

THE VOTE,  
JAN. 23, 1925.

## PRISON COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXVI. No. 796.

(Registered at  
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1925

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

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## WOMAN GOVERNOR OF TEXAS.

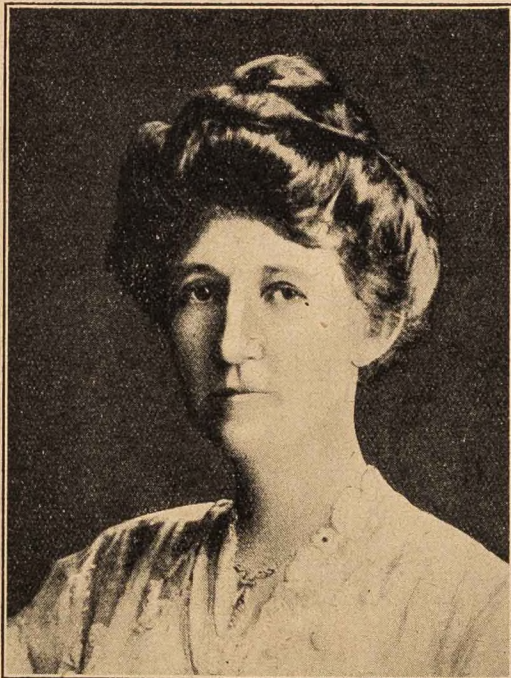
The story of Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson, who assumed the reins of Government of the American State of Texas last Tuesday, has been told so often that it only needs briefly reviewing in these pages. Her husband ("Jim" Ferguson), one time Governor, lost the right to hold office as the result of impeachment proceedings on charges of misappropriation of funds. He was notably "wet," and an active anti-suffragist. Mrs. Ferguson undertook to secure the nomination in "vindication" of her husband's name, who did most of the campaigning. She was given the nomination by a majority of 80,000 votes over a candidate endorsed by the Ku Klux Klan, and this was interpreted as both a victory over that organisation and a political triumph for women.

An interesting paragraph in the *New York World* at the time of Mrs. Ferguson's election stated that—"Ten years ago we were debating whether a woman should be allowed to vote. To-day, a woman is to be Governor of a great State, and most people are more interested in the principles she fought for than in the fact that she is a woman. Nothing proves so clearly the thoroughness of the triumph of Woman

Suffrage as the lack of debate about whether a woman can or ought to be Governor of Texas. Mrs. Ferguson is more famous as the conqueror of the Klan than as the first woman to administer the affairs of a sovereign State. The woman suffrage leaders demanded that sex-distinctions should be obliterated from politics. They are succeeding more completely

than any one had reason to expect. A woman is to be elected Governor of Texas on an issue that has nothing to do with the male or the female as such. Mrs. Ferguson has won not as a woman's candidate, fighting for the rights and interests of women, but as a Texan fighting for the liberties of Texas. The abstract equality of men and women before the law has been transformed, in Texas, into an actual equality before public opinion and in political custom."

Mrs. Ferguson is about 47 years of age, the mother of two grown-up daughters, one of whom, Dorrace, will act as hostess at the Capitol, and the grandmother of a four-year-old boy. She is a quiet, home-loving body, and an excellent house-keeper, which last will please the opponents of women in politics not a little. Though the mistress of a household of servants, "Ma" loves to make her own marmalades and preserves, and other dainty dishes. Yet the new Governor is in no sense of the word purely "domestic" in character. She is also a college graduate and a cultured woman, and is even credited with having done much to improve the education of her husband,



MRS. FERGUSON.

ex-Governor "Jim," who began life as a railroad labourer on the Pacific coast, with little opportunity for "book-learning." She has other qualifications, too, showing a sterling character, and much pluck and determination, all of which were in evidence during her recent campaign, and will go far to render her term of office a memorable occasion.



## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

## Women Shipbrokers.

The Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers has at last decided to admit women members. Women candidates must be 21 years of age, and have been engaged in the office of a shipbroker in the United Kingdom for four years, and so engaged at the time of application for election. They must also pass an examination held by the Council, which includes correspondence, book-keeping, statistics, procedure at meetings, languages, and commercial law. A British woman shipbroker in Canada, Miss Florence A. McCarty, has been in control of a business in Montreal for some years.

## Albanesi Scholarship Award.

The first award of the Meggie Albanesi Scholarship has been gained by Miss Jean Sheppard, a Manchester girl of 19. This Scholarship was founded as a perpetual memorial to the gifted young actress who died at the end of 1923, and consists of three years' training for the stage at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Miss Sheppard, who has arranged to maintain herself in London by secretarial work in the evenings, starts her career at the Academy at once.

## Minister for Women's Affairs.

A "Minister for Women's Affairs" is demanded by Viennese women. Women deputies of the Austrian Parliament declare that their Parliamentary experience shows that men are not inclined to give women's affairs serious attention. They demand that the Government shall create a special portfolio in the Cabinet that will deal conclusively with everything relating to women.

## Women Industrial Officers.

The standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations have elected the following officers for the coming year: Chairman, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.; vice-chairman (Political Section), Doctor Ethel Bentham; (Trade Union Section), Miss Carlin; (Co-operative Section), Mrs. Hood. Secretary and treasurer, Dr. Marion Phillips.

## Women and the Pastorate.

Success attends the institution recently set up by the Church Consistory of Geneva for training women for the pastorate, and for other forms of religious work. Seven of its students completed their two years' course this autumn. Ten students now remain, four of whom are entering on their second year, the other six on their first. Three are French, and seven Swiss.

## Woman Organist's Record.

Miss W. J. Cope, who has just completed sixty years as an organist at Holy Trinity Church, Kingsway, has acted as organist under six vicars. Her long record of service will be commemorated by a presentation from the parishioners on Saturday (to-morrow).

## Mrs. Kahn for Congress?

Mrs. Julius Kahn, mentioned in last week's VOTE, has filed her nomination petition with the registrar of voters to succeed her late husband in Congress. Election takes place February 17th. Her petition contained 1,352 names, whereas only 701 were necessary.

## Woman Prosecutes Case.

The *Daily Telegraph* reports that for the first time in the history of the South-Western Police Court, a woman appeared recently to conduct a prosecution, and was congratulated by the magistrate on her conduct of the case.

## Egyptian Women's Review.

Prominent Egyptian women are arranging to produce a feminist review, to be published in French and Arabic, and to be edited by a Frenchwoman. Efforts are also being made to form an Egyptian women's club.

## Women Parliamentary Candidates.

Lady Terrington and Mrs. Wintringham have both been invited by their respective constituencies of South Bucks, and Louth (Lincolnshire), to become prospective candidates for those divisions.

## FURTHER REFLECTIONS ON THE ROYAL FOOD COMMISSION.

Since writing on the Royal Commission last week, *re* Bermondsey charging only 9d. per loaf against 10d. and 11d. in other districts, the truth has been divulged that it is owing to the competition of the local Co-operative Bakery that this result is attained, as they are only paying 5½ per cent interest against 62½ paid by other large bakery concerns such as Callard, Stewart & Watt, Ltd., or 50 per cent by Spiller's Milling & Associated Industries, and others. The Co-operative Society is in a position, in spite of having the same overhead and distribution expenses (which they keep down as much as possible) as the other larger firms, to charge less, because they limit their profits, and are content with a normal percentage of gain instead of a swollen one. They also pay their workers 7/6 per week more than Trade Union rates, and have a working week of forty-four hours instead of forty-eight! It was stated before the Commission that the price of flour is 54/6 per cwt.—96 quarter loaves can be produced from each cwt. With the price of bread at 10d. the baker thus secures, at 80/- on his cwt., a profit of 25 per cent.; but not satisfied with that, by using what is called an "Improver"—which retains the water when baked and causes the bread to swell into the large, popular-looking loaves, and weigh heavier owing to the retained water—he is thus able to squeeze out of his sack of flour a considerably larger number of loaves than the 96 which each sack is calculated to return—if used legitimately! The Baker's Trade Paper, called "The Miller," openly confesses that "prices depend on what can be extracted from the consumer up to the point where he will not buy." E. J. K.

## WOMEN'S BAR SUCCESSES.

Twelve women were successful in the recent Hilary Bar Examinations. Six women were successful in Roman Law:—The Hon. Ruth Burton Buckley (Lincoln's Inn) and Miss Gladys Siddie Powell (Middle Temple), who gained Second Classes; and the Misses Alice Lorraine Campbell Holt-Kentwell, Katharine Allison Morrison (both of the Inner Temple), Betty Fox Slade (Middle Temple), and Marion Alice Warner (Gray's Inn). Two women were successful in Constitutional Law and Legal History—Miss Kathleen Anna Burgess (Middle Temple) and Miss Alice Lorraine Campbell Holt-Kentwell. One woman was successful in Criminal Law and Procedure:—Miss Cynthia Nancy Rachel Gover (Middle Temple), who gained a First Class. Three women were successful in Real Property and Conveyancing:—Miss Sara Moshkowitz and Miss Winifred Packard Shyvers (Gray's Inn), who gained Second Classes; and Miss Dorothy Evans (Inner Temple). Two women were successful in the Final Examination:—Miss Ethel Lane (Inner Temple), who gained the first Certificate of Honour in Class I., and Miss Marion Graeme Billson. Mrs. Ethel Lane would also have been awarded the studentship of 100 guineas a year, tenable for three years, had she not been disqualified by age. The total number of women called to the Bar, or qualified for call, is now 49.

## W.F.L. PAMPHLETS.

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

## PRISON COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

## WOMEN COMMISSIONERS AND GOVERNORS WANTED.

The Prison Commissioners have just published their report for the year ended 31st March, 1924, and copies can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, for 1s. 6d. net. So far as men and boy prisoners are concerned, this Report leads us to hope that the penal system is being revised in the right direction, although we are confident that if women as well as men were on the Prison Commission, many of the reforms recently instituted, and now being advocated, would have been put into practice long ago, even with regard to the treatment of men and boys under their charge, to say nothing about the women.

The year 1923-24 shows a decrease, compared with the previous year, of 2,616 in the total number of receptions into prison under sentence, the number received into prison being 37,334 men and 8,801 women. The daily average prison population was 7,590 men and 851 women in local prisons; 1,460 men and 60 women in convict prisons; 937 lads and 114 girls in Borstal Institutions; and 130 men and 6 women in Detention Prisons. Of the men received into prison 23,034, or 62 per cent, and of the women 7,258 or 83 per cent had been previously convicted; and of the number who had incurred previous convictions, 14,508 men and 2,391 women had been previously convicted 1 to 5 times; 3,694 men and 948 women, 6 to 10 times; 2,608 men and 1,033 women, 11 to 20 times; 2,224 men and 2,886 women, over 20 times. The comment of the Commissioners on this matter is:—"The figures of recidivism are lamentably high, especially, as before, in the case of women; but the high figures with regard to them are furnished largely by a limited number of pitiful cases of elderly women who return to prison again and again, and seem unable to cope with the difficulties and temptations of free life. . . . It seems little use to send them out of prison, and some kind of detention home would be the most appropriate treatment." We should be strongly against compulsory detention for these women; but, as they cannot manage for themselves, we suggest that they should be accommodated and looked after in voluntary homes, sufficiently pleasant so that they prefer them either to prison or the workhouse.

The number of women, especially young women, committed to prison for the first time continues to show a decrease. The number of women under 21 so committed being the lowest on record, namely 294, as compared with 383 last year, and 629 in the year before that. The Prison Commissioners and several Governors of Prisons strongly urge that first offenders, wherever possible, should be put on probation, and they emphasise the futility of short sentences. A good deal is said about the subnormal intelligence of a great number of the prisoners, and their segregation is urged. More than one Governor in his Report draws attention to the young male prisoner, who, unable to get work, lapses into serious crime through sheer idleness and ennui. The Governor of Durham says, "The boy problem of to-day seems to me more difficult of solution than it ever was. The country is raising a population of unemployables, loafers and thieves, and lads cannot be blamed—they are the victims of the trade conditions that have prevailed for the last three years." Is not this a recognition of the fact that in many cases Society, or our Social System, is more criminally responsible for the offences of prisoners than the prisoners themselves? The prison authorities do what they can through educational efforts, discipline, and prison treatment generally to reform the prisoner and restore him or her to normal civil life; but surely it is the business of the State, indeed of every one of us, to prevent our fellow human beings, especially the younger members of the community, from getting inside prison walls.

There are thirty Educational Advisers, the great

majority of them distinguished educationists, twenty-eight men and two women, to Governors of Local Prisons. Lectures, Debates, and Concerts are arranged in most prisons, but, as may be surmised, more of these take place in men's than in women's prisons, although the Governor of Holloway stresses the fact that a cooking class for "artisans' cooking" meets every Saturday evening. It consists of 16 women who have sentences of three months and over, and is conducted by an instructress of the London County Council. The Carnegie Trustees made a grant of £1,000 for suitable books for the education of adult prisoners; and this grant is being administered by a small committee, known as the Prisoners' Education Committee, composed of the Chairman of the Prison Commission, and four Educational Advisers at local prisons—all men. The appointed prison visitors at the local prisons now number 440 in all, 297 men and 143 women. Last May, the visitors to men prisoners held a large meeting at the Home Office, and formed a National Association. The Commissioners say, "The considered opinions of such a body on matters of treatment, training, education and disposal, cannot fail to be of great value to the prison authorities." Then why not include visitors to women prisoners? New pattern clothing is now in use at five prisons, and we learn that a small Committee on the Clothing of women prisoners has been appointed. We wonder if the Committee members are all men? With regard to industries, more weaving is being done, and other small industries have been introduced. A Committee, of men only, has been appointed to consider the reorganisation of the prison industries as a whole, with a view to improving the industrial training of prisoners, and making it more remunerative. The Commissioners report that for some time past it has appeared to them that the prison diets, while adequate in quantity, were not wholly satisfactory, so they have appointed a Committee to consider this question, consisting of the Medical Commissioner (Dr. Griffiths), and five other men. Evidently the Commissioners are determined not to let women have any administrative authority in our prison system, if they can help it. They speak in the highest praise, however, of women visitors, who have obtained valuable and necessary information about the home life of young male prisoners, and who have assisted them to secure work on their release from Borstal or prison. Another innovation is the appointment of Matrons at the lads' Institutions. The Commissioners say, "A good Matron has a wide sphere of usefulness, and a great deal of work to do; she sees to the proper washing, mending, and keeping of clothing and bedding, to the cleanliness and tidiness of rooms, dining halls, etc., and her influence over the lads in the direction of good manners and behaviour is considerable."

The following is an extract from the Report given by the Governor of Holloway, which is included in the Commissioners' Report. Our readers will agree that it makes out an unanswerable case for the immediate appointment of Women Governors to all Women's Prisons and Women's Sections of Prisons, Women Medical Inspectors of Prisons, and Women Medical Officers in all Women's Prisons.—"The chief point upon which I wish to comment in this matter is the number of young prostitutes who are remanded for medical examination. It would appear that practically no home will receive a girl unless she has a clean bill of health, and apparently the only object in the remand is to obtain this certificate. Sometimes the remand does not allow sufficient time for the report of the blood test to be received, and this necessitates a second remand. It appears to me that some other provision ought to be made for obtaining these medical certificates than the present one." The Governor again urges that some power be given to the Visiting Committee to transfer Second Division prisoners to a lower grade.



## THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.  
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1925.

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

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

### EDITORIAL.

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

### HOUSE OF LORDS REFORM.

The question of the reform of the House of Lords has again been raised, this time by Lord Selborne and other correspondents in *The Times*; as well as by writers in other sections of the Press. We are told that the present House of Lords is too fettered in its functions; that its membership is too large, and in this respect compares unfavourably with other Second Chambers, such as the American, French, Canadian, Australian, and South African Senates; and again, that our present House of Lords is useless, and should be abolished. The view of the Women's Freedom League is that the most necessary reform of the House of Lords is the inclusion of women as well as men among its Members; and it is illuminating to note that the members of the Bryce Conference on the House of Lords recommended that the one hundred and fifty persons to be chosen for the Second Chamber were to be taken from "the holders of hereditary peerages, as at present existing, and including peeresses in their own right, and bishops holding diocesan sees, provided that such person shall have held at some time high public office, or shall have been elected a Member of Parliament." We shall not quarrel about the qualifications for membership of the Upper House, provided they are the same for men and women; but we have no desire to see women wait for a voice, a seat, and a vote in the House of Lords until it is remodelled. That is merely postponing women's membership until the Greek Kalends. We see no reason why the women who now hold peerages should not be enabled to take their place forthwith in the House of Lords. In view of the increasing volume of social legislation coming before Parliament they are to-day as necessary in the Upper House as they are in the House of Commons. On March 25th, last year, Mr. Frank Briant (Lib., Lambeth, N.) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to enable peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords. It was supported by Members of all political Parties, its sponsors being Lady Astor, Miss Jewson, Mrs. Wintringham, Sir Robert Newman, and Mr. Wignall. Mr. Briant claimed that the object of this Bill was to remedy an obvious injustice, and also to add to the power and good advice of the House of Lords. On a Division, the Motion was carried by 313 votes against 45, a majority of 268. The Bill was then brought in by Mr. Briant, and read a first time; but the Government would grant no facilities for this Bill. We do not think that the present House of Commons is less favourable than the last one to the admission of women to the House of Lords; and we urge the Government to take the initiative in this matter, and bring in a Bill to enable peeresses in their own right to have a seat and a vote in the Upper House. We think this should precede any other suggested reforms, and that the latter should be considered by men and women together when they come up for discussion in the House of Lords.

### WHY CARRIAGES RESERVED FOR WOMEN ARE NEEDED.

Referring to the case reported in the *THE VOTE*, of January 16th, of a labourer being charged at Deal Police Court with indecently assaulting a girl, aged 16, in a railway carriage between Dover and Deal on December 20th, this man appeared at Deal Quarter Sessions last week before the Recorder (Mr. W. Grantham, K.C.), accompanied on the Bench by the Mayor (Councillor M. Montgomery), Aldermen A. W. Lambert and F. H. J. Haywald, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Juson Kerr, and Miss Mason. The man was sentenced to six months' hard labour, the Recorder stating that the public must be protected.

During the evidence, the Recorder suggested that there might have been a "ladies only" carriage on the train, and it would be well if the girl had entered it. "Take my advice," he said, "and do so next time. In fact, it is only right that all ladies should, and that the Company should give every woman and child the opportunity of going into a private carriage." Mrs. Juson Kerr informed him that "ladies only" carriages were not the rule on trains, and the Recorder afterwards made it known that the lady magistrates with him on the Bench wished him to express the hope that the railway company would do all they could to have carriages marked "Ladies Only," even on short journeys. We entirely agree with this conclusion, but we would add that the railway companies and the general public must see to it that these carriages are in fact reserved for women. On the Great Eastern line between Goodmayes and Liverpool Street Stations, there are carriages labelled "Ladies Only," but men are nearly always to be found in them. One day last week there were ten men (five sitting down and five standing up) and five women in a carriage labelled "Ladies Only." The Government should initiate legislation making it compulsory for railway companies to provide carriages reserved for women on all trains just as they are compelled to provide smoking compartments, and to instruct their employees to see that only women have access to women's carriages.

### WOMEN JURORS.

For some years now the Women's Freedom League has urged that political enfranchisement should carry with it the liability to jury service, because we believe that all citizens, men and women, should be prepared to perform this duty of citizenship. It has been proved that women called upon to serve on juries have been no more inclined to shirk this duty than has the ordinary man juror; indeed, it was four men, not women, who were summoned to serve on the Grand Jury at the Old Bailey last week, and were fined £10 each for non-attendance. It is all the more pleasing, therefore, to learn that jurywomen are appreciated. A delegation, which included distinguished Japanese judges and lawyers, visited the Old Bailey recently, and after the visit, the Recorder, Sir Ernest Wild, K.C., stated "The delegation was particularly anxious to know how we get on with women on juries, and I gave them my opinion in favour of a certain number of women on juries, because I have found, in the three years I have sat here, that they are of the greatest assistance. Japan does not propose to try the experiment yet, because in that country women have not yet got the vote. I explained that when women had the privilege of voting they should also have the liabilities that accompany citizenship. My advice was that when women had the vote they should serve on juries." We most cordially agree with these sentiments, and we hope it will not be long before women in Japan have the vote, together with the right to serve on juries; and that women in this country will very soon secure the vote at the same age and on equal terms with men; and that all women and men voters will be liable to jury service. It will then be possible to have an equal number of women and men on all juries.

## WOMEN ON THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women on the League of Nations was held last Friday at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W., and was presided over by Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc. At the morning session the following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

"The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations offers its warmest congratulations to Mrs. Swanwick on her having been invited to make the last speech in the discussion on the Protocol at the Fifth Assembly of the League of Nations, and on the able manner in which she performed it."

"This Council urges the British Government to send a woman as fully accredited delegate to the next Assembly of the League of Nations."

"This Council continues its efforts to induce the British Government to include women among the technical advisers who accompany the British delegate to the Council Sessions."

"This Council records its indignation at the omission of women from the Commission appointed to investigate the whole question of slavery; and urges the British representative of the League to press for the appointment of a British woman to this Commission."

"The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations wishes to call the attention of the British Government to the fact that although the women members of the Assembly, equally with the men, are interested in all the various aspects of the work of the League, it has, up to the present, been customary to place them chiefly on the Fifth Committee. This Council, therefore, hopes that women members may, in future, be appointed to those other Committees on which, by their individual knowledge, they are well qualified to serve."

"This Council notes the decision of the Assembly of the League of Nations to deal with the Care of Children as part of the work of the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women and Children, and to

reconstitute this Committee for the double purpose. In view of the special aspects of the work for children, this Council urges the claim of International Organisations of Women to be permitted to nominate an assessor having expert knowledge of Child Welfare, in addition to their present nominee on the Committee for the work on Traffic in Women and Children."

"This Council of Women desires to point out that by the proposed addition of M. Rappard to the Permanent Mandates Commission, the number of men members will then be nine, and that only one woman has a place on the Commission. This Council urgently petitions the Council of the League at the same time to add another woman to the Permanent Mandates Commission, as they consider the present representation of women upon that Committee totally inadequate in view of the immense women populations that are dealt with under the Committee; and the unlimited field in the mandated areas for co-ordinated work of men and women."

It was further resolved that a Conference of Women's Societies should be arranged as speedily as possible in order to press for the appointment of a woman delegate to the new Commission on Slavery, and for at least one more woman on the Permanent Mandates Commission, where Fru Bugge Wicksell now sits alone.

At the afternoon session, Mrs. Swanwick, British substitute delegate to the Fifth Assembly, and Mr. Wilson Harris, Editor of *Headway*, were the principal speakers. Mrs. Swanwick impressed the fact that it was not malice on the part of men because so few women were in prominent positions in the League, but rather because there were so few women in their respective Governments. The appointment of women as fully accredited delegates to the Assembly, however, was long overdue. It was comparatively easy for women to get on to the League Commissions, though even these were strictly limited in numbers, with a reasonable representation of nationalities.

### SHAKESPEARE'S WOMEN.

Professor George Gordon, Merton Professor of English Literature at Oxford, paid a fine tribute to Shakespeare's conception of womanhood, in his recent lecture on "The Women of Shakespeare," at the Royal Institution. Incidentally, he remarked that Shakespeare was essentially modern in his idea of women, and that it had taken us 300 years to catch up with him! The Comedies, said Professor Gordon, were a riot of "feminine supremacy," where the women in speaking and doing, as well as in feeling, were the equals and superiors of men. He then contrasted the happy heroines of the Comedies with the women in the Tragedies. In Shakespeare's history plays, women had a hard time, and had to fight principally with their tongues. A study of the characters of Desdemona and Ophelia showed that their fate was the result of possessing loving hearts without clear heads. In all the plays it was the daring, original heroine who won through and gained happiness, and the more conventional heroine who went to the wall. The great dramatist paid women the high compliment of supposing that they might have knowledge, shrewdness, wit, and courage, without ceasing to be wholly feminine, and objects of desire.

Shakespeare, concluded the lecturer, had done women more honour than any other dramatist, except possibly Molière; and yet women, with the exception of Mary Coleridge and Miss Muir Mackenzie, had done little, if anything, in the way of interpreting him, and studying his characters.

### WOMEN AND COUNTY COUNCILS.

In view of the County Council elections next March, a conference on the "Work of County Councils" was convened by the Women's Local Government Society, and held on Wednesday of last week at the offices of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Victoria Embankment, E.C.

Lady Trustram Eve (L.C.C.), who presided, said that most of the members of the London County Council stood for steady progress, with due regard to the relief of the financial burdens of ratepayers. A small amount of slum clearance had been effected, but, like other councils, they had been obliged to limit their activities very much. They were now establishing more central schools, and proposed to open six more in three years.

Miss Scovell (East Sussex C.C.) remarked on the very small number of women who were coming forward for county council work. Two women to 62 men was a very common proportion.

Councillor Mrs. Johnstone (Richmond) said that women councillors were more determined than men councillors to get what they wanted, and less afraid of treading on people's toes.

The afternoon session was presided over by Alderman Miss Smeed (Mayor of Acton), when Miss Adler (L.C.C.) read a paper on "How to Arouse Interest in the Elections," and said, referring to the elections in London, next March, that the housing question was going to take precedence of everything else. Some 8,000 houses had been built in the L.C.C. area since the war, though 29,000 had been schemed for.



BRANCH NOTES.

HAMPSTEAD.

There was a good attendance of members at the meeting held at 53, Willow Road, N.W. 3 (by the kindness of Miss Lyndon), on Wednesday, January 14th. Miss Lyndon presided, and arrangements were made for a meeting at the end of February in support of the County Council elections. A resolution in support of equal franchise was sent to the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Austen Chamberlain, the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, and the Rt. Hon. Sir William Joynson-Hicks. It was decided to write to the Home Secretary asking for Women Police for the Borough of Hampstead; and a letter was also sent from the meeting to the Chairman of the Parks Committee, of the London County Council, asking for women park keepers to patrol the Heath, to prevent the frequent assaults on women and children. Those present at the meeting expressed a wish that one of the steel houses (now being considered by some of the local authorities) should be erected in the Borough; therefore a letter to this effect was sent from the meeting to the Clerk of the Hampstead Borough Council. Members and friends are reminded of the Social Evening, arranged by the Branch, to be held on Wednesday, January 28th, at 8 p.m., at the Isis Club, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W. 3 (by the kindness of Mrs. Harverson), three minutes walk from Hampstead Tube Station. Mrs. Sudd Brown will preside; Dr. Octavia Lewin will speak on "Married Women's Right to Work," and there will be recitations by Mrs. Harvey James. All friends of the League and readers of THE VOTE will be most welcome.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS ELIZABETH BERRY, 16, Denning Rd., N.W. 3.

THAMES VALLEY.

All members and friends in this district are urged to be present at the Public Debate on Imperial Preference, Monday, January 26th, 8 p.m., at the Parish Hall Elleray Road, Teddington (near Teddington Station and Church Road tramway stop). Speakers:—(For) Mrs. Costello (Conservative and Unionist Association), (Against) Mrs. Furley Smith (Women's National Liberal Federation). Lady Rhondda has most kindly promised to take the Chair. Members of the audience will be invited to ask questions of the speakers, and to vote for or against the resolution submitted by Mrs. Costello to the meeting. Admission is free; reserved seat tickets, 1s. each; and there will be a collection to cover the expenses of the meeting.

Members of this Branch have had letters in the Surrey Comet protesting against the Kingston Borough magistrates' resolution expressing the hope that no women will be appointed to the local Bench.

(Hon. Sec.) MISS BREWER, 15, Fleece Road, Long Ditton, Surbiton.

SWANSEA.

A branch meeting was held on Wednesday, January 14th, at 9, Sketty Road, for the purpose of framing resolutions for conference. Mrs. Ross reported that a Conference had been arranged by the Women's Advisory Committee on Housing, to which the Women's Freedom League was invited to send delegates. Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Rowland Williams, and Mrs. Dawson were nominated to represent the Branch.

Miss Kirkland kindly offered to hold a Whist Drive at "Caledon," Newton, and Thursday, February 12th was decided on as a suitable date. A special bus will be chartered to take the guests to and from "Caledon." Tickets (including bus fare) 3s. 6d. each. As there is only a limited number of tickets, will members who wish to be present apply to the Secretary at once?

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

GLASGOW.

A public meeting, organised by the Women's Freedom League, will take place in the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street, on February 9th, at 7.45 p.m. Miss Marjorie Gullan has not only been kind enough to promise to preside, but will also permit some of her students to recite poetry, a fact which we hope will attract many admirers of Miss Gullan's work. The speakers will be Miss Anna Munro (we hope all old friends will come and hear her) and Baillie Bell. Admission free. Collection. Doors open 7.15.

(Organiser) LILIAN LENTON.

MID-LONDON.

A branch meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 4th, at 6 p.m., at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. We need fresh enthusiasm—all members, both old and new, make a special effort to attend, in order that we may inspire one another?

We cordially invite friends to this meeting, who have not yet joined a Branch, and who are in business in the City or W.C. district, that we may enrol them as members of the Mid-London Branch. We wish to swell our ranks, so that our work may be even more effective than in the past.

(Hon. Sec.) MRS. FLOWERS, 3, Sidney Road, Forest Gate.

PORTSMOUTH.

Members are earnestly requested to attend a business meeting on Tuesday afternoon, January 27th, at 3 o'clock, at 2, Kent Road. Agenda:—(1) To frame resolutions for the Annual Conference; (2) To arrange monthly public meetings, whist drives, and work parties; (3) Any other business.

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

BRIGHTON.

By kind permission of Mrs. Bridges, an informal gathering of members and sympathizers of the Women's Freedom League will take place on Friday next (January 23rd), at 7, Norfolk Terrace, Brighton, at 3 p.m. During tea, it is hoped to appoint a new secretary in place of Mrs. Peters, who is most unfortunately, for private reasons, obliged to resign; and to discuss the future activities of the League in Brighton and Hove.

TO BRANCH TREASURERS.

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

TO ALL FRIENDS.

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

THE MAYOR OF YARMOUTH.

We are pleased to insert the following letter from our old friend Mr. F. W. Soutter, author of Recollections of a Labour Pioneer. Those who have read this book will remember his support of, and tribute to, both Mrs. Leach and Miss Helen Taylor, the first British woman candidate for Parliament:—

To the Editor of The Vote.

DEAR MADAM,—I was delighted upon opening the current issue of your bright little journal to find that fine portrait and still finer sketch of Mrs. Ethel Leach, the Mayor of Yarmouth.

After 40 years unceasing struggles for high ideals and worthy causes in the town where she was born, Mrs. Leach is elected to the honourable post of Chief Magistrate.

Forty years ago she stood very courageously beside the first woman Parliamentary candidate, and acted as Miss Taylor's election agent. This was truly the work of a pioneer!

It is given to but few pioneers to reap the harvest as well as sow the seed. Mrs. Leach has accomplished this great task, and we salute her in true poetic fashion, thus:—HAIL TO THE CHIEF WHO IN TRIUMPH ADVANCETH, HAIL!

Again thanking you for that splendid page, F. W. SOUTTER.

WHERE TO GO.

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

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

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

Tuesday, January 27th. St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, at 8. Service arranged by the Save the Children Fund, to dedicate publicly the "Declaration of Geneva"—the declaration of the rights of the child.

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

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

Wednesday, January 28th. Council Chamber, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., at 8. Lecture on Public Speaking, arranged by the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations. Lecturer, Miss Lucy Bell.

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

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

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

Saturday, January 31st. London Branch of the Women's Engineering Society visits Hackney Power Stations and Sub-stations. Meet Town Hall at 2.30.

Women's Freedom League.

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, January 23rd, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Report. Friday, January 23rd, at 8.15 p.m. Minerva Club. Branch Whist Drive. Tickets 2/-. (To be obtained from the Secretary.) Saturday, January 24th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

DARE TO BE FREE.

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

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

Wednesday, February 18th, at 3 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting at 7, Gainsborough Gardens (by the kindness of Dr. Knight).

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

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

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

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

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, January 27th, at 3 p.m. Portsmouth. Members' Meeting, at 2 Kent Road.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

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

Thursday, March 26th, at 3 p.m. Alexandra Park Women's Local Government Association. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "Penal Reform."

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1923, £40,474 16s. 2d.

Table with columns for amount and name. Includes Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund (previously acknowledged) £549 3s 7d, Green, White, and Gold Fair (previously acknowledged) £372 16s 8d, Special Emergency War Fund:— £5 12s 6d.

Women in Parliament Fund (additional):—

Table with columns for amount and name. Includes Miss Candlin 1 0, Miss Ellen Beck 10 0 0, "Office Expenses" 8 6 3, Miss M. Bisdee 2 2 0, A. P. Busch-Michell, Esq. 1 7 6, H. S. L. Fry, Esq., M.A. 1 1 0, Lady Smith 1 1 0, Mrs. Lucie Winter 1 1 0, Mrs. E. Stewart-Brown 1 0 0, Mrs. B. Holmes 1 0 0, Mrs. Juson Kerr 1 0 0, Mrs. Zangwill 1 0 0, Mrs. E. D. Fox Bourne 10 0, Miss J. E. Carlile 10 0, Miss R. Eamonnson 10 0, Miss Maud Fussell 10 0, Dr. Lewin 10 0, Miss H. McCulloch 10 0, Miss F. M. Newton 10 0, Misses Sherwood 10 0, Mrs. Sloane 10 0, Miss E. Hutchinson 8 10, Miss B. B. Fallowfield 7 6, Miss E. Gulland 7 6, Mrs. Baird Ferguson 7 3, Councillor Mary Hatfield 6 6.

Table with columns for name and amount. Includes Mrs. S. Yates 6 0, Miss Allwork 5 0, Miss E. T. Fox Bourne 5 0, Mrs. Brewer 5 0, Mrs. Dexter 5 0, Mrs. Fitzgerald Ellis 5 0, Mrs. Evans 5 0, Miss Ada Farmer 5 0, Dr. A. M. Hutchison 5 0, R. G. Joyce, Esq. 5 0, Miss J. R. Kerr 5 0, Mrs. Emily Knight 5 0, Mrs. Lascman 5 0, Miss B. Malone 5 0, Mrs. Northcroft 5 0, Mrs. Padfield 5 0, Mrs. E. G. Posener 5 0, Miss M. I. Saunders 5 0, Miss Shakespear 5 0, Miss Jessie Stephen 5 0, Rev. G. W. Thompson 5 0, Miss D. Olive Turton 5 0, Mrs. Vatcher 5 0, Miss D. Watterson 5 0, Miss F. L. Fuller 4 0, Mr. Thos. Withers 4 0, Miss M. W. Morrison 3 6, Miss H. G. Whitton 3 6, Miss K. J. Cooper 3 1, Miss Bland 3 0, Miss E. M. MacDonald 3 0, Miss F. A. Underwood 3 0, Mrs. Aldridge 2 6, Miss A. Ball 2 6, Miss Kate Barton 2 6, Mrs. E. Bennett 2 6, Miss F. H. Brace 2 6, Miss C. A. Duckett 2 6, Mrs. Fingland 2 6, Mrs. V. F. Gresham 2 6, Miss J. Gulland 2 6, Mrs. Harverson 2 6, Miss Harverson, L.L.B. 2 6, Miss L. Hutchinson 2 6, Mrs. Grace Hyde 2 6, Miss A. Johnson 2 6, Mrs. A. J. Lane 2 6, Miss C. Leicester 2 6, Miss S. L. Mann 2 6, Mrs. A. McGrouther 2 6, Mrs. Nichols 2 6, Alice Park 2 6, Miss Maude Rylance 2 6, Mrs. Sutcliffe 2 6, Mrs. Terry 2 6, Mrs. Edmund Waller 2 6, Miss Welstead 2 6, Miss Barnett 2 6, Miss Elsie Bullen 2 6, Miss Louisa Charles 2 6, Miss Helen Colt 2 6, Miss M. Holland 2 6, S. Clifford Jones, Esq. 2 0, Mrs. Amy King 2 0, Miss L. E. Maltby 2 0, Mrs. A. Shorrocks 2 0, Miss Tagg 2 0, Mrs. Crosland Taylor 2 0, Mrs. Underwood 2 0, Dr. Outram 1 6, Miss Mary E. Tapping 1 6, Mrs. Beardsley 1 0, Mrs. M. E. Bell 1 0, Miss L. Cockerill 1 0, Miss Rose Conway 1 0, Mr. C. Deane 1 0, Mrs. D. Dickson 1 0, Mrs. Elvin 1 0, Mrs. A. Hannant 1 0, Miss Henry 1 0, Mrs. James 1 0, Miss Evangeline Knight 1 0, Mme. Kubler 1 0, Miss Jessie Maxwell 1 0, Mrs. Papworth 1 0, Miss Stokes 1 0, Sundries 6 0 0, Literature Department 6 10 0, Office Sales 5 17 6, Telephone Box 2 5 6, Collections, per Miss Lenton (Glasgow) 5 3 6, Branches:— Hull (Balance of Branch Funds) 2 6 9, Branches (Delegates' Expenses):— Ashford, Bexhill, Brighton 15 7.

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1925.

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**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, January 25th. 3.30. Music. Lecture. Professor E. W. Macbride, F.R.S. 6.30. Rev. W. R. Matthews, D.D.

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**I**ISIS CLUB, 79, Fitzjohn's Avenue (2 minutes Hampstead Tube Station). Magnificent Reception Rooms. Central heating. Sunny bedrooms. Sandy soil. Lectures, dancing, listening-in. Telephone: Hampstead 2869.

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## Membership Application Form.

To be returned to The Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1;

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.