

THE VOTE,  
FEB. 16, 1923.  
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN OUT OF THE KING'S SPEECH!

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, FEB. 16, 1923

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

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## WOMEN IN DIPLOMACY I.

Mlle. Nadejda Stancioff (First Secretary to the Bulgarian Delegation at Washington).

Although the entry of women into the world of diplomacy is of comparatively recent date, their influence in this sphere is rapidly increasing. Great Britain has one very special appointment in this direction to her credit, in the person of Miss Gertrude Lowthian Bell, who, many years ago, went out to Asia Minor and Mesopotamia on a pleasure tour, and now remains there, helping to govern it. She knows every tribe and every ruling sheik between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, and is the leading adviser to the High Commissioner, to King Feisal, and to other Arab rulers, who all turn to her in difficulties, in troubles, in financial transactions and political matters, for her advice and guidance. One who has seen her, and well knows her work in those parts, has described her to-day as Britain's first "woman ambassador."

Other countries which have appointed women in their respective diplomatic worlds include America, which has nominated Miss Lucille Atcherson, of Columbus, Ohio, as fourth Secretary to the Paris Embassy, on the recommendation of President Harding; Norway, which has appointed Miss Henriette Hoegh as first Secretary to the Norwegian Legation at Mexico; Uruguay, which has sent Mme. Clotilde Luisi to occupy the position of Attachée at the Uruguayan Legation at Brussels; Assyria, which has appointed Lady Surma Dillar Shemim

as Chargée d'Affairs; Russia, which, only within the last week or so, has sent Mme. Kollontai as its Soviet representative to Norway; and Mademoiselle Nadejda Stancioff, who was appointed first Secretary to the Bulgarian Delegation at Washington last September.

Mlle. Stancioff, who, as daughter of the Bulgarian Minister to the Court of St. James's, is well known in London, is a remarkably gifted woman, and speaks and writes several languages fluently. Possessing a Bulgarian father, a French mother, an Albanian ancestor, and an Italian grandmother, she has assimilated a cosmopolitan viewpoint and a diplomatic atmosphere from her earliest years.

The interesting sequence of events which led up to her diplomatic appointment at Washington was related to our representative, in a recent interview, shortly after Mlle. Stancioff's return from the Lausanne Conference.

"During the war," said Mlle. Stancioff, "any prospect of diplomatic work never entered my head, for, like most Bulgarian women in those days, I was fully occupied with nursing.

But, after the Armistice, finding they were short-handed in the Legation, I offered my services as interpreter, and in this capacity was taken to the Paris Peace Conference. Here my knowledge of English stood me in good stead, as by this time French was no longer being used as the only diplomatic language.



"I was pretty hard worked in Paris, as I was the only Bulgarian who understood English, and M. Stamboliski, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, noticed this, and insisted that it was because I was more industrious than the rest! Naturally, I disclaimed this, but he would never believe it, and, later, asked me to become his private Secretary, as he himself knew no foreign language. I remained with M. Stamboliski for about a year, during which time I travelled a great deal, acting as his interpreter at the Assembly of the League of Nations, and at the Conference at Genoa, and acquiring much useful diplomatic experience.

"Then, one day, M. Stamboliski asked me if I would not like to enter the Bulgarian diplomatic service. I was surprised, and raised objections at once. 'I cannot become a diplomat for two reasons,' I answered; 'first, because I am a woman, and, secondly, because I have never been trained for the service.' But he would not listen! For one thing, sex in my country is no handicap to official positions, as Bulgarian women enjoy a greater measure of equality with men than in many of the bigger countries, and, for the other, I had already taken a University degree at the Sorbonne, in Paris. The technical side of diplomatic work, which is usually gained in the various departments of the Foreign Office, I was excused, because of my experience abroad, and linguistic qualifications."

#### Women Diplomats and Peace.

Mlle. Stancioff is very hopeful of the special contributions which women will bring with them into the world of diplomacy. "Women hate war so much that there is no doubt those with the necessary authority will use all their weight against it in diplomatic negotiations," she said. "Women are also much more practical than men. They see more quickly in which direction events are trending. Also, let us hope they will talk less, and do more! The general impression which most of us received at the Lausanne Conference was that Conferences, in themselves, are useless, besides incurring enormous expenditure in time and money. A far more practical method of solving the problem of world peace would be to make the diplomats in the capitals work harder as regards international negotiations, and give the League of Nations far more power as a great central world tribunal."

In spite of the honoured position of Miss Gertrude Bell, referred to earlier, British women will not find the diplomatic sphere an easy one to enter until they have broken down the prejudice which now exists in their own country. Such prejudice is probably not inherited by the common people, but the Government, at any rate, have taken good care to reserve Diplomatic positions, for the most part, to men.

#### An Unjust Document.

Command Paper No. 1244, of which particular mention was made in THE VOTE, at the time of its issue, early in 1921, makes this point very clear, a proviso in Clause 1. giving power for Orders in Council to be drafted "to reserve to men any branch of or posts in the Civil Service in any of His Majesty's Possessions overseas, or in any foreign country." This clause, when further expanded, excludes women from "all posts in the Diplomatic and the Consular Service, all posts in the Commercial Diplomatic Service and the Trade Commissioner Service (except that of Chief Clerk in the offices of the Trade Commissioners), and all Government Services of the Colonies and Protectorates to which appointments are made in the United Kingdom (other than posts for which women may be specially recruited), and the Civil Services of His Majesty in India."

Such a wholesale regulation, on the face of it, would appear pretty hopeless, were it not for the fact that there is a large body of women, in this and other enfranchised countries, who are beginning to realise the need for women attachées at Embassies and Legations to represent the growing political status and interests of their sex, and such public opinion is bound to make itself felt in the long run. Lady Astor has interested herself in the matter from the first, so that the women of this country can count on a powerful backing from their special representatives in Parliament.

#### CAMBRIDGE WOMEN GRADUATES.

We must keep a sharp look-out for the admission of women to Cambridge University. It will be remembered that the recent Royal Commission on Oxford and Cambridge Universities unanimously recommended that women should be admitted to full University membership at Cambridge, just as they already are at Oxford. To carry out the various recommendations of this Royal Commission, the Government, last summer, introduced a Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Bill, which perished at the Dissolution. We now hear that this Bill is to be reintroduced almost at once. As it stood last summer, the drafting made it very difficult to amend so as to provide for the admission of women to the University. We are therefore urging the Minister of Education and the Prime Minister to include in this Session's Bill a clause to secure their admission.

Cambridge University herself has set up a Syndicate on Women's Degrees, which has reported to the Senate, and discussions have followed on the meagre concessions, titular degrees, etc., offered by the University, but these matters are only of academic interest, and it is to Parliament that women now look.

#### THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1922.

(1) The age of consent to indecent assault on a boy or girl is under 16.

(2) The age of consent to criminal assault on a girl is under 16, and reasonable cause to believe the girl to be of or above the age of 16 is not any defence, except in the case of a man of 23 or younger, who is allowed the first time that he is charged with such an offence to plead the presence of reasonable cause to believe that the girl was over 16. The limit of time during which prosecutions may be initiated is nine months after the commission of the offence.

(3) Persons convicted of keeping disorderly houses, etc., are liable to a fine up to £100, or imprisonment, with or without hard labour, up to three months, for the first offence; and for subsequent offences to a fine up to £250, or imprisonment, with or without hard labour, up to six months; or in any case to both fine and imprisonment.

(4) Prosecutions under the Punishment of Incest Act may be conducted in public.

#### THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

ARE HOLDING

#### Fortnightly Lectures

ON

#### FOREIGN POLITICS

IN THE

MINERVA CAFÉ, 144 HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

In which the following subjects will be discussed:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH FRANCE." Speaker: The Lady Amherst of Hackney.

MONDAY, MARCH 12th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH RUSSIA."

MONDAY, MARCH 26th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH THE CENTRAL POWERS."

(Speakers to be announced later.)

ADMISSION FREE. Reserved Seats 1/- from 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Reports of the above Lectures will appear in THE "Vote," 1d. Weekly.

#### WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

##### First Woman J.P. in India.

Mrs. Margaret Cousins, a keen suffragist, public worker and journalist, and Joint Secretary of the Women's Indian Association, has been appointed special magistrate in the city of Madras. She is the first woman magistrate to be appointed in India. Madras is also the first city in India to have a woman member of its Corporation, Mrs. M. C. Devados.

##### Women in the Mercantile Marine.

An important ruling has been given by the Board of Trade, which removes all doubt as to the eligibility of women to hold certificates enabling them to reach the highest executive positions on board ship, provided that the conditions as to service and testimonials, laid down in their regulations, are complied with.

##### Champion Woman Typist.

Miss Millicent Woodward, who is giving demonstrations of typing at the Business Efficiency Exhibition at the Central Hall, Westminster, has held the speed championship of Europe for the last two years. She won the Junior Championship of England after she had learnt typing only three months. Her highest speed is 173 words a minute from dictation, and a little more when copying. Her hands are insured by her firm, the manufacturers of the Royal Typewriter, for £5,000.

##### The "Mother" of the Lyceum.

By the death of Mrs. W. T. Smedley, the Lyceum Club has suffered an irreparable loss. The idea of the Club originated with Miss Constance Smedley, now Mrs. Maxwell Armfield, Mrs. Smedley's daughter, but Mrs. Smedley took the chief part in its organisation. It was entirely owing to her personal efforts that the many social, professional, and international circles were formed, and that in due course the International Association of Lyceum Clubs was established, with club-houses in many important cities in Europe and the Overseas Dominions.

##### Women Artists' Exhibits.

Most of the best-known women artists of the day are exhibiting at the Society of Women Artists' Exhibition, now being held at the Royal Institute, Piccadilly. The handicraft section is also of a very high standard, and includes the work of women in weaving, engraving, pottery, jewellery, and leather work.

##### Chinese Woman Councillor.

The City Legislative Council for Canton, which was inaugurated in November of last year, is believed to be the first City Council established in China. One woman is included in its membership.

##### Icelandic Women's Progress.

The Women's Rights Association, which is making great progress in Iceland, is issuing invitations to women all over the country to come to a meeting in Reikjavik in June. This meeting is to be in the form of a Congress, with discussions, lectures, social gatherings, and sight-seeing.

##### Woman's Record Swim.

The Argentine swimmer, Mme. Harrison, has created what is claimed to be a world's record for women by remaining in the water for 21 hours 20 minutes.

##### An Animal Painter.

Miss Frances Fairman, who painted many portraits of the favourite dogs of Queen Victoria, King Edward, and Queen Alexandra, and who had attained a considerable reputation as an artist of animal life, has recently died at Chelsea from pneumonia, in her 88th year.

##### Russian Woman Diplomat.

Mme. Kollontai, who has recently been appointed Soviet representative in Norway, is said to be the first woman-diplomatic representative of a great Power.

#### UNDER BRITISH RULE.

In recent issues of THE VOTE we have drawn attention to the plea of the Indian women in Fiji, our Crown Colony, to be allowed the services of their one woman doctor. A year or two ago, after an enquiry, secured by Australian and New Zealand women's efforts, into the conditions of these women, the Governor appointed Dr. Mildred Staley, one of the four Medical Officers at the Colonial Hospital at Suva. Dr. Staley also worked a dispensary for women and children. Lately, on grounds of economy, the Government decided that her two years' appointment should not be continued. The Indian women, within two days, got up a meeting of protest, elected a number of delegates, and begged the Governor to receive them, but were refused. We are now able to give the full text of this intensely interesting petition, and to judge of the callous want of thought with which these helpless women in our far-off Colony have been treated by our representatives. We have repeatedly written to our Colonial Office, and have communicated with the Governor of Fiji. Dr. Staley was due to leave Fiji for New Zealand on January 29th. She has not been allowed to train a single native, nurse, or midwife, and the women are to be left to sink back again into their previous misery.

#### PETITION FROM INDIAN WOMEN SUBJECTS, SUVA, FIJI.

To His Excellency, Sir Cecil Hunter Rodwell, K.C.M.G., Governor of Fiji.

We, Indian women, all desire to offer your Excellency, the illustrious Governor of Fiji, our humble thanks that at the beginning of this year you kindly appointed a lady doctor to save us from our diseases. She has effected cures among hundreds of us who for many years have been suffering in private from distressing maladies which, for modesty's sake, we are unable to disclose to male doctors.

Not only women in the districts of Suva, Nausori, and Navua, but also women from Ba, Lautoka, and many other places have gained relief. We therefore offer your Excellency our most grateful thanks, and pray that for many years God may spare to govern us you who have so graciously given us unfortunate Indian women a lady doctor. It is our prayer that this excellent provision for our needs may be continued, and in the future increased. We and our children, having thereby obtained relief from our suffering, will ever remain deeply grateful to you.

We desire also to make known to you the fact that a very great number of our sisters and little children have lost their lives through having been unable to secure the services of a well-trained midwife. Others through neglect have thereafter suffered permanently.

We therefore pray that Indian midwives, thoroughly trained, and who can inform and superintend the untrained midwives at present in Fiji, may be given us.

We trust that your Excellency will be pleased graciously to receive our petitions, and grant us our requests.

YOUR DUTIFUL INDIAN WOMEN SUBJECTS.

#### GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 23rd and 24th.

#### STRING BAND.

Amateur String Players are invited to give their services to provide a Band for the days of the Fair. The Band will be under the Hon. Conductorship of Mrs. Van Raalte. Application to be made to the Hon. Fair Sec., Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 1923.

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

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

### EDITORIAL.

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

## THE KING'S SPEECH!

In pre-war days it was the custom of the Women's Freedom League to hold a King's Speech Meeting on the evening of the day on which Parliament began a new Session. In those days the one and only reform for which we were working, the only interest which we allowed ourselves, was the political enfranchisement of women. The speakers at the King's Speech Meeting would bring with them a copy of an evening paper, and emphatically declare from the platform that there was nothing in the King's Speech! It invariably happened that there was nothing which referred to the one and only reform which at that time was of importance to us. Since 1918, when the women of this country who were over thirty years of age were enfranchised and became responsible citizens, we viewed the King's Speech rather differently. Women's special interests have so far found no place in it; but its contents are of as much concern to us as they are to men. We do not, however, think that men can read the King's Speech of last Tuesday—the Speech which is attributed to His Majesty, but is in reality an outline of the policy and work of His Majesty's Ministers—with any semblance of enthusiasm. It records the failure of the Allied Governments to come to any agreement on the Reparations question, and the subsequent decision of the French and Belgian Governments to follow out their own plans in Germany; and the failure of the Allied Powers to make peace with Turkey. It welcomes the prospect of settling our War Debt with America, and promises that the Estimates for the public service will be laid before Members of the House of Commons in due course, pointing out that the financial burdens of the country are heavy, and that economy in public expenditure is still necessary. Again, unemployment gives great concern, but there are signs of improvement in our overseas trade! The condition of Agriculture is receiving consideration, while the anomalies and inequalities of the present system of local taxation are being examined. We are promised Bills dealing with Unemployment, Insurance Benefit, Housing, Trade Boards, and Industrial Assurance. The Rent Restrictions Act is to come up for the consideration of Parliament, and measures will be submitted for simplifying legal procedure and effecting economies in the County Courts, as well as for the consolidation of various branches of the law, particularly relating to the Supreme Court and to Real Property and Conveyancing. Whatever men may think of this Speech, women can only say it is entirely void of inspiration; it has indeed touched the lowest depths of dullness. When will it be possible for women to take their full share in drafting a King's Speech? Wouldn't it have been different if they had had the chance this Session? As the King's Ministers seem so determined not to mention women or any of the reforms in which women are particularly interested, we confidently hope that our friends in Parliament will make up for this omission by plying the Members of the Government with questions concerning those reforms. We do not think many days will pass before the Government are reminded of them.

## THE DOCTRINE OF "COERCION."

Last week a correspondent in *The Times* urged the Government forthwith to bring about the reform of the present law by which a married woman who commits a crime in the presence of her husband is presumed to act under his coercion, and can therefore be acquitted. It was pointed out that so long ago as 1879 the Royal Commissioners who reported on the Draft Criminal Code made this recommendation; that Lady Astor introduced a Bill in Parliament last March, but no progress was made with it. Then the Lord Chancellor appointed a Committee, presided over by Mr. Justice Avory, and consisting of five other lawyers, to inquire into and report on the subject, and they unanimously recommended that this absurd state of the law should no longer exist. Yet, with all this, nothing has been done by Parliament to carry out this reform! We quite agree that the present law in regard to the presumption of coercion of married women is out of date. But there are many other laws equally out of date in regard to women's position. The Women's Freedom League is working for the removal of all inequalities of the law as between men and women. While the present inequality of the law exists in regard to the enfranchisement of women, the guardianship of their children, divorce, and nationality, and eminent lawyers make no effort to secure the removal of this inequality, we think it is a little shabby on their part to make much fuss over another inequality which is operative in extremely rare cases, and might then be of some advantage to a particular woman. The normal woman does not ask for privileges or favours; she has no inclination for crime of any kind, but resents being treated as a child or a chattel, and, therefore, urges the present Government to waste no more time on this particular obsolete law, but courageously to set to work to remove all inequalities of the law as between the sexes.

## WHAT WE ARE WORKING FOR.

The Women's Freedom League will this Session work chiefly for the following:—

- (1) The Equal Franchisement of men and women.
- (2) More women Members of the House of Commons, and the right of Peeresses in their own right to a seat, a vote, and a voice in the House of Lords.
- (3) The eligibility of women for all posts in the Civil Service, with equal remuneration and equal chance with men to fill the higher posts; equal opportunities for women with men in all trades and professions, and equal pay.
- (4) The raising of the Age of Consent for girls to 18, with a similar protection for boys; the recognition of an equal moral standard for men and women, an even-handed justice in the law and its administration in regard to sex offences; and that no man or woman shall be convicted on police evidence only for solicitation, annoyance, or molestation.
- (5) More women on all juries, and women magistrates on every Bench throughout the country.
- (6) Women Commissioners of Prisons, women Governors, and women Medical Officers of Prisons; women Police; women Lunacy Commissioners, women Superintendents and women Medical Officers in women's Asylums or the women's side of an Asylum.
- (7) The restoration to British-born women of full control of their nationality.

## THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH AMERICA.

### PUBLIC LECTURE AT THE MINERVA CAFÉ.

The second of the series of fortnightly Lectures on Foreign Politics, arranged by the Women's Freedom League, was held in the Minerva Café last Monday evening, the speaker being Mrs. Jessie Haver Butler, of the United States of America.

Miss F. A. Underwood, who presided, drew attention to the need for a better understanding between the two great English-speaking countries, Great Britain and America, since a closer union between the two would undoubtedly prove an enormous factor in maintaining world peace, and pressed the necessity for a closer study of foreign politics, especially in the present chaotic state of Europe.

#### Deeper Understanding Needed.

Mrs. Haver Butler began by pointing out that a great deal of the future welfare of the world depended upon a proper basis of understanding between America and England, because these nations represented the dominant races of the world. Much harm was being done by superficial information about the two countries, imparted by globe-trotters from either side, who only spent a few weeks in the country they were visiting, and then discussed that country's affairs from mere surface knowledge. She had recently attended a Lecture on America, given by an Englishman who had spent only eleven weeks in the States, and she was amazed at the way he dwelt upon the superficial side of things, instead of penetrating to the deeper and more thoughtful life of the people.

In 1820, the population of Great Britain was 21 millions, whilst in America it was only nine millions. A hundred years later, in 1920, the English population had only doubled itself, whilst the American people had increased to 100 millions. The period between 1820 and 1920 was one of great literary activity in England, this being the older established country, but in America the struggle to live and build up the country crushed out all intellectual life for the time being, and laid the most emphasis on the more materialistic side of life.

#### Racial Problems.

Racial problems were acute in America. One out of every three persons had either one or both parents who were foreign born. The birth-rate amongst pure Anglo-Saxons in America was to-day lower than the French birth-rate. Within another few generations there would be no more Anglo-Saxons left, and the whole character and complexion of the population would have entirely altered. Each of the foreign races in America, however, had made a special contribution to the country of their adoption. The negroes, who numbered ten millions, and were chiefly concentrated in the Southern States, offered a very difficult problem, but they had also helped greatly in increasing America's material resources. The chief industry in the South was the raising of cotton, and no other race of people was so physically able to work in the cotton fields as the negroes. Though they had helped to develop the industrial prosperity of the South, they had not always been treated properly in the past, but there was already a change for the better in the general mental attitude towards them.

There was also the Jewish problem. One out of every three persons in America to-day was of Jewish extraction. Almost the entire clothing industry in the United States was in the hands of Jewish people, and the most advanced conditions as regards labour had been evolved by Jewish workers in New York and the surrounding district. The Jewish people seemed to have a greater genius for co-operation than other races, and attempts were now being made by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America to bring about co-operation between the Russian clothing industry and the American industry. Several factories had already been set up in Russia, and were being supported by American money. The rapid development

of Jewish labour was a thorn in the side of American industry, the latter being inclined to be sluggish.

The Japanese element, which was chiefly concentrated in California, was another difficult problem which America had to solve. The racial antipathy between the white and yellow races was very bitter, for the Japanese were not allowed to become citizens in the States, or to own land in their own right. Yet the Japanese had brought over with them an intensive kind of cultivation, which had enormously added to the beauty and prosperity of the State where they dwelt. They could also live on a much lower scale of wages than the white people, which was a cause of much jealousy.

#### The Power of the Trusts.

Certain tendencies were at work in America which inspired misgiving in the more thoughtful minds. One of the most predominant of these was the danger incurred by the tremendous business accumulation of capital, bringing with it financial power, which was apt to become materialistic, grasping, and unscrupulous. The American type of business man had developed organisation to a highly efficient extent. People in America tended to move in the mass more than in England, and to move under leadership, so that reforms could be accomplished more easily and quickly. Such organisation brought with it tremendous power, and, to English people, presented an almost terrifying spectacle. The organisation of great trusts was especially rampant in the food industry, and particularly amongst the meat packers, who, however, did a great pioneer work in the early days, in conveying the meat direct from the farms in the West to the great cities.

The farmers themselves were now becoming organised, however, and were even imposing their will on the various State Legislatures. At one time they were unorganised and individualistic, but the great monopoly of the food interests became so serious that, in self-defence, the farmers began to organise, and had now formed themselves into a Non-Partisan League. They now controlled a State Bank, a State Insurance Company, State granaries, and State packing plant. This movement had spread through Western America with tremendous rapidity.

#### Women and Tariff.

High Tariffs had been the curse of America in the past, but a radical revision was expected in the future. Women needed to study this question more thoroughly, and impress their legislators with the fact that it is the goods that matter, and not the nationality of the people who produce them. Such an attitude of mind would erase some of the worst causes of friction between nations. Women should also realise that the consuming power of the community was unlimited, whilst the world's chief buyers were women, since practically all goods were connected with the home. Women therefore exercised a tremendous economic power, as the women in the Co-operative movement had already realised. Every woman should study the economic side of her own country, as this dominated the thought of the country. Instead of talking so much about Peace, it would have a far more deterring effect if everyone made themselves acquainted with the economic causes of war. America to-day suffered from the same internal enemies as ourselves—a muddled Press, and muddled politicians, and an apathetic public which would not stir.

A good many questions, and some discussion, followed Mrs. Butler's very interesting lecture. These were chiefly concerned with welfare work in America, equality between the sexes, the fight for woman suffrage, and America's entry into the League of Nations, which Mrs. Butler thought would only be a matter of time, as all the thinking people in the States were anxious to join. A hearty vote of thanks to the speaker was then proposed from the Chair, and carried with acclamation.

## A FAMOUS WOMAN PACIFIST

Margarete Lenore Selenka, who died in Munich last December, was a woman of great intellectual capacity and scientific attainments. She was a valuable and faithful fellow-worker to her second husband, the famous zoologist, Emil Salenka, whom she accompanied on his journeys of scientific investigation to Borneo, Java, India, China, and Japan. Together they published a book entitled "Sunny Worlds." With the aid of the Dutch Government, and the support of various scientific institutions, she organised an expedition to Java (after her husband's death), to look for remains of pithecanthropos in the geological stratifications of Trinin.

When the Tsar's Manifesto appeared in 1898, she again took up her efforts on behalf of peace, for which she had formerly been famous. In the same year she induced the League of German Women's Associations to issue a peace manifesto at its Congress in Hamburg. She organised a world demonstration of women to demand peace in May, 1899, on the occasion of the opening of the Hague Conference. In the 18 countries which took part, 565 meetings were held, and the resolutions which were passed at these meetings were handed by Frau Selenka to the President of the Hague Conference. These resolutions appeared later in "The Women's International Manifesto for the Peace Conference," published in Munich in 1900. Since 1899 she organised many annual peace demonstrations, and founded in different towns committees for the propaganda of the idea of the settlement of wars by arbitration. With her husband's help she won the Freemasons to her side, so that the Geneva International Freemasons' Conference in 1901 resolved in favour of Courts of Arbitration. Bloch's great work on "War" was translated into German at Frau Selenka's instigation.

## SPRING SALE OF WORK.

We remind our readers that the Spring Sale of Work will be held this year (by kind invitation of Dr. Octavia Lewin) at 25, Wimpole Street, W.1, on FRIDAY, MARCH 9th, from 3 to 8.30 p.m.

We regret to announce that Lady Parsons is unavoidably prevented from opening the sale, but are glad to report that Dr. Mary Scharlieb, C.B.E., has kindly consented to open it at 3.30 p.m.

There will be Stalls for Household goods, Underclothing, Fancy Articles, and Toys; also a Pound Stall, and a Stall for Welsh Produce, Cakes, and Sweets. Gifts are much needed for all these stalls, and will be gladly received by the Hon. Fair Secretary at the Office. Those who have already promised help with the Stalls are Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Whetton, and Mrs. Trafford Williams, and it is hoped that Miss Alix Clark will be able to be present to take charge of the Montgomery Boroughs Stall, for Welsh Produce, Cakes, and Sweets.

An attractive programme has been arranged, the musical part of which will be under the direction of Mrs. Hawkins. Among those who have already promised to assist her are Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. Legge, and Mrs. Sparrow. Dr. Octavia Lewin will give a Lecture on "Shut Your Mouth and Save Your Life," at 4.30 and 6.30 p.m. The competitions are being arranged by Miss Dickerson; Mrs. Grace Goodall has consented to do character readings; and there will be a Dutch auction at 7.30 p.m.

Mrs. Knight has kindly undertaken the arrangements for tea, which will be served from 3.30 to 6 p.m. Promises of gifts, either in money or in kind, will be most welcome to help this important part of the work. The goods most wanted are tea, butter, bread, scones, sugar, milk, cream, biscuits, all sorts of cakes, etc.

All members and friends are cordially invited to visit the Sale some time during the afternoon or evening.

(Hon. Fair Sec.) ELIZABETH BERRY.

## BOOK REVIEW.

*Married Women and Paid Positions.* By Eleanor Barton, J.P. (Women's Co-operative Guild.) Price 1½d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Under the above title, Mrs. Eleanor Barton, J.P., has written a very sensible little pamphlet, which we would commend to all those members of local governing authorities, whose only solution for the problem of unemployment and the safeguarding of the home and interests of the children is turning all married women out of their jobs! Mrs. Barton points out that this question of the married woman worker is part of the question of women's position in general, and that the outcry against married women holding paid positions is a subtle attempt to make a division in the ranks of women. Further, unless women are watchful, jealous of their rights, and prepared to resist the efforts now being made to oust women out of the professions and paid positions, women will find themselves in the position they held in 1914, or even 1850. If they once give way to pressure, women will be forced back into their homes, with no outside interests at all.

Dealing with the argument that a woman's husband should keep her, Mrs. Barton maintains that this creates false impressions: (1) the idea that married women do not contribute anything to the family, whereas really their work keeps the home going, and the same domestic work done by anyone else would be well paid for; (2) the idea that a married woman is being kept, and that it is wrong for her to earn money tends to damage the belief that the wife should have an equal position in the home with the husband. It is said that married women should be at home looking after husband and children. But, inquires Mrs. Barton, are all married women necessarily domestic workers, or even fitted for domestic work? Every man may not be a good joiner or a good engineer, but he might be very good at some other useful work. Then why expect every woman to be good at housework? If she is better at dressmaking or teaching, why not give her the chance of doing the work she is most capable of doing? It is not being good at domestic work which makes a good wife or mother. Another question she asks is, are we to say that, because a woman marries a man, she is always to remain at the level of his achievements, no matter what her ability to improve the position of herself and family? The writer asks why the objection to two salaries going into one house should be raised only in the case of a man and his wife? Does it apply in the case of three young bachelors, each earning £300 a year, who have joined forces and live together? Again, she insists that the singling out of married women is an insidious attack on all women, and strongly protests against the inquisitorial methods used by the Government, local authorities, and private employers in their investigation of women's private affairs.

Mrs. Barton demands the right to self-expression, and more freedom for self-development for all women, and denies that the work of married women really touches the problem of unemployment. She gives the following sane advice:—"Do not let women be stamped into giving up those rights and opportunities which have been so hardly won with so much effort and sacrifice. Rather let us see that the only condition shall be one of capability and efficiency to do the work. The world to-day is needing all the brains and powers of men and women, whether married or single."

## BRANCH NOTE.

## PORTSMOUTH.

The Model P.R. Election will be held in the Grand Jury Room, Town Hall, on Monday, February 19th, at 7.30 p.m. The following candidates are standing:—Mr. H. Abbott (Conservative), Miss Enid Laphorn (Liberal), Mrs. D. E. Colpus (Labour), Mr. A. Heath (Co-operative), Miss E. F. Maynard (Independent). Each candidate will make a seven-minute speech, with three minutes for questions. The Chair will be taken by Mrs. Whetton. Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., will count the votes and explain Proportional Representation.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

## MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.

The Annual Shareholders' Meeting of the above Company will be held on Friday, March 9th, at 12 noon, at the Company's Office, 144, High Holborn.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.  
LONDON AND SUBURBS.DARE TO  
BE FREE.

**Monday, February 19th,** at 6 p.m. Mid-London Branch Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.  
**Monday, February 26,** at 3 p.m. Fair Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.  
**Monday, February 26th,** at 6 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: The Lady Amherst of Hackney. Subject: "The Relations of this Country with France." Chair: Miss Elsie E. Morton, M.B.E. Reserved seats, 1/-.  
**Friday, March 9th,** from 3 to 8.30 p.m. Women's Freedom League Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Opener: Dr. Mary Scharlieb, C.B.E., at 3.30 p.m. Lecture by Dr. Lewin, at 4.30 p.m., and at 6.30 p.m., "Shut your Mouth and Save your Life."  
**Friday, March 9th,** at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.  
**Saturday, March 10th,** at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.  
**Friday, April 27th.** National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.  
**Saturday, April 28th.** Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall.

## PROVINCES.

**Monday, February 19th,** at 7.30 p.m. **Portsmouth.** Public Meeting, Model Election. Speaker: Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E.  
**Wednesday, February 21st,** at 7.30 p.m. **Crosby.** Public Meeting at 13, Prince's Avenue, which will take the form of a Debate on the book, "This Freedom."  
**Tuesday, February 27th,** at 3 p.m. **Bexhill.** Meeting for Members and Friends at Glynne Hall, Sea Road. Speaker: Miss Gertrude Eaton (Penal Reform League). Subject: "Capital Punishment."  
**Tuesday, February 27th,** at 7.30 p.m. **Hastings.** Public Meeting at Lewcock's Assembly Rooms, Carlisle Parade. Speaker: Miss Gertrude Eaton. Subject: "Capital Punishment."  
**Tuesday, February 27th,** at 8 p.m. **Southend-on-Sea and District.** Public Meeting at St. John's Ambulance Hall, 76, Queen's Road. Speaker: Inspector Stark. Subject: "Women Police."

## WALES.

**Friday, February 16th,** at 7.30 p.m. **Montgomery Boroughs.** Public Meeting, Baptist Schoolroom, Newtown. Speakers: Chief Inspector Champneys, Lady Herbert Lewis, J.P., Miss Alix M. Clark. Chair: Councillor Mrs. W. A. Williams. Doors open 7 p.m.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

**Friday, February 16th,** at 8 p.m. Public Meeting at Kingsway Hall, to urge the Abolition of Capital Punishment. Speakers: George Lansbury, M.P., Miss Margery Fry and others. Chair: Miss Esther Roper. Admission free.  
**Wednesday, February 21st,** at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Mr. H. F. L. Polak. Subject: "The Culture of India."  
**Wednesday, February 21st,** at 8 p.m. International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly. Speakers: (1) Miss Mary Richardson, "If I were Prime Minister." (2) Miss E. E. Crosby, L.L.A., "If I were Minister of Education." Chairman: Miss F. A. Underwood.  
**Friday, February 23rd,** at 8.15 p.m., in Kensington Town Hall. Public Debate on Proportional Representation. For, Mr. John Humphreys; Against, Mrs. Stokes, B.Sc.  
**Tuesday, February 27th,** at 4.30 p.m., at 14, St. Quintin's Avenue, W. 10. Address on "The Acts of Paul and Thekla" (A story from an old M.S.). Speaker: Miss K. A. Raleigh. Free admission by card if previously applied for.  
**Tuesday, February 27th,** at 5 p.m. Surbiton. Drawing Room Meeting by kind permission of Mrs. Kirkham, at 25, Grove Road, Surbiton. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin, on "Teaching Personal Hygiene in Schools." Tea 4.30. Members and friends of Women's Freedom League cordially invited.  
**Wednesday, February 28th,** at 5 p.m. Stansfeld Lecture at the London School of Economics. Professor Graham Wallas on "The Competition of the Sexes for Employment."  
**Wednesday, February 28th,** at 8 p.m. International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly. Speakers: (1) Miss C. Nina Boyle "If I were Home Secretary," (2) Miss Acheson "If I were Minister for Foreign Affairs." Chairman: Mrs. Mustard.  
**Wednesday, March 7th,** at 8 p.m. National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Demonstration on Equal Franchise for Men and Women, Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Lady Astor, M.P., Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., Lady Bonham Carter, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, J.P., Miss Daisy Richardson, Mrs. Wintlingham, M.P. Chairman: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., M.A., C.C. Single Tickets (numbered and reserved) 5/-, 2/6, 1/- Admission Free.

## BRANCH NOTE.

## ASHFORD.

A very successful Social Evening was held at the Parish Room on Friday. Music, games, dancing, competitions, etc., were indulged in, and some excellent refreshments, supplied by the Committee, were partaken of by a very happy crowd of people. Mrs. Jarley's Waxworks, and a delightful display of child dancing by Margery Dunhill, were other clever items.

## OUR TREASURY.

## NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1921, £37,191 12s. 10d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount previously acknowledged	533	3 1
Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund:—		
Previously acknowledged	364	10 10
Green, White, and Gold Fair:—		
Previously acknowledged	397	7 0
Mrs. Mustard	5	0
Tickets	13	9
	398	5 9

## Special Emergency War Fund:—

A Friend	10	12 6
Women in Parliament Fund:—		
Mrs. King	2	0 0
Miss E. Gulland	5	0

"Despard Arms"	2	5 0
Anonymous	57	0 0
"Parliamentary Work"	30	0 0
Office Expenses	20	0 0
Baby Doll Competition	17	19 1
Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.	5	0 0
Mrs. Winter	4	0 0
Mrs. B. Holmes	2	2 0
Per Miss Brimson (Southport)	2	0 0
Margate Pioneer Society	1	12 6
Miss L. E. S. Rust	1	1 0
Miss Jessie E. Snow	1	1 0
Mrs. E. F. Buchanan	1	0 0
Mrs. Louisa Thomson-Price	1	0 0
Miss A. Sherwood	15	0
Miss E. J. Sherwood	15	0
Mrs. C. J. Fingland	11	0
Miss Prankerd	10	0
Miss E. Gulland	7	6
Miss Marion W. Morrison	7	6
Miss J. Bisset Smith	6	6
Miss H. Grant	5	3
Miss D. Allwork	5	0
Miss Kate Barton	5	0
Miss F. H. Brace	5	0
Miss B. B. Fallowfield	5	0
Miss Ada E. Farmer	5	0
Mrs. G. Goodered	5	0
Mrs. Gatty	5	0
Miss Dora E. Hecht	5	0
Miss Hurry	5	0
Miss Emily Knight	5	0
Miss Eleanor Mardon	5	0
Miss Janet Mardon	5	0
Miss Elsie E. Morton, M.B.E.	5	0
Mrs. Alice Oxlin	5	0
Mrs. Padfield	5	0
Mrs. Miall-Smith	5	0
Mrs. Terry	5	0
Miss D. Olive Turton	5	0
Mrs. Vatcher	5	0
Miss R. Eamsonson	5	0
Miss Octavia Greer	3	6
Miss F. A. Underwood	3	0
Mrs. A. M. Aldridge	2	6
Mrs. O. M. Aldridge	2	6
Miss G. E. Brown	2	6
Mrs. D. Dickson	2	6
Miss C. A. Duckett	2	6
Mrs. Grace Goodall	2	6
Mrs. J. V. Goodwin	2	6
Miss J. I. Gulland	2	6
Miss Isabel Harvey	2	6
Miss L. Hutchinson	2	6
Mrs. Grace Hyde	2	6
Mrs. G. F. Abbott	2	0
Mrs. Allum	2	0
E. R. Bacon, Esq.	2	0
Mrs. King	2	0
Miss Underwood	2	0
Miss D. Watkins	2	0
Miss V. V. J. Acheson	1	6
Miss Becher	1	0
Miss Candlin	1	0
Miss A. Fawkenner	1	0
Miss M. Meredith	1	0
Refreshments	9	6
Sundries	1	3 10
per Literature Department	5	15 0
Telephone Box	2	13 10
Collections	1	8 0
Branches:—		
Montgomery Boroughs (Jumble Sale)	30	0 0
Hull	1	16 6
Branches, Delegates' Expenses:—		
Montgomery Boroughs	3	0 0
Branches, Capitation Fees:—		
Hampstead	5	0

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1923.

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**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, February 18th. 12 noon. Little Rally for Children of all Ages. 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E.

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