

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1927

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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XXIII.—WHEN I AM M.P.

MRS. PANKHURST, Prospective Conservative Candidate for St. George's-in-the-East.

Mrs. Pankhurst, whether as a Poor Law Guardian, as Registrar, as Suffragist, as Militant, as Social Reformer, and now as candidate for Parliament, is still the same woman. Quite untouched in her fundamental motivating belief that women are unjustly treated, that equality is theirs by right, Mrs. Pankhurst, after a life of strenuous work on behalf of others, now allows herself to make use of the vote and political power she won. She has been adopted as Conservative Candidate for the constituency of St. George's-in-the-East, which has a large area of business premises, running up to the Tower of London and the Mint; it also has a large area of industrial and dock workers' dwellings, and goes over the swing-bridge to Wapping Old Stairs. Mrs. Pankhurst has already made friends with many of the residents, one a woman who for 40 years has lived there devoting her life to improving the lot of less fortunate neighbours; women and men of all kinds living in the well-planned blocks of flats which are numerous in a part of the constituency; she has under way a Social Club, open from 3 to 5, where music, tea, and Conservative wisdom are dispensed. Although at the private meeting to consider her adoption there were as many women as men, and at the adoption meeting itself the women outnumbered the men, Mrs. Pankhurst is

standing as a citizen, not as a woman. She is definitely (and those who served with her in the militant army will remember the uncompromising note) against all forms of protective special legislation for women. She claims equality in every sphere. She claims a fair field and no favour, pointing out that the professions have been more open to the entrance of women than has industry, where the door is frequently barred by Trade Union action and influence. The kind of legislation which prevents women from working on the grounds of protection from harm, Mrs. Pankhurst designated as killing by kindness. She holds that privileges are harmful, and asserts that talk of women not being able to stand this and that is absurd in the face of what they do in fact stand, instancing the experience of widows without incomes. Mrs. Pankhurst is of the opinion that women are too often treated like children, brought up to believe every thing will be done for them; instead they should be brought up to do things for themselves, to depend upon and to trust themselves. To keep women in tutelage, she says, and then give them tremendous political power must be dangerous. They must be allowed full opportunity of becoming useful and loyal citizens able to form an opinion on their country's need and to work with men to supply it,



MRS. PANKHURST.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women Experts on Emigration.

The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations has received information from the International Labour Office that the Governing Body has placed Miss Margaret Bondfield and Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon on the list of Experts on Emigration.

Women Appointed to Sanitary Committee.

Lady Cooper and Miss Crosby, former Lady Mayoress of London, have been added by the Corporation to the Sanitary Committee to assist in carrying out the Committee's duties under the Maternity and Child Welfare Acts.

Lady Maud Hoare, D.B.E.

Lady Maud Hoare, who has just returned to London with her husband after a 12,500-mile air trip to India, and thus set up a long-distance flight record for women, has been appointed a Dame Commander of the British Empire.

Mrs. Wilson's Housing Scheme.

After carrying through two housing schemes in the North of England, Mrs. Wilson, who is a partner with her husband in a tool-making business, has recently started another building scheme at Egham which will involve an outlay of more than £100,000. 210 houses and bungalows are to be built in the district, each of which will cost about £495, including freehold. Mrs. Wilson hopes to have 100 houses completed by the end of the year.

National Council of Women.

This Council has arranged its thirty-second annual meeting for October this year at Bournemouth. It claims the affiliation of 147 other societies, and has 86 branches.

National Council of Girls' Clubs.

The old National Organisation is now to be called the National Council, and intends to introduce the closer co-operation and area-grouping of Girls' Clubs.

Labour Women and Equal Franchise.

The Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations has joined the feminists in demanding a measure of Equal Franchise from the Prime Minister.

Woman Secretary of Liberal Council.

The Liberal Council has appointed as Joint Secretary, Miss Barbara Bliss, daughter of Joseph Bliss, former M.P. for Cokermouth. Miss Bliss is a Newnham graduate and has always been keenly interested and worked actively in politics.

Women on Liberal Committee.

Mrs. Wintringham and Mrs. Corbett Ashby have been invited to serve on the newly constituted Liberal Administrative Committee.

A Woman Oddfellow.

A woman, Mrs. Reed, has been appointed District Master of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows. This is the first time a woman has been admitted to such high office in the Order.

Women's Gallantry Recognised.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution has decided to award its thanks inscribed on vellum to 25 women of Newbiggin, Northumberland, for their gallantry in helping to launch the lifeboat, on January 26th, during a gale.

Woman President.

The Shire Horse Society's annual show opened at the Agricultural Hall, on Wednesday, for the first time in its history under the Presidency of a woman, Mrs. Stanton.

Domestic Service Classes.

The Manchester and Salford Women Workers' Committee regard it as a mistake to close the present Domestic Service Classes as threatened. They claim great value for the Classes, asserting that 70% of those taking the course obtained situations as domestic servants.

Domestic Servants' Free Passages.

The Australian Government offers free passages to British girls, on their undertaking to serve for one year as domestic servants.

Australian Professional Women.

Inaugurated by only 60 women in 1925, the Business and Professional Women's Club, of Victoria, is now a flourishing active affair, with a big and widely representative membership.

Local Government in Palestine.

The Municipal Franchise is now an accomplished fact in Palestine—for men only.

Woman Head of State Reformatory.

The appointment of Mrs. George A. Waters as Warden of the Granite, Oklahoma, State Reformatory has been confirmed by the State Senate.

Woman Candidate for Mayoralty retires.

Last week we noted in this column the entry of a member of the Chicago School Board as a candidate for the office of Mayor in that city. Her retirement from the contest is now reported.

Educational Women Voters.

The American League of Women Voters is to gather in General Council in Washington from April 26th to 30th. This will bring together the leaders in the work of training women for effective citizenship.

Woman Professor at French University.

Mlle. Villard is the first woman professor at a French Faculté des Lettres. She lectures on the English Language and American Literature at the University of Lyons.

Belgium's Five Women Mayors.

Women hold the office of Mayor in Norlinter, in Husse, in Appels, in Thimongies, and in Waillet.

Appointment to University Women's Board.

Frau Marianne Hainisch has been unanimously elected Hon. Member of the Board of the Association of University Women in Austria.

British Red Cross Sisters.

Two Sisters have gone to Bulgaria, equipped with all necessary material, to organise people's kitchens in the Department of Varna.

Chinese Woman Apartment Keeper.

A woman has built and owns the first up-to-date, modern-equipped apartment house, exclusively Chinese, which exists in America. She has placed it on Nob Hill, a high-class residential quarter of San Francisco.

Other issues of the series, "When I am M.P.":—Miss MONICA WHATELEY, January 21, 1927; Miss ELISABETH EDWARDES, January 7, 1927; Miss MARY RICHARDSON, September 24, 1926; The Lady RATHCREEDAN, August 27, 1926; Mrs. CECILIA STREETEN, April 2, 1926; Dr. STELLA CHURCHILL, March 12, 1926; Mrs. MURIEL MATTERS PORTER, September 12, 1924; Mrs. ANNE CORNER, August 29, 1924; Mrs. LOUIE SIMPSON, J.P., August 15, 1924; Councillor ELLEN C. WILKINSON, M.A., July 4, 1924; Miss MINNIE PALLISTER, July 6, 1923; Miss C. PICTON-TURBERVILL, September 8, 1922; Mrs. HAMILTON MORE-NESBITT, August 18, 1922; Mrs. BURNETT SMITH, June 30, 1922; Lady CURRIE, April 7, 1922; Mrs. STEWART BROWN, March 31, 1922; Miss HELEN FRASER, March 24, 1922; Lady COOPER, March 17, 1922; Commandant MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E., February 17, 1922; Miss MARY P. GRANT, January 6, 1922; Mrs. MARJORIE PEASE, J.P., October 28, 1921; Mrs. AYRTON GOULD, October 21, 1921; Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, October 7, 1921; Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P., September 23, 1921; Mrs. ELEANOR BARTON, August 26, 1921; Mrs. SCOTT GATTY, August 12, 1921; Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, July 15, 1921.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Lady Doctor, Lindsey.

MR. WOMERSLEY (U., Grimsby) asked the Minister of Health if he is aware that the Lindsey County Council recently advertised for a lady doctor as an assistant to the Medical Officer of Lindsey at a salary of £400 per annum, plus travelling allowances; that 15 applications were received from properly qualified persons; that the approval of the Ministry of Health to such appointment has been withheld; and will he state on what grounds the appointment cannot be approved? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: The answer to the first and third parts of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I have no official information as to the number of applicants for the post, or as to their qualifications. As regards the last part, I should not be able to approve this appointment as I am not satisfied that it would be possible to obtain for the salary proposed an officer with the necessary qualifications and experience of the important work attaching to this post, or one who would be likely to secure the co-operation of the medical practitioners in the County. MR. WOMERSLEY: Is the right hon. gentleman aware that the Lindsey County Council have appointed a properly qualified person at the salary stated in my question, and that they consider that in doing that they are carrying out the instructions of the department to exercise economy? MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no official information yet as to the appointment; but unofficially I have learned that the person whom it was proposed to appoint is not a person whose training and qualifications are such as I could approve.

Prison Commissioners and Governors (Women).

MR. BRIANT (Lib., Lambeth N.), asked the Home Secretary whether he has considered the advisability of appointing some women to the Prison Commission, and as Governors of women's prisons? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: Yes, Sir. As regards Governors, there are only two establishments in which women only are detained: one of them has a woman governor, the other a woman deputy-governor. As regards Prison Commissioners, there are four of them dealing with a male population of 10,341 and a female population of only 912. I am sorry that, like my predecessors, I do not see my way to appoint a Woman Commissioner.

Offences Against Young Persons.

VISCOUNT LONDON (U., Shrewsbury) asked the Minister of Health what action, legislative and administrative, he proposes to take on the subject of the Report of the Committee on Offences Against Young Persons? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: I have been asked to reply. As regards administrative action, I have already commended the report to the consideration of magistrates and police. Whether any, and if so what, legislation should be proposed, is a matter which will be better considered when the Committee on Youthful Offenders, which is now sitting, has made its Report. VISCOUNT LONDON: Can the right hon. gentleman say when the new Committee is likely to report? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: Yes; I hope it will be within two months' time. The Committee have been sitting for a long time, and the Report will be long and comprehensive, dealing with the whole question. VISCOUNT LONDON: Does that include Scotland as well? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS: No.

Women Police.

COL. DAY (Lab., Central Southwark) asked the Home Secretary what action has been taken by his Department with a view to police authorities appointing women police in suitable circumstances? SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I will send the hon. Member a copy of the Circular I addressed to all police authorities on 31st December.

Boys' School (Women Teachers).

MR. CROOKE (U., Deritend) asked the President of the Board of Education how many women teachers

there are in boys' schools in England and Wales? DUCHESS OF ATHOLL (Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Education): As on the 31st March, 1925, the number of women teachers in the boys' departments in public elementary schools in England and Wales was 7,074.

Training Colleges (Women).

MR. CROOKE asked the number of vacancies for women students in the training colleges of England and Wales for 1926; the number of applicants for admission during the same period; and the corresponding figures for the training colleges for men? DUCHESS OF ATHOLL: The number of candidates admitted to training colleges in England and Wales in 1926 was 7,735 (2,102 men and 5,633 women), and this number may be taken to represent, approximately, the number of vacancies. My right hon. Friend has no information regarding the number of applications for admission to the various colleges for the same period; in any case the figures would be unreliable, since the majority of candidates make application to more than one college.

Mentally Defective Children.

MR. COVE (Lab., Wellingborough) asked the President of the Board of Education the names of the members of the Special Committee he has set up to explore the provisions for mentally defective children; whether it invites evidence upon the subject; and if it is proposed to publish a Report of its recommendations? LORD EUSTACE PERCY: The following is the list of the Committee which is inquiring into certain questions relating to mental deficiency among adults as well as children: Mr. Authur H. Wood, C.B. (Chairman); Dr. R. H. Crowley (Vice-Chairman); Mr. C. Eaton; Mrs. Pinsent, C.B.E.; Miss Evelyn Fox; Miss Redfern; Professor Cyril Burt; Dr. F. C. Shrubbsall; Dr. A. F. Tredgold; Dr. F. Douglas Turner, and Mr. N. D. Bosworth-Smith (Secretary). [This list contains eight men but only three women, and there is no woman doctor among them.] I understand that evidence has not yet been invited. I cannot say at this stage whether the Committee's Report will be published.

Agriculture (Women Workers).

Replying to LADY ASTOR (U., Sutton, Plymouth), the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Guinness), said, that as the Orders made under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act were made by Committees comprising representatives of local employers and workers, he had no reason to believe that the Orders generally were not sufficient to meet the circumstances of women's employment, but, in view of the representations made, he was proposing to make inquiries as to the actual conditions under which women are employed in each county.

Police (Widows' Pensions Amendment) Bill.

This Bill "to amend Section Three (a) of the Police Pensions Act, 1921, so as to include in its benefits the widows of police pensioners who finally retired from the police force prior to the first day of December, 1918," has been presented by Sir James Remnant, and is to be read a Second time next Monday.

Local Government Franchise.

Colonel Vaughan-Morgan introduced a Bill, on February 11th, designed to enable business men and women to qualify to permit their standing as candidates for election to local bodies.

GOOD NEWS OF OUR PRESIDENT.

We are delighted to have a letter from Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence reporting rapid recovery to health and strength. We are looking forward to having her with us again before the end of next month.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 1927.

EDITORIAL.

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

WOMEN FOR PRISON REFORM!

The Home Secretary's replies in the House of Commons on Women Governors of Women's Prisons, Women on the Prison Commission, and Women Police are far from satisfactory. We are all glad that Miss Lilian Barker is Governor of the Girls' Borstal Institution at Aylesbury, and we are convinced that no one could better fill that arduous post. But why should Holloway, which is wholly a women's prison, not have a WOMAN Governor? The Home Secretary seems to think we should be satisfied with a woman Deputy-Governor. We certainly are not. Moreover, we were under the impression that this Deputy-Governor at Holloway was really a Lady Superintendent, and we should like to be assured that she has the same rank and standing as the Deputy-Governors of men's prisons. Even then we should not be satisfied. It seems to us grotesque at this time of the day that this women's prison should have a MAN Governor. Surely women's prisons should be governed and staffed entirely by women? We also think the Home Secretary's reply to Mr. Briant regrettable in regard to Women on the Prison Commission. Because previous Home Secretaries saw no reason to appoint women to this Commission is no argument against their appointment, neither is the fact that there are more men prisoners than women prisoners. From Sir William Joynson-Hicks' own showing the prison population is over 11,000. Why should four men alone be responsible for the system under which these 11,000 people live, move, and have their being? These four men Prison Commissioners have full and entire control over the discipline, training, education, dieting, clothing, and practically all the details of the lives of 11,000 human beings during their term of imprisonment. Is it not conceivable that women on the Prison Commission would be of the greatest assistance in helping to regulate the lives of these men and women prisoners, and in humanising the system under which they live? While it is true there is a greater number of men than women prisoners in this country, despite the fact that women form the majority of our population, it is equally true that recidivism among women is far greater than among men prisoners. Why is it that women return again and again to prison? May it not be because of the defect of our prison system in the way it affects women? And would not women on the Prison Commission seek to find out where the defect was? Men Governors who have understood men prisoners have obtained marvellous results in the lives of men under their control. Would not understanding WOMEN Governors at the head of women's prisons and of all women's sections of prisons be likely to achieve equally good results with the women under their charge? Women on the Prison Commission would insist, first of all, on the appointment of Women Governors wherever there were women prisoners. As for women police, does the Home Secretary really believe that all has been done that can be done to secure their appointment by the sending of his Circular to all police authorities? In some cases this Circular has actually been laughed out of Court. The only effective way of securing women police is to bring in legislation which will compel the proper authorities to appoint them. It is curious that successive Home Secretaries should be so timid in allowing women to have anything to do with the control or administration of our prison system.

A DUTY AND A RIGHT.

WOMEN JURORS IN IRELAND.

Women who believe in the equality of the rights and responsibilities of the sexes have viewed with grave concern the progress of the Juries Bill, 1927, in the Dail, to which Mrs. Despard calls attention in her letter in page 63. One of the provisions of this Bill is to exempt women from jury service. In moving the Second Reading of the present Bill, Mr. O'Higgins, Minister for Justice, said that the British Act of 1919 made women equally liable with men to serve on juries. The Saorstát retreated from that position in the Act of 1924 by providing that women unwilling or reluctant to serve could be dispensed with on application; and where women did wish to serve it was found, in practice, they had been challenged by one side or the other. Over a period of twelve months, out of the thousands of jurors who served less than fifty were women. Under the 1924 Act, not more than 10 per cent. of eligible women remained on the register. He claimed that the vast majority of women would be grateful to the Government that relieved them from jury service. It had got to be compulsory service for women, or not at all. Incidentally, the Bill proposes, in the matter of honoraria to juries, to depart from the old 1s. 9d. and make it 5s. Other members maintained that obligations and privileges went together, and that the Constitution was being cancelled by excluding women from serving on juries. There were cases—even criminal cases—in which it would be advantageous to have women on the jury, however painful the case might be for them to hear. The Minister had introduced a lot of sentimental matter that did duty in the Victorian age but was worthless in the present. The next provision would be to exclude women from the Dail! This exclusion would discourage women as a class from taking a practical interest in public affairs, and more particularly with regard to the application of the law.

We earnestly hope that our sisters in the Irish Free State will rise up and defeat this measure. Women's hard-won liberties must be safeguarded. If women can be excluded from juries they will soon be excluded from sitting on a Magistrates' Bench, from practising in the Courts when "unsavoury" cases are being tried, and, as one member said, from the Dail itself. Jury service is one of the duties of citizenship. We should like to see every man and woman who has a Parliamentary vote liable to jury service. We should also like to see it made impossible for anyone to challenge a woman or man juror by reason of her or his sex. If women had the Parliamentary vote on the same terms as men, if all voters were liable to jury service, and we think they should be, and if the number of peremptory challenges were reduced, it would be by no means easy to get women off the jury. The majority of women may not care for jury service; we are certain that the majority of men often find it irksome and unpleasant; but that is no reason at all for exempting members of either sex from their plain duty as citizens.

EQUAL FRANCHISE.

It is encouraging to read in the *Sunday Times* that their political correspondent, usually well informed on Government rumours, has heard that the Government does intend to keep its pledge to women and to equalise the franchise within the lifetime of this Parliament. Although the somewhat naive reason is given that the Party agents are of opinion that the majority of those at present disfranchised will support the Party, women will not waste time arguing that point but will continue their steadfast and increasing demand for equality. The *Sunday Times* political correspondent brushes aside as absurd, and here feminists will cordially agree, the persistent rumour that a solution is to be found by raising men's voting age and lowering that of women to 25 years. This would cause even more storm among the men than is now blowing up so strongly among the women. It is human to be more angry at the removal of something you have had than at the withholding of something you never have had.

THE PESTALOZZI CENTENARY.

By MARIAN BERRY.

In the entrance hall of the school attached to the beautiful Home which the City of Cologne has built for the children chargeable to its care, is a statue of Pestalozzi—"the father of orphans," whose influence on primary education has been so far-reaching. One hundred years have passed since Pestalozzi's death, and his Centenary is now being celebrated in all Western lands, and in particular in his own country of Switzerland.

Born in Zurich on January 12th, 1746, Pestalozzi was only five years old when his father, a doctor, died. The mother was left with a limited income, and had a difficult time in bringing up her three children with the assistance of a faithful old servant, Babeli. During his school years Pestalozzi spent his summer holidays with his grandfather, a pastor in a village near Zurich, and it was in these surroundings that he gained his keen love of nature and the desire to devote his life to the alleviation of the conditions and sufferings of the poor. At the age of fifteen Pestalozzi entered the University of Zurich as a student of theology; but later devoted himself to the study of law, and subsequently took up scientific agriculture under Tschiffeli of Kirchberg, near Berne. His marriage to Anna Schulthess took place in 1769, and the next four years were devoted to the farming experiment at Neuhof, which, however, proved a complete failure. It was then that Pestalozzi decided to establish a home for poor children at Neuhof, and in this step he found his real vocation and laid the foundation of his future success.

The orphan-homes at Neuhof and Stanz were followed by the foundation of schools at Burgdorf and Munchensee, where Pestalozzi's new methods of teaching became widely known and visitors came from all parts of the world. In 1802, a Government Commission recommended that in future the Government should be responsible for the cost of the Burgdorf school, which became a training college for Swiss teachers. This training centre was later transferred to Yverdon.

In addressing a meeting of teachers called to consider

THE DANISH GOVERNMENT AND WOMEN IN THE CHURCH.

Nylaende states that the new Danish Government takes little or no interest in the question of women in the Church, as the two ladies, Mmes. Elisa Petersen and Charlotte Hansen, the latter of whom is an ardent protagonist of the right of women to become ministers of religion, met with no success in their interview with the Minister for Church affairs, M. Bruun-Rasmussen. In his reply, he stated that he himself had nothing against the principle, but that he was opposed to the Danish Church being the pioneer among the Lutheran Churches in this respect; moreover, he referred to the numerous members of the Church who believe that there is Scriptural authority for prohibiting women from becoming priests. We think with *Nylaende* that we have heard something like this before!

WOMEN APPOINTED TO MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY BOARD.

The Annual General Meeting of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, which has always persisted in having an exclusively male Board of Management, has decided to increase its Board from 25 to 29, the additional four members to consist of two women and two representatives of the working-class. In support of the proposal, it was urged that as the majority of the patients came from the working-class it was wise to give them representation on the Board, particularly as a contributory scheme collected from their weekly wages was in operation, and they should have some control in the expenditure. It was further stated that in Glasgow there were women on all the Infirmary Boards, in Manchester not one woman.

the celebration of the Centenary in this country, Sir Michael Sadler, said: "Pestalozzi believed that a good education should be part of the birthright of every child. He wished the blessings of education to be, in the phrase used by Wordsworth, his contemporary, in 'widest commonalty spread.' To this end he gave his life and fortune to the poor. As a thinker no man did more than he to make Europe understand that the course of education should be adapted to the stages of the development of the mind and character of each individual child. He was a pioneer in the study of child-nature; in the investigation of the deep problems which underlie the apparent simplicity of elementary teaching; in appreciation of the value of the training of the hand and eye, along with that of the power of observation, reasoning and reflection; above all, in endeavouring to find a method of moral, intellectual and physical training which should produce equilibrium and inner peace. His mind, his life, were given to the study of the fundamental things in education."

The motive power of Pestalozzi's life, as of all great teachers, was a consuming love of humanity. He believed in the home and the family as the foundation of all that is best and greatest in a country's life. In his numerous writings he appeals to mothers to undertake the education of their children themselves, and in his "Gertrude"—a character inspired by his own mother—he has drawn a true type of mothers for his own and other lands. A believer in the equality of the sexes in education and in other important branches of life, Pestalozzi was one of the real founders of the Woman's Movement. For nineteen years his grave at Neuhof was unmarked save by a solitary rose tree, but on the centenary of his birth in 1846 his remains were transferred to another resting-place and marked by the Canton of Aargau, with the following inscription: "Saviour of the poor at Neuhof; at Stanz, the father of the orphans; at Burgdorf and Muchenbuchsee, founder of schools for the people; at Yverdon, the educator of humanity; man, citizen, Christian. All for others, nothing for himself."

THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN IN FINLAND.

Finland finds herself next month able to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the enfranchisement of her women on the same terms as men. The National Council of Women of Finland opens the proceedings, on March 14th, by a huge meeting of delegates from all parts of the country, followed on March 15th and 16th by "Women's Days" organized all over the country, with addresses, lectures and discussions suitable for all classes.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.
15, DEAN'S YARD, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

A MASS MEETING ON EQUAL FRANCHISE

WILL BE HELD IN
THE CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,

On THURSDAY, MARCH 3rd, 1927, at 8 p.m.

Speakers:

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH.
MISS MARGARET BONDFIELD, M.P.
MRS. CORBETT ASHBY.
CAPT. E. EVANS, M.P.

Chairman: MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE, J.P., C.C., M.A.

Tickets: Numbered and Reserved, 5/-, 2/6, 1/-, 6d.
(Special rates for parties of six and more.)

ADMISSION FREE.

Doors open 7.30 p.m.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN HAMPSTEAD MEETING.

A Public Meeting, to demand the granting of the Parliamentary vote to women at the age of 21 and on the same terms as men, was held by the Hampstead Branch of the Women's Freedom League in the Town Hall, on Thursday, February 17th, and was supported by the following associations having members in the division:—Conservative and Unionist Women's Advisory Committee, the League of the Church Militant, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, National Union of Women Teachers, and the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries.

Dr. Knight, who presided, said that the meeting was one of a series which Associations affiliated to the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee were organising all over the country to bring pressure to bear on the Government to grant Equal Franchise. In several constituencies deputations had been arranged to the local Member of Parliament, and she hoped Mr. George Balfour would be asked to receive one. Before calling on the first speaker, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, M.P., Dr. Knight read the resolution that would be put at the close of the meeting:—

"That this meeting expresses its extreme indignation that the King's Speech contained no reference to the Government's explicit pledge that women should have equal voting rights with men at the next election, and calls upon the Government to honour its pledge by immediately passing into law a simple franchise measure enfranchising women at 21 years of age and on the same terms as men."

Mr. PETHICK-LAWRENCE brought a warm greeting from Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, who much regretted that she was unable owing to illness to address them that evening. In supporting the resolution, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence said it was most important to secure an Equal Franchise measure this Session if the women under 30 were to vote at the next General Election. From the point of view of the future, it was essential that the young women, and especially the young married women, should be endowed with political rights. It was said that women took small part in the commercial affairs of the nation, but that was only one of the many specious arguments that was brought against the extension of the franchise to women. Ten years had elapsed since the suffrage was granted to women in this country, and the time was now ripe for equal political rights. Specific pledges had been given by the present Government, but some of their supporters now proposed that the age for future voters should be raised to 25. If there was to be any alteration in the age, he would rather exclude the voters over 65. In conclusion, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence urged the need for agitation, and the importance of the question being brought before M.P.s by women of their own Parties.

MRS. COSTELLO, of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Advisory Committee, said that she was Chairman of a group of Conservative women under 30, who were working for the extension of the franchise. She had not previously seen the resolution, and was not herself prepared to express "indignation" at the exclusion of the matter from the King's Speech; she was convinced Mr. Baldwin would honour his pledge. It was mainly the women under 30 working in the factory, the shop, and the office, who needed the protection of the vote. She had just come from the Stourbridge Election, where the Solicitor-General had repeated the Government's pledge that provision would be made for women to vote at the next General Election on the same terms as men. No Government was likely to risk unpopularity by the breaking of a pledge in order to gratify a few supporters, and it was most improbable that the age for voters would be raised to 25, as such action would involve taking votes from men.

MRS. JOYCE POLLARD, representing the League of the Church Militant, spoke on the work that had been accomplished since women had had the vote, and

referred to recent social legislation. The Housing problem was a vital one and affected the whole nation, especially the young married people who needed homes of their own and more often than not had to be content with two or three rooms in someone else's house. Factories were inspected, in order that they should be healthy and sanitary, and it was equally important that the home—the workshop in which the new generation was created—should be well planned and built. Faith and vision were needed to make a better world, and these were qualities that the "young-hearted" people of all ages possessed. Women desired the Peace of the world, and their votes would be given to preserve it.

MR. JOSEPH CLAYTON, who spoke on behalf of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, referred to the militant agitation for the vote, and to the work done by the rank and file in that great movement. It was disgraceful that it was still necessary to fight for the right of women under 30 to take their part in political affairs. In the Roman Catholic Church many women saints of under 30 were commemorated in the Canon of the Mass, and if women were worthy to be so remembered, it was illogical for any Roman Catholic to deny them the Parliamentary vote.

MISS MYRA SADD BROWN, representing the Hampstead members of the Women's Freedom League under 30, pleaded ably for the right of the young University women to take their share in political affairs. Owing to limited college accommodation, it was necessary for the woman student to read for an honours degree; in her year only one out of 70 students had failed. Women were therefore obliged to work for a harder degree, but they were debarred from voting until they were 30, whilst men graduates voted at 21.

MISS B. GODWIN, of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, emphasised the need for legislation, which would ensure clerical workers similar protection to that given to industrial workers under the Factory Acts. A large proportion of the women clerical workers in the country were under 30, and they wanted the vote to enforce their demand of Equal Pay for Equal Work.

MISS L. PIEROTTI, of the National Union of Women Teachers, spoke for the young teachers. The Burnham Commission, on which 47 men and 3 women sat, awarded women lower salaries. It was essential that women should be adequately represented in the House of Commons, on Local Authorities, and other public bodies, but this would not be realised until women received the vote on equal terms with men.

The Chairman then put the resolution, which was carried, with one dissentient. The following resolution was then moved by Dr. Knight, and carried unanimously:—

"That Mr. George Balfour should be asked if he would kindly receive a deputation from members of his constituency, on the subject of Equal Franchise, to discuss with him the best way of getting an Equal Franchise measure on the Statute Book, in time to ensure that women should vote at the age of 21 and on the same terms as men at the next election."

The meeting closed with a warm vote of thanks to the Chairman and speakers, moved by Councillor Mrs. Irene Fisher, and seconded by Mrs. Hornbrook.

SPRING SALE.

We are glad to announce that, by the kindness of Dr. Lewin, we shall be holding our Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street, W.1, on Friday, March 25th, from 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Book the date for this enjoyable afternoon, and make up little parties of your friends to meet you for tea in very pleasant surroundings, with charming songs and recitations and other amusements. A good selection of kitchen and household goods, dainty garments, country produce, cakes, pottery, etc.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, March 7th, at 3 p.m.

Hampstead Branch. Members' Meeting at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3. (by kind permission of the Misses Berry).

Tuesday, March 8th, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Mid-London Branch. Public Meeting at the Central Library, Holloway Road, N. Speakers: Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, A. S. Comyns Carr, Esq., K.C., Dr. Ethel Bentham, Miss Chave Collisson, M.A. Chair: Mrs. Mustard.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, March 25th, 3—7.30 p.m.

Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Songs, Recitations, and Dainty Teas.

Saturday, March 26th, at 10 a.m.

National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, April 29th, at 10 a.m.

Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Friday, May 6th, at 2 p.m.

The Women's Freedom League Jumble Sale, to be held (by kind permission of Miss Cole) at The Women's Freedom League Settlement, 2, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W. Send your parcels from now to 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

PROVINCES.

Friday, February 25th, at 3 p.m.

Deal and Walmer Branch. Public Meeting at 35, Victoria Road, Deal. Speaker: Mrs. Wynne Nevinston, J.P., L.L.A., on "What the Vote has done for Women."

Sunday, February 27th.

Middlesbrough Branch. Jewish Literary and Social Society. Speaker: Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., on "The Implications of the Women's Movement."

Tuesday, March 1st, 4—7 p.m.

Middlesbrough Branch. American Tea at Temperance Institute, Woodlands Road. Tickets 1/-.

Wednesday, March 2nd, 4 to 6 p.m.

Bexhill Branch. Whist Drive at the Albany Hotel (by kind permission of Miss Skinner). Tickets 1/-, Tea 6d. Prizes.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, February 26th, at 3 p.m.

The Speech Club. Debate: "That Family Endowment would be beneficial to the Nation." Proposer: Mrs. V. M. Crawford (Family Endowment Society). Opposer: Mrs. Hilliard.

Wednesday, March 2nd, at 7.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Meeting, at Earlsmead School, Broad Lane, Tottenham.

Thursday, March 3rd, at 8 p.m.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise. Speakers: Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P. Chair: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., M.A. Tickets 5/-, 2/6, 1/-, 6d.

Monday, March 7th, at 2.30 p.m.

Meeting on "Equal Franchise," at Brixton Road Branch of Women's Co-operative Guild. Speaker: Miss Reeves.

Monday, March 7th, at 3 p.m.

Six Point Group. Miss Ursula Williams on "The Legislative Results of Women's Franchise." Tea 4-5 p.m.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

A Public Meeting, organised by the National Union of Women Teachers, and supported by the Co-operative Women's Guild, will be held at Earlsmead School, Broad Lane, Tottenham, Wednesday, March 2nd, at 7.30 p.m., to demand Votes for All Women at 21 years of age. Chairman: Miss S. R. Savage (President, N.U.W.T. Branch). Speakers: Major P. B. Malone, J.P., M.P., Councillor Jay (Chairman, Tottenham Education Committee), Miss M. A. Sims and Miss B. M. Pearson. Admission free. A cordial invitation is extended to everyone interested.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship announces a Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise and why it is needed, to be held in the Central Hall, Westminster, Thursday, March 3rd, at 8 p.m. Speakers: The Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Capt. E. Evans, M.P. Chairman: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., M.A. Admission free. Reserved seats, 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s. and 6d. Tickets from 15, Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W.1.

BRANCH NOTES.

GLASGOW.

Most emphatic was Miss Nina Boyle in her denunciation of those who would class "women and children" together in political life, in private life, and in times of danger, at the public meeting held in the McLellan Galleries on February 16th. Woman, she said, should be received and treated as an adult human being "on her own," not considered only in relation to some possible child. Even as man, she had the right to demand consideration for herself, then men and women together could look after the children, who belonged to both.

Our greatest enemies, she added, those whom we have most strenuously to fight, are our would-be protectors, for too much protection saps our energy and makes us incapable of protecting ourselves. She instanced the Lead Paint Bill and the Factory Act, which differentiate so stupidly between men and women.

Other views Miss Boyle expressed, some of which were accepted by the audience, and some, perhaps, not quite fully by all. She spoke of the many, many thousands of Government Inspectors paid out of public funds who are engaged to "inspect" us—inspection she resented and thought unnecessary; and the social reformer she found a nuisance, liable to do much harm.

On one particular point, however, she noted cause for rejoicing, and that was that the young women under 30 are waking up and forming societies of their own to demand equality with their brothers.

Miss Eunice Murray, in the chair, said it was a great pleasure to hear Miss Nina Boyle once more. She, too, rejoiced that the young women were working for the removal of all disabilities, but felt there was no necessity to leave it to those under 30. She, too, was pleased to go on with the fight, and hoped that the older ones would help as well. She asked those who were not members to join the Women's Freedom League, and announced that about the end of March there would be a big meeting for Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence.

The meeting was then declared closed to the public, members being requested to stay behind, and a short branch meeting took place.

Resolutions were passed for the Conference, and it was arranged to have the annual business meeting in a restaurant on Tuesday, March 8th. (The place is not fixed yet.)

The following resolution was also passed, and sent to the Prime Minister, and five Glasgow newspapers:—

"This meeting expresses its deep regret and dissatisfaction with the omission from the King's Speech of any reference to Equal Franchise, and calls upon the Government, despite this fact, immediately to see that a Bill is introduced and passed giving votes to women on the same terms as they are, or may be, granted to men." (Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

"The Dail and Women Jurors."

Mrs. Despard's Protest.

Dear Madam,—May I draw your attention and that of your readers to what is happening here with regard to the rights of citizenship, for which Irish as well as English women fought so valiantly. With our English sisters we claimed and obtained our right to act as jurors.

While, in common with many men, many women find this duty irksome, and would willingly escape it, every true-thinking, far-sighted woman must feel it to be one of the bulwarks of our hard-won liberty.

In the Free State, under, as we believe, the sympathetic guidance of British Governments, the right of women to sit on juries has been from the first practically ignored. We have not been called upon to perform our duties. And now a strenuous effort is being made to exclude women from these duties altogether. The usual arguments which women suffragists know so well—the unpleasantness to herself, and, in certain cases, to the male jurors, her mental and physical incapacity for such work, her enforced absence occasionally from home duties—all these are set forward as new and striking objections; and the Dail, which cannot even claim to be a representative body in this country, have now passed the Second Reading of a Bill depriving women permanently of their right to sit as jurors.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington and Mrs. Gonne McBride, we are taking our measures. Meanwhile, I am writing to our VOTE, as I feel sure that such a serious set-back in the woman's movement cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed by this persistent and untiring champion of women's rights—national and international.

Yours in our common cause,

February 18th, 1927.

C. DESPARD.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH SCHOOL, PECKHAM RD.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, Feb. 27th, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Professor J. Arthur Thomson, M.A., LL.D. 6.30. Maude Royden: "Poetry and Parable."

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