

EQUAL FRANCHISE AND EQUAL PAY.

# THE VOTE

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

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FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1924

**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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## EQUAL GUARDIANSHIP.

### DEMONSTRATION IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE, JULY 5TH.

A very good crowd for a Saturday afternoon, and very enthusiastic, with many well-known women present, gathered in Trafalgar Square last Saturday afternoon. Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., President of the Women's Freedom League, who presided, stated that the present Bill did not give Equal Guardianship to the mother, and therefore was not satisfactory to women. Mrs. Wintringham's Bill had passed its second reading and had the support of all Parties, and was acceptable to all women; but the second Bill, a Government measure, was not satisfactory, and must be altered or withdrawn if it was to satisfy women. If any privileges were given at all, these should be given to mothers rather than fathers. Nature had made special provision for mothers to be the natural guardians. She then read the following resolution:—

"This meeting views with indignation the introduction by the Government of a Guardianship Bill which contains no clause giving to the mother of every legitimate infant guardianship and custody jointly with the father, and demands that such a clause be introduced into the Bill to fulfil the pledge made by the Labour Party to give equal rights and privileges in parenthood to men and women."

The first speaker in support of the Resolution was Lady Rhondda, of the Six Point Group, who said that women felt strongly on this question of Equal Guardianship. The Labour Party pledged itself at the last Election to bring in a Bill for equal guardianship. As no

Government Bill was brought forward, Mrs. Wintringham had introduced one, asking for equal guardianship and equal responsibilities in the home. This Bill had passed its Second Reading in April, with much enthusiasm. Two months later the Government brought forward an *unequal* guardianship Bill. If this Bill passed it would

put any other equality Bill back 20 or 30 years, because it would be said that the Government had already brought in an Equal Guardianship Bill. "We want Mrs. Wintringham's clause embodied in the Government Bill, or no Bill at all," concluded Lady Rhondda.

Miss Agnes Dawson, of the National Union of Women Teachers, said that the Demonstration was one of many that must be made to secure women's complete emancipation. Much of the mess which needed clearing up in the country was due to its unequal laws. The present Bill was just short of that complete equality which had been demanded.

Mrs. Despard, First President of the Women's Freedom League, who received a great ovation, said she never thought she would have had to ask for such a Bill from the Labour Party. Fathers and mothers had different functions with

regard to children, but that did not mean there should be unequal laws. Equal Partnership was satisfactory in the business world, and the rearing of children was just most thrillingly important business in all the world, and required the mother's point of view as well as the father's. Unless parents worked in equality and harmony, there



THE FIRST PRESIDENT.

could be no perfect family, no perfect nation, therefore no perfect world.

It was up to women to make the Labour Party see the unwisdom of compromise, and use all their powers to get passed, not this Unequal Bill but the Bill by a strong woman, who knew what women were demanding. We must not be content with anything but the best.

Mrs. Drummond, of the Women's Guild of Empire, said women all over the country felt very strongly on this matter of Equal Guardianship. After the Election pledges, she was surprised to find it necessary to have a meeting of protest like the present one. The Labour Party was like every other Government. In spite of all its promises, it did not like to do the right thing. Mrs. Drummond warned the present Government that the Women's Guild was the same old gang under another name, so that when a Government began to thwart women's demands it had better beware!

The very men, who years ago were against the Suffragists for not asking for Adult Suffrage, were now in power, and yet had refused to give women that very equality they had demanded. To-day's Demonstration was to give the Government a poke, and to remind them that when they next sought the support of women, all these failures would be brought up against them. She was surprised that this Government had not learnt a lesson from what had happened to past Governments which thwarted women.

Miss Adeline Bourne, of the Actresses' Franchise League, said women were still demanding equal suffrage, which meant equality of status in every phase of life. A lot had been said lately about the majority of men and women only using two per cent. of their brains. It looked as if, in denying mothers equality of parenthood, the present representatives in Government were not even using that two per cent.!

Miss Anna Munro, of the Women's Freedom League, said that, during the Suffrage fight women had had no greater critics than the Labour Party.

Women should help no Government who set aside a good Bill and substituted a bad one. Sir Frederick Banbury had said he did not like Mrs. Wintringham's Bill because it had the support of all the women's societies, which were composed of spinsters! Women must demand that the Government that has said so much about equality shall incorporate in their own Bill Mrs. Wintringham's clause for equality. Women wanted legal status so that they could go to law equally with the father, if necessary. The Resolution was passed unanimously at the close of the Meeting.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Congratulations to Watford.

Mrs. Margery Corbett Ashby was, last week, enthusiastically adopted as prospective Liberal candidate for Watford. Mrs. Corbett Ashby first fought for a seat in Parliament in 1918, contesting Birmingham. In 1922 and 1923 she fought at Richmond, in the last election receiving 8,000 votes. She has done splendid service for Liberalism as a member of the executive of the National Women's Liberal Federation. The present member for Watford, Mr. Dennis Herbert, is on the women's black list.

### Quebec Women's Grievances.

Quebec women's organisations are again protesting against their anomalous political status. Though women in every other province in Canada are now enfranchised, they are not yet enfranchised in the provincial elections of Quebec. Married women may vote in the municipal elections in Quebec City, but not anywhere in Quebec Province. Spinsters and widows with property qualifications may vote in school elections, but no married women, not even those with property in their own right. Quebec women may study law and take degrees, but are not allowed to practise.

### Women Law Students' Successes.

Thirteen women law students were successful in the recent Law Examinations. They were the Misses Katharine Ogilvy Heaton and Gwladys Evelyn Hodges, who passed the Intermediate Examination; Miss Evelyn Miriam Hall, who passed the Legal Portion; the Misses Mary Brittain, Fanny Buckle, Ethel Maud Hallmark, Sylvia Irene Hobday, Mary Dorothea Hope, Alice Sarah Lauder, Phyllis Newman Lawson, Elsie Elise Martin, and Gwendolen D. D. Petersen, B.A., who passed the Trust Account and Book-keeping Portion. In the Final Examination, Miss Lola Blanche Winfield Swain was successful.

### Mexican Woman Governor.

The *Christian Science Monitor* reports that whilst the Governor of Santa Fé, New Mexico, was absent at the recent Democratic National Convention, at New York, Mrs. Soledad C. Chacon, Secretary of State, automatically became Acting Governor. This is believed to be the first time in the history of the United States that a woman has acted as chief executive of a State. Mrs. Chacon is a direct descendant of the early Spanish Conquistadores.

### Women and Farming.

Three hundred Maryland farm women recently attended a rural woman's short course at the University of Maryland. The courses taken by the farm women were designed to train them in presenting improved home-making practices to the rural clubs at home. This is the second annual short course.

### City Girls on Fruit Farm.

The advance party of Sheffield girls, who have been engaged through the Women's Section of the Employment Exchange for work on the South Lincolnshire fruit farm, have started. They will be reinforced by larger numbers later, and work will soon be in full swing.

### Lady Gregory at the P.E.N. Club.

Lady Gregory, the Irish playwright, is to be the guest of honour at the July dinner of the P.E.N. Club. She is a director of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, and many of her plays, including "Gaoil Gate" and "The Full Moon," were produced by the National Theatre Society. A centre of the P.E.N. Club in Dublin is shortly to be founded under the aegis of Padraig Colum.

### Headmistress as Prizewinner.

The fourth travelling scholarship prize awarded by the People's League of Health, in connection with the Sims Woodhead series of constructive educational health lectures, has been won by Miss May Hagon, Headmistress of the Open-Air School for Tuberculous Children, Harrow Road.

### Mrs. Harding's Degree.

The degree of Doctor of Laws conferred on the late President Harding, but never actually received by the President, has been conferred upon Mrs. Harding as a part of the programme in the observance of the centennial of Kenyon College (U.S.A.).

### Woman Editor as Candidate.

Mrs. Sallie King Hopkins, who is a candidate for the Texas State Legislature from Bexar County, was for 10 years editor of the *Waelder (Texas) News*. She also edited the *Duval County Curtin*, which she founded.

### Frenchwomen Students.

A women's hostel has recently been opened on the Boulevard Raspail, Paris, by the Rector of the University. It contains 150 rooms, besides a well-equipped library. Of its three blocks, one is to be specially set aside for women students at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. The terms for board and lodging are surprisingly low, compared with those paid by women students at Oxford and Cambridge.

### Where Men do the Sewing.

In India, "dustoor," or custom, is against women undertaking needlework. Nor, when threading a needle, does the male seamstress allow the thread to dangle in the air—he winds the end round his big toe.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Malay States (Treatment of Children).

MRS. WINTRINGHAM (Louth) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if reports had been received from the Federated Malay States of a system similar to that of the *Mui Tsai* of Hong Kong; if his attention had been drawn to the ill-treatment of a little girl at Kuala Lumpur; if he had evidence showing that in that case the child had only been allowed out of the house once during a period of three years; that she was compelled to begin work at five o'clock in the morning and did not finish until late at night, and that she was continually and brutally beaten; and if any reports received by His Majesty's Government would be laid upon the table of the House? MR. THOMAS replied that *Mui Tsai* were to be found among the Chinese population in the Federated Malay States, and the High Commissioner had promised to submit proposals for dealing with the situation. He had no information as to this case, but he would call for a report.

### Armenian Women and Children.

MR. J. HARRIS (Hackney, N.) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if his attention had been drawn to the Report submitted by Miss Jeppe to the League of Nations, in which it was stated that in the region of Aleppo there were still over 30,000 Armenian women and children detained in Moslem houses; and if His Majesty's Government proposed to take any step towards securing their release, either by direct representations to the Turkish Government, or through the Council of the League of Nations? The PRIME MINISTER replied that His Majesty's Government were aware of that Report. Every effort was made during the Lausanne Conference, to provide for the continuance of the work of reclaiming forcibly Islamised women and children, which had been successfully carried out since the Armistice by a League of Nations Commission in Turkey. He regretted, however, that the Allies failed to obtain any satisfaction on the point on that occasion, and he saw no prospect of success if the question were reopened at the present moment.

### Office of Works (Women).

MRS. WINTRINGHAM asked the First Commissioner of Works how many posts above the clerical grade there were in the Office of Works; how many of those posts were filled by men, and how many by women; and whether, seeing that that Department was responsible for the accommodation and equipment of all Government Departments, and in view of the fact that the Department was concerned with the provision of dressing-room and lavatory accommodation for 72,900 women, he would consider the desirability of appointing women to a certain number of responsible posts? MR. JOWETT replied that there were 964 posts above the lower clerical grade in the Office of Works, all of which were filled by men with the exception of the chief superintendent and six superintendents of typists. 812 of those posts were professional and technical, recruitment being by qualifying examination and selection, limited at present to ex-Service men. The remaining posts in the administrative, executive, or supervisory grades, were either confined to ex-Service men, or filled by promotion from the lower clerical grade in which 90 per cent. were ex-Service men. There was, therefore, no immediate prospect of women obtaining those posts, even if they were eligible to compete for all entrance examinations. The question of eligibility to compete in future examinations for non-technical posts was one which affected the Service as a whole, and would therefore be dealt with by the Treasury.

### Domestic Service.

SIR VANSITTART BOWATER (City of London), asked the Minister of Labour if steps would be taken to represent to women out of employment the advantages of accepting positions of domestic servants? MR. SHAW replied that it was already the practice of the Employment Exchanges to take every opportunity of

bringing to the notice of suitable unemployed women vacancies in domestic service which had been notified to the Exchange.

### Women Prisoners (Release).

Replying to questions by MR. MASTERMAN (Rusholme), in regard to the number of young women in prison in England and Wales, in default of payment of fines, who had been liberated on payment of those fines at the prison without any notice having been given, MR. HENDERSON (Home Secretary) said that there were 258 in the six months ended 12th January, 1923, and 294 in the six months ended 12th January, 1924. He had no information as to the ages of those women, and no notice was required before payment of a prisoner's fine. Where payment of a fine was tendered, and the prisoner desired release, there was no power to refuse it. In cases, however, where the payment was tendered at night by some person, who might be an undesirable character, the suggestion was made to the prisoner that, if she desired to avoid such person, she would be allowed, at her own request, to sleep in the prison for the night and go out the next morning. The practice, which was not new, appeared to him to be reasonable, and in the prisoner's interest, and not one from which evils were likely to arise. To further questions by LADY ASTOR and MR. MASTERMAN, Mr. Henderson maintained that as long as the fine was paid they could not prevent their release. What they could not do by compulsion, they tried to do by a voluntary arrangement which worked in the interests of the person concerned. MR. W. THORNE (Plaiestow) asked if his right hon. Friend was aware that in East Ham the women were often "bound over" for a certain period, which did them more good? MR. BRIDGEMAN (Oswestry) inquired if it was still the practice—as it was last year—that if a person came to pay the fine of a woman prisoner, without apparently being connected with her directly, that person's name was taken and investigation made? MR. HENDERSON replied that the practice was exactly the same as formerly.

### Births in Prisons.

MR. STRANGER (Newbury) asked the Home Secretary how many children had been born in prison during the six months ending 30 June last; and if he would consider the provision of extra food and nourishment for expectant and nursing mothers whilst in prison? MR. HENDERSON replied that he regretted he was not in possession of the information asked for, but inquiry was being made. Medical officers had full instructions to grant extra, or special, diet to all expectant and nursing mothers, and those instructions were observed. MR. MONTAGUE (Islington) asked if his right hon. Gentleman would take into consideration the possibility of arranging that expectant mothers should be removed temporarily from the prison, so as to prevent the stigma of the prison resting on the children? MR. HENDERSON replied, that sympathy, of course, would demand that that course should be followed. They had no power, at present, to release temporarily any expectant mothers. Once a prisoner was released, they had no power to replace that person in prison. When the question was before that House, there was a Clause providing that prisoners be removed from prison temporarily for operations, but the House definitely refused to allow the Clause to be sufficiently wide to include cases of expectant mothers.

### Tea Plantations, Assam (Child Labour).

MR. J. HARRIS (Hackney, N.) asked the Under-Secretary of State for India if he was aware that on the Doon Doon Tea Company's plantations of Assam, out of a total working population of 8,691, there were 1,559 children at work; what was the average age of those children; how many hours were they required to work on the plantations, and what wages were paid to them? MR. RICHARDS replied that his noble Friend (Lord Olivier, Secretary of State for India) had no information, but would inquire. F.A.U.819

## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 11th, 1924.

### 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.

### EQUAL FRANCHISE AND EQUAL PAY.

The longer the present Government stays in power, the more certain it becomes that they alienate an increasing number of women. Women were led to expect that the Third Reading of the Equal Franchise Bill would be taken last week in the Commons. The Bill did not come before the House; no explanation was offered for its non-appearance, and, in reply to Mr. Baldwin's inquiry as to the business to be taken this week, Mr. Clynes omitted to make any mention of this Bill. Mr. Foot then asked if the right hon. Gentleman could give any indication as to when the Bill would be considered in the House, reminding him that it passed the Committee stage some time ago. Mr. Clynes merely said he could give no indication in this matter, and advised the question being put down on paper! It is clear, therefore, that the Equal Franchise Bill, which would give the Parliamentary vote to women from the age of twenty-one, and on the same terms as men, is being deliberately held up by the present Government. Eighty per cent. of the women in the Labour market are under thirty years of age, and a Labour Government refuses to enfranchise them! This is not a question which only concerns women under thirty years of age and a great number of women over thirty years of age who cannot claim a vote because of their lack of technical qualifications which do not apply in the case of men; it is a question which concerns every woman in the country. While women can only exercise the Parliamentary vote at a higher age, and on unequal terms with men, the political status of every woman in the land, and the political status of women generally, is inferior to that of men; and if another General Election takes place at which women cannot vote at the same age and on equal terms with men, women voters, who believe in equal political power for men and women, owe it to themselves and to their voteless sisters to record at the polls their indignation and disapproval of the Government's betrayal of their cause.

Women not only demand political equality with men; they also demand, as a matter of justice, equal opportunities and equal pay with men in the Civil Service, in the teaching profession, and throughout all branches of our national life. Readers of *THE VOTE* will have seen from our *In Parliament* notes, week after week, how glaringly unequal are the opportunities for women and men in the Civil Service; and there has been no improvement in this position since the advent of the Labour Government to office; in spite of the Labour Party's professions on this subject, which appeared on its Election Manifesto. Last week Lady Astor asked what steps were being taken to give effect to a Resolution passed in the House of Commons on 5th August, 1921, especially in reference to the paragraph stating that, while not committing itself to the increase in the Civil Service salaries involved in the payment of women in all cases at the same rate as men, the House was of the opinion that the question of the remuneration of women as compared with men should be reviewed within a period not exceeding three years? Mr. Snowden replied that the Government endorsed, without qualification, the principles embodied in the Resolutions referred to in the question. With regard to pay, he would remind the noble Lady that, under those Resolutions, the House of Commons, in view of the then financial position of the country, declined to

commit itself to the increase of Civil Service salaries involved in the payment of women at the same rates as men, but resolved that the question of the remuneration of women as compared with men should be reviewed within a period of three years. The Government, after full consideration, had decided that the state of the country's finances was still such as to make it impossible to justify the enormous increase in expenditure that would be involved. Lady Astor asked if the Government were not a little ashamed of that decision, after all the promises they made before the Election? Mr. Snowden replied that he was not aware of any promise that he or any other Member of the Government had made, which was in conflict with the decision he had just given. Lady Astor then asked if it was not true that the Members of the present Government were always holding up the other parties as not being willing to give equal payment for equal work? Mr. Snowden's answer was curious; "The noble Lady appears to me to be a very much closer student than I am of the past doings and statements of the Labour Party." Lady Astor retorted: "I have had to fight against them, and I know." We, at any rate, have listened to them, and we also know. Has any responsible Member of any previous Government ever made a more cynical repudiation of his Party's pledges?

This question of unequal pay for men and women in the Civil Service is a most serious one for women, and has its effect in all professions and in industry. In the July number of *The Medical Women's Federation News-Letter*, we are told that a letter written by the Federation to the Postmaster-General, last March, laid stress on the point that the medical women receive a lower salary than the medical men doing similar work. A reply was received from the Postmaster-General as follows:—

"I am directed by the Postmaster-General to inform you that he has considered your letter dated the 3rd of March and the earlier correspondence to which you drew attention regarding the rates of remuneration of medical women in the Post Office. So long as the present practice continues, under which a difference is maintained between the scales of pay of comparable grades of men and women in the Post Office generally, it is not practicable to make an exception in this respect as regards Medical Officers; and I am to express the Postmaster-General's regret that he is unable at present to modify the existing scales of pay of medical women in the Post Office."

The political status and the economic status of women are intimately connected and interdependent; and organised women must show a united front and make a determined effort to secure equality in both these directions.

### SEPARATION AND MAINTENANCE BILL.

Last Friday, the House of Commons passed the Report and Third Reading stages of the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill, the object of which is to extend the grounds on which women may obtain separation and maintenance orders from their husbands. An amendment moved by Mr. Willison (Nuneaton) that an order should not be enforceable while a married woman continued to live with her husband, was carried. He maintained that it was neither right nor fair that a woman having obtained a separation order, should continue to live with her husband. Mr. J. Cassels (Leyton W.) supported this amendment.

Colonel Wedgwood (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) stated that the Bill was not one of morals, but one which sought to establish the economic position of women. On the motion for the Third Reading of the Bill, Mr. Bridgeman (Oswestry) expressed the hope that the Government would take charge of the Bill from this point, and Colonel Wedgwood said the Government intended to adopt the Bill and see it through. Mrs. Philipson (Berwick-on-Tweed) expressed her satisfaction at this announcement.

## MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

### THIRTEENTH YEAR.

On Friday of last week, the Council Chamber at Caxton Hall was filled to overflowing with friends and members, including many of our Overseas Fellow Suffragists, who had met together to celebrate, for the thirteenth year in succession, the Birthday of our beloved First President. The reception of the guests by Mrs. Despard, and a short musical programme, preceded the speeches and presentation of the Birthday Gift. Songs kindly contributed by Mrs. Cunningham, and recitations by Miss Julie Huntsman and Miss Doris Winckley, were greatly appreciated.

Our President, Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., then took the Chair, and introduced the speakers, after first paying a tribute to Mrs. Despard, and the occasion of the night's celebrations. Every year, she said, we congratulated one another that we still had our First President with us, and that she always came over from Ireland for her Birthday Party. Mrs. Despard was eternally youthful, and gifted with vitality denied to younger people. She first came into the Suffrage Movement many years ago, and was always in the thick of every contest, in spite of bricks being thrown, and bags of flour and other missiles. This movement eventually became too popular for Mrs. Despard, and she had recourse to another and more desperate cause. Perhaps when Ireland was settled, Mrs. Despard would return to London. A Labour Government was now in power, and some of those present had pinned their faith to this Government, as Equality stood upon the official programme of the Labour Party. They expected, for instance, to see real Equal Guardianship an established fact, and to know that the Government was courageous enough to see that women employees, particularly in the Civil Service, had equal treatment with men employees. They would not forgive any Government which did not stand for absolute equality between the sexes. There was still time for the Labour Government to show itself on the side of those reforms which the Women's Freedom League demanded.

Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., who was very cordially received, expressed her gratitude to the Women's Freedom League for giving her this opportunity of paying her tribute to one who had done so much for her personally. Many people would probably feel, on taking stock of the past, on this, Mrs. Despard's 80th birthday, that it would not be the scimmages nor the victories which would count the most, but the quiet personal talks at Nine Elms, or perhaps in Mrs. Despard's country garden. She, the speaker, vividly remembered how, many years ago, when a sick and sorry young trade union organiser, she was lent a room in Mrs. Despard's house, in which to hold a meeting of underpaid shop girls; how nobody turned up; and how, when on the verge of heartbreak, Mrs. Despard had talked to her like a mother, and showed her that disappointment was not failure or defeat, but was the call to that increased effort which gives the strength needed for victory. Another time she remembered staying at Mrs. Despard's cottage at Oxshott, opened to all the lame dogs and tired workers who needed rest and soul refreshment, where, waking very early in the morning and looking from her bedroom window, she spied Mrs. Despard busily working away in her garden below, and later on at breakfast watched her face shining with the peace and strength and glory which she drew from nature in the garden. It was these communings with God in the garden which gave Mrs. Despard this unique steadfastness. In the minds of many people, Mrs. Despard stood as the agitator, but in the speaker's mind she always stood for that great inward serenity which comes from the mind and the soul.

Miss Horniman, well known for her great work at her Repertory Theatre, Manchester, tickled her audience immensely by describing an episode in her childhood, the day when her father came in and said, "Jacob Bright has brought in a Bill to give Votes to Ladies!" One aunt said "wicked"; her mother cried a little, and protested

that she did not want a vote; the other aunt cried more; but she, the small child, promptly made up her mind that this dreadful Vote must be a wicked and desirable thing, and that when she grew up no power on earth should prevent her having it—and she had got it after fifty years.

Mrs. Mustard said the Women's Freedom League always claimed Mrs. Despard as belonging to them in a very special manner, and she had always been the League's inspiration. To-night's celebrations were a reminder of the reasons for the foundation of the Women's Freedom League. We were still far from satisfied, and it was always unwise to put one's faith in any Party politicians. The League had approached this Government again and again to make the question of Equal suffrage a Government measure. This was not only a question for politicians, but for the people at large. We should not have had a fifty years' fight if women had organised themselves at an earlier date. Equal suffrage existed in every civilised country where women voted at all, except in Great Britain and Hungary. As long as women were politically helpless, they would be down-trodden and overworked.

There were still nearly a quarter of a million unemployed women in this country, and yet there were scarcely any Government work schemes devised on their behalf. Mr. Snowden stated, the previous day, in the House of Commons that the country could not afford to pay the same salaries to women in the Civil Service as to men. What was needed was a lowering of the salaries of a few high officials, and a general levelling-up of women's salaries to those of men.

Dr. Knight then read out the list of contributors to the Birthday Fund, and presented the cheque to Mrs. Despard.

Mrs. Despard, who was received with immense enthusiasm, the audience rising to its feet, then handed back the Birthday Gift to Dr. Knight for the work of the Women's Freedom League, and expressed her heartfelt thanks to all those present for their kind and generous welcome.

After paying special tributes to the Hon. Treasurer and Miss Underwood for their many years of loyal and unselfish work for the League, Mrs. Despard said that evening reminded her of the distance she had travelled since her schooldays, when she had been given Lindley Murray's grammar to study, and learnt that: "The masculine was more worthy than the feminine"! It was quite true she was always ready for a fight, and yet she was a Pacifist, and had even been stoned for being one, though the stones did not hurt very much. But her warfare had been waged, like St. Paul's, "not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers," and whether these last called themselves Conservatives, Liberals or Labour, it was all the same to the governed, so long as they did not do what those whom they governed thought they had a right to claim. It was one of her strongest principles that women should have equal pay and equal status with men. The present Equal Guardianship Bill was going to make some improvement, but it entirely failed to establish equal status in the home. It was not true, as Lord Haldane had said, that there could only be one head of the family unit (and that the man). Every happy marriage was a partnership, and partners had equal status though different functions.

She was very glad that "Margaret" had touched on what meant to her so much, that success and failure did not matter much, but what really counted was that each one should try to do his or her best, and leave the results to Higher Powers. No sacrifice could ever be meaningless or in vain. A great function of the Women's Freedom League was to be a watch-dog on the look-out for all abuses and wrongs done to women. The League made its force felt throughout the country; the ideal it set out to attain had not yet been reached—the absolute equality and equal value of women with men. A

Persian sage once compared humanity to a bird with two wings, the man and the woman. If one wing was damaged, the bird was tied down to earth, it could not soar in its native element. For ages past the bird's maimed wing of fettered womanhood had checked its flight; for not till woman was as free as man would humanity be able to spread its broad pinions, both strong wings sweeping grandly in the splendour of harmonious motion, and reach its highest destiny and development. Men had made a mess of things because they had worked alone, and possibly women would also have made a mess of things if they, too, had worked alone. Only by co-operation between the sexes could a new world be brought into being. This was the power that would remove mountains.

The Women's Freedom League offers its cordial thanks to all the artistes who so kindly helped to make the musical part of the programme a success; to Dr. Morris, Mrs. Goodall, Mrs. Day, Miss Johnston and Mr. Mowatt for character readings; to little Jean Clifford Jones, who charmingly presented Mrs. Despard's Birthday bouquet; to Miss Pyzer, who stocked and presided over the beautiful Flower Stall, Mrs. Keelan and all the energetic sellers, and to the President, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Letts, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Abbott, Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Sadd Brown, Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Standen, who brought flowers; to Mrs. J. R. Knight, for presiding over the refreshing strawberries and cream, to her busy helpers, Mrs. Beville, Miss Mary Nettleton, Miss Helen Nettleton, Miss Warriner, Miss Mary Knight, Miss Betty Winter and others, and to Mrs. Strickland, who sent strawberries; to our Montgomery Boroughs Branch and Miss Alix Clark, for the ever-welcome Welsh produce, to Mrs. and Miss Elias and Mrs. Flexman her helpers, and to Mrs. Elias for delicious ice creams; to Dr. Lewin for the Pottery Stall, and her lieutenant Miss Welstead and helpers, Miss Brown, and the Misses Bone, and to Miss Hindshaw for her artistic jug; to Miss Harverson, L.L.B., for presiding over a successful Pound Stall; to the Minerva Café and Minerva Club, who were responsible for the refreshments, and to our numerous kind waitresses; and, lastly, to our many genial hostesses, who added so much to the enjoyment of a most delightful evening, and made our Overseas friends and visitors feel thoroughly at home.

## TOO LATE FOR THE PARTY

but  
**IN TIME FOR THE FUND!**

Last week we had a Record Birthday Party, next week we shall publish our first list of the Birthday Fund. Please send me all belated contributions, both large and small, within the next few days, so that they can be included in the list and make a Record Birthday List.

E. KNIGHT,  
Hon. Treas.  
144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

### FROM THE BIRTHDAY PARTY.

We have a few copies of the June number of "English Life," containing the first part of the letters of Lady Constance Lytton arranged by her sister, Lady Betty Balfour, price 1/2<sup>3</sup> post free—continued in August and September; also of "The Garden of Experience," illuminated and beautifully bordered by our old friend Mrs. Thomson Price, price 1/6; and of a very interesting story, "Harcourt," price 2/6, by one of our members. Apply at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

### THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League was held at 144, High Holborn, London, Saturday, July 5th, those present being the President (in the chair) the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Alix M. Clark (Montgomery Boroughs), Mrs. Dexter, Miss Harverson, L.L.B., Mrs. Juson Kerr, J.P. (Dean), Miss Anna Munro, Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Miss Spriggs (Edinburgh), Mrs. Strickland (Hastings), and the Secretary. A letter, regretting her inability to be present at this meeting, was read from Mrs. Whetton (Portsmouth).

Reports were considered from the Hon. Treasurer, the Secretary, the Hon. Organising Secretary, and the Hon. Sec., Fair Sub-Committee, as well as from the Political and VOTE Sales Departments.

The Committee was pleased to learn that during the past month our Letchworth Branch has been re-formed, and that a new Branch had been established in London—the Minerva Club Branch of the Women's Freedom League—and tendered its cordial thanks for the work done by Mrs. Lynn in connection with the former, and to Miss Marian Reeves for her work for the latter Branch. Miss Alix M. Clark reported on her recent visits to our Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Letchworth Branches, and said that she had now completed her arrangements for our Clyde Coast Campaign in July and August, the Headquarters of which would, as previously, be at Rothesay. The activities of other Branches—Mid-London, Swansea, Portsmouth, Ashford, Bexhill, and Hastings—were reported to the Committee.

*Political Work.*—The Secretary reported correspondence with Members of Standing Committee A, in regard to the Representation of the People Bill. The Executive Committee viewed with deep concern the Government's refusal to give any indication as to when this Bill would again be considered in the House though its Third Reading should have taken place the previous Thursday. London members of the Women's Freedom League are invited to volunteer for lobbying Members of Parliament and to write at once to our office. Our Branches are asked to communicate with their local M.P.s. immediately, and do their best to get them to urge the Government to proceed with the remaining stages of this Bill without further delay. With regard to the Peeresses Bill, the Women's Freedom League has written to various Members of the Upper House urging them to support, and vote for, the Second Reading of this Bill introduced by Lord Astor. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Health have been written to, deprecating the disparity of the numbers of women and men recently appointed to the Royal Commission on Lunacy, and pressing again for the appointment of a medical woman to this Commission. The reply received from the Ministry of Health regretted that it was found impossible to accede to our wishes in this matter. We have continuously protested against the Government's Guardianship of Infants Bill, on the ground that it gives no equality to mothers with fathers in the home in respect to the guardianship, custody and upbringing of their children, and that the passing of this Bill into law would seriously hamper any chance of women securing that equality in the future. Those points of view were being put forward by our speakers at the Trafalgar Square Meeting, in which the Actresses' Franchise League, the National Union of Women Teachers, the Six Point Group, and the Women's Freedom League were co-operating that afternoon. The Committee adjourned early in the afternoon, so that members could attend the Trafalgar Square Demonstration.

The Committee decided that the Women's Freedom League should arrange a public indoor meeting in London, Friday, Oct. 10th, the next Committee meeting being fixed for Saturday, Oct. 11th.

### BEST SEATS FOR THE THEATRES!

We now have a Theatre Ticket Agency; so, when you want to book seats for the theatre, 'phone Museum 1429, or send to THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Do this, and you will be helping THE VOTE.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS



DARE TO  
BE FREE.

Leonards-on-Sea (by kind permission of Mrs. Darent Harrison). Programmes 1/- each.

*Friday and Saturday, November 28th and 29th.* Central Hall, Westminster. Green, White and Gold Fair. To be opened on Friday, at 3 p.m., by Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., and on Saturday, at 3 p.m., by Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P.

PROVINCES.

*Wednesday, July 23rd,* at 3 p.m. **Middlebrough.** Garden Party, at "Agecroft," Linthorpe Road. Tickets 6d.

*Tuesday, July 29th,* at 4 p.m. **Hastings.** "The Chantant," at 1, St. Paul's Place, St.

### BRANCH NOTES.

#### MINERVA CLUB.

A branch of the Women's Freedom League has been opened at the Minerva Club. The first meeting was held at very short notice, in order to take advantage of Mrs. Despard's presence in London and obtain her blessing on the opening of the branch. We were particularly fortunate in having not only our beloved First President, but also the Treasurer and Secretary of the League, and with such a good meeting to begin with, we have every confidence of having a flourishing and useful branch.

The chair was taken by Miss Reeves. Miss Underwood explained the work the Women's Freedom League was doing, and emphasized the importance of having a strong body of organised women in this part of London who would insist on the principles for which the League stands. She pointed out the imperative need there is for women to show that they are alert, and that no case of injustice to women would pass unnoticed and unchallenged.

Dr. Knight made a telling speech, and reminded us of what our Members of Parliament had done, and had not done, for us. She said the branch should be powerful, as it represented a large number of votes.

Mrs. Despard then gave a beautiful and inspiring speech, in which she spoke of the special work that had been done, and was still being done, by the Women's Freedom League, of the hardships and difficulties which it had met at the beginning, and the courage with which it had always faced them. She spoke of the special work of the League, which she termed its "watch-dog" policy, and said how encouraged she was whilst living in Ireland to notice that whenever a case of injustice occurred the Women's Freedom League made the matter public, and had often managed to get it remedied.

Those of us who heard her will not soon forget the inspiration and encouragement she gave, and we hope that the branch will be worthy of its beginning.

Special tribute was also paid to the pioneer work in the League of Mrs. Borrmann Wells, who was present at the meeting having just arrived from America, and of Mrs. Fisher who had shown such loyalty, and done so much quiet work for the League.

Before the meeting those present had an opportunity of talking to Mrs. Despard and to one another, and charming songs were given by Madame Ziliacus (of Finland) and Miss Elsie Langston. A number of members were enrolled.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS H. M. BAKER, Minerva Club,  
Brunswick Square, W.C.

#### SWANSEA.

A very enjoyable evening was spent at "Cwm Garw," on June 26th, by all those who took advantage of Mrs. Dawson's kind invitation. After tea, Miss Hutton's pupils entertained the company with their pretty dances and sketch, Miss Pat Holmes recited and Miss Ray Morgan sang. At the close of the evening, a very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Dawson for her kindness, and to Miss Hutton and her helpers for the entertainment.

We also wish to thank all those who so generously sent contributions to the Pound Stall.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS C. M. JELLEY, 14, Carlton Terrace.

### CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN, 1924.

July 16th to August 16th.

The Campaign will start next Wednesday. Meetings will be held as usual on the Pier Head, Rothesay, every evening, also at Largs, Dunoon and Millport during the day, weather permitting. Miss Lilian Lenton will be the Speaker. Helpers and workers from Scotland, especially members from Glasgow and Edinburgh branches, and any other members or friends who can be in the district for a few days, will be warmly welcomed, and donations towards the expenses gratefully received.

(Hon. Organiser) ALIX M. CLARK,

144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

### WOMEN'S WEEK AT WEMBLEY.

Under the auspices of the WOMEN'S SECTION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION a Women's Week, specially devoted to the interests of Women in the Dominions, is to take place at Wembley during the fourth week of July. Each of the Dominions has arranged a programme for one day of the week, and the meetings are to be thrown open to the public by ticket (to be obtained at this office). The morning Conferences will be held in Conference Hall No. 1 at the west end of the Palace of Industry, and the speakers will be prominent women from the particular Dominion. The meetings are as follows:—

Monday, July 21st. 11.30—1 o'clock. New Zealand.  
Subjects:—Child Welfare: Progress of Women: Education: Maori Land.

Tuesday, July 22nd. 11.30—1 o'clock. The Union of South Africa.  
Subjects:—Home Life and Native Life in South Africa.

Wednesday, July 23rd. 11—1 o'clock. The Australian Commonwealth.  
Subjects:—Education: Architecture: Literature: Music in Australia.

Thursday, July 24th. 11.30—1 o'clock. Canada.  
Subjects:—The Economic Position of Women in Canada—Their evolution as governed by the Canadian Scheme of Education.

Friday, July 25th. 11.30—1 o'clock. Indian Empire.  
Subjects:—Women's Life in India—In the Homes—In Social Work—In Professions.

Saturday, July 26th. 2.30—4 o'clock. Newfoundland.  
Subjects:—The Position of Women in Newfoundland, and their Chief Social Movements and Interests.

This Conference will be held in the afternoon instead of the morning, and in Conference Hall No. 2.

A number of entertainments have also been arranged by the Dominion Women's Committees for the afternoons. We cordially invite all readers of THE VOTE to attend these Conferences.

### WOMEN TO INVESTIGATE.

#### National Health Commission.

Twelve men, in addition to two men secretaries—one from the Ministry of Health and the other from the Scottish Board of Health—and two women (Miss Gertrude Tuckwell and Mrs. Harri on Bell) have been appointed to the Royal Commission on National Insurance.

#### Committee of Experts (Hong Kong).

In reply to a question by Mrs. Wintringham in regard to the terms of reference and names of the Committee of Experts to be appointed upon the question of the *matsons tolerés* of Hong Kong, Singapore, and the Straits Settlements, Mr. Thomas (Colonial Secretary) said that the Committee he was setting up was a general advisory body to deal with any questions of social hygiene which might be referred to it from time to time. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Lord Arnold of Hale) would act as chairman, and the Committee would consist of two members of that House, the hon. member for North Hackney (Mr. J. Harris) and the noble Lady, the member for Plymouth (Lady Astor), with two representatives of the National Council for Preventing Venereal Diseases, and representatives of the War Office, Admiralty, Ministry of Health, and Colonial Office.

#### Child Assaults (Scotland).

In reply to the Duchess of Atholl, who asked if, in view of the numerous serious cases of child assault occurring in Scotland, he would set up a Committee of Inquiry to inquire into the extent of that evil and to suggest how it might be remedied, Mr. James Stewart (Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health, Scotland) replied that the Secretary for Scotland (the Right Hon. William Adamson) was not satisfied that the circumstances in Scotland were such as to justify the expectation that an inquiry of the nature indicated in the question would serve a useful purpose. If, however, the noble Lady would favour him with a statement of the grounds on which her suggestion was based, he was prepared to give the matter further consideration.

### BRITISH OVERSEAS COMMITTEE PAVILION.

The little Suffrage Pavilion belonging to the British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, at the British Empire Exhibition, is in the Eastern Section, near the Exhibition Station within the Exhibition, under the shadow of that prominent landmark the States Express Cigarette Tower, directly behind Hampden's pretty little house and Day & Martin, flanked by Spratt's exhibit, and looking on to the Shetland ponies and Pekingese puppies. The Women's Freedom League are responsible for the Pavilion on Mondays. Next Monday, our members, Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Ewen, Mrs. Hanscomb, Mrs. Harverson, Mrs. Hornbrook, and Miss E. Berry will be in charge. All suffragists visiting Wembley are warmly invited to drop in at any time for a rest and a chat.

FRIDAY,  
JULY 11,  
1924.

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**MINERVA CLUB**, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Bedrooms available during summer months. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY.

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

## NOTICES.

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

**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.**—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, July 13th., 3.30. Music, Poetry Recital by Miss Marjorie Gullan. 6.30. Mrs. Annie Besant. "India's Value to Humanity."

## TRAVEL.

**HOLIDAYS ABROAD.** — Summer Holidays, in Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy. Two weeks (2nd class travel, hotels, service), £4 to £15.—**FRIENDSHIP TRAVEL**, 22, Princeton Street, W.C.1.

**CONDUCTED FRIENDLY TOURS.**—Belgium, France, Switzerland. Fortnight—Ardennes, 11½ guineas. Fortnight—Belgium Coast, 8½ guineas.—**WHITTON**, 21, Coventry Road, Ilford.

**FOUR HOLIDAY CAMPING HUTS.** Furnished or Unfurnished. Extensive view. Splendid air. Golf. Half-mile from Bournemouth bus.—**ALDRIDGE**, Ferndown, Dorset.

## REST AND HOLIDAYS.

**BOURNEMOUTH.**—"Loughtonhurst," West Cliff Gardens. Food Reform Guest House. Best situation. Old established. Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Hume.—Apply SECRETARY.

**BUSY WOMEN** requiring Rest will find comfortable Board Residence at Miss TURNER'S, "Sea View," Victoria Rd., Brighton. Early dinner. Tel. Brighton 1702

**FOOD REFORM GUEST HOUSE**, 13, Marine Parade, Dover. Excellent cooking. Gas-fires in bedrooms. Specially recommended Eustace Miles. Unequalled excursion centre.

**PARKFIELDS**, near Ross-on-Wye.—Vegetarian Holiday Guest House. Special Holiday Fortnight, July 25th to August 8th.—Write for Prospectus, E. D. MOODY.

**PEACEHAVEN.**—On the Downs by the Sea. Vegetarian Guests received in Bungalow Home, £2 2s.—**MRS. MILLS**, Southdown Avenue, Peacehaven, nr. Newhaven.

**THE GUILD HUT**, Cranbrook, is the place for your holiday. Furnished for 3. Tents available. Full particulars—SECRETARY: 2, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1.

**TO LET.**—Large Caravan, attractively furnished for two, stationed near sea, golf and shops, in pleasant surroundings, and with reasonable conveniences. By the week-end, 15s.; the week, £1; after July, 30s.—Apply MISS NAPIER, Upton House, Sandwich.

**WENSLEYDALE.**—Comfortable board-residence, country cottage. Lunches packed when desired. Special terms long period.—**SMITH**, Low Green, Thoraby, Aysgarth, Yorks.

**JERSEY.**—Paying Guests received. Every Comfort. Terms from 2 guineas per week.—**PROPRIETRESS**, Ashton House, Rouge Bouillon, St. Helier, C.I.

## TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**BARGAIN**—list free. Plants, Garden Utensils. Beautiful dwarf roses, named varieties, 6/- dozen, carriage paid.—**McELROY**, 33, Saville St., South Shields.

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

**ANCONAS** lay the largest eggs. Hand-some birds, good layers. Sittings 6/-. Chicks 12/- doz., carriage paid.—**PARRIS**, Danecroft Poultry Farm, Bagshot.

**IRISH LINENS**, Afternoon Tea Cloths, Hemstitched, size 36 x 36, 3/6 each. Bleached Heavy Linen Damask Tablecloths, size 2 x 2, 10/6 each. Serviettes to match, 14/- doz. Linen remnants in 5/-, 10/- and 20/- bundles. **ORMEAU LINEN CO.**, 2, Clarence Street, Belfast, Ireland.

**WANTED.**—Second-hand Clothing, best prices given; parcels sent, valued, and money sent by return. Stamped addressed envelope for reply.—**RUSSELL**, 100 Raby Street, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

## REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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## Membership Application Form.

To be returned to The Secretary, 144, High Holborn.

Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.