and Sea-going Posts.

The posts of doctor and stewardess are no longer the only salaried positions for women on ocean voyages. Women stenographers and shorthand typists are in frequent demand by business men on board ship, also women hairdressers and manicurists, florists, milliners, and modistes. The Canadian steamship lines also offer opportunities for posts as conductress, to accompany girls going to domestic posts in Canada.

Australian Woman Architect.

Miss Margaret Pitt-Morrison is the first qualified woman architect in Western Australia.

An Enterprising Teacher.

"Helen Vanson," better known to her friends as Miss Mabel Spink, drawing mistress at St. Philip's School, is one of the progressive young teachers of the L.C.C. In a comparatively short time she has made a world-wide reputation as an animal artist. "The Crime of the Cage," her famous poster, issued by the R.S.P.C.A., is to be seen on the hoardings of three continents. Mr. J. A. Shepherd, of *Punch*, has illustrated her latest book.

Miss Jennings' New Play.

Miss Gertrude Jennings has specially written a new one-act play called "Cats' Claws" for the special matinee arranged by the Interlude Players at the New Theatre on the 20th. It is in aid of the Extension Appeal Fund of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, one of the "all women" hospitals.

American Women's Congress.

An exposition depicting the progress and achievements of American women will be held at Chicago in April. It will be the first affair of its kind held in the United States, and will be nation-wide in scope. Recognised leaders in art, commerce, industry, and the professions have been asked to speak.

Canadian Woman Shipmaster.

The Canadian Department of Marine has been asked by the owner of a 20-ton launch off the Pacific coast, who is now obliged to have a qualified master in charge of the vessel, to qualify his wife, who is in every way competent.

Woman Unitarian Minister.

Wearing her college hood, Miss May Hort, recently appointed Minister at Banbury Unitarian Church, has conducted her first marriage service before a large congregation.

Mrs. Kahn for Congress?

Mrs. Florence Prag Kahn, widow of Julius Kahn, Representative from California, has announced that she would accept a nomination to succeed him in Congress.

Woman Fire Chief.

Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, the donor of Ramsgate's modern fire-fighting equipment, is to be offered the honorary chief officership of the brigade.

Women Local Preachers.

Mossley Primitive Methodists are to try the experiment of women as local preachers.

NORWAY'S NEW PROPERTY LAW.

Norwegian married women have been promised a new Property Law to replace the present Act, passed in 1888, immediately the new Storting (Parliament) gets to work in the New Year. Although Scandinavian women are the most progressive in the world, and have obtained not only equal political rights with men, but admission on equal terms to almost every public office, a curious anomaly still obtains in Norway that a married woman has practically no legal status in property matters. This matter has been for years the subject of vehement protest by the more progressive Norwegian women. The new law aims to give both husband and wife equal free and independent status under the law, and also provides that both husband and wife shall equally contribute to the support of the family, either inside or outside the home. Both husband and wife may continue to own separately any fortune he or she had before marriage, but everything acquired after marriage by either party must become common property. The disposition of such property must also be a matter of mutual consent, and its undue loss or depreciation is open to censure. By this means both persons acquire rights in the fortune owned by the other, and the Bill also provides for the acquisition by one of the two survivors of the undivided estate.

WHY RESERVED RAILWAY CARRIAGES FOR WOMEN ARE NEEDED.

The following is taken from the *Kent Messenger* of January 3rd:—

At Deal Police Court, on Thursday, the Mayor (Councillor M. Montgomery) and 11 other magistrates were occupied for nearly three hours in hearing a charge against Frank Bernard Shingleton, of indecently assaulting a girl, aged 16, in a railway carriage between Dover and Deal, on December 20th. Mr. Connolly prosecuted, and Mr. Hardman defended. The girl said she travelled to Deal by a train leaving Dover Priory about 11 p.m. on December 20th. She was alone to Kearnsey station, when defendant got out of the train and asked the guard if it was going to Deal. He then got into the compartment where she was. He tried to force conversation with her, and after the train left Martin Mill, put his arm round her and kissed her twice. Witness tried to force him away, but he overpowered her and committed the assault. Defendant prevented her getting into another compartment by the corridor, and when the train stopped at Walmer, the guard saw the struggle, opened the door and assisted her into another compartment. She went to the police station with the defendant and a police constable. Cross-examined: Witness said the defendant smelt of drink and used bad language. William W. Newby, the guard, said at Walmer station he noticed the girl in the compartment crying and trying to free herself from defendant, who was under the influence of drink. George Donald Dawkins, booking clerk at Walmer station, also gave evidence, and P.C. Kingsland said defendant assumed a threatening attitude at Deal station. In cross-examination, witness said he had received a complaint about defendant in regard to a common assault on two women. He was acquitted at the Assizes. Defendant was a little eccentric. Defendant, giving evidence, said he had two pints of beer in the morning at Dover, but nothing to eat, and remembered nothing of what happened in the train. In a trap accident he fell on his head, and he had shell-shock in the war.

The Bench committed defendant for trial at Deal Quarter Sessions. On a charge of using obscene language at Deal Station he was convicted, but sentence was postponed for three weeks.

A correspondent in last Saturday's *Surrey Comet* writes:—"From time to time I have read letters in your columns with reference to ladies' compartments on the trains, and owing to a recent incident I should like to add a word in favour of the system being adopted on the Southern Railway. It seems rather hard to think that ladies cannot travel in trains without being annoyed by men, whose characters are such that a dragging in the mud would be too good for them. These incidents are becoming much too frequent, and after what happened to a very close female acquaintance of mine on Saturday, I regret I was not there to deal with the offender in my own way. Men have their smoking carriages, why not women their special compartments? This seems to be the only way of stopping these unpleasant episodes.—I am, etc."

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF PRISONS.

The above Report has been received from the Stationery Office as we go to press, and will be dealt with in the columns of the VOTE next week.

NEWS OF AMERICAN WOMEN.

The following paragraphs are taken from *Equal Rights* (official organ of the National Women's Party, Washington, D.C.), of December 27th:—

Woman as Bar Examiner.

In the year 1925, this country will see its first woman examiner of applicants for admission to practise law. Miss Lucy Somerville, of Cleveland, was appointed on the Mississippi Board of Bar Examiners by Governor Henry L. Whitfield, and her term will begin in February, 1925. The position of bar examiner carries remuneration, the fee being ten dollars per applicant, and all fees are equally divided among the three members of the board. In this connection it is interesting to note that, according to the 1920 census, the number of women lawyers in the United States increased from 558 in 1910 to 1,738 in 1920. There are probably 2,000 to 2,500 at the present time. Less than sixty years ago, the first woman was allowed to enter the legal profession, and not until 1920 had all the States of the American Union lifted the ban on woman lawyers.

A New Year's Gift from Labour.

One of the notable gains of the year, through means other than legislation, is that achieved in 1924 by the barbers. At its annual convention, held in Indianapolis, September 9th to 17th, 1924, the Journeymen Barbers International Union of America voted by a large majority to permit women to become members of the Union on and after January 1st, 1925. Their admission had been under discussion for some years past, but hitherto the Union had taken the ground that women workers were out of place in a barber's shop, and refused to recognise them. The change of hairdressing fashions which has caused women to resort to the barbers' shops as customers in large numbers has done away with this objection, and led to the change of attitude on the part of the Union. The *Federation News*, published by the Chicago Federation of Labour, in a discussion of this action, thus summarises the benefits which women will receive from it:—(1) Enforcement of the Union wage scale and fair working conditions; (2) Sick benefits of ten dollars a week from the International Union; (3) Sick benefits of five dollars a week from the local union—a benefit that probably will be increased to ten dollars a week; (4) Death benefit of one hundred dollars, if deceased has been a member for but one year; (5) Gradual increase of death benefit according to years of membership. According to the same paper, there are now about 35,000 women working as barbers in the United States, who are eligible to membership in the Union under the new rule. As union members they will receive the same wage as men.

Women Rule a Town.

Women rule in Sunbeam, Colorado. Upsetting the plans of the Democrats and Republicans in the recent election, a "woman's party" appeared on election day, and succeeded in electing two constables and a justice of the peace. Mrs. Nellie Templeton was elected justice of the peace, displacing her husband, who ran as a Republican. Miss Julia Clark and Mrs. Bessie Morea were elected constables. Mrs. Morea's husband, a candidate for justice of the peace, endorsed by both parties, was the only one to escape the women's landslide, and his wife will serve as constable in his court.

Other issues of "Our Women Mayors":—XI. Mrs. M. A. Mercer, Mayor of Birkenhead, December 19th, 1924; X. Miss C. Maude Eve, Mayor of Stoke Newington November, 28th, 1924; IX. Miss Ethel Mary Colman, Lord Mayor of Norwich, January 11th, 1924; VIII. Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, D.B.E., Mayor of Ramsgate, January 4th, 1924; VII. Councillor Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Mayor of Colchester, November 9th, 1923; VI. Miss Beatrice Cartwright, J.P., Mayor of Brackley, Northants, December 15th, 1922; V. Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Bermondsey, December 1st, 1922; IV. Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham, M.B.E., Mayor of Cheltenham, September 15th, 1922; III. Councillor Miss Christina Hartley, Mayor of Southport, Lancs, August 11th, 1922; II. Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton, Devon, July 7th, 1922; I. Mrs. Ellen Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, June 2nd, 1922.

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NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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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.

WOMEN AND THE MAGISTRACY.

Kingston Borough Bench has no women magistrates, and for several months past various organisations in the district, among them the Women's Freedom League, have urged the necessity for appointing women to this Bench, and the local press has given publicity to these views. Now, the Kingston Borough magistrates have themselves passed a resolution, a copy of which they have presumably sent to the Lord Chancellor, expressing the hope that no woman shall be appointed to the Bench they occupy. Their reasons are not published, but the *Surrey Comet* states that rumour says that one of the arguments advanced by the local magistrates for their decision is that they do not like the idea of women having to listen to the sordid details of life—especially the bad language—which sometimes disfigure police-court procedure. Have these Early Victorian gentlemen forgotten that women now serve on juries, as well as solicitors and barristers in our Courts of Justice? They know full well that the victims and the accused persons who come before them are sometimes women and girls, and they must surely have heard that women magistrates are being added in increasing numbers to magistrates' benches throughout the country. The sordid details of life do not affect men only, nor is human wreckage confined to one sex; and men alone should not have the monopoly of dealing with these matters. As to the bad language, we hardly think it is much worse in Kingston than in other police courts; and, in any case, it can generally be stopped by occupants of the Bench. We cannot help remembering in this connection that when men, who wanted the women's jobs, tried to deprive the Pit Brow girls of their work, they advanced as one of their arguments that there was a good deal of bad language used at the mouth of the pits, not fit for the women to hear, and another that the work was too dirty for women; to the former of which the girls concerned retorted that, unfortunately, bad language was used by the men, not only at the pit brow, but also in their own homes and in the streets, where women could not help hearing it, and to the latter that at any rate the girls could wash themselves as easily as the men could. We have no manner of patience with this mock modesty on the part of men. Women are absolutely necessary on the Bench when cases of assaults on children are brought into Court. In all too many such cases men magistrates alone have passed most inadequate sentences on the offenders; and no case should be tried in which women, girls, or children are involved, either as victims or as accused, unless women as well as men are on the Bench. Indeed, we would go further, and declare that no case of any kind should be considered by the Court without women on the Bench. The right administration of justice throughout the country is as much the concern of women as it is of men, and women on every Bench of magistrates should be given an equal share with men in this administration. We also urge that when

women are appointed to the magistrates' Bench they should make it their business to acquaint themselves thoroughly with the conditions of women prisoners. They ought to know, before they send women or girls to prison, what effect imprisonment is likely to have on those who are convicted; and we emphasise the fact that this is all the more necessary because at the present time there is no woman member of the Prison Commission; all the governors and deputy governors of women's prisons and women's sections of prisons, with the single exception of the governor of the Girls' Borstal Institution at Aylesbury, are men, and not women; there is no woman medical inspector and no woman inspector of prisons; and the great majority of medical officers in women's prisons are men. We think the Kingston Borough magistrates should be reminded of these facts; and, in any case, we sincerely hope that the Lord Chancellor will see his way to appoint women magistrates to the Kingston Borough Bench at an early date, in spite of the men magistrates' pathetic plea for the monopoly of the administration of justice in that ancient borough.

A WOMAN'S SALARY.

The *Manchester Guardian* reports that the Manchester City Council discussed the placing of a woman inspector in the same grade as the men inspectors. Miss Kingsmill Jones said their duties were very similar; the main difference was that whereas the men spent most of their time visiting bakehouses, the woman inspector was mainly engaged in visiting the homes of women outworkers. She worked the same hours as the men, and each kind of work was equally important. Miss Jones said that one objection which had been urged was that this woman did not go down drains; but as she had never been asked to do so, that could not be put forward as a valid reason for refusal. Mr. Pierce, speaking in opposition, said that if this woman's salary was increased, and she was put into the higher grade, a demand for similar treatment would come from 65 women health inspectors who had higher qualifications than this woman inspector. He thought she was receiving a very high salary for the work she did. Mr. Godbert expressed himself as personally in favour of Miss Jones's argument, but pointed out that a decision to raise the grade of this woman inspector would have very far-reaching effects. Miss Mary Welch urged that the principle of equal pay for equal work should be recognised by the Council. Mr. S. Woollam declared he was in favour of giving men the preference over females in the matter of employment. He thought it essential that the woman should look to the man as a breadwinner. The Deputy Mayor (Alderman Jackson) maintained that equal pay for equal work was not the issue here. The work of the men inspectors and the woman inspector was not equal. The woman inspector was engaged almost exclusively in visiting outworkers. The ordinary inspector undertook a variety of duties, many of which demanded technical knowledge, and some of them were duties she would never be called upon to undertake. At this point it was agreed to take the vote, and when Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., attempted to ask a question, the Lord Mayor ruled that she must not do so. Miss Wilkinson was shouted down, and the equal pay proposition was lost by 64 votes to 36. Miss Wilkinson then moved that the Public Health Committee should be instructed to place this woman in the same category as the men inspectors. She argued that if there were duties which women inspectors were not asked to perform, there were other duties which were carried out exclusively by women inspectors. Miss Wilkinson's amendment was seconded by Mr. Cox, and without further discussion was put to the vote and lost. We congratulate Miss Wilkinson, and other women members of the Manchester City Council, on their plucky fight to give women inspectors an equal status and equal pay with men inspectors.

THE HOUSING SHORTAGE.

By OLIVE M. ALDRIDGE.

Every town and village in our country to-day has its long-waiting list of applicants for homes, and, as people must live somewhere, this means that existing homes are terribly overcrowded. When, too, it is realised that unhappiness, ill health, bad temper, discomfort, and a thousand and one other evils result from overcrowding, it will be seen that the country is full of misery and ugliness that would disappear if only an efficient increase in the number of houses could be secured.

What can be done? In the face of this house-famine, there can be but one sensible line of action, viz:—to build more houses, and to build them quickly. When, however, the details of administration are gone into, difficulties such as cost of materials, shortage of labour, etc., seem to block progress.

The cost of material could be met by having greater supplies under direct control of the legal authorities or the Government; by opening up the derelict brick-fields, etc. Prices for materials could also be fixed by the Government during this time of crisis (as food prices were during the crisis of war), so that no combine or individual could profit by holding up materials at this time of need and make fortunes out of the denial of happiness to children, or otherwise profit by their starved little lives. Shortage of labour could be met by placing luxury buildings, business premises, etc., second on the list when building work has to be done: by making it easier and more attractive for apprentices to enter the trade. Local Authorities would do well to take the Manchester scheme, and adapt it to meet the needs of their own areas. These obstacles are largely bogies in the path of action, and would soon vanish if tackled boldly.

Everywhere, when action is being taken by local authorities, the citizens could help in the furtherance of

this work, and not leave all the fighting to be done by the few men and women who happen to be elected.

Whilst, however, the number of houses is being increased, it is of vital importance that the standard is not overlooked. Every new housing scheme that is projected should be planned a little better than the last. The great blot on Mr. Wheatley's 1924 legislation is that he adopted the reactionary standard laid down by Mr. Chamberlain in 1923. The subsidy house built to-day must not have a superficial area greater than 950 ft. (i.e., 475 ft. for the ground floor and 475 ft. for the bedroom floor), and may have as little space as 650 ft. These measurements are not adequate for a family house, and in fixing this standard Mr. Chamberlain has hit hard at the children, and the overworked mother. Patent fixtures do not make up for lack of the space which children need for growth and play, and where all the business of the home can be properly carried on. The standard must be raised.

Pending this, no schemes should be passed unless the houses conform to the maximum measurements, and the maximum should be made the minimum. The justification for the expenditure of public money is the raising of the standard. If a standard does not matter, if it has no bearing on our civilisation, why bother about a subsidy? Why not let people live anywhere or anyhow? Standard does matter, and anything short of the erection of good family houses—where families have to live—is a penny-wise and a pound-foolish policy. To get a larger house would be a comparatively easy task. Now that only twelve houses can be built on an acre of land, the "outside" standard of the house is materially raised. Cannot something better for the "inside" be done? Why not take a few feet off the garden, and add it to the size of the house? What a difference this would make!

THE FOOD COMMISSION.

By EMILY JUSON KERR, J.P.

Proceedings at the Board of Trade every Wednesday and Thursday (open to the public) proceed with undeviating precision. Those who have not yet attended would do well to do so, if only to gain an object lesson in "How to Chair," for a greater master at chairmanship than Sir Auckland Geddes could not be found, he leaves nothing to chance; each point is repeated clearly before the next point is taken up. No chance of any member of the Committee feeling in the least nebulous about the smallest detail. Nevertheless, the Gilbertian touch intensifies, as representative after representative stands up and gives his evidence with regard to his special food interest. It all ends automatically in the fact (copiously supported by statistics), "No one is making profits; on the contrary, loss is more common than gain." Mrs. Philip Snowden, in the early stages, asked, "If that is so, why do you continue in the business? Is it for philanthropy?" Meanwhile the price of food continues its upward path. Immediately after the wheat inquiry, the 4 lb. loaf, which before the war cost 5d., soared to 10d. and 11d. with one exception, that in Bermondsey, owing to local competition, the price that had been 9d. rose only to 9½d. One of the plausible witnesses (with a pocketful of statistics) calmly suggested to his cross-examiners that perhaps the high prices were Providential! and would tend to teach the working classes "How to be Thrifty." If they could not afford to pay for all they needed, it would teach them the value of what they had not got! Yet, one of our largest milling firms has managed to make a profit of 14 per cent. for four years, and Lyons, "A.B.C.," and other firms are making profits ranging between 15 to 30 per cent, as well as giving bonus

shares from time to time. What a problem for the Commission to face! What a problem for them to solve! for it is plain to the most elementary mind that some organised plan, either national or otherwise, must speedily be evolved to provide cheaply and efficiently for the most common need of mankind.

Long ago, Queensland settled her own affairs with regard to this matter by starting State competition. Let us hope this Royal Commission of ours will result in something equally definite! Mr. Baldwin himself, last year, in the House of Commons inquired whether the whole string of intermediaries between producer and consumer could not be eliminated by direct transactions between the various Governments. Meanwhile, the Gilbertian farce at the Board of Trade goes on. One representative ingenuously asserted that he knew of No "Trusts" or "Combines" with regard to food! Yet, some eight or more weeks before Christmas, it was announced in a trade paper that the Maypole Company, Home & Colonial, Jurgon Bros., and others (dealing in butter and margarine) had amalgamated. For the moment the consumer was unaware of any change. It was left to the *Daily Mail* on January 10th to publish "Dearer Margarine." "On Monday, the price of the brands of margarine selling at 6d. a lb. will be raised. . . . According to people engaged in the trade, competition has been so keen, that this quality of margarine has been sold at a loss for some time, even at 7d. per lb., it is claimed the profit will be negligible." This speaks for itself—Crush out all possibility of competition in order to allow prices to soar.

Mr. Bruce, Prime Minister of Australia, told the last Imperial Conference that the fluctuations of food

prices were of no benefit to the agricultural producer, or the consumer, but merely fed the appetite of the speculative middleman. "Cannot a policy be framed," he asked, "to stabilise prices of such commodities as meat and wheat, to eliminate fluctuation, thereby removing any incentive to speculation?" It is left to the present Royal Commission either to accept the Gilbertian trade view that nothing can be done, as no undue profits are being made, or partially to acquiesce by using a half-measure of threatening to prosecute if any trade is found out! This, however, seems inadequate, as it is well known that the Profiteering Act during the war, failed hopelessly by catching the small profiteer, and allowing the large vested interests to run free. Let us hope the Commission will have the courage to recognise the vital need of entire reorganisation of the present system between producers and consumers—abroad as well as at home—and sweep out the unnecessary "go-betweens," and make the food of the people no longer the "happy hunting-ground" of speculators.

Meanwhile, let readers of THE VOTE and others continue to attend the meetings of the Commission, and not allow their interest to flag for a moment. Public interest is the rock to cling to, if we really desire to save ourselves and all those, who are struggling with the daily increasing difficulty of trying to "make two ends meet."

In Memoriam.

MRS. CATHERINE HOLIDAY.—We offer our deepest sympathy to our old friend Mr. Holiday and to Miss Holiday, the husband and daughter of Mrs. Catherine Holiday who passed away in her 86th year at her residence in Hampstead on December 28th Mrs. Holiday was for many years an invalid, but she is mourned by a wide circle of artistic, musical, and literary friends. Her exquisite embroidery work aroused the enthusiasm of William Morris, and his delight in her work was shared by Burne-Jones, G. F. Watts, Holman Hunt, William de Morgan, Richard Cobden Sanderson, and many other distinguished workers. In her earlier life Mrs. Holiday was a charming pianist, and of a very dainty beauty; she overflowed with unselfish kindness and good will. She was also a keen politician; and injustice and oppression never failed to excite her indignation and sympathy.

DR. LILLIAS HAMILTON.—We greatly regret to announce the death of Dr. Lillias Hamilton, on January 6th, at Nice, after a short illness. Dr. Hamilton was a member of the Women's Freedom League, and in the summer of 1922 kindly consented to be the principal speaker in the Clyde Coast Campaign, organised by Miss Alix M. Clark. Previous to that date, Dr. Hamilton was Warden of the Horticultural College for Women at Studley for 14 years, devoting herself to this work chiefly to open to women an active and health-giving career, and she was a strong advocate of the necessity for increasing the food production of Great Britain. A native of New South Wales, her life was one of adventure and service. Educated at Cheltenham, she first trained as a nurse at Liverpool Infirmary. She qualified in medicine in 1890, studying at Edinburgh and the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, and obtained the Brussels M.D. She practised in Calcutta for four years, and in 1894 accepted the appointment of physician to the Court of the Ameer of Afghanistan, and lived among the Afghans in Cabul for four years. Dr. Hamilton was a most fascinating lecturer on many subjects. She had a very brilliant personality and great charm, was full of force and decision, gay and courageous, and exacted the utmost from herself and from others.

CONGRATULATIONS.

ELIAS—BENGE.—On January 7th, at St. James Church, Piccadilly. Marianne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elias, of 66, Bridge Lane, Golders Green, to Flt.-Lieut. Arthur Norman Benge.

WHERE TO GO.

Friday, January 16th, Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W., at 11—1 and 3—5. Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations. Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., Dr. Wilson Harris, M.A. Chair: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc.

Friday, January 16th, Women's Service House, 35, Marsham Street, S.W.1, at 5. Women's Conference to consider the problem of the Public-House.

Monday, January 19th—24th, Gymnasium, University College, Gower Street, W.C.1, at 8.30. "Little Plays of St. Francis," by Laurence Housman. Produced by Mr. W. A. G. Doyle-Davidson. (Matinée, January 24th, at 2.30 p.m.)

Saturday, January 17th, 5, Old Palace Yard, Westminster, at 10.30. Royal Commission on Lunacy.

Monday, January 19th, Central Hall, Westminster, at 7.30. Miss Maude Royden, Dr. Scott-Lidgett, etc. Housing, Public Protest Meeting.

Wednesday, January 21st, Board of Trade Offices, Whitehall, at 11 and 3. Royal Commission on Food Prices.

Thursday, January 22nd, Board of Trade Offices, Whitehall, at 11 and 3. Royal Commission on Food Prices.

Friday, January 23rd. United Girls' Schools' Settlement, 17, Peckham Road, Camberwell, at 5 p.m. Mr. M. L. Waller (Chairman of H. M. Prison Commissioners) and Mr. T. W. Pym (Head of Cambridge House Settlement) on "The English Prison System." Chair: Sir Wm. Joynson-Hicks, Home Secretary.

Tuesday, January 27th. 5, Old Palace Yard, Westminster, at 10.30 and 2. Royal Commission on Lunacy.

Tuesday, January 27th, Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W., at 5.15. Stephen Gwynn, on "Poets of my day."

Wednesday, January 28th. 5, Old Palace Yard, at 10.30 and 2. Royal Commission on Lunacy.

Wednesday, January 28th, Board of Trade Offices, Whitehall, at 11 and 3. Royal Commission on Food Prices.

Thursday, January 29th, Board of Trade Offices, Whitehall, S.W., at 11 and 3. Royal Commission on Food Prices.

Thursday, January 29th, International House, 55, Gower Street, W.C.1, at 7.30. Mme. Kappenburg on "Work among Foreign Women in Paris Prisons."

Saturday, January 31st. 11, Chandos Street, W.C., at 10—1. Public Conference, convened by the People's League of Health, on "The Teaching of Personal Hygiene."

W.F.L. PAMPHLETS.

- "British Women M.P.s (brought up to date), by D. M. Northcroft ... 4d.
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- "Women's Right to Work," by Miss Lind-af-Hageby 3d
- "Women and Income Tax," by Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant) ... 3d.
- "Race Motherhood. Is Woman the Race?" by Mrs. Montefiore ... 6d.
- "Women Police," by D. M. Northcroft ... 1d.
- "Women at Work in the League of Nations," by D. M. Northcroft (Second Edition) ... 6d.
- "The Wrongs of Married Women," by Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., LL.A. ... 3d.
- "The New Humanism," by Laurence Housman ... 6d.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, January 23rd, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Report.

Friday, January 23rd, at 8.15 p.m. Minerva Club, Branch Whist Drive. Tickets 2/-. (To be obtained from the Secretary.)

Saturday, January 24th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, January 26th, at 8 p.m. Thames Valley. Public Debate on an Imperial Preference Policy, at the Parish Hall, Elleray Road, Teddington. Proposer: Mrs. Costello (Conservative and Unionist Association). Opposer: Mrs. Furley Smith (Women's National Liberal Federation). Chairman: The Viscountess Rhondda, J.P.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Wednesday, January 28th, at 8 p.m. Hampstead. Branch Social Gathering at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3 (by the kindness of Mrs. Harverson). Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Married Women's Right to Work." Chair: Mrs. Sudd Brown. Music. Recitations. All are welcome.

Saturday, March 7th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, March 7th, at 8 p.m. Dinner to Miss Emily Phipps, at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.

Friday, April 24th, at 2.30 p.m. National Executive Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday April 25th, at 10 a.m. Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, February 15th, at 6.30 p.m. Church of Humanity, Orchard Road, Fairfield, Kingston-on-Thames. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "The Need for Women Magistrates."

BRANCH NOTE.

HASTINGS.

In spite of the stormy weather that ushered in the New Year, those members and friends of the Women's Freedom League who had the courage to brave the elements greatly appreciated the Thé Chantant held at 1, St. Paul's Place, on Friday, January 2nd, by the kind permission of the President (Mrs. Darent Harrison). Among those present were the Princess Karadja, Madame Oesterveen, Mrs. Mellis, Mrs. Hoskyn, Mrs. Ward (of Salehurst), and Miss Goddard.

A short musical programme opened the proceedings. Songs were contributed by Miss Vera Hoskyn. Mrs. Darent Harrison, by request, entertained the members with pianoforte selections from Wagner. Little Miss Marjorie Dunhill recited "Aunt Priscilla," and was accorded a special vote of thanks for her graceful dancing. Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Rogers acted as accompanists.

Mrs. Darent Harrison, in the course of a short address, wished all the members a happy and prosperous New Year, which had begun well by the inclusion of three women, Miss Ellen Terry, Mrs. Fawcett, and Dr. Louise Aldrich-Blake, in the New Year's Honours list. A resolution demanding a measure of equal franchise with as little delay as possible was carried unanimously. Copies of this resolution have been sent to the Prime Minister, Lord Eustace Percy, M.P., and other Members of the Cabinet. Three new members were enrolled, and a hearty vote of thanks to our branch President concluded a very successful gathering. (Hon. Sec.) E. H. BAENZIGER.

TO BRANCH TREASURERS.

Please let me have your Capitation Fees and Balance Sheet or note of Income and Expenditure for 1924.

E. KNIGHT.

TO ALL FRIENDS.

JUMBLE SALE. — Montgomery Boroughs Branch is organising a big Jumble Sale this month. Every penny received will come to Headquarters, the branch paying expenses. Please bring or send parcels to this office by Saturday, January 24th, for Miss Clark to take back to Wales with her.

E. KNIGHT.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Care of Young Offenders.

The *Westminster Gazette* reports that the Archbishop's Board of Preventive and Rescue Work has just published a paper regarding the treatment of young offenders, which will come before the Committee recently appointed by the Home Office, the first meeting of which is to be held early next week. Greater use of remand homes, and the segregation of youthful offenders from older delinquents, are strongly advocated; and the following are some of the main recommendations:—

There should be a remand period after conviction, but before sentence, in order to observe the physical and psychological state of the offender. Remand periods should be taken fully into account in giving sentence. In France (says the report) imprisonment before and during trial is deducted in full.

Compensation and expenses should be awarded to persons detained more than six days and acquitted. Remand houses, separate from police and prison premises, should be established, at the discretion of the justices, where persons awaiting trial may be detained.

It recommends that women and girls from 16 to 25 should be remanded to a remand home or refuge, instead of to prison. "In the refuge," the paper states, "the young woman would be under the care of a trained rescue worker, and in a religious atmosphere." For boys from 16 to 21, remand homes are proposed in addition to those already in use. A payment of 2s. 6d. a day should be made for every case so remanded from Home Office funds.

"We know from experience," the paper states, "that evil ways often begin from lack in the homes of any sense of modesty, discipline, or religious teaching. We have found that young people readily respond to training which brings out their own responsibility in life."

Teaching of Hygiene.

Speaking on Hygiene as a Branch of Physical Education at a meeting of the Ling Association of Teachers of Swedish Gymnastics, Miss Helen Drummond, the President, said that hygiene should be a general upper school subject, wide and far-reaching in its outlook, and not confined to a few laws of health. As gymnastics, games, and dancing represented the practical side of the health teaching in a school, so the teaching of hygiene should represent the theoretical side. Theory and practice had a far stronger influence than practice alone. Miss Drummond said that the gymnastic teacher should be the chief teacher of hygiene on a school staff. We ourselves think that the teaching of personal hygiene should not be exclusively an Upper School subject, but that this subject should be taught regularly by precept and practice in all schools.

Judge Atherley Jones on Treatment of Prisoners.

Speaking at Newcastle Sessions last week, Judge Atherley Jones said that the great mass of crime in this country was based upon poverty, and that the great majority of criminals began to break the law when children, owing to the miserable conditions under which they were born and passed their early years. He further said that, after careful study, he had come to the conclusion that Borstal Institutions were on the whole ineffective. He believed that a solution would be found in individual treatment—costly, perhaps, but not more so than the penological system.

Shakespeare and Shorthand in Prison.

The Chairman of the Gaol Visiting Committee, at a meeting of Birmingham City Justices held last week, said that the lectures on Shakespeare twice a week were very popular among the prisoners. Shorthand was taught with great success, and four proficiency certificates had been gained. The justices believed this would help students to get work. We should very much like to learn of similar arrangements made in Holloway on behalf of women prisoners.

Attack on Girl.

Last week a girl of 16 was walking along a road at Wistaston, Cheshire, when she was overtaken by a man, who knocked her down and hacked at her throat with a razor. The man made no attempt to escape, and was detained until the police came. The girl had five wounds.

Women Farm Workers' Wages.

The *Daily Telegraph* reports that women workers on the farm in the North Riding over 18 years old are to be paid 6d. per hour for a 44-hour week, with 9d. per hour for overtime. Girls under 18 years will be paid 4d. per hour, and overtime at the rate of 6d.

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INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult H. M. BAKER, the woman Income Tax Expert, 275, High Holborn. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, January 18th. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Sir Oliver Lodge, F.R.S.: "Atoms and Ether." 6.30. Miss Maude Royden: "A Way of Life for those outside the Churches."

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